

Leader's Report to Council – July 2017

Castle Gateway

We have launched a consultation on the Castle Gateway area about which we're particularly enthusiastic, because we're trying something new with this consultation exercise based on public feedback. We've teamed up with local organisation My Future York to present what could be called a 'consultation in the round', to give residents a better idea of the options of how this historic but somewhat underutilised area of York might develop, with events, guided walks and opportunities for debate on social media platforms, along with the usual consultation options.

We think this will work particularly well for Castle Gateway because of the great diversity of the area's assets- Piccadilly, Coppergate, Clifford's Tower to name but a few- and the potential to enhance the area and to improve the city's public spaces, so we await the results of the consultation with interest and hope that all councillors will help direct their residents to ways in which they can take part.

York Walls

Work is about to start on the £1.5 million project to repair parts of our city walls. Micklegate Bar will have a new roof, new gates and two new walkways so the museum can stay open when the walls are closed for operational reasons; Monk Bar's very worn and sunken steps will be repaired and a number of smaller towers- Towers 39, 32, 2, the Anglian Tower, Red Tower (utilities) and Bootham Bar to Robin Hood Tower will also be repaired and restored. Our administration set out early in its tenure that it would work to repair and restore as much of York's public built environment as practical following years of underinvestment, and we are doing just that.

Mayor of Munster

On 12th June, I met the Oberbürgermeister of our twin city, Munster, Markus Leve, to share thoughts and experiences particularly around making our City a liveable place. The Mayor was in the city as the keynote speaker for the One Planet Expo event. Munster was voted the most liveable city in the world in 2004, with a focus on balancing the need for economic, social and environmental sustainability. Munster's

ambitions link clearly to those of this administration, as a council that listens to residents, creating a prosperous city for all and focussing on front line services. What is clear is that by working to these principles, aligned to our One Planet framework, we can move forward in a way that ensures a liveable city for everyone – our children, families, adults - as residents and visitors to the city.

Regional working

At a regional level, in my roles on the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP Board and substitute on the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Leeds City Region LEP Leaders Board, we have had wide ranging discussions on the significantly changing environment for local government. As we collectively assess and respond to the opportunities and challenges of Brexit, the Industrial Strategy and Local Government finance, to name but three, a strong and consistent voice from Yorkshire gives the best chance of securing future investment in our region.

In the complex Yorkshire devolution landscape, I have brought together Council leaders from across the region to seek to broker a possible solution on an agreeable devolution option, and begin more pragmatic discussions around areas we can collaborate regardless of any governance changes through devolution, particularly around tourism and culture.

In my specific role on the York North Yorkshire East Riding LEP Board, alongside colleagues on sub-committees, we continue to make sure York gets a good deal from funding opportunities coming on stream, including £5m allocated to York Central as part of the last round of Local Growth Funding, and strong support for bids going to Government around transport improvements for its National Productivity Investment Fund. This, in addition to the major investment already coming into the city through the West Yorkshire + Transport Fund.

Cllr David Carr
Leader, City of York Council