

Report of the Assistant Director (Communities and Culture)

**YORK MUSEUMS TRUST PARTNERSHIP DELIVERY PLAN:  
2010/11 END OF YEAR 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.
2. Under the terms of the funding agreement between the Council and YMT it is now time to negotiate priorities for the next 5 year period (2013-18). Scrutiny Committee is invited to give its views with regard to what those priorities should include.

**Background**

3. 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 period 2008-13. 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 year 2010/11 with particular emphasis on the second half of the year.
4. YMT was set up in August 2002. The background to this decision was:
  - The increasing decline in visitor numbers – an average of 37,000 visits per year lost over the previous ten years

- The increasing gap between income and expenditure with the service costing an extra £120k every year
  - A large backlog of inadequately catalogued objects and poor storage conditions
  - Buildings requiring extensive maintenance and upgrading including the need to make them accessible
  - A need to modernise the display methods at all sites
  - A need to improve the effectiveness of the management of the service
5. YMT was set up as an independent trust in order to achieve business turnaround. The key target areas reflected in the PDP (the current version is attached at Annex 1) related to:
- a) Stabilising visitor figures
  - b) Delivering new income streams
  - c) Creating new exhibitions and interpretative services
  - d) Creating an education strategy
  - e) Increasing use and involvement by residents
  - f) Achieving high visitor satisfaction
  - g) Cataloguing of the collection
6. The report from York Museums Trust (Annex 2) sets out how they have been addressing these issues over the past six months, and also gives an outline of what they will be developing moving forward. YMT will shortly be submitting a draft business plan for the period 2013-2018 as the basis for agreeing their funding settlement for that period.

### **Options**

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

### **Corporate Objectives**

8. 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.

## Implications

9. **Finance:** The Council makes an annual grant to YMT. It has received stable funding since 2002 with inflation uplifts. In 2010/11 the grant was £1,506,710. The current financial arrangements have been agreed to 2013.
10. The report has no implications relating to:
- Human Resources
  - Equalities
  - Legal
  - Crime and Disorder
  - Information Technology
  - Property
  - Other

## Risk Management

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

## Recommendations

12. That members note and comment upon the performance of the York Museums Trust.

Reason: To fulfil the Council's role under the partnership delivery plan.

## Contact Details

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**Report  
Approved**

**Date**

### Wards Affected:

**All**

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

**Background Papers:**

Museums Trust: Partnership Delivery Plan December 2007.

Annexes:

1. Partnership Delivery Plan
2. YMT report