



Notice of a public meeting of

Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee

To: Councillors Reid (Chair), Fitzpatrick (Vice-Chair), Brooks, Gunnell, Potter, Scott and Taylor
Mr E Thomas (Co-opted Statutory Member) and
Mr A Pennington (Co-opted Statutory Member)

Date: Wednesday, 18 June 2014

Time: 5.30 pm

Venue: The Auden Room - Ground Floor, West Offices (G047)

AGENDA

1. **Declarations of Interest**

At this point, Members are asked to declare:

- any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests
- any prejudicial interests or
- any disclosable pecuniary interests

which they may have in respect of business on this agenda

2. **Minutes**

(Pages 1 - 4)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on
Wednesday 30 April 2014.

3. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered to speak can do so. The deadline for registering is **5.00pm on Tuesday 17 June 2014**. Members of the public can speak on agenda items or matters within the remit of the committee.

To register to speak please contact the Democracy Officer's for the meeting, on the details at the foot of the agenda.

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The Council's protocol on Webcasting, Filming & Recording of Meetings ensures that these practices are carried out in a manner both respectful to the conduct of the meeting and all those present. It can be viewed at http://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/download/3130/protocol_for_webcasting_filming_and_recording_of_council_meetings

4. York Museums Trust Partnership Delivery (Pages 5 - 18) Plan: Performance Update 2013/14 - End of Year Report

This report updates Members on the current progress of the York Museums Trust (YMT) towards meeting the targets agreed in the Partnership Delivery Plan.

5. Introductory Report on Proposed Scrutiny (Pages 19 - 50) Topics for Review in 2014/15

This report provides introductory information on the topics proposed for scrutiny review during this municipal year. Given the limited time available for review work due to the forthcoming elections in 2015, Members are asked to decide which topics are to proceed to review, and agree a timeframe for their completion.

6. Update on Stonewall Challenge (Pages 51 - 56)

This paper provides a summary update on the work of the City of York Council Anti Bullying Strategy Group, led by the Senior Adviser Behaviour Attendance and Safety, to tackle homophobic bullying in York schools.

7. Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee Workplan for 2014/15 (Pages 57 - 58)

Members are asked to consider the Committee's workplan for the 2014/15 municipal year.

8. Urgent Business

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

Democracy Officers

Catherine Clarke and Louise Cook (job share)

Contact details:

- Telephone – (01904) 551031
- Email catherine.clarke@york.gov.uk and louise.cook@york.gov.uk

(If contacting by email, please send to both Democracy officers named above).

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer's responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports and
- For receiving reports in other formats

Contact details are set out above.

This information can be provided in your own language.

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

**Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim (Polish)
własnym języku.**

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

 (01904) 551550

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date	30 April 2014
Present	Councillors Reid (Chair), Fitzpatrick (Vice-Chair), Barnes, Brooks, Potter, Taylor and Scott Mr E Thomas (Co-opted Statutory Member)
Apologies	Mr A Pennington (Co-opted Statutory Member)

50. Declarations of Interest

At this point in the meeting, Members were asked to declare any personal interests not included in the register of interests, any prejudicial interests or disclosable interests which they might have in respect of the business on the agenda or any other general interests they might have within the remit of the committee other than those listed within the agenda.

Councillor Barnes declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the community stadium and Active York which were included in the Cabinet Member's written update which had been circulated to Members. He stated that he would leave the room if either of these were discussed during the meeting.

51. Minutes

Resolved: That the following sets of minutes be approved and signed by the chair as correct records:

- Minutes of Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 19 March 2014
- Minutes of Night Time Economy (Improving Evening Cultural Offer) Scrutiny Review Task Group Meeting held on 20 January 2014
- Minutes of School Meals Scrutiny Review Task Group Meeting held on 3 March 2014.

52. Public Participation

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

53. Attendance of Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture & Tourism

The Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Tourism attended the meeting to provide a progress update on her priorities and challenges for the current municipal year and to discuss her priorities and challenges for 2014-15.

Prior to the meeting, she had circulated a written update to Committee Members which listed the key areas of activity that she had progressed over the last year in relation to tourism, markets/city centre, the Tour de France, the community stadium, parks and open spaces, libraries and archives, events and festivals and sport and active leisure.

Members noted the increase in visitor spending detailed in the report and were advised that this was in part due to the increase in long stay visitors. The Cabinet Member agreed to provide further clarification regarding the period to which the increase in spending related and the likely reasons for it.

Members noted the update on work taking place in York's parks and open spaces. The Ward Member for Hull Road expressed concerns that a lot of work was still required in Hull Road park and asked why this had not been included in the list of parks working towards the Green Flag award. Members were advised that standards required for the Green Flag were very high, but that with the community now working on improvements to the park, it should take about two years to get to the required level.

With regard to work in libraries and archives, the Cabinet Member confirmed that that they were on track for completion of the archives project in November as planned. She advised that she was not aware of any issues in relation to people getting access to archive information during the project and that any information requested had been retrieved very quickly when required.

She confirmed that the handover of the libraries to Mutual Ventures would take place the following day. Members noted that the committee would receive updates from Mutual Ventures in future as they did from other partners.

Resolved: That the update from the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Tourism be noted.

Reason: To ensure that Members are kept informed of work within the remit of the Committee.

**54. Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Draft Workplan for 2014/15 & Discussion re Possible Topics
for Review in 2014/15**

Members considered the draft work plan for the Committee for the forthcoming 2014-15 municipal year.

The following amendments were agreed:

- 18 June 2014 – Remove need for update from Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Young People’s services as she attended the last meeting of the committee.
- 18 June 2014 - Add update from York Museums Trust
- 17 July – Add “Narrowing the Gap” subject to availability of the lead officer to attend meeting.
- 20 November 2014 – Add SLA update on libraries
- 20 November 2014 – Add School Results Outturn
- 21 January 2015 – Add update on Children and Families Bill

Members were invited to put forward any topic ideas for review but noted that a Scrutiny Work Planning Event was due to take place during May at which they would also have the opportunity to put forward ideas for review. It was noted that Councillor Barnes had put forward the suggestion to review access to culture in the city for disabled people.

The Committee was advised that Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee were keen for scrutiny committees to undertake another corporate scrutiny review. They noted that the only topic which had been put forward to date was around mental health.

Resolved: That the workplan be agreed subject to the agreed amendments above.

Reason: To keep the Committee’s workplan updated.

**55. Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Workplan 2013/14**

The Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee workplan for 2013-14 had been included in the agenda papers for information.

Resolved: That the workplan be noted.

Reason: To keep the Committee's workplan updated.

Councillor A Reid, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 6.10 pm].



Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee

18 June 2014

Report of the Assistant Director (Communities, Culture & Public Realm)

York Museums Trust Partnership Delivery Plan: Performance Update 2013/14 – End of Year Report

Summary

1. This report updates Members on the current progress of the York Museums Trust (YMT) towards meeting the targets agreed in the Partnership Delivery Plan.

Background

2. YMT was set up as an independent trust in order to achieve a business turnaround of the museums and art gallery and to enhance the cultural provision within the city. It successfully addressed its initial targets which were concerned principally with: stabilising visitor numbers, delivering new income streams, creating new exhibitions and interpretative services, creating an education strategy, increasing use and involvement by residents, and cataloguing of the collection.
3. The Partnership Delivery Plan (PDP) approved by the Cabinet Member in March 2013 outlined the key targets and objectives which the Council required YMT to work towards:
 - To protect and conserve the collections, gardens and buildings
 - To promote access to the city's collections, gardens and buildings appropriate to the 21st century
 - To attract more visitors to all the YMT sites, increasing visitor numbers from 660,000 to 900,000 by 2018, thus contributing to the local and regional economy
 - To create learning opportunities and improve skills for all and develop innovative programmes springing from the collections, gardens and buildings

- To network and collaborate with partners and contribute to the development of the economic and cultural life of the city and the region and support York's world class cultural offer
 - To raise substantial funds to realise these aims through the development of sustainable income streams and relationships with Grants and Trusts
4. The specific activities and outcomes are summarised under five main headings:
- Income improvement – to further develop YMT financial sustainability
 - Capital Project – to ensure the delivery of key capital improvements to the YMT estate
 - Public programmes – to promote the collections, buildings and gardens ensuring visitors and residents have leisure and learning opportunities
 - Working in partnership – to delineate the specific areas where YMT support our corporate priorities
 - Governance – to ensure the continued security of the collections and the appropriate governance of the business.
5. The report from YMT (Annex 1) sets out how they have been addressing these issues in the period to 31 March 2014, and also gives an outline of what they will be developing moving forward.

Options

6. This report is for information and there are no options to consider.

Corporate Objectives

7. YMT contributes to a number of corporate objectives including developing opportunities for residents and visitors to experience York as a vibrant and eventful city, improving opportunities for learning, and in strengthening York's economy through investment in the tourism infrastructure.

Implications

8. **Finance:** The Council makes an annual grant to YMT. During 2013/14 the grant was £1,207k, a reduction of £300k compared to the previous

year. The grant is reduced to £1,107k in 2014/15 and will reduce to £607k in 2015/16. The Council has also agreed 3 capital allocations to YMT: In 2014/15 £250k for the Art Gallery project and £1m for wider investment in the museums estate, and in 2015/16 a further £350k contribution towards the Art Gallery and new gardens scheme.

9. The report has no implications relating to: Human Resources, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, Information Technology, Property.

Risk Management

10. This report is for information and there are no risks to consider.

Recommendations

11. That Members comment upon the performance of the York Museums Trust.

Reason: To fulfil the Council's role under the partnership delivery plan.

Contact Details

Authors:

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Assistant Director
(Communities, Culture and
Public Realm)

Ext. 3371

Janet Barnes
Chief Executive
York Museums Trust

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Charlie Croft
Assistant Director (Communities,
Culture and Public Realm)

**Report
Approved**



Date 6.6.14.

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Abbreviations

YMT - York Museums Trust
PDP - Partnership Delivery Plan

Annex 1: York Museums Trust Performance report to September 2013.

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York Museums Trust Performance Report: October 2013 – March 2014

Executive Summary

YMT's biggest current project continues to be the York Art Gallery Development. The gallery closed to the public on 31 December 2012 and the main works are currently underway; we are planning to re-open in June 2015 with 60% more exhibition space, improved visitor facilities and the new Centre of Ceramic Art (CoCA). Over this reporting period we were awarded £300,000 from the DCMS/Wolfson Fund for the project. The project is now fully funded.

Work has begun thinking about the opening exhibitions which will focus on the gallery's permanent collection, particularly the gifts and bequests the gallery has received over the years, including from collectors such as John Burton, FD Lycett Green, Dean Milner White and W.A Ismay.

We are also very close to the end of our major development at York Castle Museum. This has been funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. This will see a refurbished Debtors Prison creating new exhibition spaces, better learning spaces and offices and, for the first time, a visitor lift. The first exhibition to be held in these new spaces will be **1914: When the World Changed Forever**, a major changing exhibition on the social impact of World War One that opens to the public on 28 June. Scrutiny members have been invited to the private view on 16 July.

YMT are also leading on a regional marketing initiative to publicise the various events, exhibitions and displays focusing on WWI in this centenary years across museums and galleries in Yorkshire and the Humber. This is similar to our role in organising **Art in Yorkshire**, the fourth of which we launched recently showcasing the best art exhibitions in the region.

We were successful in winning a public vote in the annual, national Museums at Night competition, beating off stiff competition from the Courtauld Gallery and two other London venues; a real coup for York. We hosted some great events with the artist Grayson Perry on Thursday 15 May which will be included in the next report.

Our major regional role continues with the Museums Development Team working with smaller and medium sized accredited museums across Yorkshire and Humberside. Over 60 Museum organisations have received direct advice or support from the team, with a very high satisfaction rate. The team have just finished applying to Arts Council England for the second round of funding to offer this support across the region again through

2015-18. We see this work as a vital tool to increase YMT's visibility and recognition in the region and beyond.

We continue to work with City of York Council (CYC) on the Exhibition Square development and the timetable for its development has now been agreed. A first stage will see the Better Bus project take place after the Tour de France and a second stage will involve the main part of the square and will take place in early 2015 in time for the reopening of the gallery. The initial concepts will be designed by the landscape designer who we are working with on the new gardens in the Museum Gardens. This will help deliver a consistent and coherent design for the whole area. These initial concept designs will be presented to the major stakeholders for a further stage of public consultation. The main stakeholders will be YMT, CYC, University of York, York Civic Trust and English Heritage. Now that the decision has been made to keep Lendal Bridge open to all traffic, we will also need to think about more protection for the square from pollution and traffic noise if it is to become a pleasant public space where people will want to linger.

We are currently planning to expand the gardens to the rear of York Art Gallery where we hope to establish three new gardens, an edible woodland, an Artists' garden, and a garden of Yorkshire Flowers. We have consulted widely on these plans, and the first two, thanks in part to CYC capital funding, will be ready in time for the opening of the gallery. We are still in discussions with English Heritage about the design of the garden of Yorkshire Flowers and the pathways connecting Museum Gardens with the new gardens.

Whilst York Art Gallery is closed we have continued to display as much of the collection elsewhere as possible. Our regional touring exhibition ***Masterstrokes: Great Paintings from York Art Gallery*** has now been on display in Lincoln, Preston, and Huddersfield and is currently on display at Scarborough before moving on to Barnsley and finally Harrogate. 700 pieces from the Ismay ceramic collection were on display at the Hepworth as part of an installation by artist Matthew Darbyshire. Eight ceramics by William Staite Murray are included in the exhibition, ***Art and Life: Ben Nicholson, Winifred Nicholson, Christopher Wood, Alfred Wallis and William Staite Murray 1920-1931***. The exhibition was first shown at Leeds Art Gallery then Kettle's Yard, Cambridge and has now opened at Dulwich Picture Gallery, London. We also continue to have a select few work on display at Fairfax House and also the National Gallery and at Tate Britain.

Staff Numbers at the end of April were: 70 full time, 34 part time, 58 casual totalling 162.

Analysis of Performance

a) Stabilising visitor figures

The Yorkshire Museum did very well over the reporting period; the slight dip at the York Castle Museum could be due to part of the museum being closed during our major development. Full year visitor figures showed a 2% rise in total. Our 'two museums for £10' offer continues to be very popular. The dip in York St Mary's is due, we think, to York Art Gallery being closed.

Total Visitors: 6 months from October 2013 to March 2014
(excluding conference visitors)

	Actual	Last year	% Change
York Castle Museum	119,513	123,496	-3%
York St Mary's	5,602	11,306	-50%
Yorkshire Museum	51,733	41,061	+26%
Grand Total	176,848	175,863	+1%

In addition we estimate that annual number of visitors to the Museum Gardens is 1,730,880.

b) Delivering new income streams

The support of City of York Council has been instrumental to our success over the last 12 years, but of course we are very aware of the funding difficulties that councils across the country are under so we were not at all surprised when we received word that the council would have to cut our revenue funding. We have strived since we began to create new and greater income streams and the success of our Trading Subsidiary is testament to this and it continues to show a strong performance and in 2013/14 retail, catering and venue hire delivered a profit of over £223,000. This income feeds back in to support the Charity under a tax-free Gift Aid arrangement.

We continue to explore a YMT supporters scheme, employing someone to lead on this. We see this scheme as a vital tool to keep a network of supporters updated on our work whilst also becoming a healthy income stream.

We are very grateful for CYC's commitment to our capital works and we have begun to think about investing to save, so for instance that more of our venues will use LED lighting so that we can decrease our utility bills in future years.

Much work has also been done in the early part of 2014 in applying for the second round of funding to remain an Arts Council England major partner museum. Currently YMT is one of only 16 organisations designated thus in the country. This equates to £3.3m over three years and we will hear the result on 1 July.

c) New exhibitions and interpretative service

Due to the closure of York Art Gallery, York St Mary's has become York Art Gallery's contemporary art space. York St Mary's reopened on Friday 4 April with the return of the ***Aesthetica Art Prize***. This exhibition showcases excellence in contemporary art and features shortlisted artists in the categories of Photographic & Digital Art, Three Dimensional Design & Sculpture, Painting & Drawing and Video, Installation & Performance. Aesthetica is a York based organisation that publishes a magazine and organises the short film festival in York. This will be the first of three exhibitions this year at this space including, Julian Stair and Bruce Nauman.

We have installed a display in the Yorkshire Museum's Reading Room, a 'cabinet of curiosities' style display examining the life of James Atkinson, one of the founders of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society and donor of a range of material to the Museum. This was co-curated with the Laurence Sterne Trust who have loaned us books from the time, and a strong relationship between the two institutions has been established.

A special exhibition ***Shakespeare's First Folio***, featuring an extremely rare edition of the First Folio went on display in the medieval gallery. The display is part of a partnership with Skipton Museum/Craven Council and the folio will be on loan until July 2014 as part of the Tour de France Grand Depart Cultural Festival. Prior to this we had a special exhibition featuring the York House Book on loan from York City Archives, displayed as part of the celebration of Richard III.

We also displayed an exhibition on Tempest Anderson that proved to be very popular, coinciding with the centenary of his death.

Our first online exhibition as part of our partnership with the Google Cultural Institute has gone live, focussing on the collection and archive of the major ceramics collector Bill Ismay:

<http://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/exhibit/w-a-ismay-collector-connoisseur-of-studio-ceramics/QRpzaaM2?hl=en>. This has sparked a huge amount of interest and is a beautiful way of presenting our collections online. Work has begun to produce a second online exhibition tentatively entitled 'Making Money: 1000 years of coinage in York' that will focus on 10-15 coins, one from each century between 700 and 1700, which illustrate York's status as the second mint of England.

One of the two main events of last years Illuminate York festival took place in the Museum Gardens with a display being projected onto the Yorkshire Museum.

d) Create an education strategy

Headline educational figures for the period are as follows:

	YCM		YM		Total	
	12/13	13/14	12/13	13/14	12/13	13/14
Children from York schools	1,261	1,950	1,239	1,306	2,500	3,256
Children from non-York schools	9,189	8,539	2,552	3,826	11,741	12,365
HE and FE student visits	517	1,695	111	242	628	1.937

Formal Learning

Learning numbers have increased over the period and we have plans to rework and renew elements of the formal learning schools offer in response to the National Curriculum changes and in the light of research into our school visits and visitors.

Highlights over the period have included 31 A-level photography students from York College having a guided tour of the Bruce Nauman exhibition at York St Mary's that stimulated much discussion about the nature of art and how artworks can act as a catalyst for wider discussion and debate.

We piloted new workshops for schools on volcanoes, a Dino Dig workshop and SLIME!

Informal Learning

Activities over the school holidays have included apple jam making at York Castle Museum, and volcano activities at the Yorkshire Museum to tie in to the Tempest Anderson display where actor Chris Cade also dressed as Tempest Anderson who told stories of his life as Sheriff of York and as a volcanologist around the world. We also held a very popular Easter Bunny trail round the York Castle Museum, leading to the Toyshop where children were rewarded with a small chocolate egg. The trail run for three weeks due to the different school holidays, and 5,000 eggs were won.

Family Learning

"In the Museum Night Garden" took place on 30 October, looking at the nocturnal wildlife in the Museum Gardens. This included partners the University of York Physics Dept and York Astronomical Society. A fire show also took place outside the Hospitium and an estimated 2,000 people attended the event.

Family Saturdays were held that continue to be very popular.

Adult Learning

Highlights have included sew and sew Sundays sessions; talks on Richard III; a workshop on Bronze Age metal working; our book club; a life drawing class ran in association with CYC; and curators Talks on the Arras Culture, the Bedale Hoard, Spring Flowers and Shakespeare in Yorkshire. All were very well attended.

Community Learning Partnership

We have helped to set up the York Community Learning Partnership. This partnership includes City of York Council, York College, York Explore and other key providers of adult and community learning in the city. Initially the partnership will concentrate on co-ordinating marketing, helping to facilitate progression for learners and involving a wider range of providers in the service. There is no financial commitment.

Genesis

Genesis is our 14 to 19 yrs old engagement programme. We work in partnership with NYBEP (North Yorkshire Business and Education Partnership) to engage with secondary schools in the city and beyond. We have devised a number of projects and competitions to inspire and involve young people, directly relating to their studies and career interests. These have included working on a magazine that will engage local communities and visitors in the new 1914 exhibition at the Castle Museum, and an animation challenge focusing on the collections and WWI. We have worked with schools including Joseph Rowntree School, All Saints School and Archbishop Holgate's.

Territories

Activities have included workshops for couples where one has dementia; sessions for people with mental health issues and sessions for York Carers Forum.

e) Increase use and involvement by residents

We currently have 366 active volunteers on our books as at the end of April, totalling 7,025 contributed hours across all of the sites over the reporting period.

We have a volunteer gardens project up and running in the Riverside area at the Castle Museum. Our garden volunteer is currently helping to prepare a Physic Garden area under the Castle walls, as well as establishing a composting area and general weed control.

We have started to recruit to our new 'family volunteering' programme and our first family volunteers, a mother and daughter pair, will start with us in the summer. This will enable us to fill the gap in our volunteering offer as it gets us around the complicated child protection issues which arise from having under 18s as volunteers. Under 18s will volunteer alongside a family member; they will both go through our full training and induction programme, in the same way that all our other volunteers do, but they will only ever work together, so there will be no supervision issues. This means that for the first time we can accommodate school-age children who are undertaking Duke of Edinburgh awards, as long as they have a family member willing to volunteer with them.

As the Yorkshire Museum Library project develops at a pace, we are making some changes to bring the cataloguing of the books in line with that of other collections. This will also provide a great opportunity for our library

volunteers team to develop new skills and get more involved with the collection and how we work with it.

We have made contact with local groups who will be part of our **Local Links** project, an Art Fund initiative for which we were awarded £10,000. This involves building connections with ten local communities to learn more about 10 Early Medieval objects in the collection that were found in their locality often by members of the public.

York Castle Museum and the Yorkshire Museum took part in this year's Residents Festival and both were busy as ever.

f) *Achieve high visitor satisfaction*

Visitor surveys carried out in summer 2013 by Spirul Research showed that at:

York Castle Museum:

- 97% of visitors were either satisfied or very satisfied with their visit
- 99% would recommend the museum to others
- 94% would visit again

At Yorkshire Museum:

- 96% of visitors were either satisfied or very satisfied with their visit
- 98% would recommend the museum to others
- 91% would visit again

Also of interest are visitor comments on Tripadvisor where York Castle Museum comes fifth out of all attractions in York and the Museum Gardens eleventh.

g) *Ensure the cataloguing of the collection*

The YMT collection is now successfully integrated into the Trust's new websites and will be available to the public when the new websites are launched in the summer. Visitors will have access to some 150,000 records (with only minor exclusions) and more than 40,000 images.

The successful Wikipedia project, which showed the huge benefits of releasing museum content onto the web under open licenses, has sadly come to an end. However, we have submitted a funding bid to Wikimedia UK to extend and expand this project into a regional role. If successful, we will embed our resident's digital expertise into the Museum Development Yorkshire programme of regional fora.

We have also launched a digital volunteering project that will see 12 volunteers helping us to audit the copyright status of works in the Fine Art collection. This is the first phase of a major cataloguing programme that will put our desire to publish images held by the trust on a firm footing.

Rationalisation of the architectural stonework collection and the brick and tile collection has now been completed. Material with little significance has been laid out for burial at one of our stores. Overall this liberates a considerable amount of storage space, in turn providing much needed room for further improvements in collections storage.

We successfully raised the £30,000 needed to purchase the Towton gold torc and £51,636 for the Bedale Hoard. Other recent acquisitions include a Travel Agency ledger for R. B. Mills Travel Agency York listing holidays sold from 1957 -1976; a Wedding Dress made in York and worn by the bride of a Canon from York Minister; a PCS union flag; World War One memorial order of services; a group of eight ceramics produced in the 1990's by Jenny Beavan.

Acquisitions for the new WW1 exhibition include a Trench map for Gommecourt and material relating to local family of John Richard Ford and Thomas Wright Burnett, including information on the cycling battalions and prisoners of war.

Janet Barnes, Chief Executive
York Museums Trust, 6 June 2014

Abbreviations:

CoCA - Centre of Ceramic Art

CYC – City of York Council

YMT – York Museums Trust

NYBEP - North Yorkshire Business and Education

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Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Report of the AD Governance & ITT

18 June 2014

Introductory Report on Proposed Scrutiny Topics for Review in 2014/15

Summary

1. This report provides introductory information on the topics proposed for scrutiny review during this municipal year. Given the limited time available for review work due to the forthcoming elections in 2015, Members are asked to decide which topics are to proceed to review, and agree a timeframe for their completion.

Background

2. At a meeting in April 2014, the Committee agreed to propose the following topics at the annual Scrutiny Work Planning Event held on 12 May 2014:
 - i. Narrowing the Gap – possible topic subject to overview report on project plan for Narrowing the Gap - due to be received in July 2014.
 - ii. Disabled access to York’s cultural sector - especially those bodies that benefit from City of York Council (CYC) revenue or capital funding. The city has a clear aim to grow the value of the tourism sector. There have been well-documented concerns recently over disabled access to public services in York. The review could look at what cultural providers currently do for disabled access, what barriers exist against improving access and what CYC could do to help providers improve access.
3. At the work planning event an additional topic was submitted by Cllr Semlyen for this Committee’s consideration on ‘School based teaching of skills related to self employment / entrepreneurship at secondary ages and at York College’. In support, Cllr Semlyen provided the following information:

'York has low average wages relative to house values. Since public sector jobs aren't growing the extra Gross Value Added has to come from the private sector. Yet York has a very low record of creating new business or graduate start ups - 316th out of 326 English districts. There were 28% fewer York business start ups in the first 3 months of the year compared to 2013. The University of York had 24 Graduate start ups in 2012/13 and 21 spin outs. Kingston had 201. The teaching of entrepreneurial skills should start early – ideally at school. The best councils are doing this from primary age, but certainly it should be part of secondary school education – e.g. the idea of different types of borrowing for a business start up from a relative, bank or venture capital, borrowing money at various interest rates, how to set up a bank account, basic accounting and balance sheets, basic marketing skills on the internet, what it is to rent property, cash flow and how to make a business profit, taxation and filling in a tax return.'

4. Finally, at the work planning event it was also agreed that another corporate review would be undertaken during this municipal year. A number of possible scrutiny topics were discussed and the consensus was a corporate review around 'Supporting Elderly People'.
5. Whilst each Overview & Scrutiny Committees is responsible for agreeing its own contribution to the corporate review, Corporate & Scrutiny Management Committee (CSMC) will consider some topic suggestions at its next meeting on 23 June 2014. The suggestion for this Committee is around 'Supporting and Encouraging Physical Activity including exercise, social activity and/or volunteering'.

Consultation

6. At the work planning event it was suggested that the views of Cabinet Members should be sought on all proposed scrutiny topics relevant to their individual portfolios. Their views on the topics for this Committee are included in the information gathered below. The appropriate Service Managers have also been asked to provide feedback on the suggested topics.

Information Gathered

7. 'Narrowing the Gap'
The Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Young People has expressed some concerns about the proposed 'Narrowing the Gap' topic:

“We are just about to embark on some significant work around this issue, and it might be felt to be somewhat premature to Scrutinise it before it has begun. A general presentation on what is going on might be most useful at this stage, and to note it for a possible scrutiny topic a little way down the line when we are beginning to get some results.”

8. The comment above is in line with what was discussed when the Cabinet Member attended a meeting of this Committee in March 2014 , And as a result at that time this Committee agreed that any review of this topic would be best considered in the latter half of this municipal year, once the results are known.

9. School Based Teaching of Skills Related to Self Employment / Entrepreneurship

In regard to the topic proposed by Cllr Semlyen, the Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Young People Tourism has provided the following response:

“This topic is interesting. We could certainly do with a review of the skills agenda and the employment opportunities for young people. But grappling with the school’s curriculum is a tricky place to be. Schools organise their own curriculum and are sometimes hard pushed to cover the National Curriculum.

But it might be useful for someone to do a scoping exercise – and I wondered does it cross over into Economic Development as a joint piece of work. One of the significant areas we have problems with, is not so much companies starting up, but being sustainable into the future, either around financing or sometimes premises.”

10. Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee (ECDOSC) has subsequently confirmed their intent to proceed with an associated review focussing on young adult entrepreneurs. And, following advice from officers, agreed it was not suitable for joint review with this Committee. Therefore, whilst a review of the topic proposed by Cllr Semlyen i.e. the teaching of entrepreneurial skills at school, would be separate to the ECDOSC review, the joint effect of the outcomes from both reviews could support improvements in the culture of enterprise in the city overall.
11. The council’s Principal Adviser 14-19 has confirmed that the issue of entrepreneurship and linked statistics setting out performance issues for

York is one which has been identified in strands of work on economic development, skills, education and training:

- The annual 14-19 Local Area Statement of Need (October 2013) identifies the development of broader employability skills (including enterprise / entrepreneurial behaviours) as a priority.
- “Unlocking York Talent” (Skills Strategy 2013-16) includes a focus on core employability and enterprise skills in its “Skills for the future workforce” strand.
- Ambition 2 of the York Economic Strategy (2011-15) aims to strengthen the city’s culture of enterprise.

12. It is therefore the view of the Principal Adviser 14-19 that a scrutiny review of this topic would be both timely and would add value. He has suggested that the review could identify the best councils referenced by Cllr Semlyen, review examples of best practice from them and make recommendations which would support CYC in influencing schools and colleges in York, to improve their provision for young people. This could, in turn, lead to development of higher levels of entrepreneurial skills and attitudes in our young people.
13. As an adjunct to this review proposal his team have also identified a strand of activity which might subsequently be linked to it. They are currently looking to support the development of the Computing Curriculum in Primary Schools and build on the existing engagement of some of the Primary Schools with the Code Club, which provides school based computing activity supported by volunteers. This has the potential to link small businesses with individual primary schools for activity centred on one of the city’s key economic sectors. The review outlined above could influence the work on this project and provide an initial York based case study which raises the profile of small businesses and entrepreneurial activity.
14. Cllr Semlyen has been invited to attend this meeting to discuss her topic proposal. The appropriate officer(s) will also be in attendance.
15. Corporate Review on Supporting Elderly People
In regard to the new corporate review and the suggested topic for this Committee (see paragraph 5 above), Members are asked to note that the latest Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) recommends continuing support for physical activity initiatives across the whole population with priority given to vulnerable groups including the elderly.

It also recognises the contribution of the voluntary sector and carers in encouraging physical activity.

16. However, Members are welcome to consider other possible areas for review in support of this year's corporate theme. For example, one suggestion might be to expand the topic proposed by Cllr Barnes on 'Disabled Access to York's Cultural Sector', as many patrons with hearing and sight impairment and many wheelchair users are also elderly.

17. Disabled Access to York's Cultural Sector

The Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture & Tourism has provided the following response to the proposed 'Disabled Access to York's Cultural Sector' topic:

"I would welcome this topic, but would ask that scrutiny take into account that with dwindling government funding to the council, so council funding for cultural organisations has also fallen significantly with a view to them becoming sustainable as soon as possible and as such any influence we have or had may inevitably also dwindle.

However, please be assured that I don't see that as a barrier or a negative to this particular scrutiny topic, quite the contrary in fact. An accessibility scrutiny of some of the cultural institutions we fund may well uncover barriers to inclusion hitherto overlooked by those organisations. Some cultural organisations very survival may depend on a larger and more diverse customer base, especially with funding and grants in short supply and if there are barriers that can be addressed then I'm sure that it would be extremely useful to try to highlight those barriers by effective scrutiny and partnership working."

18. The Assistant Director for Communities, Culture and Public Realm agrees the topic may have potential to lead to positive outcomes if it were to cover York's full range of cultural activities rather than just the organisations who CYC support i.e. Explore, York Museums Trust, and York Theatre Royal. The Council also provides tiny grants to the National Centre for Early Music, and Accessible Arts and Media.
19. The Head of Visit York has confirmed that Visit York does not hold any information on the type of assistance that York's tourist attractions and entertainment venues provide for those patrons with impaired hearing or sight, or for wheelchair users. The only information of this nature held

by Visit York tends to focus on accommodation providers rather than the cultural sector.

20. So, in an effort to assist the Committee in deciding whether this topic is suitable for review and whether access is an issue for patrons with disabilities, Information has been gathered from the websites of the following attractions and venues on their current access arrangements – see detailed information in Annex A:

- Minster
- Fairfax House
- Barley Hall
- National Railway Museum
- York Dungeon
- Jorvik Viking Centre
- York Wheel
- City Screen
- Reel Cinema
- National Centre for Early Music
- The Barbican
- Grand Opera House
- Theatre Royal

21. In the case of the following attractions it was not possible to find access information on their websites. However it was possible to find some information on these (included in Annex A) from the ‘DisabledGo’ website:

- Castle Museum
- Yorkshire Museum
- Art Gallery
- Ghost Walk Tours (three Companies website were viewed)
- York River Boat Trips

22. ‘DisabledGo’ provides free detailed information about access to all sorts of places across the UK, allowing those with disabilities to judge the access to venues for themselves. For York their website provides information on a whole range of venues – see:

<http://www.yorkshire.com/disabled-go>.

23. York Museums Trust has confirmed that they have not previously provided information on access for any of their venues via their website. When their general enquiry line receives a call regarding access they put them through to the relevant venue to speak directly with staff. Work is currently underway to improve access at the castle Museum - a lift is being installed to enable wheelchair users to access the first floor.

24. Cllr Barnes has been invited to attend this meeting to discuss his topic proposal. The Assistant Director for Communities, Culture and Public Realm will also be in attendance.

Council Plan

25. The proposed topics for review all support priorities within the Council Plan 2012-15. The following proposed topics support the priority to 'Protect Vulnerable People':
- Narrowing the Gap
 - Disabled Access to the Cultural sector both
 - Supporting Elderly People
26. The topic on School Based Teaching of Skills Related to Self Employment / Entrepreneurship supports the priority to 'Create Jobs and Grow the Economy'.

Risk Management & Implications

27. There are no known risks, and there are no known Financial, HR, Equalities, Legal, Crime & Disorder, ITT, or Property implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

Recommendation

28. Members are asked to consider the information within this report and with the support of the officers present, agree:
- A remit for this committee's review in support of the corporate scrutiny theme for 2014-15.
 - Which of the other proposed topics should proceed to review during this municipal year (bearing in mind the limited time available for carrying out review work during this municipal year due to the forthcoming elections).
 - A suitable review remit for the reviews being progressed and a timeframe for their completion.
 - Whether those reviews are to be carried out by a Task Group or the full Committee.

Reason: To progress the work of the Committee.

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Report Approved



Date

6 June 2014

Wards Affected:

All



Background Papers: None

Abbreviations:

CYC - City of York Council
JSNA - Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
YMT - York Museums Trust
ECDOSC - Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee
CSMC - Corporate & Scrutiny Management Committee

Annexes:

Annex A – Information on Accessing York’s Heritage & Cultural Offer

Annex B – Visual Story for York Grand Opera House

Accessing York's Heritage & Cultural Offer

York Minster

The majority of the Minster is accessible with ramps in places. However until 2016 the building is undergoing a period of transformation, so those requiring step free access are recommended to check beforehand for accessibility on the day of a proposed visit.

On Arrival:

- Designated Disabled car parking (Very limited space by Chapter House, phone ahead)
- Hard surfaced car park
- Level/ramped wheelchair access to entrance (Ramped access to West Door at present.)
- Level/ramped wheelchair access into venue (Level)
- Concessionary fee for wheelchair user (No charge for wheelchair user)
- Concessionary fee for carer (Carer's pay to enter Minster only as the Tower is not accessible)
- Easy access around ground floor/area of site
- Wheelchair access to gardens/grounds

Toilets:

- Wheelchair accessible toilet/toilets
- Grab rails in toilet
- Easy access to wash basin and hand dryer/towels
- Wheelchair turning space in accessible toilet
- Space for right transfer to toilet
- Room for carer/carers in accessible toilet

Cafe/Shop:

- Level/ramped access to shop
- Level/ramped access to cafe/tearoom (No cafe/tearoom)
- Wheelchair accessible picnic area (None seen)

Other:

Assistance dogs are welcome, and wheelchairs are available for loan/hire. In certain areas a hearing loop can be made available, given advance notice. The Minster also offers special access to exhibits for the visually impaired, and guided tours can be provided.

Fairfax House

Fairfax House covers two floors with access to the first floor being via a staircase. Due to the character of this Grade 1 listed building, disabled access is limited and only possible with assistance at a ground floor level. Visitors are encouraged to telephone in advance of their visit with their requirements so that staff can endeavour to assist them.

There is a drop-off point for guests immediately outside the main entrance and a handrail for the steps up to the entrance.

Information can be made available in audio format, and there is an audible alarm system. There is also clear signage throughout the attraction e.g. colour contrast, large letters, pictograms.

Barley Hall

Barley Hall is a reconstructed medieval townhouse and leads to some restrictions for those visitors with mobility and access difficulties.

Although there is access to the ground floor, the Great Hall features a raised threshold at the doorway. The first floor, on which the Parlour, Gallery, and Chambers are located, is accessed via a staircase, which some guests may find a little steep. Unfortunately, there is no lift to the first floor.

There is a second fairly steep staircase down to the buttery, pantry and classroom, although the classroom can be accessed externally. It is advisable that small children are looked after when using the staircases.

Visitors are encouraged to telephone in advance of their visit to discuss their access requirements. Vehicles cannot park close to the Hall. The easiest access is from Swinegate / Grape Lane where you can park before 11am and after 4pm from Monday to Friday, before 10.30am and after 4.30pm on Saturday, and before 12pm and after 4pm on Sunday.

Barley Hall has one male and one female toilet. Unfortunately, the Hall does not offer separate toilets for disabled guests or permanent baby changing facilities at this time

Castle Museum

On Arrival:

- The venue does not have its own car park, but there is a car park for public use within approx 200m (Castle Car Park).
- The car park is located at the front of the venue.
- There is a ramp to access the main entrance.
- The reception desk is low height.

Inside Access - North Building:

- There is no level access to the building. There is a moderate ramp to the left within the entrance together with 9 clearly marked steps with a handrail

Inside Access - South Building:

- There is no level access to this building. There is a steep ramp to the right as you enter the building with a level landing at the top. There are also 15+ clearly marked steps with handrails on both sides.

The Museum exhibits cannot be audio described and there is no tactile signage or hearing assistance system. However, concessions and touch tours are available. There is also a wheelchair to borrow, which needs booking in advance

Toilets:

- There are accessible unisex toilets within both buildings but they are not for the sole use of disabled people. The toilets all have level access and there is pictorial signage on or near the entrances.
- The toilets in the south building have lateral transfer space with wall mounted grab rails on both sides.
- In the north building the transfer space is on the right and support rails are fitted.

Cafe/Shop:

Within the Restaurant Bar there is ample room for a wheelchair user to manoeuvre, and the menu is clearly written on the wall.

Yorkshire Museum

The Yorkshire Museum is housed in a building on the old St. Marys Abbey site within the museum gardens.

On Arrival:

- Level/ramped wheelchair access to entrance (Ramped)
- Level/ramped wheelchair access into venue (Level)
- Concessionary fee for carer (Carer get's in free (but be sure to ask))
- Easy access around ground floor/area of site
- Wheelchair access to gardens/grounds (Botanical Gardens separate area to visit)
- Wheelchair access to other floors
- lift controls at accessible height

Toilets:

- Wheelchair accessible toilet/toilets
- Grab rails in toilet
- Easy access to wash basin
- easy access to hand dryer/towels
- Wheelchair turning space in accessible toilet
- Space for left transfer to toilet
- Room for carer/carers in accessible toilet

Cafe/Shop:

- Level/ramped access to shop
- Level/ramped access to cafe/tearoom (Tea/coffee machine available in shop)
- Accessible counter/cutlery if self service
- Sufficient wheelchair access to tables

Other:

Assistance dogs are welcome, and wheelchairs are available for loan/hire. A hearing loop is available in the theatre, and the Museum offers special access to exhibits for the visually impaired, and wheelchair access to interactive exhibits.

Art Gallery

The gallery is currently closed for major redevelopment and will reopen in 2015 with 60% more gallery space, a new Centre for British Studio Ceramics and improved access arrangements. Prior to the ongoing renovation work, the Art Gallery had a stair lift to the upper gallery and an accessible toilet.

National Railway Museum

The National Railway Museum in York is a large site which is mainly on one level. In the few areas where it is not, facilities have been put in place to enable all visitors, whatever their ability, to access the huge variety of interesting exhibits and memorabilia stretching back 300 years.

The Great Hall and other exhibition rooms have many huge and ancient Railway engines in, some of which have been ramped to provide access up to the cab. There is also a small road train that runs every half an hour from the Museum into York Centre which is fully accessible at the rear.

On Arrival:

- Designated Disabled car parking (hard surfaced car park)
- Concessionary fee for wheelchair user (Free entrance to all)
- Level wheelchair access to entrance into venue
- Wheelchair access to gardens/grounds

- Wheelchair access to other floors via lift with controls at accessible height

Toilets:

- Wheelchair accessible toilet/toilets
- Grab rails in toilet and easy access to wash basin and hand dryer/towels
- Wheelchair turning space in accessible toilet
- Space for left transfer to toilet (near entrance)
- Space for right transfer to toilet (upstairs in 'works')
- Room for carer/carers in accessible toilet

Cafe/Shop:

- Level/ramped access to shop and cafe/tearoom
- Accessible counter/cutlery for self service
- Sufficient wheelchair access to tables
- Wheelchair accessible picnic area

Other:

Assistance dogs are welcome. Wheelchairs are available for loan/hire, and wheelchairs have access to the land train via the rear carriage. There is also special access to exhibits for the visually impaired.

York Dungeon

The York Dungeon welcomes guests with disabilities, together with their helpers and carers. The majority of the facilities are designed to be fully accessible to disabled guests. However it is situated in a Grade 2 Listed building leading to some restrictions for guests with mobility scooters.

Navigating around the Dungeon is mainly via level pathways. However due to the nature of the attraction some floor surfaces are uneven. Access is also gained via low gradient slopes and specialised stair lifts (restrictions apply) to the various levels of the attraction. The York Dungeon tour lasts approximately 70 minutes, of which most you are required to stand.

For safety reasons they can only accommodate one manual wheelchair user at a time, so wheelchair users are advised to book in advance to prevent any delays in starting the tour. In case of an evacuation, there are two flights of stairs both with stair lifts (Max weight 120kg/ 18.8 stone) and guests must be able to transfer from wheelchair to stair lift unaided by Dungeon staff.

The York Dungeon is not considered suitable for those suffering from claustrophobia.

The York Dungeon experience is largely delivered by actors and voiceover audio, often in low light levels. Therefore guests with low vision or visual impairment and/or hearing difficulties may struggle to experience the attraction fully, and may have difficulty navigating around the facility. However a helper or carer is welcome to accompany a disabled visitor to assist, without charge.

Only one carer can receive free entry per disabled guest, and York Dungeon also requires documentary proof of disability i.e. blue/orange badge, DLA letter or doctor or physician letter. Disabled guests are encouraged to prebook online or via the contact centre to avoid general admission queue lines and to book a time slot allocation.

Where appropriate, York Dungeon's website also provides access information relevant to specific sections of the tour e.g. the Dick Turpin Drop Benches - The drop benches are to give the illusion of hanging and give a sudden movement; wheelchair users must be able to transfer un-aided into and out of the ride seats. The benches are not suitable for visitors with:

- Heart complaints or pacemakers
- Back or neck complaints
- Broken limbs or have had recent surgery
- Pregnant guests
- Have a condition that may result in injury or complication from quick movement

On Arrival:

Unfortunately the Dungeon does not have any designated parking. The nearest car parks to the York Dungeon are Castle and Piccadilly which both have disabled parking bays.

Toilets:

The York Dungeon has fully accessible toilets. Toilets are located after the third show inside the Dungeon i.e. after leaving Guy Fawkes, down the stairs before entering Ghosts. A disabled toilet is situated by the Lost Roman Legion Labyrinth.

Other:

Assistance dogs are welcome in the York Dungeon; however, due to health and safety regulations they are not permitted to ride on any rides with the guest. A member of the party must be with the dog at all times, and there are loud noises, mist effects and smells (good and nasty) that may be?

Jorvik Viking Centre

A tour of the main exhibition lasts approximately 14 minutes and takes you around a 'realistic' Viking village with all the smells and sights. Visitors travel round the main exhibition in a pod. Each pod has a hearing loop to listen to the commentary. A large print transcription of the ride commentary is available, as is a Braille guide for the Artefacts Alive gallery. Guide dogs are welcome in the centre, although the ride may make some dogs nervous.

Wheelchair users are advised to book in advance, as each pod can only accommodate one wheelchair at a time. A wheelchair is placed on a movable platform at the front of the pod, and headphones are provided for the wheelchair user to listen to the commentary. On arrival, a wheelchair user may also be asked a number of questions to ensure their maximum participation in the tour.

Once the tour is finished, wheelchair users can continue into the rest of the centre, where there are many other exhibits to see. However if they want to go into the shop, which all other visitors exit through, they need to exit the building and then re-enter through the main door on the street.

Some of the exhibits are in the basement which can be accessed via a lift - the area is quite dim although the floor is lit up underneath and this may disorientate some people. It is suggested that visitors who suffer from claustrophobia, speak to a member of staff about visiting downstairs, prior to paying.

On Arrival:

- Designated Disabled car parking in nearby Piccadilly Car Park (hard surfaced car park)
- Concessionary fee for wheelchair users, but pre-booking is necessary
- Level wheelchair access to entrance and easy access around the area of the site
- lift with controls at accessible height

Toilets:

- Wheelchair accessible toilet/toilets
- Grab rails and easy access to wash basin and hand dryer/towels
- Wheelchair turning space in accessible toilet
- Space for left transfer to toilet
- Room for carer/carers in accessible toilet

Cafe/Shop:

- Level/ramped access to shop (Ramped access)

Other:

Assistance dogs are welcome although some aspects of the ride may make them nervous. Wheelchairs are available for loan/hire, and the Centre offers special access to exhibits for the visually impaired.

Ghost Walk Tours

These are offered via a few companies and many offer tours that are accessible for wheelchair users, some for a small concession fee.

York Wheel

The Wheel is wheelchair accessible as long as patrons are accompanied by a travelling companion or a member of staff.

York River Boat Trips

Wheelchair users should be sure to book on 'The River Duchess', one of the many boats in the fleet owned by York Boat, as it is the only one with a disabled access toilet on board. The boat is wide and fully accessible with tables and chairs down the length of its inside bar area. For those who are able, there is seating outside up on top, but for those unable to make it up there, there is a small seating area to the front of the boat which provides outside space for a wheelchair user to enjoy the good weather.

Inside by the bar area is a toilet which has left hand transfer, through a bi-fold door, and although the space is on the tight side, with a little manoeuvring, access is possible.

On Arrival:

- Designated Disabled car parking in nearby public Car Parks at St George's Field & Castle (both hard surfaced car parks)
- Ramped access at King's Staith Landing
- Concessionary fee for wheelchair users and Carers
- Pre-booking is necessary for wheelchair users to ensure 'River Duchess' is available on the day of your choice
- Easy access around ground floor of boat

Toilets:

- Wheelchair accessible toilet/toilets
- Grab rails in toilet and easy access to wash basin and hand dryer/towels
- Room for carer/carers in accessible toilet
- Measures to improve the space to side transfer are scheduled

Cafe/Shop:

- Level access to bar serving drinks & snacks

- Accessible counter and sufficient wheelchair access to tables

Other:

Assistance dogs are welcome.

City Screen York

The cinema suggests that advance booking is a good idea to enable staff to be ready to provide assistance if required. All areas of the building are accessible to customers with limited mobility, including wheelchair users. Wheelchair spaces or seats in any particular part of the auditorium can be reserved and accompanying carers are eligible for a free ticket.

The Box Office and bar all have adapted counters and accessible levels for transactions, and in the event of a fire, wheelchair users and other mobility-impaired patrons will be evacuated by trained staff using evacuation chairs placed at, or near, the top (or bottom if in the basement) of staircases.

For visually impaired customers, guide dogs are welcome, and an aisle seat can be reserved. Alternatively a guide dog can be cared for by a member of staff for the duration of the performance. Large print menus and film schedules are also available on request. All stair rails have embossed tactile aids underneath which indicate the number of steps approaching each level. Three bumps mean that you are on the third step from the landing, two that you are on the second step etc.

For customers with impaired hearing there are induction loop facilities at the Box Office and infrared facilities in all three screens. The Box Office can provide receiving equipment to use the infrared system. Customers are asked for a credit card or a £5.00 deposit for the equipment, which is fully refunded on its return at the end of the screening. Certain performances carry subtitles and these are clearly indicated on the weekly listings flyer and in the free weekly email newsletter.

There is a lift to the right as you enter the main foyer, which serves all floors and the basement areas. The lift is fitted with a voice commentary and tactile aids and it has a telephone to contact a member of staff in an emergency.

On Arrival:

- Setting down is best done by drawing alongside the cinema in Coney Street. This can be done Monday to Friday before 11.00am and after 4.00pm; Saturday before 10.30am – and after 4.30pm; and Sunday before 12.00noon and after 4.00pm.

- There are also parking spaces in St Helen's Square, Parliament Square and Davygate for orange-badge holders.

Toilets:

- The main customer toilets are in the basement, which include a separate fully accessible toilet.
- There is an additional toilet for people with disabilities on the top floor next to the entrance to the lift.
- An emergency call-point is provided in the disabled toilets should assistance be required.

Reel Cinema

The REEL Cinema website contains no information on the disabled access and facilities at each Reel Cinema. Instead it suggests that cinema goers contact their local REEL Cinema for details.

National Centre for Early Music

The National Centre for Early Music is completely flat-floored throughout making it an accessible building for wheelchair users with or without an accompanied helper. The National Centre for Early Music has a state-of-the-art induction hearing loop to ensure good quality of sound.

There are two designated disabled car parking spaces in the adjacent car park, an entrance ramp and disabled toilet facilities. The Centre also has a copy of a Braille map of York City Centre, produced by the Royal Institute for the Blind, which visitors are welcome to consult.

Their website is also made more accessible as it offers viewers the option to increase the size of the text, translate the site into other languages, and to have the site read aloud.

The Barbican

York Barbican's runs an Access Scheme which entitles patrons with disabilities to concessionary ticket prices. Where patrons with disabilities need a carer to assist and attend an event, the combined cost is equivalent to the full cost of one ticket. Patrons with disabilities are also asked to provide their access requirements so that where possible, they can be seated appropriately.

York Barbican has step-free access into the auditorium, meeting rooms, restaurants and bars, and the first floor is accessible via a lift. Wheelchair spaces are located on Balcony Level in the 'slips' and in Stalls on either row A or row AA, whichever is the front row. Level access seating is located on Balcony row A and Stalls rows A, AA and BB (where rows AA and BB are

present). Each row B and above on both Stalls and Balcony involves 2 shallow steps.

Priority Accessible Seats are available to book for those who require level access. These seats also have extra leg room and are suitable for those with assistance dogs or who normally require an aisle seat.

The Barbican offers a wheelchair loan service (subject to availability) to help patrons to and from their Priority Access seats, and can be requested when booking tickets. However this does not include staff assistance and anyone borrowing a wheelchair must be able to use it independently or have the assistance of a carer or companion.

There is a hearing enhancement system in the auditorium and the monthly diary is available in alternative formats (large print and audio). Hearing and assistance dogs are welcome throughout the building and auditorium, and dog mats are available on request. Aisle seats can also be requested.

On Arrival:

- Disabled parking spaces are available at nearby Q-Park Kent Street. A parking voucher for the car park can be bought in advance for the reduced York Barbican rate of £5.00, valid from 3.00pm on the day of the concert until 9.00am the following morning. There are 4 disabled parking bays for Blue Badge holders in Q-Park Kent Street which are available on a first come, first served basis on the day.
- The main entrance/Box Office entrance of York Barbican has level access from the piazza on Paragon Street. The ground floor foyer spaces are all level access. There is a lift to the upper level (Balcony) and the lift has voice announcements and raised lettering on the control panel.

Toilets:

- An accessible toilet is available on both floors of the Barbican

Cafe/Shop:

- All bars and the Box Office have low level counter positions.

Grand Opera House

York Grand Opera House is a member of the Ambassador Theatre Group (ATG). Each of their 39 theatres has an Access Champion who is dedicated to ensuring that theatre goers with disabilities have a successful and enjoyable visit to the theatre.

They have developed Visual Stories for patrons on the autistic spectrum to improve their visit to the theatre. These Visual Stories are intended to help

prepare any new visitors for the experience of visiting a theatre and to familiarise them with their surroundings – see Visual Story for York Grand Opera House at Annex B.

Detailed information about each theatre's wheelchair spaces, accessible toilets, lift services and general accessibility is provided via each theatre's website in the 'Access' section.

Theatre goers are asked to explain their particular access requirements when booking tickets via the dedicated Access booking line and to specify if they are able to transfer or need a wheelchair space.

Patrons are recommended to arrive 30 minutes before a performance starts and to notify a member of staff if assistance is required. They recognise that many patrons are more comfortable transferring from their wheelchair to a theatre seat to watch a performance. They therefore ask that patrons let them know the type of chair that they will be transferring from to ensure the theatre is able to store it during the performance.

Each theatre also offers an 'At Seat Service' for any patrons with Access requirements. Front of House staff will take orders for drinks, ice cream, merchandise or kiosk items to be brought to the patron's seat, both before the performance and during the interval, and this free service can be requested on arrival.

Guide dogs are welcome in all ATG theatres and can be catered for. Patrons are asked to inform a member of staff about their dog at the time of booking to ensure that they are booked into the most appropriate and spacious seat.

Audio Described Performances – This is where a verbal commentary is given through infra-red headsets to assist patrons who are visually impaired. Headsets are collected on arrival at the theatre from a member of staff in the foyer. They explain how the headset works and set it to the correct channel.

A trained Audio Describer sits in a box at the back of the auditorium with a view of the stage and conducts the description live. An introduction is given prior to the show. During silent intervals in the show (e.g. when there is a scene change and no dialogue), verbal commentary describes the setting, costumes, characters, facial expressions, body language and action. The description does not interfere with the performance but fills in the gaps.

Captioned Performances -These are similar to television subtitles and give patrons who are deaf, deafened, or hard of hearing access to live performance. Captions can also be useful for those whose first language is

not English. The actors' words appear on display units at the same time as they are spoken or sung. These display units are placed in the set, next to the stage, or in the auditorium, and display speakers' names, sound effects and off-stage noises.

Most ATG theatres also have Sennheiser infra-red sound amplification systems installed, and offer two types of Hearing Enhancement Aids to support this system:

- Induction Loop Necklace – these are suitable for patrons already wearing a Hearing Enhancement Aid. Sound is amplified by putting the necklace around your neck, and switching hearing aids to the 'T' setting.
- Headsets – these amplify sound through earpieces similar to regular headphones. This is suitable for patrons without a Hearing Aid. Personal headphones can be worn if preferred.

Necklaces and headsets are collected from the theatre's cloakroom, which are normally situated in the theatre's main foyer. Theatre staff may request some form of deposit or identification when audio equipment is collected and this is returned on return of the equipment.

BSL interpreted / Signed performances – these are signed performances for the benefit of patrons who use sign language. Trained British Signed Language (BSL) signers usually stand to one side of the stage and interpret the script used by the performers at the same time as it is being performed.

Not all shows have Audio Described / Captioned / Signed performances - those that have are identified within brochures and online. The Access team is also aware when these performances are scheduled and are able to assist with booking requests, via the dedicated Access booking line, by email to the theatre's Access Champion, or in person at the Box Office. They can also advise on the best seats to book to ensure the best sight lines.

Each theatre's Access Champion can also provide additional resources, which might range from a synopsis of the show in CD format, a large print or Braille cast list, to an audio programme. Dependent on availability, these can be sent to patrons prior to the performance.

Upcoming Assisted Performances at York Grand Opera House:

- Captioned - Mon 22 Dec 2014 6:30pm Cinderella
- Audio-Described - Sat 20 Sep 2014 2:30pm York Stage Musicals present Sister Act

- Relaxed Performance - Mon 29 Dec 2014 2:00pm Cinderella

ATG also offer Touch Tours and Orientation Visits at all of their theatres. Touch Tours give patrons who are visually impaired the opportunity to go up on stage and touch parts of the set and any major pieces of scenery, props and costumes. This is to help audience members to immerse themselves in the imaginary world presented on stage. Not all shows have Touch Tours. But each theatre's Access Champion can advise on those that have and take Touch Tour bookings.

An orientation visit enable patrons to have a tour of the theatre prior to their visit, ask any questions, and learn a bit more about what they can expect from the theatre environment. They cover a typical patron's 'journey' from booking and collecting tickets to visiting the auditorium, the bars, chill out areas and accessible toilets. They are especially beneficial for patrons who use a wheelchair, for groups with additional requirements, for patrons on the autistic spectrum, or for those who are going to attend a Relaxed or assisted performance. They are usually organised on an ad hoc basis and can be arranged for individuals or groups depending on their needs. The majority of Orientation Visits will be arranged between 10am and 6pm on weekdays. It is possible to arrange visits at alternative times but if it's prior to a performance it means other audience members would be in the theatre at the time.

Theatre Royal

The Theatre Royal considers providing 'Access for All' an essential part of what they do and their mission as a theatre. They welcome all theatre-goers and provide an extensive range of services, and concessions for patrons with disabilities.

There are 6 wheelchair spaces in the stalls in the Main House and 4 in The Studio. There is no wheelchair access to other levels but there is an accessible toilet. There is also a wheelchair lift to The Studio and Café Bar, and there is wheelchair access and a wheelchair lift in the De Grey Rooms.

The Main House has a radio-based hearing aid system, and The Studio is fitted with an infra-red hearing aid system. Patrons are asked to inform the Box Office if they require these service when booking tickets.

Audio Description, Signed and Captioned Performances

Audio described, captioned and sign interpreted performances are available for most performances in the Main House with pre-show Touch Tours also available. These can all be booked in advance through the Box Office and they recommend that tickets for Audio Described performances are booked at least 24 hours in advance.

In addition, audio described and large print brochures are available, and guide dogs are welcome - the Theatre provides a 'dog sitting service' and water bowls.

Upcoming Assisted Performances at the Theatre Royal:

- Audio Described - Sat 7 Jun, 2:30pm & 7:30pm - Morecambe
- Audio Described - Sat 12 Jul, 2:30pm & 7:30pm - A Taste of Honey
- Audio Described - Thu 21 Aug, 2:30pm & 7:00pm & Sat 23 Aug, 2:30pm & 7:00pm - The Wind In The Willows

- Signed Performance - Sat 30 Aug, 2:30pm - The Wind In the Willows

- Captioned - Sat 23 Aug, 2.30pm - The Wind In the Willows

Abbreviations:

ATG – Ambassador Theatre Group

BSL – British Sign Language

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GRAND OPERA HOUSE YORK

Visual Story

Welcome to the Visual Story for the Grand Opera House Theatre in York.

This has been produced in order to aid those who are visiting the theatre for the very first time or for those with Autistic Spectrum Condition or indeed anyone who may find the information useful.

Welcome

This is the main entrance to the theatre.



Through these doors, you will see a sweet kiosk selling sweets and drinks. You can take your sweets and drink into the show.



If you need to collect your tickets from the box office, this is the entrance you will use. You may have to queue if it is busy.



If you need to enter the theatre without using stairs, you will be directed to a separate door. There is also a toilet in this area that you can use.



Staff – Ushers can answer any questions you have and they will show you where to sit.

This is a picture of an Usher, they will be wearing a white shirt and a black tie.



This is the foyer bar where you can buy drinks. There are also some seats where you can sit before the show starts.

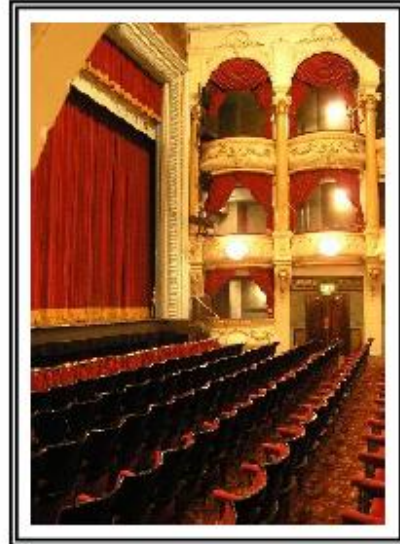


There are 3 levels in the auditorium.
If you are sitting upstairs in the Dress Circle or
Grand Circle, you will need to go up some
stairs.



Auditorium – the auditorium holds lots of seats where the audience see the stage.

This will have lights on when you enter.



When you arrive at your seat, you will notice they are pop-up style where you have to push them down in order to sit on them!



When the show is about to begin, the lights will go down so the auditorium is dark. This is when people will be quiet and try to sit still. There are some shows where you can join in.

It is fine to laugh during a show or to feel sad. At certain times during or after the show, people are likely to clap. You may join in with this but you don't have to.



~

Most of the time, there is an interval in the middle of the show which means the lights will come on again so everyone can see.

There will be a short time to visit the toilet or stay in your seats.

After the interval has finished, the lights will go down again like before and the show will re-start.

After the show has finished, the lights will come on and it is time for people to leave their seats and exit the theatre.

You may leave from a different door you came in. This is nothing to worry about; it just means it sometimes makes things easier and organised.

~



Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee

18 June 2014

Report of the Director of Children's Services, Education and Skills

Update on Stonewall Challenge**Summary**

1. This paper provides a summary update on the work of the City of York Council (CYC) Anti Bullying Strategy Group, led by the Senior Adviser Behaviour Attendance and Safety, to tackle homophobic bullying in York schools.

Background

2. Stonewall was founded in 1989 by a small group of women and men who had been active in the struggle against Section 28 of the Local Government Act. Section 28 was an offensive piece of legislation designed to prevent the so-called 'promotion' of homosexuality in schools; as well as stigmatising gay people it also galvanised the gay community. The aim from the outset was to create a professional lobbying group that would prevent such attacks on lesbians, gay men and bisexuals from ever occurring again. Stonewall has subsequently put the case for equality on the mainstream political agenda by winning support within all the main political parties and now has offices in England, Scotland and Wales.
3. The Stonewall Education Equality Index has been running for 4 years and is a comprehensive annual benchmarking exercise for local authorities, which will showcase how well they are tackling homophobia and homophobic bullying in their schools and supporting lesbian, gay and bisexual young people in their local community.
4. The Senior Adviser Behaviour Attendance and Safety completed the 2013 Stonewall Education Index, in order to benchmark the work of the Local Authority (LA) and received feedback in July 2013; CYC was 32nd out of the 48 LAs who completed the index (There are 140+ LAs) with some very positive feedback and actions to take forward.

5. In addition, CYC has been running an online 'Stand Up for Us' anti bullying survey since 2011, with the aim of monitoring the prevalence and nature of bullying behaviour in primary and secondary schools in the City. In 2013, the survey was developed further to explore in more detail, aspects of physical health and emotional wellbeing.
6. In 2013, 1,559 Year 8 and 2,540 Year 4, 5 and 6 pupils completed the survey. The 2013 equality data from the Anti Bullying Survey showed that, although being called 'gay' was not the most prevalent reason for being bullied, it had increased slightly:

Because I am called 'gay' or 'lesbian' (Secondary Anti Bullying Survey)

2013: 67 (4.3%)

2012: 33 (2.8%)

2011: 84 (3.5%)

7. For this reason it became the focus for the CYC Anti Bullying Strategic Plan. The Senior Adviser Behaviour Attendance and Safety started working with the York Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transsexual (LGBT) Forum in 2012, liaising with the schools sub group in April 2013.

Consultation

8. Since January 2014 the Senior Adviser has liaised with the CYC Anti Bullying Strategy Group, Cllr Fitzpatrick, the LGBT School Group, The Youth Council and schools, to tackle homophobic bullying in schools. Simon Rodgers (AVIVA Stonewall volunteer) has worked in York High school (YHS) with staff and students to talk about his experiences as a gay student, the effect bullying had on him, and the effect that homophobic language has upon LGBT students. This piece of work was 'one of the best pastoral interventions I have ever done' - Deputy Head Teacher YHS. There have been no reported incidents of derogatory homophobic bullying since Simon Rodgers' workshops.
9. This good practice has been shared across the West of York cluster of schools (10 Primaries and 1 Secondary) and also at the Pastoral Leads meeting. All secondary schools have requested similar support through a workshop for staff and for pupils.

10. The 2014 Stonewall Index has been completed (with the support of LGBT members) and verbal feedback will be given on 25 June 2014 by the national school's Stonewall champion.
11. Consideration has been given to several options in order to develop and share the effective practice in York High school:
 - Secondary schools to enrol as Stonewall members by September 2014
 - Develop York Stonewall role models by September 2014
 - The Local Authority to become members of Stonewall
 - Schools to buy in 'Diversity Role Models'.

Analysis

12. After discussions with Pastoral Leads in April, it was decided that all secondary schools, not the Local Authority, should enrol as Stonewall members, as this would entitle each school visits from a 'role model' along with a bank of resources. It was also decided that, working with Simon Rodgers, (Stonewall volunteer) role models would be recruited from the York area and trained locally by Stonewall and the Local Authority.
And, York University LGBT students would provide advice/resources links for the LGBT Youth group web site.

Council Plan 2011-15

13. *'Protect Vulnerable People' - 'We will be sensitive to the possibilities of exploitation or extremism, and will continue to adopt a 'zero tolerance' policy for bullying in any form. Maintained, throughout difficult budget rounds, a forum for young people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or 'questioning' their sexuality, following representations from young people themselves.*

We will work relentlessly to ensure that no child, young person or community is at a relative disadvantage, removing all traces of discrimination from our systems and our interactions – with a particular focus on disabled children, the rising numbers of children from a black or minority ethnic background, and on those who are lesbian or gay or questioning their sexuality. This principle is as much about celebrating the positive as it is about eliminating the negative.'

Implications

14. **Financial** - Schools do not see the value of £400 to Diverse Role Models for a one off session. They would prefer to enrol as Stonewall members, so they have access to role models and resources, with the Local Authority supporting the recruitment and training of role models.
- Stonewall membership for schools - £150.00 pa
 - Training of York Stonewall role models will be met by Stonewall (No cost)
 - Stonewall membership for Local Authority £1,800.00 pa
 - Diversity Role Model one day visit £400.00 approximately
15. **Other - Benefits**
- A reduction in the number of homophobic related instances in schools across the York area
 - Secondary Schools will be able to work with cluster Primary schools
 - Young people have access to a range of resources designed to help, support and guide them on LGBT related matters
 - School team staff are more informed and have the motivation and confidence to deal with LGBT matters.
 - Support and guidance is available to the wider community on LGBT related matters, for example parents, guardians, community leaders etc.
16. There are no known HR, Legal, ITT or other implications associated with the recommendation in this report

Risk Management

17. All Stonewall role models to be Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checked.

Recommendations

18. Members are asked to note the update on the Stonewall Challenge and on the work of the CYC Anti Bullying Strategy Group.

Reason: In order to keep the Committee informed of the Council's work in support of Stonewall.

Contact Details

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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Jon Stonehouse

Director of Children's Services, Education &
Skills

Report Approved: **Date:** 9 June 2014

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Abbreviations

CYC - City of York Council

LA - Local Authority

LGBT - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transsexual

YHS - York High school

DBS - Disclosure and Barring Service

Background Papers: N/A

Annexes: N/A

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Meeting Dates	Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Work Plan 2014-15
Wed 18 June 2014 @ 5pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. York Museums Trust – Partnership Delivery Plan Bi-annual Update Report 2. Introductory Report on Potential Topics for Review in this Municipal Year 3. Overview Report on CYC Stonewall Challenge (Yvette Bent) 4. Workplan 2014/15
Wed 16 July 2014 @ 5pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. York Theatre Royal – SLA Performance Bi-annual Update Report 2. Bi-annual progress report on Safeguarding & Looked After Children 3. Year End Finance & Performance Monitoring Report 4. Overview Report on Project Plan for Narrowing the Gap (Maxine Squire) 5. Careers Review - Update on Implementation of Recommendations 6. Workplan 2014/15
Wed 17 Sept 2014 @ 5pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. School Improvement and Ofsted Update on Schools Performance (Maxine Squire) 2. First Quarter Finance & Performance Monitoring Report 3. Attendance of Chair of York @ Large 4. Interim Report for Scrutiny Review No.1 (Topic to be agreed) 5. Workplan inc. verbal update on ongoing review(s)
Wed 19 Nov 2014 @ 5pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. York Museums Trust – Partnership Delivery Plan Bi-annual Update Report 2. Explore York Libraries and Archives Mutual Ltd SLA & Bi-Annual Update 3. Second Quarter Finance & Performance Monitoring Report 4. Update on the work of Corporate Parenting Board 5. School Results Outturn 6. Workplan 2014/15
Wed 21 January 2015 @ 5pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. York Theatre Royal – Service Level Agreement Performance Bi-annual Update Report 2. Bi-annual progress report on Safeguarding & Looked After Children 3. Attendance of Chair of Learning City 4. Update on Implementation of Children & Families Bill (Eoin Rush) 5. GCSE Results Update 6. Workplan inc. verbal update on ongoing review(s)
Wed 18 March 2015 @ 5pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attendance of Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Young People's Services – Update on priorities and challenges for 2014/15 2. Attendance of Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture & Tourism – Update on priorities and challenges for 2014/15 3. Third Quarter Finance & Performance Monitoring Report 4. Workplan 2014/15 & Possible Scrutiny Topics for 2015/16

