

Meeting	Make it York Shareholders Group
Date	25 April 2016
Present	Councillors Hayes (Chair), Cuthbertson, Levene and K Myers
In attendance	Steve Brown, Managing Director, Make it York  City of York Council: Phil Witcherley, Group Manager, Economy & Place Strategy & Policy, Mark Alty, Principal Strategy & Economic Policy Officer
Apologies	Councillor Taylor and Ian Floyd, Director of Customer & Business Support Services

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## **7. Declarations of Interest**

At this point in the meeting Members were asked to declare any personal, prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests that they might have in the business on the agenda. There were no additional declarations of interest to those already recorded.

## **8. Minutes**

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the 18 January 2016 be approved and signed by the Chair.

## **9. Public Participation**

Andrea Dudding, Unison, spoke about requests to publicise union materials to Make it York staff.

Resolved: That Make it York would liaise with Unison to agree a convenient time to enable staff to find out Unison's offer.

Action: That a consistent approach to unions in arms length bodies be requested as part of the report to Executive on governance of arms length bodies.

## **10. Monitoring Financial Performance**

Steve Brown outlined the highlights and challenges of Make it York financial performance to date. He noted this was subject to full figures for March and audited accounts but that the likely outcome would be a small surplus.

The committee congratulated Make it York on above budgeted financial performance.

The board noted that the summary of financial information was too generalised (e.g. other direct costs over £2m not broken down) to fully understand the finances and inner workings of the business plan, and that in the future it would be helpful for the shareholder to understand this further, subject to Executive's recommendations on the governance of arms length bodies.

Steve Brown outlined that the Make it York Board received a longer financial and that currently that was where detail was looked at in relation to overall financial performance.

Action: That consistency of financial reporting of arms length bodies be clarified as part of the report to Executive on governance of arms length bodies.

## **11. Monitoring Performance against Objectives**

The reports provided an outline overview of Make it York's activity and performance. Steve Brown noted the slower progress of inward investment work over 2015/16, and that this and higher value jobs would be a greater focus in 2016/17. He shared an Inward Investment Guide for York, which will be available on Make it York's new website.

He also highlighted the work down to support businesses during and after the December flooding, and this accounting for diverted resources away from during this period, but also that it

accounted for strong performance in relation to business assists, working with 179 businesses.

Finally, he noted successful work creating a consumer fund for marketing, with significant contributions from national bodies. The board asked why a website for Make it York, and particularly for inward investment enquiries, was not live yet. Steve Brown responded that the new website will be launched on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

The board also asked questions about development of visitor activities around Easter, the progress on the Shambles Market and how Visit York membership was progressing as key customers of Make it York.

The board noted the number of jobs created, particularly above the average wage, as an area for concern. While it acknowledged difficulties around measuring direct support for job creation, it hoped that performance would be improved in 2016/17, and a refreshed Service Level Agreement would help support the focus on this.

## **12. Revisions to the Council's Service Level Agreement with Make it York**

Council Officers outlined ongoing discussions with Make it York on reviewing the Council's customer agreement 'Service Level Agreement' with Make it York to focus more on and a clearer view of the activities and outputs the Council is paying for from Make it York. They explained that Make it York would respond to the draft with a delivery plan to form the full agreement.

Steve Brown asked for clarity on what was required in the delivery plan response to the Service Level Agreement. Officers outlined that while there were key elements it should cover, such as specific activity, outputs, timescales and resources Make it York intended to use to deliver the Council specification that discussing an approach in person would ensure that there was agreement on what would be supplied.

The board discussed that to date they had focussed on monitoring just the Council contract with Make it York, and that a broader organisational would be helpful given Council income accounted for only a quarter of Make it York's income. The

board also commented that greater clarity on its role would be helpful, as well as the distinction between the Council's role as shareholder and that of client.

- Resolved:
- (i) That the Shareholder Committee note the suggested changes to the Service Level Agreement;
  - (ii) That the Shareholder Committee continue to monitor and review the financial and operational performance of Make it York over a range of activities, including those specified in the SLA with the Council, but also the wider activities within Make it York's business plan, to ensure that Make it York delivers for all of its customers and the long term interests of the owner;
  - (iii) That the future role and remit of the board be informed initially by the upcoming Executive review on governance of arms length bodies.

Action: That the report to Executive on governance of arms length bodies should address and bring clarity to shareholder and client roles in relation to Make it York and other arms length bodies.

Cllr J Hayes, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 6.30 pm].