

**Notice of meeting of
Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

To: Councillors Levene (Chair), Watt (Vice-Chair), Riches, Burton, Semlyen, Potter, Runciman and D'Agorne

Date: Tuesday, 24 July 2012

Time: 4.30 pm

Venue: The Guildhall, York

AGENDA

- 1. Declarations of Interest** (Pages 3 - 4)
At this point in the meeting Members are asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business on this agenda.
- 2. Minutes** (Pages 5 - 12)
To approve and sign the minutes of the last meeting of the Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 20 June 2012.
- 3. Public Participation**
It is at this point in the meeting that members of the public who have registered their wish to speak can do so. The deadline for registering is **Monday 23 July 2012 by 5.00pm.**

To register please contact the Democracy Officer for the meeting, on the details at the foot of this agenda.

- 4. Verbal Report from and Attendance of the Leader of the Council in Relation to his Forthcoming Challenges and Priorities that fall into the Committee's remit**
The Leader will be in attendance at the meeting to give a verbal update on his priorities and challenges for the municipal year.
- 5. 2011-12 Finance and Performance Outturn Report** (Pages 13 - 24)
This report provides details of the 2011/12 forecast outturn position for both finance and performance in City Strategy and Housing Services.
- 6. Progress Report-Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)** (Pages 25 - 34)
This latest progress report provides an update on Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). In particular it describes the progress with the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP's review of its strategy, and details of the recently announced Leeds City Region City Deal overseen by the LEP.
- 7. Update Report- 'Reducing the Carbon Footprint in the Privately Rented Sector Scrutiny Review'** (Pages 35 - 40)
This report gives an update on the currently dormant 'Reducing the Carbon Footprint in the Privately Rented Sector' Scrutiny Review. It advises Members what has been happening whilst the review has been on hold and proposes that Members consider rescheduling the work of the Task Group to later in this calendar year when more information will be available.

8. Work Plan 2012-13 and Briefing Notes on Proposed Scrutiny Topics from the Scrutiny Work Planning Event held on 2 May 2012 (Pages 41 - 80)

Members are asked to consider the Committee's updated work plan for the municipal year 2012/13. As part of this agenda item they are also asked to consider a number of briefing notes in relation to proposed scrutiny topics and to make a decision as to which, if any, of these topics they would like to progress to review during this municipal year. Officers will be in attendance at the meeting to answer any questions that Members might have.

9. Urgent Business

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

Democracy Officer:

Name- Judith Betts

Telephone No. – 01904 551078

E-mail- judith.betts@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

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- 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);
- find out about the rules for public speaking from the Democracy Officer.

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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 Cabinet (39 out of 47). Any 3 non-Cabinet councillors can 'call-in' an item of business following a Cabinet meeting or publication of a Cabinet Member decision. A specially convened Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee (CSMC) will then make its recommendations to the next scheduled Cabinet meeting, 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

Who Gets Agenda and Reports for our Meetings?

- Councillors get copies of all agenda and reports for the committees to which they are appointed by the Council;
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MEETING OF ECONOMIC AND CITY DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Agenda item 1: Declarations of interest

The following Members declared standing personal interests.

Councillor D'Agorne- Employee of York College

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

MEETING	ECONOMIC & CITY DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE	20 JUNE 2012
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS LEVENE (CHAIR), WATT (VICE-CHAIR), RICHES, SEMLYEN, MCILVEEN (SUBSTITUTE FOR COUNCILLOR BURTON), HODGSON (SUBSTITUTE FOR COUNCILLOR POTTER), RUNCIMAN AND TAYLOR (SUBSTITUTE FOR COUNCILLOR D'AGORNE)
IN ATTENDANCE	COUNCILLOR WISEMAN

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were asked at this point in the meeting to declare any personal or prejudicial interests, other than those listed on the standing declarations of interests attached to the agenda, that they might have had.

No other interests were declared.

2. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 27 March 2012 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

It was reported that there had been one registration to speak under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

Keith Marquis, a representative of Strensall with Towthorpe Parish Council, spoke regarding Agenda Item 5 (Proposed Scrutiny Topic-E-Planning Facilities).

He spoke about how the Parish Council supported the Council's scheme towards putting all planning documents online, and due to this had purchased a laptop and projector and had created an electronic record of applications in their area.

However, it was noted that access problems on to the Planning Portal website had been encountered in February 2012. This had led to information being inaccessible and meant that Officers had a significant backlog of documentation to upload after this date. He was advised by Officers that the backlog had recently been cleared, but in his view had found that this was not the case. He added that in his experience, revised drawings and plans from applicants often had been uploaded on to the website after a decision notice had been produced. He informed Members that often the Parish Council were alerted to these documents only when the decision notices referred to them. Finally, he spoke about how he had been informed that there was a current delay of 3 months, which he felt affected Parish Councils as well as Planning Officers who were not able to access the information.

4. INTRODUCTORY REPORT- YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Members received an introductory report on Youth Unemployment.

Officers informed the Committee that the scrutiny review had decided to focus on vacancies in the care and business administration sector in the city, because this was where a large number of vacancies currently existed. They also added that there was a demand for these places to be filled.

An Officer who was responsible for working on the Council's Apprenticeship Scheme, with a particular responsibility for those in 16-18 year old age group, attended the meeting.

He suggested that the Committee could look at how young people could navigate the labour market. He felt that the young people in the city knew what jobs existed, but support that they might receive needed to direct them more clearly to the jobs. He also added that the support offered to young people needed to explain that some vacancies were not available in the city, and that they might have to travel to attain more preferable employment.

Further to this he reported that there had been high demand for apprenticeships in hands on areas such as Park Rangers and working in cafés, but that it was more beneficial for young people to have a realistic view of the current employment situation.

Discussion between Officers and Members took place which concerned what questions the review might seek to focus on. One Member suggested that the Committee could ask employment agencies if gaps and overlaps in provision existed in the care and business administration sectors, and to decide following the receipt of this information if gaps and overlaps were particularly significant.

Officers also pointed out that for those aged over 18 there were multiple funding schemes along with agencies and contractors responsible for their distribution. They suggested that perhaps the Committee could look at whether the contractors were working effectively together.

Other Members felt that a motivation problem existed and that current training gave young people the chance to go to interviews, but did not train them on how to successfully complete an interview.

Members decided that they wished to proceed with the review through a Task Group. They agreed that the Task Group membership be comprised of Councillors D'Agorne, Riches and Semlyen. It was also agreed that one of these Members would attend the Skills Summit on the 9th July, as a representative of the Task Group.

Members also considered the draft remit set out in paragraph 2 of the report. A third bullet point was added to the key objectives section of the remit as follows:

- To investigate whether there are any gaps and/or overlaps in provision and if so make recommendation to address them.

RESOLVED: (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That the topic be progressed to review and that a Task Group be formed in order to examine this.

- (iii) That Councillors D'Agorne, Riches and Semlyen be appointed to make up the Task Group.
- (iv) That the draft remit for the review as set out in Paragraph 2 of the Officer's report be agreed with the addition of a third bullet point in the key objectives section as set out in the minute above.
- (v) That a member of the Task Group attend the York Skills Summit on 9th July 2012.

REASON: In order to progress the review.

5. PROPOSED SCRUTINY TOPIC- E-PLANNING FACILITIES

Members received a report which presented them with information on E-Planning Facilities.

Councillor Wiseman attended the meeting as the Member who had submitted the topic for review. She explained to Members her reasons for why she felt the topic was important namely that;

- Although some Parish Councils could use internet access for some it, caused upheaval.
- Planning applications could often be more contentious in villages and were made more so if residents could not have access to plans.
- That perhaps the Council could set a charge for paper copies of Officers and Developers plans, in order for those without the Internet or access to a computer to be able to examine them.

In response to comments raised by Keith Marquis and Councillor Wiseman, Officers informed the Committee that in their opinion, E-Planning was work in progress. They added that those involved in planning had been informed about how major applications would continue to be sent out on paper from June, but that smaller applications would only be available electronically. They suggested that if Members wished, they would inform Parish Councils and interested parties that these changes would not be made until October 2012.

It was noted that some Parish Councils did not have equipment to access plans online, and that one model did not suit all.

However, Members were informed that steps were being taken to improve access, such as encouraging developers to produce smaller plans so that they were easier to view online and be printed if necessary.

Some Members raised a number of concerns such as;

- Logistical problems, i.e. that some public libraries could not provide space for large plans to be accessed.
- That some residents and Parish Councillors who wished to see the plans were not happy using IT.
- That most people were in favour of E-Planning but needed further support such as training and help understanding how the system worked.
- Where would the equipment needed by Parish Councils to view applications be stored?

Further to these comments, it was also noted that Parish Council budgets were in the process of being set, and would be finalised in November. If equipment, such as laptops and projectors needed to be purchased then time was of the essence and should be taken into consideration if it was decided to progress the proposed scrutiny topic to review.

In response to comments raised by Members, Officers provided more detail to the Committee about the problems that had been encountered earlier in the year. Members were informed that delays had taken place due to a number of factors such as; an unexpected increase in planning applications, and a restructure which had led to reductions in the numbers of staff, in particular those who had inputted this information on to the Planning Portal website.

It was reported that a number of Council staff had been redeployed and a person would be appointed specifically to deal with the backlog of planning documents. Members were also informed that Council Officers had worked extremely hard to clear delays that had affected applications, and had put forward suggestions as to how the process of dealing with planning applications could be improved.

Some Members felt that a scrutiny review did not need to take place, as they felt that some Parish Councils did not want to have to pay for the additional equipment that would be needed in order to view planning applications online. They also suggested it could be advantageous for Officers to be prompted, in order to speed up performance.

Members felt that a review into E-Planning Facilities was important, in particular examination into how processes were happening. Additionally, it was felt that Members could help form proposals on how the e-planning facility could be improved. They agreed to establish a Task Group of three Members to investigate this further.

- RESOLVED:
- (i) That the report be noted.
 - (ii) That a Task Group be formed to investigate the topic.
 - (iii) That the membership of the Task Group be comprised of Councillors Levene, Runciman and Watt.

REASON: In order to progress the review

6. WORK PLAN 2012-13 AND LIST OF SCRUTINY TOPICS PROPOSED AT THE SCRUTINY WORK PLANNING EVENT HELD ON 2 MAY 2012

Members considered a report which presented them with the Committee's work plan for 2012-13. Attached to the report was a list of Scrutiny topics, that were proposed at a Scrutiny Work Planning Event held on 2 May 2012.

Discussion took place between Members about receiving Finance and Performance Monitoring Reports at future meetings. The Chair felt that it would be useful to have these reports on future agendas but that it would be particularly beneficial for Officers and Members, if questions about the reports were submitted prior to the meeting so that Officers could come prepared with answers.

The Scrutiny Officer explained that the reports had originally been included in the agenda, in order for Members to identify areas which they might want to review. Members agreed that they would like to continue to receive these reports.

In relation to the list of Scrutiny Topics attached to the report, it was reported that briefing notes on all topics listed would be received by the Committee at their next meeting (except for the topic on Science City York as the Committee had already received a briefing on this).

Councillor Watt suggested that another topic on post development adoption procedure be added to the list. The Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to also have a briefing note on this topic at their next meeting.

The Chair suggested that a December meeting be added into the work plan in order to review the Committee's workplan for the latter part of the municipal year. Members also agreed to change the time of their next meeting in July from 4.30 pm to 5.30pm.

- RESOLVED:
- (i) That the work plan be noted.
 - (ii) That the start time of the Committee's July meeting be changed from 5.30 pm to 4.30 pm.
 - (iii) That the Committee continue to receive Financial Quarter Monitoring Reports, and that Members try to submit questions relating to these to Officers prior to the meeting.
 - (vii) That a briefing note on a potential scrutiny topic relating to the Post Development Adoption Procedure be added to the list of topics to be considered by the Committee at their next meeting.

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

Councillor D Levene, Chair
[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 6.40 pm].



Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee

24 July 2012

Report of the Director of City and Environmental Services

2011/12 Finance and Performance Outturn Report

Summary

1. This report provides details of the 2011/12 forecast outturn position for both finance and performance in City Strategy and Housing Services.

Analysis

Finance – forecast outturn overview General Fund

2. The outturn position within the City Strategy Directorate was an underspend of £-271k compared to a total net budget of £7,307k, an improvement on the £-146k reported at Monitor 3. The Housing General Fund had a budget of £1,143k and underspent by £461k. Service Plan Variations by service plan are shown below:

	Net Budget £'000	Outturn £'000	Variance £'000
City Strategy Directorate			
Strategic Planning & Transport	4,768	4,137	-631
Planning & Sust. Development	1,812	1,932	+120
Director's Group	141	158	+17
Economic Development	1,862	1,775	-87
Property*	-927	-1,061	-134
Service Review	-349	0	+349
Levy on carbon use*	0	+95	+95
Total	7,307	7,036	-271
Housing Services			
Housing General Fund	970	717	-253

Note: '+' indicates an increase in expenditure or shortfall in income

- ‘-‘ indicates a reduction in expenditure or increase in income
* indicates services not included within this scrutiny committees remit

3. Details of the main variations by service plan are detailed in the following paragraphs.

Strategic Planning and Transport (£-631k)

4. Car Parking income was £43k above budget. There was a saving of £206k saving in concessionary fares and a £92k saving from a lower than estimated use of Taxicards. There was also an operational saving of £28k from the Dial & Ride service.
5. There was an underspend of £110k on employee costs within school crossing patrols and transport planning where a number of posts were unfilled during the year, £54k saving in road safety initiatives and a further £53k saving from holding vacancies in the drainage section.
6. A review of Local Development Framework funding resulted in a net saving of £17k.
7. Net savings in network management (£78k) were offset by the free park & ride service on Boxing Day (£10k) and other miscellaneous costs (£40k).

Planning and Sustainable Development (£+120k)

8. The economic downturn has continued to have a significant impact income within the Planning Service. Income from building control was £207k below budget. Income from local searches was £47k below budget due to low activity in the housing market, also offset by £33k staff savings. Planning income improved in the final quarter, resulting in £56k surplus due to fees major scheme applications. There was further £44k savings in the Major Development Project team and the Design and Conservation.

Director's Group (£+17k)

9. An additional £45k Yorwaste dividend was offset by £48k additional cost of the waste PFI project and £14k additional overheads.

Economic Development (£-87k)

10. There was a saving of £17k from a vacancy plus £70k additional income/ expenditure savings from City Centre and markets.

Directorate Service Review (£+349k)

11. The directorate had an overall savings target of £814k. It was not possible to deliver the full year savings due to the time required to implement and there were some one-off redundancy costs. This resulted in a shortfall of £349k in 2011/12. However, the full year savings have been made in 2012/13.

Housing Services (£-253k)

12. Housing Services General Fund budgets underspent by £-253k.
13. An underspend of £240k related to Homelessness casework where demand for funding was lower than expected, a £177k refund of Golden Triangle Project contribution, an overspend of £42k on repairs to travellers sites and an increase of £24k for bad debt provision. There was also a further underspend of £110k on staffing budgets across housing services.
14. There was a shortfall in fee income across building maintenance that resulted to an overspend of £208k on the account.

Finance Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

15. The working balance budget on the HRA is £9,320k and the outturn is showing a net underspend of £1,491k, leaving a working balance of £10,811k. The variances include underspends totalling £336k on Repairs and Maintenance, £509k on General Management costs and £268k on Temporary accommodation/Sheltered Housing.

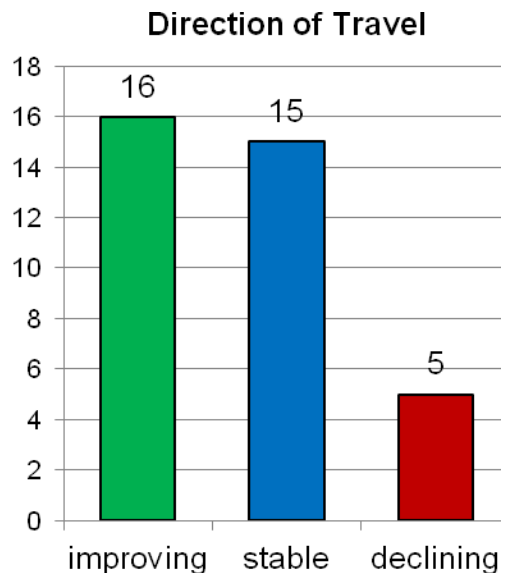
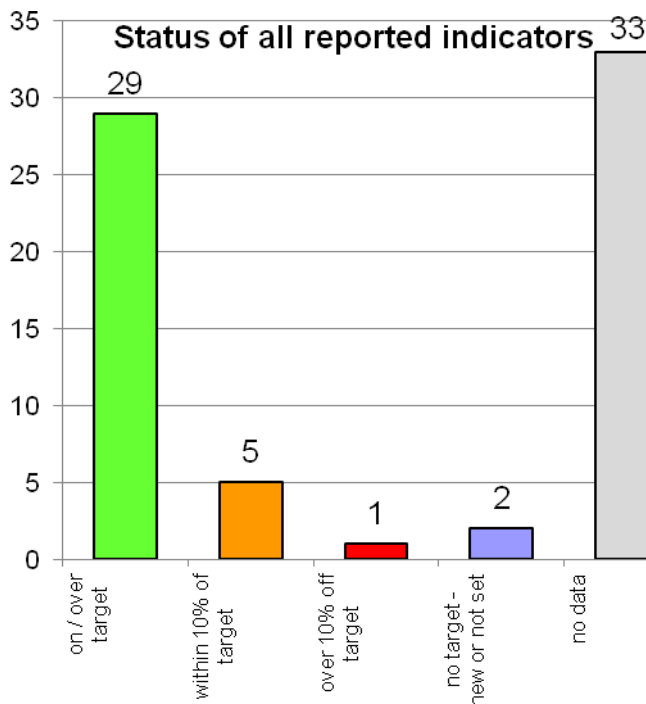
Performance – Year End Overview

16. As the old City Strategy Directorate, City Strategy had 70 performance indicators, 33 of which are unable to be reported because the data is unavailable until various government returns are undertaken in July. Of these 70 indicators 26 are transferring out of the Directorate.

17. Of the 36 reportable indicators at year end there are only 5 where performance has declined (although 3 have exceeded the target set) and one of these where the target set has not been met.

Performance Indicator	Current Performance & Status	Annual Target	Comparator for Direction of Travel*	Direction of Travel	Comments on performance
P2: NPI 157b: Percentage of minor planning applications determined within 8 weeks.	74.2% (Target met)	65%	78.7%	↓	296 out of 399, numbers stable (404 last year)
BC4: Building Control decision advised within the statutory time limit	94% (Within 10% of target)	99%	99%	↓	The decline in performance is attributed to a reduction in staffing levels.
NPI 154: Net additional homes provided	321 (Target not met)	635	514	↓	The significant reduction in homes provided reflects the current market conditions.
BVPI 106 - The percentage of new homes built on previously developed land	68.60% (Target met)	65%	86.9%	↓	A reduction in percentage from last year is attributable to the changes of definition of what is now classed as 'Brownfield land'. If we were to

					calculate this using the previous methodology we would have a percentage of over 98% - a substantial improvement on 2010/11.
CCP3: Percentage of stall take ups in Newgate Market	72.3% (Target met)	70%	76.0%	↓	10/11 figure was particularly high, 11/12 figure is in line with improvements from previous year's levels (68.3%, 69.9%, 70.7%)



Priority: Get York moving

Key Performance Headlines

18. Positive progress is being made towards delivering the Get York Moving priority, with funding secured for various different programmes which will improve movement in the city. Park & Ride usage has increased by 8% this year and funding was secured to extend the Park & Ride programme from five sites to seven. Completion of the scheme for the new sites is scheduled for April 2014.
19. Bus passenger numbers have remained stable this year at around £15 million and, with the Better Bus Area Fund secured, the service will be improved in the future, including the creation of 5 bus interchanges across the city centre and improved reliability and information for passengers. Furthermore, the Quality Bus Partnership is examining new partnership/contractual arrangements with operators in the city to improve all aspects of bus travel, whilst promised changes to the FTR service have been made.
20. The increase in Park & Ride passengers and the number using buses does not appear to have affected the numbers using car parks, which has also increased by 1.7% this year.
21. Funding has also been secured for further extension of the sustainable transport programme. Through the Intelligent Travel York programme improvements will be made to the cycling and pedestrian network and improve sustainable travel in the city between July 2011 and March 2015.

Priority: Protect the environment

22. Key Performance Headlines against Council Plan Actions
 - York has an outstanding built and natural environment, with iconic world class heritage. York's distinctiveness needs to be used to attract further investment and sustainable growth, without compromising what makes the city attractive. To succeed requires combining economic growth with reduced environmental impact, as well as placing expectations on individuals to adjust their behaviour.

- Progress has been made to reduce the carbon footprint for the city as a revised Carbon Management Improvement Programme for the Council has been approved. Also the Council continues to offer free loft and cavity wall insulation for York residents in partnership with Yorkshire Energy Partnership. Efforts to reduce CO2 emissions would appear to be successful with a 21% reduction in emissions in the local authority area since the baseline year of 2005, showing good progress towards the 2020 target of a 40% reduction. York has achieved the largest CO2 reduction when compared to similar local authorities.
- The Council has been graded as Level 1 for how it is adapting to climate change, which represents no change since 2010/11. Progress is being made towards Level 2, including a full risk assessment of Council services and beginning wider engagement with strategic partners. However to achieve Level 2 the Council needs to begin implementing appropriate adaptive responses in priority areas and service plans.
- In an effort to reduce CO2 from streetlights an extensive street lighting replacement programme has begun. Over the last two years there has been a reduction of 20.14% in energy consumption from street lighting, making good progress towards the five year target of -25%.
- In terms of the environment a York Central Historic Core Conservation Area Character Appraisal has been adopted, the first for major City Conservation Area. Alongside this there was been a 3% increase in conservation areas with an up to date character appraisal and an 8% increase in the active management of local sites to improve bio-diversity.
- Other progress related to the environment includes the implementation of Environmental Stewardship and habitat creation schemes, including wild flowering of sections of the City Walls. Also, over 50,000 trees have been planted so far as part of Treemendous, including 1,100 as part of small local schemes

23. Key Performance Headlines Non Council Plan Actions

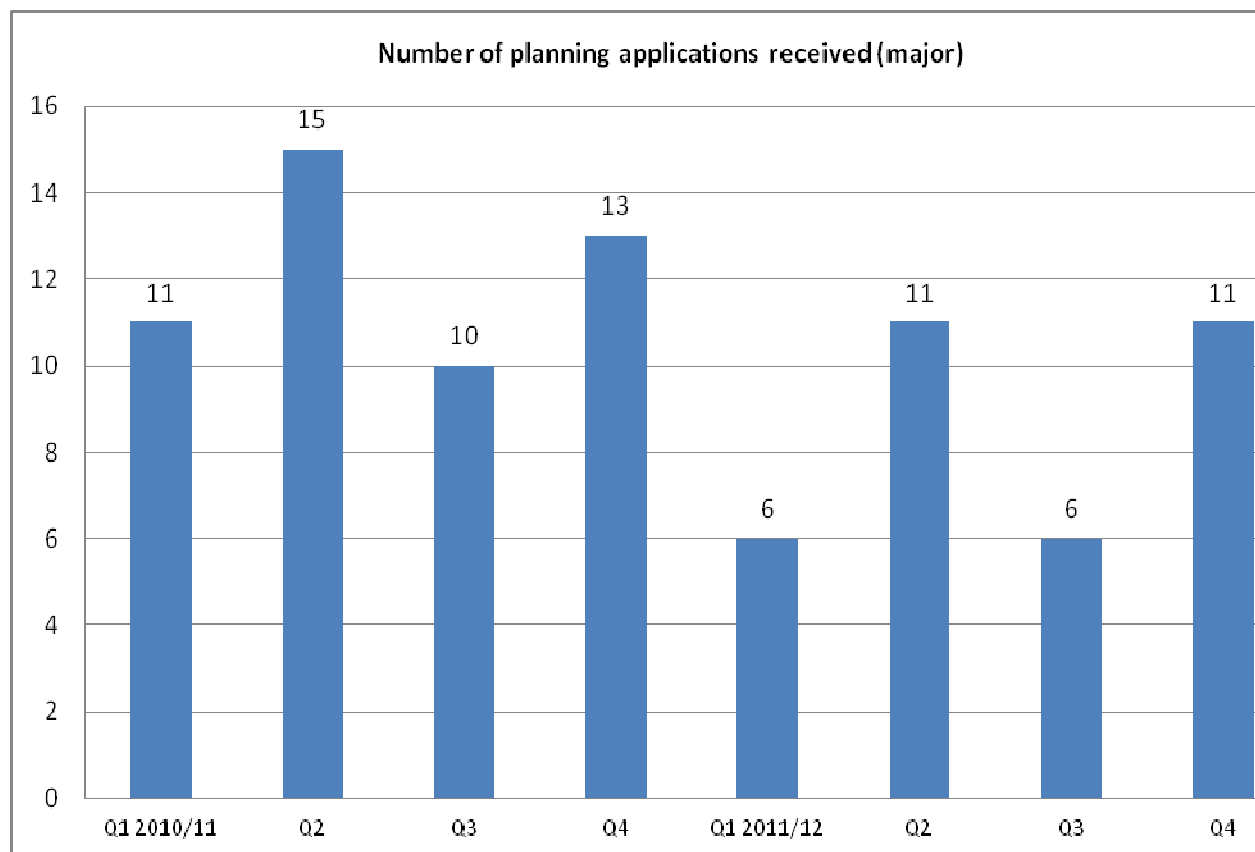
- The percentage of new homes built on previously developed land (68.6%) has exceeded the target of 65% but has declined significantly in comparison to the 2010/11 figure of 86.9%. This decline is attributable to a change of what is now classed as 'Brownfield land'. If we were to calculate this using the previous definition we would have a percentage of over 98% - a substantial improvement on 2010/11.

Priority: Create jobs and grow the economy

24. Key performance headlines against Council Plan Actions

- The city of York now supports more than 114,000 jobs and contributes £4bn (GVA) of value to the national economy. However, the growth forecast for York based on the Regional Econometric Model (REM) is low compared to others (based on a number of factors but predominantly lower than average growth in the private sector) and economic conditions are set to remain challenging but York has significant potential to grow.
- Business growth over the past year shows a mixed picture. There has been a positive increase in the rate of early stage business start ups, placing York top of the region for growth in early stage starts, and improved long term business survival rates. This has contributed to fewer vacant shops and encouraging footfall results when compared with other benchmark areas. However, the rate of VAT registrations (£71K threshold) in York remains below national comparator cities. This means the city has work to do to ensure that early stage starts have the opportunity to grow to the VAT registration threshold.
- York's commitment to growth has enabled some key actions to be achieved including the York Business Conference (part of an award winning week) attended by over 100 business representatives, the Economic Development Strategy, a single point of contact for businesses via the Economic Development Team with a new online business portal, local source bias included in procurement strategy, and increased business intelligence capacity. Negotiations with a national provider are nearly complete for Free Wi-Fi across large parts of the city centre which will attract businesses and tourists.

- York's residents are more productive (GVA per head) than any other residents in the region other than Leeds. Nonetheless, York's productivity does not rank as well nationally against UK comparator cities (£20,242 per head which is 27th out of 64 UK cities).
- Reduced numbers of job seeker allowance's claimants is helped by York's commitment to doubling the Apprenticeship target creating over 200 new posts in the city and further investment in the city centre including securing commitment for a Network Rail centre in the city (500 jobs). However, York maybe affected by a higher proportion of people employed in the public sector compared to other cities.
- Youth unemployment shows a positive picture with high benchmark results but the number of NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training) now ranks 30th nationally which is down on the 7th place from the year before. Long term unemployment amongst those 24 and under has risen sharply, although well below comparator levels (relatively small numbers from 30 to 100 people).
- The number of major planning applications processed within the required timescales has increased in comparison to 2010/11 (76.5%, compared to 75.5% in 2010/11). The number of minor applications processed within 8 weeks has reduced slightly to 74.2% (from 78.7% 2010/11) although is exceeding the nationally set target. Processing times have been improving as a result of process improvements, however recent structural changes, as well as the signing of legal agreements on long outstanding major applications such as Terry's, Nestle and Hungate (triggering the issue of the formal decisions), may result in a temporary decrease in performance stats in the first quarter of the new financial year.



Housing

25. York has been nominated for LA Landlord of the Year at the UK Housing Awards 2012. This reflects: the increase in overall tenant satisfaction with the LA; the work done over the course of a year where nearly 1000 households have been prevented from becoming homeless; and the development of the empty property strategy, to bring vacant buildings back into use. However, performance has slightly dipped over affordable housing as there were 151 affordable housing completions for 2011/12, against a target of 171. This is largely due to the delay of the 19 Council houses at Lilbourne Drive. These will be the first Council homes built in York for over 20 years. 11 were completed in April 12, with the reminder to follow late summer. There has also been a significant decrease in the completions through government backed HomeBuy schemes on previous years.
26. High re-let times in the first few months of the year have had a significant effect on the cumulative indicators for void times and void rent loss, this was caused by a 25% increase in the number of properties becoming void between Dec 10 and July 11 which coincided with a reduction in resources (repairs operatives) to affect the speed properties were prepared for re-letting.

A detailed action plan was put in place from June 11 which greatly improved the monthly figures, however the overall targets have not been met despite good performance in the latter half of the year.

Housing Management will continue to build on the improvements in void times by working together to improve the time taken to repair and let voids as well as addressing issues of quality. This will be informed by the work currently ongoing with tenant inspectors.

Council Plan

27. The information included in this report demonstrates progress on achieving the aims and priorities set out in the Council Plan.

Implications

28. There are no financial, human resources, equalities, legal, crime & disorder, information technology, property or other implications associated with this report.

Risk Management

29. The report provides Members with updates on finance and service performance and therefore there are no significant risks in the content of the report.

Recommendations

30. As this report is for information only, there are no recommendations.

Reason: To update the scrutiny committee of the final Outturn finance and performance position for 2011/12.

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Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all* **All**

Background Working Papers

2011-12 Finance and Performance Monitor, Cabinet 17th July 2012

Annexes

None



24 July 2012

Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report of the Chief Executive

Progress Report – Local Enterprise Partnerships

Summary

1. This latest progress report provides an update on Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). In particular it describes the progress with the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP's review of its strategy, and details of the recently announced Leeds City Region City Deal overseen by the LEP.

Background

2. The Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee has taken a keen interest in the progress and development of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). The Committee will recall that it last considered in detail a progress report in September 2011. At this time the Committee recommended that the City Of York Council should remain a member of the York with North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP, and a period of time would allow the advantages and disadvantages of membership to be assessed. The Committee's recommendation was reflected in the Council's decision to remain a member of the York with North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP for 2012/13.
3. The Committee also asked for progress reports on LEPs, including both the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding and Leeds City Region LEPs, to continue to be presented and discussed

4. Progress

Both LEPs are at critical stages in their development with the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP (YNYERLEP) reviewing its strategy, and the Leeds City Region LEP (LCRLEP) having announced a City Deal which it has negotiated with government.

5. York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP.

The LEP has decided that the time was right to carry out a light touch review of its strategy. To act as a catalyst the LEP published a discussion document which set out a number of questions on future priorities ways of working. (Copies will be available on request at the meeting). The Leader of the Council responded to the document and made a number of key points:

- As part of an annual report on the LEP's achievements it would be helpful if information was disaggregated to the local authority level (so we can appreciate the impact of the LEP on York's economy.
- The strategy should recognise more explicitly York's role as a growth centre for the LEP economy, and the relatively attractiveness of York as a place to invest despite the economic climate;
- New opportunities, particularly in respect of international markets, needs to be exploited including international tourism;
- The LEP needs to clarify the type of organisation it wishes to be. With limited resources the LEP should not consider itself principally as a delivery organisation. The LEP should focus on those areas which are strategic because they cut across local authority boundaries, or because they address issues which are common to all parts of the LEP area
- The LEP should enhance its influencing role, recognising that influencing LEP businesses, partners and government could make a valuable contribution to the growth of the economy.

- To date the private sector focus of the LEP has made it difficult on occasions for local authorities to contribute fully to the work of the LEP. More could be done to engage with public sector partners, particularly as part of the task and finish groups which have been set up to drive forward the LEP's priorities.

6. A LEP Board meeting is scheduled for 13 July and the Strategy Review is expected to be an agenda item, so we should be able to provide a verbal update at the Committee.

7. Leeds City Region LEP

The LCR City Deal is potentially ground breaking. As part of the government's localism agenda it invited the major cities to put forward proposals (or a "Deal") that would result in a re-arrangement of responsibilities between central and local government. The focus on cities is recognition that 65% of the country's employment and wealth creation is generated by cities and that centrally imposed employment and regeneration policies do not always work well. As part of a Deal government would consider the genuine transfer of powers and in return local authorities would need to commit to achieving results and accept risks and responsibilities in return. Leeds and Bradford Councils decided at an early stage not to progress separate City Deals but that were greater benefits for all by working with partners in the City region to put together a Leeds City Region Deal.

8. The LCR Deal was announced on 5 July and a guide to the Deal is included as annex 1 to this report. In summary the City Deal provides, inter alia, the following:

- Support for young people seeking employment with a new 14-24 apprenticeship academy in Leeds, and a pan LCR apprenticeship hub encouraging 7500 new employers to take on apprentices aiming to generate 15000 new apprentices in the next 4 years
- Initiatives to oversee overseas trade and investment activity, which could bring 7400 jobs by 2018 and double exports to "BRICS" and double the number of city region companies exporting by 50%.

- Putting in place a £1bn local fund to invest in transport over the next decade, with devolvement of funds and decision making from Whitehall, providing faster, frequent and more reliable services for commuters, residents and business.
 - An opportunity for a £400m Economic Investment Fund over the next 10 years, which would aggregate a range of local and national funding sources. The Fund would invest in key projects that have the potential to maximise job creation, growth and carbon reduction.
 - The setting up of a new “Combined Authority” which will oversee a streamlined decision-making process, particularly on transport investment.
9. The City Deal will provide major opportunities for York, especially with an economy which whilst clearly not the largest, is the strongest in the City Region. Working closely with partners and businesses across the City Region will provide additional benefits for York. But a significant amount of work needs to take place, particularly on governance and the Combined Authority together with funding issues, before the City Deal is ready for implementation. This will not be straightforward, especially if specific local authorities do not wish to participate in all or some elements of the City Deal.

Consultation

10. No specific consultation has taken place on the contents of this report, which reflects the on-going involvement of the Leader, Chief Executive and senior officers in LEP Board and other meetings.

Options

11. Options are not relevant to this report.

Analysis

12. Not relevant.

Council Plan

13. The work of the LEPs should prove valuable in supporting the Council Plan priorities of creating jobs and growing the economy and also get York moving priorities

Implications (Financial/ Human Resources/ Equalities/ Legal/ Crime and Disorder/ Information Technology)

14. At this stage the progress report has no specific implication. However, as the governance and financial implications are worked up there are potential legal and financial implications and possibly human resources, equalities and information technology implications. It would be appropriate to consider these implications as part of the next progress report.

Risk Management

15. Not relevant.

Recommendations

16. The Committee is asked to:
 - a) Note the content of this progress report;
 - b) Discuss the proposed work on the merging strategy for the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP and the new City Deal for the Leeds City Region; and,
 - c) Advise on whether further progress reports would be helpful.

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**Report
Approved**

Date 10th July
2012

Specialist Implications Officer(s) Not relevant
Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

1. York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP. Strategic Input Paper.
2. City of York Council. Response to the Strategic Review Input Paper.

Annexes

Annex 1. Leeds City Region Deal. Quick Guide.



Leeds City Region Deal

Quick guide

The Leeds City Region Deal

The city deal provides a transfer of powers and funding from national to local government. It gives local government greater control over spending and decision making so that we can take decisions in line with our key priorities for growth in the city region.

The city deal will help to:

1. Create thousands of new apprenticeships, jobs and opportunities for the young.
2. Ensure faster, reliable transport connections.
3. Increase investment to modernise our infrastructure.
4. Boost exports and attract more international companies to the city region.

The areas which we have focussed on in this first city deal are skills, transport, investment funds, trade and inward investment as well as new robust governance arrangements to help with the efficient delivery of our objectives.

Skills and employment

Through the Deal we will help create more jobs and opportunities for young people and work closely with our partners and the private sector to target future investment in skills.

In particular

- 1) We will develop a 14-24 Apprenticeship Academy (Leeds), working with businesses to offer young people more employment opportunities (2013 start).
- 2) We will set up Apprenticeship Training Agencies (starting with Leeds and Bradford) to help small and medium companies take more apprentices, which will result in up to 2,500 apprentice opportunities by 2015.
- 3) We will develop an 'Apprenticeship Hub' network to encourage 7,500 new employers to take on apprentices, aiming to generate 15,000 new apprenticeships in the next four years.
- 4) We will seek to shape and influence skills investment by businesses, individuals and government more towards our own city region priorities and key growth sectors.

Transport

Through the Deal we will increase prosperity and create jobs by investing in the local public transport and highways network. This investment will bring about faster, frequent and more reliable journeys for commuters and business.

In particular we will:

- 1) Put in place a £1bn local fund to invest in transport over the next decade. This will have the potential to create 20,000 jobs in the medium term and a 2% uplift in growth.
- 2) Work with others across the north, including Greater Manchester, to take on responsibility for running the northern rail franchise. This will accelerate the improvement of rail services within the city region and across the north.

Investment funds

Through the Deal we will boost the growth of businesses and our economy by modernising our infrastructure.

In particular

- 1) We will develop a £400m Investment Fund for the city region over the next 10 years. This will bring together a variety of funds from local sources and from national Government.
- 2) The Fund will be invested in key projects according to their contribution to the economy so that we maximise growth, create jobs and contribute to carbon reduction.

Trade and inward investment

Through the Deal we will become a more outward-looking economy with a substantial trade surplus by encouraging more businesses to export, grow trade outside Europe and increase the city region's share of new foreign investment.

In particular

1. We will overturn the city region's trade deficit by 2015, which could bring 7,400 jobs by 2018 and add 1% each year to our economic growth rate.
2. Double the value of exports to the 'BRICS' and increase the number of businesses exporting by 50%.
3. Bring together a network of partners (LEP, universities, industry organisations, Chambers, UKTI, HMRC and UK Export Finance) to deliver on agreed trade and investment priorities.

Governance

There will be a new West Yorkshire Combined Authority with wider city region partners to provide strong governance on transport. This will allow for effective prioritisation of relevant schemes and streamlined decision-making.

Other

Digital infrastructure

1. Leeds and Bradford ultra-fast broadband access (speeds of 100mb+) to 88,000 homes, and over 16,000 businesses with the intention to roll this out to the rest of the Leeds City Region (2015).
2. Full wireless coverage in Leeds and Bradford city centres by the end of 2012, as a prelude to rolling out to other cities and towns (2013)

Leeds City Region Deal – Deliverables

The Leeds City Region deal is going to help us deliver our economic plan and achieve our key targets of 60,000 new jobs by 2016. Some of the deliverables have been outlined below:

<p>Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 14-24 Apprenticeship Academy to be established in 2013, supporting 300 young people each year into careers in growth sectors • At least 2,500 extra apprentice opportunities through the Apprenticeship Hubs (ATAs) by 2015 • The Hubs and our other campaigns will encourage 7,500 additional companies to create at least 15,000 new apprenticeships by 2016 • Devolved £5.7m to provide Youth Contract support to 16-17 year old not in employment, education or training in Leeds, Bradford and Wakefield • Local authority investment of £3m of 'IAG' (information, advice & guidance) for vulnerable young people • 3,000 businesses to benefit from £31m* investment in sectors with long term growth prospects <p>* part of this funding pending further discussions</p>	<p>Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a 10-year £1bn 'West Yorkshire-Plus' Transport Fund, matching devolved DfT budgets with local funding • potential of producing a 2% uplift in GVA and 20,000 extra jobs in the medium term • collaboration with other transport authorities across the North and the devolution of the northern rail franchise should ensure we accelerate and maximise the benefits of the Northern Hub and other improvements to Transpennine connectivity, delivering economic benefit of £4bn and up to 30,000 jobs
<p>Investment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a city region Investment Fund of £400m over the next 10 years, pooling local funding sources and matched by Government through the devolution of existing and future capital spending • projects will be rigorously appraised and chosen on the basis that they maximise growth, create jobs and contribute to carbon reduction 	<p>Trade and investment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transform the city region's trade deficit of over £1bn per year to a surplus of £600m by 2015 and £1.7bn by 2018 • We aim to double our exports to the 'BRICS', currently around £1bn annually, and increase the number of city region companies exporting by 50% • We will work in partnership with UKTI to deliver major trade and investment projects, and aim to increase our share of inward investment to a level in line with our share of the overall economy • These targets would raise LCR GVA by over 1% annually from 2015 and create at least 7,000 jobs by 2018
<p>Digital infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leeds and Bradford ultra-fast broadband access (speeds of 100mb+) to 88,000 homes, 16,000 businesses • Full wireless coverage in Leeds and Bradford city centres by the end of 2012, rolling out to other towns and cities (end 2013) 	<p>Streamlined governance including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Yorkshire Combined Authority with wider city region membership to provide strong governance for the effective prioritisation of investment.



Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee

24th July 2012

Report of the Assistant Director Governance & ICT

Update Report – ‘Reducing the Carbon Footprint in the Privately Rented Sector Scrutiny Review’

Summary

1. This report gives an update on the currently dormant ‘Reducing the Carbon Footprint in the Privately Rented Sector’ Scrutiny Review. It advises Members what has been happening whilst the review has been on hold and proposes that Members consider rescheduling the work of the Task Group to later in this calendar year when more information will be available.

Background

2. In 2011 it was agreed that a Task Group be formed from Members of the Economic & City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) who would undertake a review in relation to ‘Reducing the Carbon Footprint in the Privately Rented Sector’. However, after several meetings the Task Group recommended to the OSC that the review be postponed; this was following a paper it received on the 13th March 2012 which advised them of short term commitments made by Officers to take advantage of existing funding streams to help York residents. In addition to this officers were awaiting the outcome of the Government’s consultation on the Green Deal.

Commitments

3. Members can be advised that in line with the paper received on the 13th March the following actions have been completed or are ongoing:

- The continuation of the Local Advice service operated by the Yorkshire Energy Partnership on behalf of the council until December 2012 to both compliment the National Advice Service but to also give local residents information about local schemes in particular the local Carbon Emission Reduction Target (CERT) and Community Energy Savings Programme (CESP) scheme
- We have taken advantage of the CERT funding available ensuring that York Residents can take full advantage of the available funding which is due to end in December 2012. The scheme is being promoted by the Yorkshire Energy Partnership under the brand "Wrapping up York". To date more than 727 York private sector householders have received 991 measures. This equates to more than £250k worth of funding which has been drawn down. Members may also want to note that residents installing such measures could save up to £ 310 per year on their fuel bills.
- The near completion of the CESP programme in the Hull Road area of the city. This area of the city is the only eligible area in York which can take advantage of this scheme. We can advise that the following measures have been completed across all tenures

Scheme	Loft Insul.	Cavity Insul.	Solid Insul.	Heating	PV panels
CESP	271	9	30	Ongoing	24 and ongoing

- A landlord fair was held on the 30th May 2012 at the Park Inn jointly by the council and the York Residential Landlord Association. More than 160 letting agents and landlords attended the event. One of the presentations they received was called "Making the Green Deal work for landlords." All the presentations are now on the website should you wish to look at them in detail:

http://www.york.gov.uk/housing/hmo/Landlords_info/

In addition a new Landlord Liaison Officer has been employed by the Council to develop an accreditation scheme in the city to raise the standards in the private rented sector. A key part of his work will be to ensure that the energy performance of a rented house will be central to such a scheme.

- During 'Climate Week' over 13 events were put on by partners across the city. Residents attending various events were informed of the Green Deal and associated opportunities. Following this in April, Partners at St Nicholas Field Environmental Centre secured Energy Saving Trust's LEAF funding and held two events on energy saving and the Green Deal.

Green Deal

4. Members are aware that the Green Deal is the Government's new finance framework for the provision of energy efficiency and other works at no upfront cost to householders and businesses.
5. The Council is likely to have a key role to play in the delivery of the Green Deal with the potential benefits of involvement likely to be:
 - New sources of revenue to deliver energy efficiency retrofits e.g. boiler replacements and other retrofit measures e.g. window replacements;
 - Help to reduce fuel bills for local residents and businesses;
 - Opportunities for local economic and physical regeneration;
 - Support for wider local strategic priorities e.g. better health outcomes, reduced fuel poverty, reduction in city-wide carbon emissions; and,
 - Support for the maintenance and generation of local jobs and skills.
6. There are three basic options open to Local Authorities for the delivery of the Green Deal. Very briefly they are:
 - Direct provision of the Green Deal *i.e.* the Local Authority does everything from assessments to arranging finance;
 - Partnering with a commercial Green Deal Provider; and,
 - No direct involvement *i.e.* leaves delivery to the market.
7. Leeds City Region (LCR) Chief Executives and Leaders approved the preparation of a business case for the City Region in February 2012. Marksman Consulting LLP has since been appointed by the LCR Secretariat to assist with the business case.
8. Leeds City Council have taken on the role of anchor authority for the project, for the business case to be viable additional resources will be required from other local authorities in the LCR. This will take the form of capital through prudential borrowing and / or social housing assets. It is too early in the development of the business case to state the benefits provision of capital and / or housing would have for York.

The outcome of the business case is due to be reported to the Leaders of the Councils' in October 2012.

9. A Council Green Deal Officer Steering Group which includes officers from legal, procurement and finance as well as sustainability and housing has also been established. It is currently feeding in to the LCR processes to ensure that York is kept fully informed and is able to take advantage of any proposals made by the LCR.
10. It should be noted that the LCR approach forms part of the appraisal of options being undertaken by the Steering group as dialogue is taking place between the North Yorkshire Local Authorities about the delivery of the Green Deal in the North Yorkshire sub-region. Yorkshire Energy Partnership (YEP) a local not-for-profit sustainability company owned by the Local Authorities (including York) in North Yorkshire is leading these discussions.

Consultation

11. No consultation has taken place since the review was postponed. However, at the landlord fair landlords and agents were advised of the scrutiny topic and asked if they would like to take part once it recommenced. To date there have been no responses.

Options

12. Members are asked to note the report and note that work continues to ensure that residents benefit from existing funding and that LCR has commissioned a business case for the region to maximise the potential benefits of the Green Deal. There is a recommendation to reschedule the Task Group work into the work plan for later in this municipal year following the outcome of the business case

Analysis

13. Members were made aware of the postponement of this review at their last meeting under the work plan item. This report is being brought to the Committee today to give an update and to recommend the rescheduling of the review to recommence after October 2012 to tie in with the outcome of the LCR business case due to report in this month.

Council Plan 2011-2015

14. The theme of this scrutiny review is directly linked with the 'Protect the Environment' element of the Council Plan 2011-2015; in particular the 'reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality' strand of this document.

Implications

15. **Financial** – there are no known financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report. However once the review recommences implications may arise and these will be highlighted as part of the review process.
16. **Human Resources** - there are no known human resources implications associated with the recommendations in this report. However once the review recommences implications may arise and these will be highlighted as part of the review process.
17. **Legal** - there are no known legal implications associated with the recommendations in this report. However once the review recommences implications may arise and these will be highlighted as part of the review process.
18. There are no other known implications associated with the recommendations within this report.

Risk Management

19. There are no known risks associated with the recommendations within this report.

Recommendations

20. Members are asked to note the report and to consider recommencing this review in October 2012, after the LCR business case has been reported

Reason: To formally update the Committee of the ongoing work and to request that they reschedule the work of the Task Group to later this year following the outcome of the business case commissioned by the LCR

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Assistant Director Governance & ICT

Report
Approved



Date 10.07.2012

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

None

Draft Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2012/2013

Meeting Date	Work Programme
20 th June 2012	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introductory Report – Youth Unemployment (with focus on Vacant Posts in Care Sector and Business Administration) (First Scrutiny Review) 2. Proposed Scrutiny Topic on E-Planning Facilities (Short Scrutiny Review) 3. Workplan for 2012-13 & List of Scrutiny Topics Proposed at the Scrutiny Work Planning Event held on 2nd May 2012
24 th July 2012	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verbal Report from and Attendance of the Leader of the Council in Relation to his Forthcoming Challenges and Priorities that fall into this Committee's Remit 2. Year End CYC Finance & Performance Monitoring Report 3. Update on Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPS) 4. Reducing the Carbon Footprint in the Privately Rented Sector – Update Report 5. Workplan for 2012-13 and Briefing notes on Proposed Scrutiny Topics from the Scrutiny Work Planning Event held on 2nd May 2012
25 th September 2012	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First Quarter CYC Finance & Performance Monitoring Report 2. Update on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the Newgate Market Scrutiny Review 3. Update on the implementation of recommendations arising from the Water End Councillor Call for Action 4. Attendance of the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning & Sustainability 5. First Scrutiny Review interim Report (Youth Unemployment) 6. Final Report on Outcomes of Short Scrutiny Review (E-planning Facilities) 7. Six Monthly Update Report on Major Developments within the City of York Council 8. Six Monthly Update Report on Major Transport Initiatives 9. Workplan for 2012-13

20 th November 2012	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Second Quarter CYC Finance & Performance Monitoring Report 2. First Scrutiny Review Final Report (Youth Unemployment) 3. Attendance of the Cabinet Member for Health, Housing & Adult Social Services (Housing aspect of her portfolio) 4. Workplan for 2012-13
Potential December Meeting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review of Work Plan & Forward Planning for Forthcoming Scrutiny Reviews 2. Interim Report on the Reducing the Carbon Footprint in the Privately Rented Sector Scrutiny Review
29 th January 2013	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Second Scrutiny Review Report (topic to be agreed) 2. Workplan 2012-13
26 th March 2013	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Third Quarter CYC Finance & Performance Monitoring Report 2. Second Scrutiny Review Interim Report (topic to be agreed) 3. Workplan for 2012-13
30 th April 2013	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Second Scrutiny Review Final Report (topic to be agreed) 2. Workplan for 2012-13

Developing packages to help people being made redundant to start their own businesses

Potential Scrutiny Topic

Julia Massey, Partnership Manager, Learning City York, July 2012

1. Background information on the Topic

Strengthening and supporting a culture of enterprise and stimulating more start-ups amongst all residents is a key priority within the City Strategy, the Council Plan, the new Economic Strategy and the Learning City Skills Strategy (currently being refreshed).

The increase in business start-up rates (both VAT registered and those below the £75k threshold) is encouraging. Our challenge is to improve the business survival rate, particularly within the first three years and to support businesses to grow. York has a thriving micro-business sector i.e.: employing less than 5 people. York ranks 23rd out of 64 UK cities in terms of VAT registered business start-ups.

Businesses	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Trend
Business Births (VAT Registered over £75k)	660	700	735	570	665	Increase
Business Deaths (VAT registered)	540	600	550	635	770	Increase
Number of businesses taking up the York Enterprise Fund (administered by Business Support York & North Yorkshire; a fund jointly supported by Aviva & CYC)			Mar-10	Mar-11	Mar-12	Trend
			6	14	29	Increase
Business Start – ups (Bank Search UK – monitors business bank accounts)	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Trend
	N/A	1,199	1,266	1,511	1,661	Increase

2. Current Support Packages in York

The new 'York Means Business' portal (to be launched end July) provides information about 'free' support services and start-up programmes that York residents can access, along with information about access to finance, business networks, etc. Local support packages include:

Initial 'free' support - [Business Support York and North Yorkshire \(BSYNY\)](#) provides a rolling programme of FREE 'start-up' events open to everyone, as well as initial advice and guidance for pre start-up business, those considering buying a business and small established enterprises. This is funded through a European grant and City of York Council Service Level Agreement.

If you're over 50 and facing redundancy or unemployed there is a specific programme of workshops available through the [WorkAge Project at York College](#). This is European funded and 40 places are available to support York residents looking at returning to work or starting-up in business.

Unemployed? Available to Jobseekers Allowance claimants aged 18 and over who have been claiming for 26-weeks, explore your ideas with a business mentor with the potential to access finance in the early months of trading via the [New Enterprise Allowance \(NEA\)](#), facilitated via Business Support York and North Yorkshire. There have been significant numbers of referrals to this programme and

Acorn Programme at York St John University Business School is designed to prepare and help businesses in their first year offering a structured week of coaching and practical advice. There is a charge.

European Social Funded support for employees facing redundancy in the private sector – a varied programme of support is available. This is a new development, funded by the Skills Funding Agency and brokered through Bradford College.

City of York Council employees facing redundancy – through our Service Level Agreement with Business Support York & North Yorkshire,

those facing redundancy have access to initial free 'start-up' support. We are currently testing this service.

If you are an armed forces leaver [Be the Boss](#) offers you access to advice, information, finance and mentoring.

Future Prospects has set up an informal **Enterprise Club** for people to come along and find out more about setting up in business. This includes access to short term market trading stalls to test the market.

York CVS provides support for those thinking about Social Enterprise

3. Potential focus for any scrutiny review

York is fairly well placed with a range of support programmes. Awareness, however, may not be as high as it could or should be.

Gaps to explore:

- Raising awareness campaign of what support & programmes are already available e.g.: through Your City publication; ward newsletters; the Press etc
- Is 'starting a business or going self-employed for me' workshops – for those facing redundancy; perhaps even something specifically targeting potential women entrepreneurs
- Increase access to structured start-up programmes for those unemployed for less than 26 weeks i.e.: not yet eligible for the Job Centre Plus New Enterprise Allowance programme
- Extend the existing workshops available through Business Support York & North Yorkshire
- Target a specific programme for younger, under 30s (interest from Job Centre Plus)

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Economic & City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee – July 2012

Proposed Topic: ‘How can local shopping centres contribute to the economic well-being of their community?’

Background

The Integrated Strategy Unit within City and Environmental Services are already working to produce a base study to identify all Local Shopping Parades across the city and assessing their facilities in the community they serve. This work includes identifying all the neighbourhood parades across York, mapping and recording their current use types, environmental quality, accessibility etc. and looking at their role and size in relation to their catchment area. In addition, this work will examine what opportunities there may be to help retain the critical mass of shopping parades as well as opportunities to improve/extend the parades through the allocation of new suitable sites.

In terms of those units currently owned by the council, these are largely situated among areas of social housing, and there are currently no voids. There are a wide range of uses around the city including newsagents, cafes, hot food, domestic appliances, hairdressers, a Polish grocer, an Indian grocer, cycle shop, sports wear and community centre etc. Some parades lack an appropriate mix of shops and the superstores have clearly had their influence on small parades of shops- it is hard to compete with similar goods thus those general stores that exist tend to specialise – for example in Polish or Indian foodstuffs.. Large forecourts and car parks attract anti-social behaviour.

Currently activity around the topic

A recent report has been published by the Communities and Local Government Dept (CLG) (Jun 2012) into local shops, ‘Parades to be Proud of: Strategies to support local shops’. This noted that local shops provide important services to local communities, are popular and vary in size depending upon location and function. The parades combine retail uses with other community services from hairdressers, clinics and community centres. Since previous research has focussed on city centre retail and high street functions such as Portas, the report attempts to redress the balance by providing initial research and analysis considering the contribution of more local shops. In broad terms research by Verdict, a retail data company,

suggests the share of retail expenditure in neighbourhood locations has held steady at around 16 per cent, suggesting local shops are 'holding their own' amongst other sources of goods. The Association of Convenience Stores (2011) identified three distinct roles for local shops as: social hubs, personalised service providers and community ambassadors.

Pros/Cons of doing a scrutiny review on the topic

One challenge lies in the sheer number of local parades in the city coupled with the diversity of both the shopping parade and the area it covers. Each serves its own distinct community with businesses responding to the local market demand.

The work being undertaken currently by the Integrated Strategy Unit within City and Environmental Services will consider the planning and community issues attached to local shops and what opportunities there may be to improve and strengthen the role of the local shopping parade through the planning process in serving the needs of the local community together with issues of good access for all groups etc.

Potential focus for any scrutiny review

However, the economic well-being of a shopping parade is a much broader issue than determining the appropriate use of the premises in planning terms and the diversity, flexibility and success of individual businesses in terms of both their own strength, and in serving the needs of the community, is central.

Members will have invaluable local knowledge on the topic of the shops in their area, of both their value to the community and any problems or difficulties being experienced by the businesses themselves. They will be aware of any business challenges and it is in this area that there may be value in considering where parades of shops might develop and increase trade.

Work could focus on the business success of the parade and of individual businesses - to develop links between local shops and the community, to improve the marketing of a local parade of shops with events, discounts for local people and loyal customers etc. There is potential for linking in to the local business support network and professional groups to assist in improving business levels and sustainability – initially by the development of a pilot project. The development of such a pilot would be a worthwhile topic for scrutiny.

Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee – July 2012



Briefing note on Proposed Scrutiny Topic on Green Travel Plans

Introduction and background

This briefing note has been developed following the Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting to review a number of subject areas. This note covers the 'Green Travel Plans' request that was originally combined with 'onsite green energy generation.' Due to the fact these two areas of work are different and are not related we have agreed with the Scrutiny Officer that there will be two separate briefing notes on these.

The term 'Green Travel Plans' is these days refined to just 'travel plans' as calling them green or sustainable can risk confusion in thinking there are different types of travel plan. While this is kind of the case, depending on who the travel plan is for, all plans do to encourage sustainability and help plan out an organisations or individuals travel behaviour. All this with a view to reducing congestion and environmental impacts, while saving the individual/organisation time and money plus other benefits such as health.

This note covers one of the key focus areas for the Councils i-Travel York (ITY) programme aimed at businesses engagement through travel planning. However it is worth mentioning the personalised travel planning work ITY will be taking forward in contacting up to 12,000 households throughout the northern quadrant of the city. This will be done through face to face contact being made to better inform and influence individuals travel behaviour. Another key part to ITY and indeed the Council's travel planning work is towards schools. This report however will only make reference to the December 2010 scrutiny report on the 'Review of School Travel' plans by the then chair Cllr Ruth Potter. Copies of this can be sought from the Scrutiny Officer.

Business Travel Planning

Following the Cycling City York programme business engagement was seen and proven to deliver the biggest impact in influencing travel behaviour. By working with the employer and seeking their buy-in through the benefits of their staff travelling more sustainably, we also help the organisations we work with to better meet their CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) policy as well as CO2/green policies. Using this staff welfare policy is one of the keys and introducing the many benefits ranging from reduced absenteeism, increased staff productivity, green PR credentials through the to individual saving their time, money, health and reducing their environmental impact.

To date the ITY programme has developed a proactive travel planning business engagement service using the newly recruited Travel Planning Coordinator (David Short). David and I will work along side other key business engagement personnel in the Council to form a virtual team of front line business contacts including those from the Environmental Protection Agency, Sports and Active Leisure, Sustainable City York, Sustainable Transport Service and importantly Economic Development Unit. The appointment of the Travel Planning Coordinator will provide for a consistent approach to the development of travel plans and, most importantly, the monitoring and evaluation against the aims and objectives of LTP3 and LSTF.

This will provide an increased and better coordinated staffing focus for better business engagement and show more uniformity and joined up working within the Council to businesses, as seen by them. Avoiding any right hand/left hand issues.

From the ITY perspective we will work to making sure all large employers in York have a fully developed and implemented travel plan and help realise and deliver the outcomes to help tackle congestion on our roads and all the problems this brings. This will help reduce the number of single-occupancy car journeys within York and see shifting to walking, cycling, bus and more sustainable car usage such as car-sharing.

ITY's main objectives as set by the Department for Transport, who funds ITY is:-

- Help increase local economic growth and
- Help reduce CO2

The shortened vision for ITY is simply "Informed Personal Choice" where ITY and its partners will seek to better inform everyone working, living and visiting York about the choices and opportunities they have to help them reconsider their current travel behaviour. Especially for those that travel up to 5 miles within York and are able to change their habits if driving by themselves.

The relations we will form and strengthen using the various tools (such as travel plans) and resources, as well as match-funding, we feel will have a significant positive impact on the city and meeting the various aims and objectives of the DfT and our own LTP. Furthermore delivering the outcomes to better encourage and adopt higher levels of modal shift sustainably.

For more information on ITY please go to

<http://www.york.gov.uk/transport/istf/>

Scrutiny Review

As stated this is key work to significantly influence modal shift and making the i-Travel York programme a success. Therefore the effectiveness of this business engagement service that is tied with the Economic Development Unit, Environmental Protection Unit, Sustainable City York and Sustainable Transport Service, is key.

As a recommendation this work will be successful so it is *not deemed* that this should be a priority for the committee to review, however if members feel differently then the following focuses would be recommended:-

- Ensure this business engagement service is effective
- That the Council is fully behind this work and is helped and promoted at all levels to make sure this service is as successful

and supported as much as possible and ultimately successfully delivering the i-Travel York programme.

- Making sure the outcomes are achieved including:-
 - all large businesses to have a fully implemented travel plan
 - and aligning of their CO2/green policies with the Councils

Graham Titchener

Programme Manager

i-Travel York

City of York Council

BRIEFING NOTE

Subject: Proposed Scrutiny Topic – Renewable energy generation within the city of York

1 Purpose of this Briefing Note

This briefing note sets out the current ongoing work across the city to generate an increasing amount of renewable energy and reduce the city's carbon dioxide emissions.

2 Background to the issue

In 2010, the City developed its first Climate Change Framework and Action Plan (CCFAP). The headline target of the CCFAP is to:

- **Reduce CO2 emissions (end user) by 40 per cent by 2020 (based on a 2005 baseline) and 80 per cent* by 2050 (based on a 1990 baseline)¹.**

The CCFAP also incorporates the City's other climate change commitments including the Friends of Earth 'Get Serious' campaign on climate change and the EU's Covenant of Mayors (CoM) campaign (which required at least a 20% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020).

To determine how the city might reach the 2020 targets, carbon modelling was undertaken to identify plausible mixes of measures that could achieve the target.

In particular the role of renewable energy generation such as Combined Heat and Power (CHP) wind and solar energy were highlighted as crucial in order to meet the CCFAP targets.

3 Current work

- There has been a 21% reduction in carbon emissions in York (from 2005-2009).

¹ (Full details are available from

www.york.gov.uk/environment/sustainability/climatechange/2framework/)

- In 2010, just under 10 MW of renewable energy were generated (or planned) in the City (source: Strategic Renewable Energy Strategic Viability Study) See Annex A.
- Since 2010 just over 700 renewable energy schemes registered under the Feed-in-Tariff scheme have been installed in York (see Annex A).
- a high-level Strategic Renewable Energy Strategic Viability Study has been completed highlighting potential for wind and hydro-electricity and the need for further studies on opportunities surrounding CHP with district heat networks.
- A Low Carbon Energy Strategy for York North West has been carried out.
- Current IPS on Sustainable Design and Construction 2007 requires large development sites to generate 10% of the sites energy demand from renewable energy generation.
- The LDF's Core Strategy included a policy for reducing carbon emissions on site and for CHP / district heat network feasibility study to be carried out for all large developments
- A York district heat network opportunities map is being created.
- A Public Sector Investigating Renewable Energy group is looking for shared renewable energy opportunities in the city.
- A possible partnership bid for an 18mth post is being developed to accelerate CHP with district heat networks across the city.
- CYC has current and planned installations across the estate. See annex A.
- The Council is currently going through a Green Audit process across its estate. Part of the purpose of the audit is to propose a forward plan of renewable energy installation projects.

4 Pros and Cons

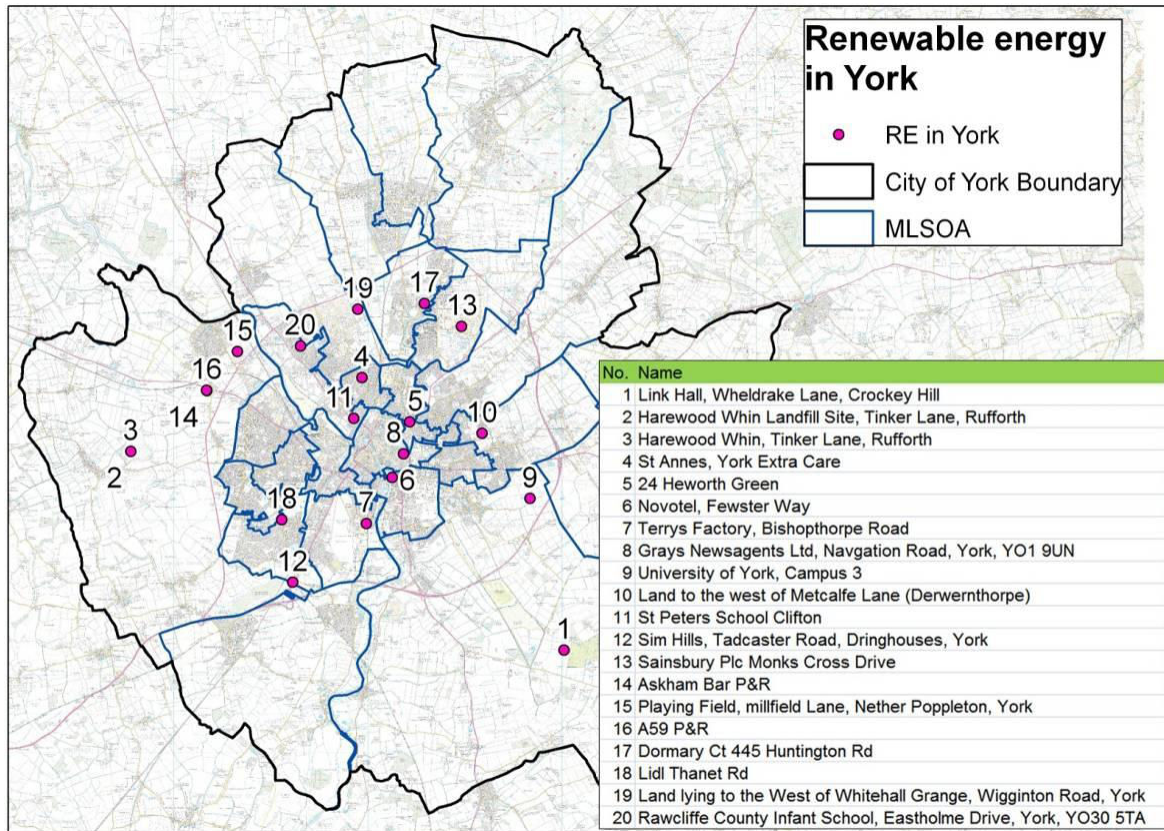
A review of the work could help to raise the profile of the good work happening across the city, and could also act to accelerate new projects. However, resources are very limited and a review could effect and even restrict the current programme of delivery (as above).

Summary / Recommendation

Based on the information above, Members are recommended to note the good progress and to consider no further action at this time.

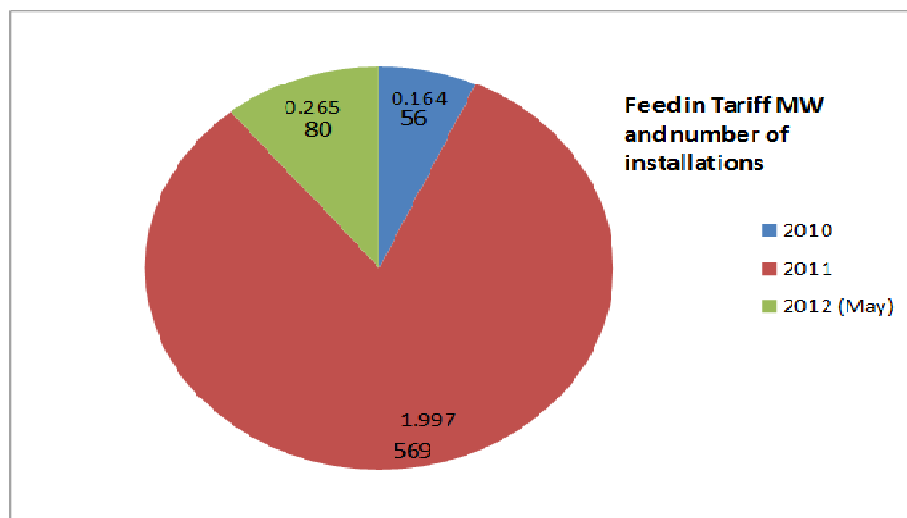
Annex A

City wide renewable installations in 2010



Source: Renewable Energy Strategic Viability Study for York
<http://www.york.gov.uk/environment/Planning/ldf/evidencebase/RenewableEnergyStrategicViabilityStudyforYork/>

Current numbers of installations through the Feed In Tariff scheme 2010 - 2012



Source: Ofgem 2012

Current or planned City of York renewable energy installations

CYC Schools

- York High School & Energise Leisure Centre (same site) – biomass boilers
- Joseph Rowntree Secondary School – biomass boilers with gas back-up
- Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary School – biomass boilers
- Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Primary School – ground source heat pump
- Wheldrake with Thorganby Primary School – solar thermal
- Danesgate Skills Centre – biomass boilers

CYC Buildings

- Acomb Library – biomass boilers
- Hazel Court (EcoDepot) – solar PV
- West Offices – solar PV (208 panels)

CYC Social Housing

- Solar PV (retrofit) for 700 dwellings delivered in partnership with Community Energy Solutions
- Solar PV for 19 new build social houses at Lilbourne Drive
- Air to water source heat pump for 8 off gas properties in Wheldrake

**Economic and City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee
topic paper – 24 July 2012.**

Proposed Topic: Housing stock – how is it meeting the changing needs of a growing population?

Background:

York is an area of high housing demand evidenced by high house prices and high private sector rents. The *Cities Outlook 2012* report¹ showed York had the third fastest population growth in the country, due in part to York's strong economy. Local research² points to a changing population demographic, particularly the rise in older households, as a key driver for the future. Some have concerns that York's housing market is increasingly dysfunctional and could serve to constrain York's future economic and growth ambitions.

The average price of a house in York stood at £178,200 in March 2012 against average median gross earnings of £21,136. This gives a house price to earnings ratio of 8.4:1, significantly higher than the regional figure.

Reduced access to borrowing and the requirement for sizable deposits are significant barriers to owner occupation, particularly for younger households.

At the root of many housing problems is the fact that supply has not kept pace with demand. Net annual household growth is around 1,100 new households per year³ whilst the delivery of new homes has run at an average of 620 per year over the past 5 years of which a proportion (average 150 per year) have been affordable.

When set against an identified need for 790 affordable homes per year to meet the backlog of existing households in unsuitable accommodation and newly arising need we can see the scale of the challenge ahead.

Whilst the recent economic recession has played a part in constraining new supply, longer term issues such as land availability, York's historic

¹ Centre for Cities 2012

² York Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 2011

³ ARUP 2012

character, transport capacity and the willingness of residents to accept new development are also key factors.

Many of those unable to afford a market solution look to social housing providers to meet their needs. There are currently 3,900 households on the affordable housing register.⁴ The majority of these will never be offered a social rented home as the proportion of homes is relatively low and turnover limited.⁵

Right to Buy has reduced the council's housing stock by around 4,500 units and enhanced discounts introduced recently are designed to promote further sales. Right to Buy losses have, in part, being made up for in new housing association supply, but huge cuts to this sector's funding as part of deficit reduction could curtail further growth.

The private rented sector has seen significant growth in recent years to over 15% of total stock. It provides a flexible housing offer ideally placed to meet the needs of students and others on the move. More recently, it is being used by those shut out of owner occupation and those unable to access social housing, including families.

Strong demand has fuelled high rents. York is one of only three cities in the north of England with rent levels on a par with those of the South East of England.⁶ It has the highest rents in the region above both Leeds and Harrogate. Research undertaken by Sparerroom.co.uk in April 2011, found there to be almost six applicants for every room to rent in the city, placing York the 9th highest demand area within the UK.

Not everyone is able to compete and access to the sector is particularly tough for those on lower incomes. This is set to become more difficult with welfare reform changes that will further reduce choice for those on benefits (including in-work benefits).

⁴ June 2012

⁵ The proportion of social rented homes in York stands at around 15% against 21% regionally and annual turnover is between 500-700 properties per year

⁶ The others being Manchester and Harrogate – Shelter 2011

Government expects the sector to play an even bigger role in future, but high rents, short-term tenancies and ongoing condition problems⁷ mean that the sector is not the 'tenure of choice' for many.

There is increasing need for homes that better meet the needs of older people and those with disabilities. A significant proportion of older people are under-occupying their home due in part to the lack of attractive downsizing options. This has big implications for the local housing market and the availability of family sized homes. As more people are supported to live independently, new homes must be well designed, capable of adaptation and well connected to local services.

What is currently happening?

On the back of a five year period of low housing completions resulting from adverse market conditions there are a number of significant housing sites that will help increase completion rates within the next five years and beyond.⁸ The draft Local Development Framework sought to identify sufficient future land supply but this has now been withdrawn and a new 'Local Plan' will replace it.

In recent years the council has followed a policy to improve the type and mix of planned housing with an emphasis on more family homes. During the period 2003-6, 66% of all housing completions in York were flats and since then flats have represented 54% of all completions. Of all planning consents at 1st April 2012 only 35% are anticipated to be flats.

To further assist new development the council has recently lowered its affordable housing target on eligible sites and uses dynamic viability assessment to identify appropriate levels of affordable housing contribution on a site by site basis.

⁷ The 2008 Private sector stock condition survey found the worst conditions to be in sections of the private rented sector.

⁸ These sites include Revival, (360 homes) Derwenthorpe (540), Germany Beck (700) and Ouseacres (57) with Terry's and Nestle South (710) awaiting signature of legal agreements before construction can commence.

The council is facilitating access to government loans designed to 'kick-start' stalled development and currently one scheme in York has been shortlisted to receive help from the 'Get Britain Building' fund.

Local developers are beginning to offer help to aspiring homeowners struggling to raise deposits by offering new government backed mortgage indemnity products. There is increasing scope for more intermediate home ownership to meet the needs of those unable to afford full market housing.

City of York Council Housing Services is currently developing an asset management strategy for its circa 8,000 dwellings and exploring opportunities within the HRA⁹ for new council house building. Nineteen new council homes are currently being built in Clifton, the first such homes in over 20 years.

The SHMA shows an unmet need for more intermediate housing options (i.e. 'affordable rent', shared ownership and discounted sale) for those households that do not qualify for social rented homes but cannot afford open market prices and rents. Planning policy required a proportion of all affordable homes delivered as part of S106 contributions to be intermediate.

The future supply of new housing association homes is uncertain given huge funding cuts to the National Affordable Housing Programme. It seems application of the government's new 'affordable rent' model could be limited.

Work is ongoing to support the growth of the private rented sector. The council is limited in what it can do to influence rent levels in the absence of national regulation and this remains an ongoing challenge.

Like others, we are exploring opportunities for greater institutional investment that could deliver more sustainable rents, longer tenancies and good quality management. The Leeds City Region is currently looking at appropriate investment models.

⁹ Housing Revenue Account – This is ring fenced account made up of income from council rents and outgoings on repairs/maintenance.

In terms of condition, we continue to work closely with local landlords and landlord bodies. The council is developing a landlord accreditation scheme aimed at raising management standards. The very poorest conditions continue to be addressed through ongoing enforcement action.

The council's 'YorHome' social lettings agency is opening access to the sector for more low income and vulnerable households and there is potential for this to become a stand-alone trading body. It currently manages 72 properties of which 24 are 2-bedroom (those in greatest demand). It is becoming increasingly difficult to sign up new landlords due to welfare reform.

We have seen growing interest in the development of dedicated off-campus student accommodation in recent years.

Strategically the council and its partners are moving away from specialist housing to supporting more people to live independently in their own homes. This requires a shift in focus from 'bricks and mortar' approaches to floating support and related services. This process is underway.

Several downsizing schemes have been developed within the social housing sector to free up much needed family homes, and the council is developing additional incentives for tenants to be rolled out later this year.

Within the owner occupied sector it is recognised there is more for private sector providers to do in providing a wider range of attractive housing options.

York is performing well in terms of the numbers of disabled people supported within their own tenancies. The Local Development Framework included a commitment for all new homes to be built to a lifetime standard by 2013.

Pros and cons of a scrutiny review:

Pros: Scrutiny could shine a light on difficult issues around future land availability, capacity and willingness of the city to accept additional development to meet the housing needs and aspirations we know exist.

Cons: Housing problems are not all about new supply. Making best use of the existing stock is of equal importance and this could be outside the scope of this particular scrutiny committee (?).

Potential focus for scrutiny review:

To what extent does York's housing 'offer' support or constrain local economic ambitions and growth aspirations? How does it meet the needs of 'key workers' support graduate retention and employment and provide viable options for those working in key employment sectors such as Science City York, leisure and tourism etc? How does it meet the needs and aspirations of particular groups such as young people, first time buyers, families, older households and those with specific needs?

Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee – July 2012

Proposed Scrutiny Topic - City Centre Retail Health

Background

The current double-dip recession, sharp reductions in consumer spending and the growth in popularity of on-line shopping have all combined to bring a greater focus on Retail Health for York's city centre recently. Added to this is a specific need to respond to any potential impact of the Community Stadium Project to be developed at Monks Cross South. The response by Central Government to the difficulties experienced nation-wide in retailing through the Portas Report, have provided a national context against which York can set its own action plan to ameliorate the effects of economic pressures on the city centre.

Members will be aware of the current weak consumer spending and constrained business investment in the UK typical of any recession, and it is no exaggeration to say these are some of the most challenging conditions for a generation. Added to these cyclical problems for the high street are more structural effects driven by technology and changing tastes – there is the growing popularity of shopping on-line, driven by ease of use and generally lower prices. Demographic changes with an aging population, suggest that shopping habits are likely to alter while the phenomenon of globalisation suggests developed economies like the UK will have a greater reliance on service and particularly on knowledge-intensive industries.

Current Activity around the topic

Against this background for York and following the recommendations of the Portas Review, a City Team has been established that is designed to represent the full range of businesses located in the city centre – building on the former Retail Strategy Group, but now including representatives also from the Restaurant, Licensed and Hotel trade, Digital and Creative industries, Education, Transportation, Heritage, professional and banking industries together with representatives of the two current York Quarters; Minster and Micklegate.

This broad group, associated with York Economic Partnership, has a remit to develop a partnership approach to further economic prosperity in the city centre as one of several task groups reporting upon, and making recommendations to/delivering actions that support, the delivery of the York Economic Strategy. Specifically:

- Develop actions to enhance the economic well-being of the city centre – develop, monitor and review strategic goals and shared ambitions that underpin the economic development of the city centre.
- Review performance – demonstrating progress against the vision, action plan and indicators.
- Provide a focus for supporting existing businesses and encouraging new enterprises and inward investment to the centre – maintaining a prosperous and flourishing city centre economy that will sustain high employment rates.
- Exploring new ways of working and service delivery.

The strategic aims of the City Team are~:

- To have a diverse city centre economy through further investment in opportunities to develop a wider range of businesses in the city centre, and the creation of greater flexibility in start-up and small business space.
- To maintain and grow the footfall and occupancy rates within the city centre.
- To maintain and develop a critical mass of retailing in the city centre.
- To create a strong brand for the city centre as part of a wider York city brand
- To develop and strengthen the perception of the city centre as a meeting place – building our business tourism profile.
- To encourage projects and the formation of new business especially to develop the city centre's market offer – following the Portas Pilot bid and providing a broader base for enterprise development.
- To foster the creation of a world-class sense of place in the city centre – bringing forward improvements to the public realm
- To bring about greater connectivity of the city centre to peripheral areas and centres of activity and markets – both physical and digital.

- To be ranked as an international high-quality leisure and business visitor destination.
- To be a focus for high quality external investment and supportive of local business and small business development.

Pros/cons of doing a scrutiny review on this topic

A close look at retailing health in the city centre is undoubtedly a worthwhile topic since the retailing industry, particularly small business, has been under pressure for some while and this affects local people through both business security and employment. As explained in the opening paragraph, this is not an issue confined to cyclical pressures brought about by recession, but is likely to be at least in part also structural, as some consumers turn to the internet for both price and convenience to buy some of their shopping.

However, as the current activity around the topic shows, a vigorous partnership-driven response through City Team York is already underway. A robust plan is in place targeted firmly at maintaining a critical retail mass, improving investment levels, developing greater diversity and improving connectivity in the broadest sense around and across the city. Overall, with an objective to bring about a rethinking and rebranding of the city centre to create a space, while being sustainable and respecting tradition and heritage, develops a city centre more diverse, with greater flexibility in property and employment terms and with more resilience to future economic shocks and downturns.

Potential focus for any Scrutiny Review

Given the new formation of the City Team with a broadly-based membership working in partnership with the business community, Members may wish to decide to provide their involvement in this policy area through the three Members sitting on the City Team itself at this time (Cllrs. Alexander, Merrett and Crisp) and consider revisiting the topic in Scrutiny in perhaps two to three years time to examine the structures put in place measuring how well they are performing to achieve the required policy objectives set out in broad terms above.

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Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee – July 2012

Briefing Note

Proposed Scrutiny Topic: Local Enterprise Partnerships – accountability and effectiveness

Background

The concept of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) was floated during the first half of 2010 and the government ratified LEP proposals from October 2010 onwards. This included the two LEPs that the City Of York belongs to i.e the Leeds City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LCR LEP) and the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership (YNYER LEP).

A key part of the government's approach was to recognise that a LEP's boundaries and responsibilities are a matter for local partners. The government's intention was to provide room for local manoeuvre by reducing guidance and also bureaucracy. Therefore there is no single prescription on a LEPs roles, objectives, responsibilities or organisational constitution including accountability arrangements.

The Leeds City Region LEP and the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP.

Accountability. A decision was taken at an early stage that the two LEPs to which the City Of York Council belong are formal partnerships but the organisations have no legal entity. Therefore both LEPs rely on other mechanisms to formally deliver their agendas and to provide accountability

The Leeds City Region LEP runs alongside a LCR Leaders' Board. The Leaders' Board is constituted as a Joint Committee under the Local Government Act. To date the LEP Board has set the strategic direction defined through an overarching strategy for the LEP and supporting action plans. Delivery and the allocation of public sector resources has taken place via decisions on the Leaders Board. Leeds City Council hosts the LCR financial budgets, and North York the Y NY and ER

budgets, and both LEP operations are subject to the financial, audit and procurement procedures of these local authorities.

The Leader of the Council, James Alexander, represent is a member of the LCR and Y NY and ER LEP and of course the LCR Leaders' Board. There are various supporting structures associated with both LEPs and this includes Cllr. Alexander's membership of the LCR Economy and Skills Board and Cllr Dave Merrett, as Cabinet member for Planning and Sustainability is part of the LCR Transport Panel. In addition to both Cllr's Alexander and Merrett attending meetings of the Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and providing an update/ answering queries on LEP activity, regular progress reports on LEPs have been presented to the Committee. (A regular progress report is being considered by the July meeting of the Committee).

Effectiveness. We are now moving towards two years of LEP activity and both LEPs have set out their priorities in strategies and described their successes in annual reports. The weakness in their reporting information is the lack of local authority based information. As part of our dialogue with the LEPs we are seeking to secure a local breakdown of performance and therefore a more precise assessment of the impact of the LEP on the York economy.

Comments.

The LEPs are becoming increasingly significant as additional resources are allocated which included the Growing Place Fund programme, and as LEPs have a role in other regeneration mechanisms including the Regional Growth Fund. It would be sensible to review progress with LEPs at some stage. There are issues surrounding York's twin membership, and whether this provides two opportunities or dilutes our influence in both LEPs. Should the Committee wish to consider the role of LEPS in greater deal it might be appropriate to do this in, say, 12/ 18 months from now. This would allow the LEPs time to put in place York specific data, and also allow the LCR to work through the implementation mechanisms for the LCR Deal (see accompanying progress report on LEPs). It is very probably that a current review of LEP operations, and their effectiveness from a York perspective, would

conclude that LEPs require more time before an objective evaluation could take place of their value. This would also allow time for the outcomes of an All Party Parliamentary Group on Local growth, LEPs and Enterprise Zones, which is due to be report by September 2012, to also be considered.

Steve Dann

28 June 2012

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Women working in York
Impact with lack of childcare or independent care
Potential Scrutiny Topic – July 2012

Julia Massey, Partnership Manager, Learning City York,

1. Some Background Statistics

Total Working Age population (16-64) in York 2010 = 138,400

Women account for 50.5% = 69,900

Women that are economically active = 75.5%

Unemployed & claiming benefits = 5.1%

Total lone parents in York = 3,431 of which 91% are female (3119)

Lone parents working = 1933 (56%); 60:40 full-time/part-time;

2. Childcare Sufficiency in York

Key Council staff, within the ACE Directorate, are:

- Barbara Mands, Head of Childcare Strategy and Business Management Service
- Niall McVicar, Family Information Service Manager

The Childcare Act (2006) places a legal duty on local authorities to ensure “as far as is reasonably practicable” that there is sufficient registered childcare so families can work or train; this is an essential part of any successful local economy and a key factor in reducing child poverty.

A full Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) is carried out once every three years, involving consultation with families, employers, childcare providers and partner agencies to understand childcare demand and reviewed alongside key demographic data.

The CSA is refreshed annually with information about developments in the childcare market e.g.: the impact of provision that has opened or closed, changes to support with childcare costs, new legislation etc.

Overall the childcare market in York largely matches the needs of families and a summary of the latest childcare sufficiency assessment can be found by visiting www.yor-ok.org.uk/childcaresufficiency.

A Childcare Sufficiency Group regularly meets to review information from the CSA and to discuss how gaps can be addressed. This group includes representation from the National Day Nursery Association, Pre-School Learning Alliance, National Childminding Association and York CVS.

New initiatives in York, in recent years, include:

- The Disabled Children's Access to Childcare (DCATCH) project - to improve access to childcare for disabled children.
- National pathfinder for the introduction of a 2 year old free entitlement for vulnerable or economically disadvantaged families. This work will continue to develop in line with the government making more money available to support a greater number of families.
- York Family Information Service (FIS) provides free and impartial information to thousands of families looking for childcare each year. FIS was amongst the first in the country to introduce a childcare brokerage service for families who may struggle to find childcare e.g.:
 - Short notice/emergency childcare (starting work in a few days)
 - Complex childcare needs (disability, social services involvement, unusual hours/days etc)
 - Pressure on places making finding childcare difficult
- Where childcare providers face short term sustainability pressures the Council works with partners to offer a package of support which may include short term funding. The aim is to ensure childcare providers that are needed by the local community can overcome short term challenges to remain open and not create gaps.
- York is redesigning the process for recruiting new childminders and providing support to existing provision. For a number of years York mirrored the national trend of falling childminder places. Early indications show that the changes are having a positive impact.

2.1 Potential Focus for Scrutiny Review re: Childcare

- Sustaining flexible and affordable childcare for parents who wish to improve their own employability (particularly lone parents) and who are accessing Family Learning & employability programmes.
- Supporting childcare providers through the challenging economic climate. Many are struggling to remain financially viable, particularly playgroups who have made some fairly significant financial losses

this year. The LA service provides business support to providers and has a Service Level Agreement with York Community Accounting Service to give more in depth support.

- Ensuring the city has enough good quality childcare places across all wards, particularly in areas of disadvantage, ready for the new statutory offer for an early education place from September 2013. Eligible two year olds will be able to take up 15 hours each week with a 'good' or 'outstanding' provider. There is a lack of places in Westfield and not enough 'good' settings to offer in the South East of the City. Solutions to overcome these barriers are being developed.

3. Facts about Carers

Detailed statistics for York are not available. A scrutiny committee could add value to better understand the needs and economic impact for York. Frances Perry, Carers Strategy Manager, City of York Council has provided the following summary to provide a national perspective.

- Rise in ageing population, more pressure on carers to care, people required to work longer and retire later in life
- 58% of carers in the UK are women (3.4mn at the 2001 Census)
- Women have a 50:50 chance of providing care by the time they are 59; compared with men who have the same chance by age 75.
- More than one in five people aged 50-59 (1.5 million across the UK) are providing some unpaid care. One in four women in this age group is providing some care compared with 18% of men.
- 1 in 7 UK employees in any workplace is juggling paid work and care
- 1 in 6 carers give up or reduce working hours to care; women are more likely to give up work in order to care
- Carers UK survey 2011 found that 31% of working age carers gave up work to care or reduced hours due to difficulty in securing, receiving or funding suitable support services for cared for person.
- Increasing 'costs' to individuals, businesses & the economy

3.1 Potential Focus for Scrutiny Review re: Independent Care

The above information highlights that CYC could do more as an employer of carers. We have a 'Carer Friendly Chartermark' which we

could choose to lead in the City in terms of good practice. It is proven that it makes economic sense.

However, Members should be mindful of the fact that the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee completed their Carer's Scrutiny Review in March 2011 and duplication would need to be avoided. The focus for the already completed scrutiny review was *'to promote the valuable work done by carers and to improve the way City of York council and its key partners identify carers and ensure they have access to information and the support available.'*

If Members do choose to progress this topic to review later in the year then a clear focus around carers and employment would need to be set.

Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee**24th July 2012****Potential Scrutiny Topic – Reinstating the York to Beverley Rail Link**

1. Since the closure of the York to Beverley railway line on 27 November 1965, there has been a campaign (The Minsters' Rail Campaign) to reinstate the line. Although much of the former trackbed of the line remains, some key parts of the route have been built over.
2. In December 2004 the 'Hull to Beverley to York Rail Corridor Study' undertaken by consultant Carl Bro for East Riding of Yorkshire Council, estimated the scheme cost at £239 million, with a benefit to cost ratio (BCR) of between 1.26 and 2.06. The latter BCR value is the value more likely to be achieved if the line is run as a Community Rail project, due to reduced running costs. The service will also require ongoing financial support.
3. The Department for Transport's 'The Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Planning Assessment for the railway', published in June 2007 stated that *'There are a number of proposals by third parties within Yorkshire and the Humber for new rail alignments and new stations to increase access to the rail network. These proposals will need to be more fully worked up, including demonstrating how they meet regional objectives, affordability, deliverability and value for money for the taxpayer, before government support for implementation is considered. Consideration also needs to be given as to whether the transport objectives can be met through other non-rail modes.'* The York-Beverley line was not explicitly mentioned in this document.
4. The Yorkshire and Humber Route Utilisation Strategy, published by Network Rail, in July 2009, did not include any reference to the reinstatement of the York-Beverley line.
5. East Riding had looked to safeguard land but is reconsidering this.
6. Due to the highly unlikely chances of getting funding for this and the need to focus efforts on gaining major transport scheme funding for the outer ring road and city centre this would not be productive.

7. a) Funding, as above very unlikely, this is a very long term proposal
- b) Safeguarding the route – doesn't require a scrutiny.

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Economic & City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Briefing Note – Potential Scrutiny Topic on Post Development Adoption Procedure – July 2012

Background

There is a recent history of members including scrutiny requesting information on the highway adoption process and I have copied some of the relevant links below for ease of reference. A report was taken to Scrutiny on 14th July 2009, 12th August 2009 and 29th September 2009. An update on the issues was considered by the Executive Member on 6th April 2010. It was subsequently considered by Scrutiny on 13th July 2010. This report perhaps gives the best overview of what has happened so far. The comments given at the time by City Development were provided in Annex C.

<http://modgov.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=668&MID=4719#AI20995>

(Link to Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee Tuesday, 13th July, 2010 5.30 pm)

<http://modgov.york.gov.uk/documents/s41258/Report%20-%20Adoption%20of%20New%20Estates.pdf>

(Link to the report that went to the Scrutiny on 13th July)

<http://modgov.york.gov.uk/documents/s41262/Annex%20C%20-%20Comments%20from%20Highways%20Section.pdf>

(Link to the comments from City Development and Transport Group that were submitted as part of the report)

Current Position

There are a number of developments which are currently ready for adoption:

The Brecks, Strensall
Olympian Court, Lawrence Street
Farriers Chase, Strensall Road
Carr Lane, Acomb (former Bowling Green)
Danebury Drive
Peter Hill Drive.

It is anticipated that the formal adoption of these will be concluded before moving to the new HQ at West Offices. There has been a recent stalling of progress in the finalisation as a result of the officer handling procedures leaving the authority; temporary support from another team is assisting with this and permanent recruitment into the post is underway.

Shortly followed by:

Clifton Hospital (Persimmon, five phases)

Jockey Lane (Persimmon)

Water Lane (Home Housing/Persimmon/Barratt)

Manor Lane, including Rawcliffe Grange (Barratt/Persimmon)

The Mile (Backfield Lane)

Bismarck Street (JRHT)

Holgate park (JRHT)

Limetree Avenue (JRHT)

In addition we have 15 developments/schemes that are currently going through the adoption process, from initial design through to construction, examples including Germany Beck, Minster Piazza, Derwenthorpe, former York College, Lilbourne Drive.

Pros/Cons of undertaking a review

The framework and the legal process governing the adoption of development are well established and are covered in detail within the above reports. The level of resources dedicated is equivalent to 2.5 FTE's, comprising an Adoptions Engineer, an Inspector and 0.5 Technician. As can be seen the volume of sites, which also includes non residential schemes e.g. York University and S278 agreements covering development works within the highway, is quite considerable.

- The legal process is set out within the Highways Act 1980 and all developments seeking adoption, have a legal agreement covering the works.
- Prior to formal adoption taking place, the roads, footways, verges are the responsibility of the developer.
- Conditions within the agreements are able to ensure that the construction of the prospective highway is to an acceptable standard (as prescribed through the Council's Design Guide and Specification) and that for example the surfacing is suitable and safe. Also including highway drainage and street lighting.
- As per the previous enquiries and as presented by officers it is difficult to envisage what benefits could be achieved through undertaking a review.

- Because the finite staffing resources need to be dedicated to delivery of the service, any requirement to review procedures would be to the direct detriment of the 'day job', unless specialist/temporary resource was procured.
- A case is being drafted to assess the potential to procure additional resources to the service area; this is at an early stage and will be subject to consideration by CMT/DMT/Members and is also subject securing supporting funding.

Review Scope

In the event of a review being considered beneficial, it is recommended that it should seek to bench mark the service against other Local Authorities, looking particularly at level of resources and procedures.

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