

Report of the Director of City Strategy

## **Economic Development Programme**

### **Summary**

1. This report updates that presented to the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July, in order that the Committee can consider how they may wish to develop a plan of work in relation to this.

### **Background**

2. The previous report outlined the statutory background to the role of local authorities to promote and improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area through their Sustainable Community Strategies, as well as the new duty proposed within part 4 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill for all counties and unitary authorities to assess the economic conditions of their area. Guidance on the preparation of local economic assessments has recently produced and work is underway at an officer level to start preparation of an assessment for York, bearing in mind that this will need to relate to regional, city regional and sub regional assessments. This will support any future economic development strategy for the city.
3. The current economic strategy encompasses assessment work prepared as part of the Future York Group report. This is now over 2 years old, and the economic situation globally, nationally and locally has changed significantly since then. At the previous meeting of the Scrutiny Committee, Members began to consider this assessment of the local economy. Given recent changes to the economic situation and the recently issued guidance in relation to the proposed new duty, then the Committee may wish to wait until a new draft economic assessment is prepared for York before giving this matter further consideration.
4. The previous report also provided information to the Committee regarding the Centre for Cities report on York [Annex A to this report]. This is due to be considered further at the meeting of the York Economic Partnership scheduled to take place on 10<sup>th</sup> September. A draft response to the report from the Partnership is attached at Annex B; a verbal update will be given at Scrutiny meeting of the outcome from the Partnership meeting. Members may wish to consider the draft response.

### **Options**

5. The economic development programme forms a strategic approach to developing the York economy and meeting the employment needs of both businesses and the community. Action is reviewed on an annual basis to take account of changing circumstances and policy frameworks. Based on the information provided above, Members of the Committee may wish to determine what aspects of the economic strategy and programme to be examined further.

## **Corporate Priorities**

6. The actions in this report support the Inclusive City, Learning City and Thriving City elements of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Council's Corporate Strategy.

## **Implications**

7. Financial, HR, equalities, legal and crime and disorder implications are covered through the Council's budgeting and service planning processes. There are no direct IT implications.

## **Risk management**

8. Risk management processes cover all aspects of the programme and are set out in the Economic Development and Partnerships service plan.

## **Recommendations**

9. That the Committee determine any work plan for the scrutiny of economic development.

### **Contact Details**

Author: Roger Ranson  
Assistant Director, Economic Development and  
Partnerships  
01904 551614

### **Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Bill Woolley  
Director of City Strategy

**Report Approved** ✓

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Wards affected – ALL**

**Specialist implications officer**

**Annex A** Centre for Cities Report  
**Annex B** Draft response to the report from the Partnership  
**Annex C** Economic Development & Action Strategy Programme [On line only]