

Report of the Assistant Director (Communities, Culture & Public Realm)

**York Museums Trust Partnership Delivery Plan:
Performance Update 2014/15 - First 6 months report**

Summary

1. This report updates Members on the current progress of the York Museums Trust (YMT) towards meeting the targets agreed in the Partnership Delivery Plan, and provides an update on the implementation of the approved recommendations arising from the previously completed YMT Scrutiny review.

Background

2. YMT was set up as an independent trust in order to achieve a business turnaround of the museums and art gallery and to enhance the cultural provision within the city. It successfully addressed its initial targets which were concerned principally with: stabilising visitor numbers, delivering new income streams, creating new exhibitions and interpretative services, creating an education strategy, increasing use and involvement by residents and cataloguing of the collection.
3. The current Partnership Delivery Plan (PDP) approved by the Cabinet Member in March 2013 outlined the key targets and objectives which the Council requires YMT to work towards over the period 2013-18:
 - To protect and conserve the collections, gardens and buildings.
 - To promote access to the city's collections, gardens and buildings appropriate to the 21st century.
 - To attract more visitors to all the YMT sites, increasing visitor numbers from 660,000 to 900,000 by 2018, thus contributing to the local and regional economy.
 - To create learning opportunities and improve skills for all and develop innovative programmes springing from the collections, gardens and buildings.

- To network and collaborate with partners and contribute to the development of the economic and cultural life of the city and the region and support York's world class cultural offer.
 - To raise substantial funds to realise these aims through the development of sustainable income streams and relationships with Grants and Trusts.
4. The specific activities and outcomes are summarised under five main headings:
- Income improvement – to further develop YMT financial sustainability
 - Capital Project – to ensure the delivery of key capital improvements to the YMT estate
 - Public programmes – to promote the collections, buildings and gardens ensuring visitors and residents have leisure and learning opportunities
 - Working in partnership – to delineate the specific areas where YMT support our corporate priorities
 - Governance – to ensure the continued security of the collections and the appropriate governance of the business.
5. The report from YMT (see Annex 1) sets out how they have been addressing these issues in the period to September 2014, and also gives an outline of what they will be developing moving forward.
6. YMT have also provided an update on their implementation of the approved recommendations arising from this Committee's previous YMT scrutiny review – see Annex 2.

Options

7. The report at Annex 1 is for information and there are no options to consider.
8. In regard to the implementation update at Annex 2, Members may choose to:
- i. Sign off any recommendations that have been fully implemented
 - ii. Request a further update in 6 months time for any outstanding recommendations

Council Plan

9. YMT contributes to a number of corporate objectives including developing opportunities for residents and visitors to experience York as a vibrant and eventful city, improving opportunities for learning, and in strengthening York's economy through investment in the tourism infrastructure.

Implications

10. **Finance:** The Council makes an annual grant to YMT. In 2014/15 the grant is £1,107k, a reduction of £400k compared to 2012/13. The grant will reduce by a further £500k in 2015/16.
11. The report has no implications relating to: Human Resources, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, Information Technology, Property.

Risk Management

12. This report is for information and there are no risks to consider.

Recommendations

13. Members are recommended to:
 - i) Comment upon the performance of the York Museums Trust as detailed in Annex 1.
Reason: To fulfil the Council's role under the partnership delivery plan.
 - ii) Sign off any previous recommendations that have now been fully implemented, as detailed in Annex 2.
 - iii) Request a further implementation update if required.
Reason: To conclude the work on the review in line with scrutiny procedures and protocols.

Contact Details

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Janet Barnes
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Report Approved



Date 3 November 2014

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Annex 1: York Museums Trust Performance Report to September 2014.

Annex 2: Previous recommendations

Abbreviations

YMT - York Museums Trust

PDP - Partnership Delivery Plan