

YORK DRAFT PROSPECTUS

**Going for Good Growth
with Innovation, Culture and Heritage
at our Heart**

York's Growth Ambitions

Annex B – York’s DRAFT Prospectus

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York 2032 Priorities and Goals	Health and Wellbeing	Education and Skills	Economic Growth	Transport	Sustainability
	All York residents (young, old and future residents) will enjoy happier, healthier, longer lives, in homes that meet their needs, able to actively participate in their communities, with access to the right support at the right time.	All ages will have access to learning throughout their lives to equip them with the skills to succeed commercially, socially, locally and nationally.	York's economy will be vibrant and inclusive, with businesses supported to grow and prosper and talent nurtured, retained and supported. Our economy will be developed to be well balanced with a mix of different sectors providing opportunities for young and old.	York's transport networks will be inclusive and sustainable, connecting neighbourhoods and communities.	York will be carbon neutral and contribute to the regional ambition to be carbon negative, with iconic green spaces to enjoy today and the environment protected for future generations to enjoy.
Strategic delivery programmes	Health and Wellbeing	Education and Skills	Economic Growth	Transport	Sustainability
	Accelerating Housing Development (including Brownfield) Healthy Workforce Programme	Innovation Hub (York Central) & new Regional Adult Skills Centre Construction Skills Centre	BioYorkshire campus Cordukes Business Enterprise Zone Digital Technology Landscape Enhancement World Leading Centre for Heritage Unlocking the Local Plan Creative Chrysalis	Haxby Railway Station Outer Ring Road Improvements Delivering Movement and Place York Station Gateway – a Station Fit for the Future	Bioresources Engineering Centre Harewood Whin First energy independent city Regional Circular Food Distribution Network



Summary

The York 2032 Vision challenges us to go for growth with innovation, culture and heritage at our heart – to shape a city that is vibrant, prosperous, welcoming and sustainable.

York’s Growth Ambitions demonstrates how York is preparing for that future. By investing in the right conditions between now and by 2032, York will benefit from long-term, inclusive and sustainable prosperity. *York’s Growth Ambitions* reflects our shared priorities as a city: driving innovation and enterprise, unlocking infrastructure, and ensuring that more residents and communities benefit from the opportunities York and the region create.

York’s Growth Ambitions is a prospectus providing a practical framework for delivery, shaped by local priorities and designed to support long-term opportunity, resilience and equality. The prospectus is a portfolio of deliverable programmes and projects that collectively will bring more higher paid jobs, more affordable homes and deliver a more sustainable and accessible transport network to York.

It reflects the ambition at the heart of our 2032 vision: to be a vibrant, prosperous, welcoming and sustainable city, where everyone can share and take pride in its success, combined with the values the city shares – a city that pioneers with purpose, makes history every day and priorities people.

It responds directly to the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority’s (YNYCA) Local Growth Plan and the Mayor’s vision to build healthy and thriving communities through investment in support services, more sustainable and affordable transport, high-quality and energy-efficient housing, and better access to green spaces.

York’s Growth Ambitions also supports several national government missions: helping to kickstart economic growth through innovation and infrastructure; contributing to the clean energy transition through sustainable development and retrofitting; and breaking down barriers to opportunity by improving access to education, training, and employment.

The projects outlined in the prospectus builds on our strategic direction – linking land, investment, skills, partners and communities to deliver social outcomes that all York residents can benefit from.

What this will mean for the people of York

The projects in this document are designed not only to drive economic success, but to deliver for the people who live in all our communities, so that anyone anywhere in the city can look at the opportunities and see something for them. Our vision for York’s future means cohesive communities, benefitting from heritage and culture, with economic opportunities, are better connected through improved accessible and sustainable transport infrastructure.

Guided by our four core commitments – equalities and human rights, affordability, climate, and health – we are outcome-focused, ensuring that growth translates into real benefits for people’s everyday lives: from access to quality jobs and skills development, to affordable, energy-efficient homes, and thriving neighbourhoods. We will celebrate success, learn from challenges and continually improve, ensuring York’s future is not only more prosperous, but fairer, more inclusive, and more sustainable for all.

The economic and social value for each project will follow

Working together to create a shared vision for York’s future

York’s Growth Ambitions have been shaped through active engagement with stakeholders in the city. The projects outlined in the document are the city’s collective ambitions – some are led by City of York Council whilst others have been developed by some of the key institutions in the city.

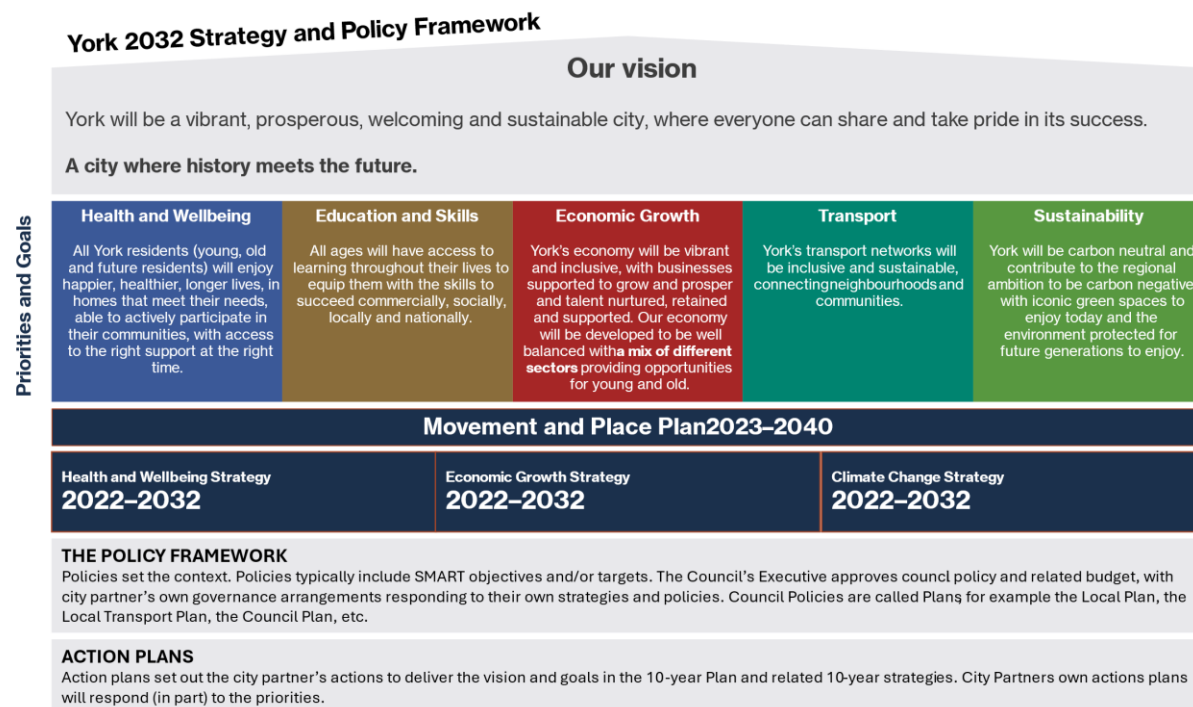
The ambitions have been reviewed by elected representatives via the Council’s scrutiny processes.

A continual journey

The projects identified in this document are the ambitions of the city as of **autumn 2025**. As projects are completed, they will no longer be ambitions but our reality. New opportunities and challenges will emerge and will lead to the formulation of new ambitions for the city. This document will be regularly reviewed to ensure it reflects new realities.

Turning Vision into Action

York’s Growth Ambitions is the next step in our journey – turning shared long-term goals into coordinated action and investible opportunities. It builds on the city’s adopted strategies, including the York 2032 Vision and 10 Year City Plan, the 2022-2032 Economic Strategy, Climate Strategy, and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. These provide the foundation for a joined-up sustainable approach to growth – one that links place-making, economic inclusion, sustainability, and community health and wellbeing.



By aligning *York’s Growth Ambitions* projects with these strategies, we are not just describing the future we want – we are building the foundations to deliver on that ambition.

A Modern City with Deep Roots and Real Strengths

York is a compact, high-performing city of just over 200,000 people. Well connected by rail and road it can be reached from London in under two hours by train, just over an hour from Manchester, and two and a half hours from Edinburgh, placing it at the heart of the UK's national transport network. York is also exceptionally well connected to regional centres, with Leeds, Hull, and Teesside all easily accessible, reinforcing the city's role as a key economic and cultural hub for the North.

The formation of the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority marks a new chapter in regional collaboration, positioning York as a driving force in shaping a more prosperous and connected North Yorkshire. Our universities, heritage, and culture are world-renowned and give York a unique foundation for innovation and enterprise, with sector strengths in biosciences, rail innovation, digital creativity, health innovation, culture, heritage and tourism, and a pipeline of the highest skilled workforce in the North.

However, like many cities, we face challenges. Pressures on housing, the need for affordable and reliable transport, access to training and employment, and the shift to a low-carbon economy all require long-term investment and coordination.

In addition, significant inequalities persist within our city, with stark contrasts in life expectancy between the most and least affluent wards, highlighting the need for targeted action to ensure that all communities benefit from the city's growth.

We are responding proactively, with a clear strategic delivery plan for the city's future, *York's Growth Ambitions*.

A Values Led City

Our identity is shaped by more than our economy. As a UNESCO City of Media Arts, a Human Rights City, and a City of Sanctuary, York is a city that places people and community at the heart of its development.

York Narrative captures the essence of York, and describes our city values as:

- Pioneering with purpose to improve people's lives
- Making history every day to leave a lasting and sustainable legacy
- Prioritising people so everyone is recognised and valued

These values guide how we invest and are reflected in our approach to digital infrastructure, cultural investment, and the planning of inclusive economic and housing growth. Together, these values reflect our belief that every resident should have the opportunity to benefit from and help shape the city's future.

We see culture as a driver of identity, well-being and economic value. Being a Human Rights City means embedding equality and access into how we invest in affordable housing, education, health and opportunity.

Growing Responsibly

Our approach to growth is built around long-term value, not just short-term returns. That means designing projects that deliver wider societal benefits – including local employment and high paid jobs to balance our visitor economy, community wealth building, inclusive accessible design, and sustainable development.

We are embedding social value into how we invest and deliver: through local procurement, targeted skills pathways, and partnerships that reach into communities who have not always benefited from the city's success. We are working to make sure public investment leads to community benefit, not by accident, but by design.

Momentum for the Future

York has a strong reputation for delivery. We have already delivered major regeneration and infrastructure programmes, including the unlocking of York Central and the development of the Community Stadium, developing strong partnerships across academia, private, public and community sectors, and have shown we can deliver on ambitious plans.

York’s Growth Ambitions builds on that momentum – identifying the next projects that will help us meet the demands of the future, while protecting what makes York special.

York’s Growth Ambitions is structured around three outcomes:

1. **Delivering Good Economic Growth** – Investing in enterprise, innovation and the high-value sectors that define our economy supporting skills development and productivity gains;
2. **Facilitating Good Growth** – Enabling good growth through investment in housing, infrastructure, planning and digital connectivity;
3. **Good Growth for All** – Ensuring the benefits of growth are shared, with a focus on investment in health, skills, community, wealth and social outcomes.

Together, they form a practical and ambitious plan to achieve the York 2032 vision that is both economically strong and socially inclusive.

Our core commitments

Reflecting the Council Plan, and our four core commitments, we will translate strategy to delivery with a focus on:

Equalities / Affordability / Climate and the Environment / Health

In partnership

York has extensive, ongoing experience of collaboration that has helped to create the vibrant city that it is today.

We will build on this spirit to achieve the ambitions of this prospectus. Only by extensive, joined-up partnership working can we transform the city to meet the needs of the people that call it home.

This means working at a local, regional, national and international scale with partners new and old, creating a shared understanding, learning from each other, and co-designing the future.

Enabling our residents, our communities and our businesses to play a role in place-making so that York works for them and that we create opportunity in everything we do.

Developing a shared approach with the key institutions in the city, setting out a roadmap to success.

Maintaining a dialogue with funders, investors, government and others to get buy-in for York’s ambitions whilst ensuring there is a clear onus on societal benefit.

Delivering Good Economic Growth

We believe sustainable and inclusive economic growth is driven by investment in culture, enterprise, and innovation. Our city is uniquely positioned to grow with deep cultural heritage and thriving creative sectors, complemented by high growth knowledge-based industries such as bioeconomy, digital and life sciences.

Through the development of flagship projects articulated in this prospectus, we will unlock opportunities that directly fuel inclusive economic growth. These initiatives will attract businesses and create the ecosystem necessary to nurture talent, foster creativity, and stimulate the local economy in high-growth sectors.

We are equally committed to leveraging York’s heritage to enrich our economy, as a trailblazer for new sustainable construction and conservation, together with pioneering digital curation of the city’s artefacts and nationally important collections.

York’s vibrant cultural scene plays a critical role in shaping the city’s identity and future. From world-class theatre and innovative visual arts to festivals, York’s diverse cultural offerings inspire both residents and visitors alike. Active participation in cultural activities contributes directly to the health and well-being of the community. For example, the BAFTA-qualifying Aesthetica Film Festival 2025, not only welcomes filmmakers, games developers and VR experts from around the world, but also engages local communities in creative expression. As a UNESCO City of Media Arts, this rich cultural landscape informs the way we grow in the future, ensuring that the arts remain central to shaping a thriving, inclusive, and sustainable city.

This approach directly supports government priorities to equalise economic opportunities, driving inclusive growth, and fostering innovation-led sectors such as biosciences and digital technology. By investing in cultural capital alongside cutting-edge industries, York exemplifies a holistic model for sustainable economic development that aligns with national strategies, including the UK Innovation Strategy, the Creative Industries Sector Deal, and the Industrial Strategy’s Clean Growth pillar.

Bio-Yorkshire Campus

£mm

To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

Location: Fera, Askham Bryan College, and University of York

Description: The Bio-Yorkshire Campus will serve as a hub for innovation and skills in the bioeconomy, linking research, business, and education to drive sustainable economic growth. It includes adult STEM learning provision and applied research and development aligned with green technologies and agri-tech. It considers connectivity to and from the sites to urban and city centres.

Context: This is central to Bio-Yorkshire – a flagship regional initiative that positions York and North Yorkshire as a leader in the bioeconomy.

Importance: The campus supports high-value, low-carbon growth, helping the region transition to a greener economy while creating skilled jobs and boosting local innovation capacity.

What are we doing: Developing integrated learning and research facilities across three key sites, working with anchor institutions and industry partners to deliver STEM education, incubate businesses, and foster innovation.

What this will lead to: Job creation, green tech spinouts, increased adult participation in high-level STEM learning, and accelerated growth of the regional bioeconomy. It will also enhance York’s reputation as a UK leader in sustainable innovation.

How does it fit York’s future: It aligns with regional and national ambitions around the circular economy, reusing biomatter to create more sustainable and resilient food and fuel materials, while also advancing York’s role as a green innovation leader.

Alignment with Local Growth Plan: This project directly supports the Local Growth Plan’s focus on engineering biology and life sciences as a

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competitive advantage sector. By linking applied research with skills and business incubation, it advances the region's ambition to lead in bioeconomy-driven innovation, boost productivity, and deliver low-carbon economic growth.

What does this mean for the UK: This project will help the UK lead the global shift to a sustainable, high-value bioeconomy, turning research into commercial green tech, filling critical STEM skills gaps, and creating a scalable model for clean growth in rural and regional economies.

Current Position: This programme is in development, with stakeholder buy-in and key site partners engaged. Planning and investment strategy work is underway.

Barriers: Requires capital investment with long-term funding commitments to deliver infrastructure and programming across multiple sites; cross-sector coordination is essential.

Cordukes Business Enterprise Zone

£mm

To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

Location: York St. John main campus (Lord Mayor's Walk)

Description: Build a world-leading sustainable business enterprise and conference zone. The aim for the site is to generate and consume its own energy and provide a complementary venue to Harrogate Convention Centre.

Context: A new, sustainable Business Enterprise and Conference Zone built at York St John University’s Lord Mayor’s Walk campus. The site will feature space for up to 100 incubating businesses, 6–8 flexible-use areas for teaching and meetings, and a conference venue with capacity for 300–350 delegates. Fully energy self-sufficient, the facility will focus on supporting York’s growing digital and cultural sectors.

Importance: This project directly addresses the critical need for flexible, affordable workspaces in York—especially for start-ups and underrepresented entrepreneurs, including women. The conference

facility is a key component: expected to host 25–30 events per year and attract around 7,000 visitors, it will significantly boost York’s business tourism, promote knowledge exchange, and increase visibility for the city’s innovation and cultural strengths. By supporting business incubation, applied education, and networking in a low-carbon setting, the zone future-proofs York’s economy and reinforces its ambition to become a leader in sustainable and inclusive growth.

The inclusion of a high-quality conference facility ensures that York has the infrastructure to host events that support its business ecosystem, fostering collaboration, attracting investment, and amplifying the impact of local innovation.

What Are We Doing?

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Building a new, sustainable Business Enterprise and Conference Zone will be constructed on YSJ's campus, including:

- Space for 20–30 business incubations lasting ~18 months.
- 800m² of incubation units for 80–100 businesses.
- 6–8 flexible-use areas (900m² total) for teaching, meetings, catering, or breakout spaces.
- Conference space for 300–350 delegates.
- Focus on the digital and cultural sectors.

How Does It Fit York’s Future?

The Cordukes Zone directly supports York’s key strategic priorities—innovation, sustainability, digital transformation, and business resilience. The project will reinforce the city’s reputation as a forward-thinking hub for business. The addition of a

- Fully energy self-sufficient facilities.

What This Will Lead To:

- 25–30 new events per year, attracting 7,000 people.
- Business tourism boost.
- Capacity to support new applied business programmes, apprenticeships, and short courses.
- 40–60 businesses supported annually.
- 100–150 new direct jobs created each year, with additional indirect employment.

dedicated conference facility will draw in business events, strengthening York’s status as a regional centre for collaboration and enterprise. By being energy self-sufficient the centre contributes to York’s goal of achieving 100% energy self-sufficiency and will foster the growth of emerging sectors like engineering, biology and digital technologies.

Alignment with Local Growth Plan: This project aligns with the Local Growth Plan by fostering innovation and inclusive economic growth through

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support for digital and cultural sectors, promoting sustainable development, and creating flexible business spaces that strengthen York’s entrepreneurship ecosystem.

What does this mean for the UK: The Cordukes Business Enterprise Zone will serve as a pioneering model for sustainable, inclusive business incubation in the UK, combining zero-carbon infrastructure with targeted support for underrepresented entrepreneurs

and high-growth digital and cultural sectors, while boosting business tourism and regional collaboration.

Current Position:

- Conceptual design complete.
- Initial business case approved.

Barriers:

- Funding remains the key challenge.

Harewood Whin Renewable Energy

£mm

To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

Location: Former landfill site at Harewood Whin, York

Description: A staged renewable energy project to develop solar generation capacity, with the first phase targeting 20MW. The long-term goal is to support York becoming a self-generating, net zero energy city, including consideration of connectivity to economic opportunities.

Context: The site provides a unique opportunity to repurpose a landfill site for large-scale energy generation. It fits into York’s broader ambition to be a global exemplar in urban sustainability

Importance: The project will reduce emissions, cut council energy costs, and potentially provide green power to local homes and businesses – helping secure energy resilience and economic benefits

What are we doing: Developing a phased solar energy generation park on an unused landfill site, starting with 20MW generation potential. The

outline business case is due for Council Executive approval in September 2025

What this will lead to: Clean energy for council operations and the potential to expand provision to residents and businesses. It builds the foundations for York to become 100% self-generating/self-consuming on renewable energy and supports the council’s financial resilience.

How does it fit York’s future: Essential to achieving York’s net zero targets, demonstrating innovation in repurposing land, and advancing energy independence and environmental leadership

Alignment with Local Growth Plan: This project supports the Local Growth Plan’s priorities on clean energy and sustainability by repurposing brownfield land for large-scale renewable generation, contributing to the region’s low-carbon transition and energy resilience goals while

stimulating green economic growth and innovation.

What does this mean for the UK: Harewood Whin Renewable Energy Park directly supports the government's Net Zero Strategy (2021) and the Clean Growth Plan, which prioritise large-scale deployment of renewable energy and the efficient use of land, including brownfield sites. By transforming a former landfill site into a substantial solar generation facility, the project advances national ambitions for energy resilience and independence in urban areas, helping to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and strengthen local

energy security. This approach also aligns with the government's focus on innovative, sustainable urban regeneration and contributes to meeting legally binding carbon reduction targets for 2050.

Current Position: Outline business case underway; progressing to strategic business case state post Executive approval. Technical assessments and delivery modelling in progress

Barriers: Requires upfront capital investment and grid connection planning; long term operation and ownership models need defining.

World Leading Centre for Heritage

£mm

To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

Location: City Centre

Description:

York’s cultural and heritage assets are at the heart of the city’s identity. This project unlocks York’s potential as a global leader in conservation, transforming nationally significant heritage assets into thriving hubs that drive investment, create jobs, and offer enriching experiences for residents and visitors alike. By blending the past with innovation, York will create a sustainable legacy that powers the city’s future, including consideration of transport infrastructure and connectivity.

Context:

York’s cultural assets, including York, the Art Gallery, the city walls, and the Shambles and other historic sites, are central to the city’s identity and play a significant role in its economy. This project focuses on revitalising these cultural and heritage sites, working collectively across partners to bolster York’s reputation as a cultural powerhouse, while also

creating economic opportunities and enriching experiences for residents and visitors.

Importance:

York’s heritage is central to its economy, supporting tourism, job creation, and community wellbeing. By unlocking the potential of underused heritage spaces, York can boost its heritage sector and further its role as a world leader in conservation and heritage sustainability and innovation.

What Are We Doing?

- Developing a masterplan to revitalise York’s heritage core, including Castle Gateway Park looking collectively across a wide range of assets held by a range of partner organisations, to optimise productive use and drive in public funding support in a coordinated way
- Exploring the creation of a new destination, including a research centre and digitally enabled events space

- Regenerating an area of the city centre, renowned for its heritage to attract investment and support long-term growth
- Putting a case together to attract a national heritage partner to focus on digital preservation

What This Will Lead To:

- Increased investment and long-term funding for York’s cultural and heritage sector
- A transformative space that combines conservation with innovation, attracting more visitors and creating jobs for residents
- Stronger community engagement with York’s historic legacy, supporting the essential tourism economy too

How Does It Fit York’s Future?

This project enhances York’s economic growth by unlocking the city’s heritage assets, driving innovation, creating jobs, and supporting community engagement. It reinforces York’s role as a global leader in heritage conservation and helps shape the city’s sustainable future.

Alignment with Local Growth Plan: The World-Leading Centre for Heritage project supports inclusive and sustainable growth by revitalising heritage assets to drive economic investment, job creation, and community engagement, strengthening the city’s national and global heritage role

Current Position:

- Concept agreed in principle
- Awaiting decision to proceed and the outcome of the York Museums Trust review
- Planning to convene local partners to shape and present the masterplan

Barriers:

- Limited internal capacity to lead and deliver the project
- Need for upfront funding to unlock next steps and lever in wider public funding support (team, master planning, coordination)

BREC - Bioresources Engineering Centre

£mm To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

Location: Naburn

Description:

Development of a new anaerobic digester incubator at Naburn to transform bioresources processing and renewable product development.

Narrative:

The incubator will focus on designing, scaling, and commercialising biology-derived products using synthetic biology to innovate in the bioeconomy.

Outputs:

- Address knowledge gaps in bioresources processing.
- Deliver the BREC facility with full resources and governance strategy.
- Create a research agenda for facility utilisation.
- Develop a feedstock supply contract.

Outcomes:

- Inform decision-making on whether to proceed with an OFWAT bid to fund construction and operation.
- Establish sources for the required 10% project cost contribution.

Contribution to Regional Vision:

- Connected to the Outdoors: Enhances nature recovery.

Alignment with Local Growth Plan: Supports the Clean Energy sector as a regional competitive advantage sector by advancing bioresources processing and synthetic biology innovation, contributing to sustainable economic growth and strengthening regional specialisms.

Delivery Status:

- Feasibility project being evaluated by OFWAT and partners.
- Contracts being prepared for a potential award.

- OFWAT bid submission planned for December 2025.

Barriers:

- Additional funding may be needed to translate research into practical applications.

First UK city to achieve Energy Independence

£mm

To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

Location: York-wide

Description: Invest in infrastructure and renewable energy sources to make York a world-leading, self-generating energy net-zero city. By harnessing local renewable resources, the goal is for York to generate more renewable energy than it consumes, becoming the UK’s first net exporter of renewable energy.

Context: York is working towards achieving 100% self-generation of renewable energy, which will help the city reach carbon neutrality and also enable it to export surplus energy. This ambitious goal positions York as a model for other cities looking to transition to renewable energy and achieve net-zero emissions.

Importance: York has the potential to be a national leader in renewable energy, generating enough power to meet its own needs and exporting surplus energy, reducing local carbon emissions and increasing energy resilience.

What Are We Doing?

- Green Energy Parks (e.g., Harewood Whin, Elvington, Monks Cross Solar).
- Roof Top Solar City initiative (e.g., Solar for Schools programme).
- York District Heat Network using geothermal and River Ouse energy.

What This Will Lead To:

- Energy self-sufficiency, with the potential to export surplus energy.
- Significant reductions in carbon emissions.
- Increased resilience to future energy crises.
- Attraction of investment into green technologies.

How Does It Fit York’s Future?

This project is a cornerstone of York’s climate strategy, contributing to the city’s long-term

sustainability and energy security. The project will attract additional revenues for the council’s wider budget, providing greater financial resilience.

Alignment with Local Growth Plan: This project directly supports the Local Growth Plan’s priorities for large-scale renewable energy deployment, efficient use of brownfield land, and advancing energy resilience and independence, positioning York as a leader in sustainable urban regeneration and net-zero carbon ambitions.

Current Position:

- Planning permission granted for Harewood Whin in March 2025.

- Feasibility study underway for additional capacity at Elvington.
- School and heat network projects underway.

Barriers:

- Funding for revenue needed to complete business cases.
- Technical challenges in connecting to the national grid.
- Site-specific conditions (e.g., landfill site at Harewood Whin).

Construction Skills Centre

£mm To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

Description:

Establish a construction skills centre to support construction projects across York by providing on-site skills development training.

Narrative:

York faces a significant shortage of construction skills, which this project aims to address through practical, on-site training. It will encourage employers to take on apprentices at all levels and support the rollout of T Levels to create a steady pipeline of talent.

Outputs:

- Encourage employers to engage apprentices across all levels.
- Support the uptake and delivery of T Levels, in particular with placements.
- Deliver on-site skills development training alongside ongoing construction projects.

Contribution to Regional Vision:

- Healthy and Resilient: Local Growth Plan, supporting access to skills.
- Connected to Opportunity: Employment opportunities, skills provision.
- Warm and Affordable Homes: Catalyst for housing development, housing investment plan.

Alignment with Local Growth Plan: This project aligns with the Local Growth Plan’s focus on skills development and employment opportunities by supporting access to skills and providing a pipeline of talent for the construction sector. It also supports housing development priorities through the Housing Investment Plan.

Barriers:

- Capital funding needed for the construction of modular training centres.
- Revenue required to maintain the facility and drive interest in the construction sector.

Innovation Hub (York Central) & New Regional Adult Skills Centre

£mm

To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

Location: York Central

Description:

Build an innovation campus at York Central to enhance York’s status as a world-leading centre in rail, agri-tech, creative tech, and medtech whilst also supporting life-long aspiration through the development of a world-leading adult skills centre that targets hidden talent from deprived communities, bridging the skills gap in areas such as literacy and digital skills.

Outputs:

- Provide space for universities, colleges, government, and private companies to design, test, and build the future.
- Foster lifelong learning and knowledge exchange for York residents.
- Addressing key skills shortages, particularly digital

- Complement and align with the Cordukes Business Enterprise Centre.
- Provide accessible and inclusive skills and support services.
- Build on evidence-based skills needs for York and North Yorkshire.

Outcomes:

- Create collaborative spaces that boost regional economic strengths.
- Provide employment routes and connections for all, including disabled people.
- Support technological and digital transformation
- Inspire residents to build confidence and develop skills for future careers

Contribution to Regional Vision:

- Healthy and Resilient: Collaboration, Local Growth Plan, and skills access.
- Connected to Opportunity: Employment opportunities and skills provision.

Alignment with Local Growth Plan: This project supports investment in skills development and innovation, strengthening local specialisms and fostering collaboration to drive sustainable economic growth across York and North Yorkshire.

Delivery Status:

- Reserved Matters Application due September 2025
- Operating model to be confirmed

- Capacity needed to develop the proposal in partnership with universities, developers, and inward investment partners.
- Champion capital investment in the scheme.

Barriers:

- Lease-wrap-around needed to support multiple businesses/research and innovation companies in the same space.
- Capacity to develop the proposal.
- Capital investment and convening power to bring together local and national partners are required.
- Ensuring improved connectivity and alignment to the Movement and Place Plan

Facilitating Good Growth

To enable the next phase of growth, York needs to unlock its potential through strategic investment in infrastructure to improve accessibility and sustainability. This includes the new rail station for Haxby, unlocking the Local Plan, and enhancing the digital technology landscape to connect businesses and people to digital opportunities. By improving transport, infrastructure, and digital connectivity, we will make it easier for people to move, trade, and innovate.

This focus supports government priorities around improving infrastructure and connectivity as outlined in the National Infrastructure Strategy Working Paper. By investing in transport links, digital technology, and efficient use of public land, York is helping to reduce regional disparities, stimulate economic activity, and ensure sustainable growth that benefits all communities.

Station Gateway – a station fit for the future (delivering the Movement and Place Plan)

£mm

To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

Location: York Railway Station and the adjacent York Central development

Description: A phased redevelopment of York Station Gateway to increase capacity, create a future-ready multimodal transport hub, resolve accessibility issues, improve visitor and user experience, optimise commercial opportunities, and integrate more effectively with surrounding iconic heritage and transport infrastructure

Context:

As a key gateway to the city, York Station currently faces limitations in terms of accessibility and congestion. With the expansion of York Central, a modernised transport hub will be necessary to better connect the city to the regional economy and support sustainable transport options

Passenger numbers through York are forecast to double by 2050, with projections of 30-40 million annual users. The station’s future is linked to national

rail upgrades including the TransPennine route upgrade.

Importance: York Station is a key interchange for the North of England. It must be modernised to support growth in rail travel across the country, unlock the full potential of York Central, and provide a gateway to the city and the region to fully leverage economic growth and business ecosystems

What are we doing: Developing a long-term vision for the station in partnership with rail industry stakeholders, designed to be delivered in phases, aligned with the York Central development.

Work at the station is already underway, this includes:

- Redesigning the station’s frontage to prioritise pedestrians, cyclists, and buses
- Removing Queen Street Bridge and relocating taxi ranks and bus stops

- Improving public realms at Station Square and Tea Room Square
- Adding wider crossings, new cycle paths, and increased cycle parking
- Incorporating inclusive and accessible design features

What this will lead to: Greater capacity, a vastly improved passenger and visitor experience, enhanced rail connectivity, and economic uplift from better integration with York Central and wider regional networks.

How does it fit York’s future: Crucial to York’s role as a regional transport hub, driver of modal shift to rail, and enabler of inclusive growth through better access and infrastructure.

Alignment with Local Growth Plan: This project aligns with the Local Growth Plan and Yorkshire’s Plan for Rail by improving critical transport

infrastructure and leveraging York’s existing role as a regional transport hub to drive economic growth and unlock development opportunities.

What does this mean for the UK: York Station is a key national rail hub connecting the North of England to London and Scotland. This redevelopment will increase capacity and reliability across the entire network, support growth on strategic routes such as the East Coast Main Line and TransPennine corridor, and demonstrate how modern, integrated transport hubs can act as powerful catalysts for economic regeneration in regional cities across the UK.

Current Position: Wider work is already progressing on site but the station itself is being left behind; funding is needed to accelerate and expand delivery

Barriers: Funding gaps remain for later phases; complex coordination across stakeholders and aligning with national rail investment timelines adds risk

New Station for Haxby (delivering the Movement and Place Plan)

£mm To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

Location: Haxby

Description:

York has a 160-year legacy in rail innovation and is home to a cluster of rail organisations, including Network Rail’s Eastern Region hub. However, areas around the city, like Haxby, are poorly served by rail connections, limiting access to talent and economic opportunities. This project will construct a new, fully accessible two-platform station in Haxby, with integrated transport links to improve regional connectivity and provide sustainable travel options, and associated regeneration around it.

Context:

Haxby’s lack of a station has led to higher car dependency, restricting access to employment, education, and services. This project will offer a sustainable solution, making it easier for Haxby’s residents to connect to the wider York area and beyond.

Importance:

A new station will enhance regional rail connectivity, reduce car dependency, and provide better access to employment and education. It supports York’s Local Transport Strategy by contributing to the goal of reducing fossil fuel use by 20%, and it will drive growth and inclusion by enabling access to a broader, more diverse workforce.

What Are We Doing?

- Building a fully accessible two-platform station
- Integrating transport links with a 154-space car park, taxi rank, bus stops, and safer street designs
- Adding EV charging stations and cycle/pedestrian infrastructure

What This Will Lead To:

- Increased access to employment and education for communities around Haxby

- Greater use of public transport, reducing car dependency

How Does It Fit York’s Future?

This project enhances the connectivity of suburban York, making Haxby part of a wider regional transport network. It supports sustainable and inclusive mobility and aligns with York’s net-zero goals.

Alignment with Local Growth Plan: The new station for Haxby aligns with the Local Growth Plan and Yorkshire’s Plan for Rail by strengthening foundational transport infrastructure and applying a place-based approach to improve regional connectivity, supporting inclusive and sustainable economic growth in York and North Yorkshire.

Current Position:

- Public consultation in 2022 with 81% support

- Contribution to York’s sustainable transport and growth strategies
- Strategic business case endorsed in 2023
- Planning decision due in 2025, construction expected in 2026, with delivery in 2034/35

Accelerating Brownfield Site Development

£mm

To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

Location: York-wide

Description: This project focuses on identifying and accelerating the development of brownfield land, with a focus on sustainable, affordable housing. The goal is to unlock development on new sites to meet York’s growing housing needs, which are connected through sustainable, accessible infrastructure developments..

Context: York’s housing affordability crisis is worsening, with a 9.3:1 income-to-house-price ratio. Brownfield sites offer an efficient and environmentally responsible solution to meet housing demand without using greenfield sites or encroaching on York’s Greenbelt. This initiative will accelerate the development of council-owned sites and other stalled sites in the city.

Importance: Developing brownfield sites will enable faster housing delivery while maintaining sustainable development and protecting the green belt. It will

provide affordable housing close to transportation links, fostering inclusive growth for York’s residents.

What Are We Doing?

- Supporting brownfield sites for development, in our Local Plan, including British Sugar, Barbican, and Gasworks
- Supporting development through planning, funding, and site preparation
- Targeting affordable housing for key workers and other housing needs
- Identifying opportunities where above policy affordable housing can be delivered

What This Will Lead To:

- More affordable housing across York
- Faster progress toward housing targets
- People living in sustainable, well-connected neighbourhoods

How Does It Fit York’s Future?

This project aligns with the mission for warm and affordable homes and contributes to York’s spatial strategy by transforming underutilised sites into high-quality housing.

Alignment with Local Growth Plan: This project aligns with the Local Growth Plan by maximising local assets and strengths to deliver sustainable, affordable housing on brownfield sites, supporting inclusive growth and efficient use of land within York and North Yorkshire.

Current Position:

- Housing Delivery Programme known as ShapeYork in development.
- Partly supporting Net Zero projects
- Sites allocated for development in the new Local Plan

Barriers:

- Ongoing site identification to develop a pipeline whilst protecting the permanence of the green belt
- Challenges with land ownership, planning, and infrastructure
- Viability and costs of delivery

Unlocking the Local Plan (delivering the Movement and Place Plan)

£mm

To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

Location: York-wide

Description: York’s Local Plan is our crucial strategy that directs and manages the city’s spatial growth. By unlocking this plan, we ensure that the planned approach advances and the development it allocates and influences can meet our council ambitions, policy objectives and sustainable development priorities in a viable and deliverable way. Opportunities exist to unlock infrastructure delivery and support development to deliver above policy requirements to enable more benefits to be realised, including improved connectivity.

Context: Yorks Local Plan aligns to national and local priorities to spatially identify and support the delivery of c.20,000 new homes, economic development and high quality, sustainable design. Unlocking the plan will help ensure the city is meeting the identified demands by way of securing the supporting infrastructure and helping to

accelerate delivery of high quality and sustainable places.

Importance: Unlocking the Local Plan ensures York’s future development is delivered effectively meeting the needs of the new and existing communities in which it is delivered. It enables proactive management of York’s growth, supporting accelerated development and positioning the city to thrive in the face of evolving regulations and needs.

What Are We Doing?

- Preparing to unlock infrastructure required to deliver strategic and non-strategic site allocations
- Identifying opportunities to maximise or exceed policy requirements
- Ensuring alignment across housing, employment, environmental, and connectivity needs with neighbouring authorities for consistency

What This Will Lead To:

- Secured delivery of necessary infrastructure and futureproofing of infrastructure requirements
- Accelerated delivery of allocated sites
- Investment opportunities to exceed Local Plan policy requirements for the benefit of residents and businesses such as more affordable housing.

How Does It Fit York’s Future?

Unlocking the Local Plan ensures York grows in a way that is planned, sustainable and inclusive, achieving its objectives for affordable housing, economic opportunity and community wellbeing.

As national planning policies evolve, and the city’s population and economy shift, it will form the baseline for a future spatial strategy which responds to any changing needs of both current and future generations.

Alignment with Local Growth Plan: Unlocking the Local Plan supports York’s sustainable, inclusive growth by ensuring coordinated housing, employment, and infrastructure development aligned with evolving regional and national priorities.

Current Position:

- New Local Plan adopted in February 2025
- Awaiting national policy relating to the release of new Planning Regulations expected in summer 2025

Barriers:

- Changing development costs
- Potential changes in national and regional planning frameworks
- Need for a coordinated approach with multiple partners, including CYC, MCA, and North Yorkshire Council

Outer Ring Road Improvements (delivering the Movement and Place Plan)

£mm

To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

Location: Outer Ring Road

Description: Take a phased approach to increase road capacity at the Outer Ring Road to support schemes to reduce traffic congestion in the city centre and to enhance economic and housing growth in line with York’s Local Plan.

Context: York’s outer ring road connects the city to its surrounding areas but faces congestion, pollution, and limited sustainable transport options. Upgrading it is essential to unlock housing and economic growth and to facilitate reduction of vehicle traffic from the city centre.

Importance: Improving the outer ring road will increase road capacity, and provide safer and more sustainable travel options for residents and visitors.

What Are We Doing?

- Increasing road capacity and dualling

- Active travel improvements: pedestrian/cycle underpasses, orbital routes, interchanges.
- Coordination with housing development plans.

What This Will Lead To:

- Essential to reduce city centre congestion and facilitate the wider Movement and Place Plan for the city.
- Safer, more sustainable travel options.
- Facilitate the Local Plan housing developments and economic growth across the city and region

How Does It Fit York’s Future?

Supports the city’s move to improved sustainable and accessible, healthy transport options, and delivering housing and economic growth.

Alignment with Local Growth Plan: The project facilitates delivering increased housing and economic growth, both locally and across the region.

Current Position:

- £72 million secured, planning permission granted.
- Design work ongoing; construction expected to begin in 2027.

Barriers:

- Rising construction costs.
- Developer contributions to future infrastructure costs.

Delivering the Movement and Place Plan – A Healthier, More Sustainable and Better-Connected City

£mm

To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

Location: York-wide

Description: Deliver a series of connected sustainable transport schemes and place-making schemes that reduce the number of vehicle miles travelled by 20% across York, enabling more people to choose to use sustainable, accessible, and healthy travel alternatives. This includes infrastructure improvements for walking, cycling, and public transport to provide more sustainable options for travel.

Context: York faces increasing transport pressures with 200,000 residents (and growing), 25,000 daily commuters, and 9 million annual visitors. There are 450,000 vehicle trips daily, contributing to rising traffic and emissions, set to increase as a result of population growth in the Local Plan. By offering better sustainable transport options and developing more high-quality public realm, we will achieve

climate goals, address public health concerns, boost the city’s economy and reduce car dependency.

Importance: The right transport infrastructure and balancing the needs of movement and place-making is key to improving air quality, reducing emissions, enhancing road safety, sustaining a thriving economy and making travel more inclusive and accessible for all. It is essential for York’s climate, economic and public health goals to keep York moving, despite a growing population.

What Are We Doing?

- **Sustainable Travel Corridors:** Upgrading infrastructure and reallocating road space to sustainable modes of travel along key corridors to support walking, cycling, and public transport.

- **Accessibility Policies:** Making all forms of mobility more accessible, such as increasing blue badge parking, installing accessible bus stop infrastructure, barrier-free foot and cycle paths, reduced wait times at pedestrian crossings, increased seating along walking routes and inclusive cycle parking.
- **Walking, Wheeling & Cycling Improvements:** Expanding priority walking, cycling routes, and better facilities like safer pedestrian and cycle crossings, plus a fully **connected cycle network**.
- **Investing in Public Realm:** Reallocating road space to create enhanced public realm, helping to increase footfall and dwell time in local shopping areas and creating healthy places for everyone.
- **Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP):** Developing a strategic map of walking and cycling routes across York to prioritise high-impact areas for improvement.

What This Will Lead To:

- 90% of the city’s car and van fleet to be electric or hybrid by 2040.

- Most daily journeys will be carbon-neutral, enhancing accessibility, health, and sustainability.
- 20% reduction in driven vehicle miles by 2030
- 50% increase in bus patronage by 2030
- 100% increase in active travel by 2030

How Does It Fit York’s Future?

- **Connected to Opportunity:** Better access to jobs and services without car dependency.
- **Active Travel and Public Transport:** Encourages healthier lifestyles and reduces carbon emissions.
- **Sustainable Growth:** Aligns with housing development and climate targets, creating a more sustainable city.

Alignment with Local Growth Plan:

This project aligns with the Local Growth Plan’s focus on strengthening the foundations of York and North Yorkshire’s economy by investing in transport infrastructure and public realm, which supports sustainable economic growth. It contributes to the spatial priorities by addressing place-based needs across York, enhancing connectivity and

access. Additionally, improving transport supports wider goals around digital connectivity, housing, innovation, and skills development by making travel more accessible and inclusive, which in turn supports productivity and wellbeing in the local economy.

Current Position:

- LCWIP completed with major consultations from November 2023–February 2024.

Local Transport Strategy Schemes

- Reimagining York Streets (city centre)
- Sustainable travel corridor (Micklegate)
- Sustainable travel corridor (radial) (city centre)
- Sustainable travel neighbourhood
- Sustainable travel village
- Micromobility / car club contract
- Dial and Ride
- 20mph city/neighbourhoods

Barriers:

- **Funding Gaps:** Many projects need external funding sources.
- **Coordination Challenges:** Successful planning and funding applications are critical.
- **Costing Requirements:** Projects require detailed scoping and technical

Enhancing the Digital Technology Landscape

£mm

To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

Location: York-wide

Description: Develop strategies to bridge digital deprivation gaps, expand access to Wi-Fi hotspots, and provide digital training and resources to vulnerable groups.

Context: Digital skills are now essential, and gaps in connectivity limit equality, climate action, health, and access to services. York has a strong digital foundation but still faces connectivity challenges, especially in rural areas.

Importance: Bridging digital connectivity gaps promotes economic growth, reduces inequality, and helps establish York as a tech-forward city. This project focuses on both expanding digital skills and enhancing the infrastructure needed to support them, ensuring that vulnerable groups have not just access to Wi-Fi and training, but also the necessary hardware and connectivity. This effort supports York’s growing digital and cultural economy, which already

employs over 1,500 businesses, and lays the groundwork for future technological innovation.

What Are We Doing?

- Strategy development to attract private sector investment.
- Expand access to Wi-Fi hotspots.
- Establish support programmes and digital training.
- Support vulnerable groups with data access and devices.
- Develop 6G Hub Project with University of York.
- Improve infrastructure in high-density and rural areas.

What This Will Lead To:

- City-wide digital inclusion.

- Stronger digital skills and employment opportunities.
- Attraction of tech investment and businesses.
- More resilient and connected communities.

How Does It Fit York’s Future?

A foundational part of becoming a smart, connected, inclusive city. Supports all strategic goals from employment to health, equity to climate.

Alignment with Local Growth Plan:

This project supports the Local Growth Plan’s emphasis on fostering a strong digital economy, promoting inclusive growth by addressing connectivity gaps, and attracting investment to develop York’s technology sector, thereby building resilient, connected communities across the city.

Current Position:

- Digital Inclusion Coordinator funded until March 2026 via Household Support Fund.
- Fibre broadband rollout ongoing (5,000+ premises, rising to 8,000 by end of 2025).
- Elvington, Wheldrake, Stockton now connected.

Barriers:

- Revenue and operational capacity are ongoing challenges.
- York must remain attractive to private sector investors—clear strategy and “city of choice” messaging are essential.

Good Growth for All

Our approach to growth is to ensure it benefits everyone. To that end, we are committed to ensuring all residents, especially the most disadvantaged, can share in the city’s success.

Our projects in this section focus on social value and community inclusion. Whether through initiatives such as the regional circular food distribution network, celebrating lifelong learning, or the healthy workforce programme, we are taking steps to ensure that health, education, and employment opportunities are available to all, and especially to the residents who most need these opportunities.

By embedding the principles of inclusion and wellbeing into our growth, we will create a city that is not only economically successful but also socially and environmentally sustainable. In doing so, we help realise the ambition set out in the York 2032 Vision: to establish the conditions of a vibrant, prosperous, welcoming and sustainable city, where everyone can share in and take pride in its success, now and for future generations.

This approach supports government ambitions to promote inclusive economic growth and social equity, ensuring that opportunities in health, education, and employment reach all communities. By embedding social value and wellbeing at the core of growth, York contributes to national efforts to build stronger, fairer, and more resilient places across the UK.

Regional Circular Food Distribution Network

£mm

To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

Location: York and the wider region

Description: Build community capacity for a circular food redistribution network, aiming to eliminate food waste, reduce emissions from transport, and support vulnerable communities.

Context: York and North Yorkshire are strong in food and farming, with companies like Nestle and McCain based in the region. However, food waste is a major issue, with 300,000 tonnes wasted annually in Yorkshire and Humber. The project aims to create a circular food economy, addressing both environmental and social challenges.

Importance: A circular food network can reduce food waste, support vulnerable communities, and lower emissions from long-distance food transport. It will strengthen the regional economy by keeping value within local food systems and building more resilient supply chains.

What Are We Doing?

Community Capacity Building: Empowering local communities to take charge of food redistribution and rescue efforts.

Circular Supply Chains: Developing closed-loop systems to reuse surplus food, by-products, and waste.

Local Value Chains: Reducing food miles by promoting local sourcing and shortening supply chains.

Anchor Institution Procurement: Encouraging public bodies and large businesses to purchase from local circular food networks.

Innovation in Surplus Use & Packaging: Exploring sustainable packaging and food processing methods, positioning the region as a leader in food waste solutions.

Future Readiness for Food Waste

Collection: Preparing for the rollout of domestic kerbside food waste collection.

What This Will Lead To:

- Elimination of avoidable food waste.
- Stronger food security for vulnerable communities.
- Reduced carbon emissions from food transport and waste processing.
- More resilient local economies based on sustainable food systems.

How Does It Fit York’s Future?

This project supports a Healthy and Resilient York by strengthening local food systems, reducing waste, and contributing to environmental sustainability. It reinforces York’s leadership in food innovation and cooperative economic growth.

Alignment with Local Growth Plan: This project supports the Food and Farming growth sector and promotes sustainable local food systems, aligning

with the Plan’s focus on maximising local assets and driving resilient, inclusive economic growth.

Current Position:

- The project is in early development, with initial work on community building and supply chain mapping.
- Some partnerships with local food businesses have been established.

Barriers:

- Funding: Investment is needed to launch and scale the redistribution network.
- Infrastructure Development: Support for community infrastructure and sustainable food technologies is required.
- Regulatory Challenges: Navigating food safety regulations and compliance will be a significant hurdle.

A Healthy Workforce – Supporting People to Thrive in Work and Health

£mm

To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

Location: York

Description: A blended programme providing targeted occupational health support, employer assistance to adapt workplaces for health conditions, and skills development to help people with health challenges return to or remain in work.

Context: York’s economy faces growing challenges related to chronic illness and mental health, which have worsened due to the cost-of-living crisis and long-term impacts of COVID-19. The city is shifting its approach to health and care, focusing on prevention, strengths-based interventions, and improving the workforce’s health.

Importance: Supporting people with health conditions (such as mental health, long COVID, and musculoskeletal issues) to return to or stay in work improves workforce productivity, reduces poverty, and enhances overall wellbeing. Employers also need support to adapt workplaces for employees with these challenges.

What Are We Doing?

Targeted Occupational Health Support: Offering tailored health interventions to help individuals manage health conditions while remaining employed.

Support for Employers: Assisting businesses in adapting workplaces and policies to accommodate employees with long-term health conditions.

Return-to-Work Schemes & Skills

Development: Providing training and skill development to help individuals recover and return to work with confidence.

What This Will Lead To:

Improved health and job outcomes for people with long-term health conditions.

Reduced hospitalisations and stronger health support outside of clinical settings.

Increased workforce participation and productivity.

How Does It Fit York’s Future?

This programme is central to York’s Healthy and Resilient future by integrating health, housing, and employment support, improving the lives of individuals with health conditions and enhancing economic security.

Alignment with Local Growth Plan: This programme supports the “everyday economy” by enhancing health and workforce productivity, aligning with the Plan’s emphasis on skills development, workforce wellbeing, and integrated health and social care to drive inclusive economic growth.

What does this mean for the UK: Building out from the Trailblazer programme being implemented by the YNYCA, this programme offers a case study in supporting people into work which can be rolled out throughout the country.

Current Position:

Occupational health services for council staff were launched in July 2023, including an Employee Assistance Programme.

Early-stage funding provided through Trailblazer initiatives.

Barriers:

Capital Funding: Significant investment needed to deliver new health and housing facilities

Revenue Funding: Ongoing funding required to support health infrastructure and housing development.

Partnership Working: Building stronger relationships with NHS Property Services and coordinating with social care partners is crucial.

Creative Chrysalis: A new arts and culture innovation centre for York

£mm

To add: Economic and social value figures at a glance

Location: York City Centre

Description:

Building on the cultural vibrancy of York, this will be a new arts and exhibition space in the middle of the city that will welcome world-class artists and provide space to showcase emerging talent in a cutting-edge environment that can act as a springboard for future artistic success.

Context: York is the only UNESCO City of Media Arts in the UK. It is host to a diverse, expanding range of festivals and exhibitions and is home to a growing number of creative organisations and artists. It attracts top talent across the arts from around the world. However, there is limited creative space in the city, particularly in its historic centre, that can be utilised to test, innovate and showcase.

Importance

The centre will inspire new cultural experiences for residents in York and support efforts to attract to and retain talent in the city, with artists knowing that they can choose York over London and other bigger cities.

What are we doing

Supporting our creative sectors and maintaining York’s position as home to globally recognised festivals and cultural innovation

What will this lead to

York will be recognised as the beating heart of culture and creativity in the region, cementing its status as a home for artists of all backgrounds.

How does it fit York’s future

Culture and the arts are a key part of York’s future economy, building on the success of festivals such as Aesthetica but also related to cutting edge innovation such as XR stories. A cultural centre in the middle of

the city is the next step in supporting the city’s innovators and attracting talent to the city.

Alignment to the Local Growth Plan

The creative industries are considered a competitive advantage sector for York and North Yorkshire but it is clear that there is a lack of dedicated creative, artistic space across the region which a culture and arts centre in York will resolve.

What does it mean for the UK

The Creative Industries are considering one of the key development sectors in the UK through the National Industrial Strategy. Creating a dedicated space in a city that has a thriving cultural scene, despite limited resources, provides an exciting

opportunity to drive these industries forward at a global scale.

Current position

- Research undertaken to identify location
- Engagement with cultural leaders
- Initial feasibility undertaken

Barriers

- Capacity and funding to progress with business case
- Visibility
- Ensuring transport connectivity and alignment to the Movement and Place Plan