

North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership - Executive

15 April 2010

Future of the NYSP Partnership

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update members on progress since the NYSP Partnership was abolished in January 2010.
- 1.2 To invite members to suggest agenda items for the forthcoming extended meetings of Local Government North Yorkshire and York.
- 1.3 To seek members' agreement to:
 - a) broadening out the role of district council Chief Executives on the NYSP Executive to represent both the district council and local strategic partnership; and
 - b) receiving an update from two of the Thematic Partnership Chairs at each Executive meeting.
- 1.4 To seek Thematic Partnership Chairs' agreement to:
 - a) ensuring that Thematic Partnership Key Messages/minutes are copied for information to all LSPs; and
 - c) taking a standing item at Thematic Partnership meetings to highlight key NYSP Executive issues.

2 Progress Update

- 2.1 Further to the agreement of NYSP Executive members in January, the NYSP Partnership has now been removed from the NYSP structure. Several key actions have taken place since January, as outlined below.

3 Involvement of Elected Members on the NYSP

- 3.1 It has been agreed with Local Government North Yorkshire and York (LGNYY) that alternate LGNYY meetings will be extended to include the Chairs of the Primary Care Trust, Fire and Rescue Authority and Police Authority to discuss NYSP business and any other cross-cutting issues that may arise in order to secure the engagement and endorsement of local authority Leaders and the Chairs of key local public sector partners. The next meetings of this extended group will be held on 2nd July 2010 and 28th January 2011.
- 3.2 Key agenda items at these meetings will include the refresh of the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement. The Executive are invited to suggest other items.

4 Engaging other partners who were members of the NYSP Partnership

4.1 As per John Marsden's emails on the issue, we have also been speaking to those partners formerly on the NYSP Partnership who are not otherwise linked directly in to an area of the NYSP, such as Museums, Libraries and Archives Trust and the Health and Safety Executive. The aim of this consultation was to find out if and how they would like to be engaged in the future and to give them an opportunity to make suggestions about this. Not all such partners have responded to this consultation, but the majority have confirmed that:

- they do not wish for another 'meeting' to be created to enable them to have regular engagement;
- they would welcome more targeted and specific communication with them where their specific input is needed on an issue; and
- they would also welcome more communications about the work of the NYSP and in particular the Thematic Partnerships.

4.2 We are therefore not proposing to create a new structure or mechanism for engaging with these former Partnership members and they are already linked in to the Wider Partnership. We will, however, be looking to improve some of our communications mechanisms in response to the above comments and other areas for improvement which have been identified by partners more widely as part of this consultation process (see 'Further Proposals' below).

5 Local Strategic Partnerships

Dual role of district Chief Executives

5.1 As part of the consultation around the future of the NYSP Partnership, some concerns were raised about the continued involvement of Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs). LSPs are key partners within the NYSP structure and already have established links in to the NYSP Thematic Partnerships. We are keen, however, that the LSP link is reinforced further within the NYSP Executive. To this end it is proposed that the role of those district council Chief Executives who attend the NYSP Executive is broadened to ensure they represent the interests of both their LSP and council at these meetings.

5.2 This suggestion was made by an LSP during the consultation on the future of the NYSP Partnership. All LSPs have been contacted since for their views on this proposal, although none have been received. Executive members are asked to agree this proposal and, if there is a consensus about it, then we will ensure that this is reflected in the revised governance arrangements which are due to be developed in the next few months.

Local Strategic Partnerships on the Thematic Partnerships

5.3 Additionally, a few LSPs have commented during the consultation that they would welcome their link with Thematic Partnerships (TPs) being reinforced. In particular, there is often a difficulty with a representative attending a TP from the LSP but in the main representing their organisation rather than the LSP. Some LSPs are reviewing their membership on TPs to help improve on this. It is recommended that TP Chairs ensure as a minimum that LSP Chairs

and Co-ordinators are copied in to all TP Key Messages and minutes for information to help reinforce the two-way link between TPs and LSPs.

6 Further Proposals

NYSP newsletter

6.1 Improving communications has been a salient area for improvement which has been identified during the consultation about the Partnership. It is proposed that the NYSP newsletter becomes a quarterly bulletin updating on all NYSP business including the key activities of Thematic Partnerships. This will be produced initially in May, August, November and February each year and will be reviewed after two issues to identify whether this level of frequency and information included is suitable and meets the needs of NYSP partners.

Thematic Partnership updates

6.2 Many partners also commented that they would like communications between the Thematic Partnerships (TPs) and the Executive to be strengthened further. Currently, TPs do not have a standing item at each Executive during which they can update on activities. It is more the case that papers are brought or issues raised by a TP on a 'needs basis', for example when refreshing the JSNA. It is therefore proposed that a brief standing item should be made available at each Executive meeting for TP Chairs to update on and discuss activities. As two TPs will be invited to update on activities within each quarterly newsletter, it is proposed that the same two TPs be invited to use this information as a basis for an update to the subsequent NYSP Executive meeting. For example, as it is proposed that the Safer Communities Forum and Development Board will highlight their activities in the May 2010 newsletter, an item could come to the 24th June NYSP Executive for these TPs to update members.

Reporting back on NYSP issues at Thematic Partnership level

6.3 Linked in to the above proposal, it is also recommended that TPs provide a standing item at each of their meetings to update on key NYSP issues, for example to highlight points from the most recent NYSP Executive Key Messages. This will help reinforce communications between the Executive and TPs.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 That the Executive agree partnership issues to be put forward to extended meetings of LGNYY;
- 6.2 That district council Chief Executives take on the dual role of reflecting their district council and LSP at NYSP Executive level;
- 6.3 That the Executive agree to take updates from two Thematic Partnerships at each Executive meeting;
- 6.4 That Thematic Partnerships copy their Key Messages/minutes for information to all LSPs;

6.5 That Thematic Partnerships take NYSP Executive Key Messages or NYSP key issues as a standing item at their meetings.

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