

York and North Yorkshire Rural Partnership - Supporting Stronger Communities

Notes of meeting 12 April 2011

Item		Action
1	<p>Present and Apologies</p> <p>Present: Chair - Janet Waggott (Chief Executive, Ryedale DC) Michael Graham (Yorkshire Dales NP) Kate Tayler (NYFVO) Gary Fielding (NYCC) Rita Lawson (NYCC)</p> <p>Apologies: Jo Ireland (Scarborough BC), Jane Money (Harrogate BC), Andrew Leeming (YNYPU) Bill Cross (Rural Action Yorkshire) Bob Curry (NYFVO) Rachel Bowles (Harrogate BC)</p> <p>Secretariat: Colin Wilson (NYCC)</p>	
2	<p>Note of last meeting and matters arising</p> <p>The minutes were agreed as a correct record.</p>	
3	<p>Performance Reward Grant</p> <p>To confirm, the successful PRG bids were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Active communities £215k (original bid was for £400k - it was agreed £100k would be provisionally allocated to the Rural Housing Enabler (RHE) project. If this was funded from other means then the £100k would be reallocated to the Active communities' project). 2. Rural Broadband £750k. 3. Green Communities £75k (increased from £40k original bid). 4. Rural Housing Enabler (RHE) £100k (provisional). <p>Updates were provided as follows:</p> <p>Active Communities (Kate Tayler) It is proving difficult to obtain information on how to prioritise the communities which would benefit from this project. Information is being sought from Libraries and from the 'Thriving Third Sector' group. It was suggested further requests for information are resumed after May. Discussions have taken place with Central Finance about accessing the funding.</p> <p>Broadband (Gary Fielding) A 'community planning event' is to take place 14 April, where LSP chairs plus individuals from business sector are to meet to discuss current</p>	

	<p>position re. Broadband budget. It is possible total funding from various sources could add up to £40m (where initial £750k PRG is used partly to attract further funding), and this could mean 80-90% of North Yorkshire could benefit from super fast Broadband.</p> <p>It was stressed that key aim is a countywide co-ordinated approach (a “community network”) where public sector, communities and business are working together to deliver this outcome.</p> <p>Volunteers will be required to act as co-ordinators. A key task will be to prioritise the rural communities. In some cases imaginative solutions may need to be found e.g. satellite may be preferable to cable connection in some isolated locations.</p> <p>A new website “Connecting North Yorkshire” will allow people to register interest in Broadband services.</p> <p>For background a submission from NYCC to BDUK is included as appendix 1 (“Connecting North Yorkshire”).</p> <p>Green Communities (Michael Graham) Discussions have taken place with County Hall with regard to transferring the monies. This is estimated to be in the region of £500 per home. There is a possibility that funding may be topped up by the National Park.</p>	
4	Thriving Third Sector paper	
	<p>Kate Tayler presented a paper to the group (“The Big Society – making it work) attached as appendix 2 and “The Big Society explained”) as appendix 3. The paper focuses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - current relationships between public sector, private business, voluntary organisations and citizens; - what can be done to motivate future relations between above; and - how can organisations work better together <p>In summary the paper suggests the key factors for success are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recognition that all partners have a role to play in supporting increased voluntary, community and social enterprise sector role in providing services and support previously provided by public sector - Effective communication and dialogue about public sector service reductions and the ways in which the sector may contribute to reducing the impact of these - Better co-ordination of the support available for community development, with targeting of available resources to the areas most in need and/or most able to benefit from support. - More structured and co-ordinated approach to supporting sector organisations wanting to take on public service delivery - Engagement of the business sector in the above where possible. <p>The Chair invited the group to read the paper and comment back to Kate Tayler.</p>	
5	Update on changes in County and sub-regional partnerships	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thematic partnerships are considering their futures – some are closing - The newly formed group of Chief Executives will meet on a quarterly basis - Sub-regional groups will continue to meet 	
6	Ending of Rural / Stronger Partnership	
	<p>The rural / stronger partnership will cease; consideration was given to the best way forward to monitor current activities, they are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>PRG bids/projects</u>: monitored by Debbie Bassett in Central Finance, tracked by Gary Fielding; - <u>Engagement in regional rural affairs forum issues</u>: suggested that this is monitored by the Thriving Third Sector group - <u>Progressing strategic relations between the public and voluntary and community sector</u>: suggested that this is monitored by the Thriving Third Sector group - (GF requested the Janet Waggott attend or is kept informed of developments in the Thriving Third Sector group) - <u>Broadband project</u>: GF will keep JW informed; - <u>Rural Housing enabler project</u>: being monitored; - <u>Green Communities</u>: being monitored; - <u>Regional Rural partnership</u>: GF stated there should be some representation from this group - <u>Climate change work</u>: suggested that this is monitored by LGYNY 	
7	Any other business	
	<p>Rural Access to Opportunities Programme: Rita Lawson reported that this is starting to close down, and that individual projects are all thriving. Individual centres are now looking at how they can work together. See appendix 4 “Community Resource Centres in Richmondshire” for details.</p>	
8	Thanks to chair	
	<p>Gary Fielding commended Janet Waggott for her excellent work in chairing and leading the rural/stronger partnership over the course of its history.</p>	
	Date/time of next meeting	
	No future meetings – this was the final meeting of the partnership.	
	Appendices	
	<p>Appendix 1 Connecting North Yorkshire Appendix 2 The Big Society – making it work Appendix 3 The Big Society explained Appendix 4 Community Resource Centres in Richmondshire</p>	