

# North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership - Executive

8 January 2009

## Review of NYSP Wider Partnership Conference 2008

### **1 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To report back to the NYSP Executive on the October 2008 Wider Partnership conference via the enclosed information paper.
- 1.2 To ask that the Executive agree some initial changes to the timing and format of the 2009 event.

### **2 Background**

- 2.1 The 2008 annual Wider Partnership conference continued the success of recent years by attracting the highest number of delegates yet. If the capacity had been available, the interest registered in the event suggests it could have reached around 250 attendees in total. Delegate feedback indicated that the event was found to be highly informative, well-organised and interesting and again an excellent opportunity for all organisations – but particularly smaller groups from the voluntary and community sector - to engage with the key NYSP players and share expertise. The year-on-year growth, whilst highly positive, also poses challenges for handling and management of this event in the future.
- 2.2 Attached at Appendix 1 is an information paper which summarises some of the issues raised by the 2008 conference. It would be useful to agree a few relatively small changes at this point which will positively address issues flagged through conference feedback and help mould further work for the 2009 conference in the New Year. These changes can be categorised as follows:
  - a) commencing the conference slightly earlier (9.30am, rather than 9.45/10.00am);
  - b) having a keynote speech at the beginning of the event; and
  - c) introducing a mix of workshop sessions around both the Thematic Partnership areas and several of the Sustainable Community Strategy Priorities.
- 2.3 The 2009 Wider Partnership conference will be held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2009, again at the Pavilions, Harrogate. The Executive should note that larger accommodation has been reserved at the venue for 2009, which would enable more Wider Partnership members to attend. This will also enable the 'marketplace' feature of the 2008 conference to potentially be expanded next year to include more member organisations.

### **3**     **Recommendations**

- 3.1     That the Executive note the information report at Appendix 1.
- 3.2     That the NYSP Executive agree to the modifications outlined at paragraph 2.2 and in the attached report as a basis for planning the 2009 conference.

### **4**     **Appendices**

- 4.1     Appendix 1 – NYSP Wider Partnership conference (17 October 2008) evaluation report).

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12 December 2008