

Scoping Report

Purpose of Report

1. This report outlines the suggested scope and timetable for the above review which aims to contribute towards achieving a long-term direction for the area between the National Railway Museum, York Railway station and the Minster, and to consider any positive and/or adverse effects on the city in doing so.

Background

2. This topic was originally registered in early 2008 by Councillor Hogg to examine the ‘Vision’ developed in 2007 for a Cultural Quarter for York, linking the city centre with development sites in York North West. He suggested using the 2007 ‘Vision’ document to explore the relationship between the six areas of the quarter (area 1 to include the Railway Station), including pedestrian and vehicular movement, design, open spaces, a river crossing, performance areas, lighting, landscaping, cultural production, promotion and public art.
3. The aim of the vision is to generate substantially more external funding than that which is currently being achieved through an ad-hoc approach. The ‘Vision’ recognises that getting the link between the city centre and York North West right, will support and guide future city centre development.
4. A feasibility study and a draft remit were submitted to Scrutiny Management Committee in April 2008, and after due consideration it was agreed to proceed with this scrutiny review based on the following remit:

Aim

5. To contribute towards achieving a long-term direction for the area between the National Railway Museum, York Railway station and the Minster, and to consider any positive and/or adverse effects on the city in doing so.

Objectives

- i. To understand the Council’s strategic approach, and that of its key partners, to the cultural design for the area.
- ii. To contribute to a business plan for achieving the required funding for developing the area into a ‘Cultural Quarter’

- iii. To develop and establish some key principles for guiding a collaborative approach to cultural development in the future, including connectivity to other areas of the city
 - iv. To understand the implications for the whole city in terms of retail, its economy and other cultural or leisure based events within the city.
6. In an effort to keep the review focused and in consideration of the timetable below, it is suggested that the final report for this review should be submitted to Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC) in January 2009.

Consultation

7. 'Cultural Quarters' are often described as 'the use of planning and development powers to both preserve and encourage cultural production and consumption'. Moreover, they are often seen as part of a larger strategy integrating cultural and economic development.
8. It is recognised that 'Cultural Quarters' can take various forms. In order to gauge what is right for York, Members may benefit from looking at what other cities have done; for example Sheffield City Council have developed a Creative Industries Quarter, Wolverhampton an Art Quarter and Bolton Metropolitan Council a Cultural Industries Quarter. Members may choose to invite a representative from Sheffield City Council (due to its proximity to York) to the September meeting in order to receive information on how they developed their Creative Industries Quarter. As part of this review Members may also choose to invite representatives from other Local Authorities to present information on their Cultural Quarters.
9. Members may choose to either invite an external expert on Cultural Quarters to address them or co-opt them onto the Committee – for example Simon Roodhouse, an academic at University of London and author of 'Cultural Quarters – Principles and Practices'.
10. It is suggested that Janet Barnes, Chief Executive Officer of the Yorkshire Museums Trust (YMT) and Director of Visit York be co-opted onto the Committee as she had many years experience working in cultural sectors and an understanding of creative industry quarters.

Information Gathering & Sourcing

11. Public Consultation will be taking place in relation to a City Centre Area Action Plan, which is being undertaken as part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) process. Once adopted the plan will form the framework for development in the City Centre for the next 20 years to protect its special qualities but also identify area based proposals to stimulate enhancement where it is needed. It is anticipated that consultation will start in July 2008 and run for 6-8 weeks. It is therefore hoped that Members will receive feedback on this at the meeting scheduled for September 2008.

12. In relation to objective (ii) of the remit it is proposed that Members, through this review, contribute to a Business Plan. It is envisaged that the City Strategy Department will sketch out a Draft Business Plan, which could hopefully be presented to Members at the October meeting.

Timetable For Review

13. SMC agreed a timescale of approximately 6 months for this review to allow it to reach its conclusion prior to the submission of the Council's Business Plan. Members of the Sub-Committee will need to agree to or amend the following proposed timetable for the review:

21 st July 2008	<p>The Head of Arts and Culture will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Explain the 'Vision' document and inform Members of the processes that have taken place so far. ii. Introduce the concept of Cultural Quarters. iii. Present Members with information on various existing Cultural Quarters. As Members will be aware there is a large break in between the July and September meetings. It is therefore suggested that Members of the Committee pick one of these to look at in detail, identifying positives and negatives for York in that approach, in order to inform their understanding on what would be the best strategic approach for York.
17 th September 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To receive feedback from Members on their findings in relation to various different Cultural Quarters. ii. To receive feedback on public consultation that has taken place in relation to the City Centre Area Action Plan being undertaken as part of the LDF process. iii. Invite a representative from Sheffield to attend and talk about the benefits of their Creative Industries Quarter.
25 th October 2008	To receive the Council's Draft Business Plan and discuss this in relation to key objectives (ii) and (iv)
29 th October 2008	Invite stakeholders to attend this meeting i.e. representatives from the Theatre Royal, York Museums Trust, Rushbond and National Railway

	Museum.
16 th December 2008	Consider draft final report
January 2009	Submit the final report to SMC

Options

14. Having regard to the aim and objectives of this topic remit Members may choose to:
 - i. Invite the involvement of the co-optee(s) suggested in paragraph 9 & 10 of the report
 - ii. Invite the proposed guest speakers suggested in paragraph 8 & 9 of the report.
 - iii. Invite representatives from other Local Authorities as suggested in paragraph 8 of the report.
 - iv. Agree or amend the scoping arrangements
 - v. Agree or amend the timetable for the review.

Implications

15. **Human Resources (HR)** – The Head of Arts & Culture is already leading on this within her service and has indicated that this review would only incur minimal additional admin work, which could be retained within her team.
16. **Legal** – There are no legal implications associated with the recommendations within this report.
17. **Financial** – There are minimal funds available within the scrutiny budget for research relating to ongoing reviews, therefore there are no financial implications associated with the recommendations within this report.
18. There are no Equalities, Property, Crime & Disorder, or other implications associated with the recommendations within this report.

Corporate Strategy – Priorities & Direction

19. This review relates to the following corporate priority for improvement of this Council:

‘Improve the actual and perceived condition and appearance of the City’s streets, housing estates and publicly accessible spaces.’

Risk Management

20. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, there are no known risks associated with the recommendations of this report other than the focus of the review and the progress of the Scrutiny Workplan would be adversely affected if the review did not keep within the agreed timescale.

Recommendations

21. It is recommended that Members consider and agree:
- a. The proposed timetable & scoping for this review
 - b. The involvement of the suggested co-optee(s) in paragraphs 9 & 10 of this report
 - c. To invite a representative from Sheffield City Council as proposed in paragraph 8 of the report
 - d. To invite representatives from other Local Authorities as proposed in paragraph 8 of the report

Reason: To ensure the progression of this review and compliance with scrutiny procedures, protocols and work plans.

Contact Details

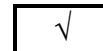
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**Scoping Report
Approved**



Date 10.07.08

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected: Guildhall, Holgate & Micklegate

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

None