

One Planet York scope and focus review

July 2019



Comments from the Chair on the purpose of this document.

One Planet York has been working for some time towards a more sustainable city, loosely following the principles of Bioregional's "One Planet" framework.

At the previous OPY Leadership Group meeting, and following a change in council leadership, the attendees agreed to a brief exercise to reflect on the way OPY goes about this work and its relationship with key stakeholders, in particular the council - bearing in mind the current position of OPY as fully council hosted and funded (with the exclusion of the time dedicated by all of you, which has considerable value).

The Leadership Group were invited to individually feed back their views on what One Planet York is, and what it does.

At the same time, the OPY conference had gathered feedback from a cross section of the community who attended that event, and this has been made available by My Future York.

As the Chair, I have taken these sets of feedback and drawn what I feel are the common themes. I have tried to turn the feedback into some clear proposals that can be agreed (or challenged) at the July meeting of the Leadership Group. This consolidation and analysis has of course been a subjective process based on my previous experience - I hope the group will find it consistent with their views in the main.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mike B

Part one - input

OPY Leadership Team feedback

Four key themes emerged from this exercise

- **An independent, multi-party organisation that serves the city of York in its broadest sense**
- **Independent organisational form**
- **Metrics, measurement and case studies**
- **Networking, communications and fostering general collaboration**

One Planet York - an independent, multi-party organisation that serves the city of York in its broadest sense.

“A hub between Public, Private, Voluntary and Academic sectors, rather than just a 'counter-weight to the Council”

“OPY needs to create awareness as an independent organisation which visibly aims to improve life in York, for residents, companies and society as a whole.”

“Collaboration of individuals, third sector organisations, private businesses and the public sector, which has an overall structure to lead and evaluate it.”

“One Planet York has a key role as a 'brand' leading sustainability actions for the city as a whole in parallel with any actions by CYC.”

“A non party political focus for action by all major stakeholders in the city, both public and private.”

“A way to share best sustainability practice across the city (including public, private and charitable groups) and to facilitate and if necessary co-ordinate sustainability activities that can be extended city-wide.”

Proposal - One Planet York becomes the city's "sustainability programme office". It supports, coordinates and ensures consistency and synergy between projects run by different parties in the city. It doesn't run its own projects, it removes blockers and acts as a catalyst and a rallying point for projects other organisations are managing, that support One Planet goals

Independent organisational form

“A formal organisational structure for OPY that could then receive funding from several sources (Council, Charitable, Commercial, Crowd-funding) and have a membership (the pledgers) to which it is responsible for transparency and efficiency, including monitoring its impacts”

“An umbrella organisation that could act as employer for other OPY related groups...that wanted to work that way, without us all having to set up our own tiny organisation...all working together and sharing support services”

Proposal - a not for profit Community Interest Company which City of York Council has a constitutional right to appoint director(s) to, and which draws its other directors from an appropriate mix of leading organisations with strong roots in the city or the immediate region.

City of York continues to provide funding; other funding or revenue streams may be identified

Metrics, measurement and case studies

“Bioregional (source of the One Planet Living idea) who have been trying to gear themselves up to do more, including devising metrics to see what is needed and what has been achieved. Which could be an addition or alternative to the Grant Thornton 'Vibrant Economy' stats”

“OPY could also provide pledgers with benchmarks or targets they could work towards. This would be something that we can all benchmark against annually and summarise it in a report, for example.”

“I would like to see pledgers publish their progress, e.g. using the One Planet platform I've emailed about earlier [*Bioregional Platform which is being assessed for utility*].”

“We need high profile case studies of saving energy, saving water, saving carbon, introducing energy and carbon saving projects which are measurable. Ideally these should be with high profile organisations, such as York Council, 2 Universities, NHS Trust, large employers, large retail centres, Schools, public buildings etc.”

“It should act as a way marker and recorder of sustainability progress and co-operation, with a directory of expertise and case studies that be shared with interested parties.”

Proposal - investigate and implement a workable measurement system

Networking, communications and fostering general collaboration

“Keep going with the events/networking events, social media and newsletters. We could also set-up an events calendar in our newsletter or facebook for pledgers to post their events on? We can avoid clashes that way and each organisation unnecessarily taking away each other’s participants.”

“I hope that OPY will continue to provide a safe and supportive space for people and organisations promoting one planet living to come together, connect, share ideas, cooperate and support each other so we can all grow the movement across the city of York.”

“I would like OPY to be a strong network of organisations that collaborate on projects that push for the One Planet Living principles to be adopted across the city as a response to the climate emergency.”

Proposal - specific events calendar in planning to be signed off by the group

What the people think - output from public engagement at One Planet York Conference (compiled by My Future York - <https://myfutureyork.org/2019/06/19/one-planet-york-festival-of-ideas-event-10th-june-2019/>)

Taking a look first at the most numerous tags, [Wellbeing](#) was a common issue with Social Prescribing being a common theme within it, and access to it mentioned by many.

[Home Energy](#) was also a common issue with a wide range of concerns and themes linked to it – exploring different ways of saving energy / looking at legislation for higher standards of new-build sustainability / assessing the best way to make improvements.

Also common was reference to [Land](#) as a key issue – particularly in respect of opportunities for [green environment](#) whether large (a York National Park City) or small (Guerrilla gardening).

[Collaboration](#) was the most frequently mentioned of the actions, but noted in a variety of contexts. Collaboration with or between organised groups was frequently mentioned (especially Extinction Rebellion) but also peer-to-peer collaboration between individuals (for example community bulk buying).

[Information](#) was seen as key, with reference to shortage of information (“how do I find out about...”) and the way in which it needs to be delivered in accessible format. Linked to this, many people mentioned the [giving and getting of help](#) and the channels through which this worked, and [communication](#).

Of the various bodies noted in connection with these issues and actions, [the council](#) was the most frequently mentioned, with specific roles in respect of [policy](#) and [recycling](#), but also more generally as a link with other organisations.

[Extinction Rebellion](#) was also seen as a key player – in all sorts of ways but in particular in connecting and collaborating with other bodies (and at the same time concerns were voiced about a crowded field with many environmental bodies and a need to ensure avoidance of unhelpful overlaps). Indeed, a simple wish to ensure cooperation between [different groups](#) was also a key concern.

Overall, connections / collaborations were a key concern – between different groups and between issues and key players. Ways of sharing information and educating / getting buy-in were also major concerns, with a wish to carefully explore the possibilities of online platforms and new technology, tempered by a concern that such innovations (eg Uber, AirBnB) aren't always as cuddly as they are initially portrayed, and a recognition that sometimes collective action works best where people meet, and talk.

Part two - proposal

Scope and focus - strengthen sustainability

Previously, One Planet York was positioned as a “city framework”. There are alternative city frameworks in play with arguably more traction. It would benefit our core mission to articulate OPY more strongly as the city’s sustainability framework, which contributes to a broader city framework.

For example, OPYs Culture and Heritage petal can be described with a greater focus on ensuring sustainability within the Culture and Heritage industry, developing sustainability as a key part of York’s contemporary cultural scene, etc



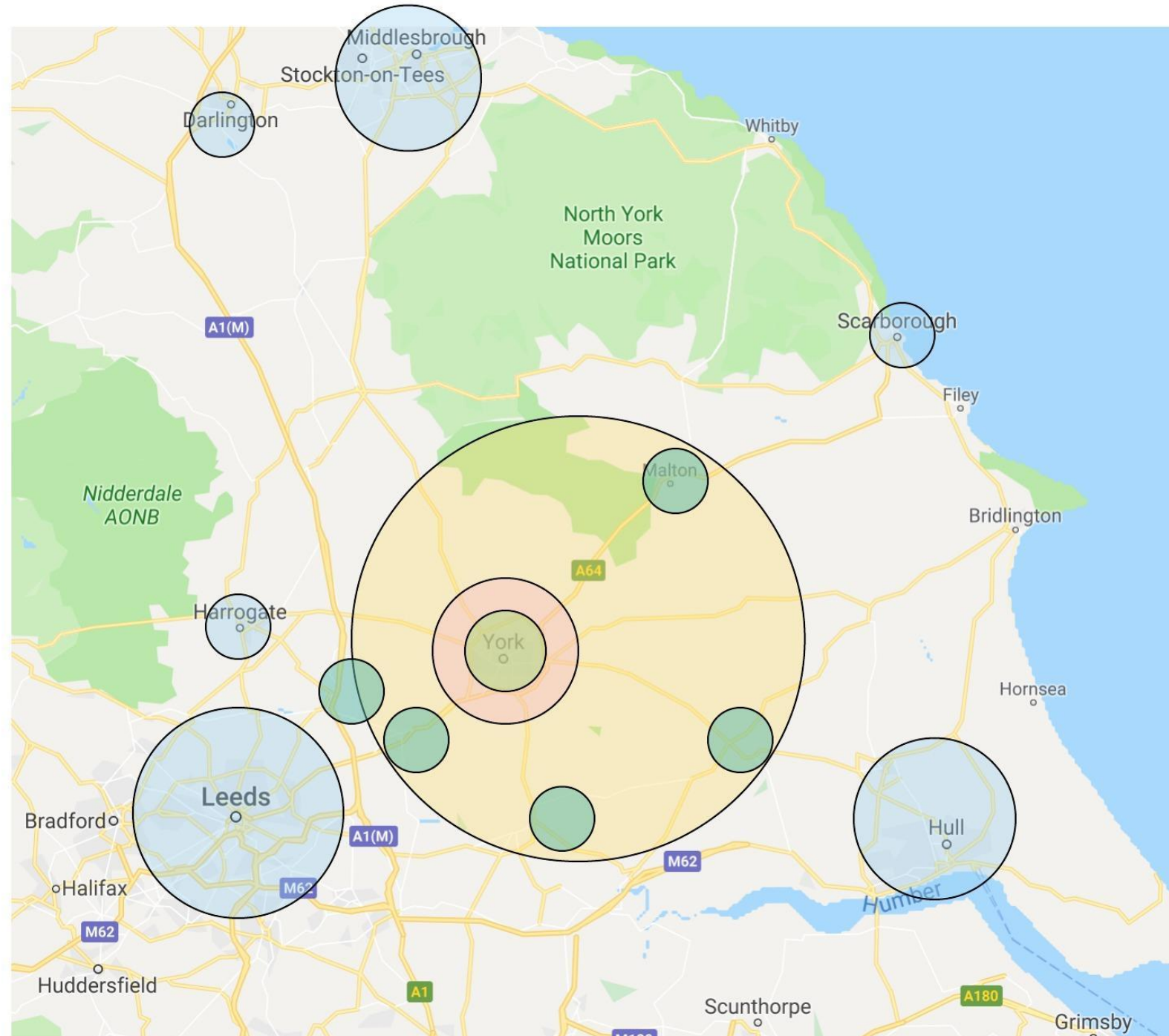
Culture and Heritage

York is blessed with world class heritage and culture – find out what’s going on and enjoy!

Geographical area of focus

We need to understand One Planet York as part of a broad regional sustainability network. Cooperation and communication across this network is key to our mutual success.

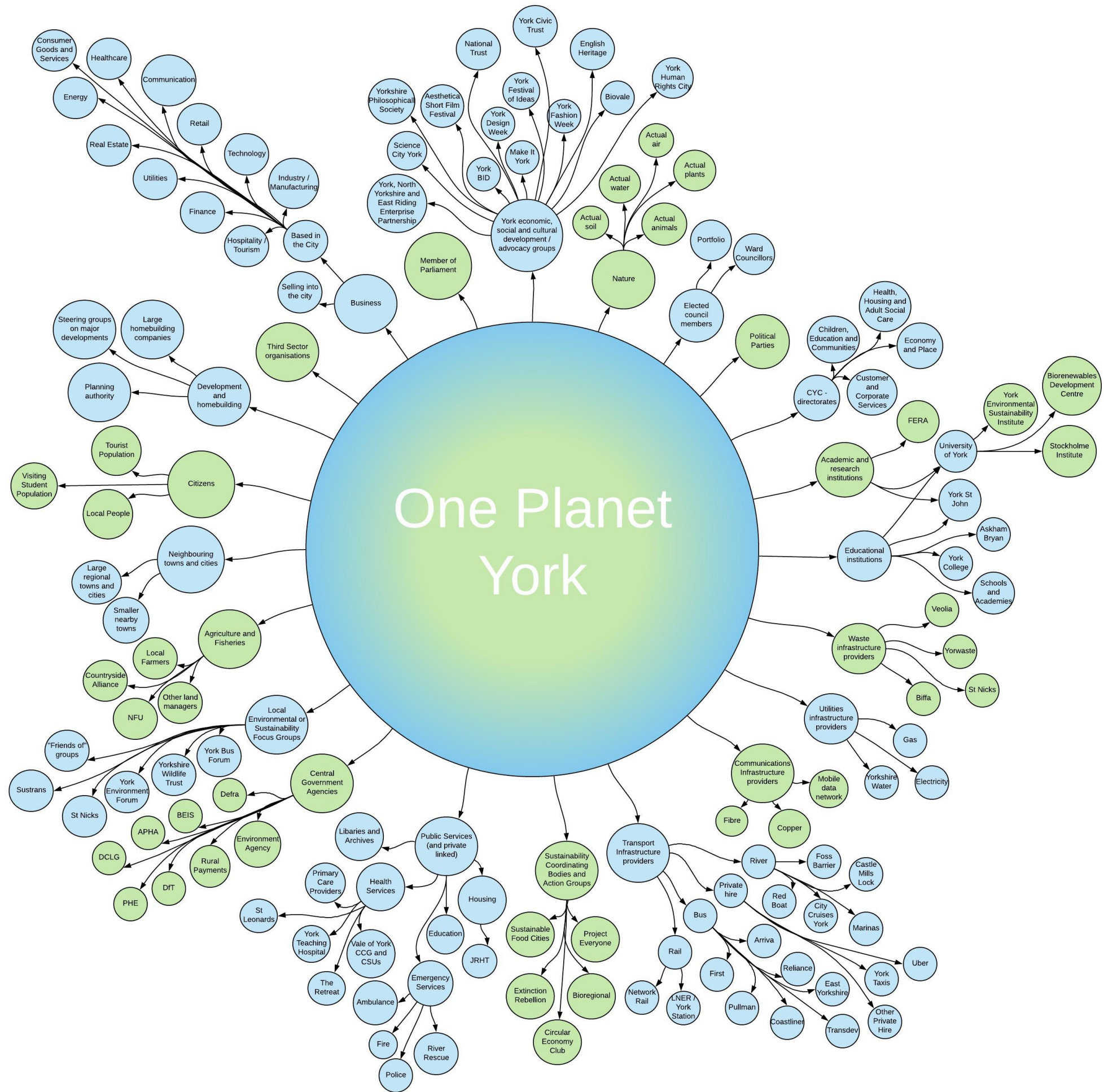
- Core Focus - York
Inside the Outer Ringroad
- Secondary Focus - immediate hinterland towns and villages, agricultural areas and natural areas
- A visual approximation of York's rural catchment where York may be perceived as the "nearest" large urban centre
- Notable settlements within the rural catchment - regional allies
- Major urban centres outside the catchment - regional allies



Landscape of Influence

By definition of mission, One Planet York exists in a highly complex stakeholder ecosystem. To be effective, we have to establish some form of relationship with all of these entities and more.

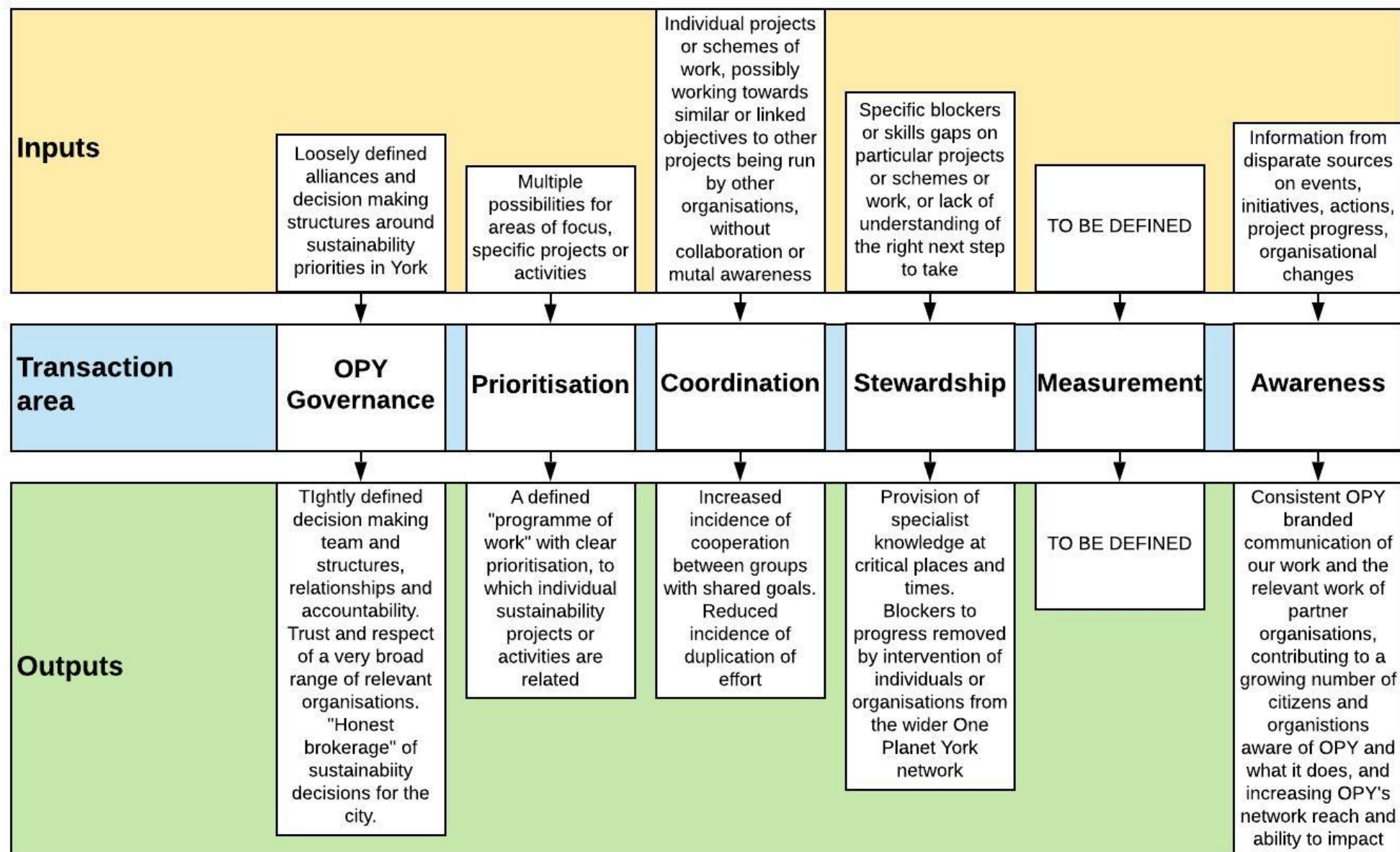
Some are more critical than others but all must be considered at some stage.



Transactional Analysis

The scope of One Planet York activity is defined by six key “transactions” - things we should do to change inputs to OPY into meaningful outputs.

We should use this framework to understand the relevance of everything we consider doing - if it can't be classified as one of these six things, and if we can't achieve one of the outputs, we should focus our attention elsewhere



Leadership structure

At present, the OPY Leadership Group is fairly large, but without defined roles.

I would like to form a steering board, probably of no more than six people. This group would meet quarterly, as now, and tackle matters of Governance, Prioritisation, Measurement and Awareness

Working alongside the board, I would like to appoint a named "Lead" for each of the ten petals. These Leaders would be responsible for creating a strong network of collaborators across the city who are relevant to their petal (drawing from the Landscape of Influence as a starting point). The focus is on Coordination and Stewardship.

These are our "doing" functions, and therefore our most important work. Our efforts in these areas should be aligned to specific activity that relates to one of our ten petals (accepting that there is huge overlap between all of these areas)



Items for decision

Approve the adoption of the proposed OPY leadership team structure

Propose to relevant council decision makers that OPY becomes a not for profit Community Interest Company (or other appropriate form) which City of York Council has a constitutional right to appoint director(s) to, and which draws its other directors from an appropriate mix of leading organisations with strong roots in the city or the immediate region.

Propose that resourcing/funding is sought, initially from CYC, to support 1 F.T.E resource divided across a part time "Awareness" role (social media, digital, events promotion), and a part time "Coordination" role responsible for supporting the ten operational leaders

Next steps

Reframe descriptions of all the ten petals to be more about sustainability instead of a more general “framework for the city” (proposed wording)

Choose steering board members and petal “leads”

Phrase a new compelling mission statement that makes sense to the general public - “sustainability programme office for the city” is not a user friendly descriptor

Decide our initial objectives that we will use to organise around and seek partner projects to support and promote. I suggest we choose a small number of objectives, but try to ensure that as a group they relate to all of the ten petals.

Sign off and plan an events calendar for the year (which relate to these objectives)