**BRIEFING DOCUMENT**

**BACKGROUND**

York Museums Trust (YMT) is an independent charity created to manage and look after the City of York Council’s collections and assets including York Art Gallery, York Castle Museum, Yorkshire Museum, York Museum Gardens, and York St Mary’s

Since its formation in 2002 YMT has developed into an innovative, energetic and successful organisation responding creatively and positively to a demanding and fast changing environment. YMT works closely with partners in York and the wider museums sector. We make a significant contribution to the economic and educational welfare of the City and wider region. YMT is one of 21 museum services in England to receive Major Partner Museums funding from Arts Council England and has achieved NPO status for 2018-22 at the same level of funding. The Trust generates an income of c£6m pa and employs c100 FTEs. All income, including ticket income, supports the charity to preserve collections, gardens and buildings and continue to offer high quality access to those collections

On 1 August 2015 YMT launched an award-winning redevelopment of York Art Gallery and Museum Gardens and YMT is increasing the profile of its engaging, exciting exhibitions at all its venues which will attract more visitors, help build income streams and fulfil its long term strategic goals.

**Vision, Mission and Strategic Objectives**

Our Vision is for York Museums Trust to play a major part in positioning York as a world class cultural centre.

Our Mission is to cherish and enhance the collections, buildings and gardens entrusted to us, presenting and interpreting them as a stimulus for learning, a provocation to curiosity and a source of inspiration and enjoyment for all.

**Strategic Objectives**

* To protect and conserve the collections, gardens and buildings
* To promote access to the collections, gardens and buildings appropriate to the 21st century
* To attract more visitors to our sites, thus contributing to the local and regional economy
* To create learning opportunities for all and develop innovative programmes springing from the collections, gardens and buildings
* To network and collaborate with partners and contribute to the development of the economic and cultural life of the city and the region
* To raise substantial funds to realise these aims

The Board and Senior Management Team have identified **headline priorities** for 2016-21:

* York Castle Museum major capital project and developing the Castle area as a cultural quarter
* Excellent, high profile programming, including strategic YMT-led events to attract visitors to York and high quality exhibitions at York Art Gallery
* Expanding Enterprises, building on success, becoming a more business-like charity and increasing our income streams and resilience
* Ensuring a Quality and 21st century Visitor Experience, pro-actively engaging visitors and sharing narratives
* Improving York’s and York Museum Trust’s profiles through local, regional and international leadership, partnership and delivering on all the expectations of key stakeholders

**THE ROLE**

This role will be a critical one within York Museums Trust ensuring best practice in organisational planning and financial management, guiding the organisation and assessing risk in a changing creative environment delivering multiple projects and programmes from community projects to major capital projects. Annual turnover at YMT is £6-7m with additional project funding and restricted reserves.

The post holder will be instrumental in the delivery of organisation-wide activity and annual to long-range planning. You will be key to strategic decision-making and play an active part in the senior management team leading the Trust forward. As well as overseeing finance, the role is responsible for IT across a range of systems including admissions ticketing and customer relationship management and for our creative and sector-leading digital team. You will represent York Museums Trust to key partners and funders.

The post holder will also play a key part in major capital projects ensuring appropriate procurement and processes to fit our funders’ requirements, supporting colleagues through effective project management processes as well as overseeing financial reporting and managing cash flow and other risks accompanying the projects.

**York Castle Museum Capital Project**

The Trust is looking to create a major capital project to resolve infrastructure issues, showcase York Castle Museum’s national collections and tell the story of the site. All the Castle Museum collections are officially Designated as of national importance. Collections originate from Dr Kirk who collected approximately 7,000 objects as the founding collection of the museum with the reconstructed Victorian Street ‘Kirkgate’ at its heart. There are now around 350,000 objects in the social history collection. The Castle Museum buildings stand in what was originally part of the keep of the castle, which was cleared to make way for a new prison. Well-known inmates include leaders of the Luddite Rebellion and leaders of the Peterloo demonstrations in Manchester. Using the site remains, stories and objects from the collection, including those which demonstrate the Eye of York’s history as a power base for the crown across the North for many centuries, the York Castle Museum redevelopment will underline York’s status as a place of historic national importance.

By 2026 York Castle Museum will offer a 21st century experience where the past has contemporary resonance, where visitors choose how to experience, enjoy, and explore the site and collections, communities feel ownership and engagement, and where history is accessible to all.