

Reinvigorate York April 2014



ANNEX 3

Reinvigorate York Public Realm Improvement Projects

Community Impact Assessment

1 April 2014 (V1)

1	Name and Job Title of person completing assessment	Katherine Atkinson/ Sue Houghton Regeneration Officer/ Reinvigorate York Programme Manager
2	Name of service, policy, function or criteria being assessed	Reinvigorate York Programme
3	What are the main objectives or aims of the service/policy/function/criteria?	<p>Reinvigorate York aims to improve the public open spaces and movement in the city centre with the following objectives in mind:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinvigorating the city centre economy. • Increasing footfall in the city centre. • Improving the overall quality of life for residents. • Increasing the sense of York as a special place. • Maintaining York as a top tourist destination.
4	Date	March 2014

Stage 1: Initial Screening

5	What evidence is available to suggest that the proposed programme could have a negative or positive effect on quality of life outcomes¹ for people (both staff and customers) from the communities? Document the source of evidence in the columns below.			
Community of Interest/Identity	Source of evidence that there is or is likely to be a negative or positive impact:			
	Staff		Customers/Public	
	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
Race				

¹ See appendix 1

Religion / Spirituality /Belief				
Gender				
Disability			Post works; surfaces, public open spaces, legibility and movement in the city centre will be improved.	During works; access to public open spaces will be limited and the movement of people restricted.
Sexual Orientation				
Age			As disability.	As disability.
Pregnancy/maternity			As disability.	As disability.
Gender Reassignment				
Marriage and Civil Partnership				
Carers of older and disabled people			As disability.	As disability.
Commercial			Post works; boost to local businesses from improved environment.	During works; risk of effect on access to local businesses/ may deter custom in locality, and complicate deliveries.

The **Reinvigorate York** Initiative stems from the ‘**York New City Beautiful – Towards An Economic Vision**’ work, and is part of a wider programme of work being developed to create a world class, diverse and dynamic city centre. The improvement projects will be delivered over a three year period. As such there is limited evidence before implementation of impacts on any particular group either positive or negative.

A report to Cabinet on 4 September 2012 approved investing £3,300,000 in the Reinvigorate York programme. View the Report (Item 18):

<http://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=733&MIId=6876&Ver=4>

The six city centre improvement projects are:

1. Parliament Street - Piccadilly/Coppergate junction
2. King's Square
3. Exhibition Square & Theatre Interchange scheme
4. Fossgate
5. Duncombe Place/ Blake Street junction
6. Micklegate

The Reinvigorate York Community Impact Assessment cross cuts all six public realm projects. Project specific elements of the assessment have been identified where appropriate and will be updated as individual projects are progressed.

Several studies will inform all Reinvigorate York work, to facilitate positive and inclusive outcomes:

York City Centre Access and Mobility Audit highlighted a number of challenges around improving the public realm environment for disabled pedestrians and wheelchair users. The report outlines the current issues with recommendations for improvement:

- Footpath width and resurfacing
- Level surface pedestrian demarcation
- Pedestrian routes and crossings
- Street furniture
- Way finding and signage
- Promoting shopmobility

<http://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/7394/york-city-centre-access-and-mobility-audit-summary-report>

York Streetscape Strategy encourages a quality approach to the management of our streets and spaces, to ensure consistency, and to underline the importance of moving towards a fully accessible city.

<http://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/download/2519/city-of-york-streetscape-strategy-and-guidance-consultation-draft-may-2013>

The proposed **Legible York project** is intended to improve wayfinding in the city and to complement delivery of the six Reinvigorate York public realm schemes. One of the key objectives of the project is to provide information which will be of value to disabled people, including wheelchair users and blind and partially sighted people. It is anticipated work on the Legible York project will start later in Spring 2014. A four week public consultation will be held and will include consultation with key stakeholders including York Access Forum and Joseph Rowntree Foundation (York as a dementia friendly city).

Stage 2: Full Impact Assessment		
6	How could different communities be affected by the proposed programme? Record negative and positive effects below.	
A1	Public/customers – positive effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Positive impact on the city centre economy in the longer term. It is intended to boost city centre investment and confidence of York businesses in their investment decisions/ demonstrate that we have a commitment to York - Local identity of key city centre spaces enhanced/ increasing the sense of York as a special and unique place - Get York Moving – reduced vehicle movements in public spaces, reducing the volume of parked vehicles, and improvements to streets and spaces will improve safety for pedestrian and cyclists, and help to create a better environment for people to consider using alternative modes of transport - Increased footfall in the city centre - Community enjoyment/ improving the overall quality of life for all those who interact with York city centre whether they are residents, tourists, business or workers - Building commercial links through joint project working - Community engagement in evolving scheme through consultation - Maintaining York as a top tourist destination

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protect vulnerable people. York’s streets and spaces need to work for everyone, and there are many significant issues that need to be resolved. Higher quality paving, wider pavements, less parked vehicles, more considered repairs and re-bedding of surface materials, increases in seating and better quality seating, improved lighting, and a new approach to wayfinding will all help to improve physical and intellectual access to services and facilities for all. - Introduction of dedicated disabled parking spaces and benches for pedestrians who need to stop and rest will help to facilitate access.
A2	Public/customers – negative effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access issues during works - Traffic diversions during works - Commercial concerns during works (affecting access, deliveries and footfall) - Reduction in the ability to park in existing yellow lines by blue badge holders at the top of the street - Changed layout of public spaces and new junction arrangements
B1	Staff – positive effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supports the economic and cultural agendas - Promotes cross-cutting team work internally and in with external partners - Promotes community engagement and involvement
B2	Staff – negative effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The staff undertaking the design, public consultation and construction of these projects, are subjected to verbal and written abuse from the public. In the case of construction staff this can be on a daily basis.
7	<p>Can any negative effects be justified? For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As a proportionate means to achieve a legitimate aim ▪ In support of improving community cohesion ▪ To comply with other legislation or enforcement duties ▪ Taking positive action to address imbalances or under-representation ▪ Because of evidence-based need to target a particular community or group e.g. younger/older people. <p>NB. Lack of financial resources alone is NOT justification!</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Temporary issues caused by the works (access, traffic diversions etc) will be outweighed by the long term improvements to the city centre.- Ensuring that public spaces are safe and secure for residents and visitors, both during and after the works.- Disabled parking: Access & Mobility Audit consultants advised that there are potentially irresolvable conflicts between the provision of disabled parking in the city centre for those with mobility impairments and the impact of this on pedestrians (including other disabled people) and businesses. The scheme at the top end of Fossgate encourages people not to park by the design layout and language of paving materials that make it feel like a pedestrian space which will reduce current blue badge holder use of this section of the road. However, two new dedicated spaces for disabled parking will be provided for the first time further down the street. It is hoped that blue badge holders will default to using the marked bays and if these are full, that they would seek to park elsewhere, such as Piccadilly car park, which has recently had new dedicated disabled parking bays marked out, as a preference to parking in Fossgate.
8	What changes will you make to the programme as result of information in parts 5 & 6 above?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Update internal and external Communications Plan.- The Consultation Plan for projects incorporates a range of methods including for example: Press release, Ward Committee structures (online YourWard, Ward webpage and facebook), web page www.york.gov.uk/reinvigorateyork and online survey, presentations to groups, reference copies, summary leaflet, exhibition, electronic mailing to stakeholders and interested bodies, met a visually impaired representative on site, established a Business User Group (adjacent businesses/ stall license holders/ performers/ entertainers)- City of York Council, in partnership with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and others, are committed to creating a dementia city. Principles of design for people with dementia/inclusive design were considered as part of the Kings Square project (working closely with JRF Dementia Without Walls project / Dr Lynne Mitchell (Wellbeing in Sustainable Environments, Warwick Medical School) and will be used to inform the Fossgate scheme and the other Reinvigorate York public realm projects.- Help businesses to publicise 'open as usual' message via hoardings/ website/ press.- Reinvigorate York board meetings (approx bi-monthly) review 'Project Initiation Documents', scheme designs and update reports, and approve schemes for

<p>consultation/ next steps/ make recommendations to cabinet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Individual risk assessments will be undertaken for each Reinvigorate York public realm project. For the Fossgate scheme, the safety team audit of flush surfaces will include consultation for example, with representatives of York Guide Dogs Association. - Works and access issues will be planned to avoid school holidays, peak trading times and festivals as much as possible. - Advertise the Council web site information on where the new dedicated disabled parking has now been provided. 								
9	<p>What arrangements will you put in place to monitor impact, positive and negative, of the proposed programme on individuals from the communities?</p>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An email address has been set up – reinvigorateyork@york.gov.uk and comments and questions are being addressed through this route. Updates are added to the new webpage www.york.gov.uk/reinvigorateyork - A communication plan, and separate consultation plan will be implemented for each of the projects. - Work with stakeholders to review plans during design stage. - It is the intention to monitor and review the impact of the improvements. 								
10	<p>List below actions you will take to address any unjustified impact and promote equality of outcome (as in appendix 1) for staff, customers and the public from the communities. The action could relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Procedures ▪ Service delivery ▪ Training ▪ Improvement projects 							
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 60%;">Action</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Lead</th> <th style="width: 20%;">When by?</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p>Delivery</p> <p>Impact of improved scheme/ final evaluation report?</p> <p>There will be a post completion safety review of projects. This always occurs and is reviewed by a neutral third party (ie people not involved in the design). This follows on from design stage safety reviews.</p> </td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Action	Lead	When by?	<p>Delivery</p> <p>Impact of improved scheme/ final evaluation report?</p> <p>There will be a post completion safety review of projects. This always occurs and is reviewed by a neutral third party (ie people not involved in the design). This follows on from design stage safety reviews.</p>		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review the impacts of the work that is ongoing for the project, and for work that has already been completed. - Implement/ refresh the Communications Plan - Check reinvigorateyork emails to see if there are any adverse effects being reported. If so by whom, what are they and what can be done, where reasonable to mitigate these - Impact of the Blue Badge parking – what has this been, has anyone been detrimentally affected? - Possible assessment of feedback from the commercial sector and see if anything can be reasonably done there. 		
11	Date CIA completed		
<p>Author: Katherine Atkinson/ Sue Houghton Position: Regeneration Officer/ Reinvigorate York Programme Manager Date:</p>			
12	Signed off by		
<p>I am satisfied that this service/policy/function has been successfully impact assessed.</p> <p>Name: Andy Binner/ Mike Slater Position (Head of Service and above): Head of Highway Infrastructure/ Assistant Director Development Services, Planning & Regeneration Date:</p>			
<p>Please send the completed signed off document to equalities@york.gov.uk. It will be published on COLIN as well as on the council website.</p>			

Appendix 1 - Quality of Life Indicators (also known as “the 10 dimensions of equality”)

Think about the positive and negative impact in these areas:

- ❑ Access to services and employment
- ❑ Longevity, including avoiding premature mortality.
- ❑ Physical security, including freedom from violence and physical and sexual abuse.

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- ❑ Health, including both well-being and access to high quality healthcare.
- ❑ Education, including both being able to be creative, to acquire skills and qualifications and having access to training and life-long learning.
- ❑ Standard of living, including being able to live with independence and security; and covering nutrition, clothing, housing, warmth, utilities, social services and transport.
- ❑ Productive and valued activities, such as access to employment, a positive experience in the workplace, work/life balance, and being able to care for others.
- ❑ Individual, family and social life, including self-development, having independence and equality in relationships and marriage.
- ❑ Participation, influence and voice, including participation in decision-making and democratic life.
- ❑ Identity, expression and self-respect, including freedom of belief and religion.
- ❑ Legal security, including equality and non-discrimination before the law and equal treatment within the criminal justice system.

Indicators from: The Equalities Review 2007 and the Equality Framework for Local Government.