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## The Executive

4<sup>th</sup> November 2008

Report of the Director of City Strategy

### Thriving City – action plans

#### Summary

1. This report is in follow up to the paper presented to Executive on 21<sup>st</sup> October regarding York's economic position which recognised that the council and its partners can take action to assist the city during this period of downturn to help business as well as those individuals and communities hardest hit. This report responds to the request from the Executive for detailed action plans to be put in place for some of the actions presented on the 21<sup>st</sup> October.
2. The One City project has a good strategic fit with the long term aspirations of the city under the Inclusive City, Learning City, Sustainable City and Thriving City themes in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

#### Background

3. At the Executive meeting held on 21st October, it was resolved that
  - i. Detailed project plans be presented to the Executive at their meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2008 for each of the following:
    - a) Match funding of the £50,000 provided by Norwich Union to establish an enterprise fund to support new business start ups;
    - b) In principle support for enterprise training within schools to be developed with NYBEP and Young Enterprise up to £10,000;
    - c) Support to sustain the activities of the City Centre Partnership up to £20,000;
    - d) Investment of an additional £3,500 for production of an updated 'York on a Budget' booklet, with the booklet to be approved by the Economic Development Unit;
    - e) Investment of £9,800 to provide three Credit Union community saving points in those communities most in need;
  - ii. That further updates be received on York's economic climate and assessment of the effectiveness of actions initiated as a result of the report;
  - iii. That the following be dealt with as part of the Council's annual review of grant applications:
    - f) Investment of £26,500 for the recruitment of an additional CAB advice worker to accelerate the implementation of the Gateway client handling and referral system;
    - g) Investment of £20,000 (£4,500 already identified) for the recruitment of a person to initiate and co-ordinate the York

smartcard scheme and consideration of the implications for sustainability of funding after year one.

4. Work is underway to complete the project plans required by the Executive and progress on these will be reported at the meeting.

### **Consultation**

5. In the course of the One City project, the groups and people named below were consulted. At its inaugural meeting, the York Business Forum considered the impact of the global financial crisis on the York economy and their discussions are reflected in the initial paper also.
  - Citizens Advice Bureau/Anti-Poverty Steering Group
  - York Credit Union
  - Future Prospects
  - CYC Neighbourhood Co-ordinator
  - CYC Revenues and Benefits managers
  - CYC Housing Strategy Manager
  - CYC Homelessness manager
  - CYC Housing Standards and Adaptations Manager
  - CYC Skills and Labour Market Manager
  - CYC Head of Economic Development
  - CYC Assistant Director for Economic Development and Partnerships
  - Project Director of Science City York
  - Chair of york-england.com, Visit York and York Professionals
  - Federation of Small Businesses
  - Chamber of Commerce
  - Owner of Japanese Shops chain (former Chairman of York City Centre Partnership Ltd)
  - York Business Forum

### **Options**

6. Members are asked to approve the detailed project plans to be tabled at the meeting and consider any amendments that they may wish to make to these.

### **Corporate Priorities**

7. The actions in this report support the Inclusive City, Learning City and Thriving City elements of the Sustainable Community Strategy, under which future corporate priorities will be formed.

### **Implications**

#### **Financial**

At the meeting of the Executive held on 21st October, members agreed to refer to full Council the provision of reserves to support the projects detailed in the action plans. It is important that the council maintain a minimum level of revenue reserves to deal with any unforeseen events. The value of the minimum level of these reserves is determined by a risk assessment undertaken by the Director of Resources and included in the annual Revenue Budget report. For 2008/09 the minimum recommended level is £5.361m. Current projections are that the level of reserves at 31 March 2009 will be £10.4m, although

the forecast also shows that the level of 'headroom' in the level of reserves held compared with the risk assessed value will fall to £2.5m by the end of 2010/11.

### **Human Resources (HR)**

The HR implications of this paper relate to the proposed funding for posts to support the work of the Credit Union.

### **Equalities**

This paper proposes action to support the least well of in York and promotes financial inclusion and economic participation for all

### **Legal**

There are no immediate legal implications

### **Crime and Disorder**

This paper supports the consideration of crime and disorder in the context of deprivation in ward planning as demonstrated by the Kingsway Pilot

### **Information Technology (IT)**

There are no strategic IT implications

### **Property**

None, directly from this report

### **Risk management**

Provision of detailed project plans to support each of the options shown at paragraph 3 is intended to mitigate against the risk of these projects being unclear in their scope or expected outcomes. Further monitoring and reporting back to the Executive on their progress will ensure they remain accountable according to these outcomes.

### **Recommendations**

8. Members are asked to approve the detailed project plans as part of the council's response to the current economic situation.

#### **Contact Details**

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#### **Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Bill Woolley  
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**Report Approved 24<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Wards affected – ALL**

#### **Specialist implications officer - Financial**

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#### **Annexes**

A – Detailed project plans in support of the options shown at paragraph 3 (to follow)