

Leader's Statement to Full Council
October 2010.

Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPS)

We have submitted a proposal for a Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) for York and North Yorkshire and this is backed by all Councils in York and North Yorkshire. The proposal underlines various factors notably rurality but including a commonality of the importance of certain sectors such as tourism, food, agriculture, manufacturing and the importance of the coastal area as the county's major issue for economic under-performance.

The situation is complex because York and the district councils are part of our "County LEP" but could also belong to other ones as well. For example there is a LEP proposition for the Leeds City Region LEP which includes Harrogate, Craven, Selby, York and ourselves; and a Hull and East Riding LEP which includes Scarborough. We are not yet sure what view the Government will take on this situation, but I will update Members at full Council.

We are also supportive of the work being done by a range of private sector businesses to create what has been called a Yorkshire Enterprise Partnership (YEP). This would be a regional support structure for LEPs enabling key economic issues such as inward investment, tourism, business finance, and business to be kept at a regional level rather than to move up to a national tier.

Comprehensive Spending Review

The results of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) will be announced on 20th October. However, the impact will not be completely clear until the Provisional Financial Settlement is announced in December. It has been suggested that in a change to previous formats, two 2 year blocs of financing will be set out, rather than the current 3 years framework. As Members are no doubt aware by now, local government finance faces some very lean years ahead which will inevitable mean this County Council having to make tough decisions about how it continues to provide high quality value for money services.

Budget Consultation

The Executive has already begun work to the establish the framework for meeting the financial challenges ahead which will include detailed discussions with Directors. As in previous years there will be further Member Budget Workshops in addition to wider public consultation meetings. I would urge all Members to participate in the process over the coming months to help achieve the best possible budget outcome for the County's residents.