

**Learning and Culture Overview and  
Scrutiny Committee**

18 June 2014

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

**York Museums Trust Partnership Delivery Plan:  
Performance Update 2013/14 – End of Year Report**

**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. YMT was set up as an independent trust in order to achieve a business turnaround of the museums and art gallery and to enhance the cultural provision within the city. It successfully addressed its initial targets which were concerned principally with: stabilising visitor numbers, delivering new income streams, creating new exhibitions and interpretative services, creating an education strategy, increasing use and involvement by residents, and cataloguing of the collection.
3. The Partnership Delivery Plan (PDP) approved by the Cabinet Member in March 2013 outlined the key targets and objectives which the Council required YMT to work towards:
  - To protect and conserve the collections, gardens and buildings
  - To promote access to the city's collections, gardens and buildings appropriate to the 21<sup>st</sup> century
  - To attract more visitors to all the YMT sites, increasing visitor numbers from 660,000 to 900,000 by 2018, thus contributing to the local and regional economy
  - To create learning opportunities and improve skills for all and develop innovative programmes springing from the collections, gardens and buildings

- To network and collaborate with partners and contribute to the development of the economic and cultural life of the city and the region and support York's world class cultural offer
  - To raise substantial funds to realise these aims through the development of sustainable income streams and relationships with Grants and Trusts
4. The specific activities and outcomes are summarised under five main headings:
- Income improvement – to further develop YMT financial sustainability
  - Capital Project – to ensure the delivery of key capital improvements to the YMT estate
  - Public programmes – to promote the collections, buildings and gardens ensuring visitors and residents have leisure and learning opportunities
  - Working in partnership – to delineate the specific areas where YMT support our corporate priorities
  - Governance – to ensure the continued security of the collections and the appropriate governance of the business.
5. The report from YMT (Annex 1) sets out how they have been addressing these issues in the period to 31 March 2014, and also gives an outline of what they will be developing moving forward.

### **Options**

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

### **Corporate Objectives**

7. 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**

8. **Finance:** The Council makes an annual grant to YMT. During 2013/14 the grant was £1,207k, a reduction of £300k compared to the previous

year. The grant is reduced to £1,107k in 2014/15 and will reduce to £607k in 2015/16. The Council has also agreed 3 capital allocations to YMT: In 2014/15 £250k for the Art Gallery project and £1m for wider investment in the museums estate, and in 2015/16 a further £350k contribution towards the Art Gallery and new gardens scheme.

9. The report has no implications relating to: Human Resources, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, Information Technology, Property.

### **Risk Management**

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

### **Recommendations**

11. That Members comment upon the performance of the York Museums Trust.

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

### **Contact Details**

#### **Authors:**

Charlie Croft  
Assistant Director  
(Communities, Culture and  
Public Realm)

Ext. 3371

Janet Barnes  
Chief Executive  
York Museums Trust

#### **Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Charlie Croft  
Assistant Director (Communities,  
Culture and Public Realm)

**Report  
Approved**



**Date** 6.6.14.

#### **Wards Affected:**

**All**



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

### **Abbreviations**

YMT - York Museums Trust  
PDP - Partnership Delivery Plan

**Annex 1:** York Museums Trust Performance report to September 2013.