
MEETING	ECONOMIC & CITY DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE	27 SEPTEMBER 2011
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS BURTON, SEMLYEN, WILLIAMS (IN THE CHAIR), MCILVEEN (SUBSTITUTE FOR COUNCILLOR LEVENE), HYMAN, STEWARD (SUBSTITUTE FOR COUNCILLOR WATT) AND D'AGORNE
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLORS LEVENE, RICHES AND WATT

15. ELECTION OF CHAIR

At this point in the meeting, due to the absence of both the Chair and Vice Chair, Members elected Councillor Williams to Chair the meeting.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

At this point in the meeting, Members were asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests, other than the standing declarations, that they may have in the business on the agenda.

Councillor Semlyen declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 7 as she is the landlady of two properties in Fishergate and Hull Road Ward.

17. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 12 July 2011 be agreed as a correct record.

18. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

19. UPDATE ON LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIPS (LEPS)

Members considered a report which provided an update on Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), progress made and the approach taken to the setting of priorities. The report also provided some background information on the York and North Yorkshire LEP prior to a presentation being given by the Chief Operating Officer at the York & North Yorkshire LEP on progress and potential benefits to the York economy.

The presentation highlighted the following:

- Overview of the LEP
- Priorities of the LEP
- Benefits to York.

Some Members queried the closure of Business Link in November 2011 and the impact this would have on small businesses in York. They were advised that a clear aim of the LEP is to ensure that small businesses can continue to receive any support they may require.

Members had a discussion regarding the cost implications and benefits to York of staying in the LEP. Members felt that it was too soon to see any clear benefits or otherwise to enable them to comment on the future membership of the York & North Yorkshire LEP. The Committee requested a further progress report in six months time, to also include an update about the work of the Leeds City Region LEP .

- RESOLVED:
- (i) That the report be noted.
 - (ii) That a report on the progress associated with Leeds City Region and the York/North Yorkshire LEP be brought to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in six months.¹
 - (iii) That Members recommended that York should remain a Member of the York/North Yorkshire LEP as it is too

early to see any advantages or disadvantages of being a Member.

REASON: The report provided the basis of meeting an earlier Overview and Scrutiny Committee request to keep up to date with LEP progress and to have an opportunity to comment prior to a decision on the City of York Council's membership of the York/North Yorkshire LEP.

Action Required

1. Scrutiny Officer to liaise with LEP TW Representatives to produce report.

20. 2011/12 FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MONITOR 1 REPORT

Members considered a report which provided details of the 2011/12 forecast outturn position for both finance and performance in City Strategy and Housing Services.

Officers outlined the report and Members queried the following:

- The redundancy costs mentioned in paragraph 12, in particular how predictable such costs are. Officers advised that costs are not always predictable as the redundancy process can take longer than anticipated in many cases.
- The savings target mentioned in paragraph 13 of the report relating to Facilities Management. Members commented that reaching the target was highly unlikely and queried why the target had been set in the first place. Officers advised that the target was an estimate set by external consultants. Members asked that an update on the Facilities Management Review and the use of consultants in the budget process setting be brought to a future meeting.
- The high costs associated with the repairs and maintenance at travellers' sites. Officers agreed to email further details to the Committee.

- RESOLVED:
- (i) That the report be noted.
 - (ii) That Officers send an email to Members further details regarding travellers site costs.¹
 - (iii) That a report be brought to a future meeting to provide an update and further information on the Facilities Management Review and use of consultants in the budget setting process.²

REASON: To update and keep the Committee informed of the latest finance and performance position.

Action Required

1. Forward this information to Scrutiny Officer to PL circulate. TW
2. Scrutiny Officer to liaise with Officers to produce report.

21. REPORT FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CITY STRATEGY ON THE YEAR AHEAD

Members received a written report from the Cabinet Member for City Strategy on his priorities for the year ahead.

The Cabinet Member outlined his priorities in the following areas:

- Getting York Moving
- Jobs, the Economy and Protecting the Environment
- York City Centre
- Air Quality
- Tackling Climate Change.

Discussions took place, particularly around the issue of bus services in York and the issues surrounding foot streets.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member for City Strategy for his attendance.

22. PRESENTATION ON PROPOSED SCRUTINY TOPIC: REDUCING THE CARBON FOOTPRINT IN PRIVATELY RENTED ACCOMMODATION (E.G. HESLINGTON, HULL ROAD & FISHERGATE WARDS)

Members received a presentation on the proposed scrutiny topic: Reducing the Carbon Footprint in Privately Rented Accommodation (e.g. Heslington, Hull Road and Fishergate Wards).

The Committee were asked to complete a Topic Assessment Form to set out the clear aims and objectives for the review. This was deferred to a future meeting due to only 2 full committee members being present at this point in the meeting. The other members that were present were substitutes.

Members thanked Officers for their presentation.

RESOLVED: That the completion of the Topic Assessment form be deferred to a future meeting, to be advised.

REASON: To ensure the Committee can have input as a whole.

23. WORK PLAN 2011-12

Members considered a report which presented them with the Committee's work plan for the forthcoming year.

Due to only two full committee members being present at this point in the meeting, it was decided that a further meeting would be scheduled to discuss the work plan in more detail.

RESOLVED: (i) That the report be noted.
(ii) That an additional meeting be scheduled into the work plan to consider the deferred items (Scrutiny Topic Assessment Form and further discussion on the work plan) from the meeting on the 27th September.³

- (iii) That work plan Items resulting from discussions relating to the Finance and Performance Monitor report and LEP Progress Report be considered at the next meeting.

REASON: To keep the Committee's work plan up to date.

Action Required

1. Arrange a follow up meeting.

TW

Councillor Williams, in the Chair
[The meeting started at 5.40 pm and finished at 7.35 pm].