

Meeting	Decision Session - Economic Development and Community Engagement
Date	9 November 2017
Present	Councillor Orrell

30. Declarations of Interest

The Executive Member was asked to declare any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, or any prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests that he might have in respect of the business on the agenda. None were declared.

31. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the last Decision Session held on 1 August 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Executive Member.

32. Public Participation

It was reported that there had been one registration to speak at the session under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

Mr Howard Perry spoke in relation to agenda item 5 (Mansion House Pricing Structure – Post Restoration), querying the proposed admission charges for York residents set out in the report.

33. Project Plan for Local Area-Based Financial Inclusion

The Executive Member considered a report that followed on from a paper presented to Executive on 27 April 2017 [*Minute 150 of that meeting refers*] outlining the principles and methodology for the delivery of a multi-agency financial inclusion project, called 4CommunityGrowthYork.

The report provided an update on the project delivery plan, as detailed in Annex A, and on progress to date and methods for evaluating the impact of the project. Paragraphs 7 to 10 described the proposed work plan activities in relation to the

distinct areas of jobs and skills, business and enterprise, financial resilience and community capacity building. Capacity and next steps were outlined in paragraph 11, including the proposal to commission additional community engagement capacity for a year in the first instance, as detailed in Annex B. The project budget, refined in line with the work plan, was set out in paragraph 12.

In response to the Executive Member's questions, Officers clarified that:

- Communication on the project would take place with Members and local communities using a range of methods, including ward team meetings, face to face visits with representatives of local groups, Facebook and leaflets.
- Further sessions on the subject of Universal Credit, as referred to in paragraph 18, were being planned with the help of the Welfare Benefits Unit.

Resolved: That the project plan outlined in Annex A and described in sections 7 to 13 of the report be noted and approved.

Reason: In order to progress the Area Based Financial Inclusion Project, contributing to the council plan priority to support a prosperous city for all - where local businesses can thrive and residents have good quality jobs, housing and opportunities.

34. Mansion House Pricing Structure - Post Restoration

The Executive Member considered a report that presented proposals for a new pricing structure for the Mansion House when it re-opened to the public after restoration.

The Mansion House was due to re-open in early December 2017 following a major restoration project, called *Opening Doors*, funded by a Heritage Lottery grant with a capital contribution from the Council. A fair and reasonable pricing structure was required that was also sufficient to cover running costs and contribute to income generation. The proposed structure, detailed in paragraphs 9 to 14 of the report, covered charges for admission, educational activities, and private hires. It had been produced following an analysis of prices charged by similar sized visitor attractions in the city, as set out in

paragraphs 17 to 19, and additional evidence from a range of sources. It also included discounts for York residents, as highlighted in paragraph 10.

In response to the Executive Member's questions, Officers confirmed that:

- The 50% reduction for York residents applied only to the entrance charge and special events, and not to private hires.
- Prices would be subject to annual review as part of the Council's budget process.

The Executive Member expressed his thanks to the Mansion House Curator and Mansion House team for their hard work and commitment over the course of the project.

Resolved: That the pricing structure set out in the report in relation to entrance charges, educational activities and private hires be approved, subject to an annual review.

Reason: In order to provide a sustainable income generation while also providing community access to the Mansion House.

Cllr Orrell, Executive Member

[The meeting started at 2.02 pm and finished at 2.18 pm].