

# York Central Area Action Plan

## Community Audit

July 2006



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social regeneration consultants



## Community Profile

### 1. Introduction

1.1 The following document will act as a baseline for the community engagement programme. It covers the following elements:

- A document review
- Area context
- Community structures and networks
- Previous consultation
- Local community facilities
- Key local stakeholders
- Hard to reach groups

### 2. Document Review

2.1 A number of documents were reviewed as part of this audit, including:

- City of York LDF Statement of Community Involvement
- York City Vision and Community Strategy 2004 – 2024
- York Central Planning Brief 2004

#### City of York LDF Statement of Community Involvement

2.2 The SCI sets out how the community will be involved in the development of plans as part of the new Local Development Framework (LDF) process. The SCI is a legally binding document.

2.3 The document sets out a number of guiding principles for public involvement in planning matters including:

- early and continuous communication

- simple process
- ensure ideas and comments are considered
- ensure involvement is meaningful
- share information and provide feedback
- continue to develop and improve the process

2.4 The SCI also outlines two main groups to consult with – ‘specific consultation bodies’ including statutory organisations such as The Regional Planning Body, Environment Agency and the Strategic Health Authority and the ‘general consultation bodies’ including representative bodies of the voluntary sector, religious groups and businesses along with community groups. The SCI also states that hard to reach groups should also be consulted.

2.5 The SCI then goes on to describe different methods of community involvement and how and when involvement will be sought.

## **York – a city making history. York City Vision and Community Strategy 2004 - 2024**

2.6 The Community Strategy for York was developed by the Local Strategic Partnership called Without Walls.

2.7 A ‘Festival of Ideas’ was held to gather views on how people wanted to see York in the future.

2.8 The Community Strategy provides the overarching strategy for the development of the vision. Within the strategy are a number of themed partnerships that present the key issues to be addressed and the actions required to secure the desired outcomes.

2.9 The vision is:

- Building confident, creative and inclusive communities
- Being a leading environmentally friendly city
- Being at the forefront of innovation and change with a

prosperous and thriving economy

- Being a world class centre for education and learning for all
- Celebrating our historic past whilst creating a successful and thriving future

2.10 The themes partnerships include:

- The thriving city – to support the progress and success of York’s existing businesses and to encourage enterprises in order to maintain a prosperous and flourishing economy that will sustain high employment rates
- The learning city – to ensure all those who live and work in York have the education and skills that will enable them to play an active part in society and contribute to the life of the city
- A city of culture – celebrating both our uniqueness and our diversity, we will promote a culture that helps build a confident and creative community, welcomes and inspires residents and visitor alike and encourages quality opportunities for fun and fulfillment open to all
- The safer city – to be a safe city with a low crime rate and to be perceived by residents and visitors as such
- The sustainable city – that York should be a model sustainable city with a quality built environment and modern, integrated transport network
- The healthy city – to be a city where residents enjoy long, healthy and independent lives through the promotion of healthy living with easy access to responsive health and social care services
- The inclusive city – to ensure that all residents and visitors can take part in the life of the city

## York Central Planning Brief 2004

2.11 This document sets out the planning framework for the comprehensive development of York Central.

2.12 The document sets out the vision for the site as follows:

*'It will provide high quality of life opportunities for future generations, through the creation of a modern, central business district, attractive, exciting, sustainable in its design, mix of activity and transport system, complementary to the city's historic core, expanding and diversifying the city's urban economy, housing choice and cultural life.'*

2.13 The brief goes on to outline the main transport requirements for the site including access, public transport, parking, pedestrian routes and cycle routes.

2.14 Other planning requirements include urban design considerations, land use mix, historic environment considerations, open public space requirements, housing provision, community / leisure facilities and education facilities.

## 3. Area context

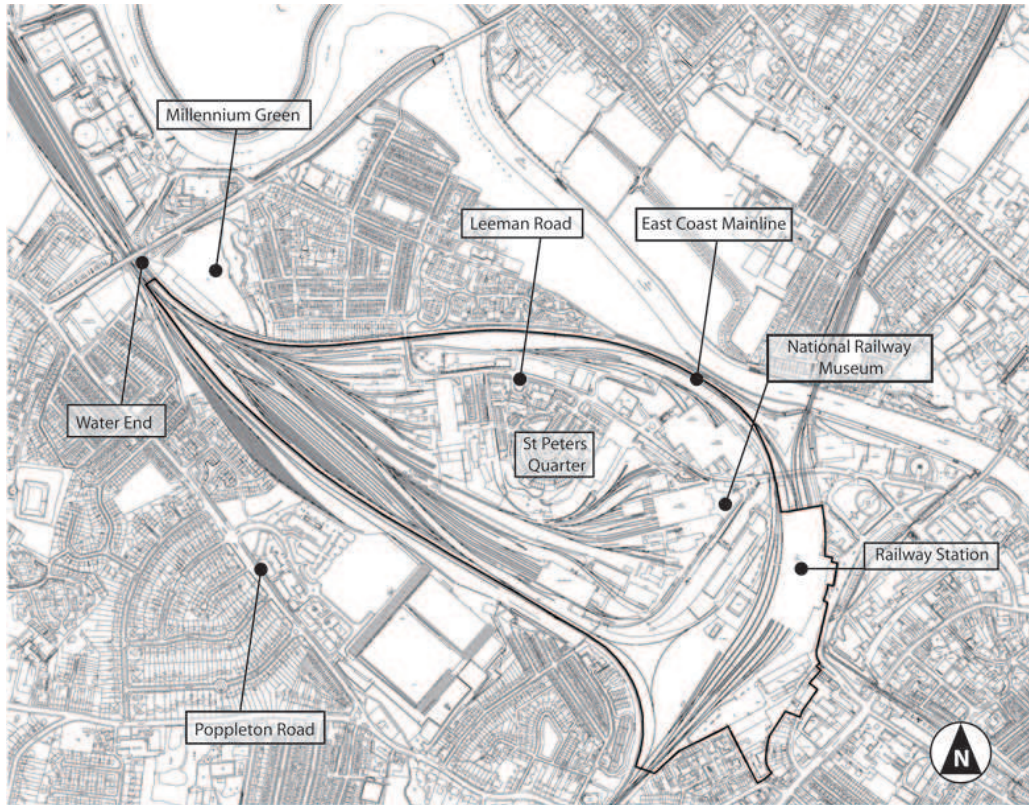
3.1 The area known as York Central is situated close to York city centre and is a brownfield site immediately adjacent to York Railway Station and the East Coast mainline. It comprises of approximately 37 hectares of under-used or disused land.

3.2 The area has historically been occupied by a broad mix of rail related activities, including York railway station, the National Railway Museum (NRM), railway sidings and other operational areas. The area also includes land occupied by other industrial and distribution uses and is flanked by residential developments to the north and south.

3.3 The site includes two existing residential communities, one an area of traditional railway cottages and the other a

new development of apartments and town houses.

## York Central area



3.4 The site is located within the boundaries of Holgate ward and Micklegate ward.

3.5 The following section provides basic statistical information about each ward, using the 2001 Census data and qualitative information gathered from discussions with the relevant ward coordinators.

## Holgate Ward

3.6 The ward is split into three main areas:

- Leeman Road area
- Hamilton Drive area
- Poppleton Road area

- The ward has a population of 11,564 people in 5,311 households
- The area has a younger than average population with 41% aged between 20 – 44 compared with 36% in York. 98.5% of people describe their ethnicity as white.
- There is a higher than average percentage of people in full time employment at 47.8%, this compares with 40.5% in York.
- In terms of housing 72.21% is owner-occupied, this is in line with the York average. There is a slightly higher than average percentage of private rented properties at 11.8% compared with 8.72% in York.

**Main issues for residents include:**

- Lack of facilities and services for young people
- Public transport around the Leeman Road area is not very good
- Lack of residential car parking space across the ward
- Generally community facilities are not great
- Access to the York Central site

## Micklegate Ward

- The ward has a population of 10,994 in 5,480 households
- The ward has a younger than average population with 48.5% aged between 20 – 44 compared with 36% in York
- The population in this ward is more diverse with higher than average percentages of people describing their ethnicity as mixed 0.97% (compared with 0.63% in York) and Asian (1.16% compared with 0.76% in York). 96.9% of people describe themselves as white



- There is a higher than average percentage of people in full time employment at 44.15%, this compares with 40.5% in York
- There is also a higher percentage of students, 15.35% compared with an average of 11% in York
- There is a higher than average percentage of people with a degree level or higher qualification at 39%, compared with 23% for York
- In terms of housing, there is lower than average percentage of owner occupied property at 58.7% and above average percentage of private rented property at 21.31%

**Main issues for residents include:**

- The ward is located within the inner city area. There are a number of bars and nightclubs located in the area which leads to problems with noise and anti-social behaviour
- There are also issues with drinking in the street – mainly from people buying alcohol from local shops. There is an alcohol exclusion zone in Exhibition Square
- There are also some issues with rough sleepers in the area

## 4. Community structures and networks

### Holgate

#### Networks

- There is one residents association on Lindsey Avenue off Poppleton Road
- Ward committee that meets four times a year

4.1 There are many community groups in the area, the key ones are:

- Leeman Road Millennium Trust
- Friends of West Bank Park
- Windmill Rise – group restoring an old windmill into a working museum

### Micklegate

4.2 There are three residents groups in this area as follows:

- Cambridge Street Residents Association
- Clementhorpe Community Association
- Nunnery Residents Association

## 5. Previous consultation

5.1 Previous consultation has been held by the Council in relation to the Arc Light Centre, a hostel for the relocation of the homeless, which is located on Leeman Road, close to the NRM.

5.2 Other consultations which have been carried out by the Council have included:

- Recycling in Micklegate

- Street cleaning and community centre facilities (study to reopen St. Clements Church Hall) in Micklegate

5.3 There was no previous consultation to note in Holgate ward.

## 6. Local community facilities

### Schools

#### Holgate

- St. Barnabas CE Primary on Leeman Road
- Poppleton Road Primary School
- English Martyrs RC Primary, Hamilton Drive
- St. Paul's CE Primary School, Holgate Road
- Acomb Primary School

#### Micklegate

- Knavesmire Primary
- Scarcroft Primary
- All Saints RC Secondary School
- Millthorpe Secondary School

### Community facilities

#### Holgate

- Poppleton Road Memorial Hall used by older people
- St. Paul's Church

### Micklegate

- Southlands Methodist Church
- Clementhorpe Community Centre
- Priory Street Centre

## Open space and leisure

### Holgate

- West Bank Park
- Millennium Green

### Micklegate

- Rowntree Park
- Scarcroft Green
- York Railway Institute

## 7. Key local stakeholders

7.1 The following list of stakeholders reflects those groups that are directly based in the York Central area and the wider area covered by the two wards of Holgate and Micklegate.

- Local schools
- Resident groups
- Key local churches / places of worship / faith groups
- Community centres
- Councillors (in two wards)
- Relevant reps from York Pride
- Other relevant council officers
- Sure Start (if it exists in the area concerned)
- Key local businesses / or representative body e.g.

chamber of commerce

A number of strategic bodies would also be consulted including:

- Police
- CVS
- PCT

## 8. Hard to reach groups

8.1 The main hard to reach groups identified include:

- Gypsies - contact John Wood
- Young people – contact Steve Rouse Senior Youth Worker
- Homeless
- Black and Minority Ethnic Groups

## 9. Conclusion

9.1 This audit provides a useful starting point in terms of describing the baseline situation in each of the two wards. It also describes the main community networks and key community facilities in each ward. This information will be used to inform the detailed public consultation programme for the Issues and Options.