

Report of the Head of Economic Growth

Development of a new Economic Strategy

Summary

1. A paper on developing York's economic strategy and partnership was considered by the Executive Member for Economy and Strategic Planning at his decision session on 17th October 2019. This report is presented in Annex A.
2. That paper sets out an approach which would support the co-development of a strategy between City of York Council and the residents and businesses of the city. Specific proposals are included for a reinvigorated economic partnership and broad community consultation to shape a new sharper focus on inclusivity, with the aim of enabling all residents to benefit from our city's economic success.

Background

3. York's current [economic strategy](#) was launched in 2016 in the weeks following the Brexit referendum, and covers the period 2016-20. The current Administration has committed to renewing the strategy and relaunching a York economic partnership in 2020, as set out in the paper at Annex A. This commitment to develop a new strategy is part of the Council Plan, [as agreed at Full Council](#) on 31st October 2019.
4. The development of the strategy will seek to:
 - make future growth more inclusive and give voice to the everyday lived experience of those who may not have seen the benefits of York's economic growth
 - build on the success that York has seen in recent years in growing higher paid jobs, developing our key sites, and working with our Universities

- respond to the low-carbon commitments of the city, along the principles of a just transition, as expressed in the Council Plan
 - shape a new skills plan for York, built around the future needs of businesses and residents
5. A key part of developing the new strategy will be a wide-scale consultation with businesses and residents to ensure that the strategy is effectively responding to opportunities and challenges. A budget to enable that engagement is included in the Inclusive Growth Fund, as set out in decisions made by the Executive Leader on 18th September 2019 and 15th January 2020.
 6. The resourcing of consultation for this strategy is awaiting consideration as part of the Executive Leader's Inclusive Growth Fund decision which has been called in. Without the funding provided for in that decision, detailed consultation on the Economic Strategy is not possible.

Update on process

7. As discussed in Annex A, the development of the new strategy goes hand in hand with the development of a new economic partnership which will oversee the process and ensure that there is a city-wide focus and response. This will be analogous to the Future York group which oversaw the development of the 2007 economic strategy, but will also reflect our inclusive growth ambitions. It is proposed to draw together key stakeholders including:
 - Business sector representatives
 - Education representatives
 - Business networks – FSB, Chamber
 - Local third sector bodies with practical experience of deprivation (e.g. York CAB, York Financial Inclusion steering group)
 - Joseph Rowntree Foundation
 - Make it York
 - York BID
 - York & North Yorkshire LEP
 - York Central Partnership
8. In parallel with our economic strategy work, there are consultations and policy development initiatives planned for later in the year such as My City Centre, work to progress a new local transport plan, and consultation around the climate change agenda. There is also much existing material from the My Castle Gateway and My York Central

consultations. We will work with all of these projects to seek to share information and enable views and ideas to feed in to all relevant consultations.

9. Early in the process, we will undertake targeted qualitative surveys with the communities set out in the proposals in Annex A. This will seek to draw out the experiences of those communities and identify key themes for the inclusive growth element of the strategy. The Community Hub network and Local Area Coordinators have already pledged support to help make contact with these communities.
10. External consultants will be procured to take those inclusive growth themes, our existing evidence base, and the emerging climate change priorities of the city and seek views, ideas and commitments from residents and businesses. Through a co-design approach, we will then develop a draft strategy for further consultation, leading to a final event where all involved can come together and ratify the final document.
11. The new economic partnership, having first acted as the stakeholder group for the strategy, will then develop a programme of events and activities to support implementation and further sharing of ideas.
12. Assuming the budget is still available following the call-in process, the timescale published in October has been revised and is presented at Annex B.

Conclusions

13. A process to develop a new Economic Strategy and partnership has been set out in in this report. What is envisaged is a much broader economic strategy than has previously been developed for York, with a strong theme of inclusive growth, a recognition of the importance of embedding the commitment to become net zero carbon by 2030 into economic plans, and a continuation of the existing focus on developing well-paid jobs and delivering key development sites.
14. That process is on hold pending the results of a call in of the budget which would support consultation, however it is anticipated that a final strategy will be brought to Executive in July 2020 for approval.

Contact Details

Author:

Simon Brereton
Head of Economic Growth
Tel: 01904 552814
Simon.brereton@york.gov.uk

Responsible Officer:

Neil Ferris
Corporate Director Economy and Place

Report Approved Date 03/02/2020

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Annex A: Developing York's economic strategy and partnership
Annex B: Revised timeline