



**Notice of a
Decision Session - Executive Member for Culture, Leisure &
Tourism**

To: Councillor Ayre (Executive Member)

Date: Tuesday, 18 April 2017

Time: 4.30 pm

Venue: The King John Room (GO59) - West Offices

A G E N D A

Notice to Members – Post Decision Calling In:

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in any item* on this agenda, notice must be given to Democratic Services by **4:00 pm on Thursday 20 April 2017.**

*With the exception of matters that have been subject of a previous call in, require Full Council approval or are urgent which are not subject to the call-in provisions. Any called in items will be considered by the Corporate and Scrutiny Management Policy and Scrutiny Committee.

Written representations in respect of items on this agenda should be submitted to Democratic Services by **Wednesday 12 April 2017 at 5.00 pm**

1. Declarations of Interest

At this point in the meeting, the Executive Member is 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 Decision Session held on 13 March 2017.

3. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting, members of the public who have registered their wish to speak at the meeting can do so. The deadline for registering is **Thursday 13 April 2017 at 5.00 pm.**

Members of the public may register to speak on :-

- an item on the agenda
- an issue within the Executive Member's remit;

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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/download/downloads/id/11406/protocol_f_or_webcasting_filming_and_recording_of_council_meetings_20160809.pdf

4. York Museums Trust Funding 2017-20 (Pages 5 - 16)

This report sets out the funding agreement between the Council and York Museums Trust (YMT) for the period 2017-20.

5. Improving York's Parks and Gardens (Pages 17 - 26)

This report seeks approval for phase 1 of the *Improving York Green Spaces Community Project*.

6. Urgent Business

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

Democracy Officer:

Name- Judith Betts

Telephone No.- 01904 551078

Email-judith.betts@york.gov.uk

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports 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 własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

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

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	Decision Session - Executive Member for Culture, Leisure & Tourism
Date	13 March 2017
Present	Councillor Ayre (Executive Member)
In Attendance	Councillor K Myers

28. Declarations of Interest

At this point in the meeting, the Executive Member was asked to declare any personal, prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests not included on the Register of Interests that he might have had in the business on the agenda. He declared that he had none.

29. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the Decision Session held on 16 January 2017 be approved and then signed by the Executive Member as a correct record.

30. Public Participation

It was reported that one Member of the Council had requested to speak in respect of Item 4 (Haxby and Wigginton Library).

Councillor Richardson, Ward Member for Haxby and Wigginton, spoke in support of the Memorial Hall project and the need to provide an up to date and easily accessible facility, which met the needs of the community, at the earliest opportunity.

It was noted that a written representation had also been received from Councillor Ian Cuthbertson regarding the same item, in support of Option A as described under Options and Analysis of Options on pages 5-7 of the report.

31. Haxby and Wigginton Library

The Executive Member considered a report which set out options for investment in a replacement library for Haxby and Wigginton and asked the Executive Member to approve the use of the Council's capital funding to invest in the Memorial Hall project and to co locate a new library in their premises.

Resolved: That the Executive Member approves:

- a) The use of the Council's capital funding to invest in the Memorial Hall project and to co-locate a new library in their premises.
- b) The terms of the funding and the timescales for delivery as set out in the report.
- c) Delegated authority to the Director of Economy and Place to agree the lease duration and other terms with the Memorial Hall trustees to ensure value for money is obtained.

Reason: To establish an in-principle commitment and proposed timescale for a new library that will improve the quality of the library service for Haxby and Wigginton residents.

32. An Approved Trader Scheme

The Executive Member considered a report which recommended the strengthening of the partnership between City of York Council and Age UK and support for their Home Services Directory and a partnership with Checkatrade to form a new Trading Standards Approved scheme for local traders in the York area.

It was confirmed that in addition to being able to obtain approved traders' information via a website and mobile app, a printed directory would be delivered to homes and businesses, to ensure that those without access to the internet were not excluded from the scheme.

Resolved: That the Executive Member:

- a) Notes the contents of the report.
- b) Agrees to strengthen the partnership with Age UK.
- c) Agrees a new partnership between City of York Council Trading Standards (part of Public Protection) and Checkatrade

Reason: To support the council's priorities to create jobs and grow the economy, to build stronger communities and to protect vulnerable people.

Councillor Ayre, Chair

[The meeting started at 4.30 pm and finished at 4.55 pm].

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Executive Member for Culture, Leisure & Tourism**18 April 2017**

Report of the Corporate Director of Children, Education and Communities

York Museums Trust Funding 2017-20**Summary**

1. This report sets out the funding agreement between the Council and York Museums Trust (YMT) for the period 2017-20.

Recommendations

2. The Executive Member is asked to approve the Funding Agreement.
Reason: To ensure a vibrant and sustainable museums service over the long-term.

Background

3. In April 2016, following a scrutiny review, the Executive agreed that:
 - a) In regard to the Council's financial contribution to YMT:
 - o A Funding Agreement be developed and maintained consisting of four elements:
 - Common Partnership Objectives for Museums Provision
 - Reporting Mechanisms
 - A 5 year rolling Financial Plan
 - A projected Capital Development Plan to inform the Council's consideration of its support of YMT's capital development programme
 - b) In regard to future custodianship arrangements:
 - o A consistent charitable framework be implemented for all assets and collections, which together with the proposed Funding Agreement, will replace the various current legal agreements.

- c) To ensure YMT can operate as an effective business-like charity:
- The Common Partnership Objectives for Museums Provision set out in the report be endorsed as the partnership's long- term shared intentions
 - Reporting arrangements be adopted whereby Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee receive bi-annual reports on developments and challenges with respect to the Common Partnership Objectives, the Financial Plan and the Capital Development Plan as the basis for discussion on shared opportunities for the partnership between the Council and YMT
4. This report provides the elements required under section a) above.
 5. The proposed future custodianship arrangements (section b) will be reported to the Executive in due course.
 6. The scrutiny review of the Council's relationship with YMT that reported to the Executive in April last year, recognised that it is essential for the Council to continue to make an annual revenue contribution to YMT and recognised that the Council would need to provide YMT with as much certainty about its funding contribution over the life of the 5 year financial plan as it could (recognising that the Council cannot commit future administrations with regard to grant funding levels).
 7. It was agreed that the Council's financial contribution should be in respect of the core purpose of maintaining and operating the museums.
 8. The Scrutiny Committee noted that the financial plan would need to provide for a healthy bottom line that would provide a contingency against shortfalls in income, build up depleted cash reserves, assist with the cash-flow requirements of capital projects, and provide match funding for capital projects
 9. The Scrutiny Committee also recommended a process for reviewing the Council's financial support to YMT through an annual discussion to take place between YMT and the Council. In support of that discussion YMT would provide their refreshed 5 year financial plan and an updated capital development plan. It was proposed that this annual discussion take place during August-September each year so that the product of the discussion could be factored into the

Council's annual budget setting process. Once the budget for the following financial year is set in February the updated Funding Agreement can be formalised by the Executive Member.

10. This process was followed during 2016/17 and resulted in the following decisions agreed at Budget Council:
 - Revenue funding to YMT being set at £407k for 2017/18, £307k for 2018/19 and £307k for 2019/20
 - Capital investment of £800k in 2017/18 to support the ongoing investment in the museum product across all sites over 2017-20Revenue funding in 2016/17 was £607k which means that council funding to YMT has been maintained at the same level overall across the period 2017-20. Additionally, the Council has agreed:
 - Capital funding to progress a major scheme for the refresh and refurbishment of the Castle Museum of £200k per annum in each of the three year 2017-20

The Funding Agreement

11. The funding agreement is to consist of four elements:
 - i. Common Partnership Objectives for Museums Provision
 - ii. Reporting Mechanisms
 - iii. The 5 year rolling Financial Plan
 - iv. The Projected Capital Development Plan
12. **The Common Partnership Objectives** for Museums Provision as agreed by the Executive are:
 - Creation of museum and gallery provision capable of contributing to positioning York as a world class cultural centre
 - Provision that is a source of inspiration and enjoyment for all and a stimulus for learning and skills development
 - The protection and conservation of the collections, gardens and buildings for future generations including improved storage
 - Promotion of the city's museums and collections through a varied range of activities which could include exhibitions, displays, community projects, volunteering opportunities, formal learning for schools, informal activities for families, and adult learning
 - Increased access to the city's collections, gardens and buildings and increasing visitor numbers, especially young people

- Recognition of the special significance of the museums and gallery for York residents through the maintenance of pricing incentives for York residents and opportunities for free access
 - The facilitation of access for those most likely to be excluded through a range of outreach activities and pricing mechanisms
 - Excellent customer service and visitor experience
 - Improved public realm through capital investment and imaginative interpretation schemes
 - Active international partnerships to enhance public programmes, to increase YMT's and the city's reputation, and to raise funds
 - Retention of registered museum status and development of the designated collections to ensure maximum public benefit
 - The maintenance of the Museum Gardens on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest maintained and the register of botanical gardens
 - Public access to the Museum Gardens daily (except relevant Christmas / New Year holidays) unless closure is necessary for reasons of public safety
 - Effective, open and transparent governance including an effective access and equalities policies covering trustees and staff recruitment practices
13. Biannual **Reporting arrangements** to Learning and Culture Policy & Scrutiny Committee are already in place.
14. **The 5 year rolling Financial Plan** is attached at Annex 1. The Financial Plan is based on YMT's strategic plan and takes account of YMT's application for four years of National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) funding from Arts Council England which, if successful, will provide £1.23m of revenue funding from 2018 to 2022. The strategic plan has five objectives:
- The York Castle Museum major capital project and developing the Castle area as a cultural quarter
 - Excellent, high profile programming, including strategic YMT-led events to attract visitors to York and high quality exhibitions at York Art Gallery
 - Expanding Enterprises, building on success, becoming a more business-like charity and increasing our income streams and resilience

- Ensuring a high-quality, 21st century visitor experience, proactively engaging visitors and sharing narratives
- Improving York's and York Museum Trust's profiles through local, regional and international leadership, partnership and delivering on all the expectations of key stakeholders

15. These objectives emphasise two significant growth strategies:

- In the short to medium term, investment in the high quality public programme of exhibitions and events in order to attract and new and repeat visitors to YMT's main venues, and,
- In the longer term, major capital investment with the main priority being York Castle Museum, as part of the wider Castle Gateway scheme.

These are reflected in YMT's application to Arts Council England for National Portfolio Organisation funding.

16. Excellent, high profile programming is a headline priority. YMT has already developed a strong reputation for ambitious exhibition programming inspired by the city's nationally important Designated collections, together with original research, exciting artists - local, national and international - and using innovative and engaging interpretation. Over this period YMT will deliver an ambitious major public programme with significant new offers each year at York Castle Museum (YCM), York Art Gallery (YAG), Yorkshire Museum (YM), and the Museum Gardens (MG) together with programme at St. Mary's Castegate (YSM). The programme will include internationally important cultural experiences that will draw visitors to York, will be drawn from our local collections and will create appreciation of York as a world class cultural centre. The indicative programme at this stage is as follows:

17. 2017-18:

- YCM - Chocolate: York's Sweet Past
- YAG - Albert Moore: Of Beauty and Aesthetics; Picasso: Ceramics from the Attenborough Collection; Paul Nash and the Uncanny Landscape: An Exhibition Curated by John Stezaker
- YM - Viking: Rediscover the Legend (Partnership with the British Museum)
- YSM - Susan Aldworth - The Dark Self (Partnership with University of York)

18. 2018-19:

- YCM: exhibition of Vivienne Westwood shoes
- YAG: exhibitions on internationally important ceramic artist Lucie Rie in collaboration with Lakeland Arts and Pallant House; 'The Sea is the Limit' with works by international contemporary artists exploring themes of migration; 'Strata' showcasing international digital artists including Isaac Julien and Superconductor in partnership with FACT; 'The BFG in Pictures'
- YM: exhibition on 'Jurassic Yorkshire' drawing on YM collections including the popular ichthyosaur

19. 2019/20:

- YCM: a commission to artist Nick Veasey to explore social history objects; 'People's Choice' exhibition selected by the public
- YAG: exhibitions on York born contemporary artist Harland Miller which we tour to other venues; 'Turner / Ruskin' research led exhibition in partnership with Lakeland Arts and the University of York (UoY) which will tour to Abbot Hall, Kendal; Netherlandish art around Dierich Bouts in partnership with the National Gallery and UoY
- YM: Roman exhibition based on new research into the collections

20. 2020/21 and 2021/22:

- YCM: 'Castle Lives' highlighting the stories of the people who lived, worked or were imprisoned throughout the Castle's history
- YM: exhibition of European Medieval art
- YM celebration of the bicentenary of YM founding organisation the Yorkshire Philosophical Society (YPS)

21. YMT has a track record of strong financial management and income generation, driven by the need to adapt to a changing financial environment. YMT will continue their success by:

- Growing visitor numbers and, therefore, admissions income and Gift Aid
- Expanding York Venues' successful wedding and conference business
- Expanding the new membership scheme and building a base of loyal supporters

- Utilising the improved asset that is York Museum Gardens
 - Utilising the improved asset that is York Art Gallery
 - Raising funds for further capital investment in the public offer
 - Expanding their fundraising capacity and broadening their funding base
22. YMT's business model of charging for admissions, and offering good value annual memberships, means that growth in visitor numbers translates directly into improved financial sustainability. Retail and catering profits are also linked closely to visitor numbers whilst increasing commercial revenue is another key priority for YMT. The forecast shows growth in admissions income, YMT Card sales, Gift Aid and Enterprises income up until 2021, when York Castle Museum figures will begin to be affected by the major capital works.
23. In terms of reserves, the plan shows that a surplus of c.£400k in 2016-17 will boost YMT's General Reserve to c.£1.9m, which is approximately the equivalent of 3 months' expenditure and in line with its target. Council revenue funding is due to reduce by £200k in 2017-18 and a further £100k in 2018-19 and the lower projected revenue surpluses reflect those decreases. YMT is still aiming to grow overall revenue income during 2017-2020, from £6.55m to £7.1m, but increasing costs are associated with that growth and expenditure is forecast to increase from £6.15m to £7.1m over the same period.
24. By 2020/21 YMT is aiming to have a General Reserve of c.£2m to mitigate against risk and provide some working capital for its development projects. Aside from the development projects, there are significant risks associated with this business plan. In particular, YMT is increasingly reliant on visitor related income; it should be noted that visitor numbers can vary significantly due to many factors outside of YMT's control. Another key risk at the moment is the outcome of the NPO application. (The outcome will be known by July 2017). YMT also aims to create a Capital Reserve to support its capital investment ambitions and will need to raise funds accordingly (see separate plan).
25. The forecast from the calendar year 2021 onwards shows the projected, temporary impact of the capital project at York Castle Museum on revenue income and costs. This suggests that YMT will need further support during this important transitional period.

26. **The Capital Development Plan** will focus on the Castle Museum. Long-term sustainability requires periodic capital investment and partnership is key to this in YMT's approach. YMT is working in partnership with the council, English Heritage and a private developer within the Castle Gateway project to fulfil the transformational potential of the Castle Museum redevelopment project. The council has supported this with £600k over 2017-20 in order to assist with the drawing up of a scheme and funding bids including to the Heritage Lottery Fund. Further capital support will be required from the Council, assuming the bid is successful, in order to deliver the scheme.
27. The development of this project ties in strongly with the City's Economic Strategy 2016-20, which commits to "develop a new iconic public open space around Eye of York, with architecture that is an attraction in itself and reason to re-visit/re-think York, and where things happen." In January 2017 the Executive approved a vision which included: "The redevelopment of the Castle Museum and Clifford's Tower as the anchor cultural attractions for the Castle Gateway area."
28. YCM's collection, with c.350k objects, is one of the best social history resources in the UK and its importance makes it the equivalent of a national museum of everyday life. YCM has benefitted from a series of medium-scale investments, including a £2m access, infrastructure and exhibitions spaces project in 2014. Nevertheless, and despite YMT's successes and awards, the infrastructure and visitor facilities remain inadequate and the building fabric needs significant conservation work. YMT has ambitious plans to address this through a significant project which will improve facilities, create new exhibitions, and reinterpret the collections and the Scheduled Monument. By 2022 YMT aim to be on site with a project that will build a high quality architectural intervention to link our two buildings, provide disabled access to all floors, improve the visitor experience and create new spaces for income generation. New displays and exhibitions will make YCM a must-see, welcoming place which tells the national story of the Castle area as a power base in the North of England and how that power impacted on ordinary people. Its collections, period rooms and immersive environments will show how extraordinary the everyday, ordinary lives of people become when seen through the lens of time. York stories from Rowntree to Dick Turpin and the voices of York people will be threaded throughout adding to the sense of place, offering a 21st century experience where the past

has contemporary resonance, where visitors choose how to experience, enjoy, and explore the site and collections, and where history is accessible to all.

29. During 2018-20 YMT will be in the latter stages of testing and consultation in order to finalise development plans. Programming at YCM will include two exhibitions: 'Peoples Choice' and 'Castle Lives' that will enable YMT to gather more input from local people in 2019/20, and a year of testing a range of digital interactives, immersive experiences and resource areas in the Castle Museum.
30. The major capital project will also dove-tail with another project to greatly improve collections storage and management. YMT will deliver a new storage project involving relocation, documentation and digitisation of the collection and will improve the storage conditions, making them more accessible.

Options

31. Options open to the Executive Member include:
 - a) To approve the Funding Agreement
 - b) To propose amendments

Analysis

32. The Funding Agreement as proposed represents the best opportunity for YMT to build on its record of success. Rather than trying to invent a new business model, or drastically reducing their activity, their proposed strategy will be to build on the successes that have already been achieved in order to ensure a sustainable future for the city's museums.

Implications

33. **Finance:** The implications are set out in the body of the report, particularly at paragraph 7. The proposed revenue and capital allocations to YMT can be funded within the current budgets that were agreed at the 2017 budget council meeting.
34. **Equalities:** The investment programme in York Castle Museum will ensure significant improvement in accessibility to that institution.
35. The report has no additional implications relating to: Human Resources, Legal, Crime and Disorder, Information Technology, Property.

Annex 1: 5 Year Rolling Financial Plan

For further information please contact the author of the report.

Contact Details

Author:	Chief Officer Responsible for the report:		
Charlie Croft Assistant Director, Communities, Culture & Public Realm	Jon Stonehouse Corporate Director of Children, Education and Communities		
	Report Approved	✓	Date 4 April 2017
Specialist Implications Officers: Not applicable			
Wards Affected:			All ✓
<i>For further information please contact the author of the report</i>			

Budget and Indicative Forecasts
March 2017

York Museums Trust

General Fund Income & Expenditure - £'000

	Forecast Total 2016/17	Budget Total 2017/18	Indicative Forecast Total 2018/19	Indicative Forecast Total 2019/20	Indicative Forecast Total 2020/21	Indicative Forecast Total 2021/22
Income						
Admissions	2425	2423	2603	2627	2327	900
YMT Card Sales	290	347	403	445	445	345
Gift Aid	280	284	308	330	298	134
ACE MPM / NPO	1230	1230	1230	1230	1230	1230
CYC (General Revenue)	605	407	307	307	307	307
Enterprises Income	1254	1403	1456	1525	1601	1481
Museum Development	332	332	339	339	339	339
Other Unrestricted Income	133	234	267	304	327	351
Total General Fund Income	6549	6659	6913	7106	6873	5086
Charitable Expenditure						
Costs incurred by Enterprises	920	1013	1065	1114	1125	936
Curatorial	586	648	647	658	660	662
Learning	371	389	401	407	409	391
Exhibitions & Events	224	451	604	675	735	545
Gardens	213	220	225	227	228	229
Marketing	521	548	552	558	563	469
Premises	642	651	656	671	682	603
Visitor Services	1078	1047	1024	1042	1045	598
Admissions	131	127	130	132	132	82
Trust Central Costs	1134	1180	1176	1173	1194	1176
Museum Development	332	334	341	341	341	341
	5232	5595	5756	5882	5989	5096
Total General Fund Expenditure	6152	6608	6821	6996	7114	6032
Increase in General Reserve	397	51	92	110	(240)	(946)
B/F General Reserve	1465	1862	1914	2005	2115	1875
Transfers to Designated Capital Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-
C/F General Reserve	1862	1914	2005	2115	1875	929
CYC Capital Funding		800				
Capital Expenditure		300	300	200		
Capital Reserve Surplus / (Deficit)	-	500	200	-	-	-

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**Decision Session - Executive Member for
Culture, Leisure and Tourism****18 April 2017**

Report of the Corporate Director of Economy and Place

Improving York's Green Spaces**Summary**

1. This report seeks approval for phase 1 of the *Improving York Green Spaces Community Project*.

Recommendations

2. The Executive Member is asked to approve funding for those schemes identified in paragraph 9.

Reason: To harness the talents and energies of the community and to support more sustainable care of the city's green spaces.

Background

3. At the Decision Session of the Executive Member for Economic Development & Community Engagement, in consultation with the Executive Members for Environment, and Culture, Leisure & Tourism, on 10 May 2016, approval was given to use £50k per annum for two years, 2016-18 to develop new volunteering opportunities via voluntary sector organisations.
4. Two areas were identified where this funding might most effectively be used:
 - a) By using the expertise of the sector to encourage and to support volunteering – to reach new groups and organisations who have not traditionally been involved
 - b) By targeting those wards where the affects of previous budget reductions have been greatest – those in which the city's main parks and gardens are located
5. York CVS were approached to champion this initiative, given their wide reach within the voluntary sector. They were asked to:
 - Promote the availability of the funding

- Undertake consultation to better understand community needs and opportunities
- Approach individual organisations to promote take up of the scheme
- Convene voluntary sector organisations through workshops to generate ideas and encourage innovation and collaboration
- Invite bids from individual organisations or consortia
- Assessing expressions of interest received and making recommendations to the Council
- Manage the funding on behalf of the Council

The possibility was also left open that CVS would also play a day to day delivery and coordination role if other appropriate voluntary organisations, qualified to do this, did not come forward; however, this has not proved necessary on the basis of the bids received.

6. CVS launched the scheme under the banner of Growing Green Spaces <http://www.yorkcvs.org.uk/growing-green-spaces/>.
7. Available funding available was specifically aimed towards five sites:
 - Rowntree Park
 - West Bank Park
 - Glen Gardens
 - Hull Road Park
 - Clarence Gardens
8. CVS have done a significant piece of work in bringing this project to life; given the complexity of the project and the nature of the consultation required it has taken longer to bring to fruition than originally envisaged. Under the circumstances it is proposed to extend the scheme to the end of March 2019.

Proposals

9. The following proposals have been received and are recommended by CVS for acceptance:
 - a) Rowntree Park: this bid is lead by the Friends of Rowntree Park (FRP) who want both to increase their care of the existing shrub / herbaceous borders and to develop new garden features which will widen the appeal of the Park and show what the community can do. Partners in this bid include:

- YUMI Intercultural York who will collaborate with FRP to engage people from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities, run events, advise on gardening and volunteering.
- Brunswick Organic Nursery who will design and install raised beds.
- York Cares who will provide work-place volunteers

Future sustainability will be demonstrated by FRP having increased levels of experience, knowledge and skills across both horticulture and managing volunteers. The number and variety of volunteers working in the park will have increased thus ensuring that work undertaken can be sustained and have scope to take on more aspects of the park. Funding proposed: £17,150.

- b) West Bank Park: A bid by Blueberry Academy with the support of the Friends of West Bank Park. The project will be undertaken by the Blueberry Academy Gardening Team, which provides valuable work experience for trainees largely aged 18 to 24 with learning difficulties. The proposal is to create a sensory garden in the Park which will become an ongoing long term base from which the Academy can operate. Once the core project is up and running volunteers will be able to carry out further work in the park. Funding proposed: £6,000.
- c) Glen Gardens: A bid by Therapeutic Art and Play Therapy Yorkshire (TAPTY) with the support of the Friends of Glen Gardens and Refuge Action York (RAY). The project will see the group take over an existing shrub / herbaceous border removing it from council day to day care. RAY will be the main link to the volunteers, who will be supported through weekly gardening sessions. Future sustainability is proposed through aligning the project with the work on the Friends of Glen Gardens. Funding proposed: £6,000.
- d) Hull Road Park: A bid by The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) with potential support from York Flourish and Men's Shed. The project will see TCV provide weekly supported sessions with volunteers undertaking a range of horticultural and non horticultural tasks. TCV have already secured a small amount of Ward funding to pilot this idea during the spring and to run a *Ways to Wellbeing* programme in the area.

The new funding will enable TCV to run sessions at times which suit volunteers (outside of TCV's normal 9am to 4pm programme), so expanding the volunteer base. Carecent, who work with the homeless community in York along with other vulnerable people have already expressed an interest in signposting volunteers to this project. The project will focus on (but will not be restricted to) the care of a 100m long rockery, which will make a significant difference to the parks appearance.

Future sustainability is proposed through aligning the project with the work to other groups in the park, through the creation of a "Friends of" group and by giving volunteers the confidence and skills such that they can be signed up as an independent council volunteer if necessary. Funding proposed: £25,200.

- e) Clarence Gardens: This site is in most need of increased local community input and / or adoption by a city wide group. CVS and TCV will work together to achieve this. TCV will bring to the project the same approach and source of volunteers as the Hull Road Park scheme; CVS will continue to use their connects in the heath, social care and communities sectors to find possible long term partners.

The work programme will focus on schemes which reduce future maintenance obligations, improve the visual appearance of the Gardens and be better for wildlife. Funding proposed: £12,660.

- 10. All schemes are for two years ending March 2019. Release of 2018-19 funding will depend on satisfactory progress being made during 2017-18.

Consultation

- 11. As part of developing their promotion programme for the initiative CVS undertook site visits and met key stakeholder e.g. Friends of groups. Once the initiative was launched those organisations who submitted an expression of interested were invited to face to face meetings at Priory Street. All applicants consulted with council staff as they developed their expressions of interest.

12. After the closing date expression of interested were examined by CVS and Operations Manager Public Realm (Strategy and Contracts). This resulted in revised submission being submitted by TCV for a package of work limited to Hull Road Park and Clarence Gardens.

Options

13. Two options are available:
- a. To accept the proposals listed in a) to e) in paragraph 9.
 - b. Not to pursue this idea further.
14. Option a) will help to ensure that the green spaces continue to meet the aspiration set out at the Executive Member meeting 10th May 2016, namely that green spaces:
- Are of a high quality and, visually appealing,
 - Are clean and tidy,
 - Provide a range of volunteering events and activities involving local communities; and
 - Rowntree Park, West Bank Park, Glen Gardens and Clarence Gardens are maintained to Green Flag standard and Hull Road Park is assisted towards meeting the standard.

This is the option recommended by officers.

Future development

15. The funding allocated to the schemes set out in paragraph 9 above amounts to £67,010. It is suggested that the remaining funding is targeted at projects on sites where there remains on-going costs for the council but where there is currently this little or no community activity e.g. Rawcliffe Lake, North Street Gardens, Monk Bridge Gardens.
16. It is proposed that £12,500 is allocated to CVS. This will cover:
- The work that CVS has undertaken to date
 - Ongoing contact with the funded schemes, offering support for organisational development where needed, monitoring outcomes and reporting back to the Council
 - Seeking new partners and projects to deliver on the priorities set out in paragraph 15
17. It is proposed that the remaining £20,490 is retained to be allocated to further schemes to be developed during this second phase.

Council Plan

18. The option proposed in this report is in line with the Council Plan priorities that ensure valued community facilities are protected and the Council works with other organisations to deliver the best services for residents.

Implications

19. **Financial:** Funding for the above projects will met from the £100k allocated to this initiative at the Decision Session of the Executive Member for Economic Development & Community Engagement on 10 May 2016.

Equalities

20. The projects proposed offer a wide range of volunteering opportunities will enable many sectors of society to take part in the care of the city's green spaces.

Legal

21. There are no human resources, legal, crime and disorder, IT, property or other implications arising from this report.

Risk Management

22. In compliance with the council's risk management strategy the main risks that have been identified with the proposals contained in this report are that the task group fails to establish a new management model for the service. This may damage the council's reputation. Level of risk is assessed as "Very Low". This means that periodic monitoring is required of the operation of the new arrangements.

Background Papers:

CVS – <http://www.yorkcvs.org.uk/growing-green-spaces/>

Expressions of Interest held by report Author.

Annex 1 – Project organisations**Contact Details**

Author:	Chief Officer responsible for the report:		
Dave Meigh Operations Manager Public Realm (Strategy and Contracts)	Charlie Croft Assistant Director (Communities & Equalities)		
	Report Approved	✓	Date 04.04.17
Specialist Implications: None			
Wards Affected:		All	✓

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Annex 1 – Project organisations

Rowntree Park:

- Friends of Rowntree Park were established some 20 years ago; and, support the Park through an events and activity programme, including the summer fair. The volunteer conservation work was been expanded to include helping with the formal gardens 18 months ago. <http://www.rowntreepark.org.uk/>
- YUMI Intercultural York works with people who've come to live in York from all over the world, bringing people and cultures together. <http://interculturalyork.org/>
- Brunswick Organic Nursery in Bishopthorpe is a registered charity that offers purposeful work and training to people with learning disabilities (Workers) who are often excluded from having these chances. It provides Workers with the opportunity to develop their skills within the project and beyond. <http://www.brunswickyork.org.uk/>
- York Cares is an independent employee-volunteering charity, which brings businesses, employees and communities together to make York a better place. <http://www.yorkcares.co.uk/>

West Bank Park:

- Blueberry Academy has been operating in the Park for some six months and prior to that had been working in Glen Gardens. Their main aims are to promote employability and independence through tailored learning programmes and accessing real opportunities in the community and workplace. <http://www.blueberryacademy.co.uk/>
- Friends of West Bank Park were established some 20 years ago; and, support the Park through an events and activity programme, including the summer fair. <http://www.westbankpark.org/friends.htm>

Glen Gardens:

- Therapeutic Art and Play Therapy Yorkshire's aim is to promote and provide art and play therapy sessions to enhance social, emotional and mental well-being for all involved.
- Friends of Glen Gardens a volunteer group establish a little over 2 years ago. The friends support the Gardens by providing an overnight locking and unlocking service, undertaking gardening,

organise the summer fair and have just opened a kiosk serving hot drinks and cakes in the pavilion. <https://en-gb.facebook.com/glengardensheworth/>

- Refuge Action York works with refugees, asylum seekers and migrants from within and around the City of York. We provide a safe meeting point where people can learn seek information and support, learn new skills and languages and form lasting friendships. Through providing this support we hope to empower individuals to assist them in rebuilding their lives. <http://www.refugeeactionyork.org/>

Hull Road Park:

- The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) are very long standing national conservation charity (previously know at British Trust for conservation Volunteers). The York branch has worked with the City Council for at least two decades and their base in within walking distance of the park. <http://www.tcv.org.uk/yorkshire/tcv-york>
- York Flourish has been running a dementia friendly gardening group in the park for about 18 months. This summer Flourish will take on the running of the new community venue and cafe which is being installed on one of the old bowling greens in the Park <http://yorkflourish.org/>
- Men's Shed is a craft based project aimed at reducing male social isolation. This summer the York group will move into the old Park Ranger building. <http://menssheds.org.uk/what-is-a-mens-shed/>
- Ways to Wellbeing- This is a social prescribing project in York that connects people via their GP to non-medical activities that can support their health and wellbeing needs.
- Carecent is a breakfast centre for all homeless, unemployed or otherwise socially excluded members of our community based at Central Methodist Hall St Saviourgate. <http://www.carecent.org/>

Clarence Gardens:

- The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) see above
- Ways to Wellbeing see above
- Carecent see above