

LEADER'S STATEMENT

North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership.

At the time of writing we have still not had formal notification of the outcome of the North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (NYLEP) bid. We believe an announcement is imminent and will update Members at full Council.

At a recent meeting of Local Government North Yorkshire & York (LGNYY) all councils the sub region again indicated their support for the NYLEP and it was agreed that East Riding of Yorkshire Council could become part of it. It is clear that the Government is putting no money into the LEPs for administration and all funding for projects will be subject to a bidding procedure from the Regional Growth Fund.

The North Yorkshire sub region is better placed than many other areas to fund administration because we already have the Partnership Unit. We are now starting the recruitment process for a Chairman and for business/private sector members for the Board which will be a joint board with local government leaders.

Local Government Finance Settlement

On January 17th the Chief Executive and I met with DCLG Minister, Baroness Hanham to put our concerns about the way NYCC had been treated in the Provisional Settlement. We focussed particularly on the issue of concessionary travel as we had lost 46% of the total expenditure the seven districts have in the current financial year. In cash terms we calculate a £5 million shortfall. Amongst the Counties only Oxfordshire had lost a greater percentage. We also commented on a £2 million shortfall because of an amount removed to fund academies.

We were joined on the visit by Harrogate and Knaresborough MP, Andrew Jones and Skipton and Ripon MP, Julian Smith. I would like to record my thanks for their help in supporting our cause. Baroness Hanham (the former Leader of Kensington and Chelsea Council) listened very carefully to what we had to say. However, for this financial year at least it does not appear that our representations have impacted on the Final Settlement.