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## Economic Development Partnership Board

25<sup>th</sup> September 2007

Report of the Assistant Director

### 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 the report was considered further at the last meeting of this Board held on 19<sup>th</sup> June. At that stage, Members were only able to give their initial thoughts on the report. An initial response was also considered by the Council's Executive in July and it is proposed to present a more detailed response in the Autumn, using the attached format as the framework for future action. This currently represents "work in progress" and the views of the Board are welcomed prior to formal consideration by the Council. At the time of writing this report, additional meetings are to be held with Yorkshire Forward, york-england.com, and the Learning City Partnership. The Council is also seeking wider views through consultation. There is, therefore, no firm commitment from the Council to the recommendations set out in the report, beyond the initial response. Nevertheless, the views of the Board are welcomed on the findings and conclusions of the Future York Group. Members of the Board may wish to consider in particular those recommendations directly concerning the Board; namely:

P1: It is essential that City of York Council re-invigorate the role and membership of its partnerships, to ensure that they are effective in delivering the Future York Vision and the oversight of economic development and place shaping activities. We recommend to businesses and business organisations in the city that they commit themselves to support the new partnership and consultation arrangements, and actively participate in them.

P2: We recommend that City of York Council review the terms of reference, membership, and working arrangements of the Economic Development Partnership

Group, to re-form the group to give strategic leadership and direction to the city's economic development activities.

P3: We recommend that City of York Council strengthen the business representation on the partnership and on the re-formed Economic Development Partnership Board to ensure informed and effective analysis and decision making.

P4: We recommend that City of York Council review how best the skills and training agenda can be linked into the work of the Economic Development Partnership Board.

## **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, particularly regarding the issues highlighted in paragraph 2 above.

Reason: To help shape the effectiveness of future action.

## Contact Details

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### Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Bill Woolley  
Director of City Strategy

Report Approved



Date 11/09/2007

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:** Annex 1 - Response To Future York Group Report