

YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE MINUTES OF MEETING

29th May 2008

PRESENT

John Marsden (NYCC- Chair)
Jim Dillon (Scarborough Borough Council)
Peter Simpson (Hambleton DC)
Clare Suddaby (Job Centre Plus)
David Andrews (YTB)
Len Cruddas (NY Chamber of Commerce)
Helen Black (NYFVO)
Richard Gunton (NYorkMoors NPA)
David Porter (Yorkshire Forward)
Colin Mellors (University of York)
Alison Birkinshaw (York College)
John Shepherd (Business Link Yorkshire)
Roger Ranson (City of York Council)

IN ATTENDANCE

Richard Flinton (NYCC)
Keith Dawson (Selby District Council – Item 3)
Jonathan French (YNYPU)
Andrew Leeming (YNYPU)
Martin Pettifer (Selby District Council – Item 3)

APOLOGIES

Liz Burdett (Learning & Skills Council)
Bill McCarthy (City of York Council)
Allan Stewart (Alison Burkinshaw substituting)
Andy Wilson (NY Moors National Park – Richard Gunton substituting)
Julie Hutton (David Porter substituting)
Paul Crossan (GOYH)

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

1.1 These were agreed

2. MATTERS ARISING

2.1 – ITEM 3.3 Jonathan French reported that the joint chairs of the Development Board had approved the continued membership of John Goodfellow and Maureen Vevers.

3. Selby Urban Renaissance

3.1 Martin Pettifer from Selby District Council gave a short presentation on the issues that had to be addressed by the Selby Renaissance Programme. This was in response to the previous meeting of the Executive where concerns had been made about the level of spend and progress on the project.

3.2 He made some general points that overall investment within Selby District was significant and recently totalled £170 million, mainly for building new housing.

Proposals in the planning pipeline might indicate £500 million worth of capital investment of which half would be housing. The remaining half included major investments in industry including power stations. He noted that the environmental agencies investment for flood defence now totalled £19 million, compared to the original figure set out in the SRIP. The District Council were short of money but they had committed £170,000 to the Renaissance Programme and agreed for a continuing £35,000 per annum working with NYCC for maintenance of the project.

3.3 Nearly all the projects had been around public realm and it was difficult to get employment-led projects going. The key projects were currently at the tender stage and should be completed at the latest by June 2009, which, with agreement with Yorkshire Forward, allows a small extension to the end of the programme of March 2009.

3.4 The significant issues they faced were the existence of three separate town teams. There was an initial lack of agreement of public realm matters within the public sector; but a Partnership Agreement with NYCC to address that.

3.5 Suggested improvements were that there should be more local commissioning of consultants and not by Yorkshire Forward. An allowance should be made for the putting in of maintenance agreements and that it is wrong to tender separately for outline and detailed schemes. These are lessons that need to be learnt by Yorkshire Forward. He did note however, the RDA had been flexible in respect of some of their deadlines.

3.6 Peter Simpson asked about other Partner's resources. Martin Pettifer said that there had been some input from NYCC and some local contributions. Putting aside the problems in Tadcaster on achieving a consensus on the way forward, it was still expected that £4 million of the original £5 million would be spent by the end of this financial year. He was confident that these schemes would be completed as they are now entering the tendering process.

3.7 David Porter said that Yorkshire Forward would be looking at the issues of tendering. The remaining £1 million could not be automatically brought forward as it would have to form part of the discussions on future geographic programmes.

3.8 Peter Simpson commented that consideration needs to be given as to what the Partnership wants to do in this respect. John Marsden commented that now that this group is getting better at monitoring it would be possible to intervene earlier when these issues arose.

3.9 David Porter also added that other programmes such as Scarborough Urban Renaissance and the Renaissance Market Town Programmes also had to stick to a March 2009 deadline. Martin Pettifer said there was actually a degree of flexibility in the current tender process for the three projects as they can be implemented in sections. This both enables savings to be identified if necessary to avoid overspending, but also can if possible facilitate the extension of existing projects. This needs to be discussed with Yorkshire Forward.

3.10 Roger Ranson wondered whether it would be appropriate to talk about the issues of Eco-Towns and it was agreed that it would be dealt with at the end of the meeting.

3.11 John Marsden thanked Selby District Council Representatives for coming to the Executive.

4. Geographic Programmes

4.1 David Porter introduced the report from Yorkshire Forward, setting out their views as to how the Geographic Programme within the County of North Yorkshire should be taken forward. A geographic programme would also be delivered by the City of York Council. In their view the SRIP set out very clear priorities and there was no need, (as required of other authorities), to draw up an economic master plan.

4.2 In their discussions with NY Local Authorities there was no single preferred option on the way forward so Yorkshire Forward decided to take the lead and propose that there should be one programme for the County Area, which would also include chapters for each District Council. It is proposed, in respect of policy issues, that the Partnership Executive would lead on the programme working with the Partnership Unit and it was Yorkshire Forward's view that, (although it was up to Partners), that the Executive be restructured to include all District Councils. They also felt that the Development Board should continue its role in signing off programmes.

4.3 He did however say that for large projects such as urban renaissance schemes, it might be appropriate to have mini programmes which largely continued the existing arrangements, although they would report their outcomes through the single County Programme. Other Yorkshire Forward activity such as with Business Link delivered regionally would also need to be incorporated in the Geographic Programme.

4.4 In respect of delivery teams Yorkshire Forward made clear that they did not wish to continue with the existing contracts for delivery teams and were looking at options which need more discussion at this stage around either a sub-regional delivery team or some other delivery vehicle.

4.5 Yorkshire Forward's preference would be to have governance issues settled as early as possible to then facilitate an agreed Geographic Programme by January 2009.

4.6 Peter Simpson felt that governance was not a constraint and he felt that local partners could sort these matters out and this would not get in way of the programmes. He felt that having only seen the paper yesterday it was important to talk through with District Council colleagues over the next few weeks to discuss these governance issues.

4.7 He was also concerned about how support for delivery might be continuing. He felt that the current arrangements enabled the support of smaller projects as well as major capital schemes. He wondered how existing activities might continue especially around rural capital issues and there was a need for further debate on this.

4.8 David Porter said that it was intended that the delivery teams would concentrate on about providing specialist support which would be additional to any in-house activity. Roger Ranson noted that there were proposals for trying to achieve potential economies of scale through delivery teams.

4.9 John Marsden commented that clearly we had the advantage of already having a SRIP which had strong spatial proposals and he could not see why this would not fit in with an administrative based plan.

4.10 David Porter said that Partners were worried that some of their priorities might be lost, but John Marsden noted that this was not the case now and nor should it occur in the future. Whilst the County Council will be pleased to take on the accounting body role and would need to protect itself in law; he felt that the precedent set through the Local Area Agreement whereby partners are the governance body (with the County Council acting as accountable body) seemed to work well.

4.11 Peter Simpson felt that the current Delivery Teams were working well with communities and are able to get other match funding. He felt that there was an expectation of Local Authorities might maintain their own delivery teams but this would have to be 100% funded.

4.12 John Marsden went on to say that there was a need to decide how big the Partnership Executive might be. He proposed he prepares a note of some scenarios for the future and discusses this with partners. There will be a progress report at the next meeting but this should not constrain progress on the Geographic Programme. David Porter noted that it would be important to make sure these processes ran in parallel as they wanted to avoid governance slowing matters down.

4.12 Jim Dillon noted that Delivery Teams might operate over wider areas including professional specialists and he would welcome that. Colin Mellors felt that governance was not a big issue and the existing SRIP enabled us to avoid delay. It has already shown its worth, for instance, in respect of ERDF.

4.13 Len Cruddas asked how said this might work in respect of city regions. John Marsden said that it would still be possible to have a city region focus where necessary and depending upon the issues that need to be addressed. It would be for the geographic programmes for North Yorkshire, York and Barnsley to be agreed with the West Yorkshire Authorities to get a cohesive approach to the Leeds City Region.

4.15 It was agreed that the chair will write to partners with scenarios on Governance and that a progress report would be brought to the next meeting and that arrangements would be agreed in October.

4.16 It was also agreed that NYCC, the Unit and Scarborough Borough Council would represent the County area at a meeting with Yorkshire Forward's Executive on 30 July 2008.

5. Sub-National Review – Response to Consultation

5.1 Jonathan French presented the report which set out a proposed response to the sub-national review consultation. He suggested that the Development Board to be recommended to make comments in respect of capacity and economic assessments about matters around regional strategy should be left to others.

5.2 John Marsden gave a brief summary of the position in respect of the Leaders forum. It was intended that 8 Leaders (two from each sub region) would be on the Board along with 8 representatives from Yorkshire Forward Board. There would be panels for planning, Transport and Skills and Housing which would be separately chaired either by Local Government or Yorkshire Forward on a proportionate basis. Those chairs would be ex-officio members of the Leaders Forum.

5.3 In respect of the SNR consultation Roger Ranson said the questions were unhelpful and we should concentrate on what we wanted to do. Peter Simpson said that it was important that guidance on assessment was 'light touch.'

5.4 It was agreed that the approach adopted in the report should be approved and that it was not necessary to comment on the proposals for statutory collaboration. The executive also agreed to support some early scoping work on Economic Assessment.

6. Skills – “Raising Expectations – Enabling the System to Deliver”

6.1 Jonathan French introduced the report which set out some of the issues arising from changes to the delivery of skills. In particular he referred to a proposal to make Local Authorities the single local strategic leader for the 14-19 Agenda supported by the Young Peoples Learning Agency and secondly the establishment of a new skills funding agency which will fund adult skills and be the sponsor body for FE Colleges. He noted that both NYCC and the York Lifelong Learning Partnership (with City of York Council) were responding to the consultation and he was not proposing the Executive did a separate response. The report also gave an update on the progress in respect of the Skills Task & Finish Group which has been set up at the last meeting.

6.2 Roger Ranson commented that there were real issues in the split of functions between 14-19 and 19 plus. He also commented that in respect of the Skills Task & Finish Group there might be merit in combining the first two of Local Authority's role in Economic Development and the future of Learning Partnerships. Jonathan French said that would be acceptable.

6.3 Alison Birkinshaw made a number of comments. She felt there was a series of unintended consequences of this proposal. There was concern about the linking of opportunities for part-time students to skills accounts. There will be major reductions in resources for other adult education. This poses real questions for some FE Colleges and do they begin to evaluate whether they should convert themselves to sixth form institutions. The York College would need to report to perhaps 5 or 6 different bodies rather than the current two. There are real problems in the details of these proposals.

6.4 There was a discussion around the need to keep going adult learning which is not just purely recreational but included people trying to improve or change their lives to developing new skills such as in IT which might not be related to their workplace needs.

6.5 The report was noted.

7. Reinvigorating the North Yorkshire Cultural Partnership

7.1 Andrew Leeming introduced the report which sought to establish cultural working within the County on a new basis and in particular to re-establish a cultural partnership to report formally to this Partnership Executive and thereby the Development Board. It is proposed that it seeks a financial contribution from each Authority and also works much more closely with the Tourism Sector.

7.2 The report was seeking approval in principle to these proposals which would need to be then worked out in detail. An agreement has already been given to the employment of 2012 Officers which would provide significant resource to enable delivery to be taken forward.

7.3 Richard Flinton said that whilst one voice had been raised that the cultural partnership should report to the ANYC, the majority felt that the Partnership Executive (and the alignment with the Economic Agenda) was a more appropriate route.

7.4 Peter Simpson said that he was concerned by proposals that Partnership depended upon paying a subscription and it is important that linkage is not established. The fundamental objective is that partners work together and that the raising of resources is dealt with separately. He thought that it might be appropriate that such a subscription may be integrated with support for the Partnership Unit and this was supported by John Marsden. David Andrews supported the proposals as he felt that

previous groups had shown signs of being inward looking. He thought the role of a non-executive champion was important.

After a discussion about the role of such a champion and it was agreed that this should be separate from the Leadership or Chairmanship of the Partnership. The role of the champion was to quote "raise our game" and that could be a matter for some further debate as to what sort of person who might do it.

7.5 It was agreed that the report be accepted and that the Cultural Partnership should align itself with the Partnership Executive and that the Chair of the Partnership should come from Partner bodies. There should be links with the sub-regional tourism co-ordinating body (and indeed area tourism partnerships). A subscription should be considered as part of the overall review of the Partnership Unit's work.

7.6 It was also agreed that this issue should be discussed formally with the members of the Cultural Partnership.

8. Progress in York & North Yorkshire 2008

8.1 Andrew Leeming introduced the report which was the annual 'Light Touch' report setting out progress on key indicators that were set by the regional strategy. There will be a need in the future to develop much closer alignment with the new set of National Indicators. Overall progress in the sub-region has been good with no great differences between the areas within the Leeds City Region and those outside. There were continuing issues about adult skills and housing affordability and a slight worsening of the employment situation.

8.2 Peter Simpson emphasised the need to align with the comprehensive area assessments. He thought it might be helpful to know where the hotspots were. Andrew Leeming said that this would be included in the full report produced on a three year basis and the next edition to be finished by the end of this financial year.

8.3 The Executive noted the report.

9. Update

9.1 Jonathan French introduced the update report on Business Link, EU Funding and city regions.

9.2 John Shepherd emphasised the points in the report around Business Link, Yorkshire. It is committed to deliver in the sub region and demonstrated this by the establishment of local advisory teams and partnership managers. They understood the need to avoid "one size fits all" approach and expect Partners to keep them in line to that.

10. Agenda for the next Development Board Meeting

10.1 The Executive agreed this as set out in the report.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Eco Towns

John Marsden reported on the current position on Eco Towns where 4 sites have been identified in Selby with the frontrunner being Gascoigne Woods. This would be a matter of further discussion by Leeds City Region Leaders and he was concerned as to whether the current proposals would be viable in respect of providing all the services required. There were a number of comments from the meeting that outside of the individual construction of the houses there was very little which was environmentally sustainable in these proposals.

11.2 The Executive agreed to have a further report on Eco-Towns at the next meeting.

Jonathan French

York & North Yorkshire Partnership Unit

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YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE ITEM 3

15 OCTOBER 2008

MEMBERSHIP OF THE PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE

1. Purpose of the report

1. This report seeks the Executives' formal agreement for the participation henceforth of all the District Council Chief Executives in the Partnership Executive. They have been invited to this meeting. It also asks whether this should be ratified by the Development Board. The report goes on to consider issues of substitutes, other members, and proposals to draw up a new agreement between partners to set up governance arrangements and terms of reference.

2. North Yorkshire Geographic Programmes

2. Yorkshire Forward at the last Executive meeting set out their position on how they would seek to take forward the geographic programme in North Yorkshire, as well as the programme in York.

Although they noted that discussions with local authority partners did not produce a single agreed approach to the development of a geographic programme for North Yorkshire, Yorkshire Forward's view was that a single programme for the county area represents the right approach to managing economic development. This included proposals for continuing direct arrangement local authority partners on urban renaissance and major projects in the form of a ring-fenced mini programme, managed directly by the local authority but reporting its outputs and outcomes through the main North Yorkshire programme.

Yorkshire Forward also recognised that the current partnership arrangements in the sub-region were working well and they did not wish to see change for change sake. Therefore, they would see programme management, primarily as the responsibility of the Partnership Executive with both the Partnership Unit and Accountable Body, NYCC reporting to it on programme issues. The Partnership Executive would continue to work closely with Yorkshire Forward.

To make this arrangement work Yorkshire Forward considered that the Partnership Executive might wish to consider restructuring to ensure that all local authorities are properly represented. Any decision on restructuring the membership would be a matter for the partnership.

3. At the last meeting the Chair of the Executive agreed to explore these issues with colleagues. Whilst there was some consideration given to broadening the Executive beyond local authority membership it was felt that the first priority was to involve all Chief Executives and to avoid increasing the size of the Executive beyond that.
4. This report seeks the ratification of this approach. The Executive is also asked to agree that the Development Board should also endorse those changes. However the change should be implemented forthwith.

3. Membership of the Partnership executive

5. The revised membership of the Partnership Executive would therefore as follows

John Shepherd	Business Link Yorkshire
Bill McCarthy	City of York Council
Brian Dinsdale	Craven District Council
Paul Grossan	Government Office (Observer)
Peter Simpson	Hambleton District Council/Richmondshire District Council
Wallace Sampson	Harrogate Borough Council
Clare Suddaby	Jobcentre Plus
Liz Burdett	Learning and Skills Council North Yorkshire
Andy Wilson	North York Moors National Park (for the National Parks)
John Marsden	North Yorkshire County Council (Chair)
Helen Black	North Yorkshire Forum for Voluntary Organisations
Janet Waggott	Ryedale District Council
Jim Dillon	Scarborough Borough Council
Allan Stewart	Selby College (for the FE Colleges)
Martin Connor	Selby District Council
Len Cruddas	York and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce
Colin Mellors	University of York (for Yorkshire Universities)
Julie Hutton	Yorkshire Forward
David Andrews	Yorkshire Tourist Board
<i>In Attendance</i>	
Roger Ranson	City of York Council
Richard Flinton	North Yorkshire County Council
Jonathan French	York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit

6. There are two issues of membership to be considered. Firstly with David Andrews leaving the Tourist Board and the new role of the cultural partnership and its responsibility to report to the Executive, it would seem appropriate to consider how the new cultural partnership might do that. However at this point the Partnership has not met in its new form and there may be issues of finding someone involved on the Partnership with the right level of seniority. The Tourist Board is also taking over the 2012 work from Yorkshire Culture which is being wound up. It might be appropriate to therefore ask the interim CEO of the Board, Gary Verity, to continue but explore this issue again once the cultural Partnership has established its membership. There would also be a need to consider a cultural representative on the Development Board but that could be a lay person such as one of the chairs of the ATPs.
7. Secondly the merger of the York and North Yorkshire chamber with the Leeds Chamber of Commerce needs to be addressed. The Executive is asked to agree that the new organisation be approached for a suitable representative both for the Executive and the Development Board.

4. Governance

Substitutes

8. The Executive may wish to consider a more formalised approach to substitutes and agree named individuals. The key issue is to ensure that representatives have appropriate seniority and duplication with supporting officer groups is avoided. Therefore, it is proposed that substitutes could either be at comparable level or in

the next level down in the organisation. In respect of local authorities substitutes for Chief Executives should be at Director level.

Governance

9. There was a partnership agreement covering terms of reference for the Executive and financial sponsorship of the Unit agreed in 2002 but this is now out of date. Subject to the resolution of the issues set out in the business case for the partnership (see agenda item 8) clearly a new agreement would be required for the Partnership. It would need to cover
 - a. Terms of reference for the Development Board and the Partnership Executive
 - b. Membership
 - c. Governance of meetings
 - d. Governance of the North Yorkshire Geographic Programme
 - e. Financial support for the partnership Unit.

10. It is proposed that an initial heads of terms be brought to the next meeting of the Executive with the intention that the agreement can be adopted by the end of March 2009.

Recommendations

11. The executive is recommended to

- a. **Agree to the membership of all Local authority chief executives of the executive from this point**
- b. **Seek the endorsement of this from the Development Board**
- c. **Agree the approach in para 6 to membership of the Tourist Board and a representative from the cultural partnership.**
- d. **Invite a representative from the new merged Chamber of commerce**
- e. **Agree to the substitute arrangements in para 8**
- f. **Note that a draft governance agreement will be produced for the next meeting**

Jonathan French
York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit

YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE ITEM 4

15 OCTOBER 2008

FEEDBACK FROM THE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Purpose of the report

This report reports on what was discussed at the last Development Board on June 18.

Sub-National Review of Economic Development and Regeneration - Response to the Consultation

The Executive agreed to the recommendations for the response to the consultation with the addition of reference to delivery issues in question. It also noted that there may be a need for the Development Board to develop its role in that changing context.

It discussed the proposed arrangements for managing a Regional strategy through a Leaders Forum based on membership from the four functional sub regions. (A response to the consultation is still awaited)

Geographic Programmes

There was a debate about the new arrangements for Geographic programmes with Harrogate BC expressing their reservations.

It was agreed (after a vote) the proposals would be developed by partners on how a programme might be managed but work would start on the programme now to be undertaken in parallel to the governance issues. Governance issues would be discussed by the Partnership Executive which would then be recommended to the Development Board for consideration at its November meeting.

Reinvigorating the North Yorkshire Cultural Partnership

The board debated the proposal by the Partnership Executive for the restructuring of the North Yorkshire Cultural Officers group (NYCOG) into a North Yorkshire Cultural Partnership, which reports formally to the Partnership Executive and through them to the Development Board. Whilst there was support for the proposals concerns were expressed about the need for more information.

The Board agreed that it was not able to make a decision on this matter at this meeting but it would consider a re-written paper by e-mail and respond to that. It was subsequently agreed.

Other issues

The Board noted a report on how skills and employment issues might be more closely integrated with economic development activity in the context of the changing institutional structure for delivery, particularly, the future changes to the Learning and Skills Councils. The board also received an update on Business Link, Research and Local area agreements.

The Executive is asked to note this report

Jonathan French
York & North Yorkshire Partnership Unit

YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE ITEM 5

15 OCTOBER 2008

YORK AND NORTH YORKSHIRE EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS PARTNERSHIP

1. Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of this paper is to report on the activity of the Skills Task and Finish group initiated by the York and North Yorkshire Partnership Executive (YNYPE) in March 2008 to consider the key skills issues facing the sub region. The Group's work was led by the LSC supported by the Partnership Unit. The Group's work confirms that workforce skills are of critical importance to the economy and communities of York and North Yorkshire, and that skills policy and planning must be fully integrated in taking forward economic development. The process and detailed work of the group are described at Annex A.
2. In order to ensure that this is achieved the group recommends that a York and North Yorkshire Employment and Skills Partnership (YNYESP) is established, to report to the Partnership Executive, to ensure that the skills agenda is integrated in economic development and to ensure continued direction and purpose on skills and employment strategy and co-ordination in the sub region.
3. The YNYPE is asked to agree to this recommendation and to encourage appropriate partners to undertake relevant activities to set up the YNYESP.
4. The group also recommends that the YNYPE supports the current initiative to establish local Employment and Skills Partnerships based on the District Council boundaries.

The 'place' of skills

5. The changing national and local context in which skills and employment is set is illustrated by the Leitch Report's emphasis on workforce skills development, government intentions on welfare reform and reduction of worklessness and the sub national review's placement of local government at the centre of all aspects of economic development. These fundamental statements of direction are reinforced by the transfer of all 14-19 funding to local authorities and Yorkshire Forward's policy of supporting geographic programmes with local authorities as a vehicle for delivery of regional strategy. The local effects of short and long term changes in the LSC in terms of funding, resource and, ultimately, its planned replacement underline the need to establish clear leadership and responsibility for integration of skills and employment in the sub region for the medium to longer term.
6. The economy of York and North Yorkshire is dependent on the skills of its population. In order to compete successfully in a national and global market the sub region must aspire to maintain and grow its primary, manufacturing, knowledge and service based businesses through effective and comprehensive development of skills.

7. The skills levels of the workforce in York and North Yorkshire now generally compare well regionally and nationally. However, much of the sub region's advantage is among young people and those with higher level qualifications. In the workforce as a whole over 25% of people are lacking Level 2 or equivalent qualifications, when it is estimated that by 2010 90% of jobs will require Level 2 skills. It is reckoned that over 70,000 working age adults in York and North Yorkshire do not have the numeracy skills required to function effectively in work. There is much remedial and developmental work to be done on skills in York and North Yorkshire.
8. It is vital that the skills of the workforce and those preparing to join it are integral to planning and policy on economic development and employment in the sub region. This must be reflected in an acknowledgement by local authorities, given their place at the centre of all aspects of economic development, that they have an essential role and responsibility to lead in the integration of skills and to ensure that appropriate structures are in place and links established and developed with appropriate agencies and sectors.

Structures

9. The LSC has provided the leading and coordinating role at sub regional, regional and national level in skills and workforce development for the past eight years. At a sub regional level this has meant that the LSC has taken the lead role on partnerships and planning groups, including leading the skills theme of the Sub Regional Investment Planning process and providing resource and expertise on skills issues to support planning.
10. In addition the LSC has strongly supported and been the primary funder of the sub region's learning partnership infrastructure. As funding priorities have changed this position is not sustainable.
11. The 'Machinery of Government' changes, initiated in 2007 have confirmed that the LSC will not exist beyond 2010. The detailed roles and resourcing of the successor bodies replacing the LSC are not fully defined (further details are expected in the autumn) and there remain uncertainties around the future planning, coordination and implementation of skills strategy and policy.
12. It is important that partnership structures and roles provide continuity in a time of transition, build on the commitment and enthusiasm of existing groups and networks and use existing skills and expertise within current organisations. The structure needs to recognise the geographical and administrative structure of the sub region but it must also reflect emerging factors like city regions, roles of local authorities, investment policies and economic relationships. Duplication of roles and activity must be avoided with clear definition of areas of responsibility and accountability.
13. With these facts in mind, the group makes the following recommendations in terms of structures and partnerships.

York and North Yorkshire Employment and Skills Partnership

14. A York and North Yorkshire Employment and Skills Partnership (YNYESP) should be established to have the dual role of a sub regional partnership as

well as a partnership for the County of North Yorkshire. Reporting to the Partnership Executive and through the Executive to the Development Board, the aims of the Partnership would be:

- to provide direction and drive to the skills agenda in the sub region;
 - to ensure that thinking about skills needs, workforce development and skills building opportunities are integrated in economic development;
 - to work with employers and employer representatives to ensure high levels of employer engagement in integrating employment, skills and the economy;
 - to inform the work of both the North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership and York's Without Walls Partnership;
 - to provide economic input and labour market information to the Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership in NY and the YorOK Board, as required, but particularly in relation to cross border issues;
 - to maintain an overview and high level of coordination and alignment on skills and employment issues for the sub region; and
 - to review and advise appropriately on alignment of investment in learning and skills.
15. Thus the primary function of the YNYESP would be to provide the strategic overview, direction and coordination of skills priorities in a sub regional context, including economic development, employment and workforce development programmes, inclusion issues, community learning, involvement of the Third Sector, and coordination across school, further education, including work based learning, adult and higher education sectors.
 16. A diagram proposing how this group fits within existing Partnership structures is attached at Annex B.
 17. The group recommends that the LSC leads in establishing the YNYESP, working closely with the York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit (YNYPU) and with economic development directorates in both NYCC and CYC. It will be important for both local authorities to play active roles in the Partnership. The involvement of the new Skills Funding Agency would also be a consideration post 2010.
 18. The YNYESP should include, as a minimum, representatives from local employment and skills partnerships, Yorkshire Forward, district councils, Jobcentre Plus, local authority children's services directorates, further education, higher education and the voluntary and community sector.
 19. Direct employer representation could be via the Chamber of Commerce or by individuals able to represent general interests. There may also be value in investigating ways of wider business involvement on specific issues. There are a range of employer networks established and maximising use of these would be a priority. The Partnership would also need to have mechanisms to feed in employer/demand side intelligence to inform its work.

20. The unique role of the YNYESP will be in providing a means by which skills issues best dealt with on a sub regional basis are addressed. The case for sub regional working is clear if we consider functional economic areas and labour market areas. For example, the York labour market area extends way beyond administrative boundaries presenting opportunities for cooperation and joint working on shared priorities and interventions on skills. A flexible approach will be needed to recognise that different issues will need to be addressed within different geographical boundaries.
21. The YNYESP would also provide a vehicle for coordinating input, involvement and joint lobbying in work with partnerships beyond the sub region, for example Leeds City Region, where there are mutual interests and joint working would increase influence.
22. A sub regional approach also recognises the wide sphere of influence of many providers of learning and cross border travel to learn patterns, across HE, FE and work based learning.

Local Employment and Skills Partnerships (ESPs)

23. Six local ESPs are in the process of being established – Craven, Harrogate, Hambleton & Richmondshire, North Yorkshire Coast, Ryedale & Selby. District Councils are taking an active interest in the ESP via Economic Development staff.
24. Whilst the local ESPs are based on District Council boundaries, it is recognised that some employment and skills issues will need to be addressed either sub-regionally, county-wide or at City Region level or perhaps by several districts working together. Once critical issues have been agreed for each district, they would be taken forward by identifying the most appropriate spatial level and mechanism.

North Yorkshire Local Area Agreement

25. The YNYESP will have an important role to support and coordinate North Yorkshire skills activity which will include addressing priorities identified in the North Yorkshire skills related LAA indicators.

Future of Learning Partnerships

26. The significant contributions in recent years of both North Yorkshire Learning Partnership (NYLP) and the City of York Lifelong Learning Partnership (CYLLP) in taking forward the learning and skills agenda must be acknowledged and this work must be maintained and developed in line with the new arrangements, avoiding loss of knowledge and expertise. Current funding will only enable both Partnerships to exist for the current financial year.
27. For North Yorkshire, the proposal is that the YNYESP replaces the function of the NYLP and that local ESPs take over from the previous Area Learning Partnerships.
28. In York, the CYLLP plays a key role leading the Learning City theme within the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and makes a significant contribution in relation to both 14-19 and adult learning.

Resourcing and supporting the new structures

29. Consideration needs to be given to how the new sub regional partnership and coordination of North Yorkshire skills activity will be resourced and supported. It is proposed that much of this work is integrated within the work of the YNYPU, but more discussion is needed to consider how the local ESPs will be supported.
30. For the City of York further discussion needs to take place with key partners, and in particular the local authority, to consider how the role and functions of the Partnership can be maintained.

Recommendations

31. **The Executive is recommended to agree**
 - a. **that a York and North Yorkshire Employment and Skills Partnership (YNYESP) is established on the basis outlined in the report.**
 - b. **to support the current initiative to establish local Employment and Skills Partnerships based on the District Council boundaries.**

Liz Burdett

Area Director

Learning and Skills Council

Annex A

Process

The Partnership Executive commissioned the Skills Task and Finish group to identify and consider the short and long term issues on skills and to make recommendations for how the sub region should address the skills agenda in economic development. The group was made up of representatives from a wide range of stakeholders including local authorities, public sector agencies, education, commerce and the voluntary sector.

The group met formally on three occasions and operated in smaller working parties to undertake its task. Discussion points were allocated as detailed below:

Skills & Economic Development and Learning Partnerships

- Local authorities' role in and relationship with the skills agenda; how links are made to economic development plans and strategies, and what it means for them in terms of the health and wealth of the communities for which they are responsible
- Skills and economic development indicators in LAA2 and developments with the NYSP and Without Walls Partnership (WoW).
- The skills components of the Leeds City Region and Tees Valley City Region Multi Area agreement (MAA).
- Future and positioning of Learning Partnerships, including their potential to be the skills arm of LSPs, developing into Employment and Skills Boards.
- Broadening employers' and businesses' engagement in workforce development and their links to local economic issues.

14-19

- Children's and Young People's Strategic Partnerships, especially in connection with NEETs policies and business and enterprise and education programmes.
- Implications of the transfer of 14-19 funding to local authorities, especially in terms of FE and how that might be related to skills outcomes
- Alignment and coordination of 14-19 and adult learning activities in an environment where different funding bodies exist for each area

Links to HE

- Proposals in the SRIP being developed by Higher York and HE institutions to increase the impact of HE in the sub region

Employability & Inclusion

- Employment programmes in York and Scarborough drawing together European funding, Yorkshire Forward inclusion policy product and LSC/JCP mainstream funding, and linkages to other community planning for deprived communities
- Input into ESF specifications prepared by LSC and JCP and monitoring and considering the progress and impact of active ESF contracts.

The working parties were tasked to:

- Identify the critical issues and challenges in their assigned areas

- Analyse current responses and actions addressing these issues and challenges
- Suggest ways of moving forward.

Principal issues and challenges

There were a number of common themes which emerged from this initial work. These are summarised below.

- Leading role of the local authorities

The central position of the local authority in economic development and therefore in ensuring links and cohesion with the factors integral to economic development is clear and increasing. As skills is key amongst these factors, local authorities need to be fully aware of local skills needs and involved in planning and action to meet existing and future gaps. This responsibility extends to all areas of skills and learning, including young people and adults at compulsory, further and higher levels of education and in the vocational and academic areas. Additionally, because of the increasingly important links between employment, skills and inclusion, welfare and economic well-being, local authorities will need to consider their responsibilities in co-ordinating action addressing individuals' employability. All of this will place demands on local authorities in terms of skills, knowledge and capacity.

- Future of the Learning and Skills Council

The LSC has provided the leading and coordinating role at sub regional, regional and national level in skills and workforce development for the past eight years. At a sub regional level this has meant that the LSC has taken the lead role on partnerships and planning groups, including leading the skills theme of the Sub Regional Investment Planning process via the Skills Partnership and providing resource and expertise on skills issues to support planning.

In addition the LSC has strongly supported and been the primary funder of the sub region's learning partnership infrastructure - the NYLP and CYLLP. Both Partnerships have played key roles in facilitating effective co-ordination of provision for young people and adults. As funding priorities have changed it has become more difficult for the LSC to support the learning partnership infrastructure and no further funding will be available leaving the future of the Partnerships in doubt.

The 'Machinery of Government' changes, initiated in 2007, and subsequent announcements have confirmed that the LSC will not exist beyond 2010. The detailed roles and resourcing of the successor bodies replacing the LSC are not fully defined (further details are expected in the autumn) and therefore there remain uncertainties around the future planning, coordination and implementation of skills strategy and policy. What is known is that 14-19 funding will be routed through local authorities; local authorities will be supported by a Young People's Learning Agency; and a Skills Funding Agency will oversee funding for adult provision.

- Integration and continuity

Integration and continuity is a fundamental theme running through all issues, but is a particular concern with the Further and Higher Education sectors. As the links between planning of economic development and skills become more central to local authorities, so the importance of ensuring progress and participation at all levels of education grows. Local authorities will want to ensure that as they take on responsibility for all 14 – 19 funding in 2010, funded provision is geared to meeting local and wider scale demand for skills. Local and wider labour market requirements will play a major part in shaping the thinking of the emerging local authority 'Clusters' which will lead in the commissioning of 16 – 19 provision. The strategic role of further education must be acknowledged with colleges providing local centres of excellence and expertise coupled with accessibility and engagement with business and community. Higher education authorities must seek to ensure that progression opportunities are aligned with economic needs and local requirements and relationships are embedded in provision. At the same time, local government and other agencies must recognise and embrace the economic and social benefits of integrated higher education facilities and opportunities.

- Employability, inclusion and health

Economic development, skills, employability, inclusion and health form a five sided base to community well being, cohesion and growth. Although there are well established organisational and practical links existing in the sub region between some of the agencies involved in these functions, they are not uniformly strong and some important links are missing. It is important that the agencies responsible for delivery and planning in these five areas are aware of the connections and are positioned to exploit the opportunities available to work across institutional boundaries and barriers.

- Employers

Active engagement with employers and business is essential to successful integration of economic development, skills and employability. Employers' requirements must be known by funding and planning agencies and providers of skills. Public sector organisations must work with business to ensure that the appropriate conditions for economic growth are in place. Employers can work with local authorities to mutual advantage in creating opportunities for employment and facilities for local people and communities. The mode of contact between public sector, providers and business must be suitable to the needs and ways of working of all sides, particularly ensuring appropriate opportunities for engaging employers are in place.

- Investment planning, geographic programmes and local and multi area agreements

Alignment of public investment in priorities identified in the geographic programmes set out by Yorkshire Forward is of key importance to the future of economic development in the sub region. Skills priorities must be part of the programmes, and skills and educational considerations must influence and be influenced by the local stakeholder groups established in York and North Yorkshire. The formal structures and frameworks established at local and city levels must have explicit agreed relationships with bodies funding and

delivering skills in order to ensure that skills forms an intrinsic part of shaping community strategy and that learning and skills provision is in turn shaped by that strategy.

- Sub regional structure

Comprising one unitary authority, seven district local authorities and one upper tier county local authority, the structure of the York and North Yorkshire sub region sets challenges to overall coordination and integration of planning and policy. There are added issues in the active involvement of the City of York and North Yorkshire authorities in the Leeds City Region and connections and physical proximity to Tees Valley City Region. The two tier structure in North Yorkshire does provide opportunities for focused local activity at a district level, particularly with specific local economic needs. Agencies and partnerships involved in economic development and skills need to work with this structure and the local authorities need to recognise the necessity to integrate skills and economic development across administrative boundaries.

- Existing and developing partnerships and groups

Following the work of the Future York group, the City of York has responded by modifying its partnership structures, creating a new Economic Development Board bringing together employment, economic development and skills to inform and direct investment and planning. Links are in place between this Board and the work of the CYLLP which leads on the Learning City theme of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

In North Yorkshire, the NYLP has moved to an increasing focus on adult skills activities recognising the emergence of the 14-19 Partnership structure as part of the wider Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership. Separate 14-19 Local Consultative, Development and Delivery groups are being set up within the 14-19 partnership structure. Area Learning Partnerships, which have been long established in the North Yorkshire districts, are repositioning themselves as 'Employment and Skills Partnerships' for their areas. There is significant enthusiasm and commitment to progressing in this direction amongst the groups which is to be welcomed. However, there are limitations in terms of capacity and in terms of the relationship to coherent economic units to working within the administrative boundaries and to engaging successfully with employers and business and the larger public agencies. Ensuring links with the 14-19 agenda through the two structures is also important.

YORK AND NORTH YORKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE Item 6

15 OCTOBER 2008

GEOGRAPHIC PROGRAMME – UPDATE

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report from Yorkshire Forward updates the Partnership Executive on progress to date on the development of the Geographic Programmes for York and North Yorkshire.

2. Background

2.1 In our report to the Executive on 29 May 2008 we advised members that Yorkshire Forward, following consultation with Local Authorities had decided to develop two geographic programmes for the York and North Yorkshire sub-region. One programme would cover the City of York unitary area and the other would cover the North Yorkshire County Council administrative area.

2.2 Both the Partnership Executive and the Development Board accepted the proposal put forward, although in the case of the Development Board this was not unanimous.

2.3 Since May, Yorkshire Forward, working together with Local Councils, North Yorkshire County Council and the City of York have been making progress on developing the geographic programmes.

3. Progress to Date

North Yorkshire Programme

3.1 Key activities which have taken place, or are planned include

- Rural Renaissance and Tourism colleagues met partners in August to update them on the Policy Product areas covering rural renaissance and the visitor economy.
- North Yorkshire partners, represented by John Marsden, Martin Connor and Jonathan French, met with Yorkshire Forwards Executive Directors on 10 September 2008 to present a summary of the key economic priorities for the sub-region.
- Yorkshire Forwards Business Team will be meeting the Business Support Partnership on 10 October to discuss priorities in the enterprise and competitiveness agendas.
- Dates are being sought for a meetings between sub-regional partners and our Skills, Inclusion and Transport Teams. These will hopefully be confirmed shortly.

3.2 Building on the Rural Renaissance and Tourism meetings. A series of bilateral meetings are being planned with each district council to discuss rural regeneration priorities for their area. This discussion will look at both areas for investment as well as specific priority projects they would wish to see supported through the programme

3.3 Separate meetings with the two Urban Renaissance towns in the sub-region, Scarborough and Selby, have been arranged for the 14th and 31st October respectively. Again, these meetings will look at emerging priorities for renaissance

3.4 Yorkshire Forward will be producing a summary of all these discussions and sharing this with partners.

York Programme

3.5 Key activities that have taken place include

- City of York representatives presented to Yorkshire Forwards Executive Directors on 27 August . The date for a follow up meeting in York is being discussed
- Meetings between City of York Council and our Environment, Economic Inclusion and Business Directorates were held over the summer.

3.6 Yorkshire Forward continue to meet with the partners in the City to discuss priorities for inclusion in their programme.

4. Structure of the Geographical Programme

4.1 Yorkshire Forwards view of a geographic programme is that it is made up from three elements. This is illustrated below –

1	2	3
Policy Product Ranges (PPR's)Delivered through a LA contract	PPR's which will be delivered regionally but will have a local impact	Investment in a locality which does not require any single pot intervention
Examples include: Renaissance Towns Rural Capitals	Examples include: Business Link Yorkshire	Examples include: Work of Homes and Communities Agency

4.2 Element 1 shown above will form the bulk of the activity that is contracted directly with Local Authorities. York and North Yorkshire will clearly benefit from activities included in Element 2 and further work is underway to identify where specific interventions are taking place. The spend and outcomes of this activity will be reported to partners probably on an annual basis.

5. Process Issues

5.1 Decisions on the allocation of funding to each Geographic Programme should be known by November. The Policy Product Ranges developed as part of our Corporate Plan will be reviewed in light of discussions with partners and through this process Yorkshire Forward will identify the level of resources each Policy Product will allocate geographically

5.2 However, following discussions with our Executive Directors it is clear is that the bulk of the funding to be delivered through the Local Authority contract will be capital funding relating to the delivery of the Urban and Rural Renaissance agenda. Some revenue funding will be available to the programme. In North Yorkshire, this will be focussed on tackling worklessness in Scarborough and York, which have already been identified by partners as priority areas.

5.3 Work is continuing internally at Yorkshire Forward to consider how Geographic Programmes will be managed, how they will be contracted and how they might be evaluated. Partners will continue to be kept informed of these key issues through the Geographic Programme newsletter.

5.4 A first draft of the Geographic Programme will be submitted to Yorkshire Forwards Board in December. This will be followed by return meetings between Yorkshire Forwards Executive Directors and Local Authorities to discuss Geographic programmes from December 2008 onwards.

5.5 We are still on course for a final draft Geographic programme being available by December 2008 with a final plan signed off in the New Year.

6.0 Recommendation

6.1 Members of the Partnership Executive are asked to note the content of this report. Further updates will be given at future Partnership Executive meetings.

JULIE HUTTON
Assistant Director for York and North Yorkshire
Yorkshire Forward

YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE ITEM 7

15 OCTOBER 2008

NORTH YORKSHIRE GEOGRAPHIC PROGRAMME

Purpose of the report

1. This report gives the Executive an update on the preparation of the North Yorkshire Geographic Programme in the context of the previous Yorkshire Forward report update.
2. It also seeks the Executive's approval of a Partnership agreement prepared by Yorkshire Forward which needs to be agreed by all partners.

Progress on Preparation

3. Whilst the actual programme format, in terms of its level of detail, is as yet not clear, the preparation of the Programme has continued by working on three base documents which will provide a full information set from which a programme can be drawn down. These will also be critical as the programme is developed in terms of project development over the next few months.
4. The three base documents for the Geographic Programme are
 - The Rationale - justifying in more detail the outcomes in the Plan
 - District chapters – where each district sets its perspective in the Programme
 - Geographic Framework document – which seeks to capture within the outcome framework the detailed proposals for all aspects of the programme including that contracted regionally as well as locally.
5. The current drafts of the Rationale and the Framework have been circulated as separate documents with the agenda but for information. They are still work in progress and the details are yet to be finalised . The reason for circulating is so the Executive can have a feel for the task in hand.

Rationale

6. This sets out the rationale for the outcomes derived within the Sub Regional Investment Plan which form the basis for the North Yorkshire Geographic Programme. Initially this has been pulled together from extracts of the Strategic Economic Assessment prepared two years ago and the Themes, outcomes and programmes set out in the 2007 Sub Regional Investment Plan. Further analysis is currently being undertaken between the research team within the Partnership Unit and the Economists Unit at Yorkshire Forward, to strengthen and update this section.

District Chapters

7. These chapters will highlight the economic issues in each area and identify specific activities, unique to that District that might be developed to meet the priorities of the Investment Plan. The district chapters are currently being prepared by each District Council, most of which have already produced initial drafts. These will include information following a mutually agreed pro forma as set out below.

It should cover spatially unique or highly specific issues and avoid repeating general issues covered elsewhere in the plan. In published form should it be limited to 2 sides with perhaps a longer background paper. Sections might include:-

Mini assessment – key facts, description of District, major employers/industries, role of main towns, economic linkages (in context of four spatial areas in the SRIP)

Context – activity to date (say since 2004 i.e. last SRIP), critical interfaces (e.g. City Region Partnerships, ATPs, Coasts), special funding opportunities (e.g. growth points, Fisheries, Homes and communities agency), LDF position.

Contribution to transformational themes - what can each District bring to achieve the five transformational themes

Impact of Geographic programme in each District

- *what are the specific projects that will be delivered directly through the YF contract (by Priority/Theme)*
- *What are the other projects (by Priority/Theme) that will be delivered (non YF funded – e.g. HLF, HEFCE, Arts Council)*
- *What are the special business support requirements in the District (from BLY Impact papers)*
- *What are the skills/ employment issues (from current NYLP/ALP critical issues?)*
- *What can the Volcom sector contribute (NYFVO to approach each LDA for this)*

What are the other major investments that are critical but outside the scope of the programme (e.g. roads, housing, transport interchanges, defence, energy) in the next five years

What priorities have not been picked up in the GP (to do towards the end) – how can they be addressed

What major activities /projects might be important in ten years time?

Geographic Programme Framework

8. This framework aims to capture initially all the activity proposed within each of the priority Groupings set out in the Sub Regional Investment Plan. This working draft, circulated separately with this agenda, has been produced from an initial input from each local authority and also some of the key partner agencies. Ultimately the proposals/activity included within this framework will help to form the basis of the North Yorkshire Geographic Programme. It should also be noted that this is currently a long list of activity but as the programme is developed this will become much more focused and concise.
9. The Geographic Programme framework contains 4 sets of information, mostly in tabular form. This includes an overview of the Priority Grouping; a schedule of outcomes and performance indicators which also identifies their connection to the Yorkshire Forward Policy Products; a strategic overview that sets out for each theme the three components of the geographic Programme namely the directly funded Yorkshire Forward elements, the regional Yorkshire Forward activity and other contributions to the programme; and a schedule of activities and proposed projects which includes the detailed information about each activity proposed.

10. In order to develop this framework with partners a Geographic Programme group has been established that includes all the economic development officers of each of the local authorities and officers from Yorkshire Forward, LSC and Business Link Yorkshire. This Group has met twice already and is due to meet again on 23rd October. In addition smaller discussions have and will take place within each of the priority groupings as follows:

- York and Science – Important connection between York and those local authorities in the York sub area. To develop this further a small York sub area group has met once and will continue to discuss this part of the programme further.
- Enterprise and Innovation – This will be developed further by the Sub Regional Business Support Partnership.
- People and Skills – This will be looked at by the emerging sub regional skills group.
- Rural – An initial working draft was presented to the York and North Yorkshire Rural Partnership, further discussions will take place with rural partners regarding this priority grouping.
- Scarborough Town – This has been developed through Scarborough Borough Council through existing groups within Scarborough.
- Harrogate, Craven and the Lowlands – It is proposed that a small group of partners within this area meets to discuss this section further.

Timetable for preparing the Programme

11. The Programme circulated with the papers for this meeting was the second iteration. The first version was produced at the beginning of September to form the basis of capturing all the initial input from partners.

12. It is proposed that a third working draft version is produced for the beginning of November that will begin to bring together all the information provided, including drafts of the District Chapters and a strengthened rationale. This will then be the subject of further discussions amongst Partners.

13. A draft will be produced in December for consideration by this Executive which will then be discussed with Yorkshire Forward after they have also considered at their Board the level of their funding and the likely outputs and outcomes.

Partnership agreement

14. Attached is a proposed Partnership agreement prepared by Yorkshire Forward for all its geographic programmes to reflect the partnership intentions underpinning them. It has been circulated amongst partners and some amendments have been made to emphasise that partners are involved in other partnership arrangements. Otherwise there were no other comments.

15. This report asks for the executive to agree its contents so that it can be circulated for signing.

16. The Executive is also asked to note progress on the geographic programme.

Jonathan French
York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit
PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN

CRAVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL, HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL, HARROGATE BOROUGH COUNCIL, RICHMONDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL, RYEDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL, SCARBOROUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL, SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL, NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AND YORKSHIRE FORWARD

All the authorities listed above and Yorkshire Forward, hereinafter referred to as “the parties”, acknowledge the importance of working together to deliver economic development for the county area of North Yorkshire in line with the Regional Economic Strategy /Integrated Regional Strategy for Yorkshire and the Humber.

Recognising

- The mutually beneficial results of the relationship between the parties;
- The reciprocal commitment to further develop and deepen cooperation;
- The importance of the principals of equality and mutual benefit; but
- That this agreement will not prevent individual parties from pursuing other joint working/collaboration opportunities with partners outside the North Yorkshire County e.g. City Region collaborations, cross-boundary initiatives.

Considering that;

- It is an objective of the local authorities to develop and promote economic development for the benefit of the people of the area
- It is the role and purpose of Yorkshire Forward to develop and promote the economic development of Yorkshire and the Humber.

Agreeing that

The parties, within the limits of their financial, material and personnel capabilities

Aim to

- Work cooperatively to maximise the outcomes from the economic development opportunities in the North Yorkshire sub region, the Leeds and Tees Valley city regions and the Yorkshire and Humber region
- Work together on an economic plan for North Yorkshire, recognising the need to link to other plans and strategies being implemented in the sub-region, city-region(s) and region
- Agree priorities for action, in order to deliver those economic plans
- Agree specific actions, including a programme of activities to deliver those economic plans and
- Agree the resource to be contributed by each party to enable delivery of those economic plans.

Any dispute arising out of the interpretation of this Partnership Agreement shall be settled amicably by mutual consultation or negotiation between the Parties.

This Partnership Agreement may be modified by mutual consent between the Parties and any such modification will be in writing.

This Partnership Agreement will come into force on the date of its signing and will be in force for a period of three years unless a written request for early termination is submitted three months in advance by any of the Parties.

This Partnership Agreement does not create a legal relationship between the Parties.

The designated organisations, which will undertake the activities within this Partnership Agreement, will be

- Craven District Council
- Hambleton District Council
- Harrogate Borough Council
- Richmondshire District Council
- Ryedale District Council
- Scarborough Borough Council
- Selby District Council
- North Yorkshire County Council
- Yorkshire Forward, the Regional Development Agency for Yorkshire and the Humber

For **CRAVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Name Date

For **HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Name Date

For **HARROGATE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Name Date

For **RICHMONDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Name Date

For **RYEDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Name Date

For **SCARBOROUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Name Date

For **SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Name Date

For **NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Name Date

For **YORKSHIRE FORWARD**

Name Date

YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE ITEM 8

15 OCTOBER 2008

YORK AND NORTH YORKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP BUSINESS CASE

Purpose of the report

1. This report sets out the future role of the York and North Yorkshire Partnership and the proposed responsibilities, budget and sources of income to enable the York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit to support it. The full business case has been circulated with the agenda.
2. The business case very clearly differentiates between what will be delivered for the sub region and what applies to the county of North Yorkshire and shows the distribution of partners' funds accordingly.
3. The report seeks the approval of the case for the Sub regional partnership which will then be further considered at the Development Board and secondly the agreement of the proposed budget for the Unit and to agree a formal request to sponsors to commit financial resources. It is expected that the Executive will take a final view at its December meeting.

The Business Case for the Sub Regional Partnership

4. Because of the uncertainties in how economic development would be managed in the region in the light of the emergence of city regions, the York and North Partnership is operating on a transitional basis for 2008/09. Now there is more clarity on the way ahead, the case seeks to set out the rationale, role and costs for the York and North Yorkshire Partnership and its Unit. It seeks to re-establish the previous scenario where partners committed to the partnership for a three year period.
5. The business case reiterates the overall economic development objectives of partners. The main rationale underpinning the importance of the Partnership is that much of local economic development activity relies on national and European funding which is mainly delivered through regionally based agencies. Local partners need to work together to evidence and present the case for investment in their priorities. An important second rationale is that partner working is required to co-ordinate service provision and increase the effectiveness of public and private investment.
6. Having set out the history of the Partnership it considers the current operating context particularly the impact of Sub National Review of Economic Development (SNR). Although this is still subject to the Government's response to the consultation process it has, in effect, initiated a series of processes of change. These complement a wider set of trends in how aspects of economic development are delivered.
7. The SNR impacts on the sub regional partnership in 4 respects: -
 - a. Proposals for a single or integrated regional strategy
 - b. The RDA should be a more strategic body and there should be delegation of a portion of RDA resources to either functional sub regions or local authorities.

- c. The SNR also proposes that upper tier local authorities (i.e. the City and County Council) should be given a statutory duty to undertake an economic assessment of their area.
 - d. It seeks to provide a legal framework for functional sub regional partnership working but only for willing partners.
8. The SNR process reflects other decisions on delivering economic objectives that have been made by Government including regional delivery of EU funding and Business Link services and the proposed changes in the management of learning and skills
9. In summary, the SNR and related decisions, strengthens the RDA and other Government agencies in strategy, resource allocation and aspects of delivery. It also strengthens the role of local authorities as the lead bodies for setting out and advocating local needs as well local delivery.
10. The SNR does not prescribe what is then provided sub regionally, between the regional and the local levels of governance. That is in the hands of local partners, working with regional bodies, as to what they consider important and appropriate to improve their performance.
11. The general case for sub regional working in that context is
 - Working across functional economic areas
 - Influence and advocacy
 - Economies of scale for specialist activity
12. Specifically for the York and North Yorkshire sub region the issues that need to be addressed are
 - The County of North Yorkshire where two tier working requires the techniques and structures of sub regional working
 - The alignment of boundaries with a wide range of other service delivery organisations
 - The need for York to plan in the context of the wider York area for a wide number of issues, to work with North Yorkshire on Tourism and culture and for North Yorkshire to benefit from and support the York economy.
 - To provide a vehicle for collaboration between smaller authorities for both advocacy and technical support
 - Working with the Leaders Forum which has York and North Yorkshire representation.
13. Collaboration with Leeds City Region is however critical and needs to focus on
 - Ensuring the North Yorkshire geographic programme helps deliver city Region objectives
 - facilitating collaboration between York and North Yorkshire on those objectives
 - supporting the Leeds City region concept in the new regional strategy
14. There is a clear case for a York and North Yorkshire Partnership and it is proposed that the tasks are as follows

Regional interface - The York and North Yorkshire Development Board could be the sounding board for the representatives of the sub region on the Leader's Forum to discuss the emerging regional strategy with fellow leaders and other partners. This would be a new area of work and will involve consideration of planning and major transport issues. It will broaden the role of the Board and

may require involvement of other officers appropriate to this area. The interface with Leeds City Region is critical here.

Sub regional coordination - .York has its own mechanisms for determining its economic policies and actions so the sub region will concentrate on coordination and collaboration including joint work on:

- Skills, Business support and Culture and tourism
- EU and other sources of funding
- Complementing Leeds city region activity
- Research including support for economic assessments
- the York sub area

County of North Yorkshire - The Sub Regional Partnership performs the role of the decision making body in respect of collective decision making between the local authorities in North Yorkshire and partners and act as the economic thematic partnership for the North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership. This directly involves:

- Signing off the geographic programme
- approving and monitoring LAA targets
- agreeing a North Yorkshire economic assessment

York & North Yorkshire Partnership Unit

15. The business case initially sets out the current funding structure and role of the Unit. It then sets out a detailed rationale for the specific roles for the unit in the future. It proposes that the differentiation between sub-regional (including regional interface work) and County activity is even more clearly delineated than in the past. A summary of these roles is set out below.

SUB REGIONAL(including regional interface)

Sub regional partnership – secretariat
Sub regional partnership - Strategy and advocacy
Business Support Partnership
Culture Partnership
Skills Partnership
Research
ERDF advice and advocacy
ESF advice and advocacy

NORTH YORKSHIRE

Geographic Programme
North Yorkshire Skills Support
NY Local Area agreement
Rural Partnership/LEADER
Economic Assessment

16. It proposes that the Partnership Unit addresses these activities with a core staff level of 6 with a budget of £325,000. Although this is a net increase of £30,000, losses of income elsewhere means that the actual increase is income required is nearer £70,000. Other activities such as the 2012 Delivery Officers and the Leeds City Region researcher employed at the unit are treated as contract activity and therefore non-core.

17. The main budgetary changes arise from the need to reflect new responsibilities for the skills and cultural partnerships. This business case addresses the need to resource the setting up of support structures for both a new sub-regional skills partnership and for co-ordinating skills activity in the County, as discussed in item 5 on this agenda. It does not provide resources for the District based employment and skills partnerships. Separate discussions have been held about support for the Cultural partnership and following discussion at the last Executive subscriptions for this should be added to the core Unit subscription.
18. The unit derives income from partners, contracts and EU technical assistance. The paper discusses the detailed changes proposed for the future. The opportunity has been taken to recast how sponsor income is allocated to particular activities. It is important that sponsors see explicitly where their funding is going and also to draw a clear line between sub regional and county activity.
19. It seeks the continued support of non local authority sponsors at current levels but also proposes that HE institutions support the Unit at the same level as FE Colleges (with a higher figure for the University of York). In respect of Yorkshire Forward's support it has been assumed at this stage that there will be no change. However there may be possibilities of an increase and this is being explored. Depending on what they want to support this may enable a reduction in the request for sponsorship from others and preferably this should be used to mitigate those facing an increase.
20. For local authorities , clear ratios of contribution for the sub regional work have been suggested whereby the City of York contributes 25% of the local authority share (i.e. broadly pro rata to the population) and NYCC and the total District Council contribution share equally 75%.
21. Because of the skills issues in North Yorkshire, with the ending of funding for the North Yorkshire Learning Partnership and the need to allocate resources to support the geographical programme, the net effect of these changes is that the funding gap arises in the North Yorkshire component of the unit's work.
22. NYCC have always given a larger amount to the Unit and this has historically supported specific North Yorkshire activity. However the increase would be substantial if it fell alone on the County Council and it is proposed that the increase is broadly shared between the Districts and NYCC but that a principle is established that NYCC pays 75% of the County element of the Unit's work and the Districts 25%. To achieve this would require Districts to increase funding by £32,400 and NYCC by £26,050.
23. For York it is proposed that the core subscription remains unchanged with an additional contribution of £3300 for the Cultural partnership. The proposal for NYCC is an increase of £26,000 including £4,800 for culture. For individual Districts, the subscription would be £8,500 (including £685 for culture). This does represent a doubling of the average District contribution over last year but only a 25% increase over 2007/08, when some Districts paid more for Objective 2 activity. However the situation does vary significantly between Districts as historically some have paid more than others because of the Objective 2 effect.
24. Consideration has been given to a population based figure for Districts but that assumes that the support from the Unit would vary that way. In fact broadly the support for each District would be similar in terms of time spent and is unlike to vary in relation to size of population. There is the issue of some Local authorities also supporting the Leeds City Region. There has been careful avoidance of

duplication of activity and the York and North Yorkshire partnership undertakes a range of different functions.

Recommendations

25. The Executive is recommended to

- a. propose to the Development Board that the roles of the York and North Yorkshire set out in the first part of the business case should form the basis of future working**
- b. Agree that the proposals for the role and work of the Partnership unit as set out in the latter part of the case are appropriate and the basis for future business planning**
- c. Agree that the proposed levels of financial support should be sought from partners and that a further report on discussions with sponsors should be brought to the next meeting.**

Jonathan French
York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit.

YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE ITEM 9

15 OCTOBER 2008

YORK AREA ISSUES

Purpose of the report

1. This report begins to consider what are some of the key issues which arise in considering the York area as a spatial entity. It looks at how we can achieve coordination within the context of the York and North Yorkshire Partnership and relate this to working with Leeds City region and other service delivery especially Education and Planning and Transport. It seeks input from the Executive on the matters raised and agreement that they should be pursued. It is proposed that the Development Board also discusses the matters raised in this report.

The York Area

2. The York area emanates from both the Strategic Economic Assessment which led to the identification of the York area in the Investment plan and the parallel work on the Regional Spatial Strategy which identified the York sub area as one of its six spatial sub areas. Besides York it includes most of Selby district, a substantial part for Ryedale including Malton and the area around the A64, parts of Hambleton especially Easingwold and southwards and the easterly fringes of Harrogate district. Parts of the East Riding especially Pockington should also be included.
3. It is defined by the extent other geographies are focused on York for employment, education (especially FE), retailing and culture. The economic development of smaller towns in the catchment area is also increasingly dependent on opportunities spinning out from or seeking close proximity to York.
4. The York area is also part of the Leeds City Region area (although it extends in places beyond the defined city region). It was defined separately in the RSS because of the local importance of the City of York, and the extent of its influence and the issues that raised.

Identifying the key issues

5. In September there was an initial discussion involving the City of York Officers, Science City York, the LSC, Selby and Ryedale Districts and the Partnership Unit. This arose from the proposal to keep the 'York and science' priority in the North Yorkshire Geographic Programme and use that to set out how the localities around York would undertake their economic development in close collaboration with the York Geographic Programme.
6. That meeting started to identify the key issues that need to be addressed
 - a. City Centre masterplanning – proposals to develop a long term vision for York especially the City Centre and the need to relate that to wider geographies
 - b. Science City York – ensuring that the vision for the smaller towns such as Selby and Malton are fully integrated with the business opportunities encapsulated in the science city concept and other economic development

priorities in York. Additionally to liaise with Science City York on continuing its support for the wider North Yorkshire economy as it develops its regional role.

- c. Sites and Premises strategy – to develop a strategy for business property that ensures a mix of provision, related to the potential of the emerging economy and takes advantage of assets across the York area (this might be included as a proposal for funding in the geographic programmes).
- d. Labour Market – an early priority for the new Skills partnership might be to understand the nature of the York area labour market including its relationship to the Leeds City Region and draw up priorities for investment in skills across the labour catchment area. Within this context worklessness and employability issues need to be picked up and joint work with interventions in Scarborough be taken forward.
- e. Education- To integrate labour market information and wider York area issues into the collaboration required around the 16-19 cohort and the changes in responsibilities for commissioning FE and Sixth form provision. Both the above will need to involve the East Riding, and areas of Harrogate and Hambleton Districts. The importance of Higher Education is also being discussed by the emerging skills partnership but more in the context of a wider North Yorkshire area and particular York area issues should be picked up in that context.
- f. Leeds City region – to set out what might be the priorities for City Region activity relevant to the sub area. In the first instance this might concentrate on Finance and Business Services.
- g. Spatial Planning – to ensure that mechanisms to discuss transport, Housing and Infrastructure development are in place across the York area in the context of the review of the Regional Spatial Strategy.
- h. Tourism and Culture – generally it is expected that this would be picked up by the cultural partnership as the impact of York in this respect extends significantly beyond the York area.

Conclusions and recommendations

- 7. This area of work will need to involve a broader spectrum of service providers beyond the immediate responsibilities of the York and North Yorkshire Partnership. Consideration may need to be given to how this may be managed. However in the first instance it is proposed that this matter and the issues outlined above should be pursued by this partnership as it has the main players represented.

8. The Executive is asked to

- a. **Agree that the set of issues set out above be followed through by this Partnership in the first instance**
- b. **Consider whether the issues listed are the critical ones.**
- c. **Agree that matter also be presented to the Development Board**

Jonathan French
York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit

YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE ITEM 10

15 OCTOBER 2008

UPDATE

Purpose of the report

This report provides a short note on other issues the executive needs to be aware of .

Regional Funding Advice – The Government have launched a process whereby a consolidated view from the region is expressed on the balance of funding between Transport, Housing and economic Development is put forward. Skills are also part of the paper but actual resources are not included. This will take the form of a submission to the regional minister by the end of February. An initial draft may be out by November and this will need to be considered by sub regional partners

Sub national review – The Government's response to the consultation is still awaited. There has been some press comment that there might not be the legislative time to put it through this session.

Voluntary sector – work is being done on the value of the Volcom sector and it is intended to bring this to the next meeting of the partnership Executive.

Yorkshire Assembly – Scrutiny of Investment planning – The assembly has initiated this scrutiny process and a number of partners have discussed the issues with an appointed consultant. A draft paper will be circulated for discussion in November.

The Executive is asked to note the report

Jonathan French
York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit

YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE ITEM 11

15 OCTOBER 2008

AGENDA FOR NEXT DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING

Purpose of the report

This report sets a proposed agenda for the next meeting of the Development Board for approval by the executive.

Proposed agenda

Current economic situation – suggestion is to promote a discussion on the impact of current economic conditions

SNR – to feed back any response from the Government consultation on SNR

York and North Yorkshire partnership – to present aspects of the business case considered at this meeting on the future role of the Partnership.

Geographic Programmes – overview on current position in York and North Yorkshire (including specific responsibilities re the North Yorkshire Programme and approval of changes to the Partnership executive.)

York area – to set out the issues discussed at this executive

Update on Partnerships – specifically Skills, Culture and Business support

The executive is asked to approve this draft agenda

Jonathan French
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