
Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee

2nd November 2010

Report of the Head of Civic, Legal & Democratic Services

Update Report – Proposed Scrutiny Topic on the Acceptance of Euros by York Businesses

Summary

1. This report asks Members to receive an update from a Director of Visit York on acceptance of Euros in York. It also asks the Committee to consider whether they wish to undertake any further work in relation to this topic.

Background

2. Earlier this year Councillor Alexander submitted a scrutiny topic in relation to the acceptance of Euros by York businesses. A feasibility report was subsequently prepared and Members were asked whether they wished to proceed with a scrutiny review in relation to this. The feasibility study is at Appendix 1 to this report and is available for viewing online alongside its accompanying annexes.
3. Members considered the feasibility report and its associated annexes at a meeting held on 9 March 2010 and agreed to defer a decision on whether to proceed until a Director from Visit York had given a further presentation on progress.
4. At a meeting held on 13th July 2010 Members received information on the objectives of a proposed pilot scheme in the Gillygate area of the town, however, unfortunately the start of this pilot scheme had been delayed and so there was no information in relation to outcomes of the scheme. Members therefore asked Visit York to return to a future meeting with an update.
5. A Director of Visit York will be in attendance at the meeting today to give the Committee a verbal update on progress, however he had informed the Scrutiny Officer that the pilot scheme had not really worked in Gillygate and he was looking at trying to roll the scheme out citywide using different tactics.

Consultation

6. Many people were consulted during the preparation of the feasibility report in which their comments have been set out.

Options

7. In considering the information within this report and that provided by a Director of Visit York at today's meeting Members may choose between the following options:

Option A Progress this topic to review

Option B Do not proceed with this review

Option C Receive future updates from Visit York as and when further information is available

Analysis

8. As mentioned in previous reports Annex B to the feasibility study (Appendix 1) outlines the comments made by the consultees in relation to this topic and Paragraphs 5 to 10 of the feasibility report contain analysis of the comments received. Members were advised to give both of these careful consideration and think about what positive outcomes could be achieved should they choose to progress the topic to review.
9. Discussions at the meeting held on 13th July 2010 established that at that time no involvement was necessary from City of York Council and Visit York would be the best body to undertake the pilot scheme. However, since it appears that there have been some problems with the pilot scheme Members may wish to re-ask the question of Visit York.
10. This topic was submitted some time ago and Members are urged to make a decision on whether they wish to progress this topic to review at this meeting.

Corporate Strategy 2009/2012

11. The contents of this report, its associated annexes and any review that may be undertaken are linked to the 'Thriving City' theme of the Corporate Strategy 2009/2012.

Implications

12. There are no financial, human resources, legal or other implications associated with the recommendations within this report. However, implications may arise should this topic be progressed to review and these would be addressed within appropriate reports.

Risk Management

13. There are no risks associated with the decision on whether to progress this topic to review. However, risks may occur should any review take place and these would be addressed accordingly.

Recommendations

14. Members are asked to consider the information contained within this report and the information provided by Visit York at today's meeting and are recommended to:
- i. Confirm that they do not wish to progress this topic to review
but instead;
 - ii. Receive further information from Visit York in relation to this as and when it becomes available.

Reason: To address the issues outlined within the topic registration form.

Contact Details

Author:

Tracy Wallis
Scrutiny Officer
Scrutiny Services
Tel: 01904 551714

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Andrew Docherty
Head of Civic, Legal & Democratic Services
Tel: 01904 551004

Report Approved Date 08.10.2010

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected: Guildhall & Micklegate

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

See below

Annexes (Available online only)

Appendix 1 Feasibility Report dated 9th March 2010

Annex A Topic Registration Form

Annex B Consultation Responses