

**Learning and Culture Overview and  
Scrutiny Committee**

12<sup>th</sup> June 2013

Report of the Assistant Director (Communities, Culture & Public Realm)

**York Museums Trust Partnership Delivery Plan:  
Performance Update to 31 March, 2013**

**Summary**

1. This report updates members on the current progress of the York Museums and Gallery Trust (YMT) towards meeting the targets agreed in the Partnership Delivery Plan running until 31 March 2013.

**Background**

2. 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. This report covers the 6 months from October 2012 to April 2013 and is the second of the bi-annual updates.
3. YMT was set up as an independent trust in order to achieve a business turnaround of the museums and art gallery and to enhance the cultural provision within the city. The key target areas reflected in the PDP for that period were:
  - Stabilising visitor figures
  - Delivering new income streams
  - Creating new exhibitions and interpretative services
  - Creating an education strategy
  - Increasing use and involvement by residents
  - Achieving high visitor satisfaction

- Cataloguing of the collection
4. The report from YMT (Annex 1) sets out how they have been addressing these issues in the period from October 2012 to March 2013. In particular, it should be noted that YMT have been addressing the previously reported drop in visitor numbers through a wide ranging programme of exhibitions, visitor engagement opportunities and a successful '2 for 1' ticket offer.
  5. The Art Gallery closed for the beginning of its refurbishment during this period and YMT staged an excellent and innovative closing event. The Art Gallery will now undertake a series of activities to ensure the collections remain in the public view and the community continues to be engaged with their work until the reopening of the gallery in 2015.
  6. The outcome of the Heritage Lottery Fund bid is still awaited; however, whatever the outcome of that bid YMT will undertake capital development at the Castle Museum to deliver their new exhibition dealing with the social impact of World War One. Annex 1 outlines all their activities in detail.

### **Options**

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

### **Corporate Objectives**

8. YMT 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 2012/13 the grant was £1,506,710. New financial arrangements were agreed by Budget Council in February and will extend to the end of March 2018.
10. The report has no implications relating to: Human Resources, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, Information Technology, Property.

## **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 and Gallery Trust.

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

## **Contact Details**

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

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**Report  
Approved**

**Date**

### **Wards Affected:**

All

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

**Annex 1:** York Museums Trust Performance report to April 2013.