



Notice of a public meeting of

Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee

To: Councillors Semlyen (Chair), Watt (Vice-Chair), Barnes, Burton, D'Agorne, Potter, Riches and Runciman

Date: Tuesday, 29 January 2013

Time: 5.00 pm

Venue: The Guildhall, York

AGENDA

1. Declarations of Interest (Pages 3 - 4)

At this point in the meeting, Members are asked to declare:

- any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests
- any prejudicial interests or
- any disclosable pecuniary interests

which they may have in respect of business on this agenda.

2. Minutes (Pages 5 - 14)

To approve and sign the minutes of the last meeting of the Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 20 November 2012.

3. Public Participation

It is at this point in the meeting that members of the public who have registered their wish to speak can do so. The deadline for registering is **Monday 28 January 2013 at 5.00 pm**.

To register please contact the Democracy Officer for the meeting, on the details at the foot of this agenda.

4. Attendance of the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning & Sustainability (Pages 15 - 20)

The Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning & Sustainability will update Members of the Committee on the priorities within his portfolio area.

5. Report- Economic Inclusion and supported employment for people with disabilities in the City of York (Yorkcraft) (Pages 21 - 46)

This report presents and asks the Committee to consider and comment on a series of options identified by the Yorkcraft Business Model Review Project Board ahead of proposals of a review into the sheltered employment scheme at Yorkcraft being finalised.

6. Update Report - 'Reducing the Carbon Footprint in the Privately Rented Sector Scrutiny Review' (Pages 47 - 52)

This report gives an update on the currently dormant 'Reducing the Carbon Footprint in the Privately Rented Sector' Scrutiny Review. It advises Members what has been happening whilst the review has been on hold and asks that Members indicate whether they still wish to continue with this review.

7. Report - Remit for the External Funding Scrutiny Review (Pages 53 - 68)

This report presents the Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee (ECDOSC) with an update on the work undertaken to date by the Task Group appointed to this review, including a draft remit for the review. The Committee are asked to agree the remit in order that work can commence on this review.

8. Draft Final Report - Out of Hours (Pages 69 - 90)
Childcare Scrutiny Review

Members are asked to consider the draft final report and its associated recommendations and indicate any amendments they may wish to make prior to them being submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

9. Workplan 2012-13 (Pages 91 - 92)

Members are asked to consider the Committee's updated workplan for the municipal year 2012/2013.

10. Urgent Business

Any other business which the Chair considers urgent.

Democracy Officer:

Name- Judith Betts

Telephone No. – 01904 551078

E-mail- judith.betts@york.gov.uk

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officer responsible for servicing this meeting

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

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Scrutiny Committees

The purpose of all scrutiny and ad-hoc scrutiny committees appointed by the Council is to:

- Monitor the performance and effectiveness of services;
- Review existing policies and assist in the development of new ones, as necessary; and
- Monitor best value continuous service improvement plans

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**MEETING OF ECONOMIC AND CITY DEVELOPMENT
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Agenda item 1: Declarations of interest

The following Members declared standing personal interests.

Councillor D'Agorne- Employee of York College

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

MEETING	ECONOMIC & CITY DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE	20 NOVEMBER 2012
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS SEMLYEN (CHAIR), BARNES, BURTON, D'AGORNE, POTTER, RUNCIMAN, STEWARD (SUBSTITUTE FOR COUNCILLOR WATT) AND HODGSON (SUBSTITUTE FOR COUNCILLOR RICHES)
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLORS RICHES & WATT

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any personal, prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests, other than those listed on the standing declarations of interest attached to the agenda, that they might have had in the business on the agenda.

Councillor Hodgson declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 7 (Update on Implementation of Recommendations Arising from the Newgate Market Scrutiny Review) as he had carried out work for York Continental Market.

Councillor Potter declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 6 (2012/13 Finance and Performance Monitor 2 Report) as a member of York Wheels. She took no part in discussion during this item.

Councillor Runciman declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5 (Draft Final Report- E-Planning Facilities) as a member of New Earswick and Wigginton Parish Council.

No other interests were declared.

27. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 25 September 2012 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

28. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was reported that there had been two registrations to speak under the Council's Public Participation Scheme. A further registration to speak, which had not been registered with the Democracy Officer before the meeting, was permitted by the Chair.

Mr Jennings a representative of Dringhouses & Woodthorpe Planning Panel spoke regarding Agenda Item 5) (Draft Final Report- E-Planning Facilities). He referred to the need for a suitable venue to made available, with appropriate IT equipment, that Planning Panels could use on a regular basis to access E-Planning. He also stated that there was a need for training for Planning Panel members, in order to be up to date with current and future legislation.

Andy Chase a representative from Micklegate Planning Panel also spoke on Agenda Item 5. He commented that the feedback that he had received from other Planning Panels suggested that the transition to E-Planning had not been smooth. He highlighted that concerns had been raised about the accessibility of planning documents on the Public Access Website, in particular that each document relating to a specific application had to be downloaded separately rather than all in a pack. He also felt that it would be convenient for Planning Panels to meet at West Offices. However, he also felt that there a paper archive copy of documents associated with each planning application should be available.

He had concerns about room hire, in particular the use of local libraries and the new Council HQ and their access hours. He also highlighted that there were further costs to purchasing equipment for Planning Panels and Parish Councils, such as maintenance and insurance costs.

29. ATTENDANCE OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH, HOUSING AND ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES.

Members received a report from the Cabinet Member for Health, Housing and Adult Social Services which outlined the work taking place in the Housing aspect of her portfolio and its links to Council priorities.

Members raised a number of concerns with the Cabinet Member which included;

- What was being done to reduce the waiting list for Council housing, given that there appeared to be a significant increase in numbers on the list since July?
- Whether people had been encouraged to move from the Council housing waiting list on to a private housing list.
- Whether the amount of affordable homes available and in development was sufficient to house York residents.

In response to these questions, the Cabinet Member stated that private landlords were being encouraged by the YorHomes agency to take on residents who paid lower rents. She also stated that a downsizing programme would be launched and it would seek to promote residents being housed in more suitably sized accommodation.

The Cabinet Member also responded that those on the Council housing waiting list were being encouraged to move to private properties where possible, and that landlords in the city had been participating in a scheme to take on those residents on benefits as tenants in their properties.

In relation to the development of affordable homes, the Cabinet Member referred to a recent Housing Summit that had been held with a number of major developers.

Some Members asked the Cabinet Member about the Accreditation Scheme which hoped to raise standards in the Privately Rented Sector.

Members were informed that the Accreditation for Residential Landlords was currently voluntary, and then it was hoped to make it compulsory for Residential Landlords to be accredited.

It was also noted that the Student Unions from both of the Universities would only promote rented properties from Landlords with accredited status.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member for her attendance at the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

REASON: In order to update the Committee on the Housing aspect of the Cabinet Member for Health, Housing and Adult Social Services' portfolio.

30. DRAFT FINAL REPORT - E-PLANNING FACILITIES REVIEW.

Members considered a report which set out the findings and recommendations from the E-Planning Facilities Review. It asked them to endorse the recommendations arising from the review prior to them being presented to the Cabinet for consideration.

In response to points raised by the speakers under Public Participation, Members were informed that they could make a recommendation regarding the timeliness of uploading documents associated with planning applications online. Some Members felt that information such as when documents would be visible online and when additional information had been added on to the website, would be particularly important.

Members felt that there were exceptions when printed copies of information that would normally be only accessible online could be produced; such as when very large applications were considered. Some Members felt that with these types of application a set number of documents could be printed off to be shared amongst interested parties. Some suggested that the copies of documents held by Planning Officers could be archived at the central library.

Further discussion ensued between Members and Officers about public access and transparency. Some Members pointed out that if a person currently viewed a planning application in the Council Offices, then they had the opportunity to ask the Planning Officer questions.

They were concerned however, if these documents were kept at public libraries, the library staff might not be able to answer specific questions related to the application.

Some Members felt that room hire at West Offices and through the library service should be free or at a very low cost. Other Members agreed with this suggestion and expressed the opinion that as Planning Panels and Parish Councils were voluntary, they should not be charged or charged as little as possible.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and that the Chair of the Task Group, in conjunction with the Scrutiny Officer, amend the recommendations and report to reflect the discussions at today's meeting prior to it being presented to Cabinet

REASON: To complete this scrutiny review.

31. SECOND QUARTER FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MONITOR REPORT 2012/13.

Members considered a report which provided details of the 2012/13 latest position for both finance and performance in City & Environmental Services (excluding Highways, Fleet and Waste), Economic Development and Housing Services.

Members questioned Officers on the following issues;

- What measures were in place to combat an overspend of £439k in the Housing Services General Fund?
- In regards to car parking income, had a review taken place into whether income could be raised by changing fees for the type of stay?
- Were disabled facilities considered by the City Team in the Reinvigorate York project?

In response to a question about an overspend in the Housing General Fund, Officers responded that savings in the Crime and Stronger Communities area would help to reduce the overspend.

Officers reported that fees for car parks nearer the city were higher but that car parking charges did not make a large percentage of the Strategic Planning and Transport budget.

Officers also confirmed that the Reinvigorate York project would include a range of businesses who would investigate access.

Discussion took place between Members and Officers regarding the City Team. Officers explained that the team was a Retail Strategy group. This was chaired by the Leader of the Council and that its membership was made up of city retailers, other Members and Officers. It was felt that the City Team should report back to the Committee.

- RESOLVED:
- (i) That the report be noted.
 - (ii) That the Leader include in his next report to this Committee information around the City Team.

REASON: To update the committee of the latest finance and performance position.

32. UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE NEWGATE MARKET SCRUTINY REVIEW.

Members received a report which provided them with an update on the implementation of recommendations arising from the Newgate Market Scrutiny Review.

Discussion took place between Members and Officers about rental charges for market stalls being frozen for three years. It was reported that a period of three years had been suggested to consider whether the charges had encouraged more interest in the market, and that after this Officers would look at increasing charges. Further discussion took place in relation to future changes to footstreet hours, and it was suggested that the market could possibly stay open for longer.

Some Members felt that the review should be signed off, but that a future report be considered by the Committee in relation to how monies from the Economic Infrastructure Fund (EIF) had made an impact on the progress of the implementation of the recommendations from the review. It was suggested that a future report could be considered in a year, which then would also analyse footfall figures.

- RESOLVED:
- (i) That the report be noted.
 - (ii) That the outstanding recommendations arising from the Newgate Market Scrutiny Review be formally signed off as complete.
 - (iii) That an update report on Newgate Market be received in a year's time as to the success of improvements at the market, the EIF bid and information around footfall.

REASON: In order to update the Committee on developments in the market following the Scrutiny Review.

33. PROGRESS REPORT - LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIPS.

Members considered a report which provided them with an update on progress with the two Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) that York belongs to: Leeds City Region and York/North Yorkshire/East Riding.

Officers circulated copies of the York/North Yorkshire/East Riding LEP Local Plan and the Leeds City Region City Deal. These papers were attached to the agenda, which was republished online following the meeting.

Officers highlighted some points from the Local Plan and City Deal. They stated that the North Yorkshire LEP Local Plan mentioned inward investment but did not clarify on which activities it would proactively encourage and which activities it would carry out through other partners.

In response to the Leeds City Region City Deal, they questioned the devolution of powers through the idea of a Combined Authority and raised concerns about levels of accountability. This was because, if approved, the Combined Authority would have its own fundraising powers.

Members asked a series of questions to Officers these included;

- If LEPs were in competition with one another?
- What was the timescale for York to decide whether to remain in both LEPs
- If there were sufficient resources to be part of both the North Yorkshire/York/East Riding LEP as well as the Leeds City Region?
- How aspirational was the North Yorkshire LEP?

Officers reported to Members, that in some areas such as inward investment the LEPs were potentially in competition but in others their work was complementary. It was stated that the North Yorkshire LEP was smaller in scope but that the Leeds City Region had a larger capacity in terms of staff and resources. They suggested it would be more advantageous for York to remain with the LEP with a more holistic approach.

They informed Members that there was not a timetable for responses and implementation regarding which LEP to remain with. It was noted that further information needed to be gained from both LEPs as to the levels of public accountability they would have.

Members felt that further information, such as the results from the government review into LEPs and outcome data from both LEPs, be provided by the Officers early in 2013 so that the Council could understand the value added by the two respective LEPs. Members suggested there was a case, based on the comparison information to be provided for deciding now whether two LEP membership was in the Council's interest rather than waiting to see whether the recommendation in the Heseltine report "No Stone Unturned" proposing that no local authority should belong to more than one LEP was implemented.

Members also requested that Committee be involved in consultation on our future role LEP role and also the detail of the City Deal before a decision was made at Cabinet.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and;

- (i) A further report be considered at a future meeting on the achievements of both LEPs on the economic performance of York's economy. This report should provide sufficient information to generate a discussion on the benefits of LEP membership.
- (ii) That a progress report be received on City Deal proposals prior to Cabinet consideration.

REASON: To keep the Committee up to date with the work of the LEPs.

34. INTERIM REPORT - YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT SCRUTINY REVIEW.

Members considered a report which provided them with a brief overview of the work that had been undertaken by the Youth Unemployment Task Group.

Comments from Members in relation to the report included;

- That it was very difficult for young people aged to claim Job Seekers Allowance (JSA), until the age of 18.
- Whether the Council could provide incentives around transport, to help young people into work, such as discounted bus fares.

Officers informed Members that there was a correlation between deprivation and youth unemployment and that trigger points for unemployment often happened at an early stage of life. They stated that Officers in Education were analysing what these points could be, and how to help young people overcome them.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

REASON: To progress this scrutiny review.

35. WORK PLAN 2012/13.

Members considered the Committee's updated workplan for the municipal year 2012-13.

It was noted that the Final Report on the Youth Unemployment Scrutiny Review would now be considered at a later meeting of the Committee.

Some Members expressed concerns about the timetabling of the Scoping Report on How can Local Shopping Centres Contribute to the Wider Economic Wellbeing of their Community. They asked the Scrutiny Officer to look into what was already happening around this.

Members suggested that the title of the report to be discussed at the Committee's next meeting be amended to "Scoping Report-*Assessing External Funding*" rather than European Regional Development Funding.

- RESOLVED:
- (i) That the work plan be noted subject to the following additions be noted ¹;
 - (ii) That as part of the Leader's next report to the Committee he include information on the City Team.
 - (iii) That an update report on Newgate Market be received in a year's time as to the success of improvements at the market, the EIF bid and information around footfall.

REASON: To progress the work of the Committee.

Action Required

1. To update the Committee's work plan.

TW

Councillor Semlyen, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 7.50 pm].

Councillor Dave Merrett
Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning and Sustainability
Report to Economic & City
Development Overview & Scrutiny
Committee (ECDOSC) – January 2013

I have written this report taking into account the remit of ECDOSC. I am happy to answer any questions on this report or any questions relevant to areas in my portfolio that fall within the remit of this Committee.

Get York Moving

Expanding Park and Ride Services

- £15m of Government Funding secured through a nationally competitive process.
- Final design work, tendering exercise on site construction and highways work completed.
- Bus Priorities on A59 corridor will be completed by April 2013.
- Final DfT approval now being sought which would enable an April 2013 start at 13 month construction period.

Improving Bus Services

- Secured Better Bus Area Funding, an additional £3m funding from Government.
- BBAF programme developing Smart ticketing
- York's first multi-operator ticket developed, launched and introduced.
- Completed Bus improvement Study.
- Continued to provide bus services through 3 flooding incidents.
- Station public transport information centre opened and up and running.
- Over 4 million passengers per annum now using parking.
- Facilitated Bus Users UK surgery
- Held CYC Bus Consultation event, with a second shortly

Developing York's Cycling and Pedestrian Network

- Review of York's cycle network has been carried out.
- List of 'missing links' has been identified and prioritised for the cycle network.
- New off-road cycle route along the Outer Ring Road being progressed to complete the orbital route.

- Proposed cycling and walking improvements for the Clifton Moor retail / leisure area being consulted on
- Improvements to pedestrian links in the vicinity of the Barbican Centre and improvements to the Fishergate Gyratory have been consulted on and agreed for construction in 2013.

Improving Movement in the City Centre

- Footstreets Review stage 2 completed – with experimental measures to rationalise and extend footstreet hours agreed and access controls on Davygate to manage through access.
- BBAF programme includes upgrading 5 city centre bus interchange locations.
- Decluttering of the city centre continuing.
- Measures to improve enforcement of Coppergate in the offing

20mph Speed Limits in York's Residential Areas

- Policy approach been agreed, including with the Police.
- South Bank pilot completed.
- West of York (a third of the City) now being rolled forward with consultation underway.

Winning Hearts and Minds

- LSTF funded business travel planning service now up and running – contact has been established with over 80 businesses and the first travel planning conference was held in December 2012.
- LSTF funded personalised travel planning programme will commence this spring.
- iTravel website launched in September 2012 to improve availability of timetable and other travel and transport information and planning tools.

Future transport strategy

- We are working with West Yorkshire Authorities and Metro in terms of creating an investment fund to enhance the rather miserable level of Government funding for future major transport capital investment (only about £4 million for the next 4 year period.
- We have identified both from our own knowledge and in conjunction with the local business community and in discussions facilitated by the Outer York MP, Julian Sturdy, a series of potential strategic transport investments for transport in and

around the city, including various options for improving public transport and upgrading the northern outer ring road. These have been submitted and evaluated by the West Yorks Transport fund consultants for potential inclusion in the funding proposals.

Schemes are being prioritised in line primarily with the Government's jobs growth priority.

- Other future funding opportunities will also be considered to help bring these schemes forward.

Other Achievements

- Successful handling of the Queen's visit and Olympic Torch Relay.
- Dealt with traffic and road closures with three major flood incidences.
- Agreed to form part of a West Yorkshire and York Local Transport Body to seek to maximise transport funding for the city.
- Overall a transformation transport change programme is underway with £35m of investment over the period 2011-2015.
- We are installing a network of electric vehicle charging points throughout the city via grant funding, charitable contributions and through the planning process.

Air Quality

- The results of the Low Emission Zone feasibility study are imminent. An LEZ will prohibit dirtier buses from passing through the city centre.
- The low emission strategy to reduce traffic and other pollution, especially in terms of nitrogen dioxide and carbon emissions, is now council policy.
- Through the Eco Stars fleet accreditation scheme and the low emission taxi project, we are working to reduce emissions from fleet and commercial vehicles and from taxis and private hire vehicles. A compressed natural gas and freight transshipment centre feasibility studies are aiming to reduce emissions from HGVs.

Protect the Environment**Sustainable Development**

Category	Achievement
<i>Climate Change, Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Integrated effects of future climatic change into corporate risk registers;</i> • <i>Ensured Board interests integrated into Economic Strategy;</i> • <i>Wrapping Up York – 163 cavity walls and 441 lofts insulated under scheme (in addition to measures installed through CERT);</i> • <i>Secured funding for – a collective energy switching pilot across LCR, an LCR Heat Map (including maps for each LA), and increased support to address fuel poverty;</i> • <i>DIF bid to accelerate understanding of opportunities for district heating networks;</i> • <i>Renewable energy – 208 PV panels installed on HQ, 17 ASHPs installed in social housing (through DECC funding).</i>
<i>Carbon Management</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>On target to deliver original CMP target of 25% reduction in emissions (5,810tCO₂) by end March 2013 (from 2006/07 baseline);</i> • <i>Green Audit completed – projects identified to deliver 445tCO₂ of savings;</i> • <i>Salix Finance – 38 projects completed to date.</i>
<i>Environmental Management</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Signed-up to Investors in the Environment (IiE) accreditation scheme (basic environmental management system) and committed to achieving bronze accreditation during 2013/14;</i> • <i>Environmental Protection Assessment (EPA) integrated into evaluation of projects put forward through the capital programme.</i>
<i>Green Deal</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Secured funding for a solid wall insulation pilot in three areas of the city;</i> • <i>Representation of York's interests in continued development of LCR Green Deal offer.</i>

Category	Achievements
Low Emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Low Emissions Strategy (LES) adopted;</i> • <i>Secured funding to – investigate suitability of electric vehicles in CYCs fleet, and for five schemes to improve air quality in the City;</i> • <i>Approval to install electric charging points in CYC car parks;</i> • <i>Obtained free charging points for hotels, B&Bs and leisure facilities;</i> • <i>Appointed consultants to deliver EcoStars Scheme;</i> • <i>Incentive scheme for taxi drivers to buy hybrid vehicles.</i>
Community Campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Launch of York is ENGAGE'd campaign;</i> • <i>Phase II of Green Neighbourhoods Challenge;</i> • <i>Climate Week 2012;</i> • <i>Championed GeniUS Challenge Four.</i>
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Approval for seconded officer to aid in development of Local Plan climate change policy;</i> • <i>Input into major planning applications;</i> • <i>Climate Change Skills Fund for Planners and Elected Members.</i>

Development Management

Progress on Major sites is subject to direct reporting to ECDOSC, so I will not cover action there, other than to say that constant pro-active work with developers is being maintained to ensure obstacles to development are dealt with and sites can come forward. Interest is rising, and it's interesting to note that the recently Huntington application included a significant 30% affordable housing element without demur by the applicant. Flexibility is being offered on more difficult to bring forward sites. Other measures to bring forward new housing are being worked on jointly with housing and my colleague Tracey Simpson-Laing and will be the subject of an important forthcoming Cabinet report.

Local Plan visioning, call for sites & next steps

Following the withdrawal of the LDF core strategy, visioning and background work for the new Local Plan is well underway. The new economic strategy work is expected imminently and discussions are continuing with business and city centre retailers on it. The call for sites has identified a significant number of potential sites and these are being considered against the background tests as with the previous LDF core strategy sites. A positive meeting was held with the Planning minister Nick Boles, who was wholeheartedly behind the growth strategy the Leader and myself outlined to him. We sought his help in terms of obtaining a clearer and simpler approach by Government to government grant funds in line with Michael Heseltine's recent report to the Government on unlocking growth.

Work is currently on schedule for the draft plan to be issued for consultation in the spring.

Flooding Strategy & Investment

The Council has delivered a series of milestones in developing a comprehensive approach to flooding in response to the Pitt review and subsequent legislation, including the recent Surface Water Management Plan. The Leeman road flood protection scheme has been granted permission and a pre-site commencement meeting held earlier this week with local residents. The Clementhorpe feasibility study is progressing.

Budget

Over the two years since taking office T, P&S on-going revenue expenditure will have been reduced by £2.5 million in response to the Government's reduction in grant funding to York.

Dave Merrett

Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning and Sustainability

17th January 2013



Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee

29th January 2013

Report of the Assistant Director, Adult Commissioning, Modernisation and Provision, ACE

Economic Inclusion and supported employment for people with disabilities in the City of York (Yorkcraft)

Summary

1. In early 2013 a review of the sheltered employment scheme at Yorkcraft is due to finalise its proposals for this service. A discussion within this wider scrutiny topic will help to refine and assess the potential contribution of the review toward promoting economic inclusion for disabled adults and other disadvantaged groups before finalising the review's proposals.

Background

2. We have been conducting a wide ranging review of our existing supported employment service called Yorkcraft.
3. The review was undertaken by a small multi- agency task and finish steering group to analyse the existing business model for Yorkcraft and develop options for the future direction of Yorkcraft. The steering group was established in May 2012.

The initial team members were:

Julia Massey - Learning City, Partnership manager

Daryoush Haj-Najafi - Service Manager, Adult Social Care

Richard Douglas - Disability Employment Manager, York & Greenworks

Sian Balsom: Development Officer – York Council for Voluntary Services

Anne Wylie - University of York, Programme Director

Yewen Feng – Masters Student, Business Studies, University of York

David Smith – Chief Executive Officer, Mind

Graham Terry – Assistant Director, Adult Commissioning, ACE (CHAIR)

4. The Yorkcraft Factory (on Tadcaster Road, opposite Tesco's) is a service arm of City of York Council which provides supported employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
5. Yorkcraft was established in 1963 as a supported business for people with visual impairment. The premises occupied by Yorkcraft belong to CYC but the land is leased, at a peppercorn rent, from Wilberforce Trust on condition that it is used primarily to support employment for disabled people and has 40 years remaining on the lease.
6. The commercial on-site factory services include: Direct mail, Contract packing, Sub assembly, confidential archiving, Confidential Waste Collection and Destruction, and Recycling.

Its off site work includes: Gardening, Decorating, Office Removals, Handy Person Service, and General Labour.
7. Yorkcraft provides 30 full-time (16+ hours) Supported Employments for adults with a disability and/or mental health under Department for Work and Pensions (DWP's) Work Choice Programme.
8. Its services generate an annual income of £390k (which includes up to £144k funding from DWP). However, despite the annual income Yorkcraft requires a current subsidy of approximately £260k pa from the Council to cover its total costs. The small management team and the adults on Work Choice programme are all employees of the City of York Council.
9. From Oct 2010, Yorkcraft became a sub-contractor to one of DWP's Work Choice prime-providers Shaw Trust. Yorkcraft receives £4,800/year from Shaw Trust for each supported employment placement. The current contracts and funding arrangements will end in Oct 2015 and firm details of what will replace it are awaited.
10. As well as 30 full-time supported employment places, Yorkcraft also provides 5+ short-term work placements to Shaw Trust customers to support individuals to re-engage with the labour market. This support service is highly valued by customers and by Shaw Trust.
11. The current net cost to CYC of maintaining the facility is £7,800 per full time equivalent job. While this compares very favourably to a figure of £27,400 per person in Remploy factories in 2010/11, it does represent a significant cost to CYC, although at this level, it is possible that it is a net saving to the public purse, taking into account welfare and other payments.

12. All employees are on CYC contracts which can make it more difficult for employees to move on to the mainstream labour market where the levels of pay and conditions they could attract may be less and for some, local mainstream employment opportunities would be very hard to gain – the range of appropriate level jobs is (anecdotally) minimal.
13. It is not easy to put a measure or value on Yorkcraft's social outputs, outcomes and impact for its employees. The 'pastoral' support the management of the service provides to employees is varied and often enables them to retain their independence and deal with life's challenges.
14. The current low success rate of the first published figures for the Work Programme of participants achieving sustainable employment (minimum of six months) to July 2012 (between 2.3% and 3.5% by the providers covering York) point to the major difficulties that exist in supporting long-term unemployed people into work. A challenge this poses is clear for how any local initiative would achieve higher success rates than those cited, particularly for Adults with Disabilities who are currently referred through to the Work Choice Programme by Job Centre Plus, rather than the Work Programme.
15. BASE, the British Association of Supported Employment states;

Supported Employment has been successfully used for decades as a personalised model for supporting people with significant disabilities to secure and retain paid employment. The model uses a partnership strategy to enable people with disabilities to achieve sustainable long-term employment and businesses to employ valuable workers. Increasingly, supported employment techniques are being used to support other disadvantaged groups such as young people leaving care, ex-offenders and people recovering from drug and alcohol misuse.
16. Work plays a pivotal role in defining an individual's quality of life and must be an integral part of a person's overall life experience. Supported employment offers an innovative process that enables employment as an achievable goal for people with disabilities just as it is for non disabled people in our society.
17. Real jobs means that the terms and conditions for people with disabilities should be the same as for everyone else including pay at the contracted going rate, equal employee benefits, safe working conditions and opportunities for career advancement.

18. It has been acknowledged by practitioners that employment in Yorkcraft matters for individuals and that it has been positive for their health, economic well-being, social status/identity and relationships.

Consultation

19. Throughout the review, regular meetings have been held with Yorkcraft employees to update them on the work of the review and to seek their views.
20. Briefings have been held with the Community Union, GMB and Unison to share the options. All have pledged to support the staff at Yorkcraft through any changes and are keen to see a secure future for its employees in sustainable employment.

Options

21. The Yorkcraft Business Model Review Project Board identified the following options:

Option 1) Increasing business income by improving business opportunities and marketing techniques.

Option 2) Supporting long-term permanent employees to progress to sustainable employment in external organisations and re-plan the Yorkcraft services to closure

Option 3) Investigating the feasibility to support the existing business convert into a sustainable social enterprise or a public service mutual.

Analysis and conclusions to date

22. I will present to the Committee for discussion our analysis and conclusions to date on the above options.
23. The headlines so far for each option would be as follows:
24. **Option 1** - Work continues on seeking more lucrative contracts supported by marketing expertise to increase the level of income. This work clearly also underpins option 3.

As a result of this work Yorkcraft has gained new contracts and increased its income from regular customers/works by up to £22k for 13/14.

A combination of new contracts and price increase will add £30K+ for current year's income. Whilst there may be opportunities to further increase income with external business support expertise it appears unlikely that it can secure a sustainable future based on this option alone.

25. **Option 2** – The vast majority of the group of long term supported CYC employees at Yorkcraft no longer wish to move to open employment and wish to remain working at Yorkcraft. A small number of staff have expressed a wish to take early voluntary retirement. An external review praised the level of training and qualifications obtained and available to Yorkcraft employees.
26. **Option 3** – The work on this option was supported by a specialist organisation called 'Centrifuge' which drew on local views and ideas to propose a hybrid model of arrangement for Yorkcraft that could offer a sustainable future.
27. The report by Centrifuge contains commercially sensitive and confidential information and so is currently not available as an annexe. However, the key issues and recommendations it makes are contained in this report and can be expanded upon during the discussion at the meeting.
28. In relation to Yorkcraft and its possible role in the wider context of supported employment in the City it essentially advises that if fewer but more lucrative contracts can be won and delivered by the 'hub' of Yorkcraft, its current multiplicity of smaller contracts (eg, gardening) could become work for spin off social enterprise/s or cottage industries supported by the Yorkcraft hub.
29. A successful Development and Innovation Fund bid has enabled specialist support from Centrifuge to be provided to Peasholme Charity and YACRO to set up a Social Enterprise gardening scheme. It is expected to begin providing its services with a York Housing Association grounds maintenance contract and the proposed gardening work currently carried out through Yorkcraft.

The enterprise will recruit socially excluded citizens of York and is currently establishing an initial pilot and are intending to be formally established by April 2013. Work will initially be volunteer placements, leading to short-term employment and support to then access permanent mainstream employment.

30. In addition the Centrifuge report recommends that commissioned housing related support services for excluded client groups (previously known as Supporting People) create an emphasis on developing life skills to enable people accessing these services to be more work ready. By changing the focus of these contracts the council will be able support the effectiveness of these social enterprises without any additional investment.
31. The Centrifuge report challenges us to clarify if the Council is prepared to commit to treating a Yorkcraft 'hub' as an in-house service that delivers services for the Council without the need to compete in open tenders to do so.
32. The majority of services (61%) that Yorkcraft provides are to CYC itself. This could be increased and even expanded to other organisations in part by encouraging (facilitated by Procurement and Economic Development Team / Learning City) other public sector organisations within York to reserve contracts for supported businesses under Article 7 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006. There would also be the opportunity to explore expanding core services to local private sector organisations.
33. This proposal clearly needs further work but if viable it could allow us to evolve from the current Yorkcraft model over the short to medium term to one that offers a more modern intermediate labour market role of supporting current and future workers into open employment. It could do so by using a cluster of social enterprises supported from the core of Yorkcraft as employment opportunities or work training etc for supported employment.
34. This 'hybrid' model, envisages Yorkcraft having a sustainable core as an integral part of CYC delivering higher levels of service to the Council and other organisations in the city to enable it to use its location and develop expertise as an incubator for the development of social enterprises, creating a core and periphery approach. This model would provide an opportunity to develop new intermediate labour market placements for younger disabled adults (aged 16-25), which in turn opens up access to other funding streams and support.
35. Yorkcraft is, but has not always been recognised as, an integral part of CYC. We therefore wish to discuss and explore this idea of re-emphasising its role and keeping Yorkcraft as part of CYC that provides:

- Mailing, documentation management, archiving and ancillary services to CYC and other organisations as appropriate;
- Provides employment opportunities for disabled people;
- Becomes a support hub for a social enterprise development, and
- Becomes a 'broker' (or 'strategic influencer' or 'champion') to facilitate other employers, in the city, to develop 'diverse' employment practices

36. Yorkcraft has developed the experience and skills to support the development of employment initiatives for people excluded from the mainstream labour market and the Yorkcraft operation would become a central part of York's approach to integrating excluded people into the labour market and contributing to effective local services.

37. If this approach to Yorkcraft is supported and is viable, the report goes on to propose that:

York develop a **Social and Co-operative Enterprise Zone**. The UK's first Social Enterprise Zone (SEZ) was established in 1998 and was based in Newham, East London. It was based on the wider Enterprise Zone model, where designated areas are freed from a range of statutory regulations obstructing local economic growth. More recently, the approach has been emulated elsewhere, with interesting examples including:

- The Black Country, where developments are being led by the Local Enterprise Partnership, in recognition of the approach's role in economic development and providing employment; and
- Blackpool, where the RSA has been making grants to Fellows to complete research establishing the criteria and plan of action for implementing the concept of a Social Enterprise Demonstration Zone. The ultimate aim of the Demonstration Zone is to better explain and raise public awareness of the concept of social enterprise, much in the same way as the fairtrade town movement developed.

38. It is important to stress that this is not necessarily a physical zone, or indeed an organisational structure. Rather it is a focus for bringing groups, individuals and organisations together to focus on identifying, supporting and incubating social enterprises. Importantly, this would aim to support a wide range of social enterprise initiatives, not limited to activities solely targeted on those excluded from the labour market.

Council Plan

39. Economic inclusion is one of the Council's key objectives within a growing local economy. This review and discussion at the meeting will seek to explore opportunities to better support access to employment by disabled adults and other disadvantaged groups.
40. The Economic Inclusion Policy report, presented by Julia Massey to the Council's Creating Jobs and Growing the Economy Project Board (Dec 7), identifies Adults with Disabilities and Other Social Excluded Groups as being two of the key groups in the city requiring additional targeted support to facilitate 'routes into sustainable employment'. The paper also highlights the importance of CYC taking a lead role to 'create employment opportunities' for marginalized groups, as well as its role to promote the business case for workforce diversity and leveraging opportunities with other employers through the Council's procurement and commissioned service framework. (Annex 1)

Implications

41. **Financial** - A full financial assessment and business case would be required for any subsequent decisions that may arise following this scrutiny discussion. More detailed financial information can be provided as necessary and relevant during the discussion.
42. **Human Resources (HR)** - None directly arising from this report. More detailed HR information can be provided as necessary and relevant to the discussion.
43. **Equalities** - See Paragraphs 15 & 16
44. **Legal** - None directly arising from this report. More information can be provided as necessary and relevant to the discussion.
45. **Crime and Disorder** - None
46. **Information Technology (IT)** - None
47. **Property** - None directly arising from this report. More information can be provided as necessary and relevant to the discussion.
48. **Other** - None

Risk Management

49. A full risk assessment would be required to inform any subsequent decisions that may arise following this scrutiny discussion. More information can be provided as necessary and relevant to the discussion. A current risk arises from the loss of DWP work choice programme income in 2015 of £144k approx. There have been more encouraging noises from the DWP about individuals receiving a budget to use to pay for their employment support etc but as yet no firm details exist to reassess the level of this risk.

Recommendations

50. Members are asked to consider;
- 1) The potential contribution of the review and in particular option 3 (Investigating the feasibility to support Yorkcraft convert into a sustainable social enterprise or a public service mutual) toward promoting economic inclusion for disabled adults and other disadvantaged groups in the City.
 - 2) The idea of a 'hybrid' model, that envisages
 - (a) Yorkcraft having a sustainable core as an integral part of CYC delivering higher levels of service to the Council and other organisations in the city and
 - (b) to use its location and develop expertise as an incubator for the development of social enterprises.

Reason: To gauge the Scrutiny Committee's opinion of the options presented.

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**Report
Approved**

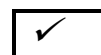


Date 16.01.2013

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

Annex 1 Report to CYC 'Creating Jobs and Growing the Economy' Project Board

Report to CYC ‘Creating Jobs and Growing the Economy’ Project Board

City of York Council Economic Inclusion Policy

Connecting People to Jobs and Opportunities

1. Summary

This paper is set within the context of the Council Plan Priority 1, Creating Jobs and Growing the Economy and also the opportunity to access revenue funding from the Economic Infrastructure Fund. This paper sets out the following:

1. What is Economic Inclusion (including its links with Financial Inclusion)
2. Why we need to respond in York
3. Current Economic Inclusion landscape
 - Employment, enterprise and support services available
 - Those residents finding it hard to connect with jobs and opportunities
4. City Response, Strategic Priorities and Funding Sought
5. Proposed Governance arrangements for bringing forward proposals to EIF
6. Approval requested from the Project Board

Section 1: What is Economic Inclusion?

Economic Inclusion is the term used to describe policies, programmes and interventions targeted at groups of people or places who /which are not fully able to participate in economic life either as a consumer, producer or both.

Economic Inclusion is important to:

- supporting a healthy, dynamic and diverse business base,
- improving a place in which all types of business and people can thrive and
- developing opportunities for people to create wealth and employment.

From a ‘people’ perspective, economic inclusion is not just about being in employment or self-employment. York’s resident base can be excluded from other elements of the economy such as access to financial services. For the purpose of this paper, however, the focus is on how we collectively support the theme of Connecting People to Jobs and Opportunities that sits within Economic Inclusion.

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Connecting People to Jobs and Opportunities is intrinsically linked to individuals' qualifications, skills, knowledge, aptitude and experience to compete for and sustain jobs or run a business, as well as transitional barriers that make it difficult for people to connect with opportunities, such as finance, childcare and transport.

The Economic Inclusion (Connecting People to Jobs and Opportunities) policy and resulting action plan is an integral part of the new Learning City multi-agency **York Employment and Skills Strategy** (to be published end January 2013), which helps to underpin **York's Economic Strategy** and the **Council's Plan Ambition 1** - with its focus on economic growth and job creation, as well as the **City of York Council Fairness Commission Report** – with its focus on ensuring that the city's economic growth and prosperity can benefit **all** residents.

The ambitions of business growth and job creation is in many ways the key driver of Economic Inclusion, while the specific Economic Inclusion policy acts as an enabler to bring partners together from across the public, private and voluntary sector to find new and innovative ways to better connect **all** local people to these jobs and opportunities. It seeks to reduce the devastating personal impact and economic costs of unemployment, under-employment and worklessness, whilst at the same time supporting the city's drive towards growth and greater social equality for all.

Section 2: Why do we need to respond in York?

York's economy has been described as 'resilient' during the recession, with some of the highest levels of employment in the country and lowest levels of benefit claimants, youth unemployment (18-24) and young people (16-18) not in education, employment or training (NEET).

In common with other 'resilient' cities and towns, however, whilst we still have job vacancies there are large numbers of local people who continue to find it difficult to connect with jobs or become self-employed and progress through the labour market. These people tend to have low qualification levels, more often live in areas of deprivation, where inter-generational worklessness and single parent families is more common and for those who have found jobs during the recession, many have suffered employment 'churn' (in and out of jobs). Many also have significant health problems and need long-term, personalised support before they are in a position to enter or re-enter the labour market.

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In addition, despite the high level education and knowledge assets of the universities and colleges, the city has a lower than average proportion of employment in private sector knowledge businesses and many of our most skilled graduates who do decide to stay in the city, frequently find it difficult to find jobs that fully use their high skills. This can result in graduates being under-employed, taking lower level jobs that would otherwise be suitable entry level jobs for local, indigenous residents.

Experience suggests that increasing the supply of jobs is not enough if local people are either unable or unwilling to access them. Unless local people are equipped to compete for these jobs and jobs are generated at different levels, with employers who embrace a 'diverse workforce', there is unlikely to be a reduction in worklessness, many graduates will remain under-employed, and good quality jobs will be filled by mobile residents from elsewhere.

Furthermore, increasing the number of residents in work is not the same as increasing the number of jobs in the city. We know, from the recent Ekosgen LEP research (July 2012) that significant numbers of York residents commute out of the city and large numbers of workers commute in. The 'travel to work' area is increasing and even for lower skilled jobs travel distances, though generally less, can still be significant. Both young people moving into the labour market and older adult residents, seeking to return to work, will need to consider opportunities over a much wider geographic area than just York.

Not only can economic exclusion have devastating effects on individual's lives and children's life chances, but it also inflicts huge costs on the city's economy and society, including:

- **Higher risks of unemployment** - Adults with poor basic literacy and numeracy skills are up to five times more likely to be unemployed or out of the labour market than those with adequate skills
- **A lack of appropriately skilled workers that impedes productivity** – Educational underachievement and shortages in relevant skills and competencies have a direct impact on the supply of talented individuals in the workforce. This in turn contributes to the productivity gap between York and other UK and international competitors, that we are seeking to address in order to increase the competitiveness and growth of our city's businesses.
- **Lack of customers** – low income or benefit dependency can reduce the City's spending power

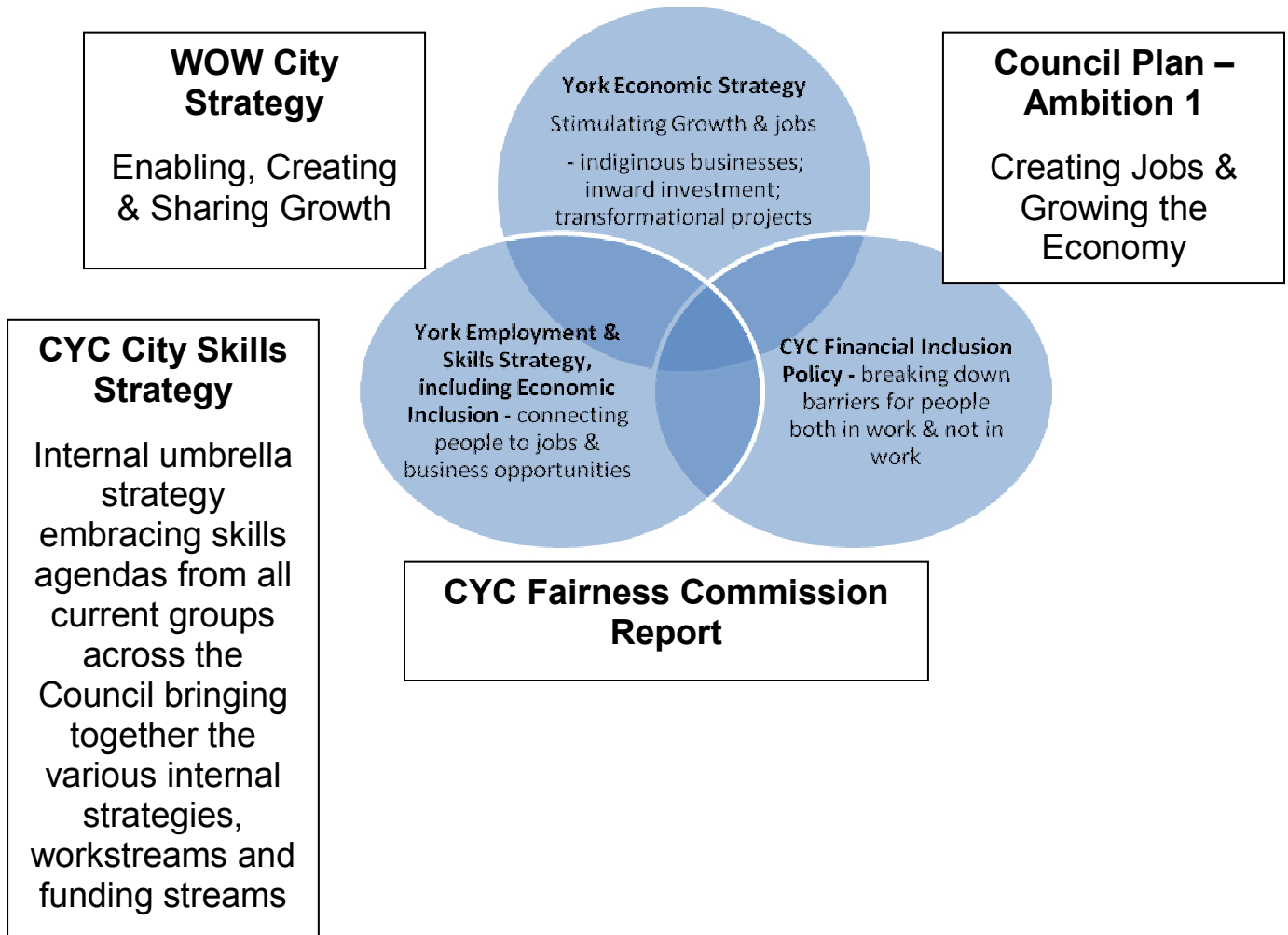
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- **Inefficient use of human resources** - with employers not making best use of the talent available, particularly in terms of under-employed Graduates

Whilst local people have no absolute right to fill jobs that are created in the city, it is arguably the responsibility of local agencies to assist them to do so and to access appropriate opportunities in the wider travel to work area beyond the city.

In partnership, we need to:

- Ensure that there is the right range of jobs in the city, so that people with different skill levels and personal circumstances can enter and progress through the labour market and that employers are supportive of a diverse workforce to enable opportunities for all; (***Economic Strategy, York Economic Partnership lead***)
- Address 'supply side' barriers to work and self-employment, including equipping people with the right skills, knowledge, attitudes and experience to enable them to compete effectively; (***York's Employment and Skills Strategy, Learning City York lead***) and
- Remove transitional barriers that make it difficult for people to compete for jobs or start up a business, addressing transport, benefit and childcare barriers, ensuring that there is a good supply of high quality information, advice and guidance (IAG) about the job opportunities and business start-up support that are available (***overlap between York's Employment and Skills Strategy and CYC Financial Inclusion Strategy, Financial Inclusion Network lead***)



Economic Inclusion Landscape

3.1 Support Services Available to Residents and Employers

In the preparation of this policy document a comprehensive mapping exercise was undertaken by Learning City York in partnership with Job Centre Plus, as part of the *York Employment and Skills Strategy*. This exercise has captured the current landscape of employment, enterprise and transitional support services available to residents across the city delivered by City of York Council, in its own right, and wider City partners.

Despite the plethora of programmes available to support people connect with jobs and opportunities, there are still areas of York and particularly groups of adults that find it difficult to engage and progress through the labour and

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enterprise market, at the level that best fits their individual circumstances and aspirations (see section 3.2).

Whilst Job Centre Plus (JCP) hold the statutory responsibility to provide support for all ages of Benefit claimants to get back into work, employability, training and advice programmes operate within a fragmented funding landscape which currently creates gaps for particular residents not only in their understanding of the offer and how and where to access the support, but also the lack of coherent provision that meets their specific needs.

The market place also creates challenges for employers, particularly SMEs, in terms of navigating the different recruitment options and services available, as well as accessing public funded training and wage incentive opportunities.

3.2 Where Additional Support is Needed

This section focuses on which residents are finding it hard to access employment and / or self-employment through the support that is already available in York and where it seems that additional support is most likely to be needed to improve the prospects of **all** local people.

3.2.1 York's Profile for Residents on Out-of-Work Benefits

Whilst there are out-of-work claimants across all ages and living in all parts of York, through the Assessment of Need within the *York Employment and Skills Strategy* we know that there are particular disparities in different neighbourhoods, as well as disparities and inequalities in employment and economic activity rates among certain groups. By tracking these trends and characteristics of benefit claimants, we are able to adopt a more consistent and evidence-based approach to policy development on tackling worklessness, under-employment and economic exclusion.

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	Feb 2007 (pre-recession)	Feb 2012	Share of Workless Claimants 2012
Job Seeker Number and % of working age population	1,853 : 1.5%	3,682 : 2.7%	36% (^)
ESA & Incapacity Benefits	5,530 : 4.2%	5,020 : 3.6%	50%
Lone Parent Income Support	1,530 : 1.2%	1,100 : 0.8%	11%
Other on income related benefits	367	328	3%
Total Key Out-of- work benefits	9,280 : 7.1%	10,130 : 7.3%	100%

Source: DWP Out of Work Benefit Claimants via NOMISWEB

3.2.2 Key facts and stats about Worklessness / Unemployment / Under-employment:

By Neighbourhood

- Worklessness is concentrated and has risen in particular neighbourhoods with 50% of Job Seeker claimants living in the city's 5 most deprived wards of Westfield, Clifton, Tang Hall, Acomb and Hull Road.
- There is an unemployment rate of 30% within the 8 most deprived 'lower super output areas' in York which are home to around 13,000 people, just under 7% of the York's population

Youth Unemployment (18-24, including Graduates)

- Overall figures for youth unemployment (18-24) could be perceived as being relatively positive. The 4th lowest of 64 UK comparator cities, with claimant figures remaining fairly constant since 2010 (~850-1000 per month).
- However, whilst short term unemployment within this age group ie: unemployed for less than 6 months has been reducing, there has been a significant increase in those claiming benefits for 6 or 12 months+ in the last year. Of the 920 unemployed 18-24 year olds (as at April 2012) there

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were 205 that had been out of employment for more than six months, with 100 of these being without employment for over 12 months (compared to only 30 in April 2011).

- In September 2012, Graduates accounted for 19% (164) of total youth unemployment (860); in November 2012 this figure, whilst reduced to 100, still accounted for 11% of total youth unemployment

Top 5 increases in Jobs Seekers Allowance April 2011 – 12 (by age, gender, duration)

- 18-24 year olds claiming 6-12 months + = 65% from 185 to 305
- 25-49 year olds claiming 2 years+ = 56.7% from 150 to 235
- 50+ year olds claiming 6 months+ = 43.6% from 195 to 280
- Longer-term claimants 12 months+ = 43.6% from xxx to 725
- Female claimants – whilst male claimants still account for the majority (~70%) of all claimants, there have been higher % increases seen from female claimants at every age and duration of unemployment. The highest female proportion of long term JSA is in the Aged 24 and under, claiming for over 6 months category.

Lone Parents (claiming Income Support)

- 44% of all lone parents in York are not working
- Through the needs assessment for *York's Child Poverty Strategy*, we know that 12.8% of children and young people in York (4450) live in poverty and in terms of family characteristics, we know that for every 100 children in poverty 73 belong to a Lone Parent household (9 higher than the region)

Adults with Disabilities

- The number of adults with learning disabilities with employment in York fell in 2009/10 to 4.3% from 5.8% which is a higher fall in % terms than the regional rate.

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General Characteristics and Barriers for Residents

Local intelligence gathered through Job Centre Plus, City of York Council Family Learning and Future Prospects identifies the following characteristics and barriers to work for many residents:

- Literacy, including digital literacy (36% of those on JSA have below L2 qualifications)
- Lack of recent work experience
- Health problems (less prevalent in lone parent families)
- Lack of self-confidence and self-esteem
- Recognising the length of the journey to work varies considerably
- Addressing financial and 'better-off' concerns
- Raising motivation and linking it to the positive impact and benefits that 'work' can have on children within the family

3.2.3 Key facts and stats about Jobs and Opportunities

- In the last year, there have been an average of 1800 job vacancies advertised by JCP every month
- There is often a mis-match between jobs sought and jobs available, particularly in terms of unfilled vacancies for care assistant and home care, telesales, cheffing and over demand for general office work
- Most jobs, through JCP, are entry level and lower paid
- Some low paid, entry level are being taken by Graduates, who are unable to access Graduate level jobs

Section 4: City Response, Strategic Priorities and Funding Sought

4.1 City Response

Whilst the statutory responsibility for supporting all ages of benefit claimants lies with Job Centre Plus, Learning City York (City of York Council) has set up two multi-agency groups to bring stakeholders together to better plan and cohere activities to support residents in York:

- **the strategic 'Economic Inclusion Group'** which brings together the LA (Economic Development, Education and Skills, Employment and Skills delivery services) with JCP, Skills Funding Agency, National Careers

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Service, Higher York, Your Consortium (voluntary / community sector), York College and Citizens Advice Bureau to review local evidence, set strategic priorities against city ambitions and agree a development plan to target activity and maximise the alignment of funding streams to tackle local priorities

- **the operational ‘Connecting People to Jobs and Opportunities Network’** – a wider operational and implementation network that currently brings together core employment support providers and agencies, including Future Prospects, JCP, Work Programme Providers, York CVS, National Careers Service, CAB, Youth Support Services and other training providers. The group meets to share good practice and keep up-to-date with local, regional and national developments in terms of all aspects of employment, training and support services for **working age adults seeking work, self-employment or facing redundancy**. The network enables partners to share information about their respective offers for residents and employers and to continue to build effective working relationships with other providers and intermediary agencies in developing a quality offer to support ‘Connecting People to Jobs and Opportunities’ and the key strategic priorities and outcomes identified within the wider Learning City *‘York Employment and Skills Strategy’*.

In addition, Learning City is currently supporting a Scrutiny Committee that is focusing on Youth Unemployment, ensuring that both the research and consultation of the Committee and resulting recommendations are aligned with the work of the two groups above.

4.2 Strategic Priorities for the City & Funding Support

In the current economic environment, it is difficult to know whether the overall number of people on out of-work benefits or those that are under-employed in York can realistically be reduced by 2015. Much will depend on the ability of the private sector to grow and create new jobs, as well as the stimulus brought about by realizing inward investment opportunities and transformational capital projects in the city. It will also depend, in part, on the impact of the Government’s welfare reform programme.

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In the meantime, however, based on gap analysis in provision and employment services identified in Learning City's Employment and Skills Assessment of Need, the **Economic Inclusion Group** has identified 3 themed priorities against which it is seeking to work with partners to generate a range of activity, programmes and initiatives to add value to the market place and better connect **all** residents with existing and future jobs and opportunities over the next 3 years:

1. Transitional support
2. Routes to Employment
3. Creating Employment Opportunities

New skills and labour market interventions will wrap around the mainstream provision offered by the Department for Work and Pensions, Job Centre Plus, the Skills Funding Agency, National Careers Service and Higher Education for Funding Council.

It is intended that where programmes, activities and initiatives require additional resources, project proposals will be submitted to access funding from the:

- Economic Inclusion strand of City of York's Council Economic Infrastructure Fund,
- Regional Flexible Support Fund available through Job Centre Plus or
- Financial Inclusion strand of CYC's Economic Infrastructure Fund

Funding is sought across the following range of strategic priorities:

1. Transitional Support

For residents who are seeking work and / or facing redundancy, with a focus on:

- **Jobs Fairs** - building on the success of the October 2012 York Jobs Fair¹, EIF funding is sought to support two high profile York Jobs Fairs annually to 2015, enabling job seekers and those facing redundancy to meet face to face with recruiting employers, as well as employment support agencies and training providers, moving to a sustainable co-financed model with partners if practicable. (An indicative allocation of £24k is being sought to

¹ funded by Learning City York and CYC Economic Development Unit and co-ordinated by Future Prospects in partnership with Job Centre Plus

Annex 1

support 6 York Jobs Fairs to be co-ordinated by Future Prospects, in partnership with JCP)

- **Work Experience opportunities** – we need to develop and extend work placements and volunteering opportunities for people outside the labour market, to enable them to gain recent experience, build personal confidence and an employer reference. From the experience of York’s local JCP team, 50% of clients who benefit from a 25-30 hour placement opportunity of between 2 and 8 weeks, whilst still on benefits, move into sustainable employment. Some of the larger voluntary and community sector organizations are well placed to support the requirements for JCP, but would need additional volunteer co-ordinator capacity to support this development. (An indicative estimate of a pilot project through CAB to support 10 placements annually, would require the appointment of a part-time volunteer co-ordinator at the cost of £14.5k annually)
- **Simplifying access to Information, Advice and Guidance** – for jobs, training, careers and self-employment / business start-up; which could include the co-location of multi-agency services available to residents (funding for an initial feasibility study could be sought from DIF)
- **Removing financial barriers** – debt advice and better-offer measures can be supported via the Financial Inclusion Policy and action plan
- **Transport barriers** – a recommendation from the Scrutiny Committee to support young unemployed 18-24 year olds is currently being scoped and clarification is being sought regarding recent national announcements about travel support to be made available through JCP for 1st jobbers.

2. Routes to Employment and Self-employment

Targeted programmes to equip residents with the right skills, knowledge, attitudes and experience to support their route to sustainable employment / self-employment and match them to current and future vacancies. With a focus on:

- Young People (18-24), including Graduates and those requiring pre-employment / pre-Apprenticeship training
- Lone Parents & workless parents receiving the new free childcare entitlement for 2 year olds

- Older People (over 50)
- Adults with Disabilities (including mental health)
- Those who are socially excluded
- Addressing the basic skills deficit of adults on out-of-work benefits (literacy, numeracy and IT/ digital literacy)

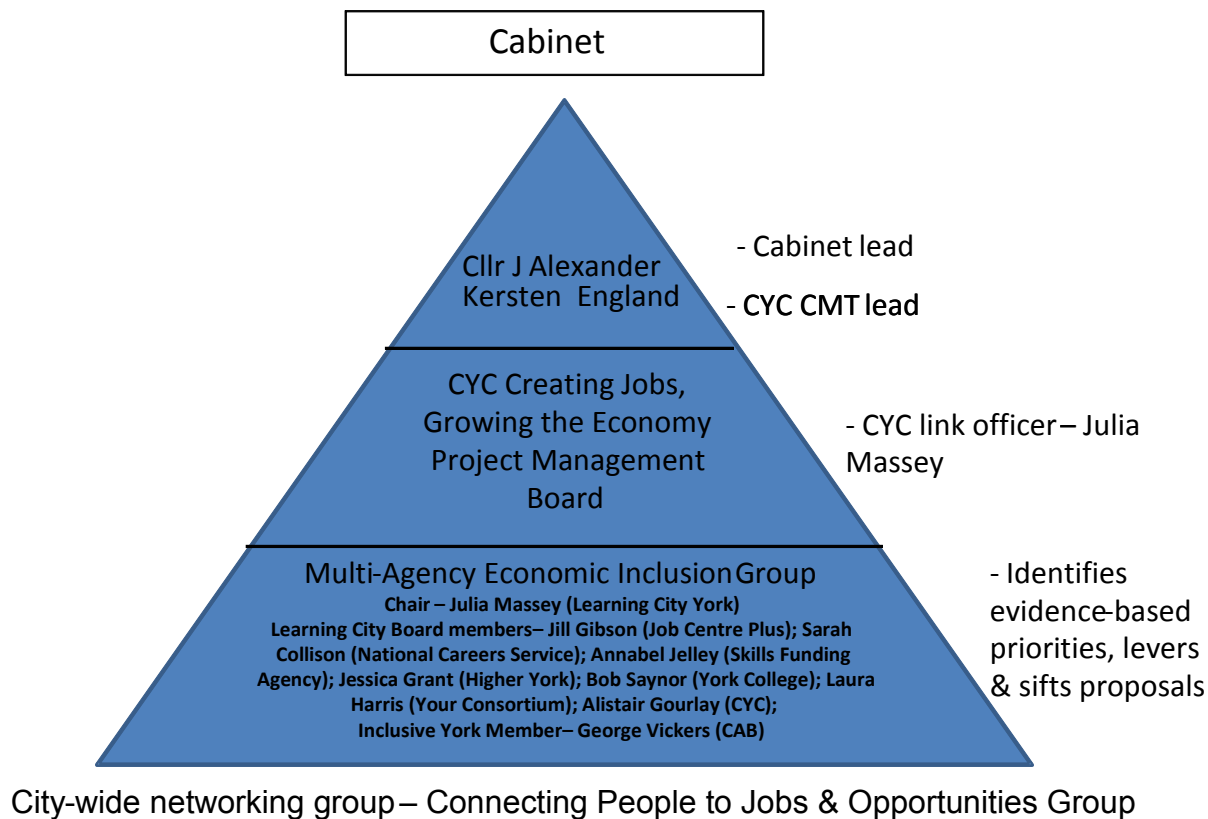
3. Creating Employment Opportunities

Targeted activities that promote the business case for diversity and increases the number of employers offering training and workforce development opportunities to support people into employment, including work experience, Apprenticeships, Graduate jobs (commonly known as Graduate Interns) and other opportunities for local residents and marginalized groups, with a focus on:

- City of York Council, in its own right (linking to actions identified within *CYCs Single Equalities Scheme*)
- CYC's Procurement and Commissioning Framework to influence the employment and recruitment practices of suppliers and commissioned services
- Working alongside transformational capital projects such as those supported by City of York Council's Economic Infrastructure Fund, the regional growth fund, as well as other major capital projects approved across the city and inward investment developments
- The wider business community

Section 5: Governance Arrangements for EIF

Economic Inclusion Governance



Section 6 Approval requested from the Project Board

- i. Approve the City of York Council **Economic Inclusion Policy (Connecting People to Jobs and Opportunities)** and recommend adoption to Cabinet
- ii. Approve the principle of draw-down of Economic Infrastructure Funding of at least £200k over 3 financial years to deliver against the 3 key strategic priorities identified in the Economic Inclusion Policy (Connecting People to Jobs and Opportunities),
- iii. Approve the principal of bringing forward larger programmes or initiatives that might exceed the £200k Economic Inclusion draw-down that meet key

Annex 1

priorities, the funding criteria and demonstrate a significant economic / social return on investment for the city

- iv. Approve the proposed governance process and structure for the city's overarching approach to accessing EIF funding to address Economic Inclusion - Connecting People to Jobs and Opportunities (see Section 5)
- v. Consider the opportunity for the part-time Financial Inclusion Project Manager role (already funded through the EIF Financial Inclusion Policy) to also support the co-ordination of the city-wide Economic Inclusion work, to enable an alignment of activities and the sharing of good practice where appropriate
- vi. Consider whether the existing EIF project proposal form is sufficient for the purpose of Economic Inclusion bids being brought forward from partners for consideration and approval by the CJGE Project Board to then go forward to Cabinet, or whether further criteria and parameters need to be set.

Julia Massey
Learning City York
11.12.12

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Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee**29th January 2013**

Report of the Assistant Director Governance & ICT

Update Report – ‘Reducing the Carbon Footprint in the Privately Rented Sector Scrutiny Review’**Summary**

1. This report gives an update on the currently dormant ‘Reducing the Carbon Footprint in the Privately Rented Sector’ Scrutiny Review. It advises Members what has been happening whilst the review has been on hold and asks that Members indicate whether they still wish to continue with this review.

Background

2. In July 2012 Members received an update from Officers advising them of the work being completed by Officers whilst the Council were awaiting the outcome of the Government’s consultation on the Green Deal.

Commitments

3. Members can be advised that in line with the paper received in July 2012 the following actions have been completed or are ongoing:
 - The extension of the Local Advice service operated by the Yorkshire Energy Partnership on behalf of the Council until 31st March 2013 which complements the National Advice Service but to also give local residents information about local schemes in particular the local Carbon Emission Reduction Target (CERT) and Community Energy Savings Programme (CESP) scheme
 - CERT funding has been extended until February 28th 2013 and we have worked hard with the Yorkshire Energy Partnership to ensure that York Residents can take full advantage of the available funding.

The scheme is being promoted by the Yorkshire Energy Partnership and York private sector householders have received 1205 measures. This equates to more than £341k worth of funding which has been drawn down. Members may want to note that nearly 1100 customers have made referrals following an advert in Your Voice in November 2012. It is anticipated that as a result a further 700 measures will be installed in to customers' homes.

- The completion of the CESP programme in the Hull Road area of the city. This area of the city was the only eligible area in York which could take advantage of this scheme. We can advise that the following measures have been completed across all tenures:

Scheme	Loft Insul.	Cavity Insul.	Solid Insul.	Heating	PV panels
CESP	221	19	30	47	32

- The successful bid for Department of Health funding - in November City of York Council in partnership with Age UK, York and Yorkshire Energy Partnership successfully bid for Winter Warmth Funds to assist and give advice to older people on how to keep warm over the winter period. A grant of 18K ensured that the partnership could offer a range of measures to vulnerable older people.
- The successful bid through the Leeds City Region which accessed funding from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) to pilot three schemes which tested key elements of the new Green Deal framework. We are currently working in three areas in the city helping private residents to insulate hard to treat homes. The owners of the homes will be offered loans to top up any utility subsidy that they can obtain to install external wall insulation. Residents are being helped by the Yorkshire Energy Partnership to identify the need for the work by the provision of a free Energy Performance Certificate assessment and are being helped through the Planning process.
- The successful bid for funding under the recent DECC Local Competition. Please follow the link below for more information about these funding streams:
http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/funding/funding_ops/lacomplacompl.aspx

- This bid was successful for two streams of funding, one to help vulnerable householders keep warm this winter and the second to help residents to set up collective switching schemes

- (i). The first competition was developed in partnership with York, North Yorkshire District Authorities and the York Energy Partnership securing £447k worth of funding to install heating systems and insulation in the homes of vulnerable local residents who are struggling with rising energy bills. Members should note that this scheme was significantly over-subscribed, with 136 applications involving the majority of local Councils in England requesting over £60million of support. York who led on this bid have been awarded the full ask, however there is significant pressure to ensure that the scheme is delivered before the 31st March 2013

- (ii). The second competition again saw the Council with regional partners CO2Sense and CED, secure just under £300,000 to pilot six community energy collective switching schemes in the region (including one pilot for York). The pilot, not launched in York until February 2013, will target those in fuel poverty (but will be open to anyone in York). DECC's £5million fund was offered to help local authority and third sector organisations in Great Britain to help set up collective purchasing of energy in their local areas, and also encourage residents to work together to switch energy suppliers and get a better tariff. The aim of this scheme was to encourage consumers to group together and use market power to negotiate lower energy bills and save money. York's pilot will see a local energy smart club set up through existing communities, and members will be able to switch energy suppliers and on average could save up to £115 on their fuel bills through the switch. The club will support members with the switch which will be arranged through partners CED and Which? The club will also offer other energy efficiency measures available through current CYC schemes and will offer wider greener lifestyles behavioural change support. More information will be circulated to members in the coming weeks once plans have been finalised.

Green Deal

4. Work is still ongoing finalising a Leeds City Region (LCR) Green Deal Model which will deliver Green Deal packages across the LCR area.

The model's finances have now been finalised, and to date papers on the proposed model, financing options and programme development (including procurement and delivery options) have been circulated across LCR Leader groups and panels. In order to proceed with this option, all Local Authorities, including York will, once approved by the Leaders' groups of LCR, need to fund the next stages of the process and investigate potential for prudentially borrowing money to support the programme. Permission amongst LCR Leaders and various panels is still ongoing. Due to these delays CYC is still evaluating this option for York. It is likely that decisions relating to York's continued involvement in the LCR model will need to be determined at the latest by late spring 2013. A paper to Corporate Management Team (CMT) and Cabinet is envisaged before then. In the meantime York continues to deliver a DECC funded pilot offering solid wall insulation to up to 50 homes in York. This pilot will provide invaluable insight into the forthcoming Green Deal and especially help to assist planning teams understand some of the planning issues that may arise from the Green Deal.

Consultation

5. No consultation has taken place since July 2012. However Members may remember at the landlord fair in May 2012 landlords and agents were advised of this scrutiny review and asked if they would like to take part once it recommenced. To date there have been no responses.

Options

6. Members are asked to note the report and indicate when and if they wish to recommence this review.

Analysis

7. Members have been kept up to date on a regular basis about what has been happening in relation to this review and more specifically in relation to the progress of the Green Deal and why there have been delays with this scrutiny review. In light of the information contained within this report Members are asked to give consideration to how they wish to proceed with this review in the future, if at all.
8. The original remit for the review was to:

'Review Council Policies and Procedures in relation to the take up of available measures to reduce the carbon footprint in privately rented accommodation'

9. However for reasons that Members have been kept apprised of, this scrutiny review has never really got off the ground. Since the topic was originally put forward in July 2011 and final agreement to progress to review was given in November 2011 very little has actually happened on the review.
10. Members may, therefore, wish to consider the merits of continuing with the review, bearing in mind the impact of the delays with the Green Deal and the clarity of the remit. If Members do still wish to continue they are asked to revisit the remit for this review to see whether it is still fit for purpose and may make amendment if they feel it is necessary. They are also asked to appoint a further Member to the Task Group undertaking this review.
11. In addition to the above Members are also asked to take into consideration the ongoing work and other reviews of this Committee and are asked to prioritise where this fits within this. If the chosen way forward is to continue then this should be clearly prioritised within the work plan and information given to Officers as to dates and requirements for the next meeting of the Task Group.

Council Plan 2011-2015

12. The theme of this scrutiny review is directly linked with the 'Protect the Environment' element of the Council Plan 2011-2015; in particular the 'reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality' strand of this document.

Implications

13. **Financial** – there are no known financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report. However if the review recommences implications may arise and these will be highlighted as part of the review process.
14. **Human Resources** - there are no known human resources implications associated with the recommendations in this report. However if the review recommences implications may arise and these will be highlighted as part of the review process.
15. **Legal** - there are no known legal implications associated with the recommendations in this report. However if the review recommences implications may arise and these will be highlighted as part of the review process.

16. There are no other known implications associated with the recommendations within this report.

Risk Management

17. There are no known risks associated with the recommendations within this report.

Recommendations

18. Members are asked to note this update report and consider if it is worthwhile continuing this review.

Reason: To update the Committee of work undertaken to this date on this Scrutiny Review.

Contact Details

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Report
Approved



Date 17.01.2013

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

None



Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee

29th January 2013

Report of the Assistant Director Governance and ICT

Report – Remit for the External Funding Scrutiny Review

Summary

1. This report presents the Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee (ECDOSC) with an update on the work undertaken to date by the Task Group¹ appointed to this review, including a draft remit for the review. The Committee are asked to agree the remit in order that work can commence on this review.

Background

2. At a meeting of ECDOSC held in September 2012 Members received a briefing note on a potential scrutiny review proposed by the Chair of the Committee, Councillor Semlyen. The idea for the review was:

'Unlocking the potential of external funding for economic development and regeneration projects'

A copy of this briefing note can be found at **Annex A** to this report.

3. At the September meeting the Committee suggested that any remit for this review might focus on European Regional Development Funding. In light of this a further paper was prepared for the Task Group and this is attached at **Annex B** and **Annex B1** to this report.
4. The Task Group met on 15th November 2012 where they considered **Annexes A, B** and **B1**, and consulted with officers to assist them in setting a remit for this review.

¹ The Task Group is comprised of Councillor Semlyen, Barnes and Burton

5. At this stage Members asked Officers questions in relation to how any monies available might be split and they indicated that it was likely that there would be an allocation of funding for the Yorkshire and Humber area, some of which would be sub-devolved to the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPS) across the region. York was currently a member of two LEPS namely the Leeds City Region LEP and the York/North Yorkshire/East Riding LEP. As yet, however, it was not known what the funding options were, how much funding would be devolved to LEP level or what the eligibility criteria would be. There were also questions still to be asked around agreeing the key priorities for the Yorkshire and Humber region and how more localised priorities for York itself would link in with any regional priorities set.
6. The Task Group felt that any funding available should be accessed for York's top investment priorities and felt there was work to do around the process of promoting York's key investment priorities within the Leeds City Region LEP in particular.
7. In light of the above the Task Group set the following remit to work to:

Aim

To be more effective and systematic in securing external funding and investment for York

Key Objectives

- (i). To assess how Leeds City Region are articulating investment priorities, specifically looking at the case of the LEP European Regional Development Funding programme being developed, and broader European funding
- (ii). To assess what resources are available to City of York Council (CYC) to effectively identify and successfully secure funding (resources in this instance including CYC staff, partnership staff, ability to provide match funding, up-skilling and training)
- (iii). To develop a plan for presenting a strong case to Leeds City Region LEP for funding York's top investment priorities
- (iv). To investigate what models are available to identify return on investment

Consultation

8. To date the Task Group have met with officers within the Council in order to set a remit for this review. It is envisaged that as the review progresses others will be consulted, including the Leader, further officers and representatives of Science City York.

Options

9. Members have the following options:

Option 1 Agree to the remit and key objectives for this review as set out in **paragraph 7** of this report

Option 2 Amend the remit and key objectives for this review

Analysis

10. Once the remit and key objectives for this review have been agreed by the Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee work on the review can commence; however this Committee already has several reviews ongoing including the review around Youth Unemployment which is well underway and quite substantial. There may, therefore, be merit in the Committee reconsidering which of the reviews they are currently undertaking or looking to start ought to take priority as there are limited resources available to support these.

Council Plan 2011-2015

11. This review is linked to the '*create jobs and grow the economy*' element of the Council Plan 2011-2015.

Implications

12. **Financial** – There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations within this report; however implications may arise as the review progresses and these will be addressed accordingly.
13. **Human Resources** – There are no direct Human Resources implications associated with the recommendations within this report; however implications may arise as the review progresses and these will be addressed accordingly.
14. There are no other known implications associated with the recommendations arising from this review.

Risk Management

15. There are no risks associated with the recommendations within this report. Should risks arise as the review progresses these will be identified and clearly set out in the final report arising from the review.

Recommendations

16. Members are asked to approve the remit set out at **Paragraph 7** of this report.

Reason: To enable the Task Group to commence this review.

Contact Details

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Report
Approved



Date 17.01.2013

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

Annex A Briefing Note presented to ECDOSC - September 2012
Annex B Briefing Note for Task Group – November 2012
Annex B1 Summary of Key Points from Yorkshire and Humber European Officer's report

Topic: Unlocking the potential of external funding for economic development and regeneration projects

Date: 25 September 2012

Proposed by Cllr Anna Semlyen

Background

At a time when Council budgets are being increasingly reduced, there is a real and growing need to attract new forms of investment – whether private or public. Whilst there may be less public funding available than in previous years, there remain significant opportunities in the form of European Regional Development Funding, Growing Places Funding and other opportunities – such as Regional Growth Fund should further opportunities such as this be made available. Further, funding bodies like Arts Council and Heritage Lottery Fund all offer opportunities for some of our city centre regeneration and support for creative industries.

Scope

This topic would enable the Committee to input a view on both the need and potential for systematically monitoring, reviewing, and effectively responding to funding opportunities as and when available and relevant.

The Committee would particularly be asked to look at the ERDF programme for 2014-2020 to be released shortly, and a review of Growing Places funding and other opportunities as are currently emerging.

The group could review models of how other Councils support this type of activity, and review best practice for learning lessons for CYC.

The scope of the project would need to be limited to the remit of the committee – so economic and city development funding if possible – although some reference to wider coordination of funding would be beneficial.

Partners

This topic could and should involve partners including Science City York, which has a particular expertise in funding and has successfully attracted funding already. Other partners may be sought such as the business networks in the city and other bodies involved in the economic development agenda.

Timescales

The project would sensibly be timed to coincide with the availability of staff resource coming into EDU to review funding potential for the city in October/November 2012 if possible. This will enable sufficient officer support for the Committee in exploring this topic.

Briefing Note: Future of European Funding Programmes 2014-2020 Consultation Process - priorities for the City of York

Introduction

- The European Commission has recently published outline proposals for Structural and Cohesion Funds 2014-2020. Each EU Member State will have a partnership agreement which will set out its strategy and rationale for how the Funds are to be deployed to complement the EU 2020 strategy and domestic initiatives for sustainable jobs and growth.
- Approximately one third of the EU's budget - €376 billion - will focus on high-impact growth and jobs programmes such as developing the skills of local workforces, encouraging entrepreneurship, improving infrastructure and protecting the environment. The UK is likely to receive £12 billion through a **Partnership Agreement** which will set out overarching spending plans / priorities nationally, regionally and locally.
- Success in meeting these goals will greatly depend on decisions taken at local and regional level, therefore local authorities and partners have an essential role to play in influencing the UK Partnership Agreement. Local Authorities understand the opportunities for growth in their areas, and are perfectly placed to work with and support third and private sector organisations to make it happen.

Background / Consultation

- The Government will use evidence from the forthcoming round of Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) consultation events to inform the UK's draft Partnership Agreement. The draft agreement will be published in Spring 2013, with 3 months further formal consultation taking place thereafter.

- The UK Government will need to ensure that it concentrates and aligns investment flexibly where it will make the greatest economic impact. A sensible dialogue and a proactive approach to lobbying Government needs to be taken **before** the publication of the draft Partnership Agreement in Spring 2012.
- In an era of austerity and declining funds it is essential that City of York Council positions itself to respond appropriately (both individually, and collectively through the European Officers Network) to ensure that the resources which will come into our area are used in the most efficient manner for maximum impact and growth.
- The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will also hold two formal consultations with Yorkshire and Humber local authorities and partners on 4th and 5th December 2012. Input into this consultation is essential.

Key Issues raised to date by Local Authorities

Preliminary consultation events were held in Spring 2012. Typical responses from partners in Yorkshire and the Humber included the following:

- **Geographic Boundaries / Place Based Programmes:** It is essential that the UK Programme's geographic boundaries are tailored to provide the most efficient and effective economic and environmental impact. There is a general desire to operate EU funds at the geography of the 'local area' – **if this is deemed as the City Region level or at potential combined authority levels needs to be given some serious consideration.**
- In Yorkshire and the Humber there is a strong call for funds to be deployed / contracted at a City Region Level - with Leeds City Region Economic Development Plan as the key driver of spend. There is strong support towards a devolved sub-programme for the City Region, combining all key EU funds, within an Operational Programme at a wider level.

- If any City Region approach on the future of the European programme is to be progressed then a lead should be identified, and methods of reporting, influencing and updating need to be made clear. The Yorkshire and Humber European Officers Group is a key vehicle for CYC and York based partners to influence.
- As far as possible within the constraints of EU law, many other local authorities feel that programmes should operate through commissioning rather than bidding allowing for a more **Place based Programming approach** – allowing funds to be deployed through an investment fund for an area, where it can be combined with other national and local funds, thus hugely simplifying match funding problems. This also aligns with the issue raised above to ensure it is strategically driven against a set of local priorities rather than approving bids. If this approach is adopted it is imperative that flagship schemes and initiatives from York are considered.
- **Matched Funding:** Funds from European programmes must be match-funded in order to be accessed by projects. Sufficient availability of match-funding is crucial for the successful implementation of programmes; and there are a range of potential sources. In the past a large proportion of match-funding had been awarded by Government to managing agencies, for example ERDF was often matched by Regional Development Agency single pots, and ESF through the co-financing organisations. In addition a good deal of matched-funding has been sourced locally; from local authorities, universities, and the third and private sectors.
- Privately sourced match-funding is likely to be more sought after given that public sector sources can be expected to be lower in the future, and local partners may be in a good position to help access private sector sources locally. It is believed that leverage of very significant increased level of private sector match could be found, were the rules on “profit” to be firstly clarified, secondly eased.

- It is also important that City Regions and LEPs start to consider how they might realistically identify, encourage and use local public and private sources of match-funding, while also helping maximise the value of sources from central Government (Regional Growth Fund, Growing Places Fund). City Deals need to be broadened and preparation needs to start now to put an infrastructure in place which align better the pooling and matching of resources.
- The default position should be that Government departmental expenditure is available for match. Better central government planning to align their priorities with local programmes would help, as would more creative use of alternative local sources of funding, such as the introduction of tax increment financing, retention of business rates, recognition of volunteer time as valid match and further exploitation of private sector funding.
- Given the interest by the Commission in Financial Engineering Instruments like Jessica, Jeremie (such as venture capital funds, guarantee funds, loan funds and urban development funds) will be an opportunity lost if we do not start to plan for these types of funding vehicles. However they are complicated and resource intensive in their implementation.
- **Reduced Administrative Burden:** One of the biggest frustrations with EU funding is the bureaucracy and poor administration of the funds. A standardised approach to application, timescales and selection procedures is essential; including simplified management and audit procedures; integrated systems for aligned projects and shorter time frames for decisions, authorisation and disbursement of payments.
- **Integrated and aligned programmes:** A degree of integrated programming, in particular in relation to ERDF and ESF, to enable more aligned support for business development alongside skills development, is vitally important.

Recommendations

- Ultimately the Government's intention is that 'spending decisions for any funds provided to England for this period should be taken at a more local level, with a strong role potentially for LEPs/City Region where they are established. This means that authorities in the Leeds City Region have an opportunity to play a role in shaping the next EU programme to ensure that funding is aligned and local priorities are met.
- A list of key responses compiled so far from local authorities and key partners in Yorkshire and Humber to the EU funding consultation process is attached as Annex A. The intention of the Yorkshire and Humber European Officer's Group is to submit these responses to the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) prior to their formal regional consultation meetings in December 2012.
- After December this will be followed up by a direct response from Leeds City Region authorities to BIS, echoing similar sentiments, before the draft Partnership Agreement is released for comment in Spring 2013.

Adam Gray

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Summary of key points from Yorkshire and Humber European Officer's report.

Suggested Principles Priorities and Ambitions for EU Funds 2014 – 2020 for the Leeds and Sheffield City Regions

1. Decision making should be in the hands of local decision makers
2. Funds should be deployed / contracted at city region level.
3. Operational programme geography likely to be a number of adjoining LEP areas.
 - All funding streams with an economic purpose should at the least be aligned and ideally conjoined – the Heseltine Review makes this suggestion as well, in combination with other national and local funds should deliver the LEP.
 - Funding should be deployed strategically against key priorities – in Leeds CR the Economic Development Plan should be the key driver for identifying this although the support to Cities should not be at the expense of others areas in the CRs
 - Funding focused on outcomes rather than outputs
 - Funding streams with an economic purpose should be deployed at the level of functional economic spaces
 - Both the CRs are eligible to receive funding from each of the key funds - ERDF, ESF and EAFRD (although EAFRD is only eligible in certain smaller areas). Whilst each CR has been developing a City Region Investment Fund this could also be used as a key vehicle to access funds to deliver the economic growth agenda.
4. Overarching priorities:
 - Growth (increased GVA),
 - Jobs (numbers and quality),
 - Physical and environmental regeneration.
 - Inclusion.
 - Reduced worklessness and poverty.
5. Priority Sectors - each CR will need to clearly articulate what its key priority sectors are based on its economic strategy. Suggestions would include ;
 - Advanced manufacturing;
 - Healthcare technologies;
 - Low carbon;

- Construction;
- Creative and digital.

Also, aviation; tourism; culture, leisure & sport; retail and logistics maybe considered – although traditionally sectors like leisure and sport , retail and tourism traditionally have not been key sectors supported through eg. ERDF. Recognition of the key role that professional and business services play in fostering growth in all sectors, as well as being a potential growth sector in itself also needs to be acknowledged.

6. Particular priorities for ESF - Promotion of greater inclusion, reduction of worklessness and reduction of poverty.
 - a. Continuing investment in skills development for unemployed people, particularly for vulnerable groups.
 - b. Workforce development support for SME's
 - c. Minimising numbers of young people who are NEET,
7. Preparing for and implementing changes to support the raising of the participation age in education.
 - a. Supporting vocational education outside schools.
 - b. Supporting schools engagement with and understanding of the labour market.
 - c. Supporting young people's transition at 18 to adult support and other services.
 - d. Pre-apprenticeship programme and a programme to help the young unemployed become more work ready

Principal work-streams for EU funds to support:

Economic Growth Plans for the Leeds CR and Sheffield CR (currently under development) must frame the use of EU funds. Whilst Sheffield CR have already started to lobby Government with regard to Transition areas they have also started to articulate what their priorities would be fro the Sheffield CR to fund using EU funds.

Growth (increased GVA), jobs (numbers and quality) and physical and environmental regeneration are all important to the city region, and we must seek to deliver them all in combination, and to the benefit of the whole of the city region.

- Thematic focus. We believe that most of what we would want to do can be contained within the European Commission's eleven themes, provided that interpretation is sufficiently flexible and that the MA does not adopt an unreasonably risk averse approach.

As for the required minimum spend on four of them, we do not believe that such high level prescription is helpful, although we do not think that it will unduly constrain or distort delivery against our ambitions.

- Work stream focus. As a LEP we have identified a number of principal work streams, and insofar as they meet eligibility requirements, we would deploy EU funds to support these.
- Complementarity with City Deal plans and priorities:
- Where Enterprise Zone plans are in place ensure the maximum leverage of both.
- Knowledge Transfer – DoDs are in need to have a discussion with the city region’s universities to how best benefits can be shared of their often world class work to the benefit of the city region’s businesses and wider economy
- SME competitiveness which would include amongst others.
 - a range of programmes to support start-up
 - social enterprise support
 - export programmes
 - supply chain development
 - facilitating access to public sector procurement
- Marketing and inward investment programme for the city region (where eligible and not displacement).
- Skills- in line with City Deal Skills Plan, emphasise the importance of higher level skills, linked to business need and key sectors.
- Entrepreneurship – with low levels of aspiration in many of the CRs more deprived post-industrial communities, target pro-entrepreneurship actions in those communities.
- Inclusion, worklessness, poverty – with all the evidence, as well as through experience, shows that this is best tackled at a very local level. Suggest enhancing ATA type models to support the unemployed as well as more intensive programmes to help the young unemployed become more work ready, as well as continuing, deepening and broadening the many successful programmes already underway in different parts of the city region.
- Economic infrastructure – whilst in the current Y & H ERDF Programme this has been limited only to the Objective 1 area (ie South Yorkshire) lobby for this to be more flexibly available across both CR areas – making the area attractive to knowledge and advanced industries.

- Transport schemes that are essential to unlock growth or create jobs should be funded. Also schemes which connect excluded communities/ individuals to jobs.
- A programme of urban transport low carbon actions.
- Broadband connectivity – building on work undertaken in the current programme to make sure the use of new technologies eg. 4G, multi device options, are made accessible to all areas.
- Rural - ensuring that rural communities are fully connected to the urban economy.



Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee

29th January 2013

Report of the Assistant Director Governance and ICT

Draft Final Report – Out of Hours Childcare Scrutiny Review

Summary

1. Members are asked to consider the draft final report and its associated recommendations and indicate any amendments they may wish to make prior to them being submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

Background

2. At a meeting of Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 24th July 2012 Members considered a briefing note that had been prepared in response to a potential scrutiny topic that had been submitted by Councillor Douglas. The topic put forward was '*women working in York: impact with lack of childcare or independent care*'. Councillor Douglas attended this meeting and spoke to her proposed topic highlighting how she felt there was a lack of available childcare in the evenings and that recent changes to tax credits had reduced the amount that could be used to pay for childcare.
3. After further discussion the Committee agreed to progress this topic to review and appointed a Task Group¹ to undertake the work.
4. On 17th September 2012 both Councillor Semlyen and Councillor Douglas met with the Family Information Service Manager and the Head of Childcare Strategy and Business Management who provided the information at **Annex A** to this report. It was also, at this stage thought the general topic for review should be around the availability of out of hours childcare in general and the information available advertising this, rather than specifically focusing on '*women working in York*'.

¹The Task Group was comprised of Councillors Runciman, Semlyen and Watt

5. At the 17th September meeting Councillor Douglas highlighted issues that some parents had accessing childcare outside of normal working hours. She talked about problems encountered by single parents who worked in the evening and how they found it difficult to find childcare when they were working outside of standard hours. Standard hours for childcare are 8am-6pm. Cllr Douglas mentioned the high cost of out of hours childcare and how this was unaffordable to many. She also said that the parental workforce's ability to either get a job or access training in the evening could help to improve York's evening economy if there was better out of hours childcare provision and information. It could help York to grow its economy and keep more families and children out of poverty.
6. The Family Information Service (FIS) Manager said that the support available to families to find and access childcare had developed considerably over the last seven years. The key channel of support is through the York FIS, which operates a system of categorisation for enquiries to describe the level of support provided.
 - Level 1** Contact enquiry – this is a simple enquiry e.g. a request for a particular childminder's number
 - Level 2** A named enquiry – this is where FIS provide a more in-depth service and follow up information is provided and the outcome monitored
 - Level 3** The Childcare Brokerage Service – this began operating in 2006. The purpose of the Brokerage Service is to provide a higher level of support to families needing to access childcare who may be struggling for any number of particular reasons e.g. urgent request as a new job starts tomorrow or there are personalised needs such as out of hours. FIS staff contact childcarers on the parents' behalf.
7. Information was also available online. The focus of the online search was to try and keep search options as straightforward as possible. A potential development would be to allow for some advanced search features to support people looking for out of hours childcare.
8. Further discussions were had around the provision of information on City of York Council's website and the FIS Manager assured Councillors that there was currently a comprehensive website of information available.
9. The Councillors then looked at childminder details on the YorOK website and noted that this included a section with information on hours offered by childminders and any special training they had.

On consideration of the information currently available on the website the Councillors asked that further information on the out of hours availability of childminders be added and to improve the search functions on the website a 'flag' or 'flags' to the following windows of availability be added:

- Past 6pm at childminder's home on a weekday
- Past 6pm at parent's home on a weekday
- Overnight stay at childminder's home
- Overnight stay at parent's home
- Weekend daytimes at childminder's home
- Weekend daytimes at parent's home
- Past 6pm at childminder's home at the weekend
- Past 6pm at parent's home at the weekend
- Overnight stay at a weekend in the childminder's home
- Overnight stay at a weekend in the parents home

10. There should, ideally, be flags for at least the overnight stays and out of hours (outside of 8am to 6pm on weekdays) and ideally a cost or indication of costs should also be included in the out of hours information on the website.
11. Further discussion identified that there was no page on the website specifically giving details of babysitters. The FIS Manager informed Councillors that the Childcare Act (2006) set out a legal responsibility on the Council to do everything 'reasonably practicable' to ensure there was sufficient childcare to allow families to work or train. Childcare, in this instance, was defined as provision where support with childcare costs could be utilised e.g. formal Ofsted registered childcare. This did not include babysitters. Whilst there was not an issue with adding an extra page to the website (in fact this was done following discussions with Councillors Semlyen and Douglas), it was felt any further work around this would be moving away from the remit of both the Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the focus of this Task Group's work.
12. The Task Group met as a whole for the first time on 29th October 2012. They considered the information at **Annex A** that Councillors Semlyen and Douglas had received at their pre-meeting on 17th September and a draft action plan (**Annex B** refers) to address the concerns that had been raised to date. The purpose of the meeting was to set a remit for the review and this was agreed as follows:

Aim

To look at the Council's information about Out of Hours childcare provision so that parents are better able to access work outside of standard hours². Also to look at ways of improving the quality of information provided and the way that it is marketed.

13. In light of the above aim, Members of the Task Group discussed the information at **Annexes A** and **B** to this report, in particular the action plan at **Annex B**. They felt that this addressed many of the concerns that Councillor Douglas had raised and thought, in particular, that using the annual childcare audit was a good idea to gather the additional information about out of hours provision that was wanted.
14. In response to a question around babysitting the FIS Manager explained that the Red Cross 'babysitting development training programme' mentioned in the action plan at **Annex B** was costly, with an estimated cost of £1250 to train 15 people. Members felt this was too cost prohibitive and not good value for money. They asked that this be removed from the action plan.
15. Further discussion ensued and moved on to the family friendliness of employers and the FIS Manager indicated that he had, in the past, offered a course to employers in York around being family friendly. This, however, was fairly costly to provide. Members asked about the possibility of running another course of this nature being keen that this should be offered again if at all possible
16. With this in mind the FIS Manager proposed the following options for holding another event of this nature:

Option 1 'employer childcare strategies' – delivered with the Daycare Trust. In 2009 the Daycare Trust was commissioned to deliver an 'employer childcare strategies' workshop for free to local employers. Despite low take up the feedback from employers was very positive. The session focussed on how employers can support families working for them and also realised benefits for the business by doing so. It was a full day course but has not been repeated due to cost constraints. The session would cost £850 plus any venue and refreshment costs. This is not currently factored into any budget.

² Out of Hours being outside of 8am and 6pm on weekdays and anytime at the weekends

- Option 2** 'employer childcare strategies' – developed and delivered locally. An alternative option to the above would be to locally develop and deliver a similar session. However this presents challenges in itself in that the materials for the session would need to be developed and that no staff capacity is currently available to support this.
- Option 3** An alternative approach – the third option would be to work with colleagues in the Economic Development Unit to develop a different way of engaging with employers. The session described above worked well but only reached those who wanted to book onto it. The employers who could benefit most would probably be the least likely to actually attend. Because of this it would be worth exploring if there may be a different way to reach these employers and highlight the benefits of family friendly working. Depending on the scope of potential actions this may also be limited by staff or financial capacity.

17. On consideration of these three options the Task Group felt that **option 3** was the best way forward having the most holistic and joined up approach. They agreed to add this to their recommendations along with those already identified in the draft action plan at **Annex B** to this report (barring the Red Cross babysitting programme).
18. In addition to this the Task Group asked that the FIS Manager report back to the Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee after the next Annual Childcare Audit, which was due in the early part of 2013, to give an update on its outcomes and to report on progress against the implementation of the recommendations arising from this review more generally.

Further Developments and Additional Information

19. As part of the review process the Chair of the Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee asked that the following question be posted to the GeniUS website:

'How can the Council raise the supply of out of hours childcare providers/babysitters that are Ofsted approved and information to parents about the out of hours childcare available?'

20. One response was received in response to this question and this is detailed below:

'What about having a section on the CYC website under 'Health and Family Care' called out of hours childcare. It could have information saved in a format that was like a database.

The person who was offering the out of hours service would complete an on-line form, saying the days/times that they were available, whether they were Ofsted approved, it would give their postal area for location information and their hourly rate and contact details and how long they had been looking after children.

The person wanting the service would have to register also, and then once their details were conformed they could then access the information, including contact telephone numbers. Hopefully this would make the service available 'out of hours' and also keep administration costs to a minimum.

I have just found a website called childcare.co.uk which appears to be do what I was suggesting, have a look, it seems to be very good.'

21. As can be seen from the information contained within the report many of the ideas and concerns mentioned above have been addressed; in particular adding a section about out of hours childcare to the Council's website. It was also noted that all childcare information was already stored within a database which could be searched online via www.yor-ok.org.uk/childcare by postal area and included detailed information relating to the childcare provider. People can search this information freely without needing to register or pay (as is the case for childcare.co.uk). Nevertheless, the Task Group expressed their thanks for this response.
22. And finally, the FIS Manager confirmed that based on an advertisement that had been placed in the December 2012 edition of 'Your Local Link' magazine, which mentioned out of hours childcare, responses had been received from potential childminders who could offer out of hours childcare. These were currently being followed up by the FIS Manager.

Consultation

23. The Task Group consulted officers within the Council, as referenced in the paragraphs above and the public via the GeniUS website.

Options

24. There are no direct options associated with the recommendations in this report.

Members are asked to consider the report and its associated recommendations and indicate any amendments they may wish to make prior to them being submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

Analysis

25. The analysis of the evidence gathered along with details of the discussions had is contained within the body of this report, and its associated annexes.

Council Plan 2011-15

26. This is linked with the create jobs and grow the economy priority set out in the Council Plan 2011-15 which states *'all of the city's residents will enjoy the opportunity to achieve their potential within York's economy.'*

Implications

27. **Financial** – Much of this work can already be accommodated within existing work to support families and the childcare market. The only potential implications would be further reductions in funding in this area restricting capacity or discussions with Economic Development generating approaches requiring additional resource.
28. **Human Resources (HR)** - The work detailed in this paper can be covered within existing resources. York Family Information Service has recently completed a restructure which will ensure that it is better placed to respond to these types of challenges.
29. **Other** – No other implications have been identified.

Risk Management

30. The actions associated with this paper will be incorporated into the overall action plan and associated controls and management of the wider Childcare Sufficiency Action Plan.

Recommendations

31. Members are asked to approve the following recommendations prior to them being submitted to Cabinet for consideration:

- Recommendation 1** That the Family Information Service Manager, by means of the childcare audit, audit childcare providers to gather more detailed information on their out of hours availability
- Recommendation 2** That the Family Information Service Manager update search routes online to:
- Allow families to search for out of hours or flexible childcare
 - Introduce an advanced search feature allowing families to specify required windows of time
- Recommendation 3** That the Family Information Service Manager ensures that a new page be created on the YorOK website providing parents with advice on finding informal childcare/babysitters
- Recommendation 4** That as the Council has recently taken back in house the work relating to the recruitment of childminders the Family Information Service Manager ensure that future work targets existing and potential childcarers in key areas to highlight the need for some out of hours and flexible childcare
- Recommendation 5** That the Family Information Service Manager incorporates into the Family Information Service's Awareness Strategy support options around out of hours childcare to:
- parents and carers
 - potential providers of flexible childcare
- Recommendation 6** That the Family Information Service promote and market the additional information and search functions on out of hours childcare on its website to parents and carers through press releases and additions to any printed information such as leaflets and posters

Recommendation 7 That the Family Information Service Manager organise a further event for employers around being family friendly as identified in **option 3** at **paragraph 16** of this report

Recommendation 8 That the Family Information Service Manager report back to Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee after the next Annual Childcare Audit to give an update on the outcomes of the audit and progress on the implementation of the recommendations arising from this review

Reason: To complete this scrutiny review

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**Report
Approved**



Date 17.01.2013

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

Annex A Information from the Family Information Service Manager and the Head of Childcare Strategy and Business Management

Annex B Draft Action Plan

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OUT OF HOURS CHILDCARE

BRIEFING NOTE

INTRODUCTION

The 2012 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment highlighted that families working shift patterns or out of standard hours continue to express difficulty in accessing childcare.

There are several key factors involved in out of hours childcare:

1. Understanding what out of hours childcare is available
2. How to meet the challenge of childcare remaining sustainable given relatively lower levels of demand
3. How to support families to locate and access appropriate childcare or understand flexible working options.
4. The potential impact on children of unusual patterns or hours of care.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT OUT OF HOURS CHILDCARE IS AVAILABLE

Figure 2 show the profile of when childcare is available based on childcare providers opening hours¹ and when families have said they would like to be able to access childcare². The chart has been adjusted so that 100% represents the maximum level of supply or demand across the day. This has been done so that the relative levels of demand can be easily read.

¹ FIS Database 05/09/2012 – Across all forms of registered childcare

² Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2011 – 2014 parental consultation

Figure 2 shows that for the main part of the day that childcare is largely available at the times being requested by families. However the lines do cross of supply and demand do cross at around 6.30pm where a smaller number of families require childcare later into the evening.

Another key challenge it is worth highlighting is for families that have changing shift patterns where they require different times and days each week. For a childcare provider this means that child is effectively taking up every space possible in the overall shift pattern. For example

- A child needs Monday mornings one week and then Tuesday afternoons the next and then rotates through this pattern very two weeks.
- The childcare provider is unlikely to find another child that will mirror those requirements for the weeks where the Monday or Tuesday sessions are not being used. This will result in the childcare provider either:
 - Charging the parent for all the sessions regardless of whether they are used or not
 - Not charging the parent for the additional sessions but on the understanding that if another parent requests the place on a more regular basis that the arrangement would need to be reviewed.

Childcare providers are generally flexible to try and meet families needs. However the above example is a very real one that presents both challenges for parents being able to afford suitable childcare and for childcare providers sustainability.

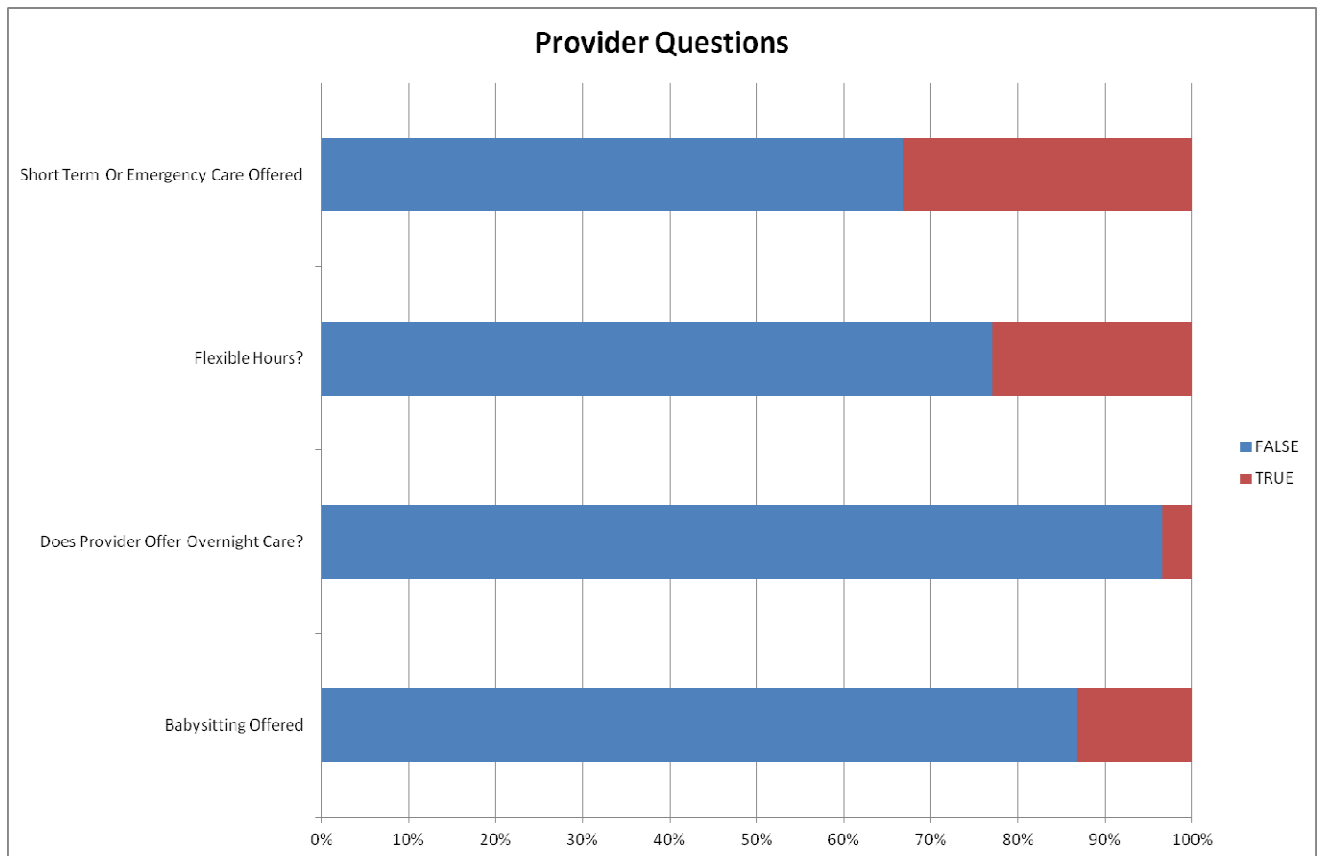


Figure 1 - Provider Questions

Figure 1 shows the profile of how childcare providers have responded to certain questions around the availability and flexibility. Key messages from this figure are:

- 33.26% of childcare providers say they will provide short term or emergency cover however this is likely to be within their standard opening hours.
- 22.94% of childcare providers say they will offer flexible hours. This may be in relation to supporting flexible patterns of take up within standard hours or offering slight extensions to opening or closing times.
- 3.44% of childcare providers offer overnight childcare. Overnight childcare is offered by childminders in the childminders own home.

- 13.30% of childcare providers say they will offer a babysitting service. This service is generally provided by childminders where the figure rises to 22.96%. This means that the childminder is willing to make themselves available for babysitting in the child's home in the evenings for ad-hoc. This gives families the option of using a babysitter who is a childcare professional and has a current Criminal Records Bureau check and up to date first aid training.

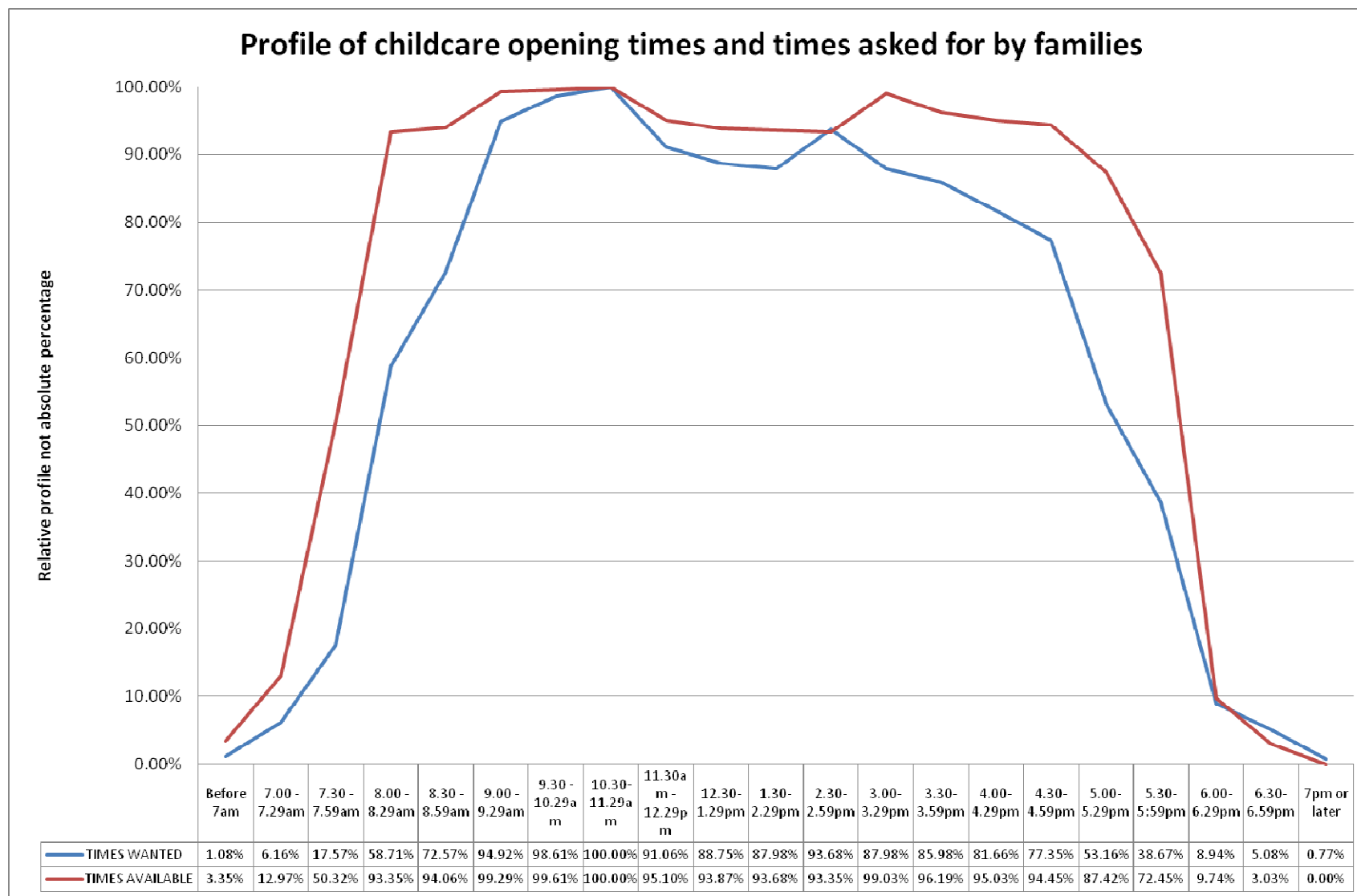


Figure 2 - Profile of all childcare based on opening times and times asked for by families

HOW TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF CHILDCARE REMAINING SUSTAINABLE GIVEN RELATIVELY LOWER LEVELS OF DEMAND

The childcare market tends to be fairly flexible and does respond to parental need where this can be accommodated and it does not affect the overall financial viability of the business. At the same time it is also recognises that there is a balance to be struck between supporting parents to manage their work and family responsibilities and ensuring the best learning and development opportunities for all children.

During this period of economic challenge where for example premises and utility costs have increased, we are increasingly seeing the impact on the financial viability of childcare providers thus reducing any flexibilities there might have been previously. Many childcare settings are struggling to maintain break even points and to maintain adequate levels of reserves. However, as a local authority we work closely with childcare providers to resolve and support sustainability issues quickly and effectively.

The government recently consulted on flexibility as part of a response to Supporting Families in the Foundation Years. Following the consultation they have issued guidance for those children who will receive an early education place at two, three and four. This sets out that there should be increased flexibility but within the limits of not before 7am or after 7pm. The government considers that these limits recognise the balance for families managing their responsibilities, learning and development of the child and also the costs of delivering places such as staffing, premises and other additional costs.

HOW TO SUPPORT FAMILIES TO LOCATE AND ACCESS APPROPRIATE CHILDCARE OR UNDERSTAND FLEXIBLE WORKING OPTIONS

York Family Information Service provide a number of options for families to support them locate and access appropriate childcare.

- Online – www.yor-ok.org.uk/childcare allows families to navigate information that explains different childcare options, search for childcare and explains ways to reduce their childcare costs.
- By phone (01904 554444), email (fis@york.gov.uk), text message (077624 802244) or via outreach – York Family Information Service is available 08.30-17.00, Monday to Friday to answer questions from mums, dads and carers of 0-19 year olds on anything and everything to do with family life. Information is available outside of these core hours at outreach events or in response to a particular issue requiring additional support.

The childcare information covers a very wide range of potential information including talking parents through different childcare options and providing them with tailored lists of childcare based on their needs. For families struggling to access childcare a childcare brokerage service is available (see below).

- Via a third party – York Family Information Service is also contacted by practitioners working in children's centres, libraries, Jobcentre Plus, schools, social services etc who are seeking information on behalf of families they are working with.

CHILDCARE BROKERAGE

York Family Information Service have been running a brokerage service since May 2006. In almost all cases a solution has been found for parents. Childcare brokerage is additional support for families that may be struggling to access childcare for any reason.

There are set pathways for standard childcare enquiries to become brokerage cases. This may be due to difficulty in finding childcare, referrals from partner agencies or through the Information Officer assessing the enquiry as requiring brokerage.

Once the brokerage process has begun a detailed account of the childcare needs and barriers are taken. The Information Officer agrees a course of action, states what they will try to do and agrees a call back date with the enquirer.

All local suitable childcare is identified and contacted to see if they can meet the childcare needs. This contact is combined with an update of the providers overall information to remove duplication with the updating schedule.

If childcare can not be found then this area of needs to assessed to see if this is a gap in childcare provision. Information on difficulties from brokerage cases are fed into the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.

Figures 3 and 4 show a summary of brokerage outcomes by year and the reasons for the brokerage by year respectively.

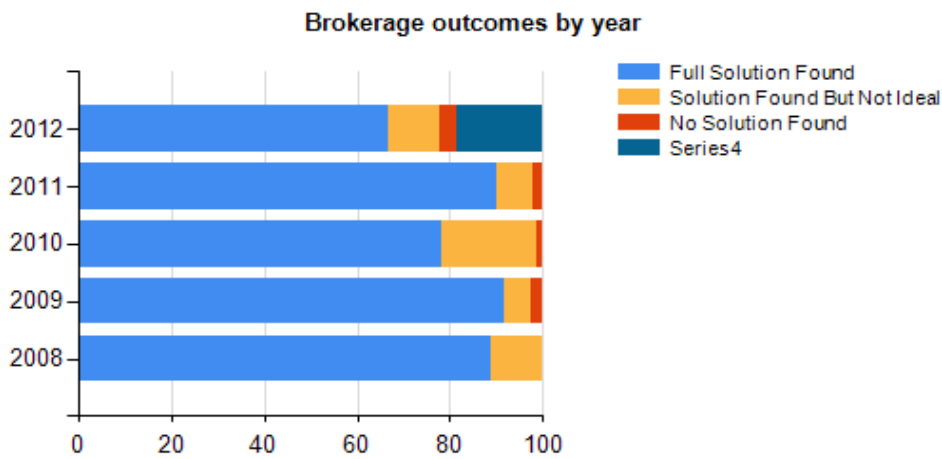


Figure 3 - Brokerage outcomes by year (“Series 4” shows active brokerages)

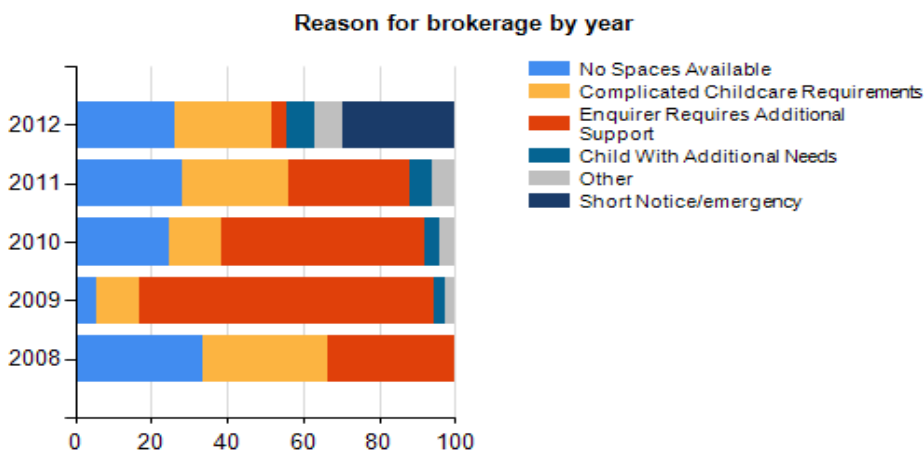


Figure 4 - Reasons for brokerage by year (The "Short notice/emergency" category was only added in 2012)

THE POTENTIAL IMPACT ON CHILDREN OF UNUSUAL PATTERNS OR HOURS OF CARE

A key question is how far it is reasonable to go before the potential impact on the well-being of the child is such that it would no longer be appropriate. As an authority and area York does not have a clear definition on this However several brokerage cases have highlighted the challenge this presents.

Below are two anonymised examples of requests that have been made:

- A four year old child needs childcare from 6.30am to 8am where the child will be dropped off for a morning session at a school, then transferred to an afternoon session at a different nursery and then picked up and cared for until 18.00 at another provider. Full day childcare required both Saturday and Sunday.
The concern here is the length of time 6.30am-6pm seven days a week at (given the requirements) potentially five different childcare providers.
- Childcare for an 8 year old starting at 5.30am to drop off a school for 9am. A pick up at the end of a school day and care through to 11pm. Care was required Monday to Friday.
Potential concern about how this as a routine would affect the well-being of the child and their ability to succeed at school.

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Draft Action Plan

Action	Status
Audit childcare providers to gather more detailed information on out of hours availability.	This will be carried out through the annual childcare audit between January 2013 and March 2013.
Update search routes online: Allowing families to search for out of hours or flexible childcare Introduce an advanced search feature allowing families to specify required windows of time.	This initial work should be completed by the beginning of November 2012. This advanced search feature should be completed by April 2013.
A page be created on the YorOK website providing parents with advice on finding informal childcare/babysitting.	This page has been created and can be found by visiting www.yor-ok.org.uk/babysitters .
The council has recently taken back in house the work relating to the recruitment of childminders. This work will target those in key areas and highlight the need for some out of hours and flexible childcare.	The first information sessions have taken place and the programme will be fully developed over the coming months. There will be a natural lag between beginning this initiative and seeing an increase in out of hours provision. This is due to the length of time it takes to train and register childminders.
The Red Cross offer a babysitting development training programme. Offering this in York would have a cost that could be the subject of a bid to funding such as the innovation fund.	We are still awaiting cost information. In most areas where this is run it is done so by youth organisations as part of young peoples personal development. Through contacting other Family Information Services across the country we have been unable to find any other areas offering anything beyond leaflets explaining how to choose a babysitter. This is an active decision by local authorities due to; limited resources meaning a focus is required on legal duties of the council towards formal childcare for families to work or train.

Draft Action Plan

	the lack of capacity to accredit or check babysitters and the risk this would present to the council from a safeguarding perspective.
York Family Information Service would incorporate into their awareness strategy support options around out of hours childcare to: mums, dads and carers potential providers of flexible childcare	This will be added to the existing awareness strategy of the Family Information Service on an ongoing basis.

Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2012/2013

Meeting Date	Work Programme
29 th January 2013	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attendance of the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning & Sustainability 2. Report - Economic Inclusion and supported employment for people with disabilities in the City of York (Yorkcraft) 3. Update Report on the Reducing the Carbon Footprint in the Privately Rented Sector Scrutiny Review 4. Remit Report – External Development Funding 5. Report – Out of Hours Childcare: Impact and Barriers to Working with Lack of Childcare or Independent Care 6. Workplan 2012-13
26 th March 2013	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Third Quarter CYC Finance & Performance Monitoring Report 2. Update on Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPS) 3. Scoping Report – Housing Stock – How it is Meeting the Changing Needs of a Growing Population 4. Scoping Report – How can Local Shopping Centres Contribute to the Wider Economic Well-Being of their Community 5. Update on the implementation of recommendations arising from the Water End Councillor Call for Action 6. Final Report - Youth Unemployment Scrutiny Review 7. Six Monthly Update Report on Major Developments within the City of York Council 8. Six Monthly Update Report on Major Transport Initiatives 9. Workplan for 2012-13
30 th April 2013	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Second Scrutiny Review Final Report (topic to be agreed) 2. Workplan for 2012-13

For municipal year 2013/14

1. June 2013 - Overview/Progress Report – Green Travel Plans (Businesses)
2. June 2013 – Attendance of the Leader (to include information on the City Team)
3. November 2013 - Update on Newgate Market, the success of improvements at the market, the EIF bid and information around footfall.