
Meeting Of Executive Member For Neighbourhoods And Advisory Panel

7 September 2006

Report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services

European Sustainable Cities – Sustainable development in a historic city - Update

Summary

1. This report will provide an up date on progress and activities relating to the Twin Towns event proposed for January/February 2007.

Background

2. On the 8th February 2006 a report was presented to the Environment & Sustainability EMAP entitled 'European Sustainable Cities – Sustainable development in a historic city'. The purpose of the report was to make Members aware of and seek their approval for a proposed funding application to the EU Town Twinning budget and to Yorkshire Forward to host an event in York in 2007. The committee resolved:

That the Executive Member be advised:

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted;
- (ii) That the pursuit of funding for the proposal from Yorkshire Forward and the EU be agreed;
- (iii) That officers be asked to involve residents and York businesses in the development of the programme to show case the whole city (e.g.: planning forums, holding public meetings, involving local schools, using a web cam to widen participation);
- (iv) That an update on progress be brought back to the Executive Member and Advisory Panel in July 2006.

Decision of the Executive Member:

RESOLVED: That the advice of the Advisory Panel be accepted and endorsed.

REASON: To increase the understanding and practical implementation of European sustainable development and energy policies in a historic city.

This report fulfils part (IV) of the resolution. It has been slightly delayed due to the amendments in the EMAP system as a result of the constitutional changes.

3. In line with the resolution it was our intention to submit an application to the Thematic Conferences section of the European Union's 'Town Twinning' budget. Unfortunately, we were unable to fully complete the application that would meet all the criteria of the scheme, within the timescale.
4. Specifically, we needed certain pieces of information from our European partners, which had to be confirmed in writing and one partner was unable to provide this. In particular, they indicated that they required formal approval to make such a written commitment and they were unable to complete this within the time available. The process of translation further complicated this.
5. So, whilst we had completed our own key requirements and established all the details of the project to facilitate the involvement of our European twins (including aims, detailed budgeting, supplier quotes, conference organisation, drafting the application), we had not provided enough information at a stage that gave our potential partners sufficient time for their necessary processes.
6. It remains our desire to progress this scheme (or one on similar lines) so the following next steps are proposed:
 - We are currently awaiting announcements from the European Union on the new budget provision for Town Twinning. As soon as we have this information we will approach our Twin Towns again to gain their support for a new application and to provide them with sufficient time to progress their relevant approvals.
 - In the meantime, we are actively searching for other funding routes to progress this project. It is worth noting that we may have to amend the project slightly, depending upon the nature and specific criteria of any new funding source.
 - Continue with discussions with the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre concerning a partnership to produce the event.
 - Make sure we learn from this project and in future we must establish our relationship, and the premise of the scheme, with our European partners at the earliest possible time – allowing them the maximum possible time for the completion of their internal processes and approvals.

Consultation

7. During the work to prepare for the grant application a number of internal and external officers were consulted and involved. These included:
 - Potential speakers,
 - Local community groups and business,

- Council officers including those in Resources, City Strategy and Democratic Services,
- Local and national business such as translators, hoteliers and caterers
- Our European partners.

Options

8. This report is for information only and therefore there are no options to consider.

Analysis

9. This report is for information only and therefore there are no options to analyse.

Corporate Priorities

10. This proposal relates to the Council's first corporate Aim to:

'Take pride in the city by improving quality and sustainability, creating a clean and safe environment.'

Implications

- 11.

- **Financial** None
- **Human Resources (HR)** These will be met within existing staff resources.
- **Equalities** None
- **Legal** None
- **Crime and Disorder** None
- **Information Technology (IT)** None
- **Property** None
- **Other** None

Risk Management

12. There are no known risks.

Recommendations

13. Members are asked to:

1) Note the contents of this report.

Reason: To inform the Executive Member as requested by members in February 2006

2) Agree for work to continue on this event as described in paragraph 6.

Reason: To raise awareness of sustainability issues and York.

Contact Details

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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Terry Collins
Director of Neighbourhood Services

Report Approved

Date 18/8/06

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

European Sustainable Cities – Sustainable development in a historic city. Report to Environment & Sustainability EMAP 8 February 2006. Minutes of this meeting.

Annexes None