

York Central Community Forum

Date: **Monday 26 June 2017**
 Time: **17.00 – 19.00**
 Place: **Duchess of Hamilton Suite, National Railway Museum**

In attendance

NAME	ORGANISATION
INDEPENDENT CHAIR	
The Very Revd Vivienne Faulk	Dean of York Minster
HOLGATE (2 Cllrs +9)	
Cllr Crisp	Holgate Ward Councillor
Cllr Derbyshire	Holgate Ward Councillor
Chris Barrett	Friends of Holgate Community Garden (substitute for Paul Scott)
David Finch	Friends of Leeman Park
Andy Richardson	Wilton Rise
Peter Fisher	St Pauls Square Assn
Laura Ouhart	Friends of West Bank Park
Steve Roberts	Poppy Road Poppy Project
Rob Askew	St Barnabas Church
MICKLEGATE (2 Cllrs +4)	
Cllr Crawshaw	Micklegate Ward Councillor
Cllr Kramm	Micklegate Ward Councillor
Marc Allinson	Micklegate Business Initiative
Rob Bennett	South Bank Multi Academy Trust
Hussein Syed	Chair Micklegate Neighbourhood Plan Forum
WIDER CITY/ OTHER (10-15)	
Graham Collett	York Environment Forum (substitute for Phil Bixby)
Bob Towner	York Older People's Assembly
Alison Sinclair	Conservation Area Advisory Panel
Dr Jane Grenville	Civic Trust (substitute for Andrew Scott)
Ian Williams	Chamber of Commerce/ York Property Forum
Andrew Lawson	York Business Improvement District
Katherine Blaker	York Central Action
Steve Maxwell	Leeman Road Millennium Green Trust
CYC/ PARTNERS (8-10)	
Paul Kirkman	National Railway Museum
Mike Stancliffe	Network Rail
Catherine Birks	CYC Commercial Projects
Tracey Carter	CYC Assistant Director Regeneration and Asset Management
Katherine Atkinson	CYC Commercial Projects
Specialist advisors depending on agenda	Nicole Harrison, Arup Phil White, Arup Tim Downs, Aberfield Leigh Tasker, Substance

Apologies

Peter Emsley	St Peters Quarter
Nick Bosanquet	Former Kings Cross Camden Cllr, Professor of health & wellbeing
Nigel King	York Railway Institute
Andrew McBeath	Commercial Property
Chris Bailey	Chair york@large, Arts & Culture
Nigel King	York Railway Institute Chairman
Tamsin Hart	Homes and Communities Agency
Neil Ferris	CYC Corporate Director, Economy and Place

NOTE OF MEETING

1. Opening business

1.1 Welcome & apologies

Vivienne Faull welcomed the group, new members and substitutes.

A number of apologies were received due to holiday and a clash with York Design Awards.

1.2 Notes of last meeting 07/02/17

The notes of the last meeting were agreed as correct.

1.3 Matters arising

Privacy consent forms had been completed by all members. A full contact list has been circulated to forum members, and names only have been placed on CYC website to enable members to fulfil their representative role.

Action: Send privacy consent forms to new members listed below.

1.4 Site visit

Network Rail were thanked for hosting the walk around the site on 15/05/17.

1.5 Membership Update

New members had been invited via the Chair to join the forum:

- Katherine Blaker for York Central Action
- Steve Maxwell for Leeman Road Millennium Green Trust

Cllr Jonny Crawshaw is the nominated rep to replace Cllr Gunnell for Micklegate Ward.

James Pitt, Chair of York Central Action is liaising with the pastoral team at St Pauls Church as to whether they wish to nominate a youth representative to join the forum.

York Archaeological Forum is represented via Conservation Area Advisory Panel, but does not have a direct seat on the community forum. It was noted that archaeology should be considered holistically within the masterplan, and

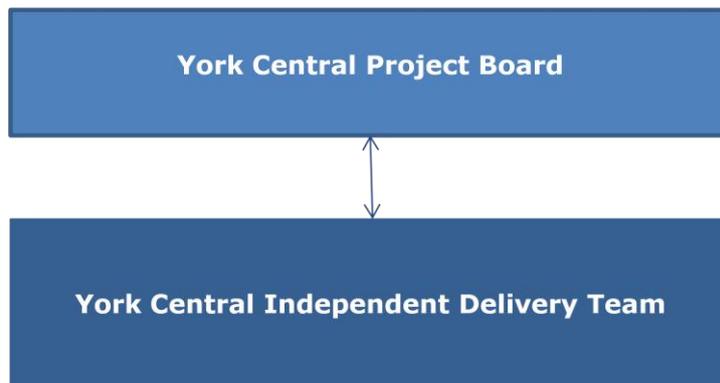
that the city archaeologist should be involved in the early process, not just as a statutory consultee.

2. Progress Update

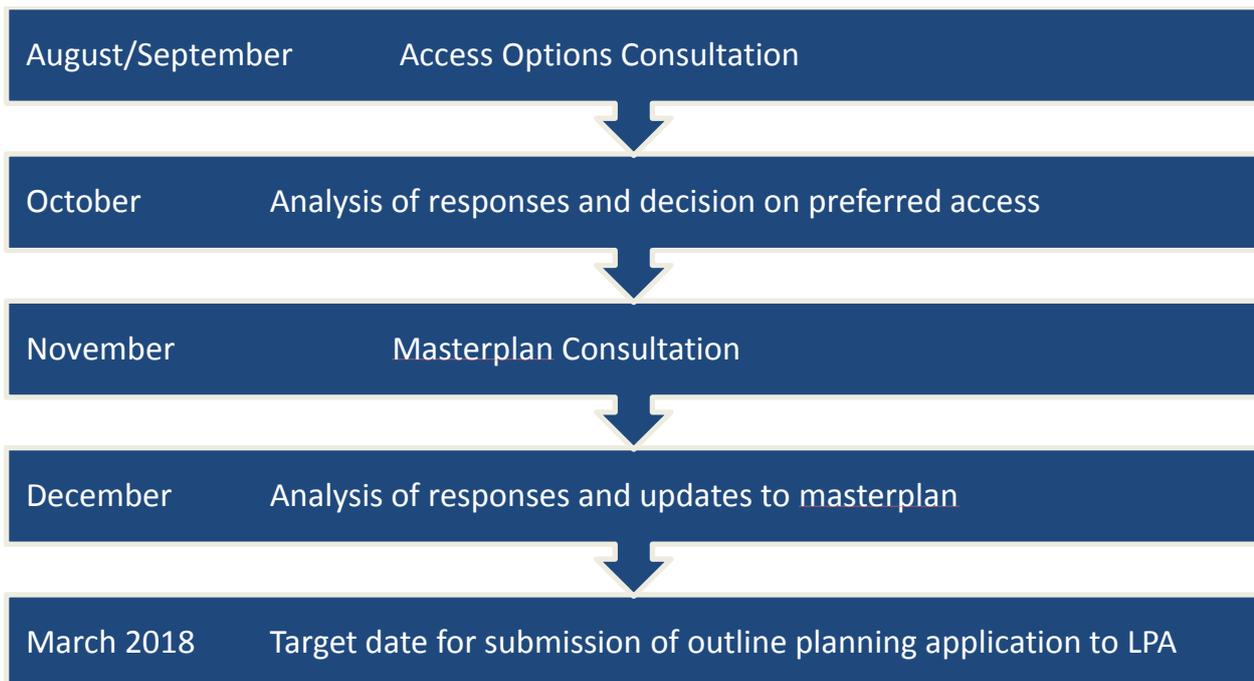
2.1 Catherine Birks, York Central Partnership (YCP)

Platform to enable more certainty & informed discussions

- Partnership
- Funding availability for project team and critical infrastructure
- Independent Delivery Team
- Masterplan iteration
- Access options
- Preparing for consultation



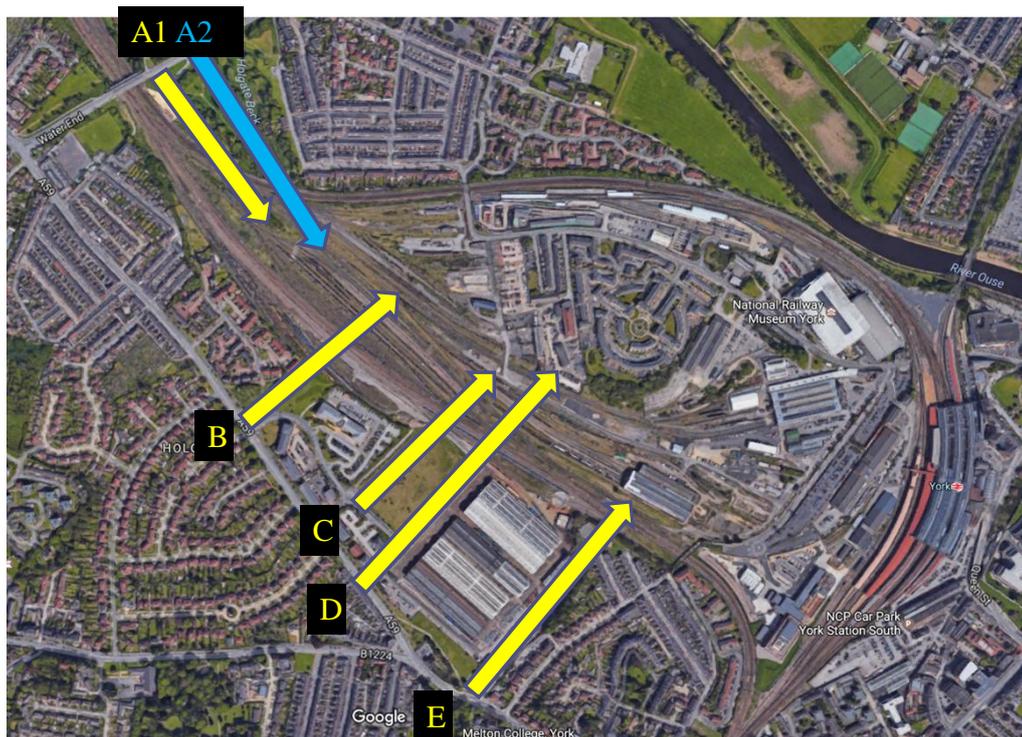
Consultation Programme



2.2 York Central Access Options Update, Nicole Harrison, Arup

- Need for a new access route into the site to deliver York Central
- Fresh look at all potential access options
- Two stage process:
 - o Constructability of all options to shortlist achievable options
 - o Then a full review of those shortlisted options, including public consultation on these options
- Decision to be made after public consultation
- Today: show you the shortlisted options and seek your views on how to consult with the public on this issue

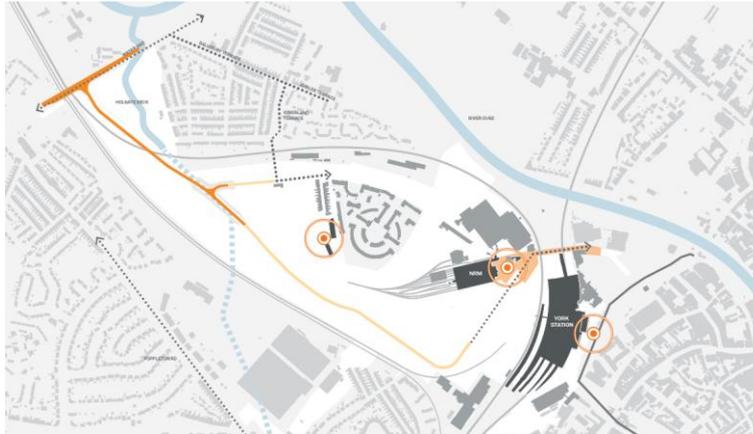
Options Considered



ARUP

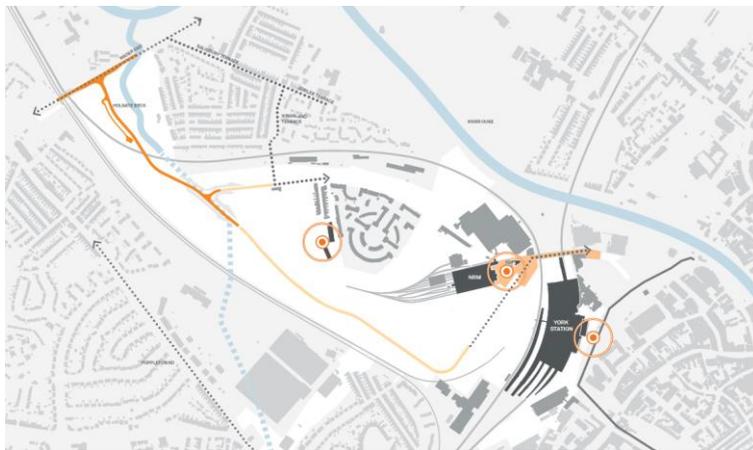
Recommended shortlisted options

Access Option A1



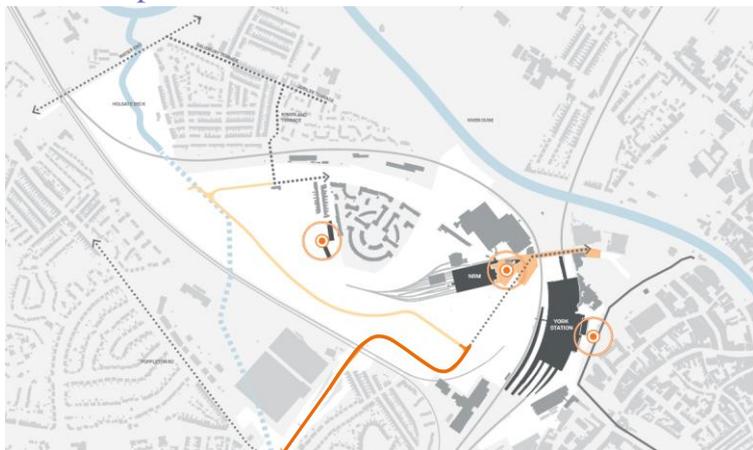
ARUP

Access Option A2



ARUP

Access Option E



ARUP

Next:

- Review of recommended shortlisted options in terms of:
 - Cost.
 - Construction timescale.
 - Environmental impacts (including on noise, air quality, transport, townscape, heritage, ecology, flood risk, community and place making).
- Public consultation on recommended shortlisted options.
- Decision on preferred access option.

2.3 Discussion:

The following views and concerns were put forward by representatives. The York Central Partnership (YCP) response is shown in italics.

- We can build the Humber Bridge, but not options BCD? Are BCD difficult or impossible?
 - *There isn't enough land (off site) to create the right gradient/ length of bridge required to get the railway clearance in time*
 - *BCD have issues of operational railway land, and would inhibit the use and expansion of Holgate Engineering works. Department for Transport may require use of land in York Yard South for train stabling and such use would commence in 2023. The lack of certainty re such use affects the availability of land for any bridge.*
- Is tunnelling ruled out?
 - *In flood risk zone 2, with a high water table*
 - *Same issues of available land to achieve gradient to get under rail as to get over it*
 - *Experience of arrival to new part of city would be diminished*
- Where are the emergency exits if the new route is compromised?
 - *There are existing access routes that could be use in an emergency. The existing roads could not deliver the full quantum of development without a new route.*
- Need a benchmark for costs of construction. Is one option 2 times or 100 time more expensive? Need to understand the reasons.
 - *A report to CYC Executive on 13 July will set out the rationale, including how timescales regarding land availability for the bridge infrastructure affects when the scheme can be delivered, linked to when funding is available.*
 - *BCD are under contract until 2023, and then there is still no guarantee of availability*
 - *Delay in Enterprise Zone income will affect the funding business case*
- Why consult before knowing what land is available on site?
 - *The land in question is part of a much larger scheme and masterplan*

- *Access options A and E are valid without York Yard South and don't affect the use and development of Holgate Engineering Works.*
- A cynic would say that access E is seen as the best option. CYC has already exchanged land to make this possible, but is only consulting now.
 - *Arup have been charged to look at access options now for YCP, from a planning, not just an engineering perspective. No decision has been made. We now need to consult on the options that could potentially work, rather than those which cannot be delivered within the timeframe.*
- The forum should think positive - we asked for a review, and change has come out of the review, which is a valuable and interesting step. We all need to wait for outcome of this work. It is not possible to know all matters without the masterplan process. Let's get to end of study and then see what we are dealing with, and what obstacles we have to consider.
- Could the rail contract be reviewed?
 - *Land is required for rail use by Department for Transport (DfT) for a use that would commence in 2023. Network Rail strategic planners are trying to foresee needs in 20 years time, and predicting 2043 timetables. The Office of Rail & Road (ORR) could refuse land to be released if there is uncertainty over future needs, as it seeks to protect land for reasonably foreseeable rail use. Therefore there is a real lack of certainty with options BCD.*
- Could DfT negotiate with VTEC franchise to take land by agreement?
 - *It is a long and uncertain process. Rail contracts are not straight forward. The system governs the land and everyone has to be consulted on changes. Statutory declassification of the land will probably be after 2021.*
- The consultation needs to be coherent and show that all alternatives have been looked at. It needs to clearly explain why you can/ cannot make options work; technical/ engineering/ legal/ timescale/ cost. Explain the complexities and provide supporting evidence for transparency.
- Communities are suspicious regarding the consultation.
 - *YCP need to be sure that the shortlisted options are deliverable. Then work out cost and explore funding avenues to be confident that they are genuinely financially deliverable. A1/2 are more expensive, and YCP need to explore whether they can be funded.*
 - *The consultation will need to frame what we know, and what we want feedback on. The first consultation will focus on access, it will not be looking at the wider scheme, archaeology etc.*
 - *YCP know access is contentious and aim to reduce anxiety and build trust through this work.*
 - *Arup will finish their review over the next two months, then report to YCP prior to consultation*

- Is there lots of information that you already know, but are not saying?
 - o *A relative cost comparison to enable people to compare and contrast the options is possible for the consultation in Aug/Sept, but the actual figures are commercially sensitive. YCP will have high level costs to explore differentials, and need to go through the due diligence process.*
 - o *Deliverability timescales - if YCP miss the funding windows, then certain elements cannot be afforded.*
- Are partner or community needs the priority?
 - o *The review will build a clearer picture, including the environmental, community and transport costs and illustrate these in visual way for the YCP consultation.*

3. Workshop – Towards a Consultation Plan

Tim Downs from Aberfield and Leigh Tasker from Substance have been recently appointed to provide communications and consultation support to YCP.

www.aberfield.com
<http://substance.co.uk/>

Table groups were invited to discuss:

- 1) What did/ didn't work in the 2016 Seeking Your Views consultation, and
- 2) What do you want to see in the next consultation

3.1 What worked well

- Public meetings with information boards, opened up debate and questions
- Questionnaire available both paper and online
- Leaflet drop in surrounding area
- Face to face

3.2 What didn't work well

- Overall awareness of the consultation was poor
- There was a lack of engagement with young people and outside of the 'usual suspects'
- Survey was too long, some questions were leading or contradictory, led to cynicism – test on forum before wider use?
- The information wasn't presented clearly and simply enough
- Better, more relatable detail was required
- It was too traditional in format
- There was a lack of an overall community vision - what are we measuring the proposals against?
- The benefits and impacts weren't explained clearly
- It's not clear who or where some of the responses came from – lack of breakdown

3.3 What people would like to see moving forwards

- More visual information (use of graphics to demonstrate points over words)
- Tiered communication – top line overarching principles with a level of detail beneath
- More face to face briefings and pop up style events
- More focused consultation on specific aspects of the masterplan e.g access as opposed to the whole scheme
- Benefits and impacts presented side by side
- Transparency in language and detail
- Greater engagement with young people and community groups
- Focus work on those areas that had no clear majority in the previous consultation, to see if questions were understood particularly where questions demonstrated no clear preference amongst the audiences
- Warming people up to the consultation in different ways including on social media e.g facebook
- An awareness of generational differences and communicating to different audiences
- Can we include elements of oral history to help bring it to life
- Schools communication
- Video
- Random vox pops of York residents, to get unbiased feedback and different layers of responses
- The view from outside the city – what do visitors think
- Better messaging – not using comparisons that are meaningless e.g. The King’s Cross of the North
- Commitment to quality
- Monitor where responses originated from, both in terms of profiling and how people found out about the consultation
- Virtual reality modelling to show how it could look from different levels and angles, and to show consideration of certain elements.

3.4 Discussion

- How do you reach people who will live in the new area?
- Get contributions from existing economy, visitor audience etc.
- Short term and medium term uses
- YCA are an umbrella group, high level of engagement and willingness, can be a helpful intermediary, no vested interest, work with community groups, limited capacity
- Priority is to agree access route first
- YCA community vision - substance is important. Need to look back to communities past, present and future.
- Use physical signs in environment to publicise e.g. “road here”

- People know it as the 'teardrop' site.
- How can we improve the area/ what do we need?
- Language, visual comparisons, accessible to wider audience.
- Is 'York Central' the project or the identity? The project will evolve as a series of places and neighbourhoods over time, to become a collection of smaller places.
- Links to railway heritage.

4. National Railway Museum Masterplan

Paul Kirkman presented how the work on the National Railway Museums masterplan sits within the framework of York Central.

Action: Slides to follow.

4.1 Discussion

- Footbridge across to Leeman Park is still in the masterplan work
- Is the NRM plan contingent upon the success of York Central or could it stand alone?
 - o Some is within the control of the museum, some is not.
- Will the conference facilities be expanded?
 - o Create greater visual links to museum
- Theatre signal box, layers of experience?
 - o More collaborations, but not 1000 seat theatre

5. Any other business

- Leigh Tasker to circulate a link to an online survey to help establish the sense of spirit of the project

6. Close of meeting

Next meeting

Monday 11 September, 17:00 – 19:00

Plus look out for an extra date in August to align with access consultation.

KA 13/07/17