



## York Civic Trust

*Promoting Heritage - Shaping Tomorrow*

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### **Response to the City of York Council Consultation on the Local Plan Preferred Sites (2016)**

York Civic Trust Planning Committee has held a series of briefings and seminars with ordinary members of the Trust and has researched and extensively discussed the City's current, former and potential future strengths. Our considered vision, approved by the Board of Trustees of York Civic Trust, for the future development of York is expressed thus:

*York can blaze a trail in the UK for a new approach to growth, demonstrating that a great heritage can be the trigger for economic vitality, not a brake upon it.*

*York's economic strength lies in its diversity: biosciences (research, agri-business and food technology), financial services, IT and the media, transport management and engineering, higher education and, crucially, cultural and heritage tourism. The strength of its appeal as a place to live is underpinned by its community, its culture and its heritage.*

*Together, these strengths can provide the foundation for a successful future. We will seek to capitalise on these strengths, and create an environment friendly to job creation and growth.*

*We propose that York be the exemplar for a new approach to growth. Though it is not a World Heritage Site, York should behave as though it were. The historic infrastructure is fragile and requires careful protection, but it provides an ambience in which people want to live and work and hence one which attracts employers. We propose the imaginative use of brownfield sites reinforced by the creation of a 'green star' rather than a green belt. Satellite settlements, developed using a new equitable economic model, can enable a more measured approach to the provision of high quality, well-serviced communities, connected by an integrated transport system. This is not entirely new – New Earswick is a site of international importance in the history of development and Derwenthorpe provides a smaller-scale recent example. We should build on our knowledge and expertise to provide the springboard for a vibrant and forward-looking economy for a city of outstanding universal heritage significance.*

Delivering this vision will require strong and continuing leadership and a governance structure which ensures that the strategy is sustained and affordable. This in turn requires the adoption of a Local Development Plan which has the support of the Council and the citizens of York, and which is effective in controlling and directing future development.

The Preferred Sites document with its supporting evidence has been prepared to meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework, having drawn upon previous consultations, and having been prepared using a robust evidence base. York Civic Trust does not wish to comment in detail on the nature and extent of the Preferred Sites, since we believe that the overall policy advantages of achieving an adopted plan are so very great for the common good. **We therefore welcome the Preferred Sites document.**

Although we support the document and urge that it be approved in its entirety, we have an observation to bring to the attention of the Council when the Local Development Plan is in operation:

- The creation of satellite settlements only contribute to the well-being of the City if they are connected, in every sense, to the City centre. The process of bringing forward such developments should mandate the creation of transport and economic links for the benefit of York as a whole.

**York Civic Trust**  
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