
Economic Development Partnership Board

19th June 2007

Report of the Assistant Director – Economic Development and Partnerships

REPORT OF THE FUTURE YORK GROUP

Summary

1. The report seeks to brief the Board on the final report of the Future York Group and to seek views on its main findings.

Background

2. The Future York Group was commissioned by the City of York Council to undertake an independent strategic review of the local economy, following a series of announcements regarding job losses in the City. The Group has been chaired by Christopher Garnett and has been well attended at its meetings by the group members. They have received a variety of presentations and background information to enable them to make their conclusions and recommendations. This authoritative report will provide the framework for future actions to be undertaken by the City of York Council and partners with regard to promoting the economic well-being of the City. Their final report was launched on 12th June when it was handed over to the City of York Council at a public event at the Mansion House. Members of the Board were invited to this event and a copy of the report will be made available to Board members before the meeting. The Council has yet to consider the report formally and there is, therefore, no firm commitment from the Council to the recommendations set out in the report. Nevertheless, the views of the Board are welcomed on the findings and conclusions of the Future York Group.

Consultation

3. The report is being provided for information and there are no recommendations with financial consequences. There is no consultation necessary for this report.

Options

4. This report is for information only and therefore does not present options for decisions by Board members. Where decisions are necessary specific reports on those issues and options will be presented. However, Board members are invited to comment on the information provided in this major study on the future of the economy.

Analysis

5. As stated in the paragraph above, options have not been presented therefore there is no need for appraisals.

Corporate Priorities

6. The Future York Group report relates to the following objectives for the Council, the Economic Development Service Plan and the LSP Without Walls initiatives.

* The “Thriving City” theme of the WOW Community Plan has the following strategic objective:

“To support the progress and success of York’s existing businesses and to encourage new enterprises in order to maintain a prosperous and flourishing economy that will sustain high employment rates.”

* The Economic Development Service Plan sets identifies a number of corporate priorities:

- DIP 5 Increase people’s skills and knowledge to improve future employment prospects.
- DIP 6 Improve the contribution that Science City York makes to economic prosperity.
- DIP 8 Improve the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children, young people and families in the city.
- DIP12 Improve the way the Council and its partners work together to deliver better services for the people who live in York.

Implications

7. Financial: As this is a general report seeking views on the Future York group prior to any formal consideration of the report by the City of York Council, there are no implications. Any significant implications to economic development activity will be the subject of future reports to the Board.

8. Human resources: None

9. Equalities: None

10. Legal: None

11. Crime and Disorder: None

12. Information Technology: None

13. Property: None

Risk Management

14. In compliance with the council’s risk management strategy. There are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

Recommendation

15. The Board's input and views on the Future York Group report are requested.

Reason: To help shape the effectiveness of future action.

Contact Details

Author:

Roger Ranson
Assistant Director Economic
Development & Partnerships
Phone No: 01904 551614

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Bill Woolley
Director of City Strategy

Report Approved**Date** 01/06/07**Specialist Implications Officers:** None**Wards Affected:****All**

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: The Future York Group report – an independent strategic review of the York economy, June 2007

Annexes: None