
**Meeting of the Executive Member for Leisure and
Culture and Advisory Panel**

5 December 2006

Report of the Assistant Director (Lifelong Learning and Culture)

**YORK MUSEUMS TRUST: REVIEW OF THE PERFORMANCE DELIVERY PLAN
(2008-13)**

Summary

1. This report outlines the process for the review of the Partnership Delivery Plan by the Council and the York Museums Trust and seeks Members' views on the priorities for the Trust for the five years 2008-2013. Following this consultation, the new plan will be brought to EMAP for formal approval.

Background

2. The Partnership Delivery Plan (PDP) is a joint agreement between the Council and the York Museums Trust. It sets out:
 - the key objectives of the partnership
 - performance targets and indicators to be met by the Trust and Council
 - performance information to be provided
 - review and reporting procedures
 - partnership arrangements between the Council and the Trust
 - arrangements for the operation of the Yorkshire Museums Gardens
3. The PDP was written in 2002 and covered the first five years of the Trust. The Funding Agreement provides a process whereby it will be formally reviewed by the Council and the Trust at the end of those five years to create a plan for the next five years. Continued funding has already been approved by the Executive for this period. The new PDP should be put in place during the next financial year. The plan will be developed in the light of this consultation.

Issues

4. The following represent the current key targets from the PDP for the partnership together with a resume of YMT's main achievements to date. Members are invited at the meeting to discuss their priorities with YMT under each heading for the next period to 2013 and to raise any other priority areas that they feel should be addressed.

A. To stabilise the service:

Visitor numbers have risen from 395,000 in 2002/03 to 465,000 in 2005/06.

B. To deliver new income streams:

The Trust has a firm financial footing and has been very successful in delivering new income streams – including conferences and an improved retail offer at the Castle Museum. The Trust has also been successful in securing additional project funding through charitable trusts and foundations, business sponsorship and the lottery, as well as new Government funding streams as Renaissance in the Regions. The total from September 2002 to October 2006 is £3,525,133.

C. To deliver new permanent exhibitions and continued development of interpretative services:

The Trust has delivered an impressive programme of exhibitions at each site. In particular, York Art Gallery has a high profile exhibition programme that is stimulated by the rich art collections and attracts important loans from both regional and National Collections.

York St Mary's has initiated a programme of contemporary site specific commissions that are funded through Arts Council Yorkshire.

Yorkshire Museum has initiated three temporary exhibitions since 2003 with Dust off the Dodo, Ice Age and the most recent Constantine the Great - York's Roman Emperor.

Publications include an impressive catalogue of the Constantine exhibition, an illustrated catalogue of the Historic Quilt Collection from the Castle Museum plus educational booklets such as Garden Explorer and catalogues documenting the commissions by Caroline Broadhead and Susie McMurray in York St Mary's.

Castle Museum has seen the reinterpretation of Kirkgate with new audio visual programmes, the opening up of some of the shops and more opportunity for visitors to interact with staff and exhibits.

An exhibition and redisplay programme for all venues is in place until 2010 and a major bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the refurbishment of the Yorkshire Museum will be submitted in December 2006.

D. To create a strategy for a comprehensive educational service meeting the needs of the schools, colleges and universities:

One of the Trust's most important achievements has been the schools programme. With funding from the Renaissance in the Regions initiative and working with the five partners across Yorkshire, the Trust now has a dedicated learning team who are delivering a comprehensive service to schools in line with Inspiring Learning For All. The investment has resulted in an increase of specialist staff, more freelance programmes, improved and expanded educational spaces across the three venues including new technology such as white boards plus an informal learning programme that delivers half term and holiday activities to a wide ranging audience. A programme listing all the sessions available to schools that relate to the National Curriculum is produced on a yearly basis.

E. To increase use and involvement by local people:

There have been a series of projects involving York schools and communities. One of the most effective programmes working with the local community is Territories which is funded by Arts Council Yorkshire. In its third year we have worked with a number of hard to reach groups.

F. To achieve high visitor satisfaction:

So that by 2007 over 90% of all visitors are either satisfied or very satisfied.

The figure currently stands at 70%.

G. To ensure cataloguing of the collection, keeping artefacts safe and providing full access to knowledge:

The Trust has a Collections Management Plan that deals with the documentation backlog inherited by the Trust. This backlog will be cleared by 2010 and is currently being monitored quarterly. A plan for improving storage is underway with the vacation of Darnborough Street by 2006, incremental improvements are being made in all the stores and the plan to extend Birch Park will be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund by December 2006.

Corporate Priorities

5. YMT's business plan contributes to a number of corporate objectives including developing opportunities for residents and visitors to experience York as a vibrant and eventful city, improving opportunities for learning, and in strengthening York's economy through investment in the tourism infrastructure. Reinvestment in the museums is an identified priority within the sub-regional investment plan.

Implications

6. The report has no implications relating to:
 - Finance
 - Human Resources
 - Equalities
 - Legal
 - Crime and Disorder
 - Information Technology
 - Other

Risk Management

7. This report has no risks to consider.

Recommendations

8. The Executive Member and Advisory Panel are asked to contribute any ideas that they may have for the next Partnership Delivery Plan

Reason: to update the Executive Member and seek Members' views on the priorities for the Trust for the five years 2008-2013.

Contact Details

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York Museums Trust

**Report
Approved**

Date 21 Nov 06

**Report
Approved**

Date

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Museums Trust: Partnership Delivery Plan 12.12.02.