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Meeting	Economy & Place Scrutiny Committee
Date	28 November 2018
Present	Councillors Pavlovic (Chair), D'Agorne, Hunter, D Myers and Steward
Apologies	Councillors Richardson and Mason

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## **24. Declarations of Interest**

At this point, Members are asked to declare any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, any prejudicial interests or any disclosable pecuniary interests which they may have in respect of business on this agenda. None were declared.

## **25. Minutes**

Resolved: That the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 25 September 2018 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

## **26. Public Participation**

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

## **27. Economic Health of York City Centre**

Members received presentations and held round table discussions with City of York Council's Economic Growth Team, Make It York (MIY), York Business Improvement District (BID), Cllr J Hayes as Chair of Indie York and the York Food Festival. The presentations were published on the website following the meeting.

Members discussed Indie York and in particular the support that was required from the Council to improve the organisation's reach. Cllr Hayes also answered questions on the criteria for businesses to be a part of Indie York.

Members and committee guests debated the following:

- What it was like to be a retailer in York and how the Council can work with businesses to support them.

- The contribution partner organisations such as MIY and BID were making to the city.
- The 'Cultural Passport' noted in the upcoming Cultural Strategy, aimed at encouraging primary school aged children to experience York's heritage and cultural attractions.
- The business rate system and Leeds City Region, potential upcoming national changes to the system and its effects on York
- The potential to use technology and qualitative information to better understand the movements of people visiting York's City Centre and the effect of the Economic Health of the City as a result.
- The current trends in the retail market in York, including opening hours of stores, the busiest times for shopping and incentives from the Council to improve this in future.

Members also discussed the importance of CYC continuing with trials that have been successful (e.g car parks open longer) and the barriers to this, with the bigger picture of York's Economic Health a potential beneficiary of such schemes.

The Chair asked each of the presenters to submit written contributions based on their presentations and experiences, to help inform the suggestions that this Committee will make to the Economy and Place Policy Development Committee.

## **28. Make It York Bi-annual Update**

Members received the bi-annual report from Make It York.

Members discussed the information that Make It York and the Council have on the attendance at major City attractions and events and noted how important it is to understand this data in relation to plans for the City Centre.

Members also asked for Make It York's opinion on the SLA and suggested that perhaps before the Chief Executive of Make It York left the organisation, he could pass on thoughts on the SLA and suggest ways in which it could be improved.

The committee gave special mention to Steve Brown, the departing Chief Executive of Make It York and thanked him for all the work he has done to contribute to the cultural and business development of the City during his tenure.

## **29. Work Plan 2017/18**

Members discussed their work plan for the 2018/19 municipal year.

It was noted that January's meetings of the Economy and Place Scrutiny and Policy Committees would be re-arranged so that the Policy Committee could meet on the 16 January and the Scrutiny Committee on the 29 January.

The committee agreed to have a special meeting prior to January to formulate some recommendations in advance of the next full Committee meeting in relation to the Economic Health of the City Centre.

The committee also agreed to defer the report on the City's Flood Defences to March.

Cllr M Pavlovic, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 8.00 pm].