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

- 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
• 21\textsuperscript{st} century learning; 21\textsuperscript{st} 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
  – Third – 2011/13
Catalysts – concept to reality

Vision
• Key to have a clear vision
• Has levered in funding
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