

**North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership - Executive**

**15 April 2010**

**Sustainable Community Strategy and LAA refresh  
Outcomes of Phase 1 consultation**

**1 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To update members on the first phase of the consultation to refresh the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement.
- 1.2 To seek agreement from members on the proposed priorities for the revised Sustainable Community Strategy for the period 2011 to 2014.

**2 Phase 1 consultation – aims and activities**

- 2.1 Phase 1 of the refresh consultation for both the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and Local Area Agreement (LAA) ended on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010. The aim of this initial three-month phase has been essentially to seek the views of our key partners and the public on whether our current ten priorities still reflect the needs of local communities in North Yorkshire and whether any changes need to be made.
- 2.2 Targeted activities in this period have included:
  - an article in NY Times
  - consultation pages on the NYSP and NYCC web sites, including a proforma to feed back views;
  - emails to Wider Partnership members
  - targeted emails to groups such as the Chamber of Commerce, Local Infrastructure Organisations and North Yorkshire Forum for Voluntary Organisations, for wider distribution to their membership;
  - development of Easy Read material about the consultation process; and
  - direct engagement with Learning Disability Partnership Boards about the process.
- 2.3 The comments and feedback received have shown that this first phase has been very helpful for some partners (and partnerships) to begin thinking through where they would like greater emphasis to be placed on certain issues as the documents develop. For those more 'peripheral' or traditionally harder to reach groups, it has proven to be a useful introduction to the NYSP and the context of the SCS; work which will be consolidated once we head into the core development and consultation period over the summer.
- 2.4 In tandem with the above activities, NYSP partners – particularly the Thematic Partnerships - have been asked to identify performance indicators which will enable progress and delivery of key priorities to be monitored appropriately, along with the lead officers for these targets. Section 4 gives more information on this process.

### 3 Phase 1 outcomes – Sustainable Community Strategy

3.1 Further to the three-month consultation period, 30 responses have been received; some from individual members of the public, some from key partners or on behalf of partnership groups. Appendix 1 summarises the responses received.

3.2 The majority of respondents concurred that the current priorities – because they are wide-ranging - still reflect the needs of local communities in North Yorkshire. Comments around priorities to be removed or added are outlined below.

#### **Reducing and removing priorities**

3.3 In the main, few respondents felt that any of the current priorities needed to be removed as constituting a ‘non-critical’ priority for communities, although a couple of respondents remarked that the priorities might benefit from being reduced to ensure a tight focus on what is critical. There were a few question marks raised about the partnership continuing to distinguish ‘**Alcohol**’ as a stand-alone priority and whether or not this was still warranted or whether it could actually be subsumed into another key priority such as Health and Wellbeing or Community Safety. Members are invited to give this suggestion further consideration.

3.4 A few queries were similarly raised about whether the ‘**Children and Young People**’ and ‘**Older People**’ priorities – but the latter in particular – should remain as distinct priorities as they are essentially groups within the community with cross-cutting issues, rather than constituting priorities in themselves. One possibility may therefore be to remove these as priorities but draw out more specific aims around these two groups within the remaining priorities. Members are asked to consider these possibilities further.

#### **New priority areas**

3.5 In terms of new issues to be included as priority areas, the following themes were suggested by respondents:

- Heritage
- Financial inclusion
- Infrastructure improvement
- Increase awareness of barriers to service provision (for example, as experienced by minority ethnic groups)
- Climate change
- Stronger partnerships.

3.6 Creating new priorities from some of these points would clearly help to give them a greater focus. Arguably, however, these suggestions are cross-cutting issues which are to some degree already reflected within the main priorities themselves but perhaps require stronger links to be made within the new strategy, rather than become priorities in their own right. Members are asked to comment on this proposal.

**Altering current priorities**

3.7 Some suggestions were also made about altering the wording of current priorities to ensure they are more reflective of concerns and also link in better to the aims stated within the text. These included:

- Broadening 'Economy and Enterprise' to 'Economy, Enterprise and Employment' to ensure more presence of the latter;
- Changing 'Access to services and public transport' to 'Access to services' to ensure this keeps a broad remit and isn't purely about public transport;
- Altering 'Environment' to 'Environment and Climate Change' to ensure a better link with its climate change aims.

It is suggested that these alterations are made in the drafting of the revised strategy and partners will of course be able to feed in their comments on such changes during the summer consultation period.

**Developing the draft strategy (Phase 2)**

3.8 Much of the feedback received from respondents during the phase 1 consultation was more about suggestions for greater emphasis/reinforcement within the body of the text rather than focussing purely on the top-level priorities. This input will be particularly useful in developing the draft strategy during phase 2 of the refresh.

3.9 Some of the salient points highlighted by respondents in terms of emphasis and development of the new strategy are outlined below:

- More consideration around barriers to access;
- More emphasis on the importance of skills and also the role of tertiary education;
- Homelessness prevention;
- Greater emphasis on sustainability and climate change; and
- Stronger links around enhancing the county's natural and historic landscape through the strategy's aims.

3.10 It is proposed that such points are worked into the re-draft of the strategy where possible; in some cases this will simply be about reinforcing a message that is already there and in others it will be about ensuring more explicit links with aims.

3.11 In preparing the draft, and without losing the strategic nature of the document, we will need to recognise that it will be used by partners to support future bids for external funding.

**4 Phase 1 - Local Area Agreement**

4.1 All Thematic Partnerships have begun initial discussions regarding indicators and some have even produced initial draft lists of indicators to be within the new 2011-14 North Yorkshire LAA that they feel appropriately reflect their priorities being put forward to be included within the SCS. A brief update of progress for each Thematic Partnership is as follows:

- 4.2 The **Children's Trust** has considered a paper on the future priorities for the CYPP and LAA refresh at its last meeting. The proposal put forward is to run the LAA refresh and CYPP development along the same timescale, with a revised needs assessment over the summer, and emergent priorities (and indicators) over the autumn period. The Children and Young People's Plan 2011-14 must be published by 1st April 2011, so it aligns with the LAA / SCS refresh.
- 4.3 The **Adults Thematic Partnership** as a starting point undertook initial discussions at their last meeting regarding priorities. It is now being investigated how the existing LAA targets can link to these priorities or whether there is a need to link in new national indicators to these priorities. An initial working list has been constructed and is currently being discussed with colleagues / partners, once fully developed this will be shared with the NYSP.
- 4.4 The **Economy and Enterprise Thematic Partnership** will be considering new LAA indicators once the new Economic Assessment is completed. This assessment is currently at an interim draft version stage with further engagement of partners leading to the completion of the sub regional version by end of June. The statutory North Yorkshire Assessment will then be produced with the redefined LAA indicators.
- 4.5 The **Healthier Communities Thematic Partnership** have produced a consultation template and sent this to all members of the Partnership during January 2010, asking for comment and suggestions for the SCS and LAA refresh. This information was used to aid further discussion at the Partnership meeting held on 17th March and to inform the final consultation document which is currently being completed.
- 4.6 The **Stronger Thematic Partnership** set up a task and finish group, which met on the 19th January, to consider the relevance of the priorities of existing SCS and targets for possible inclusion in the next LAA. The proposals of the task and finish group were presented to the Partnership on the 23rd February for discussion and agreement prior to presentation to the NYSP.
- 4.7 A paper was presented to the **York and North Yorkshire Safer Communities Forum** on 30th March outlining proposals regarding the refresh of the LAA Performance Indicators and Targets, and the Sustainable Community Strategy for 2011-14.
- 4.8 This is, of course, still very early days in the formulation of a new LAA and the following course of action still remains the goal in the short term:
- 4.9 Having considered the overarching strategic priorities that will be included within the SCS we would also ask that in relation to the LAA Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) and Thematic Partnerships consider the following:
- Identify performance indicators (ideally from the national Indicator set (NIS)) which will enable progress and delivery of key priorities to be monitored appropriately. If there is no suitable national indicator a local performance indicator may be proposed but it must be clearly defined

and the monitoring arrangements must be specified. The number of indicators should be kept to a minimum, ensuring priorities are appropriately monitored, but so not to become too unwieldy.

- Identify the partners (lead and supporting) who will be named against each indicator in the LAA Outcomes Framework who will have a duty to cooperate and to have regard to the relevant targets.
- Identify a lead officer to act for each indicator and lead on negotiating the target for improvement.

4.10 Thematic Partnerships will have responsibility for the delivery, monitoring and detailed scrutiny of the performance of indicators; therefore, it is important that there is full partner agreement to the indicators being proposed.

## **5 Next Steps – Phase 2**

5.1 Further to the proposals outlined in section 3 above, Members are asked to agree the final set of priorities for the revised SCS. This decision will be fed back to those who have provided input to the consultation via the NYSP and NYCC websites and also email to the Wider Partnership.

5.2 Drafting work will then begin within NYCC on the revised strategy, picking up on some of the initial feedback from partners, as outlined in 3.9. The revised SCS will be developed with a few key aims at its core:

- To be written in clear, plain English;
- To give greater focus to the concept of sustainability and what this means across each priority;
- To make the document tighter with clear, identifiable links to specific aims and targets; and
- To draw on examples of good practice and positive outcomes arising from the SCS and LAA over the last few years.

5.3 In terms of the LAA, moving forward beyond March 2010, a pro-forma will be produced to record the indicators being selected and the confirmed baselines / targets. An early draft will come to the NYSP Executive on 24<sup>th</sup> June. Further work will then be done and it will be re-circulated electronically for approval by the Executive as a consultation draft to go out to all stakeholders at the end of July. The draft LAA will accompany the SCS and a Sustainability Appraisal will also be available to partners during this period.

<h2><b>6 Recommendations</b></h2>
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6.1	That members consider whether to subsume Alcohol within Community Safety or Health and Wellbeing;
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6.2	That members consider whether Children and Young People and Older People could develop as cross-cutting themes across all priorities rather than stand-alone priorities;
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6.3	That members agree that the themes highlighted at 3.5 be interwoven in the text of the revised strategy rather than become new priorities; and
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6.4	That members agree to altering three of the current priorities as outlined at 3.7.
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Appendix 1 – Phase 1 consultation responses.

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30<sup>th</sup> March 2010