

Chief Executives' Group – North Yorkshire and York

12 May 2011

Update on partnership rationalisation

Purpose of report

- 1 This report provides a summary of progress with regard to partnership rationalisation.

Local Government North Yorkshire and York

- 2 LGNYY has agreed four principles for a new approach to partnerships:
 - the minimum number and simplest of partnership structures, consistent with delivering the required outcomes and statutory requirements;
 - a North Yorkshire and York approach to county/sub-regional partnership structures as far as possible, recognising that a degree of pragmatism will be required given the different local authority structures in North Yorkshire and York;
 - local partnerships, including shared community engagement arrangements, at the most appropriate local level; and
 - the use of task and finish groups to deal with particular issues, rather than standing thematic partnerships or sub-groups.
- 3 LGNYY will continue as a meeting of the Leaders of the nine local authorities and two national park authorities, supported by chief executives.
- 4 LGNYY will consider later whether and how to involve the directly elected Police and Crime Commissioner and GP Consortia in its meetings.
- 5 LGNYY will consider at its meeting on 24 June 2011 whether or not to retain some or all of the four LGNYY Thematic Boards. The chairs and lead officers of the boards have been consulted. The YNY Local Enterprise Partnership is seen as the replacement for the Economy and Skills Board. The other Boards (Housing Board, Transport Board and Spatial Planning Board) are making a case for their retention. The draft paper to LGNYY is attached (appendix 1) for comments.

NYY Chief Executives Group

- 6 The NYY Chief Executives' Group has replaced the NYSP Executive:
 - Two changes in membership – the chief executive of City of York Council is now a member; the chairs of NYSP thematic partnerships are not (although Richard Flinton has reserved the right to invite a member of his management team if the business of the meeting indicates that would be appropriate).
 - Meeting dates have been agreed as:
 - Thursday 12 May 2011, 2.30 pm at County Hall;
 - Thursday 14 July 2011, 2.30 pm at County Hall;
 - Thursday 3 November, 2.30 pm at PCT HQ, Harrogate.

- Draft terms of reference and work programme will be considered at the meeting on 12 May 2011.

Other county / sub-regional partnerships

- 7 YNY Local Enterprise Partnership – Barry Dodd has been appointed chair and recruitment of other private sector board members is underway. Parts of North Yorkshire are also in the Leeds City Region LEP and some links will be needed with the LEP in the Tees Valley.
- 8 Health and Wellbeing Board – a transition board has been formed and North Yorkshire will be an early implementer Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 9 Safer Communities Forum – the Forum is progressing with a review of partnership arrangements for community safety, but significant change may not take place until after the Police and Crime Commissioner is elected. A county strategy group will still be required if there is more than one CSP in North Yorkshire.
- 10 Local Resilience Forum – the Forum has completed a review of its structure and systems, with an agreement by partners to share costs previously covered entirely by the county council.
- 11 Children’s Trust Board – it is expected that the Board will be relieved of current statutory requirements but this requires legislation. Consideration is being given to what rationalisation can take place in the interim.
- 12 Other NYSP thematic partnerships:
 - Stronger/Rural Partnership meeting – final meeting was on 12 April 2011
 - Adults Strategic Partnership – to be reviewed once arrangements agreed for Health and Wellbeing Board
 - Healthier Communities Partnership – to be reviewed once arrangements agreed for Health and Wellbeing Board

District local strategic partnerships

- 13 District LSPs – all are reviewing their structures and frequency of meetings.
- 14 District council chief executives will be taking recommendations to LGNYY on 24 June 2011 regarding district level partnerships; the latest draft of these is:
 - Some form of strategic partnership forum at district level is required consistent with delivering the required outcomes and statutory requirements.
 - Local partnerships, including shared community engagement arrangements, should continue to operate at the most appropriate local level.
 - A North Yorkshire approach to district based partnership functions is not desirable or achievable given local requirements and the pragmatism that will be required.
 - Form should compliment function, which is as streamlined and simple to operate as possible. The use of task and finish groups to deal with particular issues, rather than thematic partnerships or sub groups be supported.

- New partnership requirements such as the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Local Enterprise Partnership should have local engagement and influencing mechanisms whether aligned to a 'local strategic partnership' or otherwise.
- The future nature of community safety partnership working should be an early dialogue with the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Recommendations

- 15 The Chief Executives' Group is recommended to:
- a Note the progress summarised above.
 - b Comment on the draft LGNYY paper (appendix 1) on elected member thematic boards

Neil Irving
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4 May 2011

Appendix 1 – DRAFT PAPER - Review of LGNYY Thematic Boards

**Local Government North Yorkshire and York
24 June 2011**

DRAFT PAPER - Review of LGNYY Thematic Boards

Purpose of the report

- 1 LGNYY agreed to review at its meeting on 24 June 2011 whether some or all of the four LGNYY Thematic Boards should be retained.

Introduction

- 2 LGNYY established four Thematic Boards in 2009 to mirror partnership arrangements at the regional level:
 - Economy and Skills Board
 - Transport Board
 - Housing Board
 - Spatial Planning Board
- 3 The Boards comprise elected member representatives of LGNYY members, with supporting officer structures.
- 4 The partnership arrangements at the regional level have now ceased or are expected to cease shortly.
- 5 This report has been prepared following consultation with the four Thematic Boards.

Economy and Skills Board

- 6 The Government launched the concept of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) as a new approach to put private business in the driving seat to support business expansion and remove barriers to growth.
- 7 The York and North Yorkshire LEP was recognised by the Government on 10 February 2011.
- 8 The LEP Board will have 15 members including the chair - a private sector chair, eight private sector members and six local authority Leaders (City of York Council, North Yorkshire County Council, three from District Councils and East Riding of Yorkshire Council).
- 9 The Economy and Skills Board has not met since September 2010 and it has generally been assumed that its role would be replaced by the LEP Board.
- 10 It is recommended that LGNYY formally confirm that the Economy and Skills Board has ceased to exist.

Transport Board

- 11 The chair and members of the Transport Board have expressed the view that it should be retained because:
- it provides the highway authorities (North Yorkshire County Council and City of York Council) with an insight into District Councils' views on transport issues and District Councils with a forum to debate the key transport issues that directly affect them;
 - it is envisaged that at some point in the future the YNY LEP will want to consider transport issues and that the Transport Board will be able to offer appropriate advice; and
 - there is still an ongoing need for engagement with District Councils on transport issues linked to Local Transport Plan 3 delivery and LDF implementation.
- 12 The Board has enabled engagement on key issues prior to decisions being taken by the County Council, eg Local Transport Plan, cuts to the Regional Funding Allocation uplift programme, proposed reduction in bus services, and the A64 Corridor study.
- 13 There are some significant items of future business for the Board, including the bidding process for the Local Sustainable Transport Fund, the implementation of civil parking enforcement, and the development of Strategic Transport Improvement Master Plans (STIMPS) to provide the transport infrastructure required for developments envisaged in Local Development Frameworks (LDFs).
- 14 Subject to LGNYY agreeing to its retention, the intention is that both the Board and Officer Group would meet no more than quarterly and these meetings would only go ahead if required. Merging the Board and Officer Group is not favoured because the nature of discussions at these two meetings is very different.

Housing Board

- 15 The chair and members of the Housing Board have expressed the view that it should be retained because it plays a key role in promoting the delivery of affordable housing and improving housing conditions in North Yorkshire, including:
- putting elected members in the driving seat of the increasing number of sub-regional housing decisions that need to be made;
 - enabling North Yorkshire and York to speak with a single voice on housing issues, in particular when working with the Homes and Communities Agency;
 - enabling the single North Yorkshire Housing Strategy and North Yorkshire Local Investment Plan to be taken forward in a coordinated way; and
 - facilitating economies of scale associated with joint procurement (eg research and the Rural Housing Enabler programme) and the pooling of limited resources to provide a strategic housing resource.
- 16 The Board has provided a political mandate to sub-regional housing policies and investment decisions, bringing all the key players together including local authorities, national park authorities and the Homes and Communities Agency. The Board also supports community engagement activities which would otherwise be

difficult to sustain (eg those associated with the single Housing Strategy and Local Investment Plan).

- 17 The structure is relatively simple with the Board (elected members) supported by the Housing Forum (providing a wider consultative and community engagement role) and the Chief Housing Officers Group (providing technical support and advice). Task and finish groups have been convened when needed, eg Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment, Strategic Housing Market Assessment and Second Homes Affordable Housing Group.

Spatial Planning Board

- 18 The chair and members of the Spatial Planning Board have expressed the view that it should be retained because there is an ongoing need for elected member-led spatial planning work at the sub-regional level, against a backdrop of a rapidly and radically shifting national policy framework. Key developments include the abolition of regional planning, the move to sub-regional cross-boundary strategic working, and the introduction of the Duty to Cooperate under the Localism Bill. The Board feels strongly that it is essential that there is collaboration between local authorities within the sub-region on spatial planning issues that have 'larger than local' impacts.
- 20 The Board feels that the key priority for the year ahead is to support the delivery of Local Development Frameworks and priority developments through delivery focussed workstreams particularly around infrastructure planning. There is no appetite for more policy and strategy development work during this timeframe, although it was recognised that this would need to be reviewed again in 12 to 18 months time.
- 21 Subject to LGNYY agreeing to its retention, the intention is that the Board would meet only when necessary, focussing upon strategic level issues and supporting delivery, and utilising a task and finish group approach where appropriate.

Other issues

- 22 All three Boards (Transport, Housing and Spatial Planning) expressed concerns at any merger of two or more of the Boards as the agendas would be very broad and such an approach might become unduly cumbersome.
- 23 Currently, Boards normally submit a short written update to every LGNYY meeting. These provide an overview of activity but do not facilitate strategic consideration of their work. The role of the new Chief Executives' Group is to provide leadership and coordination across sub-regional partnership structures and public services generally and to advise LGNYY. It is recommended that the Chief Executives' Group undertake a strategic consideration of transport, housing and spatial planning issues annually, in conjunction with the relevant Board and supporting officers, and to advise LGNYY accordingly.

Recommendations

24 That LGNYY:

- (a) resolves that the Economy and Skills Board has ceased to exist and that its role has been replaced by the LEP Board;
- (b) resolves that the Transport Board, Housing Board and Spatial Planning Board should continue to exist;
- (c) that the Chief Executives' Group undertake a strategic consideration of transport, housing and spatial planning issues annually, in conjunction with the relevant Board and supporting officers, and to advise LGNYY accordingly; and
- (d) requests the Honorary Secretary to draft appropriate amendments to the LGNYY constitution for approval at the meeting on 16 September 2011.

Background papers:

- LGNYY constitution
- Email correspondence with lead officers of Thematic Boards