
Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee

15 July 2009

Report of the Assistant Director (Lifelong Learning and Culture)

York Museums Trust Partnership Delivery Plan: Performance Update

Summary

1. This report updates members on the current progress of the York Museums Trust (YMT) towards meeting the targets agreed in the Partnership Delivery Plan. The York Museums Trust's full report is at Annex A.

Background

2. The Partnership Delivery Plan (PDP) approved by members in December 2007 outlined the key targets and objectives which the Council requires YMT to work towards over the next five years. Members have asked for regular updates on progress. Reports are brought to Overview and Scrutiny at the half-year point and again in July to report on full year performance. This report covers the financial year 2008/09 as a whole with particular emphasis on activity that has taken place since the mid-year report.

Headline Achievements

3. The Trust has had another very successful year and their plans for the future will ensure continuous improvement:
 - Visitors to the Castle Museum rose by 2% on the previous year following the success of The Sixties exhibition
 - The Hospitium is now a popular wedding location and a successful conference facility. In 2009 it won the Best Conference award at the Visit York Awards. It is creating income which is being fed into other capital developments
 - Plans are well underway for the Letting in the Light refurbishment at the Yorkshire Museum
 - There have been a number of exhibitions at the Art Gallery – Stanley Spencer and A Thousand Words curated by the author Tracey Chevalier being just two. A Thousand Words also encouraged people to write about what they were seeing.

- Five Sisters has opened at St Mary's. The work created a mosaic from sherds of pottery from medieval York
- Museum Gardens has a new Garden Manager who is transforming the horticultural content of the gardens
- A leaflet detailing adult learning opportunities is now available
- The Grand Tour in York – in partnership with the National Gallery sited art across the city
- All sites have achieved the Visitor Quality Assured Standard and Mori polls show a very high rate of visitor satisfaction
- Work with schools, nurseries and HE continue and improve. YMT have made strong partnerships across the city and work with NYBEP and Creative York

Consultation

4. This report is for information and there is no consultation to consider.

Options

5. This report is for information and there are no options to consider.

Corporate Objectives

6. YMT's business plan contributes to a number of corporate objectives including developing opportunities for residents and visitors to experience York as a vibrant and eventful city, improving opportunities for learning, and in strengthening York's economy through investment in the tourism infrastructure. Reinvestment in the museums is an identified priority within the sub-regional investment plan.

Implications

7. **Finance:** The Council makes an annual grant to YMT which in 2008/9 was £1,516,850. The grant is uplifted for inflation each year. The current financial arrangements have been agreed to 2013.
8. There are no Human Resources, Legal, Crime and Disorder, Information Technology, Equalities, Property or Other implications associated with the report at Annex A.

Risk Management

8. This report is for information and there are no risks to consider.

Recommendations

9. That the Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee note and comment upon the performance of the York Museums Trust.

Contact Details

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Report Approved



Date 30.6.09.

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Museums Trust: Partnership Delivery Plan December 2007.

Annexes

Annex A - York Museums Trust Performance Report: October 2008 – March 2009