

Newsletter 2: May 2010

This newsletter is designed to give all Environment Partnership Board (EPB) Members regular updates on some of the key areas of work the EPB is working on.

Restructure

The environment partnership board restructured earlier this year to better address the environmental needs of York. There are now four different subgroups to SustainableWOW dealing with four priority areas:

Climate Change

One of the main issues SustainableWOW needs to address is how to tackle climate change. As a city, York needs to not only reduce emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, but also prepare and adapt to a changing climate in the future. To help the city to coordinate actions to tackle climate change, a draft climate change framework and action plan has been drafted. A public consultation will be carried

Economy

SustainableWOW is helping guide the development of the Economic Visioning and Master Plan for York, which will aim to enhance York's current economic situation. Although still in its early stages, a York Renaissance Team, funded by Yorkshire Forward and English Heritage, has started to draw up an economic master plan to help provide certainty for future investment in the city.

The team is made up of experienced urbanists and architects with a vision to make the city more attractive to investors. There has also been the

climate change, transport, the built and historic environment and the natural environment. The restructure is a positive move for the group and they are optimistic about the impact it will have on each of these areas.

out over the summer to allow the city to have its say.

The city is also currently assessing past and present vulnerability to significant weather events with the aim of anticipating actions needed in the future to ensure York is prepared and safe from the likely predicted changes in our future climate (including extreme weather such as heavy rainfall). This work will also feed into the climate change framework and action plan for York.

development of a regeneration academy to help enhance renaissance skills in the city.

In March, SustainableWOW members attended a two-day workshop to identify potential improvements to the city. The first day covered issues arising from areas including learning, business, economy, community and culture. Day two was spent reviewing problems and deciding on key development projects to reduce the issues and encourage investment. Sustainable WOW are keen to assist the development of this masterplan whilst ensuring that it

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will not have a detrimental impact on the city's greenhouse gas emissions and that it will protect

Renewable Energy

For the city to tackle climate change, we need to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels for heating our homes and for powering our cars. We need to use less of it and what we do use needs to come from renewable resources such as solar or wind energy. In partnership with City of York Council, SustainableWOW is overseeing a study to identify the

Michael Slater on Sustainable WOW

We speak to Michael Slater, Chair of York's Environment Partnership, about the recent work of the group.

1) What progress is the group making towards achieving its goals?

We have created a draft Climate Change Framework and Action Plan for the city. The documents act as a coordinated vision for the city in terms of tackling climate change and also contain key areas and actions for the city to carry out in the coming years, whilst aiming towards a 40% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020 and a 80% cut in 2050. A public consultation on the drafts will commence in July 2010. Information and practical advice on what residents and businesses can do now is available too.

2) Which initiative are you most excited about?

We are probably most excited about the Green Neighbourhoods Challenge as this is a practical way for the Board to reach out and help

and enhance the built and natural environment. We will report with updates as this project unfolds.

potential for renewable and low carbon technologies in York. The results will help the city to accelerate, where appropriate and suitable, renewable energy generation across the city in the future, resulting in a much more environmentally friendly and sustainable York.

residents and community groups to reduce their carbon footprint and the impact their lives have on the local and global environment. It is a pilot, that if successful, will show the way in the future for the Board to replicate effective communication and advice across York. It is seen as a key way to achieve substantial reductions in carbon emissions the City creates.

3) How do you see the group impacting on York long-term?

The Board are also currently supporting the development of some other major city wide strategies, including the Heritage Strategy and the Local Development Framework. By helping to ensure these key strategies embed issues including climate change, sustainable transport, waste and the protection and enhancement of the built and natural environment, the Board will be impacting positively towards the long-term ambition of a sustainable city.