

North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership - Executive

25 June 2009

NYSP and Partnership Governance

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To report on the outcomes of the governance self-assessment for the NYSP Executive and Partnership and highlight where gaps have been identified in the current arrangements.
- 1.2 To seek agreement from Executive members to the drafting of a short overarching NYSP governance document which will address those gaps highlighted and make current arrangements more robust.

2.1 As members will be aware, work has been underway within the County Council over recent months to develop a framework to assist in self-assessment and action planning around partnership governance. As part of the pilot for this framework, a single self-assessment has been undertaken in relation to the current governance arrangements of the NYSP Partnership and Executive.

2.2 Currently the Executive and Partnership each have their own brief Terms of Reference (ToR) which cover:

- role/purpose;
- membership/representation;
- frequency of meetings;
- decision-making; and
- the period of appointment for a Chair

These ToR were drafted when the new NYSP structure was implemented early in 2008 and have provided a good reference point while the Executive and Partnership have been 'bedding in'.

2.3 The self assessment identified key gaps where a short statement or protocol is needed to ensure that the arrangements are more robust, in particular:

- Dealing with disputes;
- A joint NYSP complaints procedure;
- The NYSP's potential to influence the decision-making/policy framework of other partners;
- A code of conduct for members; and
- Issuing press statements on behalf of the NYSP.

2.4 Governance is an important issue in the context of the Comprehensive Area Assessment and it is clear that evidence of, for example, statements outlining how partnerships would handle disputes, are being given increasing prominence as part of the wider area assessment.

- 2.5 The existing Memorandum of Understanding for the Local Area Agreement deals comprehensively with some, but not all, of these issues. It is not proposed that such a detailed document be used as a template for the wider NYSP governance, but we will need to ensure that there is no inconsistency between the two documents.
- 2.5 The identified 'gaps' are disparate and any statements/protocols developed to cover these adequately would not necessarily sit easily within the current ToR documents. Whilst there is no impetus to completely re-draft the current ToR, there is now a timely opportunity presented by the self-assessment to develop a more rounded – but still fairly brief – overarching governance document for the NYSP Executive and Partnership incorporating the required statements/protocols. This would also provide a framework for the Thematic Partnerships where separate arrangements are not essential.
- 2.6 It is recommended that a draft overarching NYSP Executive/Partnership document be developed and circulated to partners during July 2009 for comments. The final version will need to be agreed by the NYSP Partnership on 10th September 2009 and the NYSP Executive on 1st October 2009.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 That the Executive agree that that a draft overarching NYSP Executive/Partnership document be developed and circulated to partners towards the end of July 2009 for comments, with the final draft being presented to the NYSP Partnership on 10th September 2009 and the NYSP Executive on 1st October 2009.

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