

Local Government North Yorkshire and York
Chief Executives Group for North Yorkshire
and York

Sustainable Community Strategy for North Yorkshire 2011 - 2014

Consultation draft

Easy Read version

If you would like this information in another language or format such as Braille, large print, on tape or CD, please ask us.



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This is a plan that looks at life for people living in North Yorkshire and helps us to think about how we can make things better for the future.



We need to update it now to make sure we are thinking about the most important issues for local people in the **next 3 years**.

It is important to us to have your views on:



Whether you think the priorities we have chosen are the most important ones for local communities.



Whether there are new things we need to include.



We would like to have everyone's views by **23rd September 2011**.



Once we have heard from everyone, we will use your views to help write a new version of the plan.

Who has written this document?



A **partnership** of agencies including the Councils, the Police, the Health Service and the Fire and Rescue Service, among others.



They are led by two groups. One is **Local Government North Yorkshire and York** and the other is the **Chief Executives Group for North Yorkshire and York**. These groups are working together to try to make North Yorkshire a better place in which to live, work and visit.

They do this through their plan - the **Sustainable Community Strategy for North Yorkshire**.



We will publish a new plan at the end of 2011. We need to make sure that we are still thinking about the most important issues for our communities from 2011 onwards. What you have to say will help us to understand what communities think is important.

Our Three Priorities

We have done some work already to ask people what the most important issues are for communities in the next three years.



We have come up with **three** priorities which we think will help us to focus our work.



This does not mean that other issues are not important. But with less money to spend in the future, we want to make sure that we focus on those things which have to be done **now**.



Also, lots of issues will continue to be important work for people like the Councils and the Health Service anyway. So we need to make sure that we only work on those things which need lots of agencies to come together to make them happen.



Please help us by reading the information below about our three priorities and circle in the boxes to let us know whether you think each issue



Is important and we need to have this in our plan



Is not important and we don't need to have this in our plan



You can also tell us at the end about other things that you think we should include.



Thank you for your help.

1) Protecting and Supporting Vulnerable People



Vulnerable people can be children, older people, people with a disability, people who have experienced crime, to name a few.



Things which make people more vulnerable can include; poor health; poor quality of life; growing older; anti-social behaviour.



In parts of North Yorkshire, these things may be worse depending on where you live. In poorer areas, for example, people are more likely to live less long and will have more serious illnesses.



We also have a growing number of older people in North Yorkshire. They will need even more care and help in the next few years.

We want to protect and support vulnerable people and give them a better quality of life.

To do this we will:



- **Make sure that all people who are at risk of serious harm are protected.** This will include things like looking after the most vulnerable adults and children in our communities.



- **Give older and vulnerable people choices about their housing, care and support needs.** This will include helping people to live independently if they want to.



- **Help all communities to have a healthy lifestyle, no matter where they are in North Yorkshire.**



- **Look at which communities need more help from agencies and work together to help them to have a better quality of life.**

Do you think this is an important priority? Please circle one



2) Supporting economic growth and employment

We want North Yorkshire to be a place where businesses can grow and where there are lots of opportunities for everyone.

But this will be a challenge for us in the next few years.



For example, more people will find themselves out of work.



North Yorkshire also has a smaller number of people who are of working age than anywhere else.



Because North Yorkshire is so large and is mainly countryside, it is difficult for people to get around to do work or volunteering.

There are many good things in North Yorkshire for us though too.



For example, we have a wonderful environment and lots of history. We also have lots of visitors to the county and we should help this to happen all year long, not just during the summer.

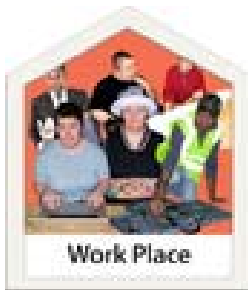
We will:



- Work together to encourage businesses to grow, especially small businesses and those working in agriculture and food



- Improve what we can offer for tourists and visitors



- Help people to get the skills they need

The York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership will help us in making sure that these things happen. This group has been set up by the government and includes businesses and Councils.

Do you think this is an important priority? Please circle one



3) Improving accessibility for all our communities

A lot of people in North Yorkshire have difficulty in getting the services they need, such as healthcare or access to a Post Office.

This can be due to lots of things, including



Not having many services locally



Not being able to use the internet or not having a broadband connection



Not having local transport to help you get around



Other reasons could be personal circumstances such as age or disability.



The gap between people who do have these things and the people who don't can be very large in parts of North Yorkshire. It's likely that more services will be cut in the next few years and this could make things worse for some people - particularly those living in the countryside.

It will be important for us to help communities to help themselves more.

We will:



- **Make sure more people can get broadband internet in their homes and for work.**



- **Work with communities to help them become more involved in deciding about the kinds of services they want**

Do you think this is an important priority? Please circle one



Are there any new priorities or issues we should include in this strategy? Please use this box to tell us.

Please use this box to give us any other comments.

Please return this form to:

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