



Notice of meeting of

Local Development Framework Working Group

To: Councillors Steve Galloway (Chair), Potter (Vice-Chair), Ayre, D'Agorne, Merrett, Moore, Reid, Simpson-Laing, R Watson and Watt

Date: Tuesday, 6 January 2009

Time: 4.30 pm

Venue: The Guildhall

AGENDA

1. **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.

2. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 6)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Local Development Framework Working Group held on 4 November 2008.

3. **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 remit of the Working Group may do so. The deadline for registering is 5.00 pm on Monday 5 January 2009.

4. City Centre Area Action Plan Issues and Options Report- Consultation Summary (Pages 7 - 22)

This report updates Members with regard to the consultation carried out on the City Centre Area Action Plan Issues and Options Report (from 28 July to 22 September 2008). Members are asked to note the comments received via the consultation process and support their consideration, alongside emerging evidence-based documents and the findings of the sustainability appraisal in informing the production of a City Centre Area Action Plan Preferred Options report. Members are also asked to note and comment on the next steps in preparing the Preferred Options document for presentation to Members later in 2009.

[Annex A, attached to the report, provides a summary of the City Centre Area Action Plan Issues and Options report, and the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal].

[Annexes B to E, detailed under item 6 of the report, are available online via the Council's website at www.york.gov.uk and via the electronic link to the agenda].

5. Any other business, which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democracy Officers:

Name: Catherine Clarke and Heather Anderson (job share)

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(If contacting us by e-mail, please send to both democracy officers named above)

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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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

Committee Minutes

MEETING	LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK WORKING GROUP
DATE	4 NOVEMBER 2008
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS STEVE GALLOWAY (CHAIR), AYRE, D'AGORNE, MERRETT, MOORE, REID, SIMPSON-LAING, HORTON (SUBSTITUTE) AND I WAUDBY (SUBSTITUTE)
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLORS POTTER, R WATSON AND WATT

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. No interests were declared.

15. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

16. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Local Development Framework Working Group held on 4 August 2008 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

17. CITY OF YORK COUNCIL –CHANGES TO PPS12 AND A REVISED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Members considered a report which advised them of the production of a revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) for the City as required under the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act (2004). The LDS was effectively the project plan for the delivery of the Local Development Framework. The report outlined the implications arising from the changes to the Government Guidance (PPS12), the formal requirements related to the production of the LDS, and financial implications. A draft of the LDS was attached as Annex A to the report and, for the purposes of comparison, the last timetable provided for members was attached as Annex B. Members were invited to comment on the draft LDS and recommend it for formal submission to the Government Office of Yorkshire and the Humber.

Officers stressed that the key change in the Government guidance, as re-published in June 2008, was a reduction in statutory consultation stages in

favour of a process of continuous consultation. This now meant that before submission, consultation had taken place, and comments were fed to the Planning Inspectorate. Other key changes include an emphasis on the Core Strategy, including the highlighting of key strategic sites, and also changes to the test of soundness to ensure that plans are justified, effective and consistent. At the submission stage, the authority should be satisfied that the document was sound and ready for submission. It was added that, overall, the timetable was not substantially different, but that there were milestone changes as outlined in Table 1 on Page 9 of the LDS.

Members asked what would now be done differently, considering that the process was now well under way. Officers advised that the content of the Core Strategy would not change; the key change would be the approach to consultation although the Council would still need to demonstrate that at the key submission stage all alternatives had been considered.

Members requested clarification on the status of the Open Space Study (PPG17). Officers advised that the PPG17 Study was virtually complete and would be complete when the LDS was formally submitted.

Members expressed a view that multiple consultations at the early stages could be unnecessary, lengthy and bureaucratic. In addition questions were asked about the nature of the infrastructure provision work referred to in paragraph 20 on page 12. Officers responded that it must be shown that the plan and the sites within it were deliverable at the submission stage and that the emerging good practice would be monitored and used.

Members expressed concern that the Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document referred to on page 27 of the Draft LDS would not be adopted until 2011 when it should be central to the Core Strategy. Officers confirmed that work on this, whilst it would run alongside and influence the Core Strategy, would need to be formally adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document following adoption of the Core Strategy itself.

Members also asked whether the evidence base of the 2001 Census was sound and whether, with the recent economic changes, the assessment would be valid. Officers responded that the study was looking at a 20-year period with in-built conservatism and that Officers were constantly looking at the evidence to see if it was fit for purpose. Members asked whether the Origin and Destination Study 2007 could be drawn on. Officers indicated that they would liaise with the Transport Planning Unit (TPU) to ensure that the most up-to-date evidence base was used.

Members asked about the status of documents in Annex C on Page 27 of the LDS.

The following comments and changes were agreed:

- On page 5 of the Draft LDS (figure 2 document timescales) Officers to look in to the possibility of minimising the effect of summer and Christmas breaks upon the consultation on the Core Strategy and Allocations Development Plan documents.

- That any Village Design Statements that are currently in progress and not included in the list on page 27 (Annex C Planning Guidance) of the Draft LDS are included.
- That Members be kept updated on any progress made on the Green Infrastructure and Green Corridors work.
- That the titles of the documents in Annex C be amended to reflect their status in terms of their effect upon planning decisions.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Executive be recommended to approve, subject to the recommendations of this working group as recorded above, the proposed Local Development Scheme included as Annex A to the Officers report for formal submission to Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber.

REASON: So that the Local Development Scheme can be submitted to the Government Office for Yorkshire and Humber.

(ii) That authority be delegated to the Director of City Strategy in consultation with the Executive Member and Shadow Executive Member for City Strategy, for the making of any other necessary changes arising from either the recommendation of the LDF Working Group or Executive, prior to its submission to Government Office.¹

REASON: So that any recommended changes can be incorporated into the Local Development Scheme prior to its formal submission to Government Office.

(iii) That authority be delegated to the Director of City Strategy in consultation with the Executive Member and Shadow Executive Member for City Strategy for the making of any changes arising from comments made by Government Office or the Planning Inspectorate following formal submission.

REASON: So that any comments made by the Government Office or the Planning Inspectorate can be incorporated into the Local Development Scheme.

Action Required

1. Make changes to Draft LDS as agreed at the LDF Working Group meeting on 4 November.

SS

Cllr S F Galloway, Chair

[The meeting started at 4.35 pm and finished at 5.20 pm].

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6 January 2009

Local Development Framework Working Group

Report of the Director of City Strategy

Local Development Framework: City Centre Area Action Plan Issues and Options report - consultation summary

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to update Members with regard to the consultation carried out on the City Centre Area Action Plan Issues and Options report (from 28 July to 22 September 2008). These comments will be used to inform the production of the next stage of the Plan as well as other Development Plan Documents.
2. Over 3300 individuals, groups and organisations were consulted electronically or by post and 100 CDs containing all of the consultation documents were distributed upon request. 127 respondents have produced over 1700 comments in response to the Issues and Options report and 48 people took part in three themed workshops.
3. This early and widespread consultation has produced a range of responses, which will be considered, alongside the Sustainability Appraisal and the emerging evidence base, to inform the development of the Area Action Plan. Meetings will continue to be arranged with various stakeholder groups as an ongoing part of the consultation process.
4. The analysis section provides a brief summary of the main points raised in the consultation and is intended to give a flavour of comments received. A short summary of comments received is contained in Annex A (attached to this report) and the full report is given in Annex B.
5. Please note that due to their size (Annex B is 126 pages) Annexes B - E are available on the website, and a full hard copy summary of responses has been placed in the Members library, and can be supplied upon request.
6. Details of the Annexes are given below:

Annex A - Summary of the headline responses to the City Centre Area Action Plan Issues and Options report, and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal.

- Annex B - Full report of responses received from the consultation of the City Centre Area Action Plan Issues and Options report.
- Annex C - Comments of those attending 3 focused workshops.
- Annex D - Comments from on-street consultations and other LDF consultation events (including York Festival of Ideas).
- Annex E - Timetable and outcomes of consultation events.

Consultation

7. The City Centre Area Action Plan Issues and Options report was consulted upon from 28 July to 22 September 2008 using the following methods:
- a series of public exhibitions in city centre locations including a 3 day exhibition in the city centre;
 - attendance at the Retail Forum, Property Forum, Conservation Area Advisory Panel, City Centre Partnerships meeting, and Environment Forum.
 - attendance at 3 city centre ward surgeries before and during consultation, and presentations at city centre ward committees;
 - three focused workshops (one to discuss Key Theme 1: Economic Vitality, one to discuss Key Theme 2: Historic Environment, and one with the Talkabout panel to discuss Key Theme 3: Community Life, with all workshops discussing opportunity areas, vision and boundary);
 - posters and leaflets were produced and distributed to public places, included in letters and posted to community centres and doctors surgeries within the city centre;
 - a City Centre Area Action Plan webpage and online response form was produced;
 - documents were made available at all libraries and at the Guildhall and St. Leonard's Place receptions;
 - workshops and ongoing meetings with CYC officers representing different departments as well as external stakeholders.
8. A series of publications were produced to provide focus for the range of consultation events, namely:
- City Centre Area Action Plan Issues and Options report (July 2008);
 - City Centre Area Action Plan Issues and Options Summary report (July 2008).
 - City Centre Area Action Plan Issues and Options Sustainability Statement (July 2008).
 - City Centre Area Action Plan Documents and Response forms were made available on the council's website.
 - Press Releases were used to notify the public of the forthcoming consultations, as well as leaflets and posters.
 - Additionally questionnaires were issued to York St John University and the University of York to assess their future needs and hopes (consultation is ongoing and is proposed with other groups shortly).

Analysis

9. Paragraphs 10 – 19 below summarise the headline comments received in response to the consultation events and give a brief account of responses. In moving forward, the key findings from the various evidence base studies (retail, employment, housing etc.) will also need to be taken into account. To fully understand the comments provided it is important that the Annexes highlighted above are considered in full.

Key Theme 1: Economic Vitality

- 10.
- Support for niche independent retailers rather than large high street brands.
 - Desire to protect historic shop frontages.
 - Shopping should not be extended along Piccadilly beyond Merchantgate and only small scale supported near the Castle.
 - Little support for shops around Cliffords Tower but support for open space in Castle car park.
 - Preference for concentrating on existing primary shopping streets and improving 'secondary' shopping areas.
 - Support to reinstate city centre swimming pool and leisure centre. More quality hotel space rather than protection of smaller hotels.
 - Clean up 'hidden' snickleways/alleys and increase promotion of farmers markets and other events.
 - Invest and improve public spaces so that they are well designed and flexible including infrastructure, better lighting and signage in a way that reduces street clutter.
 - Concept of quarters received mixed support but extension of footstreets (physical and times) was supported with a few concerns regarding shared space (separate cycling and pedestrian areas were preferred) and should not sever north south cycle route.
 - Increased evening economy was generally supported noting a long lead in time and good management would be necessary for it to work with improved evening transport.
 - Support for more high quality city centre office space and for measures to retain students.
 - Bridge across the River Ouse welcomed for pedestrians and cyclists.
 - Need to tackle congestion was highlighted. Bus station and transport routes vital to improve access to city centre but using less polluting vehicles.
 - River transport and transshipment, especially in the south of the city, received positive comments.

Key Theme 2: Historic Environment

- 11.
- Conservation Area Appraisals are a critical evidence base for the CCAAP.
 - Support for design code and panel for city centre for new development and for bid for World Heritage Site.
 - Should not be afraid to build tall buildings where appropriate; quality is more important.
 - The history around Castle and Goodramgate should be respected.

- Archaeological resources should be available locally with materials retained at Yorkshire Museum.
- Improvements of areas of conflict more important than construction of dedicated routes.
- Support for de-cluttering of public spaces with Newgate Market widely thought to be in need of a rethink and upgrade with more flexible use of space. Location preference was split between Newgate and Parliament Street with less support for Castle Car Park, Castle Piccadilly and Hungate.
- Support for performance space in city centre. Concerns regarding abuse of blue badges in pedestrian areas.
- Support for tree lined boulevards where appropriate for environmental benefits but should not reduce important views but green roofs were not supported generally.
- Wide support for green space protection and enhancement of green spaces. Support for new children's play area in the city centre (suggestions included Castle Piccadilly, Hungate or Museum Gardens).
- The view that the green spaces of city walls were underused was not supported – could plant with meadow plants but should be left as green settings for the walls.
- Support for reducing flood risk through technical solutions but needs to be done area wide and not through a City Centre Area Action Plan.

Key Theme 3: Community Living

12.

- Little support to target housing for sectors of society although recognition of need for affordable housing.
- Document needs to be strengthened with regard to climate change and environmental protection.
- Support ideals of sustainable or healthy living and support facilities in the city centre including swimming and cycle ways, leisure centres skating rink, bowling and dance halls as well as more local food stores.
- Support for walking tour guides.
- Accessibility for all should be better highlighted. Safe cycle storage was highlighted as a need.
- Support for community/drop in centre and more artistic venues and a venue for teenagers to use.
- York Festival and open air concerts strongly supported with more for families and older people to enjoy in the evenings e.g. venues that support local bands, bowling, skating, open air concerts/events etc.
- Need varied evening activities in order to support later buses/public transport.

Opportunity Areas:

Castle Piccadilly:

13. Clear distinction should be made between Castle area and Piccadilly with retail focussed on Piccadilly. High quality development is crucial here. There was support for car park area as green space, market or events area, performance space. The use of the car park should respect historic spaces of

the Castle and Clifford's Tower. Pedestrian bridges, lighting and improved green corridors along the riversides were supported. Should take note of former Inspector's views regarding development of this area. Some support for transport interchange in Piccadilly.

Cultural Quarter:

14. Name/concept not generally supported by most respondents stating the term 'quarter' was elitist. Some felt it would improve navigation of the city. Support for bridge over River Ouse and opening up riversides for other uses, but more gates to open up Memorial Gardens and Museum Gardens received little support. Support to improve linkages between Station, York NorthWest and city centre. There was support to develop arts community and other facilities e.g. York Festival along lines of Edinburgh. Many wanted establishments included within the boundary of the Cultural Quarter, including York St John's, the Castle and Clifford's Tower, Grand Opera House etc. Connections were felt to be vitally important to help promote the tourist assets in the city.

Gateway Streets:

15. The approach was strongly supported with additions suggested e.g. Station Road. Many noted the importance of retaining the medieval character of gateway areas. Fossgate traders would benefit from pedestrianisation but we must ensure closure does not have a negative impact on other areas. Support for Micklegate and Walmgate improvements. Pave Castlegate to provide gateway street to Museums and Clifford's Tower. Some felt the gateway streets should be more pedestrian and cycle friendly and the plan should make reference to historic importance. Gateways are key to promotion of York as a shopping destination.

City Spaces:

16. Vital to improve spaces in city centre with support for de-cluttering, better lighting and more seating. There was support to improve Exhibition Square by linking it more visibly to the Museum Gardens as well as provide a piazza. More activities in the evening to improve the evening economy and greening the city spaces where possible were both welcomed generally. There was support for the Ouse boardwalk and improvements to River Foss Walkway. Need to smarten up and promote the alleyways in order to reveal the more hidden gems such as churchyards at Goodramgate and Micklegate. Cultural events at Clifford's Tower would be welcome as well as turning the car park into a civic space.

Riversides:

17. The idea of bringing stretches of riverside into use was supported. Need to remember people who cannot use steps. Areas along banks of both rivers wildlife and ecology value all needed to be improved. Support for extensions of riverside walks along Foss together with bankside improvements. Navigation and mooring points along the Foss would be a great idea and complete the Foss Walkway to provide inner city river walk. More activities on the river fronts and more trees were requested. Health and safety as well as structural issues would be difficult to overcome in the short term but worthy ideas long term.

Boundary:

18. There was support to include combined boundaries of the Central Historic Core and boundaries of Draft Local Plan. Other areas suggested for inclusion included: NRM and part of York NorthWest, Foss Islands/Layerthorpe, St John's University and York General Hospital.

Sustainability Statement:

19. The overall approach set out in the Issues and Options document was generally viewed to be appropriate. Objectives that were more specifically related to the city centre were requested. Need to define where special character areas are and why they are special. The Central Historic Core Conservation Area Appraisal will be a key document in the report.

Next steps

20. The City Centre Area Action Plan is one of the folder of documents that make up York's Local Development Framework (LDF). Its production is included in the Council's adopted Local Development Scheme (LDS), with the aim of adoption by 2010.
21. The next stage in moving towards adoption is the production of Preferred Options. Officers will use the responses from consultation to date, alongside the emerging evidence base (in particular the Core Strategy Preferred Options and the housing, employment, open space, flooding and retail studies) and the findings of the Sustainability Statement to provide the context for a more focused plan for the city centre. This will set out the Council's preferred approach to the spatial strategy, planning policy and site specific proposals.
22. At this stage in its production the format and style of the AAP will need to develop further towards that of the final plan. The proposed format is to produce three parallel documents: one linked to the Issues and Options consultation and providing reasons for selecting and discounting options as well as explaining the evidence base; a second document containing the Policy Framework for the city centre and a third in the format of a spatial master plan. An officer will demonstrate this approach with Members of the working group.
23. The key next steps will include:

Jan 09 – Feb 09

- Begin review of consultation findings and work towards preferred options.
- Commissioning a range of evidence base documents to support the AAP, with input from Yorkshire Forward. These key documents may include Public Realm and Open Space Quality Audit, Analysis of Key Views, City Centre Accessibility Masterplan (incorporating the Footstreets Review), and Ouse Boardwalk Delivery Study

Also crucial to the production of the Preferred Options document will be the findings of a number of other emerging evidence base documents,

including: Central Historic Core Conservation Area Appraisal, Retail Study, Employment Land Review and the Open Space Study.

- Formation of a City Centre Area Action Plan Steering Group.

March 09

- Report to the LDF Working Group in March 2009 with recommendations on which options should be the Preferred Options with an analysis of the consultation findings, the conclusions of the Sustainability Statement and any emerging evidence.

April 09 – July 09

- Begin drafting Preferred Options (inputting new evidence as it evolves).
- Production of revised / summarised and graphically illustrated spatial portrait.
- Ongoing involvement of stakeholders in the production of the Preferred Options document.
- Ongoing liaison with the Cultural Quarter Scrutiny Committee.
- Ongoing negotiations with potential developers of the Castle Piccadilly site.
- Ongoing consideration of the relationship with the York Northwest AAP.
- Ongoing Sustainability Appraisal of options.
- Ongoing review of Soundness issues.
- Ongoing review of delivery issues / funding sources.
- Review of potential allocations, capacity issues etc.
- Report to LDF Working Group with Preferred Options report, Sustainability Statement and Consultation strategy and material.

September 09

- Undertake a public consultation on the Preferred Options

24. There is no set date for the Preferred Options consultation, but we intend to consult again widely in September 2009 in order to keep within the projected LDF timetable set out in the LDS. For the public realm proposals to be consulted on as part of this process we will need to have the broad concept and principles with sketch illustrations agreed by summer 2009.
25. The publication and consultation on the Submission AAP is timetabled for February 2010. The document will be Submitted in May 2010, the Examination in June 2010. The aim is to have the AAP adopted by the Council in December 2010. The timetable is set out in the Council's adopted Local Development Scheme.

Options

26. 1. To agree to the proposed approach as set out in paragraphs 20 – 25.
2. To note and amend the proposed way forward.

Analysis

27. Officers believe that the approach set out in paragraphs 20 to 25 accords with the principles for developing LDF documents as set out in PPS12 but would welcome Members views on this approach.

Corporate Priorities

28. The City Centre Area Action Plan has the potential to contribute towards most of the Corporate Priorities through its policies and actions. It will aim to:
- Reduce the environmental impact of Council activities and encourage, empower and promote others to do the same;
 - Increase the use of public and other environmentally friendly modes of transport;
 - Improve the actual and perceived condition and appearance of the city's streets, housing estates and publicly accessible spaces;
 - 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 health and lifestyles of the people who live in York, in particular among groups whose levels of health are the poorest;
 - Improve the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children, young people and families in the city;
 - Improve the quality and availability of decent, affordable homes in the city.

Implications

29. The following implications have been assessed:
- **Financial** – The cost of preparing the City Centre Area Action Plan DPD will be met through current budgets provided for the LDF.
 - **Human Resources (HR)** - None
 - **Equalities** - None
 - **Legal** - None
 - **Crime and Disorder** - None
 - **Information Technology (IT)** - None
 - **Property** – The AAP identifies Opportunity Areas for discussion based on development and enhancement, including land and buildings in the Council's ownership.
 - **Other** - None

Risk Management

30. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, there are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

Recommendations

That Members:

1) Note the comments received from consultees in response to the City Centre Area Action Plan Issues and Options report consultation, and support their consideration, alongside emerging evidence base documents and the findings of sustainability appraisal, in informing the production of a City Centre Area Action Plan Preferred Options report and, where relevant, other emerging LDF documents.

2) Note, and comment on, the next steps and initial thoughts on preparing the Preferred Options document for presentation to Members later in 2009.

Reason: To ensure that the LDF City Centre Area Action Plan can be progressed to its next stage of development as highlighted in the Council's Local Development Scheme.

Contact Details

Author:

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City Development
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551474

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Damon Copperthwaite
Assistant Director of City Development and Transport
City Strategy
01904 55 1448

Report Approved **Date** 22/12/2008

Specialist Implications Officer

n/a

Wards Affected: Guildhall, Micklegate and Fishergate are within the city centre boundaries but all wards are affected as all use the city centre. All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

City Centre Area Action Plan Issues and Options report, July 2008.
Core Centre Area Action Plan Issues and Options Sustainability Statement, July 2008.

City Centre Area Action Plan Issues and Options Summary report (July 2008).
Annex A - Summary of the headline responses to the City Centre Area Action Plan Issues and Options report, and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal (summary attached – see page 9).

Annex B - Full report of responses received from the consultation of the City Centre Area Action Plan Issues and Options report.

Annex C - Comments of those attending 3 focused workshops.

Annex D - Comments from on-street consultations and other LDF consultation events (including York Festival of Ideas).

Annex E - Timetable and outcomes of consultation events.

Annex A - Summary of the headline responses to the City Centre Area Action Plan Issues and Options report, and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal

Key Theme 1: Economic Vitality

Retail:

Support for niche and high quality independent retailers rather than high street brands.

Desire to protect historic shop frontages.

Research shows linear shopping extensions are not as successful.

Link in context with retail opportunities at York Northwest.

Shopping should not be extended along Piccadilly beyond Merchantgate.

Many felt retail near the Castle should be small-scale, if at all.

Better to maintain vitality by concentrating on existing primary shopping streets and improving/promoting 'secondary' shopping areas such as Micklegate, Walmgate, Gillygate, Goodramgate, Fossgate, Bridge Street, High Petergate and Rougier Street/Tanner Row areas.

Little support for shops around Clifford's Tower, support for open space in car park; should respect the history of the area.

Tourism:

Support to reinstate city centre swimming pool with leisure centre.

More support to obtain quality hotel space rather than protect small hotels.

Protect and clean up 'hidden' snickleways/alleys behind street frontages.

Support for increased promotion of farmers markets and other events especially those that maximise York's historic assets.

Need to advertise accessibility information/accommodation for disabled users.

Need for public spaces that are well designed and flexible and this will require investment to improve the public spaces and infrastructure.

Should identify opportunities for high spend, long stay target visitor markets.

Better lighting and signage would help but in a way that reduces street clutter.

More themed art works around the city (e.g. history of York food and drink).

Mixed use sites were preferred to the concept of quarters.

Support generally for extension of footstreets (physical and times) but need to consider access issues and other impacts e.g. access for residential areas, the weather, and Merchant Adventurers Hall could not operate as a venue if Fossgate was closed to all vehicular access.

Public toilets give a poor impression especially at Bootham Bar and Parliament Street.

Economy and Universities:

Support for more high quality city centre office accommodation but little support for office quarter or zoning. Support to retain office space, especially small to medium offices but allow changes of use if they are ill suited to modern needs. Office space in Piccadilly was supported. Increased evening economy had mixed support but was generally positive. Supporters noted a long lead in time and good management would be necessary for it to work (concerns included impacts on small family run businesses, increased litter, noise and drunkenness).

Support for measures to retain students and provide facilities for creative arts.

Traffic:

Bridge across the River Ouse welcomed for pedestrians and cyclists.

Traffic congestion reduction measures welcomed. Later P&R times needed.

Free shuttle bus.

Separate cycling and pedestrian areas preferred to shared areas.

Bus station and routes vital to good access to city centre close to rail station.

Less polluting vehicles should be required/encouraged.

Large buses unpopular.

River transport and ferries supported but must ensure issues of viability, flood, speed limits, dredging and potential impact on ecology can be overcome. Park and float could help ease congestion if priced right and supported by low emission vehicles.

Support for transshipment especially in the south part of the city.

Key Theme 2: Historic Environment

Design:

Conservation Area Appraisal is a critical evidence base for the CCAAP.

Design panel and design code for new development in the city was strongly supported. York deserves the best in urban design.

Support for UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Should mention sustainable construction and design in city centre.

Should not be afraid to build tall buildings where appropriate, quality is more important.

There was some support for icons in keeping with Conservation Area Appraisal but icons were not felt to be a priority.

Concerns about air quality being made even worse chiefly through congested, idling traffic with support for energy improving technology.

Archaeological resources:

The history around the Castle, Clifford's Tower and Goodramgate should be respected.

Archaeological resources should be available locally and via the Internet.

Methods should relate to the scale of development (from display boards to internet coverage).

Support for retaining materials at Yorkshire Museum.

City Spaces:

Improvements of areas of conflict was generally felt to be more important than the construction of dedicated routes for tourists although some felt linking areas to help navigate the city centre was great idea providing it did not add to more clutter.

Support for de-cluttering and litter as it leaves a poor impressions of York.

Market widely thought to be run down and in need of a comprehensive rethink of the area to include better quality, pop up stalls, more café seating, performance space etc.

Mixed support between retaining market in current location and relocating.

It was felt to be important to retain the individual character of the city spaces.

Support for updating infrastructure for public spaces as well as appropriate and improved seating and lighting.

Support for performance space in city centre (Castle car park area, Exhibition Square if it was redesigned, Hungate new square and Museum Gardens) but views also that it was more appropriate to use the spaces we have and make them flexible enough to accommodate different users for different events.

Extension of Footstreets widely supported in principle as it meets demand from many traders but should not sever north south cycle route through city centre.

Pavement cafes supported but not use of outdoor heating.

Concerns regarding disabled drivers (blue badge holders) in pedestrian areas during restricted times.

Support for more space to allow cyclists to safely share with pedestrians but shared surfaces were not widely supported.

Greening the city:

Support for tree lined boulevards where appropriate to help reduce heat island effect and surface water run off, to encourage wildlife and increase aesthetic value). Trees should not reduce important views. Wrong trees in Parliament Street and could be replaced by something more appropriate.

Mixed support for green roofs; some acknowledged it would enhance biodiversity in city centre where appropriate but others felt they would not 'fit'.

Wide support for green space protection and enhancement of green spaces.

Support for new children's play area; suggested areas included Castle Piccadilly, Hungate or Museum Gardens.

Green spaces of city walls should be left as part of the setting and view that they are underused was not supported but seeding as wild meadow rather than sterile grass was suggested.

Support for permeable surfaces and reducing flood risk through technical solutions but it was felt that area wide solutions were needed to realise wider benefits.

Key Theme 3: Community Living

Facilities and services needed:

Support ideals of sustainable and healthy living.

Facilities in the city centre that were felt to be lacking included: swimming pool more cycle ways, leisure centres skating rink, bowling, planetarium and dance halls.

Need more support and recognition of the role that church communities play.

Document needs to be strengthened with regard to climate change and environmental protection up front.

Strong support for walking tour guides.

Accessibility for all was highlighted as a concern for some.

Strong support for local food stores in city centre, which were felt to be lacking.

Safe cycle storage was highlighted/desired.

Support for community/drop in centre especially in Fishergate.

Support to provide a meeting place for teenagers to use (and one for elderly).

More artists' galleries, art centres and workshops.

A Big Screen was suggested for a suitable space in the city centre.

Housing:

Low support to target housing for sectors of society although some said there was a shortage of family housing and housing for elderly with community gardens.

Need for affordable housing recognised and supported.

Housing should be determined by local need with a mix of type and size.

Support for re-use of existing properties and also for living over the shops.

Evening Economy:

Revive York Festival and hold open air concerts especially in the parks.

Encourage more for families and older people into the city in the evenings.

Music venues should support local bands rather than loud pub music.

Evening transport should be improved as well as evening activities in order to support and help the evening economy to develop.

Opportunity Areas:

Castle Piccadilly:

Clear distinction should be made between Castle area and Piccadilly with retail kept in Piccadilly.

Support for car park area as green space, market area, performance space.

Any use of car park should respect historic space of Castle and Tower.

Support for pedestrian bridges, lighting and improved green corridor along rivers.

Should take note of former Inspector's views regarding development of this area.

High quality development is crucial here.

Support by some for location of transport interchange in Castle Piccadilly.

Cultural Quarter:

Name was not generally supported by most respondents as the term 'quarter' was elitist and excluded important buildings and facilities although some felt it improved navigation of the city.

Strong support was received for bridge over the River Ouse and opening up riversides for other uses but more gates to open up Memorial Gardens and Museum Gardens to the riverside received very little support.

Support enhanced linkages between Station, York NorthWest and city centre.

Support for measures to retain university students in York by supporting their needs and providing space for them to showcase their talents.

Support to develop an arts community and other facilities e.g. a statue walk by the river.

Boundary of Cultural Quarter was contentious with many wanting other inclusions.

Connections between the cultural venues are vitally important.

Gateway Streets:

Approach strongly supported with additions suggested e.g. Station Road, Gillygate.

Important to retain medieval character of the gateway areas.

Fossgate traders would benefit from pedestrianisation but would need to ensure that closure does not impact on Merchant Adventurers Hall as a venue for weddings etc.

Support for Micklegate and Walmgate improvements.

Castlegate could be paved to provide gateway street to Museums and Clifford's Tower and route to early Music Centre via River Foss banks.

Gateway streets should be more pedestrian and cycle friendly.

Should make reference to historic importance.

Gateways are key to promoting York as a shopping destination of distinction.

City Spaces:

Vital to improve city spaces in city centre.

Support for de-cluttering of spaces as well as better lighting and more seating.

Support to improve Exhibition Square and link it more visibly to gardens.

Support for greening the city spaces.

Support for shops and facilities being open later to encourage evening economy.

Include Castlegate area, pave it to make attractive route to Castle Museum and Clifford's Tower, pedestrianising it would encourage café culture.

Support for Ouse boardwalk and improvements to River Foss Walkway.

Support to make the alleyways more attractive in order to reveal them.

Need to smarten up and promote some of the more hidden spaces such as churchyards at Goodramgate and Micklegate.

Development should not be contrary to the individual characters of spaces.

Support for cultural events at Clifford's Tower car park -use as a civic space.

Support for piazza at Exhibition Square.

Riversides:

Support idea of bringing into use stretches of riverside.

Need to remember people who cannot use steps and accommodate their needs.

Improve areas along banks of both rivers and improve wildlife and ecology value.

Support for extensions of riverside walks along Foss together with bankside improvements.

Navigation and mooring points along the Foss would be a great idea.

More activities on the river fronts and more trees.

Support to finish the Foss Walkway scheme to form inner city river walk and incorporate a natural corridor.

Technical structural and economic problems would be difficult to overcome in the short term to achieve aspirations for riversides but worthy opportunity area in the long term.

Boundary:

Support to include combined boundaries of the Central Historic Core and boundaries of Draft Local Plan. Other areas suggested for inclusion were: Foss Islands/Layerthorpe, St John's University and York Hospital, NRM and part of York NorthWest. *Note: Government Office has advised that Area Action Plans should not include overlapping boundaries.*

Monitoring and Delivery:

Need to demonstrate links to Annual Monitoring Report, delivery mechanisms and timescales as well as an indication of commitment from stakeholders and partner organisations at the next stage.

Sustainability Statement:

The overall approach was generally viewed to be appropriate. Objectives need to be more locally distinctive and related to the city centre. The Plan needs to define special character areas in the city and state the reasons why they are special.