



Notice of meeting of

Economic Development Partnership Board

To: Councillors Steve Galloway (Chair), Jamieson-Ball (Vice-Chair), Kirk, Alexander, Gillies, Looker, Scott and Taylor

Mr Andrew Scott (First Stop York Tourism Partnership), Jez Willard (Retail Sector), Mr Brian Anderson (Trades Unions), Mr Len Cruddas (Chamber of Commerce), Mr Mike Galloway (Education/Lifelong Learning Partnership), Mr Kevin Moss (Finance Sector), Prof Tony Robards (University of York), Mr Mark Sessions (Manufacturing Sector) and Julie Hutton (Yorkshire Forward)

Date: Tuesday, 11 March 2008

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: The Guildhall, York

AGENDA

1. Introductions & Apologies

2. Declarations of Interest

At this point, Members are asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business on this agenda.

3. Minutes

(Pages 1 - 4)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2007.

4. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered their wish to speak regarding an item on the agenda or an issue within the Board's remit can do so. Anyone who wishes to register or requires further information is requested to contact the Democracy Officer on the contact details listed at the foot of this agenda. The deadline for registering is Monday 10 March 2008 at 5.00pm.

5. Progress with the Review of the Sustainable Community Strategy (Pages 5 - 18)

This report sets out background information on progress with the review of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), and seeks comments from the Board on this matter.

6. Progress with the Review of the Local Area Agreement for York (Pages 19 - 24)

This report sets out background information on progress with the review of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) for York, and seeks comments from the Board on this matter.

7. Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Future Working within the Leeds City Region (Pages 25 - 34)

This report sets out background information on the Government's Sub-National Review of economic development and regeneration (SNR), considers the implications of this for the Leeds City Region (LCR), and proposes specific actions to consider in order to maximise the benefits for York.

8. Progress on Key Issues (Pages 35 - 62)

This report briefs Board members on issues/progress on key areas of economic development activity in the past six months, since the previous update in September 2007.

9. Future Membership of the Economic Development Partnership Board (Pages 63 - 66)

This report sets out some options for the Board to consider regarding future membership and composition prior to formal approval by the Council.

10. Future Meetings of Economic Development Partnership Board

This is to inform the Board of the dates for future meetings of the Economic Development Partnership Board as set in the new Corporate Diary for the civic year 2008/09. Board members are requested to note the following dates:

Tuesday 17 June 2008 – 6pm
Tuesday 23 September 2008 – 6pm
Wednesday 26 November 2008 – 6pm
Tuesday 10 March 2009 – 6pm

11. Any other business which the Chair decides is urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democracy Officer:

Name: Tracy Johnson

Contact details:

- Telephone – (01904) 551031
- E-mail – tracy.johnson@york.gov.uk

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

Contact details are set out above.

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- register by contacting the Democracy Officer (whose name and contact details can be found on the agenda for the meeting) **no later than 5.00 pm** on the last working day before the meeting;
- ensure that what you want to say speak relates to an item of business on the agenda or an issue which the committee has power to consider (speak to the Democracy Officer for advice on this);
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Further information about what's being discussed at this meeting

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The majority of councillors are not appointed to the Executive (38 out of 47). Any 3 non-Executive councillors can 'call-in' an item of business from a published Executive (or Executive Member Advisory Panel (EMAP)) agenda. The Executive will still discuss the 'called in' business on the published date and will set out its views for consideration by a specially convened Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC). That SMC meeting will then make its recommendations to the next scheduled Executive meeting in the following week, where a final decision on the 'called-in' business will be made.

Scrutiny Committees

The purpose of all scrutiny and ad-hoc scrutiny committees appointed by the Council is to:

- Monitor the performance and effectiveness of services;
- Review existing policies and assist in the development of new ones, as necessary; and
- Monitor best value continuous service improvement plans

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City of York Council

Minutes

MEETING	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BOARD
DATE	28 NOVEMBER 2007
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS STEVE GALLOWAY (CHAIR), KIRK, ALEXANDER, GILLIES, LOOKER, SCOTT (NOT PRESENT FOR MINUTES 14 - 16) AND TAYLOR MR ANDREW SCOTT (FIRST STOP YORK TOURISM PARTNERSHIP), JEZ WILLARD (RETAIL SECTOR), MR LEN CRUDDAS (CHAMBER OF COMMERCE) AND MR MARK SESSIONS (MANUFACTURING SECTOR)
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLOR CEREDIG JAMIESON-BALL, MR BRIAN ANDERSON (TRADES UNIONS), MR MIKE GALLOWAY (EDUCATION/LIFELONG LEARNING PARTNERSHIP), MR KEVIN MOSS (FINANCE SECTOR), PROF TONY ROBARDS (UNIVERSITY OF YORK) AND JULIE HUTTON (YORKSHIRE FORWARD)

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda.

Jez Willard declared a personal non prejudicial interest as Chair of York City Centre Partnership.

15. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the last meeting held on 25 September 2007 be approved and signed as a correct record.

16. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

17. FUTURE MEMBERSHIP AND WORKING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Board members received a report which set out a discussion document to outline to the Board proposals for reviewing membership and terms of reference following consideration of the Future York Group

recommendations regarding partnership working at the last meeting of the Board.

The attached note (Annex A) set out a proposal for consideration at the meeting. Comments were invited from the Board prior to seeking agreement to any proposal at a subsequent meeting of the Board. The Board also needed to consider the process for determining representation on the Board. When agreed, this was likely to require an amendment to the Council's constitution and the endorsement of the Local Strategic Partnership.

The Board discussed the following issues:

- Whether four sector representatives were enough
- That the Board did not have the power to ensure action, as detailed in Paragraph 2.2b of Annex A
- Whether the Education sector should be represented on the Board
- Whether 3 councillors were enough as not all parties would be represented
- How the Board could become more transformational and take the lead
- That there was no clear strategic vision and a lack of direction

It was highlighted that the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and the Community Strategy, which would be revised in January, contained the vision and direction. It was agreed that the working papers of the LSP should be circulated to the Board for information.

Board members agreed that the next report should present different options on membership for consideration, regarding how many councillors and which sectors to include. It was agreed that options would be refined down prior to the meeting via memos, leaving more difficult decisions to be discussed at the meeting.

RESOLVED: (i) That the input and views from Board Members on the proposal to review membership and the working of the Economic Development Partnership Board be noted;
(ii) That a report be brought back to the next meeting containing different options on membership.

REASON: To help shape the effectiveness of future action.

18. PROGRESS WITH KEY ISSUES ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE FUTURE YORK GROUP

Board members received a report which sought to brief the Board on progress with respect to key recommendations made by the Future York Group.

This Future York Group Report was an authoritative analysis of the local economy based upon a wealth of data and presentations given to the group. There had been a process of consultation on the findings of the

Report and paragraph 5 of the committee report detailed progress with the key recommendations. Whilst considerable progress was being made to implement the recommendations arising from the Future York Group report, it was imperative to maintain momentum to ensure action continued to be made and that progress continued to be monitored.

It was highlighted that all major employers in York now had a named contact at senior level within the Council. Board members noted that there were inconsistencies in the proposed figures for population growth and new dwellings. Officers reported that they had recognised some inconsistencies in the figures and would be feeding this into the Government consultation.

RESOLVED: That the actions set out in paragraph 5 of the report outlining progress in responding to the key recommendations from the Future York Group report be noted.

REASON: To help shape the effectiveness of future action.

19. UPDATE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SINGLE TOURISM ORGANISATION FOR YORK

Board members received a report which updated members on current progress on establishing a Single Tourism Organisation (with a working title of Visit York) for the city and requested endorsement for the actions taken so far.

The report advised that good progress had been made on establishing the Board. The constitution of the new company had been the subject of discussion and negotiation between the Council and the current Bureau Board, given that the responsibilities of the new company were much wider than those of the existing Bureau. The Memorandum and Articles of Association (Mem and Arts) of the new company had been agreed, subject to final approval at a Bureau AGM in December. The Mem and Arts confirm the company's strategic and operational roles, and a Service Level Agreement (SLA) was being finalised between the Council and the new company. This covered what the Council expected the new company to deliver, and ensured proper accountability for public funding. The Council would be asked to agree the Service Level Agreement at an Executive meeting on 18 December.

Board members queried about having offices on the first floor in Blake Street and whether this would be a lost commercial opportunity. Officers reported that no firm decision had been taken and that they would feed back the Board's comments to the steering group.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and that actions taken so far be endorsed.

REASON: To provide additional support from the wider business community for the contribution that tourism makes to the wider economy in the city

20. URGENT BUSINESS - DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE CITY CENTRE PARTNERSHIP

The Chair agreed to take an item under Urgent Business on the City Centre Partnership. This item was to enable an early discussion at the Economic Development Partnership Board (EDPB) on ways of sustaining the activities of the City Centre Partnership following their Board meeting held on 22nd November. No further EDPB meeting (which was not a decision taking Board) was scheduled before the next Partnership meeting (which must make decisions about its future). This item would also be considered at the Executive on 18 December 2007.

The report set out a discussion document regarding the City Centre Partnership and proposals for a Business Improvement District (BID). The company had sought to explore with city centre businesses the concept of a business improvement district for the foot streets. Significant research was undertaken, the end result of which was the decision taken at the York City Centre Partnership (YCCP) board meeting on 22nd November that it was too early to take the concept further at the present time. The overall high quality of most of the built environment and the services necessary to maintain it in this state, the level of marketing and promotion and the broad appeal of the city were felt sufficiently good enough to preclude the need for a bid to address such issues.

It was reported at the meeting that funding for the YCCP would run out next year and that a report would be going to the Executive before Christmas to consider the resource implications. Options on the way forward were discussed including continuing with the existing model, which was heavily subsidised, to amalgamating it into another organisation. The Chamber of Commerce offered to be involved and provide contacts who would be happy to play a role. It was suggested that a small meeting be held to discuss some ideas and feed back to the group.

As a decision on the future of the YCCP would of been made before the next meeting, Board members requested a report be brought to the next meeting with an update on the YCCP position.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Board's input and views on the options for sustaining the work of the York City Centre Partnership be noted;
(ii) That a report be brought back to the next meeting with an update on the YCCP position.

REASON: To help shape the effectiveness of future action.

CLLR S F GALLOWAY
CHAIR

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and finished at 7.05 pm.



Economic Development Partnership Board11th March 2008

Report of the Director of City Strategy

PROGRESS WITH THE REVIEW OF THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY**Summary**

1. The report sets out background information on progress with the review of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), and seeks comments from the Board on this matter.

Background**The original Community Strategy - 2004**

2. The original City Vision and Community Strategy were launched in 2004 and based on extensive public consultation and community engagement called the 'Festival of Ideas'. At its launch a commitment was made to refresh the Community Strategy. The resultant City Vision, that is still in place and used, is:

York – A City Making History

Making our mark by:

- Building confident, creative and inclusive communities
- Being a leading environmentally-friendly city
- Being at the forefront of innovation and change with a prosperous and thriving economy
- Being a world class centre for education and learning for all
- Celebrating our historic past whilst creating a successful and thriving future

3. The original Community Strategy has seven themes and strategic aims:

The Thriving City: To support the progress and success of York's existing businesses and to encourage new enterprises in order to maintain a prosperous and flourishing economy that will sustain high employment rates.

The Learning City: To ensure all those who live and work in York have the education and skills that will enable them to play an active part in society and contribute to the life of the city. To ensure that the city is seen as an internationally recognised centre for education with a commitment to lifelong learning and creativity which is second to none.

A City of Culture: Celebrating both our uniqueness and our diversity, we will promote a culture that helps build a confident and creative community, welcomes and inspires resident and visitor alike, and encourages quality opportunities for fun and fulfilment open to all.

The Safer City: To be a safe city with a low crime rate and to be perceived by residents and visitors as such.

The Sustainable City: That York should be a model sustainable city with a quality built and natural environment and modern, integrated transport network.

The Healthy City: To be a city where residents enjoy long, healthy and independent lives through the promotion of healthy living and with easy access to responsive health and social care services.

The Inclusive City: To ensure that all residents and visitors can take part in the life of the city.

Developments since 2004

4. Since the launch of the City Vision and Community Strategy a number of significant changes have taken place and strategic drivers emerged that strengthen the case for refreshing the original Community Strategy. They include:
 - Growing evidence of York's success as a city (e.g. European Tourist City of the Year);
 - An increase in population that is forecast to continue along with a changing ethnic mix;
 - The outcomes of three public planning enquiries determining that significant developments will take place in the city at the University, Derwenthorpe and Germany Beck;
 - The emergence of York North West as a major development opportunity for the city;
 - Job losses in both traditional manufacturing sector (Nestle and British Sugar) and the financial services sector (Norwich Union);
 - The publication of an independent economic review of the city that identified that York has an opportunity to significantly increase its economic performance;
 - Development of York's first Local Area Agreement (LAA) that is widely regarded as moving the original Community Strategy forward by making it more York specific and updating the original measures.

5. At the same time national policy has increasingly focused on the role and importance of cities and city regions for improved national prosperity. There is also a growing expectation that the strategic leaders of a city will determine its long term direction - via the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). In practice this means:
 - An enhanced role for LSPs;

- A need for the future of York to be planned in the context of its role within the Yorkshire and Humber Region, Leeds City Region and York and North Yorkshire Sub Region;
- That there must be a strong alignment between all strategies that impact on York. In particular the new 'Sustainable Community Strategy' and Local Development Framework need to provide a strong and clear strategic planning framework within which other key strategies can be developed and delivered;
- A requirement for all LSPs to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy which is defined as:

"to set the overall strategic direction and long-term vision for the economic, social and environmental well-being of a local area - typically 10-20 years - in a way that contributes to sustainable development in the UK. It tells the 'story of the place' - the distinctive vision and ambition of the area, backed by clear evidence and analysis." There is also an expectation that the SCS must provide 'a vehicle for considering and deciding how to address difficult and cross cutting issues such as the economic direction of an area, cohesion, social exclusion and climate change'. (Source: Creating strong safe and prosperous communities - Nov 2007)

Proposed Strategic Ambitions

6. The Chair of the LSP has made a case for updating the community strategy so it has a number of strategic ambitions that drive all other strategies and set the high level context for partnerships future activities.
7. The ambitions are underpinned by the basic premise that what makes York special and unique is its strength and this unique selling point should be used to ensure the future prosperity of the city. The strategic ambitions have been debated by the board and currently are:
 1. Use York's uniqueness as a way to improve the city further;
 2. Keep the economy strong and competitive and our employment levels high;
 3. Develop strong, supportive and durable communities;
 4. Strike a healthy balance between physical growth and environmental sustainability;
 5. Be proud of and promote our international significance;
 6. Work in partnership for the benefit of everyone;
 7. Assert our role as an important regional city.
8. It has been suggested that these ambitions need to be broadened to ensure the 'community' aspects of York are given as much prominence as the physical aspects of York. In addition it has been requested that an overall evidence base for the ambitions and final Sustainable Community Strategy is developed.

9. In accordance with the approved SCS project plan the SCS/LAA Steering Group is progressing the completion of the SCS and update of the LAA by April 2008. Partners are requested to update the parts of the current strategy that are relevant to them by 20 March, 2008. The Without Walls Partnership will develop and agree the sustainable community strategy for York. It will ensure that evidence has been properly and rigorously collected and analysed, will be the forum for debating and resolving matters of strategic direction for the city, and will set out the city wide vision, ambition and priority in the SCS. The LSP will also sign off the LAA, the Local Development Framework (LDF) and the thematic strategies to ensure they properly reflect the SCS vision and priorities.
10. In its role as 'place shaper', City of York Council is responsible for establishing and supporting key partnerships, making sure they work within a coherent framework, and ensuring they enhance decision making and deliver on actions. The council is currently developing an evidence base that will tell 'the story of place' for York which will be shared with partners to support the refresh of the SCS.
11. Beneath the Without Walls Partnership the eight thematic partnerships are established to support the SCS. They have 3 functions, each advisory to the LSP:
 - They provide evidence to the LSP to help it develop and refresh the SCS;
 - They recommend to the LSP the most appropriate LAA indicators;
 - They recommend 'thematic strategies' i.e. partners' commitments to actions, timetables and milestones.
12. The Without Walls (WOW) Executive Delivery Board monitors delivery of the strategies and tracks progress on the LAA. The refresh of the SCS needs to take place within this overall governance framework. In order to achieve the refresh it is proposed that the sequence, illustrated at Annex A, needs to take place.

Challenging Choices

13. In considering the evidence base and finalising the SCS some consideration will need to be given to what are being called the 'challenging choices' facing the city. It is proposed that the partnership will need to identify what are seen as the difficult issues, tensions and competing priorities in mapping out the future economic, social and environmental development of the city.
14. However it is important to emphasise that the partnership is not starting with a 'blank sheet of paper'. Nor does it have absolute discretion to determine all issues. The role of the WOW partnership is to influence and advise. In considering the refresh of the SCS it needs to be recognised that there are a range of 'givens' such as:
 - York is going to grow;
 - The special characteristics of York – built and natural environment – must be enhanced;

- Our total population will grow and its composition will change;
 - The level of inward commuting will continue to increase;
 - We will need to plan beyond our boundaries in order to address our housing needs.
15. These givens then lead to challenging choices such as:
- How to keep the economy thriving and ensure it provides prosperity for all;
 - How to minimise the gap between ‘haves’ and ‘have nots’;
 - How to address the challenges of climate change.
16. The nature of these choices has changed since the original strategy. For example: the level and type of jobs that York is expected to provide are largely a product of the Regional Economic Strategy and the level of housing units York is expected to build are largely a given from the Regional Spatial Strategy. As a result it is possible to influence what happens within this situation (e.g encourage the provision and use of sustainable transport) but many of the parameters are not within the direct control of the city. These issues are considered in more detail in the accompanying paper on the SCS and LDF.
17. In accordance with paragraph 9 above, the Economic Development Partnership Board is requested to review the “Thriving City” chapter of the Sustainable Community Strategy. A draft is appended and comments are invited. Following consideration of this draft chapter, it is proposed to prepare a more detailed economic development strategy and action plan for consideration by partners prior to the next Board meeting.

Consultation

18. Consultation has been undertaken over the summer and autumn through the Festival of Ideas 2 initiative with respect to the Future York Group report, the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Development Framework.

Options

19. Most of the proposals set out in the Sub-National Review (SNR) will be the subject of consultation with the local authority and an assessment of the options open to the Council will need to be undertaken at the appropriate time. At this stage, the key element for York is to maximise the opportunities presented by the Leeds City Region and to consider how best to respond to this. This is considered further below.

Analysis

20. Detailed analysis of the local economy has been undertaken in connection with the preparation of the Future York group report. The draft “Thriving City” chapter highlights some of the major issues and considerations in reviewing this chapter, together with providing a reason for any proposed change.

Corporate Priorities

21. Current corporate priorities that link with the focus on improving economic prosperity are:
- Increase peoples skills and knowledge to improve future employment prospects.
 - Improve the economic prosperity of the people of York with a focus on minimising income differentials.
 - Increase the use of public and other environmentally friendly modes of transport.

Implications

22. Financial: none directly from this report although the Council's economic development budget will contribute to the achievement of the strategic aims and objectives set out in the "Thriving City" theme of the Sustainable Community Strategy.
23. Human resources: None directly from this report.
24. Equalities: None
25. Legal: None
26. Crime and Disorder: None
27. Information Technology: None
28. Property: None

Risk Management

29. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy.

Recommendation

30. That the Board notes the progress in reviewing the Sustainable Community Strategy and comments on the proposed revisions to the "Thriving City" chapter.

Reason: To help shape the effectiveness of future action.

Contact Details

Author:
Roger Ranson
Assistant Director Economic
Development & Partnerships
Phone No: 01904 551614

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:
Bill Woolley
Director of City Strategy

**Report
Approved**



Date 25/02/08

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Financial – Patrick Looker

Others – Report Author

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annexes: Annex A – “York – The Thriving City” draft chapter

York – The Thriving City

Top Level Objective

To enhance the economic well-being of the City, being at the forefront of innovation and change with a prosperous and thriving economy supporting the progress and success of businesses and encouraging new enterprises that will sustain high employment rates whilst ensuring that all sections of the community are able to benefit from economic opportunities. (REASON FOR CHANGE: Amendment to take account of Future York Group report, progress against economic development indicators and targets as monitored by the Economic Development Partnership Board and as set within the LAA, and revisions to the Council`s corporate strategy).

Issues facing the City:

- Maintenance of York's position as a market-leader in the development of its knowledge and science base in an increasingly competitive global economy;
- Increasing competition in the leisure and business tourism markets;
- The on-going reduction of employment in York's manufacturing base;
- Lack of investment in the city's heritage and tourist industry;
- Lack of quality employment sites and accommodation particularly within the City Centre whilst recognizing the availability of significant brownfield land (REASON FOR CHANGE : Future York Group report).;
- Skills gaps and barriers to work facing York residents in an increasingly specialised workplace environment, and the need for quality jobs offering higher pay together with ensuring that as many residents and employees as possible can benefit from new economic opportunities (REASON FOR CHANGE: Future York Group recommendations, growing agenda from Government to tackle worklessness, Partner and stakeholder views, Council corporate strategy priority).;
- Need for a modern, uncongested transport infrastructure and improved international travel connections to meet the needs of a modern, knowledge-based economy;
- Balancing and using the successful economy to achieve high environmental standards and quality of life , taking account of the commitment to limit any impact on the carbon footprint of the City (REASON FOR CHANGE : Amendment to take account of the growing importance of the principles of sustainable development)..

Strategic Aims:

1. **To have a leading edge, modern, knowledge and science-based economy;**
2. **To be ranked as an international quality leisure and business visitor destination;**
3. **To have a broad based economic structure, characterised by good working practices, and with a highly skilled and motivated workforce;**
4. **To provide a strong and distinctive cultural sector, enriching the lives of residents and visitors;**
5. **To be a focus for high quality external investment and supportive of local business and small business development;**
6. **That the University maintains its top 10 position within the UK and acts as a key local and regional economic generator as well as increasing the scale and impact of Further and Higher Education in the city, ensuring that the expansion and diversification of learning opportunities are central to increasing economic activity and broadening cultural life (REASON FOR CHANGE: Future York Group report and stakeholder/partner views);**
7. **To play a full regional , City regional (REASON FOR CHANGE: To reflect a growing agenda for the City region as set out in the Government`s sun-national review of economic development) and sub-regional economic role;**
8. **To have a modern, sustainable and uncongested transport network;**
9. **To enable local people, including those with disabilities, to benefit from the new job opportunities and increased income levels from increased economic prosperity , with a focus on minimising income differentials in the City (REASON FOR CHANGE: To reflect Future York Group recommendations, growing agenda from Government to tackle worklessness, Partner and stakeholder views, Council corporate strategy priority)..**

Key Actions:

- To further develop York as a centre for leading edge, modern, knowledge and science-based businesses. We will achieve this by increasing the levels of start-ups, spin-outs and growing businesses through Science City York business development and skills development programmes.

- The leisure and business visitor market will be developed further through focused marketing activities. This will include investment in the heritage, cultural and conference infrastructure, and skills development activity through the new Visit York single tourism organisation (REASON FOR CHANGE: To reflect the establishment of the new partnership arrangements).
- The city's broad-based economic structure, including the cultural sector and city centre economy, will be maintained and developed. Business support services will be provided, there will be direct intervention with key sectors and businesses and important development sites will be advanced. Additional work will be undertaken to enhance the engagement of local businesses (REASON FOR CHANGE: To reflect the Future York Group report recommendations and partner responses to this).
- Joint working through york-england.com with regional and sub-regional partners will continue to promote York in order to attract high value external investment to support and add value to local business development.
- York University will be supported in its role as a key economic generator for the city through joint action between Science City York and the Higher York Partnership.
- • Increasing the scale and impact of Further and Higher Education in the city, ensuring that the expansion and diversification of learning opportunities are central to increasing economic activity and broadening cultural life (REASON FOR CHANGE: Future York Group report and stakeholder/partner views)
- Economic benefits will be maximised at a local and regional level through collaborative work in the region's Yorkshire Cities project, with Yorkshire Forward and the Regional Assembly.
- To contribute to the development of a modern, sustainable, uncongested transport infrastructure that meets the needs of the York economy. This will be achieved by strategic planning and investment through the Local Transport Plan and direct intervention with key rail and air operators.
- Skill levels within the York workforce will be enhanced through partnership working with the Learning & Skills Council, Lifelong Learning Partnership, education and training providers and Future Prospects.
- To address the issue of economic inclusion and worklessness so that as many residents and employees as possible can benefit from new economic opportunities (REASON FOR CHANGE: Future York Group report and stakeholder/partner views)
- To work with neighbouring council's to develop new approaches to affordable housing.

NEW SECTION - Cross-cutting issues:

Whilst the City of York has consistently adapted and changed over its long and successful history, it has faced a number of economic challenges in recent years

brought about by economic competition from within the UK but increasingly also from the effects of globalization. An independent group has reviewed the future of the local economy and has recommended that York has a tremendous opportunity to strengthen and grow the economy due to the large amount of brownfield land that is available for development. By making the best use of this land the economy of the City could grow by 3.7% per annum. The challenge is to seek to achieve this objective whilst maintaining York's very special historic environment, managing the impact on the City's carbon footprint, improving transport and ensuring the City's attractiveness as a place to live, work and invest.

The City has the scope to provide higher added value to the local economy by the further development of knowledge led businesses. In growing the economy, it will be important to be mindful on the impact on commuting rates and ensuring that an appropriately skilled workforce is available to meet employer needs, both now and in the future. Equally important, is to ensure that as many local residents and employees as possible are able to take advantage of new economic opportunities so that individuals and sections of the community are not left excluded.

It is important to recognize that the economy of York is integrated into the economy of the sub-region, City region and region. Its success contributes significantly to the success of the regional economy but is also dependent upon decisions taken outside the city. York needs to look across its boundaries and help shape sub-regional, City regional and regional partnerships to argue for the investment opportunities that will help shape the long term future of the City.

Success Measures:

- Overall employment rate and rate of unemployment compared to regional and national rates
- Average earnings compared to regional and national rates wage rates
- Skills qualifications of working age population
- % of businesses surveyed who are satisfied with York as a premier business location.

Partnership Arrangements:

The Economic Development Partnership Board (EDPB) are responsible for progressing the priorities set out within this theme. The EDPB representative and Without Walls Board Member who will take the lead on ensuring targets are achieved is Councillor Steve Galloway, City of York Council. The Economic Development Manager is Roger Ranson, Assistant Director, Economic Development and Partnerships, City of York Council, 9 St Leonard's Place, York, YO1 7ET

Key plans:

- Economic Development Strategy and programme
- Science City York Strategy
- Visit York business plan and action plan

- Regional Economic Strategy
- York and North Yorkshire Sub-Regional Investment Plan
- Leeds City Region development programme
- Yorkshire Cities mission and objectives
- York-england.com business plan
- Local Plan and Local Transport Plan
- Learning & Skills council strategy and business plan
- Lifelong Learning Partnership strategy/action plan (including 14-19 and adult skills strategies)
- York Cultural Partnership (York @ Large) strategy and plans
- Business Link and Sub-franchise business plans
- University of York strategic plan and Higher York strategy/action plan

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Economic Development Partnership Board11th March 2008

Report of the Director of City Strategy

PROGRESS WITH THE REVIEW OF THE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT FOR YORK**Summary**

1. The report sets out background information on progress with the review of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) for York, and seeks comments from the Board on this matter.

Background

2. There is a new requirement under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, 2007 to move the existing LAA (period 2007/08 – to 2009/10) to a 'new' LAA (period 2008/09 – to 2010/11).
3. In the introduction to 'Development of the new LAA framework – Operational Guidance 2007' from the Department for Communities and Local Government, the principles and aspirations underpinning these changes are encapsulated in the following quote from Simon Milton of the Local Government Association:
"New Local Area Agreements form the heart of the new local performance framework. They will help deliver the ambitions for the place and its people, set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy; they are 'contracts' between central government and local authorities and their partners to improve services and the quality of life in a place. This guidance covers some of the practical issues which will be necessary to establish and implement new Local Area Agreements. But beyond that is a more fundamental idea of partnership which is being put into effect. The new framework for Local Area Agreements brings some major changes which are very welcome – much greater clarity about the relationship of national and local priorities, a reduction and rationalisation of national performance monitoring, and greater financial flexibility. We are confident that councils and partner organisations locally will seize the opportunities this brings to work more effectively, and with a clearer focus on local priorities"
4. From 2008/09 the 'new' LAA needs to include up to 35 indicators from a new national indicator set of 198 and 16 statutory indicators on educational attainment and early years (which are included in the new national set). There will be no other way of setting targets with central government. There is a statutory duty for specified partners to cooperate in the delivery of these indicators.

5. In addition, the 'new' LAA can also include local indicators (selected from the new national set or otherwise) to reflect local priorities. Partners are also required to co-operate on the delivery of these outcomes.

Implications for York

6. A key message is that there needs to be a reduction and rationalisation of the current LAA to meet the requirements of legislation and the national performance framework.
7. The current LAA contains:

8.

Block	Outcomes	Indicators
Children & Young People	18	68
Economic Development & Enterprise	7	43
Healthier Communities and Older People	10	31
Safer and Stronger Communities	15	63
<i>Total</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>205</i>

Without Walls (WOW) needs to negotiate with Government Office Yorkshire and Humberside (GOYH) which 35 indicators from the national set should be included in the new LAA and have targets set against them. WOW can also agree to include any other additional indicators and targets (either from the 200 or otherwise) in the LAA as local priorities for implementation of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS).

9. Clearly, the new style LAA should take account of any new directions which emerge during the review of the Community Strategy. This has been made clear to GOYH who understand that any negotiations that take place prior to WOW approving the SCS will not be binding upon us.
10. The partnership steering group that has been formed for the refresh of the SCS has also taken on the role of coordinating the development of the 'new' LAA.

Selection of LAA indicators for the 'new' LAA

11. The thematic partnerships and other organisations represented on the steering group were asked to submit a maximum of ten indicators for inclusion in the 'new' LAA. Partners were asked to base their selection on a mixture of 'things that are important to focus on' and 'things where improvement is required'.
12. Partners were asked to concentrate on the 198 national indicators and only to suggest local indicators if they felt an important local issue was not reflected in the 198. It was also stressed that any indicator offered for consideration needed to be capable of being supported by reference to a robust evidence base to justify why it is important and should be included in the new LAA.

13. The steering group has developed a selection criteria that has been used to prioritise indicators for inclusion in the ‘new’ LAA . The WOW Partnership are asked to endorse the criteria listed below. For an indicator to be included in the ‘new’ LAA it should:
- Link clearly to the Sustainable Community Strategy;
 - Be locally important/support existing strategies and priorities;
 - Be challenging and stretch ambition;
 - Stimulate partnership working (help lever funds);
 - Be cross-cutting and have multiple impact;
 - Be supported by robust data (hard and ‘soft’).
14. The steering group has also considered priorities identified by the WOW Executive Delivery Board and the Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber when selecting indicators.
15. The draft list of indicators that have been submitted to Government Office are detailed below. This list has been submitted as a very early draft with the caveat that it may be subject to change as the refresh of the Sustainable Community Strategy takes shape. Suggestions for the up to 35 indicators related to the Economic Development Partnership Board are:

National and Local Performance Indicators:	National PI Ref:
Working age people on out of work benefits or working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods – AWAITING FURTHER ADVICE FROM DWP	NI152/NI153
Working population qualified to at least NVQ Level 4	NI165
Average earning of employees in the area	NI166
VAT registration rate	NI171
LOCAL – Skills gap in the current workforce as reported by employers	NI174
LOCAL – maintain the percentage difference between York and Regional median and 25 percentile figures for residents pay (average gross weekly earnings)	Current LAA EDE 1.4

16. It is proposed to monitor other key indicators of performance through regular reports to this Board and the Without Walls Executive Delivery Board. These will be based on current indicators in order to provide an indication of longitudinal changes to the local economy (whereas the LAA will focus on change over a 3 year period) related to economic strategic objectives.

Consultation

17. Consultation has been undertaken over the summer and autumn through the Festival of Ideas 2 initiative with respect to the Future York Group report, the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Development Framework.

Options

18. The LAA indicators should be based on the National set of 198 indicators. The Above have been chosen to best reflect actions against the strategic objectives for the economic development of the City over the next 3 years.

Analysis

19. Detailed analysis of the local economy has been undertaken in connection with the preparation of the Future York group report. The LAA indicators take account of the draft “Thriving City” chapter featured elsewhere on the agenda of this Board meeting.

Corporate Priorities

20. Current corporate priorities that link with the focus on improving economic prosperity are:
 - Increase peoples skills and knowledge to improve future employment prospects.
 - Improve the economic prosperity of the people of York with a focus on minimising income differentials.
 - Increase the use of public and other environmentally friendly modes of transport.

Implications

21. Financial: none directly from this report although the Council’s economic development budget will contribute to the achievement of the strategic aims and objectives set out in the “Thriving City” theme of the Sustainable Community Strategy. There may be some small reward element attached to the LAA but there are no details on this available as yet.
22. Human resources: None directly from this report.
23. Equalities: None
24. Legal: None
25. Crime and Disorder: None
26. Information Technology: None
27. Property: None

Risk Management

28. In compliance with the council’s risk management strategy.

Recommendation

29. That the Board notes the progress with the preparation of the Local Area Agreement and comments on the proposed draft indicators which are still to be agreed with the Government.

Reason: To help shape the effectiveness of future action.

Contact Details

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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Bill Woolley
Director of City Strategy

**Report
Approved**



Date 25/02/08

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Financial – Patrick Looker
Others – Report Author

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annexes: None

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Economic Development Partnership Board11th March 2008

Report of the Director of City Strategy

**REVIEW OF SUB-NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
FUTURE WORKING WITHIN THE LEEDS CITY REGION****Summary**

1. This report sets out background information on the Government's Sub-National Review of economic development and regeneration (SNR), considers the implications of this for the Leeds City Region (LCR), and proposes specific actions to consider in order to maximise the benefits for York.

Background

2. The Government's review sets out a number of structural reforms, namely:
 - to strengthen the local authority role in economic development, including a new statutory economic assessment duty;
 - to support the effective collaboration by local authorities across functioning economic areas, for example by establishing Multi Area Agreements;
 - to introduce single regional strategies, with Regional Development Agencies designated as regional planning bodies;
 - to give regions a greater say in the distribution of funding in each region;
 - to sharpen the focus of central government on sub-national devolution, including the appointment of regional Ministers acting as regional champions.
3. A summary of the proposals set out in the SNR is appended to this report (Annex A). Some of the proposed structural changes will require legislation and the Government has indicated that they will consult on how the regional strategy may be implemented and on the creation of a focused duty placed on local authorities to carry out assessments of local economies. This consultation is likely to take place early in 2008. Other elements of the SNR are capable of more immediate implementation; progress to date includes:
 - a concordat signed between the Government and the Local Government Association, establishing for the first time an agreement on the rights and responsibilities of local government, including its responsibilities to provide effective leadership to the local area and to empower local communities;

- a White Paper published regarding business rates supplements, proposing a new power for local authorities to raise and retain local supplements to the national business rate in order to fund projects to promote economic development subject to a number of safeguards;
 - the introduction of new legislation in the Planning Bill for a new Community Infrastructure Levy that will establish a better way to increase investment in infrastructure;
 - a reform of local authority business growth incentives;
 - a newly announced Working Neighbourhoods Fund to support community-led approaches to getting people in deprived areas back into work – this is targeted on 66 local authorities, not including the City of York;
 - a new performance framework for local government with a clear focus on economic development and neighbourhood renewal;
 - an announcement of 13 sub-regions (including the Leeds City Region) as developing the first wave of new Multi Area Agreements (MAAs) with the aim that these should be agreed locally and with Government by June 2008;
 - the publication of the Local Transport Bill allowing for the boundaries of Passenger Transport Authorities (PTAs) to be extended and for PTAs to take on more powers that would allow a more integrated approach to transport management at the sub-regional level;
 - the appointment of Ministers with regional responsibility, in the case of Yorkshire and the Humber this is now Rosie Winterton, MP for Doncaster Central and Minister of State for Transport.
4. The SNR envisages a stronger role for City Regions and sub-regional working in order to enhance economic growth and competitiveness. The Leeds City Region comprises the 10 local authority districts of Barnsley, Bradford, Calderdale, Craven, Harrogate, Kirklees, Leeds, Selby, Wakefield, and York, which reflects the true area of how the economy of Leeds and the other cities, towns and rural areas in the city region functions; for example, 95% of people who live in the city region also work in the city region (the comparable figure for York is about 85%). Together with North Yorkshire County Council, the local authorities have prepared and agreed the Leeds City Region Development Programme which is essentially the economic plan for the city region. The Vision for the Leeds City Region is to “develop an internationally recognised city region; to raise our economic performance: to spread prosperity across the whole of our city region; and to promote a better quality of life for all of those who live and work here”. As well as the Leaders Board, other working arrangements have been developed within the Leeds City Region covering Transport, Skills and Labour Market, and Housing. Work is continuing to develop a Multi Area Agreement focussed on skills, labour market mobility and transport. Yorkshire Forward have indicated their intention to move their investment planning processes to a city regional basis, and shadow arrangements for city region investment planning are expected to be in place by April 2008. The Leeds City Region secretariat has also been working with the five Chambers of Commerce, the Confederation of British Industry and local authorities to establish a business leadership group reflecting a balance of representatives from different industrial sectors, geographical areas and size of business.

Consultation

5. Consultation has been undertaken by the Government regarding the SNR and it is likely that specific elements of the proposals set out within the SNR will be the subject of further consultation as proposals are developed. The Leeds City Region Development Programme was subject to consultation within the city region and was agreed by all 11 local authorities. The implications for York of the developing "City region agenda" has been included in the consultation exercises undertaken with respect to the Future York Group report, the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Development Framework.

Options

6. Most of the proposals set out in the SNR will be the subject of consultation with the local authority and an assessment of the options open to the Council will need to be undertaken at the appropriate time. At this stage, the key element for York is to maximise the opportunities presented by the Leeds City Region and to consider how best to respond to this. This is considered further below.

Analysis

7. If York is to capitalise on the opportunities and benefits of the Leeds City Region then a clear strategy of engagement needs to be developed with representatives involved in LCR having a clear briefing on relevant issues. This analysis highlights benefits and priorities and outlines the key actions needed within the Council to deliver maximum benefit to the City.
8. In terms of Corporate Priorities, involvement with the Leeds City Region can help to increase the skills and employment prospects of residents, improve economic prosperity/minimise income differentials and reinforce the sustainable transport agenda. It can also help deliver the regional imperatives contained within the Future York Group report and make the Council's regional and national employment performance indicators easier to achieve. Particular initiatives within York that have a strong impact on the Leeds City Region include:
 - Access York – proposals for tackling congestion and improving Park and Ride facilities on the Outer Ring Road to improve mobility and access across the LCR.
 - York North West – recognition that the economic benefits of developing this site will be of great significance to the LCR and help realise ambitions to develop further the business and financial sector of the LCR.
 - Tourism – increased recognition of the importance of York as acting as a gateway into the region and LCR for tourists and other visitors. It can be argued therefore that investment in the City's public realm or attractions can be of major benefit to the region.
 - Science City York – increased recognition for the role Science City York can play in delivering the regional innovation strategy across the LCR.

As a formally designated National Science City, York is able to lead on an innovation agenda across the LCR, increasing the skills base of the local economy and impacting on regional GVA (Gross Value Added).

- Multi-Area Agreement – focussed on skills, labour market mobility and transport will help to address both the supply and demand sides of the skills agenda and assist in ensuring that an appropriately skilled workforce is available to meet the needs of employers in the City and across the LCR. York, a centre for learning with its two universities and two colleges with a new Financial Services Academy (York College) and Business School (St John's) is well placed to feed into the skills base required in the future and underpin the burgeoning Financial and Business Services Sector that needs to spill out of Leeds. York is currently at near full employment but the opportunity is here to address both higher added value employment as well as under employment and low skills issues.

9. A number of actions, primarily for the Council, are recommended to ensure that York helps to shape the LCR agenda and to articulate our ambitions and potential:

- Ensure appropriate representation on key thematic Panels within the Leeds City Region that are being formed where these are relevant to the initiatives identified in paragraph 8 above.
- Ensure that York's Business Panel representative is fully briefed on York related issues.
- Work with contiguous LCR partners who may have similar aspirations
 - Harrogate, the southern part of which is in the LCR
 - Selby (in particular)
 - Ryedale, which is not in the LCR but is included within York's RSS sub-area. Southern Ryedale (and Malton) has a stake in York's economic success and its growing regional weight (an RSS designated regional centre).

Within the above, begin to consider how the LSP and partnership working might interlock with the aspirations and ambitions of these neighbouring authorities.

- Work with Leeds business representatives through York Professionals, Visit York and Science City York. Discuss and agree on (in particular) strengthening the financial and business services sector and spreading its employment benefits city regionally. Establish York's credentials (mainly via York North West) as a viable location for investment and employment. Develop the agenda of York as a gateway to the region and City region.
- Ensure dialogue is taking place on building the relationship with Yorkshire Forward at the appropriate senior level, taking account of the priorities identified above for York in relation to the Leeds City Region,

namely: Access York, York North West, Gateway for Tourism and Science City York. The Council will lead on working with Yorkshire Forward to seek their direct investment in York to support economic development priorities.

- Ensure that the appropriate officers are involved in developing a Multi-Area Agreement for the Leeds City Region. Government Office has stated that one should be agreed by June 2008 focussed on skills, labour market mobility and transport; the LCR board has agreed to this.
 - Ensure that York's case for the designation of York North West as one of the Government's New Growth points is articulated within the LCR endorsement process.
10. In engaging with the LCR agenda, it is important to recognise that the Leeds City Region still needs to 'prove' itself as a political body and strategic thinker capable of delivering schemes which have cross-city region benefit. The LCR contains a wide variety of economic and social conditions within it, and therefore there will need to be careful negotiation on proposals that are truly of cross-city region benefit. It is possible for example that a 'West Yorkshire lobby' might out-vote other members in the future to bring more parochial benefit. In addition to the LCR, it is likely that York will continue to have an interface with partners within North Yorkshire due to the levels of economic interaction between York and North Yorkshire. Equally, we will need to maintain a close working relationship with Yorkshire Forward to seek their direct investment in York, bearing in mind the limitations on the budget of a local authority of the size of York to contribute to wider city region initiatives. It will also be important to ensure that the principle of subsidiarity is followed by the Government in implementing its proposals for the Sub-National Review to deliver accountability and transparency.

Corporate Priorities

11. Current corporate priorities that link with the report's focus on improving economic prosperity through the SNR and the Leeds city region are:
- Increase people's skills and knowledge to improve future employment prospects.
 - Improve the economic prosperity of the people of York with a focus on minimising income differentials.
 - Increase the use of public and other environmentally friendly modes of transport.

Implications

12. Financial: A growth bid of £23,000 has been put forward to support the likely costs to the Council of contributing to the Leeds City Region secretariat as agreed at the LCR Leaders Board; this will be considered as part of the Council's budget setting for 2008/09. Any other financial implications arising from the SNR or Leeds City Region working will need to be the subject of separate future reports to the Executive.

- 13. Human resources: None directly from this report.
- 14. Equalities: None
- 15. Legal: None
- 16. Crime and Disorder: None
- 17. Information Technology: None
- 18. Property: None

Risk Management

- 19. In compliance with the council's risk management strategy. There are potential risks to York and the Council of not engaging in the Leeds City Region through a potential loss of funding opportunities and influence. The actions set out in paragraph 9 of this report are intended to mitigate against potential risks.

Recommendation

- 20. That the Board considers the actions set out in paragraph 9 of this report in order to maximise the benefits of the Sub-national Review and the Leeds City Region to York.

Reason: To help shape the effectiveness of future action.

Contact Details

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Director of City Strategy

Report Approved



Date 25/02/08

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Financial – Patrick Looker
Others – Report Author

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annex: Sub-National Review of Economic Development and Regeneration Summary

Sub-National Review of Economic Development and Regeneration

SUMMARY

The principles the review is based are:

Managing policy at the right spatial levels

- there should be a devolved approach, giving local authorities and regions the powers to respond to local challenges and improve economic outcomes;
- responsibilities should be allocated in line with economic impacts, based on a bottom-up approach to collaboration between areas;

Ensuring clarity of roles

- objectives need to be clear, with a strong focus on economic development measures and opportunities for sustainable growth;
- decision-making should be as streamlined as possible and bureaucracy must be minimised;
- strategies, policies and funding streams must be rationalised and coordinated effectively;

Enabling places to reach their potential

- clear accountability and public scrutiny arrangements must be in place to allow for devolution of powers and responsibilities, including at the regional level, with an inclusive approach to development of regional strategies;
- places must have incentives to promote economic growth and tackle the problems of deprived neighbourhoods; and
- the public sector must have the capacity to work effectively with the private sector.

The reforms are in four key areas as set out below.

Empower all local authorities to promote economic development and neighbourhood renewal

So that all local authorities have greater flexibilities and incentives to promote economic growth and tackle the problems of deprived areas, the Government proposes to:

- consult on the creation of a focused statutory economic duty for local authorities which would require all upper tier authorities to carry out an assessment of the economic circumstances and challenges of their local economy;
- reform the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive scheme to give a clearer focus and incentive for local authorities to promote economic growth;
- concentrate neighbourhood renewal funding more closely on the most deprived areas with greater incentives for improved performance;
- reform the local authority performance framework so that it includes a clear focus on economic development and neighbourhood renewal;
- consider options for supplementary business rates, working with local government, business and other stakeholders;
- work with the Regional Development Agencies so they play a more strategic role, delegating responsibility for funding to local authorities and sub regions where possible unless there is a clear case for retaining funding at the regional level or there is a lack of capacity at lower levels;

- ensure the proposed new homes agency also supports local authorities in its role focusing on housing, housing-related interventions, and the transformation of deprived communities;
- moving funding for most 14-19 year olds education and skills to local authorities as announced as part of the recent machinery of government changes; and
- work with local authorities to improve their capacity to deliver on their new, enhanced role on economic development and neighbourhood renewal.

Support local authorities to work together at the sub regional level

Recognising that our cities and towns are often the engines of economic growth and that many economic markets operate at the level of sub-regions, including city-regions, the Government will:

- allow sub-regions to strengthen sub-regional management of transport, and including the possibility of giving greater long-term certainty of funding for transport where suitable governance arrangements exist, as part of the Local Transport Bill;
- develop proposals for Multi-Area Agreements to allow groups of local authorities to agree collective targets for economic development issues;
- work with interested sub-regions to explore the potential to allow groups of local authorities to establish statutory sub-regional arrangements which enable pooling of responsibilities on a permanent basis for economic development policy areas beyond transport;

Strengthen the regional level

The regional tier has an important role in developing overall strategy, identifying priorities and opportunities for growth. More policy and funding decisions should be devolved from the centre. However, accountability arrangements need to be clearer and simplification is required. The Government therefore proposes to:

- move to a single integrated regional strategy which sets out the economic, social and environmental objectives for each region;
- place on the Regional Development Agencies the executive responsibility, on behalf of the region, for developing the integrated regional strategy, working closely with local authorities and other partners;
- set each region a regional economic growth objective, and set out an expectation for regions to work with local authorities and other key stakeholders to set out plans for housing growth that meet regional demographic pressures, and help tackle affordability and the national under-supply of housing;
- reform significantly the RDAs' objectives, replacing their current tasking framework with a simplified outcome and growth-focused framework defined by a single over-arching growth objective;
- give local authority leaders in the regions responsibility for agreeing the regional strategy with the RDAs, and for effective scrutiny of RDA performance;
- work with Parliament to agree the best way of strengthening Parliamentary scrutiny of regional institutions and regional economic policy;
- carry out a second expanded Regional Funding Allocations exercise in the Comprehensive Spending Review period;
- ensure that the work of agencies including the Highways Agency, the new homes agency, the Environment Agency, the Learning and Skills Council(LSC) and Jobcentre Plus informs, complements and contributes to the priorities agreed in the regional strategies;
- reform significantly and simplify the RDAs' sponsorship framework in order to support the devolving decision-making agenda, drive further improvements in

strategic and analytical capacity, clarify further the focus of the RDAs, and provide incentives for each RDA to improve continually its impact and performance; and

- give the RDAs a key role in both coordinating business support within the regions and in delivery, with consideration by the time of the Comprehensive Spending Review of a single brokerage service for business support and skills, and better alignment of the RDAs and the activities of UK Trade & Investment.

Reform central government's relations with regions and Localities

The Government will also improve its support for regions and localities, including through reforms to:

- give the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (DBERR) responsibility for performance management of the RDAs;
- give DBERR lead responsibility for the Regional Economic Performance Public Service Agreement (PSA);
- make the regional strategies subject to joint sign-off by the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government;
- appoint a Minister for each of the regions, to provide a sense of strategic direction for their region and to give citizens a voice in central government, ensuring that government policy takes account of the differing needs of the nine English regions; and
- ensure that all the Departments involved in delivery are jointly responsible through the new performance management framework, as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

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Economic Development Partnership Board

11 March 2008

Report of the Director of City Strategy

PROGRESS ON KEY ISSUES**Summary**

1. The report briefs Board members on issues/progress on key areas of economic development activity in the past six months, since the previous update in September 2007.

Background

2. This is the progress on key issues report which is given at the Economic Development Partnership Board to update members on projects.

Consultation

3. The report is being provided for information and there are no recommendations with financial consequences. There is no consultation necessary for this report.

Options

4. This report is for information only and therefore does not present options for decisions by Board members. Where decisions are necessary specific reports on those issues and options will be presented. However, Board members are invited to comment on the information provided.

Analysis

5. As stated in the paragraph above, options have not been presented therefore there is no need for appraisals.

Corporate Priorities

6. The Council's Corporate Strategy 2006-2009 has several relevant priorities, including:

Values: Encouraging improvement in everything the Council does

Direction statements: Services to be provided by whoever can best meet the needs of the Council's customers

Priorities for improvement: Improve the economic prosperity of the people of York with a focus on minimising income differentials. Increase people's skill's and knowledge to improve future employment prospects

The “Thriving City” theme of the Community Plan has the following strategic objective:

“To support the progress and success of York’s existing businesses and to encourage new enterprises in order to maintain a prosperous and flourishing economy that will sustain high employment rates.”

Implications

7. As this is a general report on the progress of key issues there are no implications. Any significant implications to the economic programme will be brought to the Board through a separate issue-specific report.

Matters Arising

8. There are no matters arising.

Tourism

9. Plans are now well advanced for the creation of a Single Tourism Organisation in York by April 2008. This will be called Visit York. John Yeomans has been appointed as Chair and Gillian Cruddas as Chief Executive. The full Board is:

John Yeomans (Chair)

Directors:

Janet Barnes, York Museums Trust

David Brooks, Dean Court Hotel

Peter Brown, Fairfax House

Michael Hjort, Melton’s Restaurant

Hilary Layton, The University of York

Stephen Noblett, Ethnic Food Action Group Ltd

Keith Wood, Ascot House Hotel

Cllr Chris Hogg

Cllr Ken King

Cllr Ian Gillies

Gillian Cruddas, Chief Executive

10. The Memorandum and Articles of Association of Visit York have been agreed, and were endorsed by the membership of York Tourism Bureau last December. The principles of a Service Level Agreement between the Council and the new company were agreed by the Council in December. It is proposed to establish a rolling three year agreement, with the exact financial terms subject to approval in the Council’s budget programme. Up to four members of staff will be seconded into the new organisation. Three Members of the Council (Cllrs Hogg, King and Gillies) have been appointed on to the new company Board.
11. In return for this rolling three year agreement of financial and staffing support, a Service Level Agreement is proposed, which will complement the Company’s Memorandum and Articles of Association, set out the main activities which the Council will require Visit York to address, outline how the council will monitor the performance of the company through a set of indicators and confirm the Council’s contribution and the funding conditions.

- 12 The Council will require Visit York to address the following activities which are regarded as priorities for the strategic development of tourism in the City:
- Production of a Tourism Strategy and Action Plan for the City
 - Act on priorities that enhance York's tourism offer to attract higher added value in the tourism sector and to strengthen the City's function as a tourism gateway
 - Developing the quality of the York visitor product, either directly or through influence
 - Ensuring Visit York's financial viability
 - Consult with the tourism industry
 - Promote a sustainable, green tourism agenda for the City and tourism businesses
 - Encourage and facilitate transformational enhancements to York's visitor economy, subject to the business plan for Visit York and the availability of resources
 - Complement the work of [York@Large](#), particularly re: major events in the City that will attract visitors
 - Take account of the interests of residents in the development of tourism
 - Provide tourism advice to the Council and other stakeholders on issues such as business skills and training needs
 - Deliver visitor information services and destination management systems
 - Lobbying and ambassadorial role
- 13 The company will be required to produce monitoring reports against these performance indicators, and also on other project work it undertakes, and the Council will carry out an annual review of the organisation, by 31 January each year. The results of this annual review will be used to inform the Council's decision on the continuation of the agreement into the second and third years of the agreement.
14. In the meantime the current partnership continues to develop new and improved activities, with additional support from Yorkshire Forward, which from 2006-07 has pledged £666,700 of support to the Partnership for a combination of organisational and structural change, and enhanced investment in marketing, market research and product development activity. This investment (of which £155K has been available in 2007-08) has supported such activity as:
- Some of the legal and other costs incurred so far in establishing the new tourism company.
 - Activity on Illuminating York

- Market Research
- Enhanced marketing activity. This has included more conference marketing activity, including an enhanced presence at UK and European business shows, and a new PR campaign which is showcasing Cultural York

Yorkshire Forward has recently supported a further £100K of activity by York Tourism Bureau to promote the European Tourism City of the Year award through a combination of European PR, website development (including translation), a City Break campaign, a poster campaign at railway stations and the commissioning of a DVD.

- 15 Work is progressing on the relocation of the city centre Visitor Information Centre to the council-owned building on the corner of Blake Street and Museum Street. The building is capable of conversion into a ground floor VIC facility, including accommodation booking, event ticketing service, call centre and managers' office, a retail unit and display area to showcase regional produce with space on the first floor for offices for Visit York.
- 16 Illuminating York. The Illuminating York festival combines the city's economic and cultural objectives. It showcases York as a creative city and assists with the shared aspiration to promote the ancient city's thriving contemporary culture. This year the highlight of the festival was the Evoke installation which used noises and sounds generated by the audience to project images and colours onto the Minster facade. Around 14,000 visitors enjoyed the events from the 26 Oct to 3 Nov and the economic impact of the festival was calculated to be £822,000.
- 17 Residents First. The Residents First Weekend was once again a popular event with around 16,000 of York's residents taking the opportunity to experience the city's attractions, tours and museums for free. There were a number of new attractions which took part in the weekend, including DIG Hungate, Eden Camp and the Central Methodist Church. The weekend was supported by First York who were promoting the York aircoach service and Minster FM who provided the on street entertainment over the weekend.
- 18 Yuletide York. The Yuletide York campaign aims to attract visitors (regional and national) to come to York over the 6 week Christmas period to shop, visit Christmas events and stay in the city over a number of nights. The brochure promotes the unique shopping opportunities that York offers along with its special Festive leisure offers. The campaign benefits from being injected with new events and additional attractions to bring people into the city. 80,000 copies of the Yuletide York guide were produced and highlights of the programme included St Nicholas Fayre (29 Nov to 2 Dec), the Festival of Angels (8 to 9 Dec) and the German Christkindlemarkt (6 to 22 Dec). The guide was well received by visitors, residents and advertisers.
- 19 York City Walls Rubbings Trail. The Council has been awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of around £15,000 to develop a trail of nine rubbing panels around the City Walls, the panels will be aimed at children and will provide much needed interpretative facilities for this age group. Each panel will outline a section of the walls, highlighting places of interest and users will be encouraged to collect each of the nine rubbings to make a complete map. The grant will be used to fund the production and installation of the plaques and the first print run of the activity pack.

- 20 Recent and current investment in visitor related projects include:

The £9mn, 44 bed Hotel du Vin opened on The Mount in November
£4mn refurbishment of all 200 bedrooms in the Park Inn, North Street
£2mn refurbishment of Ibis York, The Mount, has been completed
£4mn Search Engine opens at the National Railway Museum - a Library, Archive and exhibitions project that opens up access to thousands of previously hidden materials – photographs, artworks, sound recordings, posters, drawings etc

- 21 Latest tourism trends.

Hotel occupancy trends for York in the 2007 calendar year have been very encouraging, with bed and room occupancy up by 4 – 4.5% over the 2006 figures. These were the best figures since 2004 and among the highest since the mid-late 1990s. Individual monthly figures need to be treated with caution because of sample size variations.

Yorkshire Forward - updating the Corporate Plan

- 22 Yorkshire Forward are in the process of refreshing their Corporate Plan to cover the years 2008- 2011. Initially their main focus remains with the continued delivery of the approved Regional Economic Strategy (RES), however, in responding to the government's Sub-National Review, Yorkshire Forward acknowledges the need to work more closely with local authorities in parallel with developing a more robust relationship with government itself. These are considered to be essential pre-requisites in the building of a new regional landscape which will see the creation of a new, Yorkshire Forward led, Integrated Regional Strategy (IRS) which will incorporate the Regional Spatial Strategy that was previously the responsibility of the Regional Assembly.

The corporate objectives will be to :-

- Champion RES delivery (and the IRS in the future)
- Help people access good jobs, skills and transport
- Help businesses start-up, grow and compete through innovation.
- Regenerate cities, towns and rural communities
- Improve Yorkshire Forward's capacity

To achieve these objectives eleven new policy products are being introduced which are to channel future investment activity and funding bids. These policy areas are:-

- Competitiveness
- Enterprise/access to finance
- International business
- Skills
- Urban renaissance
- Rural renaissance
- Economic inclusion
- Low carbon economy
- Transport
- Major events/tourism/culture
- Property

Yorkshire Forward's approach to investment planning is also in the process of change. From April 2009 investment will be within the context provided by city-regions with transitional arrangements for this being made from this March. Discussions are on-going as to how best to achieve the most satisfactory permanent arrangement which can maximise the economic potential of York.

In the future, agreed economic strategies will provide the context for investment in geographic programmes. Discussions will need to take place as to how these programmes are devised and, crucially, the extent of each local authority's responsibility for delivery.

At this scene-setting stage, the city council is already involved in individual meetings and is signaling its desire for greater involvement. In its formal response to the consultation this desire is emphasised. It is considered that there is considerable merit in the city council developing a direct funding relationship with Yorkshire Forward, whilst working within the framework of a City Region Investment Plan. One major omission in the consultation process had been the lack of any reference to York as one of the government's six National Science Cities and the expectations/potential this status brings. The response points this out within the context of Yorkshire Forward's intention to designate new key sectors for investment. Concern is also expressed over the lack of reference to the Regional Innovation Strategy which Science City York could play a leading role in delivery over the coming years.

Rail-Related Issues

- 23 National Express East Coast - the company has now formally confirmed that it will be taking new premises in the city to relocate its York headquarters. From June the premises at Albion Wharf in Skeldergate are to provide its new base after an interior re-fit. It is to house the sales and marketing, commercial, finance, operations, engineering, procurement, information technology, compliance, safety and communications teams.

Grand Central - the company was intending to introduce a full timetable of 3 return daily services from Sunderland to Kings Cross (all calling at York) during January. However, delays in the commissioning of the necessary stock has prevented this. At the time of writing a partial service involving one return working from Sunderland to Kings Cross was operational alongside a York - Kings Cross return service.

Science City York

24. When the last report was prepared for September 2007 we expected to be more advanced in the refocusing of Science City York as a new company, with a new CEO in place and the new company well established with its main shareholders, the City of York and the University of York. However, on the departure of the recently appointed CEO in September it was agreed by the Board that the Chair, Richard Gregory, would take on a more active executive role for an extended period and for more days of his time. This has proved to be a very effective solution for relationship building with the key partners, members, stakeholders and the SCY team. We expect to build on this relationship building with an event scheduled in April 2008 in York to open up our strategy for review with a wide group drawn from our partners and later in the year in November to celebrate 10 years of Science City York.

- 25 Since the last report in September Science City York (SCY) activity has remained focussed on the development of both its strategic and operational priorities in line with the Sub Regional Investment Plan (SRIP) from which SCY has received significant funding support from Yorkshire Forward. SCY was funded to create an operational team structure which was fully in place from October 2006. The objective over the following period was to optimise the delivery potential of SCY and to meet targets, outputs and outcomes agreed with Yorkshire Forward and other key partners.
- 26 MTL Consultants were commissioned through the Yorkshire Forward contract to appraise the first two years of SCY activity from October 2007 and reported on an interim basis in January with the report and review in September 2008. The results of this extensive study indicated that with some refinements to aspects of our delivery and reporting, the consultants were content with the progress we had with the new operational arrangements and the contract management process with the Yorkshire Forward Team. The review has fed into our strategy development process. It important to note that Science City York remains a key delivery vehicle for Yorkshire Forward for science, technology and innovation-based new business creation and business growth and has the possibility to extend its reach beyond its present boundaries and activities.
- 27 Over the period the Cluster team members concentrated on developing the relationships with their cluster groups managing business interaction, identifying the needs of businesses and organisations that constitute the grouping and managing business to business focussed events. Whilst this has worked reasonably well, during the recent review of activity by consultants time has been spent on reflecting how this can be made more effective by changing management arrangements within SCY.
- 28 The existing Business Promoter team is now up to full strength following the appointment of the Creative Business Promoter. The team has focussed on delivering outputs in terms of business creation and funding support to new businesses through the Proof of Concept Fund (designed to assist test marketing ideas for products, services and new processes), the Technology Growth Fund which takes business ideas on to the next stage of development and the creation of a new York Professionals Voucher scheme (in partnership with York Professionals) which gives new businesses access to a wide range of professional time. The pipeline of projects is in line with expectations and the expansion into North Yorkshire has been successful in identifying new leads and partners to develop with. Further development, limited to specific areas, is required to ensure focus and limit dilution of service levels.
- 29 Science City brought publicity and promotional literature design in-house during the restructure and this tied to events management is beginning to show results and cost savings. We need to concentrate on making the website a really effective introduction to the SCY organisation and its wide range of partners. This is to be funded under an application in progress for ERDF funding with Yorkshire Forward.

SCY Organisational Structure going forward

- 30 Following extensive debate between the key stakeholders of Science City York, the University of York and City of York Council, a Stakeholder Board was established in

mid-2006. This included representatives of the two main stakeholders, an independent Chair Richard Gregory and key partners Yorkshire Forward. The formation of this Board recognised SCY's increasingly important regional as well as national role. In March 2007 a new vehicle was created, a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) to formalise the partnership. The development of the new company has gathered pace under the chairmanship of Richard Gregory with discussions formalising the new structure, funding and location in the process of finalisation. In October David Dickson, senior partner at Garbutt and Elliott was asked to chair a new Advisory Group to the Board and recruitment to this is in progress.

Northern Way Bid

31. The Northern Way Bid was aimed at utilising funds set aside to create innovation assets in the Yorkshire Forward area. A bid valued at £2.6 million was submitted for a 'Hub and Spoke' model consisting of 3 innovation centre 'spokes' in key locations in York: -

- A Digital and Creative Technologies Centre: c40,000 sq ft located on the Terry's chocolate works redevelopment
- Park Central: c5000sq ft infill building between the Innovation Centre and the Bio Centre on the York Science Park creating additional offices, exhibition and networking space
- The creation of a Biological Business Centre (BBC) located on the University campus

The project was approved in March by YF and each 'spoke' received funding (time-limited) to develop their individual projects. Park Central and the BBC have been completed on time and are delivering the added value expected from the projects. Planning delays put the Terry's Digital and Creative Technologies scheme out of time for funding. An alternative project was developed with the University – a proposal to create a Centre of Excellence in Mass Spectrometry - and funds were rerouted to this. Whilst the timing is tight we are confident that this will be finalised on time and the funds used for a very substantive application.

The Northern Way team are reviewing their approach to developing a strategy for promoting innovation across the three regions and Richard Gregory is playing a key role in the management group involved with this.

ERDF Funding Programme

32 Science City is leading on a substantive bid with the University of York (Heslington East new development) and Central Science Laboratories (exploring opportunities to develop the site for innovation led business development) and extending the activities of Science City York to create a range of new business services for clients. This whole ERDF programme is being fast tracked within Yorkshire Forward and we should be aware of our elements' success and progress to the next stage of development, and approval by the project approval board in Yorkshire Forward, during the next two months.

York Science Festival 2008

- 33 Plans are well advanced for the 2008 Festival taking place in York and North Yorkshire during early to mid March. This is the eleventh festival and is expected to attract more than 15,000 visitors to more than fifty popular science events held in a number of venues and timings across the City. This builds on previous York Science Festivals and the BA Festival in 2007, which was held in York in September attracting national and international interest. Adam Hart-Davis as Festival Patron and other celebrities will play an important role in involving the people of York in understanding more how science, technology and innovation can change our lives and create career opportunities. This is a prime example of the public engagement and community involvement in understanding science and technology, which has been a major role for SCY over the past ten years and will continue to be so.

National Science Cities Development Group

34. York has been lead member of this group since its inception 3 years ago. A fourth Science City conference was held in Birmingham to coincide with the Lord Stafford awards held in mid November and a number of SCY staff, the Chair and representatives from the City of York attended over the two day event.

There was strong representation from the 6 Science Cities and more focus on what can be achieved between business, universities and cities in promoting innovative economic development. Attendees took part in a group of focus sessions to work on strategic issues important to mutual working. These were especially important to the key and newly constituted government departments' own planning. It is important that Science Cities interact with these departments as plans formalise into actions which will require a delivery mechanism and the Science Cities are well placed to take these forward.

There is much still to do in joining up the work of the individual cities into a unified approach mainly because each has a different model and speed of development. The recent conference did much to speed this process up by identifying some mutual interests. An area of activity that may well emerge as workable is in promoting the six Science Cities internationally, together with UKTI, as an investment and trade opportunity utilising a joint cluster approach. York is leading on this programme as well as the enterprise agenda related to innovation.

Skills Development

- 35 SCY remain a partner with NYBEP however we have recently appointed a skill coordinator to work closely with the cluster teams and partners to ensure that programmes are in place with delivery organisations. By working closely with SCY business clients and colleagues across the SCY we should be able to provide suitable training for local people to meet the job specification requirements of new , existing and potential businesses in the subregion.

York Training Centre

- 36 York Training Centre (YTC) has been working closely with HR to promote an Apprenticeship programme in City Strategy. Six Apprentices will be recruited to start in September 2008 on a two year programme leading to an NVQ in Business

Administration. The young people will spend four blocks of six months moving around departments in City Strategy. Initially these will be funded by the directorate but it is envisaged that vacancies will occur during and at the end of their training in the departments or within the Council. The programme will be promoted in local schools shortly.

Possibilities of rolling this out to other Directorates are being considered. NYCC have a substantial Apprenticeship programme which is proving highly successful in appointing younger staff and all lower grade vacancies are deemed to be Apprenticeship vacancies unless departments can prove otherwise.

YTC is meeting regularly with School Heads and other partners to develop provision for 14 – 19 year olds in the City. Common timetabling, schools working in clusters and sharing provision and the introduction of Specialist Diplomas are current discussion topics. YTC is involved in delivering work-based learning to both pre- and post-16 learners so these links with schools are essential.

The 14 – 19 Manager at York Training Centre, Phillip Metcalfe, has been appointed as Head of the Danesgate Skills Centre, part of the Pupil Support Unit in LCCS. Discussions are taking place with him in his new post to work in partnership with York Training Centre to offer a joint programme of vocationally related activities to meet the NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) targets for the City.

The Learning and Skills Council have confirmed that York Training Centre was the highest performing provider in the area during 2006/7 for Apprenticeship training with an overall success rate of 85%. The results were the best ever for YTC and in some areas, 100% achievement was recorded.

City Centre Partnership Ltd

37 The first footfall-counting camera was installed in Coney Street in November. This provides 24-hour a day, seven days a week information and will be particularly useful in establishing a year-on-year picture of pedestrian activity. The Partnership also now has access to national footfall trends through information supplied by the Association of Town Centre Management.

YCCP put £10,000 into the Christmas lights for 2007, and also ran the City's first-ever Christmas Window Dressing Competition. This attracted 68 entries, votes from 3,400 residents as well as a panel of judges, with retailers contributing prizes with a value of £2,500 to encourage voting. An award ceremony for 60 people was held at the Mansion House hosted by the Lord Mayor and Sheriff. The Retailers' Forum was very enthusiastic about the competition and keen to make it an annual event as part of the Christmas promotional campaign.

Work has continued on the current Action Plan, particularly with Retailers Against Crime in York (RACY), who are currently exploring the possibility of extending activities into the evening economy, York in Bloom and the entry into the 2008 regional competition, together with strategic input into the City Centre Area Action Plan, Local Development Framework and the 2008 events activity in and around Parliament Street.

Following extensive research and consultation with businesses in the City Centre,

the Partnership has now formally decided not to proceed with a vote for a Business Improvement District (BID). This is because of the low level of general interest among the business community, the difficulty of finding a "headline" project to engage them, the lack of a long-standing "track record" for the Partnership and finally the possibility of the introduction of the Supplementary Business Rate in 2010/11. The Partnership concluded that any vote in June of this year would be a negative one, and that would damage the image of and confidence in the City Centre. The Partnership is now in discussion with stakeholders to reprofile the organisation for post-September 2008, when its current contractual arrangements cease.

Future Prospects

38. The team has successfully completed LSC/ESF projects working with adults with mental health issues and supporting young adults into work. These projects have been recognised as leading examples in innovative IAG and skills development practices. The 'supporting young people' project successfully embedded entrepreneurship, with the 'Enterprise Academy' being considered for wider regional rollout.

In recognition of the high level of redundancies within the region, Future Prospects has successfully delivered a Skills Fund project, which has allowed 250 people facing redundancy to receive specialist advice and support and over 100 people to gain accredited training to support the transition to new employment in a changing labour market. In addition, over 100 people participated in short courses to develop core skills for employment and improve application techniques. Over 60 people within this project have been successfully tracked into new employment.

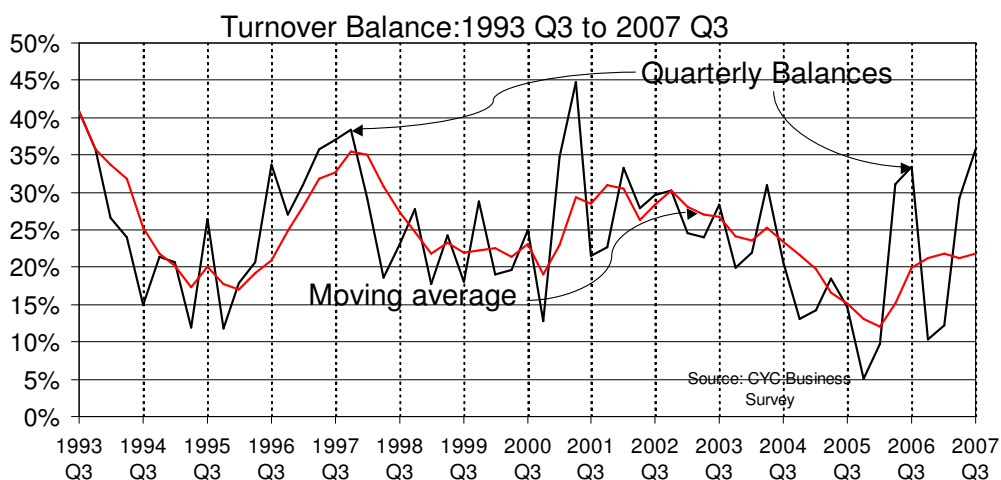
Unemployment and Quarterly Business Survey: Results

39. The two unemployment performance indicators 15a and 15b which compare the rate of unemployment in York with regional and national rates are just above target on an annual basis, although the local rate has fallen below target with respect to the region for December 2007 by a very narrow margin. However, claimant count unemployment is 300 people lower than it was at the corresponding month a year earlier. Detailed information on the claimant count, the ILO/OECD unemployment measure and rates may be found in **Annex 1**.
40. There are three performance indicators which focus on the overall Quarterly Business Survey and one on the Retail Sector in the city; all of these are currently performing above the required level and indeed have done so over the past four quarters. Once again detailed results may be seen in **Annex 2 - 5** for each performance indicator which relate to business conditions measured through the York Business Survey.
41. The business survey covers York's economy as a whole and is so designed as to provide representative results. The latest survey for which results are available was undertaken in October last year and covers the third quarter; July, August and September. Eighty-four local companies took part in the survey responding to questions on turnover, employment, customer levels and so on. Overall results were positive with increases in turnover, employment and investment levels although confidence levels in future sales and employment appears to be levelling

out. Overall satisfaction with York remains high however – hopefully this can be maintained over what may prove to be a challenging year for business.

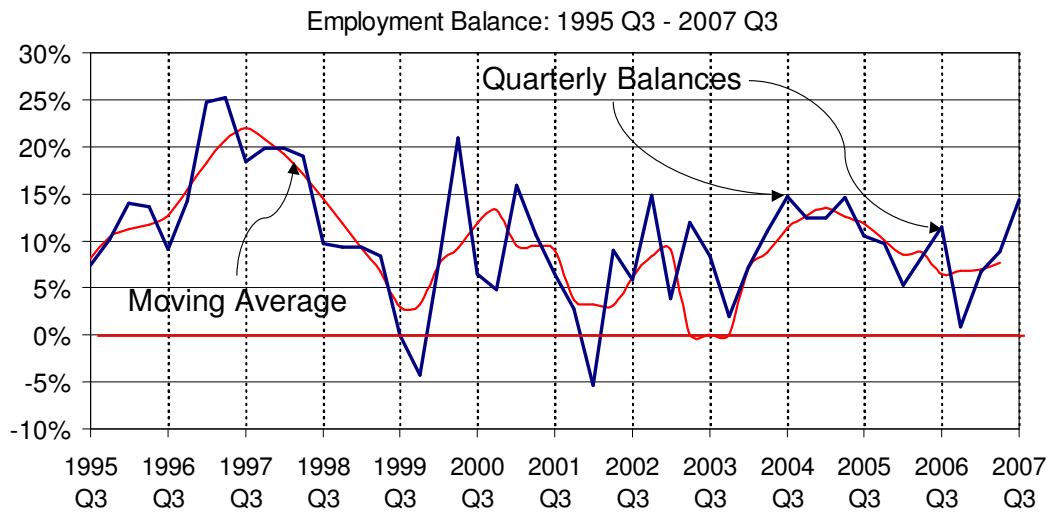
42. The financial world has suffered a difficult few months with a turbulent stock market both on Wall Street and in London, a stalling or falling housing market and inflationary pressures on food, oil and related forms of energy. The central banks in the US and UK have moved interest rates downwards in an attempt to reduce risks to growth - but there is a general view that world economies face a period of rebalancing during 2008 and growth forecasts have been revised downwards as a consequence. The current consensus seems to be however that while growth will slow in both the US and UK, neither economy will go into recession – defined as two consecutive quarters of real decline in output.
43. In terms of **turnover**, net balance results (i.e. the proportion of respondents who said that their turnover had risen over those who reported a fall), stood at +35.7, up 6.5 points on the previous quarter and 2.3 points ahead of the corresponding period a year ago. The graphic below, **Figure 1**, charts the turnover balance since 1993Q3 together with a moving average which reduces some of the seasonal factors present in the raw data. This long run average over fourteen years is continuing to exhibit improvement after a decline through 2002-2006. The recent slowing of national growth, rise in energy and raw material costs worldwide coupled with a firm monetary policy aimed at reducing inflation all suggest that while turnover levels may continue to improve, growth may be more modest in the shorter term than, for example, 1996/7.

Figure 1



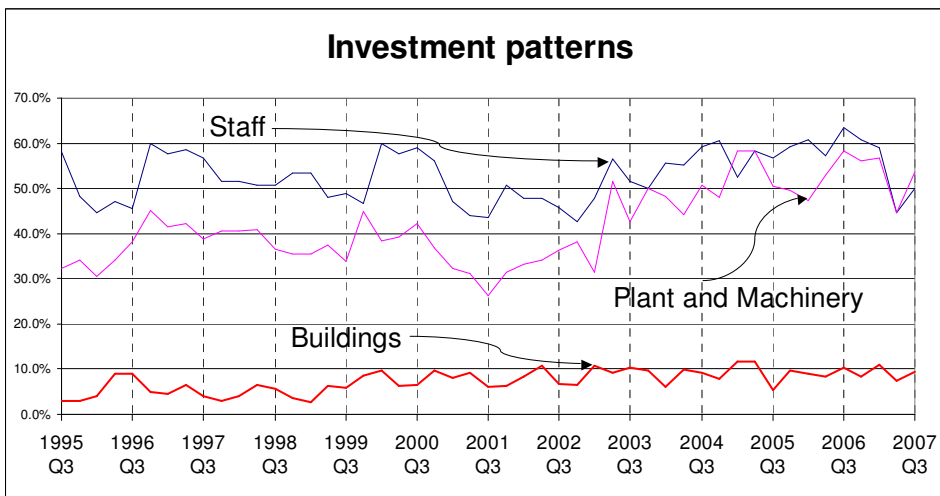
44. **Employment** levels remained firm in the third quarter of last year – with the proportion of firms reporting that their staffing levels were growing 14.3 points higher than those who reported their staffing levels were falling. This was an improvement over the second quarter of over 5 points and nearly 3 points higher than a year previous. Of course for many firms staffing levels have remained stable over the quarter and 69% of firms surveyed were in this position in the third quarter, just ahead of the same period in 2006. The graphic, **Figure 2**, shows the net balance of this indicator together with a moving average line which reduces seasonality in the data.

Figure 2



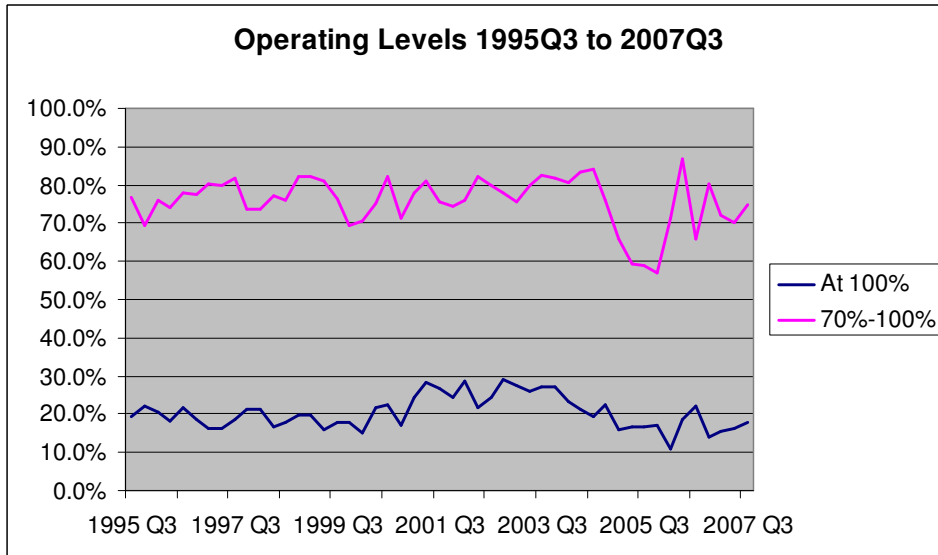
45. In terms of **investment**, the question is posed to local businesses under three categories; buildings, plant and staff. While investment across the three categories rises and falls it does not do so equally across all types – buildings has remained at a fairly constant level over the last few years, while investment in plant and machinery as well as staff training shows a recovery from the previous quarter – with the proportion of firms investing in these returning to more than half. Those investing are shown in **Figure 3** below:

Figure 3



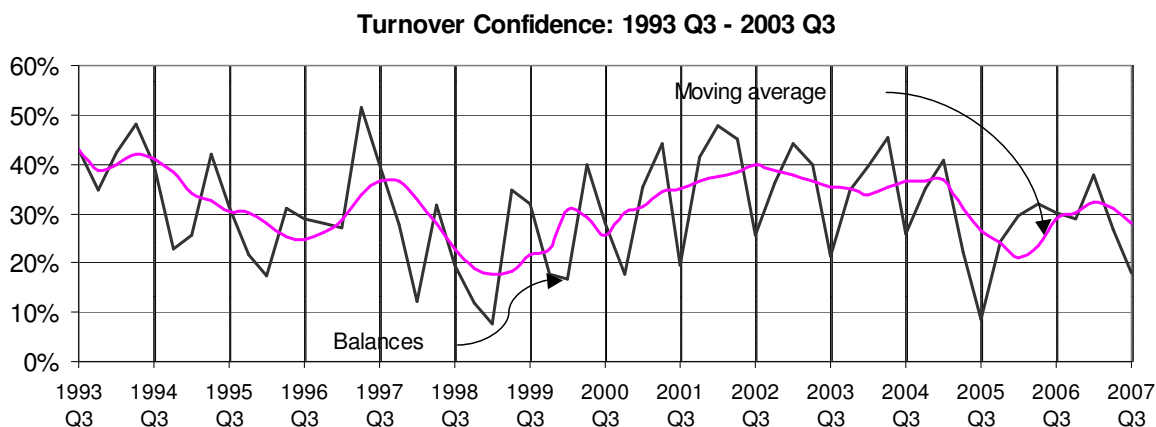
46. In terms of **operating capacity**, firms are asked whether they are operating at what they consider to be full capacity or at some level, in 10% bands, below that. The groups graphed in **Figure 4** show the proportion of firms operating at full capacity – typically around 20% and also a group operating between 70% and 100% - judged to be within a satisfactory range for managers. Both groups exhibit improvement over recent periods, with a low point clearly visible in late 2005.

Figure 4



47. **Confidence** in future trading activity is measured in two ways – firstly confidence in future turnover or sales levels and secondly by employment or staffing levels – whether the expected level of activity is prompting employers to grow, reduce or maintain their staffing numbers at existing levels. Firstly, **Figure 5** shows confidence in turnover levels for the quarter ahead – over a fourteen year period from 1993 to 2007. There is a marked pattern of sales expectations rising and falling over the year and for this reason the moving average line provides the more useful guide to activity. This improved through 2005/6, peaked in the third quarter of 2006 and has now begun to take a downward path. Working on previous experience, expectations will rise through late 2007 and into 2008 – although given some of the shocks impacting on the national economy in recent months, confidence may remain muted through 2008. **Figure 5** below charts confidence in future sales or turnover over the past fourteen years – from 1993 to date.

Figure 5

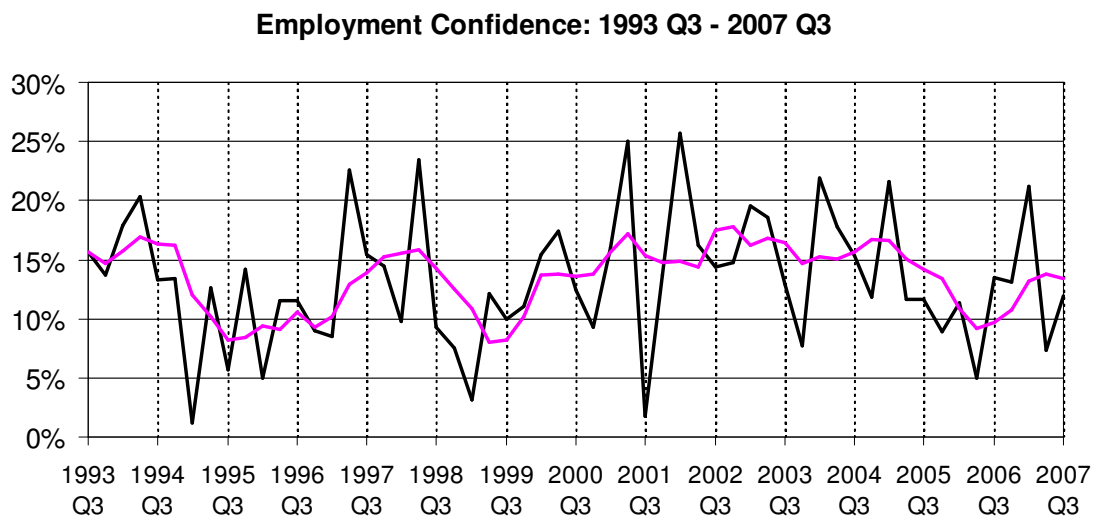


48. **Confidence** is measured in a second way in the Business Survey – by examining the expected staffing levels expressed by business owners and managers. This is another indication that they expect activity in the business to increase, lessen or remain the same – **Figure 6** charts the net balance of firms where managers are expressing an expectation of altering the level of staff in the business. As might be

expected, this tends to lag behind activity as there is usually some spare capacity within firms to respond to upward changing levels of demand and where activity is reducing, firms are often reluctant to lose valued staff who have been trained in the business perhaps over a number of years.

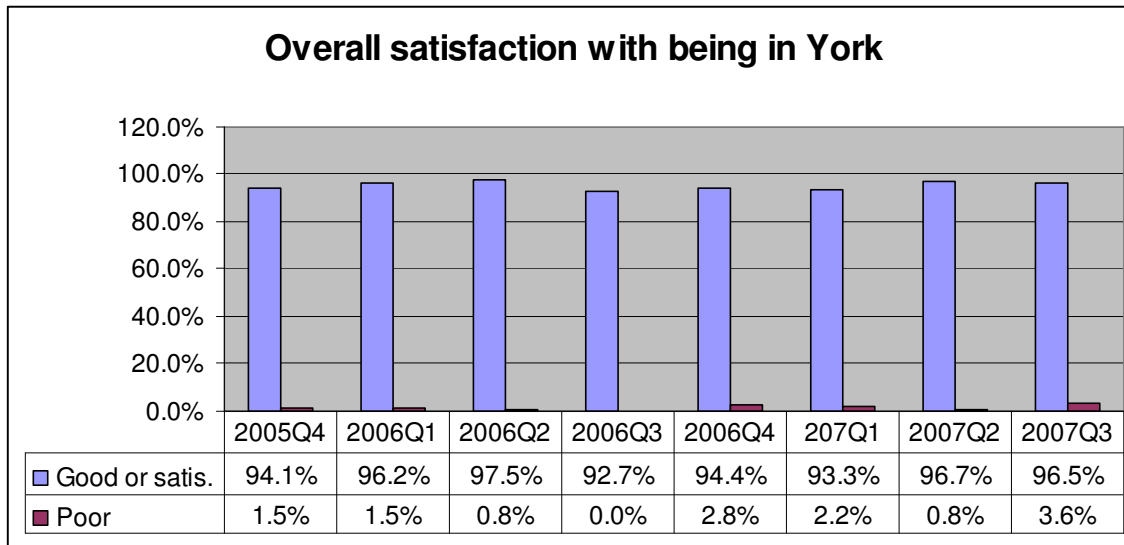
49. Once again **Figure 6** (the chart below) shows the balance of ups and downs in expected staffing levels, complete with a moving average trend line which reduces some of the strong seasonal element present in the data. The trend line shows marked improvement through 2006/7 – this appears to be levelling off towards the end of last year. Whether the proportion of firms taking on staff continues to grow will depend crucially on the expected level of consumption in the local economy and should consumer demand reduce in the face of falling house prices and higher household costs such as food, oil and gas whether investment by industry can fill some of the gap.

Figure 6



50. One question in the Business Survey was prompted by a recommendation by the Audit Commission - seeking to provide a measure of **overall satisfaction** for a business located in a particular city. Question 14 asks managers whether they believe York to be a good, satisfactory or poor location for their business. In the two years that this question has been asked, the proportion of businesses responding, 'good' has always been more than half those surveyed, and the proportion who feel York is satisfactory averages a little over 35%. Since it seems likely that a proportion of managers will move between these two categories, there is value in summing them – and the results are shown in **Figure 7** with the output given below in a data table.

Figure 7



51. The survey covering the last quarter of 2007 from October to December, began in late January.

Risk Management

52. In compliance with the council's risk management strategy. There are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

Recommendation

53. The Board's input and endorsement is requested.

Reason: To help shape the effectiveness of future action.

Contact Details

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Bill Woolley
Director of City Strategy

Report Approved

Date 26 Feb. 07

Specialist Implications Officers: None

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: Progress on Key Issues Report to Economic Development Partnership Board 25 September 2007

Annexes:

- Annex 1 – Performance Indicator – Unemployment in York VJ15a and VJ15b
- Annex 2 – Performance Indicator – Turnover (Sales) Balance – VJ15d
- Annex 3 – Performance Indicator – Expected Turnover Levels – VJ15c
- Annex 4 – Performance indicator – Employment Balance - VJ15e
- Annex 5 – Performance Indicator – Improved business performance in the retail sector - C10
- Annex 6 – Hotel Occupancy Monthly Statistics

1. ILO/OECD Count - those actively seeking work and available to start in York:

PI:	VJ15a	VJ15b
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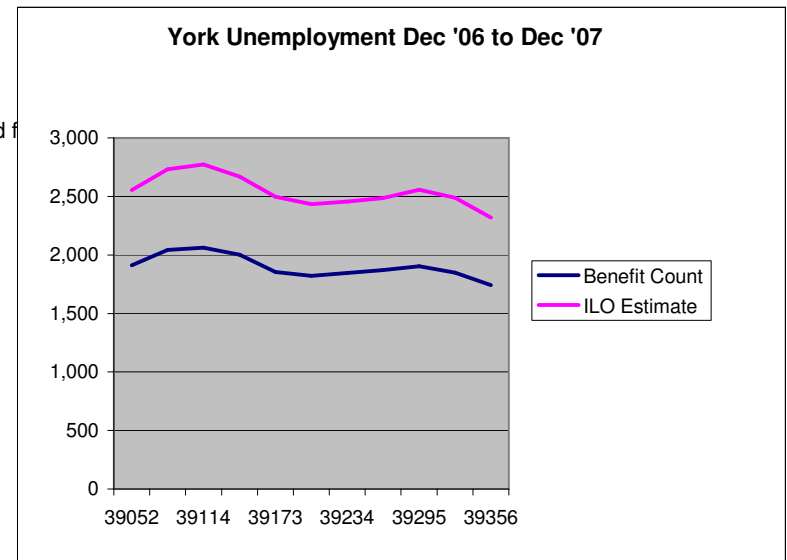
December 2007: 2,152 (1.9% workforce, 2.2% economically-active resident workforce) Source: Taylor Assoc.

2. Claimant Count and Unemployment Rates in York compared to Region and UK (workforce rate) below:

Date	York	Rate	Region	Rate	UK	Rate	York MA	Regional MA	UK MA	York below Region	York below UK
										by at least 1.5%	by at least 1.0%
Dec-2006	1,912	1.7	86,166	3.3	923,460	2.9	1.9	3.4	3.0	1.5	1.2
Jan-2007	2,043	1.8	90,392	3.4	965,097	3.0	1.9	3.4	3.0	1.5	1.1
Feb-2007	2,062	1.8	90,857	3.5	974,863	3.0	1.9	3.4	3.0	1.5	1.1
Mar-2007	2,001	1.8	89,065	3.4	956,022	3.0	1.9	3.4	3.0	1.5	1.1
Apr-2007	1,853	1.6	86,534	3.3	918,512	2.8	1.8	3.4	3.0	1.5	1.2
May-2007	1,822	1.6	83,987	3.2	889,130	2.8	1.8	3.3	3.0	1.5	1.2
Jun-2007	1,846	1.6	80,799	3.0	855,628	2.6	1.8	3.3	2.9	1.5	1.1
Jul-2007	1,870	1.7	80,861	3.0	854,149	2.6	1.8	3.3	2.9	1.5	1.1
Aug-2007	1,903	1.7	80,934	3.0	857,133	2.7	1.7	3.3	2.9	1.5	1.1
Sep-2007	1,849	1.6	77,993	2.9	827,888	2.6	1.7	3.2	2.8	1.5	1.1
Oct-2007	1,741	1.5	75,008	2.8	800,959	2.5	1.7	3.2	2.8	1.5	1.1
Nov-2007	1,694	1.5	73,470	2.8	785,759	2.4	1.7	3.1	2.7	1.5	1.1
Dec-2007	1,603	1.4	74,684	2.8	790,370	2.4	1.6	3.1	2.7	1.4	1.1
Data sources: NOMIS (National On-line Manpower Information System) from the ONS and Taylor Associates									12 month av:	1.51	1.12

Notes:

- Table: 'MA' denotes moving average: each monthly rate is an average figure of the previous twelve months. This smoothes out some of the monthly swings in unemployment, producing a clearer trend line. For information, raw percentage rates are shown in the '%' column after each number and area.
- Because official unemployment rates are now calculated on a residents basis for areas below regions, the York % rate is estimated from jobs density data for November 2002 onwards when workforce-based rates ceased, once again, to be available from the ONS.
- Members should be aware that the measure of unemployment used in the main table is the narrow, and largely unsatisfactory, Claimant Count, which measures only those people receiving benefits while they are unemployed. It is used here to ensure commonality across the three areas shown and should be seen as a proxy measure of economic activity rather than as a measure of the full extent of the problem of unemployment for local people. The ILO measure, in bold, at the top provides a better estimate of the numbers seeking work in the city and this is shown as the higher line on the graph with the most recent data at the top of the page.
- The shaded columns shows the two unemployment performance indicators used by the Council, VJ15A and VJ15B.
- Graph: This shows the numbers of people seeking work in the city, the ILO measure, as the higher line. The lower, broken line, charts the narrower Claimant Count measure.
- Members should also be aware that official unemployment data is always subject to revision, rounding of figures to one decimal place in the table may appear to suggest arithmetical errors.
- York workforce estimated at 113,000: Employees, Self-employed, Armed Forces and Gov Training Schemes. Source: Jobs Density 2003 ONS
- Economically-active resident population aged 16+ or resident workforce estimate used as the resident workforce denominator: 100,000 Source: Taylor Associates, London.



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Business performance Performance Indicator

Turnover (Sales) Balance

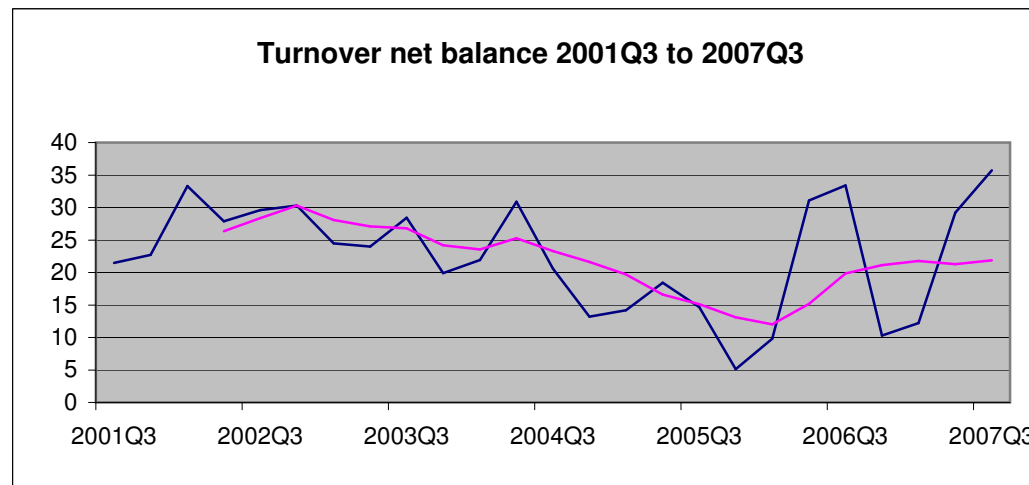
Looking over past Quarter			Quarterly
Yr/Qtr	Surveyed	Balance	Moving av
2001Q3	October	21.5	
2001Q4	January	22.7	
2002Q1	April	33.3	
2002Q2	July	27.9	26.4
2002Q3	October	29.6	28.4
2002Q4	January	30.3	30.3
2003Q1	April	24.5	28.1
2003Q2	July	24.0	27.1
2003Q3	October	28.4	26.8
2003Q4	January	19.9	24.2
2004Q1	April	21.9	23.6
2004Q2	July	30.9	25.3
2004Q3	October	20.6	23.3
2004Q4	January	13.2	21.7
2005Q1	April	14.2	19.7
2005Q2	July	18.4	16.6
2005Q3	October	14.7	15.1
2005Q4	January	5.1	13.1
2006Q1	April	9.8	12.0
2006Q2	July	31.1	15.2
2006Q3	October	33.4	19.9
2006Q4	January	10.3	21.2
2007Q1	April	12.2	21.8
2007Q2	July	29.2	21.3
2007Q3	October	35.7	21.9

PI VJ15D
 'Maintain the York Business Survey moving average Turnover net Balance figure above 20% reflecting turnover or sales levels among York firms'

The balance figure for the indicator is provided by subtracting the respondents who said their sales were falling from those who said their sales were rising. A Quarterly Moving Average figure is then calculated to smooth out some of the seasonal up and down movements in the indicator. A number of respondents will also remark that their position has not altered. Corresponding quarterly results together with the most recent quarterly moving average figures are shown in bold text. A graphic, Figure A, charting the progress of both the raw observation and the quarterly moving average is shown below.

Source and Storage of data:

- The data source is: the York Quarterly Business Survey
- Leisure\$ on eldata (L:) 20_GHS\EDU_DOCS\EIS\EISDATA\SPSS\York Business Survey*.SAV
- Leisure\$ on eldata (L:) 20_GHS\EDU_DOCS\EIS\EISDATA\Business Survey\Data\Historic2-2007.xls
- Leisure\$ on eldata (L:) 20_GHS\EDU_DOCS\EIS\EISDATA\PI Information\Business Survey Pls\Business Survey Pls.xls



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Business Confidence Performance Indicator

Expected Turnover levels

Yr/Qtr	Surveyed	Balance	Quarterly Moving av
2001Q3	October	19.6	
2001Q4	January	41.5	
2002Q1	April	47.7	
2002Q2	July	45.0	38.5
2002Q3	October	25.4	39.9
2002Q4	January	36.2	38.6
2003Q1	April	44.1	37.7
2003Q2	July	40.0	36.4
2003Q3	October	21.3	35.4
2003Q4	January	34.6	35.0
2004Q1	April	39.7	33.9
2004Q2	July	45.4	35.3
2004Q3	October	26.0	36.4
2004Q4	January	34.9	36.5
2005Q1	April	40.8	36.8
2005Q2	July	22.3	31.0
2005Q3	October	8.4	26.6
2005Q4	January	24.4	24.0
2006Q1	April	29.4	21.1
2006Q2	July	32.0	23.6
2006Q3	October	30.2	29.0
2006Q4	January	29.0	30.2
2007Q1	April	37.8	32.3
2007Q2	July	26.9	31.0
2007Q3	October	17.9	27.9

PI VJ15c
 'Maintain the York Business Survey moving average Expected Turnover net Balance figure above 20% reflecting confidence in future turnover or sales levels among York firms'

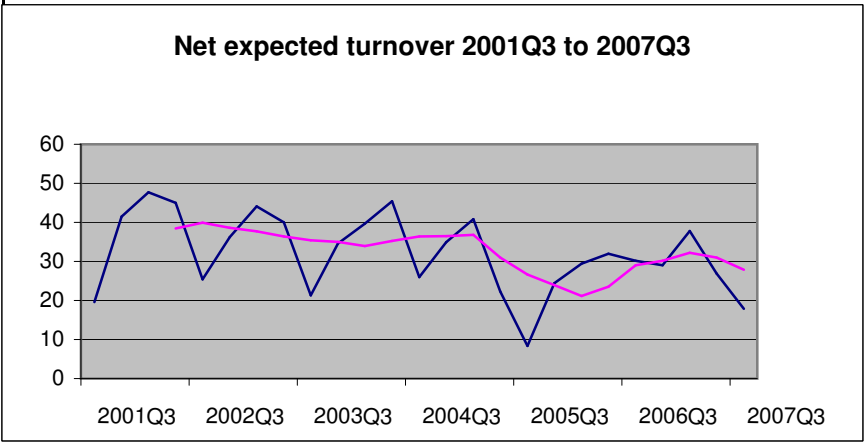
The balance figure for the indicator is provided by subtracting the respondents who said they expected their sales to fall from those who expected their sales to rise. A Quarterly Moving Average figure is then calculated to smooth out some of the seasonal up and down movements in the indicator. A proportion of respondents will also remark that their position has not altered.

Corresponding quarterly results together with the most recent quarterly moving average figures are shown in bold text. A graphic, Figure A, charting the progress of both the raw observation and the quarterly moving average is shown below.

This data looks to the quarter ahead.

Source and Storage of data:

- 21.1 The data source is: the York Quarterly Business Survey
- 23.6 Leisure\$ on eldata (L:) 20_GHS\EDU_DOCS\EIS\EISDATA\SPSS\York
- 29.0 Leisure\$ on eldata (L:) 20_GHS\EDU_DOCS\EIS\EISDATA\Business Survey\Data\Historic2-2007.xls
- 30.2 Leisure\$ on eldata (L:) 20_GHS\EDU_DOCS\EIS\EISDATA\PI Information\Business Survey Pls\Business Survey Pls.xls



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Employment Balance Performance Indicator

Employment Balance

Looking over past Quarter

Yr/Qtr	Surveyed	Balance	Quarterly Moving av
2001Q3	October	6.5	
2001Q4	January	2.8	
2002Q1	April	-5.3	
2002Q2	July	9.0	3.3
2002Q3	October	5.9	3.1
2002Q4	January	14.8	6.1
2003Q1	April	3.8	8.4
2003Q2	July	12.0	9.1
2003Q3	October	8.4	9.8
2003Q4	January	1.9	6.5
2004Q1	April	7.2	7.4
2004Q2	July	11.0	7.1
2004Q3	October	14.6	8.7
2004Q4	January	12.5	11.3
2005Q1	April	12.5	12.7
2005Q2	July	14.6	13.6
2005Q3	October	10.5	12.5
2005Q4	January	9.7	11.8
2006Q1	April	5.3	10.0
2006Q2	July	8.4	8.5
2006Q3	October	11.5	8.7
2006Q4	January	0.9	6.5
2007Q1	April	6.7	6.9
2007Q2	July	8.9	7.0
2007Q3	October	14.3	7.7

PI VJ15e

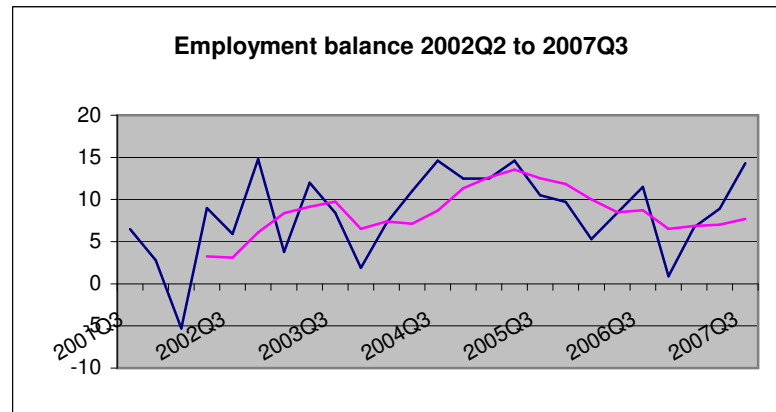
'Maintain a positive York Business Survey moving average Employment net Balance figure'

The balance figure for the indicator is provided by subtracting the respondents who said their employment levels were falling from those who said their employment levels were rising. A Quarterly Moving Average figure is then calculated to smooth out some of the seasonal up and down movements in the indicator. A number of respondents will also remark that their position has not altered.

Corresponding quarterly results together with the most recent quarterly moving average figures are shown in bold text. A graphic, Figure A, charting the progress of both the raw observation and the quarterly moving average is shown below.

Source and Storage of data:

The data source is: the York Quarterly Business Survey
 Leisure\$ on eldata (L:) 20_GHS\EDU _DOCS\EIS\EISDATA\SPSS\York
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 Leisure\$ on eldata (L:) 20_GHS\EDU _DOCS\EIS\EISDATA\PI Information\Business Survey Pls\Business Survey Pls.xls



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Looking over past Quarter				Total	Quarterly Moving average
Yr/Qtr	Surveyed	Employee	Turnover I		
2005Q1	April	-1.2	-16.0	-17.2	
2005Q2	July	-6.0	-34.3	-40.3	
2005Q3	October	-11.1	-7.4	-18.5	
2005Q4	January	6.1	48.5	54.6	-5.4
2006Q1	April	-14.5	-56.5	-71.0	-18.8
2006Q2	July	-4.3	27.7	23.4	-2.9
2006Q3	October	19.0	50.0	69.0	19.0
2006Q4	January	9.3	41.8	51.1	18.1
2007Q1	April	-12.1	-66.6	-78.7	16.2
2007Q2	July	-2.4	36.6	34.2	18.9
2007Q3	October	25.0	62.5	87.5	23.5

PI C10

Improved business performance in the retail sector

The balance figure for the indicator is provided by adding together balance figures for Employment and Turnover.

A Quarterly Moving Average figure is then calculated to smooth out some of the seasonal up and down movements in the indicator.

Corresponding quarterly results together with the most recent quarterly moving average figures are shown in bold text. A graphic, Figure A, charting the progress of both the raw observation and the quarterly moving average is shown below.

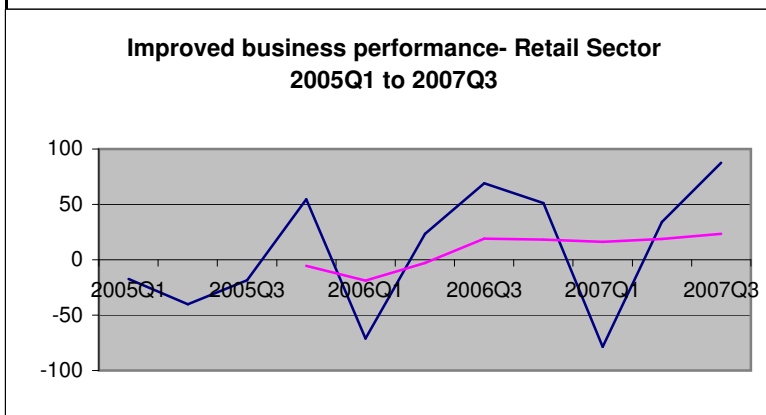
Source and Storage of data:

The data source is: the York Quarterly Business Survey, subset All York Retailers

Leisure\$ on eldata (L:) 20_GHS\EDU _DOCS\EIS\EISDATA\SPSS\YorkRetailSurvey*.SAV

Leisure\$ on eldata (L:) 20_GHS\EDU _DOCS\EIS\EISDATA\Retailing\Retailing survey\All York Retailers survey results.xls

Leisure\$ on eldata (L:) 20_GHS\EDU _DOCS\EIS\EISDATA\PI Information\Business Survey Pls\Business Survey Pls.xls



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HOTEL OCCUPANCY STATISTICS: RESULTS TO DECEMBER 2007

York accommodation trends (figures from the Yorkshire Tourist Board, based on a sample of accommodation providers of different sizes).

Bed occupancy	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
January	31.8%	29.0%	29.8%	22%	24.2%	24.5%	27.5%	27.8%	25.3%	29.5%
February	35.4%	41.4%	46.8%	40.6%	42.7%	43.4%	44.2%	40.6%	43.0%	41.4%
March	48.2%	48.7%	48.0%	42.0%	48.0%	44.8%	44.3%	43.5%	39.6%	47.4%
April	59.0%	54.8%	60.0%	51.4%	46.7%	52.9%	53.2%	45.8%	51.6%	46.8%
May	61.6%	60.1%	56.0%	55%	48.5%	54.7%	57.3%	50.2%	49.1%	51.5%
June	57.7%	60.2%	58.6%	57.3%	59.1%	53.1%	60.7%	52.9%	49.6%	57.3%
July	71.4%	71.5%	56.2%	52.4%	62.1%	58.7%	61.5%	58.0%	57.0%	61.2%
August	74.2%	68.9%	64.7%	62.9%	62.8%	62.9%	63.2%	61.0%	56.0%	63%
September	67.8%	67.2%	61.9%	56.2%	54.2%	55.9%	53.8%	52.7%	54.8%	59.6%
October	66.1%	67.0%	61.1%	49.5%	62.3%	54.9%	56.5%	56.8%	48.5%	53.7%
November	46.9%	48.9%	30.2%	49.4%	50.5%	43.9%	46.5%	45.1%	43%	46%
December	40.5%	39.9%	33.6%	33.1%	37.7%	36.1%	42.8%	41.4%	42.8%	50.0%
Annual average	55.0%	54.8%	50.6%	47.7%	49.9%	48.8%	50.9%	48.0%	46.7%	50.6%

4% increase in bed occupancy in 2007 cf 2006 – best since 2004 and one of the highest since the mid 1990s.

Room occupancy	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
January	44.8%	39.1%	41.3%	31.9%	38%	37.2%	39.8%	40.3%	38.8%	42.1%
February	52.0%	53.9%	59.4%	51.3%	58.2%	57.4%	56.0%	53.9%	59.0%	54.0%
March	60.9%	62.2%	67.1%	55.9%	64.7%	60.2%	59.7%	54.4%	57.2%	62.3%
April	70.2%	68.0%	71.1%	61.9%	62.2%	65.3%	63.8%	61.6%	65.1%	59.3%
May	73.4%	70.7%	70.6%	70.3%	64.8%	66.7%	70.5%	63.3%	62.5%	66%
June	76.7%	76.3%	69.1%	73.2%	73.1%	65.9%	75.2%	70.3%	59.3%	74.9%
July	82.8%	84.1%	67.6%	66.6%	75.4%	73.0%	76.0%	74.5%	70.9%	76.1%
August	81.1%	75.0%	73.7%	77.6%	74.8%	74.9%	76.1%	72.5%	69.5%	72.8%
September	82.3%	82.7%	77.8%	65.5%	69.7%	71.9%	72.3%	71.8%	66.6%	73.8%
October	78.4%	80.4%	73.5%	60.2%	77.3%	68.5%	72.5%	74.1%	57.9%	68.3%
November	60.4%	64.5%	47.6%	63.5%	61.9%	59.3%	65.8%	63.9%	58.4%	58.8%
December	50.0%	51.2%	41.4%	41.5%	51.4%	44.6%	53.8%	54.5%	50.0%	62.2%
Annual Average	67.7%	67.3%	63.3%	60.0%	64.3%	62.1%	65.1%	62.9%	59.6%	64.2%

Up by 4.6% since 2006. The highest since 2004 and one of the highest since the mid 1990s.

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Economic Development Partnership Board

11th March 2008

Report of the Assistant Director

FUTURE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Summary

1. The report sets out some options for the Board to consider regarding future membership and composition prior to formal approval by the Council.

Background

2. The last meeting of the Board considered a report on the membership and terms of reference of the Economic Development Partnership Board. Following debate at that meeting, there are a number of issues to consider further prior to the Council making any formal changes to its constitution. These are set out below and partners are invited to comment further on these.

Consultation

3. There has been considerable consultation on the Future York Group report and the issue of membership of the Board has been debated at previous meetings. Democratic Services has also been consulted on the potential constitutional effects of any review of the role and composition of the Board.

Options

4. The Economic Development Partnership Board is currently formally constituted as a working group of the Council. Any change to its membership and terms of reference will require an amendment to the Council's constitution as well as the endorsement of the Without Walls Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). This matter was debated fully at the last meeting of the Board and general agreement, in principle, was given to the proposed terms of reference, subject to an amendment to paragraph 2.2b to reflect that the Board did not have the power to ensure action in the allocation of resources by partner organisations.
5. A review of the Council's constitution is underway and will be considering the role of working groups generally. This provides an opportunity to consider the future status of the Board. Board members' views are sought on two possible options for the future of the Economic Development Partnership Board:
 1. Option 1 - the Board remains as a working group of the Council
 2. Option 2 – the Board becomes a partnership body. In this case the Council would nominate representatives to the Partnership Board, and any actions

considered by the Board which require a Council decision would need to be considered separately under the Council's constitution.

6. In both these cases the terms of reference presented to the last Board meeting will need to be re-written to reflect any decision made by the Council in its constitutional review.
7. In addition, there are four options left unresolved from the last meeting which require further consideration by the Board:
 1. The establishment of a wider Economic Development Forum under the Board;
 2. The number of private sector representatives to the Board and how these should be determined;
 3. How best for the Education/Skills sector to be represented on the Board;
 4. Whether the number of councillors should be extended from 3 to 4 to cover all political parties.

Analysis

8. Establishing a wider Business Forum

This was debated at the last meeting and it was proposed that a wider business forum consisting of say 40 to 50 business representatives could meet on a 6 monthly basis to review and support the work of the Board. It is proposed that Officers within the Economic Development Unit work with the Chamber of Commerce on establishing this Business Forum.

9. Private Sector Representatives

There were concerns expressed at the last meeting as to whether 4 business sector representatives were sufficient, whilst recognising the need to limit the total size of the Board. Under the proposal presented at the last meeting, there would be 4 sector representatives (2 from major employers, 2 from smaller enterprises) out of a total of 13. An alternative option would be to increase this to 6 and the views of the Board are requested on this matter. It is proposed to seek the recommendation of the Future York Group on how the business sector places on the Board should be allocated, bearing in mind the above proposal to establish a wider Business Forum.

10. Learning City York Partnership

It was debated at the last meeting of the Board whether the Learning and Skills Council should have a direct nomination to the Board to cover issues related to education, skills and workforce development. An alternative approach would be to seek a representative from the Learning City York Partnership and the views of the Board are requested on this matter.

11. The issue of representation from Elected Members will need to be considered directly by the Council under its constitution, although again it would be helpful to have any views of the Board.
12. It is proposed to complete this outstanding work on the membership and terms of reference for the Board as well as seeking the relevant approval from the Council and endorsement by the Without Walls Local Strategic Partnership so that a

reconstituted Economic Development Partnership Board can commence at the start of the next municipal year (i.e., in time for the next proposed meeting of the Board in June).

Corporate Priorities

13. The work of the Economic Development Partnership Board relates to the following objectives for the Council, the Economic Development Service Plan and the LSP Without Walls initiatives.
 - * The “Thriving City” theme of the WOW Community Plan has the following strategic objective:

“To support the progress and success of York’s existing businesses and to encourage new enterprises in order to maintain a prosperous and flourishing economy that will sustain high employment rates.”
 - * The Economic Development Service Plan sets identifies a number of corporate priorities covering:
 - Increase people’s skills and knowledge to improve future employment prospects.
 - Improve the economic prosperity of the people of York with a focus on minimising income differentials.
 - Improve the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children, young people and families in the city.
 - Improve the way the Council and its partners work together to deliver better services for the people who live in York.

Implications

14. Financial: There are no implications at this stage. Any significant implications to economic development activity will be the subject of future reports to the Board.
15. Human resources: None
16. Equalities: None
17. Legal: None
18. Crime and Disorder: None
19. Information Technology: None
20. Property: None

Risk Management

21. In compliance with the council’s risk management strategy. There are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

Recommendation

22. That

(i) the Council consider the constitutional issues for reviewing the Economic Development Partnership Board in order that a newly constituted arrangement can commence as soon as possible in the new municipal year;

(ii) in the meantime:

(a) an Economic Development Forum be established and officers are instructed to work with the Chamber of Commerce, the Future York group and other stakeholders to determine how this may operate and be supported;

(b) that the number of business representatives on the new Board be set at 4 and that the new Board consider whether permanently or from time to time, these numbers should be supplemented;

(c) that the Learning City York Partnership be invited to appoint a representative to the new Board to cover education, skills and training;

(d) that the Council be recommended to support 3 Councillor representatives on the new Board when it considers its future status under the constitutional review referred to at (1) above.

Reason: To help shape the effectiveness of the future role of the Board.

Contact Details

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Development & Partnerships
Phone No: 01904 551614

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Bill Woolley
Director of City Strategy

Report Approved



Date 03/08/2008

Specialist Implications Officers: None

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: The Future York Group report – an independent strategic review of the York economy, June 2007

Annexes: None