
MEETING	ECONOMIC & CITY DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE	27 MARCH 2012
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS RICHES (CHAIR), WATT (VICE-CHAIR) (EXCEPT MINUTE ITEM 54), BURTON, LEVENE, SEMLYEN, HYMAN, (EXCEPT MINUTE ITEM 54)D'AGORNE AND POTTER(EXCEPT MINUTE ITEMS 50- 52)

50. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare at this point any personal or prejudicial interests, other than those listed on the standing declarations of interests attached to the agenda, that they might have had in the business on the agenda.

Councillor D'Agorne declared his standing personal non prejudicial interest the remit of the Committee as an employee of York College.

Councillor Hyman declared a personal non prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 4 (Proposed Scrutiny Topics), in relation to the Role of Science City York proposed topic, as a Member of Science City York's Finance Audit Committee.

Councillor Riches also declared a personal non prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 4, in relation to commuting into York for jobs, as a frequent user of train services.

No other interests were declared.

51. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 13 March 2012 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

52. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

53. PROPOSED SCRUTINY TOPICS

Members received a report which presented them with information on three proposed scrutiny topics. These topics were;

- Youth unemployment (how the Council works with partners to maximise employment opportunities for young people in the city)
- The role of Science City York in Economic Development (more encouragement work to be done to attract people to York in order to maintain its status as a Science City)
- The processes used to bring Section 106 agreements to a timely completion.

Youth Unemployment

Officers circulated a briefing note to Members updating them on the current facts and figures in relation to youth unemployment for 18-24 year olds in York. This note was attached to the agenda after the meeting, and the agenda was republished online. One of the main conclusions reached by Officers from these figures was that youth unemployment was not significantly better or worse than it had been in previous years.

Discussion between Members and Officers took place which related to comparable figures for those young people who were Not In Education or Training (NEET) with those cities that had Universities and those who did not.

It was reported that about 45% of young people in York did not go to University or leave the city, and that York was a net importer for jobs. Officers felt that there needed to be a greater awareness amongst young people of job mobility, in that people were coming in from outside of the city to work in York.

Some Members felt that a strong perception existed amongst young people that as York was a tourist city that only jobs in this industry were available. Others felt that there was a lack of work placements which would allow young people to form opinions on various employment areas, they added that this was particularly important given that work experience as part of the school curriculum would not be provided in future.

Officers informed the Committee that although there was not a statutory requirement on schools to organise work experience for students, that they were still subject to ensuring that careers guidance was offered at school.

Science City York

Members received a report on the role of Science City York (SCY) and its contribution to advising businesses on innovation and providing services related to business performance and growth.

Discussion between Members and Officers related to the lack of awareness of the role of SCY and the services it provided such as the Government funded Business Coaching for Growth scheme, which delivered targeted support and advice for potential high growth companies and businesses who had just started up.

Both Members and Officers felt that an accessible feature to promote SCY needed to be developed in the centre of the city to inform people of employment in science and technological companies, such as an event in St Helen's Square celebrating 2000 years of science in the city.

Officers informed Members that current work was being carried out in schools to promote careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Section 106 Agreements

Members received a briefing from Officers on Section 106 agreements. It was noted that a Section 106 agreement was a formal arrangement attached to planning permission for developers to provide funding for certain works such as infrastructure, following approval of a development. Members were informed that if a development's planning permission had

expired i.e no development had commenced, that the applicant would not be liable to pay associated costs from the Section 106 agreement. It was also explained that certain developments, particularly larger ones, had 'trigger points' at various stages of the development and only when these points were reached the next sum of money was required to be paid. It was noted therefore that some Section 106 monitoring cases remained open for several years.

Some Members felt that the proposed scrutiny topic should focus on enforcement of Section 106 agreements, whilst others felt that as this had been done previously, and due to a lack of capacity in the Enforcement team, that it should not be done again.

Following the three presentations Members discussed which scrutiny topics that wished to conduct a review on. Members felt that a review should take place on a topic around Youth Unemployment.

A number of questions which could be used for prospective topics were raised including;

- What are the barriers to the current local labour force getting employment in the City, are there barriers to local businesses recruiting locally?
- How do City of York Council facilitate employment opportunities for young people?
- What prevents young people being employed in the care sector?

During discussion it was felt that the Committee should concentrate on a single topic to conduct a review on, and that this should be related to youth employment in the care sector. Some Members suggested that was particularly pertinent given that there appeared to be a number of vacancies in this area, and that perhaps young people were dissuaded from working in this area as it was seen as being a feminine career.

RESOLVED: (i) That the proposed topics on the role of Science City York in Economic Development and Section 106 agreements be not progressed to review.

(ii) That the Committee conduct a review on employment opportunities for young people in the care sector with the following question;

What prevents Young People from going into Care Work in the city?

REASON: In order to begin a topic for review to begin in the new municipal year 2012/13.

54. WORK PLAN 2012

Members considered a report which presented them with the Committee's work plan for 2012.

RESOLVED: That the work plan be noted.

REASON: To keep the Committee's work plan up to date.

Councillor J Riches, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 7.30 pm].