

Quarterly narrative report

Progress recorded through commentary and RAG (red/amber/green) rating



Description	2015/16 - Q3 Oct to Dec Q3 Progress to date/latest activity		Q3 RAG rating
Business Support, Information And Signposting			
<p>Front door for signposting: To be the 'single front door' in York for businesses and start-ups seeking a range of support, including a 'front door' for businesses accessing Council services, with high quality response, signposting and support.</p>	<p>We continue to work with a wide range of local, regional and national partners to spread the message about our services and support. We continue to see growing recognition of our services amongst businesses.</p>		A
<p>Raise awareness: To make York businesses and start-ups aware of the export provision / grants and finance / property in York / events / business support available to them, including provision through relevant regional bodies, such as the Local Enterprise Partnerships and Combined Authorities.</p>	<p>An updated Business Support Services Brochure has been produced and is being widely circulated. Staff continue to attend regular networking events and hold regular meetings with intermediaries. All events and support offers are being communicated on the website and through social media and via press release where relevant.</p>		A
<p>Property database: To provide an online searchable property database of business accommodation in York or equivalent.</p>	<p>Property database now functioning correctly, with a few minor issues to iron out. The two systems, Egi and Evolutive work together well for us and we can use each one appropriately according to the enquiry. Now need to drive traffic to search facility once again.</p>		A
<p>Student startups: To work with Higher York, and other partners, to ensure students looking to start a business are able to harness the offer.</p>	<p>The Universities are continuing to develop the project. We are awaiting further feedback from the outcomes of branding and research exercise.</p>		A
Key Account Management For Particular Businesses			
<p>Strategic key accounts: To define, develop and hold key account relationships with at least 100 companies from a spread of: medium-sized high value businesses; foreign owned companies; high-growth companies; and those within priority sectors. To deliver this in a coordinated way with the Council and other providers.</p>	<p>The list of companies have been identified and assigned to individuals. We have started to meet with the companies to introduce Make It York and see how we may be able to support them.</p>		A
<p>Support on large businesses: To support the Council in relevant key account follow up activity for large businesses in the city.</p>	<p>Continuing to support large company Key Accounts as needed.</p>		A

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Sector Development			
<p>High value sector networks - To ensure there are supportive private-sector led networks and profile for priority sectors (as decided by York Economic Partnership via York's Economy & Place Strategy; but including high value science & technology, visitor & retail, and creative & cultural industries) with supportive activities and events.</p> <p>Named contact - To provide a named individual as a key contact for businesses from priority sectors.</p> <p>Director's Forums - To deliver Directors' Forums for high value 'Science City' sectors.</p> <p>Advisory boards - To maintain appropriate advisory boards or groups for key sector groupings and brands (e.g. Science City, Visit York).</p>	<p>We have now been awarded the opportunity to deliver Venturefest Yorkshire 2016 as well as BioSynergy 2016 which will support over 1300 delegates interested in Bioscience, innovation and entrepreneurialism. We have appointed a full time role to manage the two conferences. Both ESIF bids have made it through to the 2nd stage of application with the one in partnership with FERA Science Ltd submitted. We will know the final outcome in March 2016. The one in partnership with Uni of York will be submitted in March next year.</p> <p>We are also supporting the establishment of 'Film York'; a peer to peer support network for emerging film makers in the city. Their platform went live during the UNESCO anniversary event and the network is gearing up for 2016.</p> <p>Sector development activities are being led by Heather Niven (Creative, Digital, IT and Bioscience), Charles Storr (Financial and Professional Services, Rail, High Value Manufacturing) and Kate McMullen (Retail, Leisure, Tourism).</p> <p>Heather is also focussing on high value entrepreneurs, innovators and investors through the Venturefest activities.</p> <p>Continuing to support the three Science City York networks through quarterly Director Forum events. We ran both a Creative and Bioscience forum in October with IT & Digital scheduled for January.</p> <p>The first Visitor Economy Steering Group met on 10 Nov 2015. Next meeting to be held in Feb 2016. Additional members of the group to be recruited to ensure full representation of business types. SCY Advisory Board met on 3rd November. The next meeting is scheduled for 27 January 2016.</p>	<p>●</p> <p>●</p> <p>●</p> <p>●</p>	<p>G</p> <p>G</p> <p>G</p> <p>G</p>
Inward Investment			
<p>Proactive & reactive inward investment - To seek proactively to attract new businesses to the city, including providing a clear and effective process for responding to inward investment enquiries in the city, including from intermediaries, with high quality response and support.</p> <p>Toolkit - To update and refresh the York inward investment 'story' and develop a 'toolkit' of resources to promote locating in the city</p> <p>Anchor tenants - To seek proactively anchor tenants for key employment sites such as York Central and Heslington East.</p> <p>Embed new businesses - To welcome and help new businesses to embed within the city.</p>	<p>Revised enquiry handling process is working well, with more detailed discussion with LEP helping to ensure we see all relevant enquiries, rather than just those selected for us. Meetings have begun with commercial property agents to outline MIY offer, share enquiries and work collaboratively. A targeted retail proposition is being prepared for execution in March.</p> <p>Following a small delay, the literature is nearing completion and will be printed in late Jan/early Feb. The soft landing offer to potential inward investors has been drawn up and we are firming up intermediary offers from businesses and partners. Appointments with key agents are being set for February and March.</p> <p>We attended MIPIM UK, alongside LCR colleagues to promote key sites including YC, Southern Gateway and Heslington East. Following this, we have hosted 1 investor visit linked to YC with a further 2 in the pipeline.</p> <p>Business support services brochure has been printed and is available electronically.</p>	<p>●</p> <p>●</p> <p>●</p> <p>●</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A</p> <p>A</p> <p>A</p>

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Visitor Economy Product Development		
To work with the visitor economy sector and city centre businesses to ensure a quality 'product' is offered to visitors and residents, and that it is accessible and welcoming to all.	<p>Delivered the 2015 Illuminating York events and St Nicholas Christmas Festival including Christmas Markets and Food/drink outlet, Ice Trail and Choirs weekend.</p> <p>Planning in place for a new Easter family event incorporating the Chocolate Festival.</p> <p>Early planning for IY and Christmas 2016 underway.</p> <p>Working with key tourism businesses to coordinate marketing and messages of 2016 product, including Mystery Plays and Flying Scotsman.</p> <p>The annual Tourism Conference for Visit York members will take place on 20 January 2016.</p>	● G
Business Tourism		
To attract new business tourism to the city, with a particular focus on priority sectors; including providing a clear and effective process for responding to enquiries with high quality response and support.	<p>Quarter 3 has been the strongest to date with a confirmed revenue of £100,914.10 of conference and events business to the city.</p> <p>Activity in quarter 3 has included Square Meal Venue and Events show attracting 200 new leads for potential events to York.</p> <p>Work has begun to bid for sector specific international events with York St John University.</p>	● G
Visitor And Cultural Information		
To ensure there are clear and effective ways for visitors and residents to find out about the city, including face-to-face and through digital media, with high quality information and support.	<p>Launch of new mobile version of www.visitork.org to improve functionality and usage.</p> <p>There is a need for MIY to look at all websites/social media channels, including Shambles Market, to coordinate on line information.</p> <p>Visit York Information Centre to review options for on street/pop up locations throughout 2016.</p> <p>The 2016 Destination Guide was completed and went to print in December, ready for distribution in January 2016. At 86 pages long and with a print run of 100k it is the biggest guide yet.</p>	● A
Resident Benefits From The Tourism and Cultural Offer		
Residents - To encourage, communicate with and provide all residents with the opportunity to enjoy the tourism and cultural offer of the city	<p>7 Days newsletter distributed directly to 8,200 residents with a further reach of approx. 80,000 via onward distribution by key employers, University of York, social media followers etc.</p> <p>Plans for 2016 Residents' Festival (30-31 Jan) now advanced with 80 free attractions and events offered to York Residents and Students.</p>	● G
Students - To work with Higher York, and other partners to ensure activities and information are beneficial for students	<p>All students at University of York receiving a link to the 7 Days newsletter. Early discussions and in principle agreement to incorporate content into the YSJ Students Union website.</p> <p>Students from York College, U of Y and YSJ to be encouraged to take part in the Residents' Festival using their student ID.</p> <p>Pilot Enhance programme completed with 20 new Young Chinese Ambassadors graduating from the programme.</p>	● A

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Cultural Development		
<p>Sector development - To take a lead in ensuring cultural and creative sectors are working collaboratively to improve cultural provision in the city, including shaping the cultural strategy for the city detailing priorities for collaborative action by the sector</p>	Regular York@Large meetings attended by Make It York. Close working relationship with Chair of York@Large including sharing of useful leads/contacts and shared meeting with local projects and initiatives.	● A
<p>Support commerciality - To support increased commercial competitiveness, productivity and innovation in the sector to enable sustainable organisational and financial models</p>	The new commercial sponsorship of Illuminating York and the York Ice Trail worked well with positive feedback from retailers and business sponsors around the positive impact of being involved in local cultural product. York Ice Trail achieved almost £30,000 in sponsorship, Illuminating York £22,000 and £100,000 was raised to support the destination guide. We are seeking commercial support for Easter activity.	● A
<p>New initiatives - To nurture new cultural ideas and initiatives</p>	Make It York are developing plans to launch a York Hive - online crowd funding platform as part of a national model. This will allow local groups, businesses and individuals to raise awareness and cash for innovative projects in the public realm.	● A
<p>Measure performance - To develop an outcomes framework and a baseline measurement to enable future monitoring of performance around cultural development</p>	All data for cultural engagement now collected and presented to York@Large, infographic design of baseline document is due to start.	● A
<p>Awards - To enable York cultural excellence to be recognised and promoted across the city through an annual awards event.</p>	Invitations have now been sent out to 50 key people within the Cultural Sector to attend the York Culture Awards launch event on 14 January. We have now secured main sponsorship from Benenden for the event and additional award sponsorship from Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Rushbond, among others. Further award sponsorship deals are pending. The York Culture Awards website is currently under development and we have also commissioned a film producer and an animator to create promotional films. Entries for the awards will open on 14 January and will remain open until 30 September 2016.	● A
City Centre Management And Improvement		
<p>Cross-sector working + investment - To facilitate cross-sector work to improve the city centre as a destination for business, visitors and residents. This should include leading on approaches to maximise private-sector led investment (e.g. a business improvement district or other).</p>	Planning partnership opportunities with the imminent BID.	● G
<p>Manage city centre space - To manage the City Centre space, and develop the city centre as a safe, dynamic and active place to be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.</p>	Hugely successful St Nicholas Festival incorporating Thor's Tipi and new elements across a trail of the city centre, drawing praise from visitors, residents and traders, incorporating very positive city wide publicity on BBC Breakfast television.	● G

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Market Management			
Manage the market - To manage the Shambles Market to create a vibrant hub and programme that is an attraction in its own right, and to increase the revenue generated by this activity.	Successful trial of an evening market on Fridays before Christmas with traders reporting record sales and very positive responses from visitors and residents, an opportunity for the lighter nights. Working to bring more vibrancy to the Shambles space and continuing to work with CYC to complete the refurbishment programme.		A
In line with Charter - To deliver a service which is in keeping with the objectives and values of the Market Charter and Market Regulations. To take responsibility for the Market Charter and other regulations relevant to the Market.	Working within the Charter and in partnership with the Coppergate Centre to deliver an extension to the St Nicholas Christmas market into other areas of the city.		G
Promotion - To promote the market to key customer groups	Shambles Market promotion delivered largely through pre-agreed contract with an external marketing agency, supported by the MIY team. Marketing mainly through social media channels including opportunities for social media master classes for traders and building content on Shamblesmarket.com. Monthly Farmers Market continues to have specific marketing activity and additional promotion around the Christmas Festival. Signage package has still not been delivered, hampering opportunities to point footfall towards Market.		A
Events Programming Of The City Centre			
Festivals & events - To support and develop high quality city centre festivals, activities and events, currently to include a festival of food and drink, Illuminating York, winter festival and Viking festival.	Illuminating York took place from 28-31st Oct 2015 and was delivered within budget. A new commercial sponsor was secured and 8,098 people attended the ticketed installation in Museum Gardens. Overall footfall was calculated at 54,671. The improved 'St Nicholas Christmas Festival' was delivered successfully with a new grotto (attended by over 2,000 children), a new Food and Drink offer and 100 wooden chalets. The York Ice Trail comprised 30 sculptures and was well attended.		G
New initiatives - To support and develop new events and initiatives, that deliver ambitious, high quality artistic or cultural programmes, attracting significant audiences, whilst employing a robust approach to ensuring sustainability, health and safety standards and working effectively with a range of partners and funders.	The new Roman Festival continues to develop and Make It York offers ongoing support to Vespertine (a new programme of free cultural events in the early evening). Make It York are currently looking at sourcing investment in Easter activity, aimed at both resident families and visitors.		A
Engagement in wider events - To engage businesses and visitors in mass participation sporting events already happening or planned in the city.	Support is ongoing for The Yorkshire Marathon/ CTC Rally/ York 10k and Race for Life/Skyride and Festival of Cycling. There are a range of smaller 10k races throughout the year booked in.		A

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Place Marketing		
<p>Marketing - To facilitate and promote a coherent image / brand for the city nationally and internationally, including relevant promotional materials across the remits.</p> <p>Brand - To manage Visit York and Science City brands liaising with partners as necessary.</p> <p>Collaboration - To work collaboratively, where mutually beneficial, with York's Universities and Colleges on the marketing of the city; acknowledging the significant resource institutions already have dedicated to attracting students and international markets.</p>	<p>Need for product development continues. Working with AVANTE groups to address anti-social behaviour. Extensive North of England marketing campaign to launch in US/China/Australia/ Germany/Netherlands in January 2016 with York as a key destination. New 2016 York Visitor Guide refreshes and develops York's cultural, family, high quality messages.</p> <p>Visit York brand remains as the lead brand for visitors and tourism businesses. Science City Brand to remain the same as it was before joining Make It York. It is recognised and fits well within the look and feel of the overall MIY portfolio of brands. This has been agreed with the advisory board.</p> <p>Conversations continue with both Universities and some very constructive initial conversations with Askham Bryan College.</p>	<p>● A</p> <p>● G</p> <p>● A</p>
Inbound VIP Visits Relevant To Business Growth, Tourism and Culture		
<p>To respond to and coordinate inbound VIP visits to the city for remits relevant to business growth, tourism and culture.</p>	<p>In November 23 Chinese tour operators had a whistle stop tour of York as part of a wider Northern Tourism Growth Fund visit, spending 6 days in the North looking to expand their programmes on the back of the news there will be a new direct flight from Beijing to Manchester in June 2016. 8 Dutch tour operators spent 1 day in York in December. 15 tour operators from UK based companies visited York for an overnight and full day familiarisation visit in December. We have organised 9 international media visits which took place in quarter 3 and have one US media visit already booked in for quarter 4. We attended the Meet the US Media event in New York in November and will be hosting visits from this in the future.</p>	<p>● G</p>
Capitalise Upon The Opportunity Of UNESCO Designation		
<p>Deliver action plan - To coordinate and facilitate activity to maximise the benefit of York's UNESCO City of Media Arts designation for the city's economic growth, and for residents; specifically taking a lead on delivering the UNESCO Media Arts action plan.</p> <p>Make self-sustainable - To attract funding to continue delivering this work into 2016/17 and beyond.</p>	<p>Anniversary event on the 1st December to announce 3 major strands of activity: - a new Guild of Media Arts, - a new Media Arts Award for schools, - the development of a new international media arts festival.</p> <p>Work continues to attract both public sector (eg Arts Council) and private sector funding.</p>	<p>● A</p> <p>● A</p>

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Additional Responsibilities			
Conversations between sectors around business growth, tourism and culture	Work is ongoing in all areas		 A
Providing advice on business growth, tourism and culture			
Representing the city at a regional level within its remit			
Research and business intelligence to fulfil objectives			
Synergies across functions and customer groups			
Working in partnership			
Working collaboratively on relevant remits			
Working with both local enterprise partnerships			
Transparent plans and reporting			
Acting ethically and responsibly			