
Economic Development Partnership Board

28th November 2007

Report of the Assistant Director Economic Development and Partnerships

Future Membership And Working Of The Economic Development Partnership Board

Summary

1. The report sets out a discussion document to outline to the Board proposals for reviewing membership and terms of reference following consideration of the Future York Group recommendations regarding partnership working at the last meeting of the Board.

Background

2. The Future York Group recommends that there should be a stronger engagement of the private sector business in the future of the City. The Group has urged businesses to take up any offer of involvement from the City and its partners in economic development, on the basis of constructive open discussion building upon the dialogue established by the Group. Their report recognises the status of the Economic Development Partnership Board as the main forum within the Local Strategic Partnership and Council's partnership structures for discussion of economic and business issues. However, the Group did not believe that the impact of the Board has been as strong as it could be. It has therefore recommended that the terms of reference, membership and working arrangements of the Board should be reviewed with the aim to re-establish a group with strong business representation, together with other economic partners, to lead the economic transformation of the City in accordance with a new vision. The Future York Group saw this reviewed Board as continuing their work in setting a strategy for action, concentrating on the major interventions and key drivers for change. It envisaged that the Group would monitor progress and report to the Local Strategic Partnership, the Council and other partners responsible for the delivery of programmes and projects. This would be undertaken through the production of an annual economic development plan demonstrating progress against vision, strategy and plans it has approved. The Future York Group report highlighted also the importance of addressing skills and inclusion issues to ensure the best possible future prosperity of the City. It noted the need for closer business involvement with the skills strategy and with the organisations responsible for delivering education and training. Finally on this issue, the report also recognises the importance of the role other key partnerships, such as Science City York, the Area Tourism Partnership and the City Centre Partnership, will play in achieving a secure and confident long-term economic future for the City. In summary, the key recommendations regarding partnership working set out in the Future York group report are:

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.

3. This was debated at the last meeting of the Partnership Board held in September and it was agreed that proposals would be formulated for discussion on how best to review the membership and working of the Board to respond to the recommendations set out in the Future York group report.

Consultation

4. There has been considerable consultation on the Future York Group report and this is set out in a separate report on the agenda of this meeting.

Options

5. To consider the proposals for reviewing the Economic Development Partnership Board and any suggested amendments.

Analysis

6. The attached note (Annex A) sets out a proposal for consideration at the meeting. Comments are invited from the Board prior to seeking agreement to any proposal at a subsequent meeting of the Board. The Board will also need to consider the process for determining representation on the Board. When agreed, this is likely to require an amendment to the Council's constitution and the endorsement of the Local Strategic Partnership.

Corporate Priorities

7. 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.

Please note that it is now proposed to amend DIP 6 to improve the economic prosperity of residents of the City with a focus on minimising income differentials.

Implications

8. Financial: There are no implications at this stage. Any significant implications to economic development activity will be the subject of future reports to the Board.
9. Human Resources: None
10. Equalities: None
11. Legal: None
12. Crime and Disorder: None
13. Information Technology: None
14. Property: None

Risk Management

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

Recommendation

16. The Board provides input and views on the proposal to review membership and the working of the Economic Development Partnership Board.

Reason: To help shape the effectiveness of future action.

Contact Details

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**Report
Approved**



Date 13/11/2007

Specialist implication 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 – Draft Terms of Reference