



# My York Central

Big Ideas & Principles from the community engagement process

Festival of York Central March/April 2018

My Future York | [www.myyorkcentral.org](http://www.myyorkcentral.org)

# My York Central

More than 3,500 Post-Its, all tagged on Flickr

Almost 2,000 of these on the boards at the exhibition

About 40 workshops / walks / rides / talks + Q&A's

And 6 film screenings / discussions...





# 2. Exploit the benefits of high density

High density should bring walkable access to shops, gyms, culture, entertainment, public transport and incredible roof top views. Identify these benefits collaboratively and design for them.

'Stretch your eyes more - views, level, variety'	ADAPTABLE FOR DIFFERENT USES	TALL BUILDINGS - BREAK SOME RULES	NON-MUNICIPAL PUBLIC SPACE	"THOU SHALT NOT LOOK FORWARD"	WALKABILITY SCALE MIX
BEST THINGS SHOULD BE AT THE EDGES	THE HERITAGE OPPORTUNITY IN YC FOR THE HERITAGE NOT TO DOMINATE SO MANY DESIGN DECISIONS... & EMOTIONS?	TRANSPORT OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE EXEMPLARY TRANSPORT SYSTEM IN YC - THAT IS THEN EXTENDED THEN REST OF THE CITY OVER TIME.	USE THE ENTRANCES - MAKE THEM TANTALISING	SPACES LIKE IN THE COMMERCIAL AREA BUT IN THE TOWNSHIPS	Busy Rd: size of unit / pavement size / resilience & slope close
WIDE VIEW - OPPORTUNITY AT YC TO 'BREAK THE MOULD' & BE COUNTERPARTY - BUT USING CORE PRINCIPLES THAT MAKE OUR OLDER PLACES WORK (EG. BUSY ROAD)	Small grain - allows for growth & change	Busy Rd: 'everything you need is there'	'In York Central need to break rules'	Busy Rd: Adaptable space - things can't be seen	Busy Rd: 'Places to meet there'
THINK VILLAGES! (Scale & village in city)	GRAIN allows for growth & change	No BALL GAMES SIGNS! (not play fl)	Difference betw Nunny Lane + Busy Rd - pavement size	How to deal with different uses? Great reflective v. active - play fl	Not liveable! Traffic / not playing out
A MODERN TRAIL BACK TO VILLAGES THE ADORS	Make a village of different spaces	'Tantalising' entrances + bits of site	Iconic structure at the park at the Water End entrance to the site - Figure (angel of York) - structure - viewing tower - tantalising feature	Mit-Use spaces (living + work)	BEST IDEAS IN PUBLIC REALM
Mixing of public + private space	Should have water - still + mixing	Maintenance - The need for a space to be looked after and loved.	Take features of the entry points to the York Central area. Make a feature of the cultural Holywell Beck	Cycle Routes through and round the area could link to existing routes - especially on the meirid Take advantage of proposed near Scarborough cycle bridge.	Cycle Routes through and round the area could link to existing routes - especially on the meirid Take advantage of proposed near Scarborough cycle bridge.

# 3. Build in low running costs through high standards:

Link low fuel bills and environmental sustainability through high building standards.

The collage features several handwritten notes and tweets. The notes include:

- "Involve Stockholm Environment Institute in building design Passivhaus" by Alan Jones.
- "Stimulate Green Businesses +"
- "All buildings should be built to be zero carbon"
- "Little access – concerned about future strain on roads and wants safe routes for walking. Amenities are important – bigger than small corner shops but still suitable for community. Need to be local to help people who do not have cars and need to do big weekly shop. Homes need to be affordable. They are a non-car family and are concerned about their carbon footprint."
- "Q Will the masterplan consider low carbon development and the provision of renewable energy on site to meet the present and future needs arising from changing climate, extreme environment conditions (shade/ cooling)? Prime opportunity for innovative solutions fit for 21st century, e.g. renewable energy/ NRM solar roof."
- "A The masterplan looks at flood risk assessment and levels. Landscape architects Gustafson & Porter are looking at flood management/ retention on site - SUDS back into river/ Holgate Beck, liaising with the Environment Agency and other specialists. Building regulations and Local plan policies with regard to sustainability and energy will be met, but we are not at stage to determine other energy sources. Early exploration of these elements is underway for the Sustainability Statement which will form part of the planning submission. Looking at low levels of parking for private use, and promoting cycle/ pedestrian movement – work in progress, but there are some more details in the exhibition."
- "ENERGY PERFORMANCE OF EXISTING HOUSING"
- "How do we ensure a move to low carbon?"
- "Invest in Green space NOT building and CO2 producing things"
- "Building offices would create an absolutely massive carbon footprint when you could develop businesses"
- "ecohomes like renoworthome / esbaldwuch"

The tweets include:

- Caroline Lewis @singingfoodie: "Absolutely. Referencing the railway architecture would be challenging but could make for really interested buildings instead of bland boxes."
- Phil Bixby @PhilBixby: "Interesting - can understand heritage concern, but would be good to identify modern (sustainable) buildings which enhance historic settings."
- Arcticfox @greenbeltsal: "Love the #zerocarbon but not so sure about the buildings 4 #York"
- Kate Lock @KlockworksKate: "This is the kind of innovative thinking we need for #YorkCentral @MyYorkCentral @ArupGroup @CityofYork @YorkGreens passivehouseplus.ie/magazin..."
- Caroline Lewis @singingfoodie: "@MyYorkCentral - what is the likelihood of making York Central essential traffic only? Car Free housing and parking for businesses on outskirts of scheme would solve a lot of the traffic problems. @YorkCycle"



# 4. People, not cars

Whether people love and rely on their cars or want to see a car free York, there is one shared point of agreement: that York Central cannot add 2500+ more cars to York's roads. York Central should provide liveable streets and safe neighbourhoods for children to grow up, keep cars to the periphery, plan for quick and reliable public transport and prioritise direct routes for those on foot, bikes and with mobility aids.



# 5. Beyond zoning

Work is changing. Work and life are often no longer zoned into 9am-5pm so why should our cities be? Plan for creative vibrant urban space by mixing up work, living and cultural buildings and spaces.

**Prefer access of new cycle bridge at Chancery Rise – a better bridge with a smooth approach to allow easy access for cyclists and mothers with push chairs.**  
**Concerned about having to pay £100 to stop people from taking free parking in their area and walking into town**  
**Got to be a mixed development, with a park as a key element of it**

**Restaurants would be ideal for visitors**

Read towns and cities have grand four businesses and being above them – so the place doesn't feel deserted @ evenings / weekends after work finishes

This is rolling in the parks to justify all the people being here.

This area will never get used. Not enough residents fail not to be an open desert.

Although this looks nice, the square is very open and barren. Will people really utilise the space & the openness creates a windy and unsheltered environment with nothing to watch or keep you interested

**MORE AFFORDABLE SPACES FOR CIVIC + WORKING**

Promising but needs to be a flexible urban space (no customer to difficult access)

Food, drink, retail + 'culture' mixed with housing

Encourage mix of uses

Encourage mixed-use spaces

address the relationship between 'open' and 'closed' spaces

More mix of housing work spaces

More community educational use in square park area and commercial space

MARKET  
What mix? does mkt want to deliver.

KEEP 'JUBA' HIGHLY FLEXIBLE AT THIS STAGE

Is separation of commercial from housing possible? – Some Jacobs' work in the 1960s suggests not. How about more of a mix? Issue about commercial or office users.

Why migrants coming from residential? Mix them up for vibrancy 24/7

**4. Expanded Natio**  
Creation of expanded York Central's diverse

**5. Commercial district**  
New workspace and retail uses at 100 is complementary office destinations in the city

**Boulevard**  
Connection for pedestrian from The Great Park to the

Homes: York Central is going to have new housing for York. What would the housing need to be like to tempt you to move onto York Central? (Prompts: affordable to rent, to buy, good community, good views, green space?)

Movement: How do you currently get around York and beyond to work, to see family, to shop and how would you like to get around in the future? How might York Central help you get around better? (Prompts: Walking? Cycling? Buses? Cars? and Traffic?)

Activities and public space: What would draw you to spend time in the new area of York Central? Imagine you're walking down a street on York Central in the future, who is there? What is happening? (Prompts: green space, kids playing out, people meeting and chatting, shops, events, work?)

Community: You live so close to this new area. How can we make use the communities of the island/German Road are well connected and integrated with the new communities on the York Central site? (Prompts: connections between, good shared facilities?)

NEED FOR FAMILY HOMES BUT ALSO KEY TO HAVE A MIX AND SPREAD OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF HOME.

RIGHT TO PROMOTE CYCLING BUT THE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS TO BE REALISTIC ABOUT CAR USAGE.

PARKS / GREEN SPACE.

IMPORTANT TO HAVE SHOPS FOR LOCALS TO USE.

Housing: mix of housing / 2,3,4 and 4+ bedroom homes / need a socioeconomic mix

Movement: Safer links to get in and out of York city centre. Work out way to get it over "bank" if route through the NRM is not available.

Mix of use to encourage crossover of community housing

Key workers Mix of types & sizes Community faith facilities shops etc. Doctors health centres bus routes

Mix-use spaces (living + work)

How do we make it essential that it is a mixed community – not just houses!

How do we stop this from just being a hot of houses?

WE NEED MIXED USE SPACES – SOCIAL, SHOP, GP, GREEN, WORK



# 6. A community made through exchange

York has enormous wealth, socially, culturally and financially. Use York Central to build a community that can build links between people to address inequalities through sharing and exchange.



# 7. A hub that catalyses York's creativity and innovation

Amazing things are happening in York from media, science and technology and heritage. Develop a showcase and learning hub that challenges perceptions and fuels new ideas and networks.

The collage consists of the following notes:

- Yellow:** RAILWAY IS UNIQUE TO YORK CENTRAL
- Green:** CONSIDER HOW TO BRING THIS NEW COMMUNITY TOGETHER.
- Light Green:** CAN WE USE ART TO KEEP ALIVE THE STORIES OF YORK? E.g. Phoenix + Phoenix Foundry.
- Blue:** Cultural Industries on site
- Dark Blue:** THINK BIG - BE BRAVE!
- Light Blue:** DON'T LET THE OLD BUILDINGS GO TO WASTE. USE THEM AS PART OF THE NEW COMMUNITY. DON'T LET THE OLD BUILDINGS GO TO WASTE. USE THEM AS PART OF THE NEW COMMUNITY.
- Blue:** DON'T LET THE OLD BUILDINGS GO TO WASTE. USE THEM AS PART OF THE NEW COMMUNITY. DON'T LET THE OLD BUILDINGS GO TO WASTE. USE THEM AS PART OF THE NEW COMMUNITY.
- Blue:** INTERACTIVE & INCLUSIVE
- Orange:** REMEMBER! disabled people young families UNDER 5 Give them access & opportunity Levels & enclosed spaces.
- Light Green:** COMBINE PAST (HERITAGE) WITH FUTURE (DIGITAL)
- Orange:** MULTICULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES: many people in York speak other languages Belief
- Orange:** Involve all cultures, ethnicity.
- Orange:** High line (now gone) Maypole Mass Graffiti
- Blue:** FROM PLANS TO ACTUALITY • ENSURING CULTURAL PLANS IS IMPLEMENTED!
- Blue:** ARTISTIC INTERVENTIONS • HISTORY... • PERFORMANCE • OBJECTS
- Blue:** OWNERSHIP OF BUILDINGS FOR CULTURAL WELL-BEING
- Blue:** PROTOTYPE CENTRE?
- Yellow:** CAN CIA INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS FIND NEW MANAGED MEANWHILE USES BY CREATIVE SECTORS?
- Yellow:** Hubs for creatives to meet - part of the blocks
- Yellow:** USE THE ENTRANCES - MAKE THEM FANTASISING
- Red:** Space for small unique businesses - creatives etc.
- Blue:** ATTENT STUDENT TO STAY IN YORK AND BUILD UP A CREATIVE CULTURE.
- Pink:** ARTISTS STUDIOS
- Pink:** Should we create a 'creative' business hub?
- Yellow:** Is there a consideration for creative space (some accommodation for artists)?
- Pink:** WHAT SPACES WILL THERE BE FOR ARTISTS + CREATIVE BUSINESSES?
- Yellow:** CAN ALL THIS NEW SPACE HELP WITH SPACE (cheap space for ARTISTS?)
- Blue:** You want to create opportunity for businesses ie start ups / tech companies (outside of London) that are not in the secure sector job.
- Blue:** Creative Industries - The North doesn't have enough of an 'Arts' scene - York has the youth of today from the students. - Keep that culture, bring more arts! Please!

Will those plans provide work spaces and studios for the emerging industries such as the creative industries?

*Councillors' questions and visions*



# 8. Public spaces that enable people to be collectively creative

Design indoor and outdoor public space and forms of collaborative governance that enable communities to take ownership and to cultivate lots of different activities.

The sticky notes contain the following text:

- SPACE FOR NEW IDEAS / MUSEUM / ETC / FUNNEL
- Use York Cultural Consortium & York & large to maximize use of art & culture to promote health & well-being
- ... DRIVE NEW CONNECTIONS BETWEEN OLD + NEW?
- ... CAN SUBSIDISING (COSTS + POTENTIAL) COMMUNITY FACILITIES PRODUCE...?
- We're a UNESCO City of Media Arts - do something with it!
- films being shown in public places? -> museum gardens -> all ages -> pay for food but free entry
- more public music + events (films, shows etc)
- UNESCO media City -> do something to celebrate it (like cities of culture)
- Public space should not be filled with commercial projects (cafes, etc) -> should be of + cultural led -> true community space -> bringing people together
- multi-purpose use eg. Parliament Street Xmas Markets -> markets -> events -> moms dancing
- Art along length of rail eg. High Line Berlin Wall Cultural Pockets along length
- meet friends there in a cafe with interesting view/features
- enjoy outdoor arts & performance
- hear music
- Will there be spaces for music and socialising other than pubs/bars?
- Public sculpture? art? theatre?
- a wheel?
- Scope for a conference facility?
- Does York Central play a role in W.Y.C.A. plan for cultural 'infrastructure'?
- What public space for art will there be? Eg. Gallery?
- WHAT IS ADDED TO EG. NCM/YTR/YAT AUDIENCE BY YORK CENTRAL!
- Could there be temporary exhibition space - like the Y&P Print?
- WHAT IS ARTS & CULTURE IS BEING PLANNED FOR YORK CENTRAL - IN ADDITION TO THE NET
- Could commercial space include arts exhibition space (gallery, theatre, etc.)?
- IS 'performance' space being looked at historically with Creative Gateway?
- CAN ALL THIS NEW SPACE HELP WITH SPACE (CHEAP) SPACE FOR ARTISTS?
- WHAT CULTURAL FACILITIES WILL BE THERE? ADDITIONAL TO NCM
- WHAT NEW THINGS / CULTURE WILL GO THERE?
- Agree NCM expansion, growth visitor attractions, build on international reputation.
- SPACE CAN BE "EVENT FRIENDLY" (NOT DESIGNED FOR SPECIFIC EVENTS)
- Are there any "art + culture" spaces?
- Creative Industries - The North doesn't have enough of an arts scene - York has the most of them from the Midlands - can't that culture bring more arts? Please!
- "I come into town for the culture - I've been to the Library, done some sketching, I'm off to City Screen now. Shops don't bring me in".

YCP Pop-Up No.3 - St. Helen's Square

"There's a theatre group that does stuff in all sorts of venues around York. That's what brings the place to life".	"City Screen is fabulous - the choice, the screenings from theatre and opera, the other events".
YCP Pop-Up No.3 - St. Helen's Square	YCP Pop-Up No.3 - St. Helen's Square



# Key Principles

These are principles that were so central to the public engagement response that they should underpin all future thinking on the proposals.

# 1. Ongoing community engagement

For broad and open ongoing community engagement with the development process. The broad and open approach should also shape as far as possible the process of statutory approvals.

## 2. Identify issues and co-design solutions

For community engagement to be based upon a continuity of conversation which allows for consideration of options, viability issues and creative design – in short a “grown-up conversation” where there is an invitation both to identify issues and to co-design solutions.



# 3. Shaped by future aspirations not current norms

For the development on York Central to be bold and innovative, shaped by hopes and expectations for future urban living rather than current norms.

## 4. York Central as a lever for city-wide change

For the development to be a lever for change across the city as a whole and to move forward in parallel with review and implementation of a widely-supported local plan.

## 5. A social contract for York Central

For York Central to be developed in ways which spreads benefit, is underpinned up the city's human rights ethos and is used to creatively address inequalities.