

**York Environment Forum (YEF) Phase 4 MIQ Response**

**Matter 8 – Economy and Retail**

| Inspector's Question   | Our response  | References |
|--|---|------------|
| 8.1 Are Policies EC1 to EC5 soundly based in terms of employment and York's economy? | <p>The Council's draft Economic Strategy for 2022-32 has been published and consulted upon. YEF's opinion is that there has been insufficient attention paid to how recent, but significant, events will affect the York economy and employment. Events such as Ukraine / Russia conflict and covid-19 will have an impact that will warrant assessment of risks and options and these are not mentioned in the Strategy.</p> <p>There is no acknowledgement of developments in economic thought about, for instance, community wealth building at neighbourhood level, and 'doughnut'; economics about higher level financial impact.</p>  |            |
| 8.2 Do Policies R1 to R4 deal effectively with the retail sector?                    | <p>It is necessary to view the economy of York as a 'system; in which changes in one aspect will effect the rest of the economy. Retail is a case in point, the complexity and interconnections need to be recognised and analysed.</p> <p>Insufficient attention is given to the role and contribution of social enterprises, the third sector in general, and the circular economy, all of which impact on the economy and city centre retail.</p>  |            |
| 8.3 Is Policy SS3 a sufficient guide to development in the City Centre?              | <p>It is likewise (in 8.2) the case with tourism, in that in the future there are more opportunities for 'staycations' in which there are more visits by UK residents and fewer by people flying into the country. This requires more public transport and active travel options, and action to improve air quality and the green environment to make the city centre more attractive to visitors.</p> <p>The providers of retail can be wider than those envisaged in SS3. The 'offer' from the larger retail companies is coming into scrutiny on environmental grounds, including the carbon impact of transport distance, and the resources, based on petrochemical, going into products. There is an inherent contradiction in aiming to have a sustainable net zero city in which retailers stock products that are acting in the opposite direction.</p> |            |