

**Corporate & Scrutiny Management Policy &
Scrutiny Committee**

13 June 2016

Report of the Assistant Director Governance & ICT

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

Summary

1. At a meeting of the full Council on 24 March 2016 Cllr D'Agorne submitted a motion under Standing Order 22 on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).
2. Council agreed to refer the motion to the Corporate & Scrutiny Management Policy & Scrutiny Committee for further consideration.

Background

3. To remind Members, Cllr D'Agorne's Motion was:
4. Council notes that:
 - The European Union (EU) and the USA launched negotiations in July 2013 on a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP);
 - Negotiations continue, seeking to protect international investors, harmonise standards, reduce tariffs and open new markets throughout the EU and USA;
 - Services within TTIP includes not just private but also public services;
 - There has been no assessment of the potential impact on local authorities and their services;
 - There has been no scrutiny or consultation with City of York Council or other local government representatives such as the Local Government Association (LGA) and our local MPs for York

Central or York Outer are also unable to scrutinise the negotiating documents;

- Our twin municipality of Munster in Germany passed a resolution in 2014 to reject TTIP;
- Our twin municipality of Dijon in France passed a resolution in 2014 to ask for the full involvement of local authorities in free trade negotiations and public disclosure of all texts on the TTIP negotiations.

5. Council believes that:

- TTIP could have a significant impact on local services, employment, suppliers and decision-making;
- A thorough impact assessment of TTIP on local authorities must be carried out before the negotiations can be concluded;
- The proposed Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism has been used by corporations to overturn democratic decisions by all levels of governments at significant public cost. Local decision-making must be protected from ISDS;
- The EU's food, environmental and labour standards are better than those in the US and TTIP negotiations must raise and not lower these standards across the EU and USA;
- Sourcing supplies and employment locally is important to strengthening local economies and meeting local needs. TTIP must not impact on local authorities' ability to act in the best interests of their communities.

6. Council resolves:

(i) That appropriate officers report to the Executive analysing the potential impact of TTIP upon the Council and its services, with a view to:

- writing to the Secretary of State for the Environment and Local Government, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the MPs for York Central and York Outer and all Yorkshire and the Humber MEPs, as well as the Local

Government Association, raising the serious concerns of the City of York Council about the potential impact of TTIP on our local authority and the secrecy of the negotiating process.

(ii) That any report to the Executive addresses the feasibility of and resource implications associated with:

- calling for a full assessment of the impact of TTIP on local authorities;
- joining with other local authorities that are opposed to TTIP across Europe and work with local campaigners to raise awareness about the potential impact of TTIP;
- developing local supply chains and business networks through better advertising and promotion of what local companies can provide;
- reviewing the council's own procurement policies to promote as much as possible the take up of locally produced and fair trade food;
- enhancing the support to York's diversity of small, independent and locally based shops;
- developing a Local Food Strategy for York in conjunction with the health service and producer groups in our region (including the promotion of local supply chains and networks, support for producers and feasibility studies into increasing the local production of high quality healthy food in the region).

7. At a CSMC meeting on 9 May 2016 the Committee agreed to refer motion element (i) back to full Council and to consider motion element (ii) at this meeting as a work plan item to decide whether any potential review will add value to support One Planet York (annexes A and B)
8. The recommendations to develop local sourcing have to be considered in light of CYC's obligations to abide by EU procurement law and therefore we are limited in how we achieve this. CYC can encourage local supply chain and evaluate positively for local supply but cannot discriminate against non local suppliers..

9. The key to developing a sustainable local economy – a resilient “One Planet” city – is growing the circular economy to keep money flowing around the city as much as possible by procuring, spending and trading locally.
10. Similarly developing local supply chains is part of the circular economy including local B2B trading; sharing and collaboration; and a directory of like-minded (e.g. value based) businesses such as the emerging One Planet York pledging network. These have the advantage of cutting transport and carbon emissions, sustaining local jobs and building city resilience against global financial shocks. In some ways the process of embedding One Planet thinking into our core organisational processes over the coming months will go some way towards this.

Local Food Strategy

11. Developing a local food strategy is likely to be an intensive exercise with no current resources to do it.
12. However, sustainable food is one of the One Planet York’s ‘10 principles’, but would need resourcing. York is at the heart of one of the most diverse food producing regions in the UK so it is an opportunity to capitalise on this.
13. There are several good examples of city food strategies that York could emulate that would have linkages into a host of other agendas – healthy eating/lifestyles / local economies / sustainable transport / sustainable procurement / food security etc. Bristol’s food strategy was led by University of Bristol via funding they applied for with backing from Bristol Green Capital Partnership – their ‘One Planet York’ equivalent. It is this type of thinking One Planet York has potential to open up. It is feasible so long as there is finance and capacity to support its development.
14. Enhancing the support of York’s diversity of small, independent and locally based shops is already on the agenda. Cllr Hayes, who is also chairman of the Bishopthorpe Road Traders’ Association, has been involved in the development of an Indy York App pointing visitors and residents to independent shopping areas in the city.

Options

15. Having considered the information provided in this report and by Officers, Members can decide if there is merit in considering further work on motion element (ii) to feed into work being done by One Planet York.

Council Plan

16. This report links to the focus on frontline services, a council that listens to residents and a prosperous city for all elements of the Council Plan 2015-19.

Risks & Implications

17. There are no direct risk implications associated with the recommendation in this report.

Recommendation

18. The Committee needs to consider whether there will be added value undertaking further work on motion element (ii) to complement work already being done by One Planet York.

Reason: To decide if members want to agree to further work.

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**Report
Approved**



Date

3 June 2016

Wards Affected:

All



Annexes

Annex A: One Planet York Prospectus 2016

Annex B: One Planet York Strategy