

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

23 JULY 2008

STATEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR GREG WHITE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Yorkshire Forward Geographic Programme

Discussions are taking place between Yorkshire Forward and partners in the region, including the County Council, on the preparation of Geographic Programmes. As part of the principles contained within the Sub-National Review of Economic Development which aims to have decisions taken at the most appropriate level, Yorkshire Forward, the Regional Development Agency, is looking to simplify its contract and programme management arrangements by having a small number of Programmes based on local authority areas. These would be unitary councils throughout the rest of the region and North Yorkshire County Council for North Yorkshire. Under proposed arrangements, which are subject to approval by the Yorkshire Forward Board, NYCC would act as Accountable Body for a North Yorkshire Programme, sub-contracting with other partners, which would deliver Yorkshire Forward direct investment into the County. Management of the Programme would come through the existing officer Partnership Executive, whose membership will be extended to include all District Councils, and through the member Development Board. Priorities for investment will be agreed over the coming months, based on the current Sub-Regional Investment Plan which will be aligned to reflect Yorkshire Forward priorities. It is anticipated that the new Geographic Programmes will become operational from April 2009.

Eco -Town Proposals

Leeds City Region Leaders have responded on 8th July to the Government's proposals to develop an Eco -Town within the Leeds City Region. Eco - towns are proposed as part of the solution to meet the current and anticipated shortage of housing. They will be new settlements of between 5 and 20,000 houses developed on sustainable principles and with a high level of affordable housing. Leaders resolved that none of the sites put forward – and which were all in Selby district – could be supported. While Leaders recognised that there is a significant challenge in the City Region in delivering levels of housing in sustainable locations, they took the view that there is not a suitable site within the City Region. They have responded to Government that they would wish for work to be undertaken on how possible Government resources that could be allocated for an eco-town could be used to increase affordable housing across the City Region. They have also resolved that a new report be prepared on how Government housing numbers can be delivered without an Eco-Town. Government is expected to publish its list of 15 locations for Eco-Towns during the course of this month. Proposals will be subject to consultation and a final list of 10 locations published in the autumn.