

Further Comments from York St John University

Cultural Quarter Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee Visit – York St John University, 15 October 2008.

The Dean of Arts and the Head of Regional Partnership Strategy, welcomed members of the City Council to York St John University to discuss the current exploration of developing a cultural quarter for the City of York. The following key points were noted:

- That the University had strategically placed itself over the past 6 years to respond actively and with great energy to the Creative Britain: New Talents for a New Economy agenda driven by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.
- That the cultural assets of York St University as a city centre University – its physical estate developments particularly in the Arts faculty, its academic teaching and research staff and students and the presence of the Yorkshire Film Archive and the Theatre Royal archives and a £4.6 million educational arts centre focussing on national excellence in learning and teaching in collaborative creative practice, should be included as a key participating institution in the development of a cultural quarter for York.
- That the University commitment in all 4 Faculties to connecting cultures and communities in and across the City and region to engage in new learning opportunities to train and up-skill existing and future workforce in the City and region, makes the university an important catalyst for change, development and prosperity in the City and beyond.
- That the University's current partnerships with a range of cultural institutions in the City, region and internationally bring additional focus, opportunity and value to support the City to achieve its future ambitions by providing and sharing expertise in arts, heritage, tourism, culture, health and sport developments – product, event/festivals and business expertise – in collaboration with the newly established York St John Business School.
- That the University's SPACE (Sustainable Partnerships and Community Engagement) project to be located in the listed buildings at 56-58 Lord Mayor's Walk, in the new contemporary De Grey Court Complex, would be a major portal to develop, deliver and sustain a wide range of educational, culturally relevant and business focussed initiatives contributing to the future success of York's tourism, heritage, leisure and cultural industries.

Dean of Arts
York St John University