

# **NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**23 July 2008**

## **SCRUTINY BOARD**

### **STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN**

The Scrutiny Board met on 1 July 2008.

#### Scrutiny Board workshop with District Scrutiny Members on scrutiny of the Local Area Agreement

In my statement to Council in February I reported on the principles that the Board felt should apply when using the new powers to scrutinise the LAA and partnership working. I also said that the Board wished to explore the opportunities for more joint working with District Council Members on scrutiny. I am pleased to report that we held a workshop in June attended by 14 Members of Overview and Scrutiny from the County Council and eight District Council Members, representing all seven districts.

We were able to consider a range of options for the scrutiny of LAAs in two tier areas. The shared view was that the use of existing overview and scrutiny arrangements for scrutinising the outcomes of partnership working would be the preferred option. In developing a common sense approach to overview and scrutiny between the County and District Councils 'enhanced two tier working' could work well. Members stated clearly on the day they do not want to see additional bureaucracy but the better sharing of information, learning and expertise between our councils.

Scrutiny officers from across the county have also started meeting on a regular basis and have developed a draft Memorandum of Understanding (attached to this statement) to support and promote effective partnership working between the eight councils. The Scrutiny Board is very supportive of this approach.

#### Centre for Public Scrutiny Annual Conference

I attended this conference in June and it was a good opportunity to learn from what other Scrutineers are doing. It was also an opportunity to compare and contrast our approach to scrutiny with that of others. I have to say that I think the outcomes we achieve through our scrutiny measure up well to others.

#### Update on the development of the North Yorkshire Local Involvement Network (LINK)

The Board received a further update on the establishment of a LINK for North Yorkshire following the appointment of North Bank Forum as the 'host' organisation. Premises have been set up and staff are coming into post in July. Launch events to engage with local voluntary/community organisations and interested individuals are planned for September around North Yorkshire venues.

**County Councillor Paul Richardson  
Chairman of Scrutiny Board  
14 July 2008**

## Overview and Scrutiny in North Yorkshire

### **DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

This Memorandum of Understanding is made on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2008

BETWEEN:

1. Craven District Council
2. Hambleton District Council
3. Harrogate Borough Council
4. North Yorkshire County Council
5. Richmondshire District Council
6. Ryedale District Council
7. Scarborough Borough Council
8. Selby District Council

The above local authorities are hereafter referred to as “the Partners”.

#### **1.0 NATURE OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

0.1 This Memorandum of Understanding is a statement of good faith between the Partners. It is not a legally binding document and is not intended to create any legal partnership between the Partners.

#### **2.0 PURPOSE OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

2.1 The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to set out the intention of the Partners to collaborate in relation to the exercise of their overview and scrutiny functions in North Yorkshire, with particular emphasis on facilitating effective scrutiny of all organisations contributing to the delivery of the Local Area Agreement targets for the area.

2.2 This Memorandum aims to promote effective partnership working between the Partners for such purposes. It recognises the Partners' intention to establish a relationship to co-operate in a broad range of areas relating to overview and scrutiny matters and to work together for their mutual benefit. The Partners may seek to encourage and develop collaborative activities in various ways, including the exchange of overview and scrutiny ideas, expertise and training opportunities.

2.3 The Partners agree that a pragmatic approach to the intended partnership working should be adopted, using existing scrutiny arrangements in each authority, with an understanding that links to the LAA may be explored within wider scrutiny reviews. It is likely that Protocols will be required regarding: the coordination of information and the LAA; the establishment of joint overview and scrutiny committees and/or the co-option of Partners' overview and scrutiny committee Members onto other Partners' overview and scrutiny committees and the review and management of joint overview and scrutiny issues in North Yorkshire.

**3.0 COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION**

3.1 This Memorandum of Understanding shall become effective on the date above for a period of three years and will be reviewed thereafter.

**4.0 AMENDMENT OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

4.1 The Partners will keep this Memorandum under review.

4.2 The Memorandum may be amended at any time. Where possible, amendments should be agreed by consensus between the Partners, however where consensus cannot be reached, amendments may be agreed by a majority of the Partners.

**5.0 TERMINATION**

5.1 This Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated at any time by mutual consent of all the Partners.

5.2 Where such a consensus cannot be reached, then the Memorandum may be terminated upon agreement by a majority of the Partners.

5.3 In any case of termination, the Partners will honour agreed commitments either via the accepted arrangements or suitable alternatives negotiated between them at that point.

**6.0 SIGNATURE**

6.1 The Partners agree to act in accordance with this Memorandum and any Protocols made under it.

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF  
Craven District Council .....

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF  
Hambleton District Council .....

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF  
Harrogate Borough Council .....

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF

North Yorkshire County Council .....

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF  
Richmondshire District Council .....

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF  
Ryedale District Council .....

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF  
Scarborough Borough Council .....

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF  
Selby District Council .....