

## North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership

### Minutes of meeting on Thursday 12th March 2009 at County Hall, Northallerton

Attendees and apologies for absence are listed at Appendix 1.

#### 1.0 Minutes of the meeting on 11 September 2008

- 1.1 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record. There were no matters arising.

#### 2.0 Thematic Partnership updates

- 2.1 Written updates had been provided for information by each Thematic Partnership Chair and were noted by the members.

#### 3.0 Local Area Agreement 2008/11 – Quarter 3 Performance Report

- 3.1 Members noted an information paper updating on progress against the Local Area Agreement 2008/11 (LAA) at the end of Quarter 3. John Marsden updated that the LAA is currently being refreshed and will shortly be reviewed by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

#### 4.0 The Impact of Economic Downturn on North Yorkshire

- 4.1 The focus for the meeting was the theme of economic downturn in North Yorkshire. A number of short presentations were given on a range of relevant issues, with time given for questions and discussion. Key points from both the presentations and ensuing discussions are highlighted below.

#### 4.2 The Economic Downturn: A Central Government Perspective. Rt Hon Rosie Winterton MP

- An Economic Delivery Group (EDG) has been set up at a regional level, comprising key agencies such as Jobcentre Plus, Learning and Skills Council, Yorkshire Forward and NHS North Yorkshire and York, to look at their response to the downturn and consider what strategies can be put in place to tackle it. The EDG ultimately reports back to a national economic council.
- Local Government for Yorkshire and the Humber (LGYH) have developed an initiative to help local businesses during recession, for example in clarifying where they can go for advice.
- Local public procurement plays a critical part in improving the economic situation locally. This includes tourism (for example maximising the Yorkshire Forward funding to promote tourism), farming and the rural economy (local purchasing is important here) and developing and promoting green technologies. However, it was also noted that recent government changes to local procurement processes which were intended to make things easier for SMEs have in some cases had the reverse effect.
- The Minister agreed to investigate whether business tax relief will be extended to assist local businesses. It was also noted that many businesses are unaware of government assistance and incentives available and that further multi-agency work is needed to improve this.

- A lot of people in North Yorkshire are employed by/reliant upon the financial services sector. The Minister has met with the Chief Executive of RBS and is also looking at the impact of the Lloyds TSB/HBOS merger in terms of their presence in the region.

#### 4.3 **The Economic Downturn in North Yorkshire: An Overview**

##### **Jonathan French, York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit**

- Recent analyses (Job Seeker's Allowance figures etc) for the county and region reveal a mixed picture. A lot of people are finding jobs but there are not as many jobs available as there are people seeking work. The 18-24 age group presents a problem in this regard and will find difficulties joining the local labour market at the end of this school year.
- Similarly, while some sectors are sustaining levels of reduction in employment, such as agriculture and food production. Others such as construction are in serious difficulties.
- Yorkshire Forward has forecast that North Yorkshire is most likely to recover as quickly as possible within the region.

#### 4.4 **The Impact of the Downturn on Businesses and Employment**

##### **Ian Williams: Leeds York and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce**

- The national picture reveals that business failure rates are high and business confidence is low. There will be further widespread redundancies. However, again the picture is mixed as although sectors such as financial services are seeing huge job losses, areas within that such as credit management are also stepping up their recruitment.
- Retailers are closing down and it will not be easy for businesses to attract investment. The construction sector is suffering but it is also a problem for the linked support agencies, such as estate agencies.
- On a local level, there is an issue with people wanting to start their own business but finding there is a lack of suitable premises. Rented accommodation is seeing a significant growth in demand, although it was recognised that there is an issue with landlords worrying about paying rates on empty property.

#### 4.5 **The Impact of the Downturn on Tourism**

##### **Clare Morrow, Yorkshire Tourist Board**

- Tourism is now the biggest single sector in Yorkshire. The region is attractive for Europeans and people from within the UK at the moment because of the exchange rate. Another survey also showed that people like to come to Yorkshire and subsequently will come back, although the latest figures do show a drop in business visitors.
- Yorkshire Tourist Board (YTB) have a number of initiatives underway to tackle the downturn. These include:
  - an additional pot of £200,000 which has been spent on a campaign "Get more Yorkshire for your pound";
  - special offers for visitor attractions, advertised through local media and offering added value;
  - international campaigns in Spain, Germany and the Netherlands to bring in more European visitors; and
  - a re-launch of YTB's domestic campaign to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2009 with over 600 people attending.
- The loss of flights from Leeds Bradford to Heathrow is a concern, as well as the difficulties that small businesses in the sector have in obtaining credit. There is also a low take-up of IT within businesses.

- It was recognised that there is a need to spread visitors throughout the year and not just rely on/retain low-skilled seasonal work in areas such as Scarborough.
- Work is being done to better align the tourism partnerships across the region which will enable better working between cities and elsewhere in North Yorkshire.

#### **4.6 The Personal Impact of the Downturn**

##### **Linda Marsden, Advice North Yorkshire**

- Advice agencies in North Yorkshire saw a 23% increase in client numbers in January 2009. Many people are not aware of and don't know how to access Job Seeker's Allowance and other entitlements such as pension credit when they have not done this before. A lot of people are seeking advice because they fear redundancy.
- Current advice needs centre around short-term working and lay-off and also cases of unfair dismissal and discrimination at work, for example woman losing their jobs when taking maternity leave.
- Nobody really knows how the downturn will pan out and this is adding to the stress already building for those most affected by it.

#### **4.7 The Impact of the Downturn on Housing**

##### **Colin Dales, Richmondshire District Council/North Yorkshire Housing Officers Group**

- In relation to housing, there is no consistent trend developing in North Yorkshire. The market has slowed down in North Yorkshire but the area has been less affected than other sub-regions. Average house prices have dropped by 6.6% in North Yorkshire between 2007 and 2008, compared to a 10.6% reduction across Yorkshire and the Humber.
- The worst affected areas among most property types are Selby, Scarborough and York.
- Increasing number of homeless cases being dealt with by advice agencies.
- Improving performance by local authorities on homelessness prevention is helping at present.
- Ongoing affordable homes target to soak up some housing need.

#### **5.0 Comprehensive Area Assessment – Liaison with Audit Commission Lead Inspector**

5.1 A short paper was presented by John Marsden which proposed arrangements for forthcoming liaison with the Audit Commission's Lead Inspector for the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA). The members agreed that:

- The CAA Lead will meet with the NYSP Executive as part of their regular cycle of meetings and if necessary at a special meeting;
- The CAA Lead will meet with the Leaders of the eight North Yorkshire councils, together with the Chairs of the key authorities on the NYSP (e.g. the police Authority and National Park Authorities); and
- The CAA Lead will meet with the Partnership at its September 2009 meeting to share the joint inspectorates' emerging judgements.

#### **6.0 Dates and venues of future meetings**

6.1 The next meeting of the NYSP Partnership will be held on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at County Hall, Northallerton. Dates for 2010 meetings were circulated and are as follows:

Thursday 11 March 2010 at 2:30pm, County Hall, Northallerton.  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2010 at 2:30pm, County Hall, Northallerton.

The annual NYSP Wider Partnership conference is scheduled to take place on  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at the Pavilions of Harrogate.

## Appendix 1

### Attendees – NYSP Meeting of 12th March 2009

#### Member Organisations:

Cllr Chris Metcalfe	-	NYCC Deputy Leader
Nigel Hutchinson	-	North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service
Cllr John Fort	-	North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority
Michael Houlton	-	Highways Agency
Kevin Lancaster	-	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
Cluny Macpherson	-	Arts Council England
Cllr Brian Phillips	-	Hambleton District Council
Grahame Maxwell	-	North Yorkshire Police
Martin Wynn	-	Learning & Skills Council
Pete Brown	-	Probation Service
Harriet Dow	-	Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust
Dorothy Fairburn	-	Country Land and Business Association
Peter Pybus	-	Federation of Small Businesses
Neil Wilson	-	York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Denise Potter	-	Scarborough & N. East Yorkshire Healthcare NHS Trust
T. McLaudon	-	Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust
Julie Hutton	-	Yorkshire Forward
Maddy Jago	-	English Heritage
Peter Nottage	-	Natural England
Cllr John Fort	-	North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority
Cllr Keith Barnes	-	NYCC member
Cllr Heather Garnett	-	NYCC member
Cllr David Billing	-	NYCC member
Ian Williams	-	Leeds, York and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce
Cllr Paul Whitaker	-	Yorkshire Local Councils Association
Helen Black	-	North Yorkshire Forum for Voluntary Organisations
Wendy Merry	-	Voluntary and Community Sector
Kevin Holt	-	Voluntary and Community Sector
Bill Cross	-	Yorkshire Rural Community Council
Cllr. Dr. Mike Gardner	-	Harrogate Borough Council
Wallace Sampson	-	Harrogate Borough Council
Colin Walker	-	Craven District Council
Marie-Ann Jackson	-	Ryedale District Council
Cllr Tom Fox	-	Scarborough Borough Council
Jim Dillon	-	Scarborough Borough Council
Judith Bromfield	-	Richmondshire LSP
Ian Wolstenholme	-	Richmondshire District Council
Chris Hawkesworth	-	Harrogate District Strategic Partnership

#### Observer:

David Fraser	-	Government Office for Yorkshire & the Humber
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#### NYSP Executive Members in attendance (where not also named above):

John Marsden	-	Chief Executive, NYCC
Richard Flinton	-	Business & Environmental Services, NYCC
Cynthia Welbourn	-	Children & Young People's Services, NYCC
Derek Law	-	Adult & Community Services, NYCC

Peter Simpson - Hambleton & Richmondshire District Councils

**Also in attendance:**

Rt Hon Rosie Winterton MP - Regional Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber  
Elliot Fidler - DWP/Regional Minister's Office  
Colin Dales - Richmondshire District Council  
Linda Marsden - Advice North Yorkshire  
Jonathan French - York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit  
Clare Morrow - Yorkshire Tourist Board  
Roland Crooke - MoD  
Mike Newbury - Audit Commission  
Gary Fielding - NYCC  
Neil Irving - NYCC  
Hugh Williamson - NYCC  
Diane Parsons - NYCC

**Apologies – NYSP Meeting of 12th March 2009**

Cllr John Weighell (NYCC Leader – represented by Cllr Chris Metcalfe)  
Jill Moulton (South Tees Hospital NHS Trust)  
Martin Connor (Selby District Council & Selby District LSP)  
Cllr Jane Kenyon (North Yorkshire Police Authority)  
Col. Nick Millen (MOD/Catterick Garrison – represented by Roland Crooke)  
Martin Watson (MOD - represented by Roland Crooke)  
Cllr Greg White (NYCC member)  
Cllr Keith Knaggs (Ryedale District Council)  
Cllr Melva Steckles (Richmondshire District Council)  
Peter Brambleby (NHS North Yorkshire & York)  
Stephanie Sturrock (North Yorkshire Coast Community Partnership)  
David Kerfoot (Hambleton LSP)  
Roger Ranson (City of York Council)  
Cllr Clare Wood (Ryedale Strategic Partnership)  
Paul Spurrier (Health & Safety Executive)  
Cllr Paul English (Craven LSP)  
Richard Ellison (National Farmer's Union)  
Mark Scott (Environment Agency)  
Lesley Ingleson (Youth Offending Team)  
John Duffill (Jobcentre Plus)  
Alistair Copeland (Sport England)  
Andy Wilson (North York Moors National Park Authority)  
Cllr Chris Knowles-Fitton (Craven District Council)  
Harriet Bisson (Voluntary and Community Sector)  
Jason Doherty (MLA Yorkshire)  
David Butterworth (Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority – represented by Kevin Lancaster)  
Adam Cairns (Airedale NHS Trust)  
Colin Martin (Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust – represented by T. McLaudon)  
Janet Waggott (Ryedale District Council – represented by Marie-Ann Jackson)  
Gary Williamson (Leeds, York and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce – represented by Ian Williams)  
Liz Burdett (Learning & Skills Council – represented by Martin Wynn)  
Peter Godfrey (Highways Agency – represented by Michael Hout)  
John Lawlor (Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust – represented by Harriet Dow)