

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 (Executive Member and Advisory Panel) EMAP at the half-year point and also in May, to report on full year performance. This report covers the period April 2006 to March 2007. The Partnership Delivery Plan is being reviewed and will be brought to EMAP in October 2007.

### **Headline Achievements**

3. Over the last five years, YMT has established itself as an independent organisation, continued to develop its organisational structure, 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. It has developed some strategically important partnerships with the Yorkshire Regional Museums Hub and the British Museum Partnership UK and works effectively with other organisations within the city and region. 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 2006-2007:
  - Invested £300,000 in refreshing and reinterpreting Kirkgate, the Victorian Street in the Castle Museum resulting in an increase of 41,000 visitors
  - Organised ***Constantine the Great – York's Roman Emperor*** attracting over 53,000 visitors to the Yorkshire Museum
  - Submitted ***A Thousand Stories*** £6.3m bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the refurbishment of Yorkshire Museum
  - Organised a series of high profile exhibitions at York Art Gallery, including ***Icons and Idols*** from the National Portrait Gallery

- Secured funding from the Arts Council Yorkshire for York St Mary's to create the site specific installation **ECHO** by Susie MacMurray.
- Learning service for Schools recognised by the Sandford Awards for all three museums
- Strengthened Community partnerships through the **Territories** project involving local groups
- Brought in an additional £809,039 during the year from trusts and foundations and through the Yorkshire Hub
- Vacated the derelict Darnborough Street store and increased storage capacity at James Street.
- In all exceeded our visitor target of 500,000 visitors by 17,000

### **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 Priorities**

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 Executive Member notes and comments upon the performance of the York Museums Trust.

Reason: In order to provide feedback to the Trust.

## Contact Details

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**Report  
Approved**



**Date** 22.5.07.

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

All

**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
4. Lifelong Learning Statistics