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## **Social Inclusion Working Group**

19 September 2007

Report of the Assistant Director – Economic Development and Partnerships

## **REPORT OF THE FUTURE YORK GROUP**

### **Summary**

1. The report seeks to brief the Social Inclusion Working Group on the final report of the Future York Group.

### **Background**

2. The Future York Group was commissioned by the City of York Council to undertake an independent strategic review of the local economy, following a series of announcements regarding job losses in the City. The Group has been chaired by Christopher Garnett and has been well attended at its meetings by the group members. They have received a variety of presentations and background information to enable them to make their conclusions and recommendations. This authoritative report will provide the framework for future actions to be undertaken by the City of York Council and partners with regard to promoting the economic well-being of the City. Their final report was launched on 12<sup>th</sup> June when it was handed over to the City of York Council at a public event at the Mansion House. Copies of the executive summary of the report have been made available to all elected members and the full report has been published on the Council's web-site.

### **Consultation**

3. The report effectively entered the public domain on its handover to the Council on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2007 and has been made widely available since then. Comments received on the findings of the Future York Group will be collated and reported to a future meeting of the Executive. Formal consultation on the report will take place through the Without Walls Local Strategic Partnership and its thematic groups. The initial views of the Economic Development Partnership Board were sought at its meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> June. There is now the opportunity over the summer/autumn period to consult on the findings of the Future York Group report as part of planned consultation for the review of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Development Framework core strategy. The consultation will enable the City of York Council to formulate a more detailed response to the findings of the Future York Group.

### **Options**

4. The option is to consider responses the group may wish to make to the Future York Group report.

## Analysis

5. This Future York Group is an authoritative analysis of the local economy based upon a wealth of data and presentations given to the group. There will be a process of consultation on the findings of the report has highlighted above. A detailed response on all the recommendations set out in the Future York Group will be presented to the Executive following consultation. This will take some time and the report is likely to be presented in the Autumn.

6. Recommendations contained in the report of particular interest to the group are set out in the section on skills and inclusion; these are:

S1 – we recommend that the City of York Council work with business and other key partners, and support the work of Learning City York, in analysing the city's skills needs and the spatial mismatches between labour demand and supply. This will enable amore specific targeted policy responses to be developed.

S2 - it is essential that all of the city's residents are given the opportunity to develop basic employability skills. We encourage schools, colleges, NYBEP, the LSC and Learning City York to work together to develop this guarantee. We recommend that, given the importance of creativity, enterprise and innovation to York's economic success, partners should work together to ensure these skills are also developed among young people. In addition, we recommend that education providers involve local employers in promoting the qualities that employers are seeking to young people. Employers should be encouraged to participate in these activities.

S3 - we recommend that the scale and impact of Further and Higher Education in the city be increased, ensuring that the expansion and diversification of learning opportunities are central to increasing economic activity and broadening cultural life.

S4 - we recommend that City of York Council support the work of Learning City York, and work with partners, including employers at Science City York to increase the proportion of the workforce with technical skills. We also recommend that more opportunities be developed for graduate placements with relevant employers, to facilitate a greater number of opportunities for both employers and graduates to transfer knowledge and skills.

S5 - innovation and entrepreneurship are vital in sustaining competitive city economies. We recommend that City of York Council and key partners develop a more proactive approach to the development of an entrepreneurial workforce.

S6 - we recommend that in addressing each of the above recommendations, City of York Council engage fully with local businesses.

S7 - we recommend that City of York Council work with key partners and relevant stakeholders to ensure that the disparity in incomes within the city does not widen as the economy expands. Positive action is taken to ensure that as many residents and employees as possible can benefit from new economic opportunities.

S8: We recommend that City of York Council consider the application of a local employment provision clause to major developments where appropriate. This would ensure that residents from deprived communities gain access to employment opportunities.

S9: We recommend that City of York Council, in collaboration with relevant partners and other stakeholders, develop a targeted strategic response to economic inclusion in the city's most deprived areas. This should maximise the contribution of learning to social cohesion, local regeneration and economic growth.

S10: We recommend that the local authority work with its partners to respond to the needs of individuals, families, communities and employers in addressing worklessness and social exclusion.

S11: We recommend that City of York Council conduct an analysis of the destinations of employees made redundant from British Sugar, Nestlé and Norwich union in 2006. We urge the employers involved to co-operate in this study in the interests of creating better support mechanisms for local workers.

S12: We recommend that City of York Council make

representations to Central Government for the application of greater freedoms and flexibilities in implementing support programmes to bring people into employment..

## **Corporate Priorities**

14. The Future York Group report relates to the following objectives for the Council, the Economic Development Service Plan and the LSP Without Walls initiatives.
- \* The “Thriving City” theme of the WOW Community Plan has the following strategic objective:  
  
“To support the progress and success of York’s existing businesses and to encourage new enterprises in order to maintain a prosperous and flourishing economy that will sustain high employment rates.”
  - \* The Economic Development Service Plan sets identifies a number of corporate priorities:
    - DIP 5      Increase people’s skills and knowledge to improve future employment prospects.
    - DIP 6      Improve the contribution that Science City York makes to economic prosperity.
    - DIP 8      Improve the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children, young people and families in the city.
    - DIP12     Improve the way the Council and its partners work together to deliver better services for the people who live in York.

## **Implications**

15. Financial: There are no direct financial implications from the initial response to the Future York Group report as set out above. There may be direct financial implications for the City of York Council in responding to the findings of the Future York Group report and these will be considered as part of any future reports to the Executive or EMAP.
16. Human resources: None
17. Equalities: None
18. Legal: None
19. Crime and Disorder: None
20. Information Technology: None
21. Property: None

## **Risk Management**

22. In compliance with the council’s risk management strategy. There are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

## Recommendation

23. The input and views of the Social Inclusion Working Group on the Future York Group report are requested.

Reason: To help shape the effectiveness of future action.

## Contact Details

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### Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Bill Woolley  
Director of City Strategy

Report Approved



Date

10-09-07

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

**Background Papers:** The Future York Group report – an independent strategic review of the York economy, June 2007