



SCRUTINY TOPIC REGISTRATION FORM

PROPOSED TOPIC: A Cultural Quarter for York, linking the city centre and the York North West development sites.

COUNCILLOR(S) REGISTERING THE TOPIC: Chris Hogg

SECTION 1: ABOUT THE TOPIC

Please complete this section as thoroughly as you can. The information provided will help Scrutiny Officers and Scrutiny Members to assess the following key elements to the success of any scrutiny review:

How a review should best be undertaken given the subject

Who needs to be involved

What should be looked at

By when it should be achieved; and

Why we are doing it ?

Please describe how the proposed topic fits with 3 of the eligibility criteria attached.

As a general rule, topics will only proceed to review if they meet 3 of the criteria below. However, where it is adequately demonstrated that a topic is of significant public interest and fits with the first criteria but does not meet 3, Scrutiny Management Committee may still decide to allocate the topic for review. Please indicate which 3 criteria the review would meet and the relevant scrutiny roles:

	✓	Policy Development & Review	Service Improvement & Delivery	Accountability of Executive Decisions
Public Interest (ie. in terms of both proposals being in the public interest and resident perceptions)		X		
Under Performance / Service Dissatisfaction				
In keeping with corporate priorities		X		
Level of Risk				
Service Efficiency				
National/local/regional significance e.g. A central government priority area, concerns joint working arrangements at a local 'York' or wider regional context		X		

Set out briefly the purpose of any scrutiny review of your proposed topic. What

do you think it should achieve?

If you have not already done so above, please indicate in response to this, how any review would be in the public or Council's interest e.g. reviewing recycling options in the city would reduce the cost to the Council for landfill

There is substantial evidence to support the premise that an agreed plan for a Cultural Quarter City in the City of York, which has the support of all the partners in the scheme will attract substantially more external funding than the current ad hoc approach to funders. A vision has been developed in 2007 working with the key stakeholders but we need to test this through scrutiny with wider city partners and learn from best practice in other Local Authorities. The benefits of this approach have been seen clearly in the previous scrutiny topics of River Usage, and Archaeological Resource management.

The scrutiny of the vision for a Cultural Quarter will aim to achieve a long-term direction for the area between the National Railway Museum, York Railway station and the Minster. Exploring the 2007 vision, the aim would be to agree a overall approach to design of the public realm in the area, encourage more co-operative working to produce new and exciting cultural activities and to create a sense of place to improve longer term visitor figures. Getting the link between the city Centre and York North West right will support and guide future city centre development.

Please explain briefly what you think any scrutiny review of your proposed topic should cover.

This information will be used to help prepare a remit for the review should Scrutiny Management Committee decide the topic meets the criteria e.g. How much recycling is presently being done and ways of increasing it

The scrutiny will use the 2007 Vision document to explore the relationship between the 6 areas of the quarter (area 1 must be enlarged to include the Railway Station). It will cover pedestrian and vehicular movement, design, open spaces, a river crossing, performance areas, lighting, landscaping, cultural production, promotion and public art .

Please indicate which other Councils, partners or external services could, in your opinion, participate in the review, saying why.

Involving the right people throughout the process is crucial to any successful review e.g. CYC Commercial Services / other local councils who have reviewed best practice for recycling / other organisations who use recycled goods

Participants in the scrutiny would include the City of York Council, The York Museums Trust, York Minster, York University, English Heritage, Rushbond, York Theatre Royal, Network Rail, The National Railway Museum and York Conservation Trust. We would also seek to engage other councils who have developed cultural quarters or city centre master plans in order to understand best practice in this area of place making.

Explain briefly how, in your opinion, such a review might be most efficiently undertaken?

This is not about who might be involved (addressed above) but how the review might be conducted e.g. sending a questionnaire to each household to gather information on current recycling practices and gathering information on how recycling is carried out in Cities similar to York

It is envisaged that the Scrutiny will take place over a 6-month period with 4 facilitated sessions to gather information and opinions with final recommendations for future direction and actions being made in the scrutiny report.

Estimate the timescale for completion.

Please circle below the nearest timescale group, in your estimation, based on the information you have given in this form.

- (a) 1-3 months;
- (b) 3-6 months; or **6 Months**
- (c) 6-9 months

PLEASE ENCLOSE ANY SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS OR OTHER INFORMATION YOU FEEL MIGHT BE USEFUL BACKGROUND TO THE SUBMISSION OF THIS TOPIC FOR CONSIDERATION.

There is widespread support for the scrutiny from all the Key stakeholders listed previously, but especially YMT, MRM and York Theatre Royal who would otherwise be applying for external funding on an ad hoc basis. This scrutiny topic would also contribute to work on York North West and the City Centre Development Plan.

If officers require a copy of the original visioning document for the Cultural Quarter please contact Gill Cooper, Head of Arts and Culture ext. 4671.

What will happen next?

- a Scrutiny Officer will prepare a feasibility study based on the information you have provided above and on further information gathered. This process should take no more than six weeks;
- on completion, the feasibility study will be presented to Scrutiny Management Committee together with a recommendation whether or not to proceed with the review. If the recommendation is to proceed, the feasibility study will include a remit on how the review should be carried out