

Update on Implementation of Recommendations arising from a Previously Completed Scrutiny Review on Cultural Quarter & Casual Play

Summary

1. This report provides Members with an update on the implementation of the outstanding recommendations arising from the previously completed scrutiny reviews which fall within the remit of this overview & scrutiny committee. All other completed reviews that fall within this committee's remit have previously been signed off as complete.

Background

2. Cultural Quarter Review
The topic was originally registered in early 2008 by Councillor Hogg to examine the 'Vision' developed in 2007 for a Cultural Quarter for York, linking the city centre with development sites in York North West. Councillor Hogg suggested using the 2007 'Vision' document to explore the relationship between the six areas of the quarter including pedestrian and vehicular movement, design, open spaces, a river crossing, performance areas, lighting, landscaping, cultural production, promotion and public art.
3. The aim of the vision was to generate substantially more external funding than that which was currently being achieved through an ad hoc approach. The 'Vision' document recognised that getting the link between the city centre and York North West right, would support and guide future city centre development.
4. In coming to a decision to review the topic, the Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC) agreed to set up an Ad-hoc scrutiny committee to carry it out as at that time, there was no standing scrutiny committee with an appropriate remit. SMC recognised certain key objectives and the following remit was agreed:

Aim

To contribute towards achieving a long-term direction for the area between the National Railway Museum (NRM), York Railway Station and the Minster, and in doing so, to consider any positive and/or adverse effects on the city.

Objectives:

- i. To understand the Council's strategic approach, and that of its key partners, to the cultural design for the area.
 - ii. To contribute to a business plan for achieving the required funding for developing the area into a 'Cultural Quarter'
 - iii. To develop and establish some key principles, for guiding a collaborative approach to cultural development in the future, including connectivity to other areas of the city.
5. The recommendations arising from the review were approved by the Executive on 14 April 2009. This committee has received two previous updates on the implementation of the approved recommendations. In December 2009 the Committee agreed to sign off recommendations 4, 6 & 8 as fully completed, and in September 2011 Members signed off Recommendations 1, 5 & 7. This leaves two recommendations outstanding for which this report provides a further update at Annex A.
6. Casual Play Review
In October 2009, this committee considered a possible scrutiny topic submitted by Cllr Looker (in relation to casual play opportunities for young children, with a focus on the city centre. In deciding to proceed with the review, Members agreed that it should include a comparison between a city centre area and a village location, and should focus on play opportunities (for children within the age range of 5-11 years) rather than just play equipment.
7. In coming to that decision, this Committee recognised certain key objectives and the following remit was agreed:

Aim

To participate in the consultation on the revisions to CYC's Play Policy, and carry out a comparison of the play opportunities for 5-13yr olds, within a number of residential areas/wards (one city centre, one suburban and one village)

Objectives:

- i. to understand the different types of provision suitable for each type of area
 - ii. to assess the potential space within the identified areas/wards that could be utilised for play
 - ii. to recommend a strategy for the provision of suitable play opportunities within the identified areas
 - iii. To be consulted on the revisions to the Council's play policy and if appropriate, the Local Development Framework (LDF)
8. The recommendations arising from the review were approved by the Executive on 18 January 2011, and the first update on their implementation was provided in September 2011. At that time, Recommendation 1 was signed off leaving Recommendation 2 outstanding for which a further update is given in Annex B.

Consultation

9. The Head of Arts & Culture has provided the update information contained within Annex A, and the Head of Play & Young People's Cultural Entitlement has provided the update information contained within Annex B. Both will be present at this meeting to answer any questions arising.

Options

10. Members may decide to sign off any individual recommendations where implementation has been completed, and can:
- a. request further updates and the attendance of the relevant officers at a future meeting to clarify any outstanding recommendations relating to the above reviews or;
 - b. agree to receive no further updates on those reviews

Council Plan

11. The process of monitoring and ensuring the implementation of the approved recommendations arising from both these reviews, will contribute to making York a 'City of Culture' in line with the council's priority to:

'Inspire residents and visitors to free their creative talents and make York the most active city in the country, by providing high quality cultural and sporting activities for all'

12. In regard to the Casual Play review, it also supports the Council's aim to make York a 'Healthy City' by improving the provision of facilities for children and teenagers to participate in active play.

Implications

13. There are no known Financial, Human Resources, Equalities, Legal, ITT or Other implications connected to this report.

Risk Management

14. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, there are no known risks associated with this report.

Recommendations

15. Members are asked to note the contents of this report and agree which of the recommendations can be written off as fully implemented.

Reason: To raise awareness of those recommendations which have still to be implemented.

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Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annex A – Update on Cultural Quarter Scrutiny Review

Annex B – Update on Casual Play Review