

Leaders Report October 2018.

Local Enterprise Partnerships.

The Government is reviewing LEP boundaries, and has indicated an end to local authorities being in more than one LEP. The York and North East Yorkshire LEP have asked the Government to reconsider and retain the status quo, as the partnership it shares with the Leeds LEP has worked for all concerned. If this is not possible we have indicated that our preference would be for a North and West Yorkshire LEP, subject to agreement on governance. This is also the choice of the Leeds LEP, but no reply has been received from Westminster.

York Central

York Central is progressing at pace, with an outline planning application submitted in August, and a follow on reserved matters application for the access road and bridge due as soon as the outline is determined. An investment plan is on its way to Executive in November, outlining the business case for the Enterprise Zone. The Housing Infrastructure Fund bid will be submitted in December following a co-development process with Homes England and the detailed sign off of West Yorkshire Transport funds will take place in the New Year. This in turn will be followed by an Executive decision on a Partnership Agreement with York Central Partners in January 2019.

In summary by the spring York Central will, subject to planning and funding decisions, become a reality and early site works will commence in the first quarter of next year. This is an enormous step for the city in delivering economic growth space to promote our city on an international stage, and deliver much needed housing for this city, alongside the creation of quality public spaces, squares and a park and an extended NRM. Though there is still an enormous amount to do, it is a great achievement for the Council to bring forward a derelict and inaccessible site which has lain dormant for 50 plus years and use it to create a living, breathing, well designed addition to our proud city.

We are working with city partners and inward investors to attract businesses and jobs and with every passing week and ever greater certainty of delivery I believe that the excitement about the future of York

Central will continue to grow. We continue to support engagement with local communities and the city at large to ensure that the input we received through the Festival of York Central continues to influence the York Central Partnership as the scheme develops to ensure that real innovation is at the centre of how this new piece of our city takes shape.

Castle Piccadilly

Work package 1

The design and the pre-application process of both planning applications are well under way, and all detailed survey information from the sites was completed in the summer. The technical constraints as identified have resulted in challenges, but in most cases design solutions have been found that have actually improved the masterplan proposals. The biggest issue relates to a major Yorkshire Water sewer that crosses both the Castle Mills and St George's Field site. Through revised building designs the architects have been able to amend the proposals to avoid the main sewer, however the multi storey car park (MSCP) will require the diversion of the overflow sewer that runs from St George's Field pumping station in to the Ouse.

Unfortunately the diversion of this sewer is complex and this has resulted in Yorkshire Water significantly extending their statutory response period to the council's design proposals. This response should have been received in early October, allowing the planning application to be submitted by the end of the year. However, the current target response date we have been provided by Yorkshire Water is the end of December, meaning the applications will be submitted in early 2019.

Once the planning applications are submitted a report will be brought back to Executive to seek the capital funding for the construction of the MSCP and the delivery model for the new apartments at Castle Mills.

Work package 2

In April the Executive approved the continuation of the highly successful My Castle Gateway public engagement to continue to shape detailed proposals for the area. This is of particular importance for the new public space to replace Castle Car Park as it is crucial that our

communities are able to shape this exciting new part of the city. The next stage of the My Castle Gateway conversation will begin shortly to provide the architects with the public's development brief for the area. Once the work package 1 applications are submitted the architects will use this development brief to prepare options for consultation before planning applications are submitted by the end of 2019. This will allow all permissions and contractors to be in place to begin on site as soon as the MSCP is complete and Castle Car Park can close. To highlight:

- Next stage of public engagement through My Castle Gateway is about to begin to provide the development brief for work package 2
- The demolition of the derelict former Castle Mills car park has been carried out by Newby in return for using the land as a site compound for Ryedale House, saving the council £150k in demolition costs
- £1.4m grant funding has been secured towards the redevelopment of the Castle Mills site through Homes England's Accelerated Construction Programme (officers are currently assessing the attached conditions)
- Spark:York opened in May and has driven significant footfall and vibrancy to a neglected part of town
- £150k Leeds City Region funding has been secured to run a programme of events on Castle Car Park throughout 2019 to promote the area as a new public space
- This follows on from the pop-up Rose Theatre on Castle Car Park attracted 80,000 visitors over the summer, and which is proposed to return in summer 2019
- An immersive Viking Theatre experience is also proposed for early 2019
- £200k Leeds City Region funding has also been secured to help York Museums Trust (YMT) bring forward their Heritage Lottery Fund bid proposals for the Castle Museum so that the design work is dovetailed with the surrounding council masterplan

- A formal partnership between the council, YMT and English Heritage has been established to explore shared visitor centre and ticketing options
- Work will start before the end of the year to consult and develop the detail designs for the regeneration of Piccadilly

Local Plan

Officers continue to engage with the Government inspectorate to answer its initial queries regarding our draft plan. Whilst a formal reply will be submitted shortly there continue to be a number of different points of contact between the council and the Government to ensure that the plan remains on track.

Bootham Park Hospital.

We've joined forces with our two local MPs and York's Health Partners to consult on and to devise a plan for the future of the Bootham Park Hospital site.

This historic resource, which opened in 1777 as one of the country's first mental health hospitals, is a gem in the heart of York. With a brand new mental health hospital currently being built on Haxby Road it is timely that we work with partners to agree "what next" for Bootham Park.

The clock is ticking. The owner of the site – NHS Property Services – has started a sale process. The Council and the Hospital Trust are lobbying government to pause this sale while York reviews how the Bootham site, and adjacent land owned by the District Hospital and the Council, should best be used. Meanwhile, we are pressing on with consultation and the gathering of ideas.

Ideas include care and health accommodation to support older people leaving hospital care and returning to independent living. An apartment with care for older people, including those living with dementia, is another, obvious need. The combined site is also big enough to help deliver housing, including key worker accommodation for health staff; new health education facilities; commercial uses; and much needed play and open spaces.

The historic buildings will need careful conservation and re-purposing. This will require investment from private sector and other partners. That is why our approach is to seek all views before recommending what is best for Bootham Park.

Public consultation was launched on the 10th October and will last for three weeks. Exhibitions in the District Hospital and West Offices have already begun to collect many interesting ideas and comments. Events throughout October, tours and workshops will help shape the future of this site. I urge citizens and businesses to take part – go on line and search for “Bootham Park Site” or on Twitter “Bootham Park York”.

York Guildhall.

The Guildhall project is now out to tender with fully costed construction proposals due back before Christmas and a report to come back to Executive and then to full council in February to release the budget and commence construction. The indicative programme would lead to construction commencement in April 19 and a target completion by Oct 2020.

Community Stadium.

Together with others I attended the “Topping Out” ceremony at the new Stadium earlier this month. I can report that the build is on time, partners are continuing to secure new tenants for the retail space, and it is still on track to open early summer next year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Management, players and supporters of York City Knights on achieving promotion as champions. A fitting boost for the new stadium. I also hope that York City can emulate the Knights achievement and gain promotion from their lowly position and re-establish the Club to become successful and which the City can be proud of.

City Centre.

It is of concern that several high profile stores have left Coney Street in particular giving an impression of decline. Whilst that may be true of one particular area, I would urge members to read the recent Scrutiny report

which outlines the data, including the fact that York has the second lowest vacancy rate for city centre retail in the country.

It does not mean however that we should be complacent. Small Independent shops are the oxygen on which this city survives, and we are investigating ways in which the council can help. Many of the shops particularly in Coney Street are owned by investors and companies outside of the city who are not disposed to reduce rents for independents or to split the shops into smaller units. We are however endeavouring to engage with owners to establish a way forward.

Devolution

The 18 Authority Leaders, both Conservative and Labour, have joined forces and written to the Government, asking for an early decision to be made regarding the future of Devolution in Yorkshire. At present although we have made the case for a “One Yorkshire” through documents produced to enhance such an outcome, the Government will not give us any indication of what Yorkshire governance will involve.

In addition, a second group, including the Archbishop of York, Council Leaders, Liberal Democratic Representatives, The Yorkshire Party, CBI, Chambers of Commerce, IOD's, and Trade Unions, has also been established to put pressure on the Government for a decision, although this group, headed by John Grogan MP and Robert Goodwill MP is more of a pressure group.

Brexit

A paper was prepared for Executive last week. Unfortunately as we have yet to find out what the terms are for leaving it is difficult to take definitive action. We are however following advice as it comes from the LGA and others, once we are aware of the outcome of the negotiations including the possibility of a “No deal”, we will continue to work with our partners to achieve the best outcome for the City.

Councillor Ian Gillies - 16 October 2018