



York Libraries and City Archive together at last!

Fiona Williams – Head of Libraries and Heritage



YORK



THE ANCIENT
CAPITAL OF •
BRITAIN • •

IDEAL BOATING
AND FISHING •

UNRIVALLED FOR HISTORIC INTEREST

Context – York

A background image showing the York Minster, a large Gothic cathedral, under a clear sky. The image is slightly faded and serves as a backdrop for the title.

- Population of c.190,000
- Built and written heritage
- 3 star council that is improving well
- Relatively low levels of deprivation
- High achieving schools
- Tale of two cities – visitors and residents
- Without Walls – partnership working

York: A City Making History

- Sustainable WOW
- Culture WOW
- Learning WOW
- Safety WOW
- Business WOW
- Inclusive WOW
- Healthy WOW

Lifelong Learning and Culture

By 2013

- The level of York adults participating in informal learning opportunities will be among the best in the country.
- Young people in York will tell us that the city is among the best places to live in the country.
- York will have the highest participation rates in active lifestyles of any city in the country.

Drivers for change

- Bad news stories
- Lack of understanding of purpose
- Increasing budget cuts
- Traditional service – no innovation
- Declining use
- Little to no outreach

York City Archive Road

- 2002 – report stated change needed to happen
- 2002-2008 – “series of unfortunate events”
- 2008 – mandate given to secure a future

York Library Service Road

- Scrutiny Review
- IDeA Peer Review
- 21st century learning; 21st century libraries
- Explore centres
 - Acomb opens
 - York plans

Two Services (plus Adult Ed) under One Vision

Putting learning at the heart of the service and creating places that add value to their communities in a whole host of ways. Spaces that are:

- Modern, contemporary - designed to meet the needs of the communities they serve
- Outward looking - connected with the surrounding landscape and community, drawing people
- Welcoming - where staff are proactive in helping people make sense of the complex world
- Customer first
- Engaging – inspiring people

Coming together

- Archive to come home to the central library
- New interpretation of Libraries and Heritage
- All to be under the explore vision
- Beginnings - Big City Read Project to help along the way

Explore York Library Learning Centre

- 1 million visitors by 2013
- World class local/family history and archive
- Library in UK's top 5 performers
- Stages
 - First – 2009/10
 - Second – 2010/2011
 - Third – 2011/13

Catalysts – concept to reality

Vision

- Key to have a clear vision
- Has levered in funding

Concept to Reality

Mandate and Mooring

- Political mandate crucial
- York explore centre is a key corporate objective
- Raised profile of the services and we will need to report back
- Statutory service protects
- Mandate from the public?

Concept to reality

Flexibility

Not just flexible spaces

- Managing stock or collections?
- Lending things
- Libraries throw things away
- The question of pens
- Handbags and mobile phones
- Silence?
- Coffee while you read

Concept to reality

Resources

- Staff
 - Levels of staffing
 - Levels of competence – training
 - Admin etc
 - Volunteers
- Buildings
 - 14 and a mobile – more space
 - Opening hours
 - Repair and maintenance -

The Future

- York explore centre opens March 2010
- Single reading room with increased opening hours
- Begin raising funding for phase two
- Possibilities – e.g Reading Detectives