

North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership - Executive

Climate Change

7th January 2010

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To examine the scope of separating climate change and related environmental issues into a distinct thematic group.
- 1.2 To highlight key issues and challenges and make recommendations to move this agenda forward.

2 Background

- 2.1 On 1st October 2009 a paper was presented on climate change to the NYSP Executive. As a result of this paper it was agreed that Janet Waggott would be the overall climate change champion for NYSP. There was also an agreement that each of the NYSP Thematic Partnerships would consider climate change issues in relation to their individual work programmes.
- 2.2 It was also discussed and agreed that climate change was such an important and big issue that did not belong purely within the remit of the Stronger/Rural Partnership. It was agreed that a report would be presented to this meeting examining the scope and pros and cons of separating climate change and related environmental issues into a separate and distinct thematic group

3 The current position on tackling climate change

- 3.1 Currently the Stronger / Rural Partnership is the strategic lead on climate change within the NYSP. The partnership has delegated responsibility for delivery to the York and North Yorkshire Sustainable Development Officers Group.
- 3.2 The existing North Yorkshire Local Area Agreement (LAA) has two indicators focused on climate change, NI 185 (CO₂ reduction from local authority operations) and NI 186 (Per capita reduction in CO₂ emissions) and four other designated indicators relating to the environment including recycling, flooding and biodiversity.
- 3.3 Although not in the LAA, all eight local authorities are required to report and demonstrate progress on NI 188 (planning to adapt to climate change).
- 3.4 In the previous report (1st October 2009) issues were identified that were impeding the progress and success of a coherent county wide partnership approach to climate change. For example, although there are a number of individual climate change strategies there is no co-ordinated NYSP document and climate change has traditionally been

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viewed as a stand-alone 'environmental' issue. The reality is that climate change will impact on most work areas in the future.

4. Reasons/benefits of a dedicated climate change thematic partnership

4.1 Benefits :

- A Strategic Group would be able to influence and direct coherent policy development not only across NYSP but with constituent partners as well as ensuring greater ownership
- Closer partnership working will result in better use of resources and may strengthen future bids for funding
- A dedicated NYSP partnership should have the resources, capacity and capability to commission specific pieces of work, embark on larger scale projects and mainstream training and information resources.
- It would also be an opportunity to embed the involvement role of the voluntary sector.
- An additional benefit would be that a dedicated NYSP thematic partnership may have more influence at a regional level.

5 Reasons/benefits of no change to current arrangements

- The current climate change champion sits on NYSP Executive therefore is able to have strategic input and influence.
- As the climate change champion was appointed in October 2009 there has been little time to see benefits of this role for example co-ordinating a NYSP climate change framework.
- Sustainable officers group is strengthening and developing and now has a permanent chair.
- The current arrangements have proved successful in bidding for funding, for example, REIP funding for leadership workshops and schools development officer.
- Existing groups within each of the partners organisations would still need to meet in order to meet the reporting requirements of the National Indicators therefore a separate thematic partnership would be an additional meeting.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 That the NYSP Executive discuss the merits of developing a distinct climate change thematic partnership or leaving existing structures as they are with the additional strategic support of the NYSP Climate Change Champion.

Report by:

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