

Report to council by interim Deputy Leader Cllr Andrew Waller

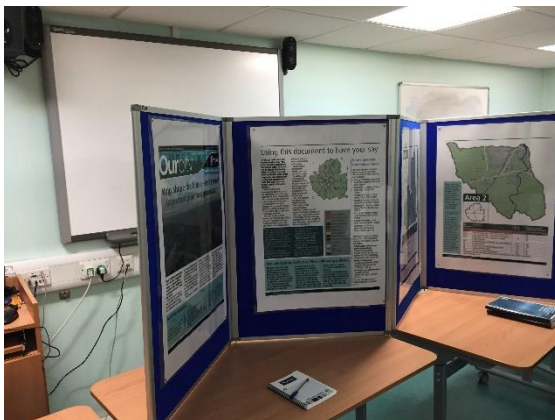
1. Local Plan Consultation



Public consultation on the Local Plan has been launched I would encourage all residents to become involved as it is a long term strategy for the city and land use for a generation. All residents should have received an edition of Our City specially dealing with the subject.

Ensuring that major developments in the city are sustainable and work with plans to improve flood defences, improve air quality, and don't overload existing infrastructure will be important for the city. The retention of

open space is a major question being raised in a number of parts of the city.



There have been a number of local sessions including the one above at Acomb Explore Library at which residents have been able to speak with officers and complete their own comments forms.

It is vital that residents receive sufficient information in order to participate meaningfully. This has been of major concern in terms of recent consultations on major development proposals in the city. Openness from the council will be essential to generate trust with residents in terms of planning assumptions and the ways in which air quality and sustainability will be integral to the developments.

I am grateful for council officers in Münster in a visit in September (which was before the Civic visit linked to the official 60th anniversary twinning

celebrations) for detailing the way in which they had consulted with their public on the development proposals for the York and Oxford Barracks which have been vacated by the British Army and are now available for inclusion within the city. This issue had been raised by the Münster's Oberbürgermeister Markus Lewe speaking at the One Planet York conference at the University of York earlier this year. I am feeding this experience into the current consultation processes with York Central and other active public consultations on major development as it is vital that the city ensures that these are as sustainable as possible to be lasting legacies for future generations.



I was also grateful for the time taken by officers in Münster to detail progress with the electric bus fleet there, and how there can be closer co-operation between York and the teams there with practical experience and training.

2. Budget Consultation

The consultation on the council budget has a more extensive public consultation this year and given this is always the most significant decision of council it is important that all residents have their say, and feel that their views have been considered in the process.

The main Central government grant provided for 40% of the council's income in 2012/13 but fell to just seven per cent last year. By 2020, York will receive no government grant. That means the services the council provides will have to be funded from a share of business rates, from the council tax and through any fees and costs it charges.

Residents can complete the survey online or in paper form through the special Our City which has been produced for this purpose.

The online consultation will close on Friday, 15 December. Printed questionnaire responses from Our City must be received by Friday, 1 December.

3. Regional Aspects on future investment

There have been significant meetings of Leeds City Region (LCR) Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and West Yorkshire Combined Authority at which the case for York station to receive the same attention as Leeds Station has been made to ensure that we don't miss out on the advantages which come from future enhancements of the rail network. The importance of maintaining York's position as a rail hub is vital for the continued economic investment in the city. I have made the case for plans being developed for submission to Government later this year, making clear the importance of York to this side of the city region, and our neighbouring council areas who will benefit. It has been disappointing to see the rolling back of plans to electrify the rail network in the North of England, the link between Leeds and York is a specific project which should have been made years ago to assist with the operation of the East Coast Mainline and would assist with the ultimate aim of speeding up connections across the North.

More details are available via the link below:

<http://westyorkshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=133&MId=471>

4. Future Energy

There are a number of programmes across the region and at city level to review the proposals for future clean energy generation and these are developing at a pace which reflects the rate of change of technology.

a) Resource Efficiency Fund

The LCR Green Economy Panel is leading on the Resource Efficiency Fund (REF).

They can offer free efficiency assessments, hands-on business support and 50% capital grant funding of up to £10,000 to help companies save money and resources.

To be eligible for support, a business must be:

- A small or medium sized enterprise (SME), defined as:
- having fewer than 250 employees AND
- a turnover of under c £40m OR a balance sheet of under c £35m

- not being part of a larger group of companies that takes it over this threshold
- Based in the Leeds City Region excluding Barnsley
- In an eligible sector - this generally excludes primary agriculture, banking and financial services, and (for grants in particular) those trading directly with consumers - e.g. retail and hospitality
- Able to provide evidence of your previous energy and resource consumption, for example your previous utility bills.

b) Energy Accelerator

This programme will provide grant funding and specialist expertise to help public and private sector organisations in Leeds City Region develop low carbon local energy projects. It will help projects get off the ground, providing technical support and advice along the journey from concept to investment-ready proposition.

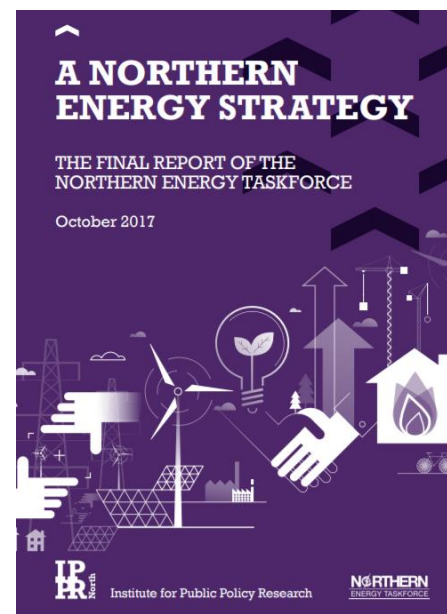
<http://www.the-lep.com/for-investors/energy-investment/>

c) Community Energy

The council is working on a scheme with Community Energy York for more PVs and with other organisations to develop local sources of energy which reduce our dependency on external sources and reduce losses in distribution.

d) Northern Energy Strategy

With some input from York into the consultation over the summer by the Institute for Public Policy Research there has been work drawing together a plan for a £15 Billion 100,000 job low carbon energy plan which could see an “Energy for the North” being established along the lines of Transport for the North. Whilst some features relating to nuclear power and its professed agnosticism on the matter of shale gas extraction will lead to future debates on detailed implementation, there are many proposals which link up with the work of the LCR Green Economy Panel. Ensuring that York is connected to these new proposals will enable a greater engineering future for our young people.



5. Ouse Safety Plan

I observed Exercise Mashua on the 9th October which was a live multi-agency exercise to test the River Ouse Emergency Plan which is led and maintained the by ROSAG (River Ouse Safety Advisory Group) which is chaired by CYC Emergency Planning.



The aim of the exercise was to test a multi-agency response to an incident involving a City Cruise boat with multiple casualties. This involved simulating a tree falling onto a boat and injuring people

who subsequently needed rescuing. Volunteer casualties were taken off the City Cruise boat onto the Fire and Rescue or York Rescue boats and taken to the Bishopthorpe Marina where an ambulance casualty clearing station was set up. From there they were taken to the survivor reception centre (SRC) run by the Major Incident Response Team (MIRT) team. Testing the SRC was the main objective for CYC and coincides with the Rest Centre Plan which is currently being reviewed.

Partners that took part in the exercise include CYC, all three emergency services, including the specialist Ambulance HART (Hazardous Area Response Team) team, MIRT, York Rescue Boat, City Cruise York, Canal and Rivers Trust and a variety of other agencies as observers.



The exercise took approximately 6 months of planning lead by CYC Emergency Planning and supported by a team of 14 people in the planning group. In total there were 180 participants including exercise facilitators, responders and casualties. I

understand that due to the scale of the exercise this is not done every year but on a 3 to 5 year basis.

The ROSAG group will now look at lessons identified in the exercise and how these can be embedded into organisations and the plan. A post exercise report will be issued in due course and I would like to thank all officers, partners and volunteers who worked on the day, and in the months leading up to the exercise.

Cllr Andrew Waller
October 2017

Abbreviations:

CYC – City of York Council

HART – Hazardous Area Response Team

LCR – Leeds City Region

LEP – Local Enterprise Partnership

MIRT - Major Incident Response Team

PVs - Photovoltaic cells

REF – Resource Efficiency Fund

ROSAG – River Ouse Safety Advisory Group

SME – Small or medium sized enterprise

SRC – Survivor Reception Centre