
Meeting	Economy & Place Policy Development Committee
Date	22 June 2017
Present	Councillors Cuthbertson (Chair), Dew, Looker, D Myers, Richardson, Hunter (Substitute) and D'Agorne (Substitute)
Apologies	Councillors Cullwick, Kramm

1. Declarations of Interest

Members were asked to declare any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests or any prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests that they might have in respect of the business on the agenda. None were declared.

2. Minutes

At this point in the meeting, it was confirmed that the Impact of Arts & Culture on York Economy Scrutiny Task Group would preserve the same membership and would be presenting its draft final report at the next meeting of this Committee on 26 July 2017.

It was also confirmed that future updates on the implementation of the outstanding recommendations arising from the Grass Verges Scrutiny Review would be presented to the Economy & Place Scrutiny Committee.

The Chair then confirmed that he had written a letter to the Executive Member to raise the issue of job losses in the City (as per Paragraph 56 of the Minutes from 22 May 2017) and that the Executive Member would be invited to the following Committee meetings at which Members could raise further questions.

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of 22 May 2017 be approved as a correct record and then signed by the Chair.

3. Public Participation

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

4. Role and Terms of Reference of the Committee

Members received the Terms of Reference of the Committee agreed at the Annual Meeting on 25 May 2016. The Corporate Director was in attendance to introduce his directorate team and to assist in the scoping of the Committee's work. He explained the role and the functions of three Assistant Directors who would help the Committee keep abreast of potential economic and infrastructure developments taking place more than one year in the future, taking account of the corporate vision for the City and the Council's strategic objectives, with an emphasis on tackling potential challenges that may arise in due course.

In response to Members' questions, it was noted that:

- the Committee's work would include holding informal gatherings such as workshops or meetings with partners/external advisors who have the relevant expertise;
- an innovative approach toward the work, including informing the future decision-making by Executive Members of the Committee, would be required;
- strategic thinking was preferred over operational outcomes (any recommendations on which would be mainly discussed during the Economy & Place Scrutiny Committee meetings).

Resolved: That Members note the Terms of Reference.

Reason: To ensure that Members are aware of the Committee's work.

5. Presentation on Work Areas

The Committee received presentations from the directorate team of Chief Officers on their respective work areas.

Further to his presentation, the Assistant Director for Planning and Public Protection provided the following as issues that the Committee might want to consider:

- the community infrastructure levy approval as it contained potential scope for policy development for the City's future use;
- regional planning and economic development, including considering impact that CYC's decisions had on other regions and sharing our knowledge and expertise with others (professional regional collaboration with other bodies and authorities);
- ways of integrating volunteer residents into planning and public protection issues and methods of increasing resident engagement in order to develop further relationships with the city

In discussing this work area, Members identified other potential topics of interest: the potential for future fracking applications, regional guidelines on taxi licensing and tackling e-Crime.

The Assistant Director for Regeneration and Asset Management provided an overview of her portfolio of work, objectives and practices, focusing on the strategic overview as well as tackling challenges such as striking the balance between financial and commercial outcomes and providing social value of assets for community. Following Members' questions, a number of areas for potential consideration were discussed:

- increasing the use of the Council's commercial assets;
- the economic performance of properties in the City and maximising commercial opportunities in York;
- developing the Community Asset Strategy increasing the potential for using community assets in different ways.

The Assistant Director for Transport Highways and Environment then delivered a summary on his work areas and suggested the following for the Committee's consideration:

- vehicle replacements (Fleet Management) and fleet replacement strategy in order to improve air quality and encourage a move towards more environmentally friendly public transport vehicles;
- non-infrastructural solutions to traffic management.

In discussing this work area, Members identified other potential areas of interest, including the City's long-term policy on parking and advising businesses on Business Continuity Planning.

Finally, the Lead Officer for Programmes and Economic and Place Policy was in attendance to cover his portfolio of work and proposed the following for the Committee consideration:

- equality, diversity & inclusivity topics such as closing gender pay gap, creating an inclusive economy, improving alignment with One Planet York principles and diversifying the Council's workforce;
- minimising the impact of congestion or carbon footprint in new developments;
- building in metrics and performance assessment into the Council's economic strategy.

Resolved: That Members note the presentations.

Reason: To familiarise Members with the scope of the Committee's work and develop the Committee's work plan.

6. Work Plan 2017/18

The Chair outlined the draft work plan for the period of July 2017 – January 2018. In light of the presentations received, it was agreed that a small cross-party working group would be formed and meet for the first time before the next Committee meeting on 26 July 2017 in order to consider a small number of key areas for policy development. The following councillors were nominated for the working group: Cllr Kramm, Cllr Dew, Cllr D Myers, Cllr Cuthbertson.

Resolved: That the work plan be approved and the above working group be set up.

Reason: To ensure that the Committee has a planned programme of work in place.

Cllr Cuthbertson, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30pm and finished at 6.50pm].