

**Learning and Culture Overview and  
Scrutiny Committee**

18<sup>th</sup> July 2012

Report of the Assistant Director (Communities, Culture & Public Realm)

**York Museums Trust Partnership Delivery Plan: 2011/12 End of Year  
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.

**Background**

2. The Partnership Delivery Plan (PDP) approved by Members in December 2007 outlined the key targets and objectives which the Council requires YMT to work towards over the period 2008-13. Progress reports are usually made to members six monthly at the half year point and at the end of the financial year. This report covers the year to March 2012 with particular emphasis on the second half of the year.
3. YMT was set up in August 2002. The background to this decision was:
  - The increasing decline in visitor numbers – an average of 37,000 visits per year lost over the previous ten years
  - The increasing gap between income and expenditure with the service costing an extra £120k every year
  - A large backlog of inadequately catalogued objects and poor storage conditions
  - Buildings requiring extensive maintenance and upgrading including the need to make them accessible
  - A need to modernise the display methods at all sites

- A need to improve the effectiveness of the management of the service
4. YMT was set up as an independent trust in order to achieve business turnaround. The key target areas reflected in the PDP related to:
    - Stabilising visitor figures
    - Delivering new income streams
    - Creating new exhibitions and interpretative services
    - Creating an education strategy
    - Increasing use and involvement by residents
    - Achieving high visitor satisfaction
    - Cataloguing of the collection
  5. The report from YMT (Annex 1) sets out how they have been addressing these issues in the period to March 2012, and also gives an outline of what they will be developing moving forward. It should be noted that the YMT has been successful in receiving revenue funding from the Arts Council: England as one of sixteen museum services nationally chosen to improve services to their region. They have also been successful in their application to the Arts Council: England for £3.5M capital support for the refurbishment of the Art Gallery.
  6. YMT will shortly be submitting a draft business plan for the period 2013-2018. Following on from that the new Partnership Delivery Plan for this period will be received by the Cabinet member for Leisure, Culture, and Tourism.

### **Options**

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

### **Council Plan**

8. YMT 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.

## Implications

9. Finance: The Council makes an annual grant to YMT. It has received stable funding since 2002 with inflation uplifts. In 2011/12 the grant was £1,506,710. The current financial arrangements extend to 2013. The Council now fixed the grant for 2013 to 2018 at a level reduced by 20%. A revised PDP will be considered by the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Tourism.
10. The report has no implications relating to: Human Resources, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, Information Technology, Property.

## Risk Management

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

## Recommendations

12. That Members note and comment upon the performance of the York Museums Trust.

Reason: To fulfil the Council's role under the partnership delivery plan.

## Contact Details

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**Report  
Approved**

**Date**

### Wards Affected:

**All**

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

**Annex 1: York Museums Trust Performance report to March 2012.**