



Notice of meeting of

Social Inclusion Working Group

To: Councillors Aspden (Chair), Alexander, Sue Galloway, Gunnell (Vice-Chair), Healey, Potter, Sunderland, Jack Archer (Non-voting Co-opted Member), Sue Lister (Non-voting Co-opted Member), Peter Blackburn (Non-voting Co-opted Member), Karen Roberts (Non-voting Co-opted Member), Rita Sanderson (Non-voting Co-opted Member), Daryoush Mazloum (Non-voting Co-opted Member), Jan Jauncey (Non-voting Co-opted Member), Lynn Jeffries (Non-voting Co-opted Member) and Paul Wordsworth (Non-voting Co-opted Member)

Date: Wednesday, 16 January 2008

Time: 6.30 pm

Venue: Clementhorpe Room, Priory Street, York

AGENDA

1. Declarations of Interest

At this point Members are asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business on this agenda.

2. Minutes

(Pages 3 - 16)

To approve and sign the minutes of the last meeting of the Group held on 21 November 2007. An "easy read" version of these minutes is also attached for members' consideration.

3. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered their wish to speak regarding an item on the agenda or an issue within the Groups remit can do so. Anyone who wishes to register or requires further information is requested to contact the Democracy Officer on the contact details listed at the foot of this agenda. The deadline for registering is Tuesday 15 January 2008 at 5.00pm.

4. Work Map - Feedback from Community Group representatives (Pages 17 - 24)

To consider the Groups Work Map together with feedback from community group representatives.

5. Funding Principles 2008/09 - Feedback from Community Group representatives (Pages 25 - 30)

This report asks for feedback from representatives on principles to be used when funding projects from community groups for discussion at the Social Inclusion Working Group Development Day in February 2008.

6. Funding Requests - 2007/08 (Pages 31 - 38)

This report outlines the current position with the Group's budget for 2007/08 and makes recommendations for further funding for projects from community groups.

7. Community Forum Reports and Feedback (Pages 39 - 42)

To consider the following updates:

- a) From Chair's surgeries with community groups.
- b) Disability Forum development update.
- c) Inclusive York Forum minutes from meeting on 17 September 2007 (attached).
- d) Any other updates.

8. Verbal reports from Conferences

To receive verbal reports from Councillor Aspden on the Diverse Britain Conference and from Councillor Gunnell on the Social Inclusion Conference.

9. Black Minority Ethnic (BME) Stakeholders (Pages 43 - 48) Seminar, October 2007

This report discusses the key findings from the BME Stakeholders Seminar and recommends further consideration of these at a future meeting following receipt of responses from key stakeholders.

10. City of York Council Corporate Priorities 2007- 2011 (Pages 49 - 52)

This report informs members of the contents of the Council's Corporate Strategy 2007-2011. Heather Rice, Director of People and Improvement will give a short presentation on the Strategy.

11. Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972

12. Group Discussion: Without Walls Anti Poverty Strategy (Pages 53 - 68)

At this point, the meeting will break into small groups for discussion on key aspects of the Without Walls Anti Poverty Strategy to enable a response to be made to the Inclusive York Forum.

Democracy Officer:

Name: Jill Pickering

Tel: (01904) 552061

jill.pickering@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

Contact details set out above.

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- register by contacting the Democracy Officer (whose name and contact details can be found on the agenda for the meeting) **no later than 5.00 pm** on the last working day before the meeting;
- ensure that what you want to say speak relates to an item of business on the agenda or an issue which the committee has power to consider (speak to the Democracy Officer for advice on this);
- find out about the rules for public speaking from the Democracy Officer.

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Further information about what's being discussed at this meeting

All the reports which Members will be considering are available for viewing online on the Council's website. Alternatively, copies of individual reports or the full agenda are available from Democratic Services. Contact the Democracy Officer whose name and contact details are given on the agenda for the meeting. **Please note a small charge may be made for full copies of the agenda requested to cover administration costs.**

Access Arrangements

We will make every effort to make the meeting accessible to you. The meeting will usually be held in a wheelchair accessible venue with an induction hearing loop. We can provide the agenda or reports in large print, electronically (computer disk or by email), in Braille or on audio tape. Some formats will take longer than others so please give as much notice as possible (at least 48 hours for Braille or audio tape).

If you have any further access requirements such as parking close-by or a sign language interpreter then please let us know. Contact the Democracy Officer whose name and contact details are given on the order of business for the meeting.

Every effort will also be made to make information available in another language, either by providing translated information or an interpreter providing sufficient advance notice is given. Telephone York (01904) 551550 for this service.

যদি যথেষ্ট আগে থেকে জানানো হয় তাহলে অন্য কোন অর্ধাতে তথ্য জানানোর জন্য সব ধরনের চেষ্টা করা হবে, এর জন্য দরকার হলে তথ্য অনুবাদ করে দেয়া হবে অথবা একজন দোঅবী সারবরাহ করা হবে। টেলিফোন নম্বর (01904) 551 550।

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Holding the Executive to Account

The majority of councillors are not appointed to the Executive (38 out of 47). Any 3 non-Executive councillors can 'call-in' an item of business from a published Executive (or Executive Member Advisory Panel (EMAP)) agenda. The Executive will still discuss the 'called in' business on the published date and will set out its views for consideration by a specially convened Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC). That SMC meeting will then make its recommendations to the next scheduled Executive meeting in the following week, where a final decision on the 'called-in' business will be made.

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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- Councillors get copies of all agenda and reports for the committees to which they are appointed by the Council;
- Relevant Council Officers get copies of relevant agenda and reports for the committees which they report to;
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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

MEETING	SOCIAL INCLUSION WORKING GROUP
DATE	21 NOVEMBER 2007
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS ASPDEN (CHAIR), ALEXANDER, SUE GALLOWAY, GUNNELL (VICE-CHAIR), HEALEY, POTTER, SUNDERLAND, JACK ARCHER (NON-VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBER), SUE LISTER (NON-VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBER), PETER BLACKBURN (NON-VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBER), RITA SANDERSON (NON-VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBER), DARYOUSH MAZLOUM (NON-VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBER), JAN JAUNCEY (NON-VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBER) AND LYNN JEFFRIES (NON-VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBER)

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda. No interests were declared.

13. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Social Inclusion Working Group meeting held on 19 September 2007 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

14. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION / OTHER SPEAKERS

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme. However, Cllr Scott had asked to make some comments with regard to the work of the Group in general and the Young People's Update in particular (Minute 19 refers).

With the Chair's permission, Cllr Scott addressed the meeting in his capacity as Young People's Champion and Leader of the Labour Group. He expressed concern that he had not been invited to attend meetings of the Social Inclusion Working Group, despite a previous agreement that the Young People's Champion would be the contact point between young people and the Group. He also expressed surprise that the Group no longer operated on the basis of an informal 'pre-meeting' followed by the formal meeting and asked whether the Group had ever received an update on the voting rights of co-opted members, as requested at its first meeting.

In respect of the informal pre-meeting issue, the Chair explained that it had been found more effective simply to split into smaller discussion groups when dealing with issues of wider interest, rather than having a general discussion at the outset. The need for a more informal, less structured arrangement in the meeting room itself was noted.

15. CHAIR'S REPORTS - WORK MAP

The Chair introduced Evie Chandler, the Council's new Equalities Officer who would be supporting the work of the Social Inclusion Working Group.

Comments and suggestions were invited on a work map prepared for the Group, copies of which were circulated at the meeting (pages 9-14 of the re-published agenda refer). This set out the work already done to further the Group's three main objectives, the resources available for further work in the current year, work agreed for the current year and project proposals. The Chair suggested that, since the papers had only just been received, those members who represented community groups be invited to seek comments from their groups on the work map, which could then be brought back to the next meeting, in January, for further discussion.

Members commented that the information in the work plan would need to be presented in a more accessible manner to enable it to be shared and discussed with the various community groups. In particular, Council jargon and abbreviations (such as SIWG) would need to be removed. The Equalities Officer agreed to speak individually with group representatives about the particular formats they required and to facilitate these requirements with the help of the budget available to support the Group's work.

RESOLVED: (i) That the work map be brought back to the next meeting of the Social Inclusion Working Group.

(ii) That community group representatives consult with their groups in the meantime on the contents of the work map, with the assistance of the Equalities Officer, the results of that consultation to be available at the next meeting.

REASON: To enable a full and informed discussion to take place on how best to further the objectives of the Group.

16. SOCIAL INCLUSION WORKING GROUP BUDGETS

The Equalities Officer introduced an outline report which set out a funding framework for the budget available to support the objectives of the Social Inclusion Working Group (pages 15 to 16 of the re-published agenda refer). Copies of the funding requests received from bodies representing the six equalities strands were also circulated at the meeting, together with details of spending on the ring-fenced administration and development budget for the Group in 2007/08.

The funding framework included some proposed funding principles for project funding in the 2008/09 financial year. The Chair indicated that

these principles would be the subject of a wider discussion at the Social Inclusion Working Group planning workshop scheduled for February 2008. However, as it would be helpful to have some guidance from the Group before that date, it was suggested that the matter be considered further at the next meeting, in January.

In respect of the funding requests, it was suggested that these too be deferred to the next meeting, as time was short. It was pointed out that this could cause problems, as groups needed to have an idea of their budget in order to plan ahead. Members therefore proposed that a decision be taken now to distribute a proportion of the funding equally between the applicants.

RESOLVED: (i) That the proposed project funding principles be brought back to the next meeting of the Group for further consideration.

REASON: To enable the Group to provide a steer on these before the planning workshop in February.

(ii) That the sum of £500 be allocated from the available support budget of £5,100 to each of the following bodies:

- York CAB
- York Older People's Assembly
- York Interfaith
- Disability Forum
- YREN

REASON: To support the objectives of the Group and to assist the above bodies to plan for the future.

(iii) That a decision on the allocation of the remainder of the budget be deferred to the next meeting.

REASON: To enable a considered and informed decision to be taken.

17. USER-LED CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

The Group received a presentation from Keith Martin, the Council's Head of Adult Services, on options for the delivery, governance and future partnership of the user-led Centre for Independent Living (CIL).

The presentation provided a reminder of what was meant by a CIL and outlined three potential options for its provision in York. These included:

- The model set out in the Independent Report produced in 2006, with the CIL and service points separate (Option A);
- A central CIL with geographically located service points (Option B)
- A central CIL provided as one of a range of services provided within a single facility (Option C).

Copies of the slides from the presentation were circulated to Group members at the meeting.

Feedback on the options was sought from Group Members and community groups, for communication to the Healthy City Board, which would be requested to co-ordinate the development of the CIL. Members were invited to make preliminary comments at this stage, and the following comments were made:

- Any user-led organisation would need to encompass the social model of disability. This would require a cultural change within the organisations providing the services and it might be appropriate for the Group to have further discussions on how it could be achieved.
- The Disability Discrimination Act duty to promote equality specifically called for the *involvement* of disabled people, not just consultation.
- The current lack of a link between Health and Social Services was frustrating. It would be useful to work more closely with Health on this project.
- The location of any central CIL building was important – it should be accessible, with good public transport links.

RESOLVED: That the above comments be noted and that any further comments from Members and / or community groups be fed back to Keith Martin or Evie Chandler before the next meeting of the Social Inclusion Working Group.

REASON: To inform further discussions on the CIL and to ensure that the views of community groups are taken into account during the development process.

18. REPORTS FROM GROUPS

The Group received an update report from the York and Districts LGBT Forum (page 21 of the re-published agenda refers). This set out details of the Forum's use of a recent grant for the purchase of IT equipment, the election of new officers and committee members at the first Annual General Meeting and a work programme for the coming year.

Representatives of the York Older People's Assembly circulated a press release reporting on the success of this year's York 50+ Festival.

The Chair provided an update on progress in supporting the Disabled People's Forum, as discussed at the Group's last meeting, on 19 September (Minute 10 of that meeting refers). As agreed, he had met with Cllr Gunnell and Lynn Jeffries to discuss a way forward. The Equalities Officer drew attention to the information circulated to the Group on the York Cares initiative (pages 27 to 28 of the re-published agenda refer). It was suggested that York Cares might be commissioned to provide some additional capacity for the Forum.

RESOLVED: (i) That the reports from the York and Districts LGBT Forum and the York Older People's Assembly be noted.

REASON: So that the Social Inclusion Working Group is kept informed of the activities of community groups.

(ii) That the Chair, Cllr Gunnell and Lynn Jefferies (together with any other Group Members who wish to join them) meet again before the next meeting of the Group, to discuss a way forward for the Disabled People's Forum and the possibility of involving York Cares.

REASON: In order to support the Forum, as previously agreed.

19. YOUNG PEOPLE'S UPDATE

The Group received an update from Steve Rouse, Equalities Team Leader with the Council's Youth Service, on work being carried out to involve young people in the City in decisions on matters affecting them. Bob Purrington, the Central Youth Work Manager, was also in attendance.

Steve explained that the most effective way of involving young people was to go out and discuss the issues with them directly, rather than inviting them to formal meetings where the environment was not 'young person friendly', or using methods such as questionnaires which tended to draw a low response. His aim therefore would be to use effective methods to promote these discussions before bringing back information to the Group on a regular basis, on behalf of young people. Bob Purrington explained that his was a new role, which focused more on a generic youth service and aimed to establish networks and integrate services where possible.

In response to questions from Group Members, it was confirmed that the Youth Service would be linking in to existing consultation work between the Council and young people and would ensure that a dialogue was established with the Young People's Champion in future.

Members queried whether there was any reason why the Young People's Champion could not be a member of the Social Inclusion Working Group. The Chair suggested that membership issues be further discussed at the workshop in February and that in the meantime Group Leaders be asked to reconsider a previous proposal that the overall City of York Council membership of the Group be reduced. Some Members expressed concern that political issues were being raised and that this meeting was an inappropriate forum for such issues.

RESOLVED: (i) That the involvement of the Young People's Champion, and the other membership issues raised, be further considered at the workshop in February.

(ii) That Group Leaders be asked to consider the proposal that the City of York Council membership of the Group be reduced.

REASON: In order to address concerns about membership and ensure that the Group was fully representative and not biased towards Council priorities.

20. POVERTY STRATEGY UPDATE

The Group received an update from Colin Stroud, of York CVS, on the Anti-Poverty Strategy developed by Without Walls, York's local strategic partnership. A copy of the draft Strategy had been circulated (pages 29-39 of the re-published agenda refer).

The aim of the Strategy was to outline an agreed way forward for ensuring that poverty in the City was minimised and the gap between rich and poor narrowed. It had been drawn up on the basis that one in five people in York lived in relative poverty.

It was agreed that the various proposals in the Strategy needed to be considered in more depth at a future meeting.

RESOLVED: That the draft strategy be considered in detail at the next meeting of the Group, with Members dividing into small groups to discuss key areas for action.

REASON: In order to give proper consideration to action to be taken in response to the Strategy and make recommendations to the Executive.

21. FEEDBACK FROM BME (BLACK MINORITY ETHNIC) CONFERENCE AND NEXT STEPS

The Group received an update from Colin Stroud on the recent BME (Black Minority Ethnic) Conference.

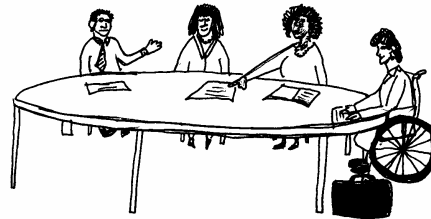
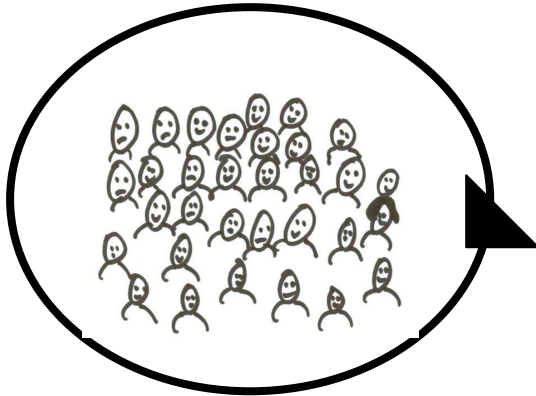
He reported that the Conference had been a success, with over 70 delegates attending. The outcome was a set of 15 key messages, currently still in draft form, that would be distributed to various bodies across the City. There was a need for more data and information, in order to plan services more effectively, and for more resources for organisations providing support and advice to BME groups.

RESOLVED: That the key messages from the BME Conference be brought to the Group for discussion at the meeting on 16 January 2008.

REASON: So that the Group can give proper consideration to the key messages from the Conference once these have been finalised and circulated.

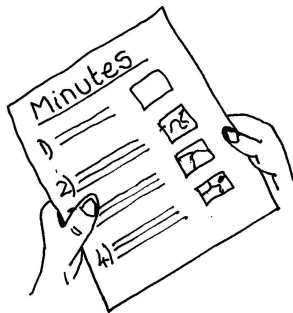
Cllr K Aspden
Chair

[The meeting started at 6.30 pm and finished at 8.50 pm].

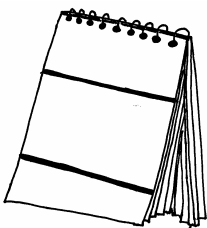


Social Inclusion Working Group

(Social inclusion means including everyone in society. The Social Inclusion Working Group has been set up to look at how all different communities in York can be given the same chances to take part in life and be included)



MINUTES



Date of meeting: 21 November 2007

Members of the Council who were at the meeting (to be known as 'Members' in these minutes):



**Keith Aspden
(Chair)**



Paul Healey



**James
Alexander**



**Ruth
Potter**



Sue Galloway



**Sue
Sunderland**



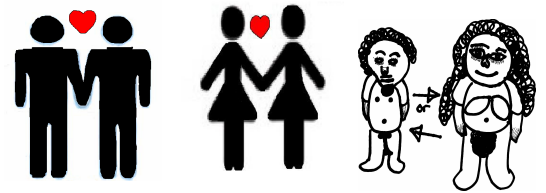
Julie Gunnell

People who were at the meeting representing community groups:

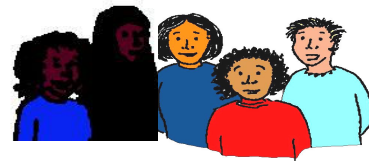
Sue Lister and Jack Archer from the Older People's Assembly



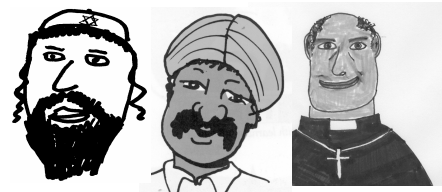
Peter Blackburn from the LGBT Forum (LGBT stands for Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender)



Rita Sanderson and Daryoush Mazloum of the BME (BME stands for Black Minority Ethnic) Citizens Forum



Jan Jauncey from York Interfaith



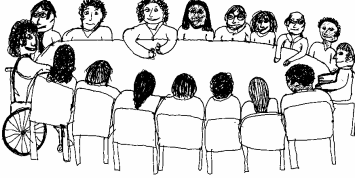
Lynn Jeffries from the Disabled People's Forum



1. Chairs Reports -Work Map



Members met Evie Chandler the Council's new Equalities Officer who was to help the Social Inclusion Working Group.



The Group looked at a plan for the work of the Group.

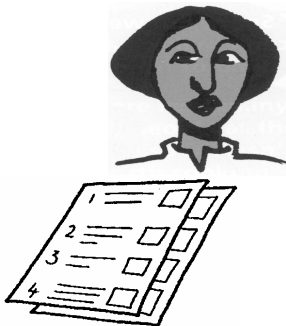


It was agreed that the plan should be considered at the Groups next meeting in January. It was also agreed that the Community Group representatives would show the list to their Groups and ask their members if they had anything they wanted to add.



2. Social Inclusion Working Group Budgets

The Group looked at a list of recommendations telling them how they should deal with requests for money from the Groups budget.



They agreed to have another look at this list at the next meeting.



They also agreed that £500 should be given to each of the following bodies to help them to plan for the future:

- York Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB)
- York Older People's Assembly
- York Interfaith
- Disability Forum
- BME Citizens' Open Forum (YREN)

3. User Led Centre for Independent Living (CIL)



Keith Martin, the Council's Head of Adult Social Services, told the Group that a Centre for Independent Living (CIL) was an organisation controlled by disabled people. It is for all disabled people.



He told the Group that there were three ways in which this Centre could be

provided in York and he asked for Members and community group comments.



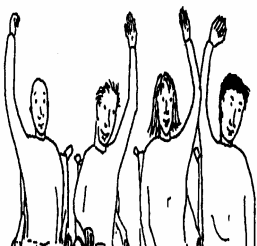
It was agreed that comments made at the meeting together with any further points should go to Keith Martin or Evie Chandler.

4. Reports from Groups

LGBT Forum

The Group were given details of:

- the new computer equipment bought with a grant from the Social Inclusion Working Group.
- The election of new Officers and Committee members at their Annual General Meeting.



York Older People's Assembly

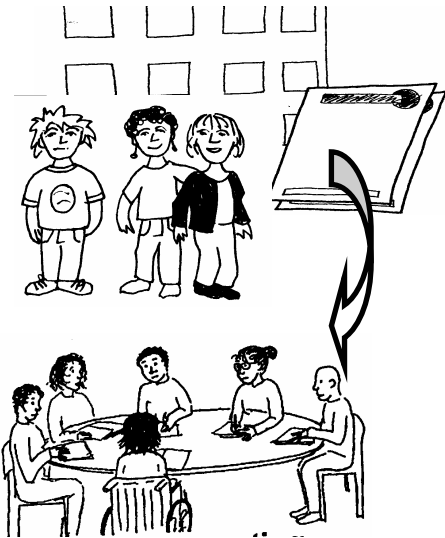
A report given to the Press was handed to Members which told them that the York 50+ Festival had gone well.

Disabled People's Forum

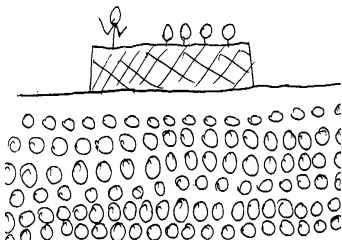


An update was given on support for the forum. It was agreed to try and involve the organisation York Cares in the forums work.

5. Young People's Update



Steve Rouse, the Equalities Team Leader with the Council's Youth Service, told Members about work being done to involve young people in the city in decisions on matters affecting them.



It was agreed to discuss the involvement of the Young Peoples Champion and membership of the Group at a workshop in February 2008.

6. Poverty Strategy Update

Colin Stroud of York CVS spoke to Members about the Anti-Poverty Strategy developed by Without Walls. The Strategy tried to make sure that poverty in the city was minimised and

that the gap between rich and poor was made smaller.

So that proper consideration was given to the strategy this would be discussed again at the next meeting.

7. Feedback from BME (Black Minority Ethnic) Conference and Next Steps



Colin Stroud of York CVS told Members about the Black Minority Ethnic Conference which had been held in October.

He told them that the Conference had been a success and that 15 key messages were to be sent to various bodies across the city.

It was agreed to discuss these messages at the Group's next meeting in January 2008.



Meeting of the Social Inclusion Working Group

16 January 2008

Report of the Director of People and Improvement

Social Inclusion Working Group Work Map - Feedback from Community Representatives

Summary

1. The attached Annex 1 has been produced following a request from community representatives co-opted to the Group at the meeting on 21 November 2007, for information circulated in a table at that meeting to be presented in written format before it is discussed at the January meeting.
2. Community group representatives are requested to give feedback from their groups regarding the contents of the Work Map which will then be considered during the SIWG development day in February 2008.

Background

3. Annex 1 lists the objectives of SIWG and work areas covered by the Group in 2006/7 and 2007/8 in particular. It is an aid to memory to assist community group representatives in offering feedback from their groups on details previously circulated.

Consultation

4. The table has been amended and presented in its current format, following requests from community group representatives who are co-opted to serve on the Group about presenting information in a more accessible format.
5. Community representatives were requested to discuss the issues outlined in Annex 1 with their groups and feed any views to this meeting.

Options

6. N/a

Analysis

7. N/a

Corporate Strategy

8. Feedback from community representatives contributes to the promotion of inclusive and cohesive communities.

Implications

9. These are as follows:

- **Financial** - None
- **Human Resources (HR)** - None
- **Equalities** - Feedback from community representatives co-opted to serve on the Group greatly contributes to the promotion of inclusive and cohesive communities and stems from the Council's equalities aims and objectives as outlined in the Equality Strategy 2005-2008.
- **Legal** - None
- **Crime and Disorder** - None
- **Information Technology (IT)** - None
- **Property** - None
- **Other** - None

Risk Management

10. N/A

Recommendations

11. To note feedback from community group representatives for discussion at the Social Inclusion Working Group Development Day in February 2008.

Reason: To collect and note views from community groups to inform the discussion at the SIWG Development Day in 25 February 2008.

:

Contact Details

**Author: Evie Chandler
Equalities Officer
PIET
Tel: 551704**

**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:
Heather Rice
Director of People and Improvements**

Report Approved

Date 8/1/2008

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background papers – None

Annexes- Annex 1: Social Inclusion Working Group Work Map

Annex 1 – Social Inclusion Working Group Work Map

Objective 1 : Advise CYC Executive on Equality issues in general or in relation to major CYC projects and initiatives

Work done July 2006 to December 2007 -

SIWG minutes are circulated to Executive and particular issues are raised by the Chair of SIWG.

Planned to March 2008 -

Planned sessions for representatives from each of the six Equality strands to meet with Executive Member for Social Inclusion and Youth

To do in 2008/9 - *To consider at Development Day*

Objective 2: Extend and build contact with groups and individuals involved in Equality issues in YORK to facilitate equality related input into CYC policy and plans, and provide opportunities for all citizens to influence the CYC equalities agenda

Key issue 1: EMPLOYMENT

Done July 2006 to December 2007 -

- Age Discrimination and HR policies- Retirement (2006/7)
- Diversity of Council workforce (2006/7)
- FUTURE YORK report (September 2007)

Planned to March 2008 - Antipoverty Strategy discussion

To do in 2008\9 – *To consider at Development Day*

Key issue 2: INFLUENCE SERVICE DELIVERY

Done July 2006 to December 2007 – CIL feasibility study presentation and suggested next steps

Planned to March 2008 – N/A**To do in 2008/9 –**

- CIL development - May 2008
- Easy@york update – May 2008
- *Other items to consider at Development Day*

Key issue 3: INVOLVE AND ENGAGE COMMUNITY GROUPS**Done July 2006 to December 2007 –**

- a. Making community groups meetings accessible and inclusive:
 - Funding to facilitate group meetings
 - Funding for community group newsletters, topical forum meetings etc
- b. Support engagement with the wider community:
 - Two CYC Equality Conferences in June 2007
 - Options to involve young people in SIWG discussed (2006/7)
 - Regular young people involvement updates

Planned to March 2008 – Review of disability organisations/disability forum (to continue in 2008/9)

To do in 2008/9 – *To consider at Development Day*

Key Issue 4 : NEEDS IDENTIFICATION

Done July 2006 to December 2007 – Sexual orientation monitoring: A way forward (2006/7)

Planned to March 2008 – Review of disability groups/forum (to continue in 2008/9)

To do in 2008/9 - *To consider at Development Day*

Key Issue 5: SIWG ENGAGEMENT WITH STRATEGIC ISSUES**Done July 2006 to December 2007 –**

- FUTURE YORK report (September 2007)
- YORK COMMUNITY STRATEGY refresh (September 2007)

- Understanding and participating in Council Comprehensive Performance Assessment (Sept 2007)
- Anti-Poverty Strategy (November 2007)

Planned to March 2008 –

- Council priorities 2008-2011 (January 2008)
- BME Stakeholders Conference Oct 2007 – Next Steps (January 2008)
- Council Equality Strategy 2008-2011 (February 2008 Development Day) .To continue in 2008/9

To do in 2008/9 - *To consider at Development Day*

Key Issue 6: INCLUSION

Done July 2006 to December 2007 – York Antipoverty Strategy (November 2007)

Planned to March 2008 – York Anti Poverty Strategy: Support for York Smart Card

To do in 2008/9 –

- DisableGO update - May 2008
- *To consider at Development Day*

Key Issue 7: DEVELOPING SIWG

Done July 2006 to December 2007 –

- Improvements to the Group (discussion September 2007)
- Funding Framework for Group budgets 2008/9 (January 2008)

Planned to March 2008 – Development Day: 25 February 2008

To do in 2008/9 - *To consider at Development Day*

Objective 3: Provide a link with Ward Committees so that Equality issues which are raised there are taken further

Done July 2006 to December 2007- N/A

Planned to March 2008 - Discussion with Ward Committee officers about way forward

To do in 2008/9 -

- Formulate and test pilot approaches
- *To consider a Development Day*

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Meeting of the Social Inclusion Working Group

16 January 2008

Report of the Director of People and Improvement

Funding Principles 2008/9 – Feedback from community group representatives

Summary

1. The attached Annex was circulated at the meeting of 21 November 2007 with a request that community group representatives consider these principles within their groups and present the January 2008 meeting with verbal feedback.
2. The funding principles are to be considered and finalised at the Development Day in February 2008.

Background

3. Annex 1 lists the principles to be used when funding projects from community groups in 2008/9. It is an aid to memory to assist community group representatives offer feedback from their groups on details previously circulated.

Consultation

4. Community representatives were requested to discuss these principles within their groups and feed views back to this meeting.

Options

5. N/a

Analysis

6. N/a

Corporate Strategy

7. Feedback from community representatives contributes to the promotion of inclusive and cohesive communities.

Implications

8. These are as follows:

- **Financial** - None
- **Human Resources (HR)** - None
- **Equalities** – Feedback from community representatives co-opted to serve on the Group, greatly contributes to the promotion of inclusive and cohesive communities and stems from the Council's equalities aims and objectives as outlined in the Equality Strategy 2005-2008
- **Legal** - None
- **Crime and Disorder** - None
- **Information Technology (IT)** - None
- **Property** - None
- **Other** - None

Risk Management

9. N/A

Recommendations

10. To note the feedback from community group representatives for discussion at the Social Inclusion Working Group Development Day in February 2008.

Reason: To collect and note views from community groups to inform the discussion at the SIWG Development Day in February 2008

Contact Details

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Tel: 551704

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:
Heather Rice
Director of People and Improvements

Report Approved



Date 8/1/2008

All



Wards Affected:

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background papers – None

Annexes- Annex 1 : Funding Framework for SOCIAL INCLUSION
WORKING GROUP Budgets in 2008/9

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Annex 1 - Funding Framework for SOCIAL INCLUSION WORKING GROUP Budgets in 2008/9

A. SOCIAL INCLUSION WORKING GROUP Objectives

According to CYC Constitution SOCIAL INCLUSION WORKING GROUP objectives are to:

- Advise the CYC Executive in Equality issues in general or in relation to specific CYC projects and initiatives
- Extend and build contact with groups and individuals involved in Equality issues in York
- Link with Ward Committees so that Equality issues raised by those attending are taken further.

B. SOCIAL INCLUSION WORKING GROUP budgets – How much? When for?

The total budget in 2007/8 is £7,740, made up of:

- £5,100 to be used for projects funding. The purpose of the projects budget is to contribute to and help realise SOCIAL INCLUSION WORKING GROUP objectives as outlined in A above.
- £ 2,640 for SOCIAL INCLUSION WORKING GROUP development. The development budget is ring-fenced.

In accordance with CYC financial regulations:

- The final decision on how the budget is spent rests with the Executive Member for Youth and Social Inclusion.
- The budget is yearly (April to March) and subject to the CYC budget pressures and processes. This means that it may be increased or decreased from one financial year to the next. Therefore projects can be funded for one financial year only (April to March). Multi-annual projects cannot be funded.
- Projects should take place and be finalised during the financial year for which support has been given.

It is expected that the budget will remain the same but this cannot be guaranteed. Council meets in February 2008 to set budget. Results will be known by April 2008 at the earliest.

C. Proposed funding principles for Project funding 2008/9

In order for the limited funding to make the most impact in improving the situation of people from the six equality strands who

face disadvantage, projects requesting support from SOCIAL INCLUSION WORKING GROUP will receive priority when:

- Contributing to SOCIAL INCLUSION WORKING GROUP objectives as mentioned above and contributing to agreed yearly SOCIAL INCLUSION WORKING GROUP action plans and work programmes
- Supporting the engagement of the **widest** membership of each of the six Equality Communities of Interest (COIs) i.e. Gender, Race, Disability, Sexual Orientation, Religion and Belief and Age,
- Aiming to engage hard to reach groups within each COI
- About new or emerging issues
- Innovative and not previously tried

These factors will also be taken into account to prioritise projects when there are more project proposals than budget available.

D. **Next steps**

The issue of budgets and how to best use them will be discussed in detail at the Development Day on 25 February 2008.



Meeting of the Social Inclusion Working Group

16 January 2008

Report of the Director of People and Improvement

Funding Requests 2007/8

Summary

1. This report considers the final requests for funding from the remaining Social Inclusion Working Group projects budgets for financial year 2007/8.
2. It requests members to approve funding as outlined under the column entitled **Amount to approve in January 2007** of the table included in Annex 1 of the report.

Background

3. The table in Annex 1 outlines the current position with the projects budget for 2007/8 at January 2008.
4. At its meeting on 21 November 2007, the Group considered requests received for funding from community groups for 2007/8 and decided that “the sum of £500 be allocated from the available support budget of £5,100 to each of the following bodies:”
 - a. York CAB
 - b. York Older People’s Assembly
 - c. York Interfaith
 - d. Disabled People’s Forum
 - e. YREN
5. It is proposed to support all projects to the total amount requested by each project, with the exception of:

- a. £800 for gender issues. REASON: No specific project proposal was received in 2007/8. PROVISIO: Project applications relating to Gender issues will receive priority consideration in 2008/9
- b. £2,000 for Disability Forum meetings and newsletters. REASON: A Forum review is taking place starting February 2008 supported by other means in 2007/8. PROVISIO: Applications from the Forum will receive priority consideration in 2008/9.

Consultation

6. Community representatives have been involved in a number of discussions including those which took place at the last meeting of the Group on 21 November 2007.

Options

7. Option A: To approve amounts for each project as discussed in item 5 above.
8. Option B: To distribute the remaining amount using a formulaic approach amongst all projects listed in part A of the table in Annex 1.

Analysis

9. Option A: This ensures that organisations which have applied for support receive the amount they have requested with the exceptions as outlined in item 5 above. This option is recommended.

Reason: Organisations receive the total amount requested.

10. Option B: This ensures that all project proposals receive funding albeit at reduced level. The information in item 5 above needs to be taken into account as well. This option is not recommended.

Reason: Organisations will receive reduced funding whilst funding allocated to areas without specific project proposals (gender) and areas which are supported through other means in 2007/8 (Disability Forum review).

Corporate Strategy

11. Community organisations supported as recommended in the report contribute actively to the promotion of inclusive and cohesive communities,

Implications

12. These are as follows:

Financial – The recommended option will result in an project budgets overspend of £82. However, this will be covered from the ring-fenced administration and development budget 2007/8, as an one-off occurrence. This will ensure that Social Inclusion Working Group overall budget will be on target in 2007/8.

- **Human Resources (HR)** - None
- **Equalities** – The organisations and projects supported contribute to community cohesion, social inclusion, as well as to Council’s equalities aims and objectives as outlined in the Equality Strategy 2005-8 and the Corporate Strategy 2007-2011.
- **Legal** - None
- **Crime and Disorder** - None
- **Information Technology (IT)** - None
- **Property** - None
- **Other** - None

Risk Management

13. N/A

Recommendations

14. To approve the funding recommendations in Annex 1.
15. To note and approve the provisos mentioned in paragraph 5 above.

16. To offer priority consideration to projects from York & Districts LGBT Forum submitted for funding in 2008/9, as the Forum did not seek any funding in 2007/8.

Reason: To support the objectives of the Group and assist applicant groups to develop their Equalities and Inclusion related activities further in the future.

:

Contact Details

**Author: Evie Chandler
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**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:
Heather Rice
Director of People and Improvements**

Report Approved **Date** 8/1/2008

Wards Affected:

All

✓

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background papers - None

Annexes - Annex 1 - SIWG Funding Financial Year 2007/8

Annex 1 - SIWG Funding Financial Year 2007/8

A. Projects: Budget available £ 5,100

Equality strand	Funding Dates	Amount requested	What for	Amount approved in November 2007	Amount to approve in January 2007	Beneficiary body
ALL/Inclusion	Dec 07 to Mar 08	£1,500	To go towards York Smart Card co-ordination in support of action agreed under York Poverty Strategy	£500	£1,000	York CAB
Age	?	£1,600	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Printing Newsletter ▪ Maintain website ▪ Postage to get newsletter to church halls 	£500	£1,100	York Older People's Assembly
Faith and Religion	January 2008 to December 2008	£650	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Postage to members not on internet ▪ Web site maintenance ▪ Forum meetings to 	£500	£150	York Interfaith

Equality strand	Funding Dates	Amount requested	What for	Amount approved in November 2007	Amount to approve in January 2007	Beneficiary body
			consult on SIWG business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hire of neutral accessible rooms 			
Disability	March 2008	£520	Disability Conference	£500	£20	Disability Forum
Gender	?	£800	Seed fund for Women's forum development	£0	£0	To be used at the discretion of the Chair and Vice Chair on advice from SIWG
BMEs	?	£912	User Forum related expenses	£500	£412	YREN
Totals		£5,982		£2,500	£2,682	

B. SIWG administration and development: Budget £2,558 (*ring - fenced*)

Activity	Funding Dates	Amount	What for:
SIWG running costs	April 2007 to March 2008	£558	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Room hire ▪ Refreshments ▪ Printing/photocopying ▪ Communication and attendance costs
SIWG Development	April 2007 to March 2008	£2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workshops running costs (e.g. facilitation, materials etc) ▪ Training costs
Total		£2,558	

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WITHOUT WALLS

building a future for york

LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP – INCLUSIVE YORK FORUM Minutes

DATE	17 September 2007
VENUE	Clementhorpe Room, Priory Street Centre
PRESENT	Colin Stroud (Chair), Chief Executive York CVS John Bettridge, Chair Mental Health Forum Jack Archer, Older Peoples Assembly Chris Hailey-Norris, Citizen's Advice Bureau / York CLASP Jeremy Jones, York Homelessness Forum Paul Wordsworth, York Churches Together Rita Sanderson, YREN James Player, Age Concern York Nigel Burchell, Head of Strategic Partnerships, CYC Cllr Keith Aspden (Executive Member- Youth & Social Inclusion) Cllr Julie Gunnell Peter Blackburn, Yorkshire MESMAC Simon Hornsby, CYC

1 Welcome and apologies

Apologies received from:

Adam Myers, Chair, Learning Difficulties Forum
Simon Wiles, Acting Chief Executive, CYC

2 Minutes and matters arising:

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2007 were agreed without amendment.

Matters arising:

- Leo Devlin has left CYC, a replacement will be appointed
- John Betteridge will draft a paper re measuring leisure facilities and share it with James Player
- Disabled Go will continue despite reservations from IYF
- The school curriculum issue needs to be progressed
- It is possible changes will need to be made to the LAA to comply with government requirements
- Sue Poole's post will be replaced, in the short term responsibilities will be shared.

3 Anti-poverty strategy progress report

Colin Stroud reported that the WOW partnership had formally adopted the APS. Partners and Partnerships are now asked to 'poverty proof'

their strategies, plans and actions. Colin is waiting for the other strategic partnerships to put forward their proposed action points to support delivery of the APS. This will be monitored via the IYF.

A response is still outstanding from CYC on funding the York Smartcard.

4 Tackling prejudice and harassment progress report

Colin Stroud updated the IYF on the proposed BME Conference on 22 October 2007. All Members of IYF are invited to attend.

Promoting positive images – Members of IYF to draft articles that could then be used to promote positive images within the YEP. This to contribute to the overall need to counteract negative images/stereotypes. It was suggested that Steve Lewis would be a journalist at YEP who would be receptive to these stories.

5 Feedback from WOW partnership

Main issue covered at agenda item 3 above. WOW papers are available on the website www.yorkwow.org.uk or from Denise Simms on 01904 552027.

6 IYF at City Summit

The City Summit to be held 16 October is part of wider public consultation to update the Community Strategy. Colin Stroud will be speaking at the summit and it is intended to use an interactive voting system to elicit the views of the audience. There is an opportunity to have a static display of the work of the Forum at the Summit

It was agreed that IYF would want to have a presence at the City Summit and would send material to Denise Simms.

7 Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA)

Simon Hornsby, Improvement Officer at City of York Council, introduced the paper on CPA. It is possible that members of the IYF will be invited by inspectors to give views on the council. Plan to invite members of IYF to a focus group on 5 October to assist in the preparation of a self-assessment document that will be shared with partners across the city.

Colin Stroud emphasised the importance of the CPA and welcomed the opportunity for IYF to influence it.

7 Information Exchange/AOB

CHN reported that the Pride event had been a success with good support from CYC and YEP.

JA reported on the 50+ Festival and its promotion

CS reported he had invited Bill McCarthy the new Chief Executive of CYC to the CVS AGM on 7 November as well as Julia Unwin of JRF

RS reported that Social Inclusion Working Group (SIWG) had now been running for a year and YRENs experience of this was positive.

KA explained distinction between SIWG and IYF (i.e. SIWG is a CYC working group that provide advice to the Council Executive) and suggested that work of group is an agenda item at next meeting of IYF. SIWG is holding a workshop in December on Equalities Legislation which will involve as wide a representation as possible.

Agreed for there to be an exchange of minutes between IYF and SIWG to support clear communication and coordination.

8 Next meeting:

Weds 12th Dec, 10-12, Clementhorpe Room, PSC

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Meeting of the Social Inclusion Working Group

16 January 2008

Report of the Director of People and Improvement

BME Stakeholders' Seminar October 2007 - Final findings

Summary

1. This report outlines the key findings from the BME Stakeholders' Seminar in October 2007, and requests members to allocate time at a future meeting to fully consider the final findings alongside responses from key stakeholder organisations.

Background

2. The BME Stakeholders' seminar 'The Changing Population of York' took place in October 2007 under the auspices of York Inclusive City Forum.
3. Draft key messages were circulated at the Group meeting of 21 November 2007, followed by a verbal report from Colin Stroud, Chief Executive of York CVS.
4. The meeting on 21 November 2007 decided to bring the finalised key messages back for discussion at the January 2008 meeting. However, the key messages are currently being considered by a number of stakeholder organisations in the city and responses to the messages from key stakeholders are still being gathered.
5. The key messages are outlined in Annex 4.

Consultation

6. Community representatives have been involved in the planning and delivery of the seminar as well as in discussions thereafter relating to the finalisation of the key messages.

Options

7. Option A: To consider the findings fully at this meeting and seek responses from all groups which are members of the Social Inclusion Working Group.
8. Option B: To consider the findings and seek Group responses after key stakeholders responses have been gathered and circulated.

Analysis

9. Option B is recommended.

Reason: “Key stakeholder organisations” include the Council, the police and the local NHS, all of which are providers of key public services in the City. Therefore it is important for the Group to examine the final findings alongside with the responses from key stakeholders, so as to comment on future action key stakeholders propose to take.

Corporate Strategy

10. Issues relating to BME inclusion contribute to the promotion of inclusive and cohesive communities. Responding to York’s changing population has also been identified as an imperative within the corporate strategy.

Implications

11. These are as follows:
 - **Financial** - None
 - **Human Resources (HR)** - None
 - **Equalities** – Feedback from community representatives co-opted to serve on the Group, greatly contributes to the promotion of inclusive and cohesive communities and stems from the Council’s equalities aims and objectives as outlined in the Equality Strategy 2005-2008. The more information community representatives have the more they are able to contribute valuable feedback.
 - **Legal** - None

- **Crime and Disorder** - None
- **Information Technology (IT)** - None
- **Property** - None
- **Other** - None

Risk Management

12. N/A

Recommendations

- 13.** To allocate time at a future meeting to discuss fully as soon as responses from key stakeholders become available.

Reason: To give proper consideration to the key messages and provide feedback to key stakeholders.

:

Contact Details

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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:
Heather Rice
Director of People and Improvement
Chief Executives

Report Approved **Date** 8/1/2008

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background papers

'The Changing Population of York' Seminar – 2007 Key Messages, paper prepared by Colin Stroud, York CVS

Annexes

Annex 4 : 'The Changing Population of York' Seminar – 2007 Key Messages

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'The Changing Population of York' Seminar - 2007

Key Messages

1. All sectors in York need to be aware of and take into consideration, the benefits to all of addressing the needs of the increasing numbers of BME citizens and migrant (workers) coming to live and work in the city. The Without Walls LSP is best placed to take the lead in this through established partnerships.
2. There is a statutory requirement for ethnic monitoring in the city. Better use should be made of information that is already available. Without accurate information, planning appropriate services is problematic. It was suggested that a 'BME observatory' should be set up for York.
3. Several participants observed that York was not a welcoming city, and that racist attitudes were prevalent. There needs to be further research into this and appropriate action taken.
4. The conference was informed that racial harassment was increasing, especially in rural areas. The evidence of this in York needs to be established and steps taken to deal with it?
5. Work to improve social and emotional cohesion within communities was felt to be crucial. This should meet emerging government guidance on best practice.
6. As part of a wider strategy to improve the availability of information to all residents, York should consider improving information services for newcomers to the city, including a 'welcome pack'.
7. The Building Bridges Forum should be reactivated, and the Open Forum developed.
8. Frontline staff, in all sectors, need to be made aware of the changes taking place in the BME population and given appropriate training.

9. There is a need to look at best practice in other parts of the country.
10. Work with children and young people is particularly important.
11. Free, 'social' language classes should be extended.
12. There is evidence that individual BME citizens do not have the confidence, and groups do not have the necessary capacity, to be effective in expressing the needs of BME citizens. All stakeholders must address this.
13. The remit, and the capacity of existing organisations working with BME groups need to be reviewed, and evaluated.
14. Following this review, existing partnerships, and provisions in both the voluntary and public sectors should be developed and resourced to meet the increasing needs of the BME population. Wherever possible, specialised services within mainstream provisions should be developed.
15. Positive messages regarding the benefits that immigrants are bringing to the city need to be publicised through the media.

21st November 2007



Meeting of the Social Inclusion Working Group

16 January 2008

Report of the Director of People and Improvement

City of York Council Corporate Strategy 2007 – 2011

Summary

1. This item is to inform members of the Group representing community organisations of the contents of the Council's Corporate Strategy 2007-2011.
2. Group members are requested to note the contents of a short presentation to be made at the meeting by the Director of People and Improvement.

Background

3. Following consultation with and feedback from York stakeholder organisations and residents, City of York Council (CYC) launched a 'refreshed' corporate strategy in September 2007.
4. The strategy sets out the Council's long-term vision and priorities for the period 2007-2011. A summary of the strategy is attached.
5. The main aim of the Strategy is to improve services for the people of York. It outlines the Council vision for the next 10 years, and lists 10 priorities for improvement in the next four years. This combines long-term ambition with a more immediate focus on a small number of key priorities – which in turn drives Council investment and resource decisions.

Consultation

6. N/A

Options

7. N/A

Analysis

8. N/A

Corporate Strategy

9. This item describes the corporate strategy in detail.

Implications

10. None

Risk Management

11. N/A

Recommendations

12. None. This item is for information only.

:

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**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:
Heather Rice
Director of People and Improvements**

Report Approved

Date 8/1/2008

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

ANNEX 1 – Summary of the Corporate Strategy



THE NEXT TEN YEARS

Our Direction Statements

- Our ambition is to be clear about what we will do to meet the needs of our communities, and then to deliver the best quality services that we can afford
- The council will provide strong leadership for the city using partnerships to shape and deliver the Community Strategy for the city
- We will listen to communities and ensure that people have a greater say in deciding local priorities
- We want services to be provided by whoever can best meet the needs of our customers
- We will seek to place environmental sustainability at the heart of everything we do
- We will be an outward-looking council, working across boundaries to benefit the people of York
- We will promote cohesive and inclusive communities

THE NEXT FOUR YEARS

Our Priorities for Improvement

- Decrease the tonnage of biodegradable waste and recyclable products going to landfill
- Reduce the environmental impact of council activities and encourage, empower and promote others to do the same
- Increase the use of public and other environmentally-friendly modes of transport
- Improve the actual and perceived condition and appearance of the city's streets, housing estates and publicly accessible spaces
- Reduce the actual and perceived impact of violent, aggressive and nuisance behaviour on people in York
- Increase people's skills and knowledge to improve future employment prospects
- Improve the economic prosperity of the people of York with a focus on minimising income differentials
- Improve the health and lifestyles of the people who live in York, in particular among groups whose levels of health are the poorest
- Improve the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children, young people and families in the city
- Improve the quality and availability of decent, affordable homes in the city

SHORT TERM

Our Imperatives

- The Local Development Framework (LDF)
- School Modernisation Strategy
- Responding to York's changing population
- York Stadium
- The review of Pay and Grading
- Replacing the Financial Management System (FMS)
- Our new office accommodation

Our Values

- Delivering what our customers want
- Providing strong leadership
- Supporting and developing people
- Encouraging improvement in everything we do

Our Vision

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Meeting of the Social Inclusion Working Group

16 January 2008

Report of the Director of People and Improvement

Without Walls Anti Poverty Strategy: SIWG discussion of key suggested actions

Summary

1. This item relates to the proposal to discuss the Without Walls Anti-Poverty Strategy in detail as part of the January SIWG meeting.

Background

2. In summer 2007, Without Walls produced the first draft of York's Anti Poverty Strategy under the auspices of York Inclusive City Forum.
3. The draft Strategy was circulated at the November 2007 meeting of the Group, where it was decided to consider key aspects of the Strategy in small groups at the January 2008 meeting of SIWG. Copies of the Strategy are attached here as Annex 1
4. The KEY AREAS FOR ACTION in the Strategy are:
 - a. Maximise incomes of individuals in poverty
 - b. Minimise the cost of living in York and increase take up of available services
 - c. Improve partnership working and organisational responses to poverty
5. The Group is expected to form small groups to consider these areas in detail so that Group members' observations and comments are noted and fed to the Inclusive City Forum.

Consultation

6. The anti-poverty strategy has been subject to an extensive consultation process. Feedback from SIWG will enhance this process and inform implementation of the strategy.

Options

7. The decision to discuss the strategy in detail was made at the previous SIWG meeting.

Analysis

8. N/A

Corporate Strategy

9. Tackling poverty underpins several of the priorities within the corporate strategy.

Implications

10. These are as follows:
 - **Financial** - None
 - **Human Resources (HR)** - None
 - **Equalities** – Development and implementation of an anti-poverty strategy supports the Council's equalities aims and objectives as outlined in the Equality Strategy 2005-2008.
 - **Legal** - None
 - **Crime and Disorder** - None
 - **Information Technology (IT)** - None
 - **Property** – None

Risk Management

11. N/A

Recommendations

- 12.** To discuss the anti-poverty strategy at the January SIWG meeting and feedback views to inform its further development and effective implementation.

Reason: To ensure that strategy is effective in reducing poverty and promoting social inclusion.

:

:

Contact Details

**Author: Evie Chandler
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**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:
Heather Rice
Director of People and Improvement**

Report Approved



Date 8/1/2008

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex 1 : Without Walls' Anti Poverty Strategy (*draft 5/7/07*)

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Without Walls' Anti Poverty Strategy (draft 5/7/07)

Purpose:

This strategy has been developed by Without Walls, York's local strategic partnership to outline an agreed way forward for ensuring that poverty in the city is minimised and the gap between rich and poor narrowed. The strategy will bring together existing initiatives that partners have set up as well as proposing new initiatives and ways of working to be agreed by the local strategic partnership.

Contents:

	Page
What do we mean by 'Poverty'?	1
Why does York need an anti-poverty strategy?	1
The effects of poverty in York	2
Broad approach of an anti poverty strategy for York	3
Aims of the strategy	4
Key areas for action	4
Delivering the strategy and monitoring progress	6
Initial priorities for an anti-poverty action plan	7
Annex A: Collecting data on poverty	9
Annex B: Structure chart – how partners will deliver the strategy	10
Annex C: Outline for Action Plan – example	11
Maps of IMD scores across York	12

What do we mean by 'Poverty'?

- Poverty has been defined in a number of different ways. It is difficult to separate poverty from wider issues of social exclusion but for the purpose of this strategy it will be defined as follows:

'Poverty is a cause of social exclusion and exists when people do not have the financial resources to obtain adequate living conditions, diet and access to services and activities generally considered necessary to participate fully in society'

Why does York need an anti poverty strategy?

- York needs an anti-poverty strategy because:
 - It has clear pockets of poverty, even though York is seen to be a reasonably prosperous city with living standards, wage levels and proportions of differing population groups on state benefits close to national averages
 - In terms of the geographical areas of the city with the highest concentrations of people at risk of poverty the government's 'Index of multiple deprivation' (IMD, ODPM 2004), shows that York has 6 wards which contain pockets of deprivation within the 20% most deprived in England. (Based on measures for Super Output Areas

- and accounting for 6573 households and 15,082 people; for more details see Annex A and IMD maps)
- iii. Poverty rates in York are on average at least as high as they are nationally
 - iv. One in five of York's population are poor using the *Breadline Britain* measure of lacking three or more socially perceived necessities, such as regular hot meals, holidays, new or best clothes for festivals and events, or certain important household items such as a freezer. (*From 'A study in town life: living standards in the city of York 100 years after Rowntree', Huby, Bradshaw and Corden, 1999*)
 - v. One in six are living in self-perceived absolute poverty (i.e. not enough money to have an adequate diet, pay housing costs, water rates, have proper sanitation and get basic health, education and information).
 - vi. A survey carried out by the Anti-poverty working group during 2005/6 of a wide range of public and voluntary sector agencies identified significant evidence of poverty as well as support for a more visible approach for tackling poverty in a city seen as generally affluent. (*A summary of the views given in the survey is available from the Anti-poverty working group*)
 - vii. Housing costs in York are high and have increased faster than earnings with average house prices increasing by 38% compared with an equivalent increase of only 16% in full time gross weekly earnings between 2002 and 2005 (*source: Housing Strategy, 2006*)
 - viii. Significant job losses from York's food manufacturing and service sectors over the past couple of years have put large numbers of people at increased risk of poverty in the city; the impact of this has been recognised by the award of Rapid Response funding from Job Centre Plus
 - ix. There is an increasing recognition of the need to 'narrow the gap' between most and least deprived areas with a growing body of work showing the negative (or at least "non-positive") outcomes associated with greater levels of income inequality at national and city-wide levels. (*E.g. in Richard Wilkinson's publication 'The Impact of Inequality: how to make sick societies healthier' (Routledge, 2005).*)
 - x. The 'trickle down effect' whereby wealth 'trickles' from rich to poor areas was found not to have worked in Britain as far back as in the mid-1990s
 - xi. (*Income & Wealth: report of the JRF Inquiry Group' 1995, summarised in Findings, Joseph Rowntree Foundation.*)

The effects of poverty in York

3. It is widely recognised at a national level that:
 - i. Poverty usually affects particular population groups, for example the unemployed, single older women, lone parents, people with poor health and disabilities, carers, those on low pay and in part-time

- work, those living in social housing, travellers and some other minority ethnic groups, students and families with children.
- ii. The impact of poverty on these groups can take the form of ill-health, homelessness, debt, isolation, personal and family insecurity and relationship breakdown, and in some cases psychiatric illness, drug and alcohol abuse and crime.
 - iii. Living on a low income and being at risk of poverty is not limited to just those who have to rely on benefits. It also affects those who may be working but are on a low wage or, like many older people who receive a pension, are on fixed incomes that are gradually reducing in value. Whilst York has low unemployment rates and reasonable 'average wages' this masks the fact that there are a significant proportion of low waged jobs in the York economy e.g. in the tourism sector.
 - iv. Additionally, inequality in wealth and income has been found to impact negatively on the fabric of society as a whole; suggesting that within a city the impact of inequality (including poverty) stretches across the population as a whole (*see reference to Richard Wilkinson's work above*)
4. Locally:
- i. Poverty affects different areas of the city differently, concentrated in areas with larger proportions of social housing and which may be poorly served by public transport.
 - ii. There is a great disparity between the most deprived and richest wards in the city. (*See the details on the IMD given in Annex A and maps*)
 - iii. Respondents to the anti-poverty survey readily identified the areas of the city and groups of people where they most frequently came across evidence of poverty, and its effects on individual and community lives. As well as the examples listed above such as ill health and debt, the lack of choice and opportunity that poverty forces on people was highlighted as a key impact. This includes the choice of work available as well as choice of social activities or housing.

Broad approach of an anti poverty Strategy for York

5. It is proposed that, as a general principle, the strategy should focus on initiatives that are affordable and feasible and practices we have the power to change. This will include promoting what is already being done and improving partnership working between and within relevant agencies. It should include the re-direction of resources to the most deprived individuals, families, schools and communities. It is also hoped that developing a citywide anti-poverty strategy will increase the potential to attract new resources into the city to tackle poverty.
6. However, it is also suggested that we should express concerns about national policies and practices which contribute to poverty in York, and to consider applying for 'enabling measures' through the Local Area

Agreement (LAA) process, as and when opportunities present themselves, to help address these concerns.

Aims of the strategy

7. The aims of the strategy are to:
- a) Maximise incomes of individuals in poverty
 - b) Minimise the cost of living in York and improve the take up of local goods and services
 - c) Improve partnership working and organisational responses to poverty.

Key areas for action

8. Bearing in mind the broad approach and aims of the strategy a number of key areas for actions have been identified which should be focussed on the neighbourhoods and groups of people most affected by poverty, to ensure that the strategy is delivered.

a) **Maximise incomes of individuals in poverty**

- i. Benefits and tax credits take up: Target, resource and co-ordinate campaigns to maximise the take-up of benefits and other entitlements such as Council Tax Benefit, free school meals, free prescriptions and benefits for older people.
- ii. Employment: Target, resource and co-ordinate initiatives to improve employment prospects and opportunities for people on low incomes or facing other barriers to employment
- iii. Minimise barriers to employment: Support affordable nursery provision and out of school activities targeted at low income families and affordable transport initiatives in recognition that lack of these can be a barrier to work (and training).
- iv. Education and training: Target education, training and learning initiatives for people on low incomes and schools with a high proportion of children from low-income households.

b) **Minimise the cost of living in York and increase take up of available services**

Affordable goods and services:

- i. Maximise an adequate supply of decent affordable housing of various types and sizes by ensuring the affordable housing quota for new housing developments is maintained
- ii. Promote and maximise access to affordable household insurance schemes (such as 'Simple' insurance for council tenants) and other financial services such as secure savings and affordable loans through York Credit Union

- iii. Promote and maximise access to free and affordable health services e.g. dentistry, for those on low incomes
- iv. Promote and maximise access to energy efficiency schemes and other affordable warmth measures, such as preferential tariffs, to reduce fuel poverty for at risk residents
- v. Explore the introduction of a York discount card linked to benefits take-up and discounts for a wide range of goods and services
- vi. Assist low income individuals and families with the costs of education, learning and leisure such as purchase of school uniforms, computers, payment for school trips and other fees, including via Local Authority remissions and other voluntary schemes
- vii. Target and coordinate affordable transport initiatives, for example travel tokens and cheaper fares
- viii. Promote and support initiatives such as the Community Furniture Store and York LETS scheme - which enables the exchange of goods and services between individuals and/or community groups using a local currency the 'Yorkey'

Better information and targeting of services:

- ix. Improve coordination, targeting and accessibility of information including via
 - o The Citizen's Guide (targeted at interest groups including carers)
 - o The Council's A to Z guide
 - o Road shows and publicity events
- x. Review & update the new CAB booklet 'York on a budget'

c) Improve partnership working and organisational responses to poverty

Promote take-up of free, high quality civil legal advice

- i. Improve access to good, up to date information on how to access advice in low income areas and targeted at groups on low incomes
- ii. Encourage take up of advice across the range of legal issues such as housing, employment, family, debt and benefits law
- iii. Maintain and promote York Advice Service Partnership (YASP) which aims to improve access to advice on rights and responsibilities and which can help to bring in new resources to the city

Debt recovery

- iv. Encourage key organisations, such as the council, registered social landlords and utility suppliers to develop coordinated and sensitive arrears preventions, debt recovery and disconnection policies
- v. Improve coordination of and access to effective debt counselling and management services

'Poverty proofing' organisational policy and practice

- vi. Encourage agencies to introduce and share training for staff, including those in front-line roles, to recognise poverty and identify good practice for maximising incomes and savings
- vii. Encourage key organisations to consider the significance of poverty in framing policy across all areas of work, and in particular to examine the impact of key policies such as those on employment, housing and access to services such as learning and leisure
- viii. Encourage local organisations and partnerships to challenge national policy and practice, as appropriate, where it has an adverse impact communities or people in poverty, e.g. via Citizens' Advice Bureau social policy forums

Information sharing and partnership

- ix. Improve coordination and information sharing between and within agencies to address both individual issues and to develop new approaches to tackling and/or monitoring poverty, e.g. setting up multi-agency case-conferences to address needs of individual households; establishing new ways of monitoring poverty at the local level
- x. Increase and/or ensure sustainable support for the work of voluntary and community organisations which tackle and alleviate the impact of poverty

Delivering the strategy and monitoring progressDelivering the strategy

- 9. Citywide ownership of the anti-poverty strategy lies with Without Walls, York's Local Strategic Partnership, which identified the need for a multi-agency approach to reducing poverty in the city in the Inclusive City theme of the community strategy, 'York – a city making history'. The Inclusive York Forum which is promoting this anti-poverty strategy and which will retain oversight of delivery and progress oversees this theme. Inclusive York Forum will act as a 'champion' for the strategy, but has no resources itself to undertake new initiatives and only limited resources to oversee implementation of the strategy. Individual agencies and partnerships will therefore need to consider what further steps they can undertake individually or in partnership, or how they may be able to work differently which will help meet the key aims and actions outlined above, to reduce poverty and its impact.
- 10. Commitments by partnerships and agencies will then be drawn together into an action plan which will identify and include lead partners and timescales for exploring new proposals and achieving the desired improvements or outcomes. Where additional resources are needed before new activities can be put in place it is suggested that a partnership approach to bidding for new resources may be most effective, but it is recognised that implementation may require a longer time.

11. As stated at the outset of this strategy significant work is already being undertaken and developed by individual agencies and partnerships to reduce poverty and its impact. For example, the 'Children and Young Peoples' Plan 2007-2010' sets out a section on 'Achieving Economic Well-being' in line with the Government's 'Every Child Matters' policy.
 12. In addition, over the past 12 months organisations in York have worked together to develop York's Local Area Agreement, which is, in effect, the first 3-year delivery plan for the Community Strategy. This has, as one of its underlying themes, 'narrowing the gap' between most and least deprived areas), tackling inequality and supporting social mobility and economic inclusion.
 13. This Local Area Agreement therefore reinforces the need for a citywide approach to reduce poverty and it is expected that partnerships and agencies will support the aims of this citywide anti-poverty strategy, recognising that the issues raised from a perspective of poverty also impact on and are impacted by the economy, health, education, community safety, the environment and so on.
 14. Annex B sets out the high level structure chart which will support of delivery of the anti-poverty strategy.
- Consultation with communities
15. Whilst there has been some consultation as part of the work to develop this strategy with agencies working with people on low incomes, there has, so far, been no direct engagement with people living on low incomes in the city. There is a need therefore to seek out the views of people living in poverty in the city, whether this is through existing consultation mechanisms (such as the Council's TalkAbout panel), or via intermediaries such as community groups or service providers, who may be able to provide a means of contacting individuals or groups of people.
 16. For the broad strategy consultation may help in terms of determining what the priorities should be and how these are tackled. Where new initiatives are being considered it is important that consultation with the potential beneficiaries or people likely to be affected should take place. For example, in relation to the possible introduction of a York Discount Card, consultation with people the card is aimed at before, during and after an initial trial or pilot scheme would be an essential part of its development and evaluation.

Initial priorities for an anti-poverty strategy action plan

17. The key areas for action listed above incorporate a great many individual activities and proposals, which might be broken down in relation to their status as follows:
 - i. Work which is underway: but needs more sustainable support or better targeting and promotion.

- ii. Activities which are supported by well-established partnerships and resources: they simply need monitoring to ensure that the work planned achieves the expected outcomes.
 - iii. Proposals for consideration only at this stage: which will need new, dedicated resources if they are to be put in place
 - iv. Recommended actions concerned with internal organisational procedures or improvements to the way different agencies work together: which need time resources but not necessarily new capital or revenue resources.
18. Without Walls partnerships wishing to support the anti-poverty strategy are requested to identify up to 5 actions or proposals, and associated indicators, which will contribute to the overall aims of the strategy to minimise poverty and its impact in the City of York. These should be based on the key areas of work outlined above and may include a mixture of existing and new activities and indicators, such as:
- i. Actions and indicators within the Local Area Agreement or other existing strategy
 - ii. Actions to explore or develop new initiatives or new ways of working, and which may lead to new indicators of poverty in the city.

Annex C sets out an example by Inclusive York Forum for information.

19. Individual partnership action plans will be brought together into an Anti-Poverty Strategy Action Plan by the Anti-Poverty Working Group, which is a sub-group of Inclusive York Forum.

Monitoring progress

20. The Local Area Agreement, as stated above, includes a number of outcome areas and indicators which are relevant to this strategy and it is likely that a number of these will be used to monitor progress of the anti-poverty strategy.
21. Actions to develop new initiatives may be monitored via regular progress reports, until such time as new measures can be identified for them.
22. However, there may also be actions proposed which are about developing new ways of monitoring changes in the levels of poverty, e.g. in Leeds, Job Centre Plus data is used to monitor changes in the uptake of particular types of benefits in specific areas of the city.
23. In order to provide an overview of progress of the anti-poverty strategy it is proposed that six-monthly reviews should be brought to Inclusive York Forum, including performance indicators where possible, so that any issues or problems can be raised with the Without Walls Partnership and/or Executive Delivery Board.

Annex A

Collecting data on poverty

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2004

Source: www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1128444

The IMD 2004 build on the findings of the IMD 2000 and introduced a new area classification – the **Super Output Area (SOA)**. SOAs are a lot smaller than ward boundaries, possibly two or three streets in some cases and they fit within the existing wards. For IMD 2004, levels of different types of deprivation, e.g. relating to health or employment have been calculated and are known as domain scores which together are weighted and make up the total SOA score. The government's reason for using SOAs is that 'it allows us to better identify and target areas where small pockets of deprivation exist'.

Overleaf is a map of York's SOAs, ranked according to level of deprivation:

Comparing data over time

It is difficult to establish trends in levels of poverty over time using IMD or Census data – this is because:

- The areas being measured differ – either at a ward or SOA level. Where ward level data is used (Census or IMD 2000), this cannot be readily compared in York as local ward boundaries have changed over time
- The variables being measured differ, for example Census 1991 and 2001 and IMD 2000 and 2004 all use slightly different variables.

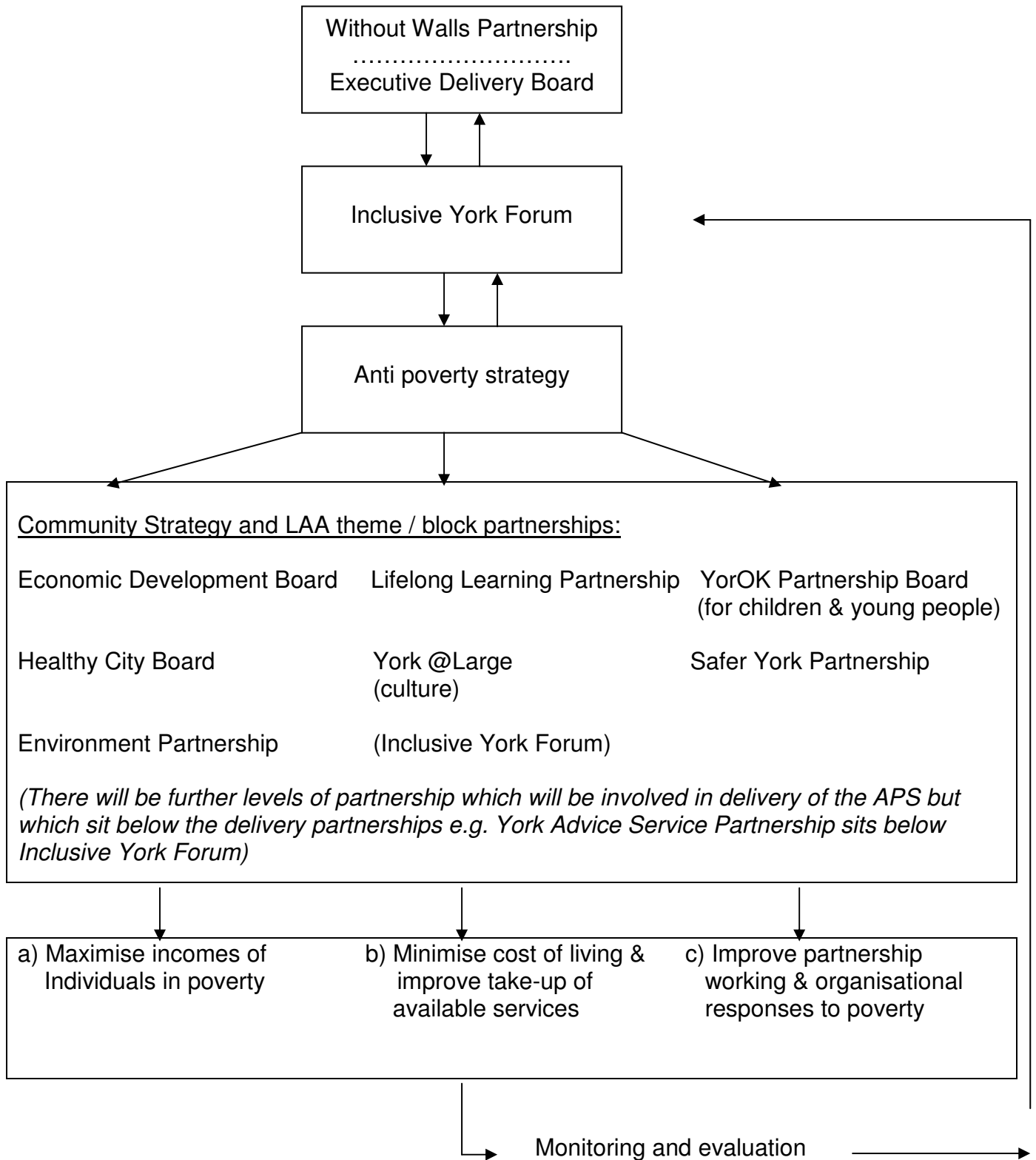
Even so, the IMD 2004 is still the most up to date and comprehensive data currently available on deprivation levels nationally.

A new IMD for 2010

The Government is currently consulting on a new IMD, which will be broadly comparable to the 2004 IMD, but which will have less reliance on Census data. It is expected that the new IMD figures will be published in 2010.

Annex B

Structure chart – how partners will deliver the strategy



Annex 1

Annex C

Example of Partnership contribution to Anti-Poverty Action Plan by: Inclusive York Forum

Action	Indicator /measure	Contribution to APS	Plan link / new	Frequency of monitoring	Lead agency
1. Support & promote York Credit Union to develop into a sustainable business providing secure savings & affordable loans	YCU membership – in line with the YCU business plan (Target: 3,000 members by 2009/10*) *figure amended by YCU - not yet changed in LAA	Provides opportunity for people on low incomes & excluded from mainstream finance to access affordable loans & secure savings	(LAA – EDE 4.12)	Quarterly or 6-monthly	York Credit Union (Inclusive York Forum)
2. Promote the take-up of high quality advice on civil legal matters through improving access to & promotion of advice	% of people in need of civil legal advice seeking help from advice agencies	The provision of timely & good quality advice can prevent homelessness, increase take-up of benefits &/or work opportunities & thus reduce poverty	(LAA - EDE4.11)	Annual (TalkAbout)	York Advice Service Partnership (YASP)
3. Investigate further & pilot a York Discount card linked to uptake of benefits	Resources found for pilot of Discount card at a cost of £12,000. Discount card in place	Piloting card would allow agencies to check if take up of benefits improved & to test value of card with people on low incomes	Anti-poverty strategy	Quarterly or 6 monthly progress report	Anti-poverty strategy working group / York Citizens Advice Bureau
4. Encourage City of York Council & other key agencies to introduce a mechanism to 'poverty proof new policies & practices	Mechanism in place by 'x' number of agencies by given timescale.	To ensure that key agencies in the city consider the potential impact of their proposals on people in poverty before decisions taken	Anti-poverty strategy	Quarterly or 6 monthly progress report	Anti-poverty strategy working group/ Inclusive York Forum
5. Review & update 'York on a budget' publication	Feedback from partner agencies on the usefulness of the booklet via survey	To promote existing free & low cost services, facilities & activities to people on low incomes	Anti-poverty strategy	Annual review survey	York CAB / Anti-poverty strategy working group

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