**Historic England**

**Response to Castle Gateway New Public Spaces: Draft Open Brief**

**15th April 2020**

General Points:

I think this is a good draft and I like the clear direction being given to the prospective applicants. The draft clearly encapsulates the aim and objectives of the My Castle Gateway group and it is excellent that the draft is unashamed about the desire to create a space that is inclusive, flexible and fun.

Specific Points:

I have two concerns about the text:

1)         After reading the Outline brief, I then read the RIBA brief for the York Castle Museum and Eye of Yorkshire  project and have also looked at the English Heritage Trust proposals for the foot of Clifford’s Tower. In these latter project documents, a great deal is made of the plinth at the base of the proposed building, the stepped access and the extensive landscaping, particularly on the river side of the Museum building (at the new Museum building). The Clifford’s Tower proposal makes much of the new threshold at the base of the Tower. My concern here is that the Outline Brief was very strong on flat and universal access and landscaping, and therefore I would not wish to see the three projects create something that did not mesh one with the other. The space around the Eye of York, Museum, car park and Clifford’s Tower is not a big space and it ought to be possible to produce a number of schemes with a unity of vision and remain complementary. A potential conflict in treatment, materials and approach between the three projects  would only be too apparent in such a relatively small space. Can I suggest therefore that particular efforts are made to make sure the three projects have a unified aim and objectives – although I realise that the Clifford’s Tower scheme is with the planners at the moment.

2)         Although relatively minor (and I have mentioned it in the Track Changes) I think the structure of the paper needs a tweak. It needs clearer sign posting about the structure of the paper and what is being asked of the prospective applicants, The pages are not numbered (which should be resolved), but there is an abrupt change of pace between the first three pages (the Summary and Introduction) and the succeeding pages (the Open Brief). It would make better sense – and be more explicit for those reading - that the Introduction should conclude with a bullet pointed list of the design challenges outlined in the remainder of the text.

I hope the above is clear, but if not please contact me to discuss. We remain committed to the creation of a first class and distinctive place, a space that finally elevates some of the most important and distinctive buildings in York and one that can be enjoyed by the people of York and visitors to York for generations to come.

I hope you find the above useful, and as ever, I am happy to discuss any or all the comments.

Best wishes

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Planning Group

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