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**Executive Member for Leisure and Culture  
and Advisory Panel**

**6 June 2006**

Report of the Assistant Director (Lifelong Learning and Culture)

**YORK MUSEUMS TRUST PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

**Summary**

1. This report updates members on the current progress of the York Museums Trust (YMT) towards meeting the targets agreed in the Partnership Delivery Plan. The York Museums Trust's full report is at Annex 1.

**Background**

2. The Partnership Delivery Plan (PDP) approved by members in December 2002 outlined the key targets and objectives which the Council requires YMT to work towards over the next five years. Members have asked for regular updates on progress. Reports are brought to EMAP at the half-year point and also in May, to report on full year performance. This report covers the period April 2005 to March 2006. The Partnership Delivery Plan is being reviewed and will be brought to EMAP in October 2006.

**Headline Achievements**

3. Over the past 4 years, YMT has established itself as an independent organisation, implemented a new organisational structure, has been very successful in fundraising and has a long term plan for continued investment in the collections, buildings and public programming. It has created an effective learning programming for schools, an events and activities programme during holidays and weekends and has greatly improved collection management. The reputation of York Museums Trust is established within the profession as an innovative and effective museum service. The following highlight some of the achievements made during 2005-2006.
  - The refurbished York Art Gallery reopened in April 2005 has been a great success with increased visitor figures from 90,000, before refurbishment, to 152,000 in the first year of opening.
  - YMT have submitted a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the St Mary's Abbey Precinct project totalling £9.278 million which is supported by the City of York Council as part of the development of the Cultural Quarter. The result of the application will be known in July 2006.
  - YMT have invested in the **Kirkgate** project to refresh and reinterpret the Victorian Street at Castle Museum.

- YMT have successfully raised funds for the important exhibition ***Constantine the Great – York’s Roman Emperor*** and negotiated loans from 36 museums across the UK and Europe in association with the British Museums UK partnership of which YMT is the lead partner for Yorkshire. The exhibition was opened by HRH the Princess Royal. We have also published a scholarly catalogue with the publishers Lund Humphries.
- YMT is delivering a comprehensive service to schools for the first time and has invested in four educational spaces across the three venues.
- York Museums Trust has been awarded full Accredited Status by the Museums Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), recognising the significant improvements that have been made in the care of collections, particularly improvements in documentation.
- YMT is now well established within the life of the city with representation on several key organisations including: Science City York, York@Large, York Tourism Bureau, Tourism Investment Fund, Heritage Group and the Renaissance Group. As Chair of Creative York, Janet Barnes, has been directly involved in the development of a successful networking programme across the city and in organising the second Symposium on ‘Creative Responses: Interpreting Heritage and Landscape’ which took place on November 3.
- As one of the 5 partners of the Yorkshire Hub, YMT is one of the regional museums supported by the Governments initiative Renaissance in the Regions. The Yorkshire Hub has successfully bid for a second round of funding amounting to £208k in 2006-7 and £434k in 2007-08 for YMT. This builds on the £308k already received which has resourced the Schools programme and built capacity in the curatorial team. The work programme for 2006 -08 develops the capacity of YMT in Informal learning and will create a Volunteers Scheme which will involve local residents.

### **Consultation**

4. This report is for information and there is no consultation to consider.

### **Options**

5. This report is for information and there are no options to consider.

### **Corporate Objectives**

6. YMT’s business plan contributes to a number of corporate objectives including developing opportunities for residents and visitors to experience York as a vibrant and eventful city, improving opportunities for learning, and in strengthening York’s economy through investment in the tourism infrastructure. Reinvestment in the museums is an identified priority within the sub-regional investment plan.

### **Implications**

7. The report has no implications relating to:

- Finance
- Human Resources
- Equalities
- Legal
- Crime and Disorder
- Information Technology
- Property
- Other

**Risk Management**

8. This report is for information and there are no risks to consider

**Recommendations**

9. That the Advisory Panel advise the Executive Member to note and comment upon the performance of the York Museums Trust.

**Contact Details**

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**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

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**Report Approved**

**Date** 23.5.2006

Co-Author's: Janet Barnes  
 Chief Executive YMT  
 York Museums Trust

Chief Officer's name  
 Title

**Report Approved**

**Date**

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** *List information for all*  
*Implication ie Financial* *Implication ie Legal*  
 Name Name  
 Title Title  
 Tel No. Tel No.

**Wards Affected:** List wards or tick box to indicate all

All  tick

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:**

Museums Trust: Partnership Delivery Plan 12.12.02.

## **Annexes**

1. York Museums Trust Performance Report
2. Fundraising Summary
3. Collection Management and Lifelong Learning Statistics