

LOCAL ECONOMY BEST VALUE REVIEW – SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN (SIP) UPDATE: APRIL 2007

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SPREADING THE ECONOMIC SUCCESS			
SES1	Forum for Digital Industries (See SES3 below)	Alan Sandy, DDS	Further to its launch in June 2004, the Digital Forum was successful in securing £65k funding, over two years, from Yorkshire Forward (YF)/Learning & Skills Council (LSC). The Forum provided support for businesses in the IT and related sectors on training, recruitment, marketing and business network matters and secured 155 members. Due to a regional restructuring of support for digital industries an application to YF, for £385k funding over three years, was not supported. The Forum became a not for profit company in August 2005. The Borough Council subsequently adopted an observer role and provided information and advice as requested. The Forum was formally wound up in July 2006, with its previous functions now managed by Science City York (see SES3 below).
SES2	Building links with the City of Leeds – City Region and Northern Way agenda	Nigel Avison, DDS	<p>Harrogate Borough Council continues to work with Leeds City Council and nine other neighbouring authorities to promote the economic development of the Leeds City Region, in accordance with an agreed City Region Concordat. The City Region Partnership submitted an application for financial support under HMG Transport Innovation Fund and produced a second iteration of the City Region Development Programme, which were submitted to the DCLG in July and September 2006 respectively. The application for Transport Innovation funding was rejected, however the regional development agency, Yorkshire Forward, has agreed to provide funding to progress priority initiatives and details of this are being developed.</p> <p>This initiative is one of the Council’s 12 Strategic Actions (Strategic Plan, 2005 to 2008, reference SA05.1) and is monitored quarterly.</p>
SES3	Building links with the City York (See SES1 above)	Alan Sandy, EDU	An extension of the Science City York (SCY) initiative to the Harrogate district was approved in Spring 2006 and is being provided through funding from the Sub-Regional Investment Plan. The initiative assists firms in the digital, bioscience and creative industries access higher levels of business support, through SCY’s

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			<p>peripatetic advisers.</p> <p>SCY adopted the momentum created by the former Harrogate Digital Forum and now oversee its database and website. A programme of local ‘digital surgeries’, providing support and advice to technological, digital and innovative businesses, are due to commence in late Spring 2007/08.</p> <p>Other links with the City of York are being progressed via the City Region Partnership (SES2 above) and the Economic Development Unit’s own work programme.</p>
SES4	Supply Chain Development	Alan Sandy, EDU	<p>This initiative was progressed through the Council’s Corporate Procurement programme and included: development of a website link (www.harrogate.gov.uk/procurement (December 2004), publicity in On Location (May 2005), presentations to local Chambers of Commerce (June 2005), publication of a “Selling to the Council” guide (October 2005), and procurement seminar (November 2005),.which led to the Council signing up to the Small Business Friendly Concordat in December 2005. This initiative is now managed by the Corporate Procurement Group, led by DCPI.</p>
TECHNOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE			
TI1	Technological Infrastructure - Local Campaigns	Alan Sandy, EDU	<p>This project has been very successful with BT broadband enabling nearly all the exchanges in the District by June 2005. The four rural exchanges initially excluded have now been enabled through funding from Yorkshire Forward’s Community Broadband Grant scheme. The Council’s involvement in the project has now concluded.</p>

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TI2	Technological Infrastructure - WAN Network	Alan Sandy, EDU	Discussions are currently underway to consider how the provision of next generation broadband can be accelerated. A range of public sector partners are considering how aggregated purchasing, leveraging European and Yorkshire Forward funding, could deliver a state of the art solution for the whole of North Yorkshire. This initiative is being progressed by NYNET, North Yorkshire's Broadband Transformation Project, led by North Yorkshire County Council with support from Yorkshire Forward and ERDF funding. The Council is not currently directly involved in this initiative.
AFFORDABLE HOUSING			
AH1	Mapping Housing Affordability	Dawn Saxby, DCS	<p>The Local Housing Options team is now well established, offering multi-tenure advice about housing types and prices across in the District.</p> <p>The District Wide Housing Market Assessment is complete, but awaiting publication of final report, due in May 2007 as part of the Local Development Framework preparations.</p> <p>A wider Housing Market mapping exercise has also been undertaken regionally, led by the Regional Assembly, and more detailed follow up research is currently being undertaken to identify market linkages and rising/falling market areas. This also links to more detailed research on housing market drivers undertaken as part of the Leeds City Region project, in which Harrogate is one of the participating local authorities.</p>
AH2	Maximising Affordable Housing Resources	Dawn Saxby, DCS	<p>Housing Corporation grant funding allocations were fixed for 2 years 2004 – 2006, with Harrogate also being awarded additional funding during this programme period as a result of bringing forward in-programme bids which offered certainty of delivery.</p> <p>Outline 2008/11 Investment round bids are currently being made at a sub-regional</p>

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			<p>(i.e. North Yorkshire) level, with finalised schematic bids having to be made to the Regional Housing Board by 11 May 2006. North Yorkshire has been given a provisional investment allocation of £63m to work from, but this is subject both to the schematic bids being approved by the Regional Housing Board in May/June 2007, and the outcome of the Government’s Comprehensive Spending Review later in 2007 which may increase, or more likely reduce, the total level of housing investment projected for the Yorkshire and Humber Region for the 2008/11 investment period.</p> <p>Cross subsidy within mixed tenure schemes is continuing to be used to develop additional affordable housing without the need for public subsidy as far as practicable. The NYCC 2nd homes funded package of sites in Harrogate is now on site, producing 19 additional affordable homes across 10 sites in the District.</p> <p>The Golden Triangle Partnership (Harrogate, City of York and North Leeds) received additional funding (circa £2m) through the Regional Housing Board and the Housing Corporation to produce a good practice guide to affordable housing delivery through the planning process, and to deliver a Golden Triangle Homebuy Plus Scheme, also leveraging in private finance, to offer equity loans of up to 45% to help first time buyers onto the local housing ladder.</p> <p>The Partnership is bidding for additional funding in the 2008/11 investment round to deliver Phase 3 Homebuy Plus and to pilot a range of other innovative initiatives to help local people access affordable homes.</p>
AH3	Managing Housing Affordability	Dawn Saxby, DCS	<p>A target tenure split (70% rented:30 low cost home ownership) remains for all new development approved by Council following local housing affordability analyses, and more stringent affordable housing targets and thresholds are being proposed in the draft Local Development Framework, which is due to be implemented in April 2008, subject to finalisation of Regional Spatial Strategy housing targets and the outcome of the necessary local inquiry and approval process.</p>

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			<p>The Council's revised Housing Strategy has been approved internally and is awaiting final formal sign-off by Government Office, which is expected shortly.</p> <p>The Council is also working closely with the other District Councils and City of York Council to improve affordable housing strategy and delivery across the county, following an Audit Commission Inspection of affordable housing across North Yorkshire, with county-wide action plans having been developed and agreed in a number of key areas.</p>
IMPROVING THE HOLIDAY TOURISM PRODUCT			
IHTP1	Destination Benchmarking	Hayley Gray, HIC	<p>The advent of a major review of roles and responsibilities across York and North Yorkshire has delayed full implementation of this project. It is now quite likely that a review of benchmarking will be based on the revised marketing product; which in Harrogate's case will be Harrogate and the Yorkshire Dales, and involve more partners. Benchmarking has however been carried out in three areas:</p> <p>1 Assessment of visitor expenditure/numbers etc can now be benchmarked and compared on an annual basis between the following destinations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Harrogate District ▪ Ripon area ▪ Nidderdale ▪ Yorkshire Dales

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			<p>2 TIC's in the Harrogate/Yorkshire dales marketing area in terms of visitor numbers; accommodation booking.</p> <p>3 On-line accommodation booking.</p> <p>Position – Spring 2007 Most of this work has been overtaken by the formation of the Dales and Harrogate Tourism partnership and leisure tourism issues including any benchmarking will be managed thru the emerging partnership.</p> <p>Further reports will be made to HIC Board and portfolio holder in the coming months.</p>
INVESTMENT IN THE CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION BUSINESS			
ICEB1	Securing Capital Investment	Stuart Quin, HIC	<p>A review of capital investment is presently underway as part of the HIC project. A revised planned maintenance programme is expected to be presented to the HIC Board in November, and since preparation of the original project, HIC has, in line with its adopted business strategy, secured funding for and implemented a £5m capital scheme for breakout space and is currently embarked on implementing a £1.25m scheme to bring the venue to the leading edge of ICT applications in the events industry.</p> <p><u>Position – Spring 2007</u> Investment needs defined and agreed by HIC Board; main capital needs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ upgrade/replacement of exhibition facilities (£20m-£30m) ▪ planned maintenance programme (£2m) ▪ conference centre makeover (£5m) ▪ technical equipment upgrade (£1.5m) <p>Funding sources for projects still to be identified.</p>

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ICEB2	Carrying out an Economic Impact Study	Stuart Quin, HIC	<p>The timing on this has slipped considerably because the amount of time needed to conduct a full and rigorous research programme is greater than originally anticipated. It is proposed to commence work on this later in the year.</p> <p><i>Position – Spring 2007</i></p> <p>Work commissioned and completed February 2007.</p>
WORK COMMISSIONED AND COMPLETED MARCH 2007			
SG1	Support for Partnerships	Rachel Cudmore, EDU	<p>The existing partnership network aims to encourage active community engagement within market towns and their surrounding rural areas. The network is heavily supported by external funding support, made available through central government and European funding programmes, which are time limited. Harrogate Borough Council's Cabinet (6th April 2005) agreed to make a financial contribution of £5,000 to each of the four partnerships in the district from 2005/06. This contribution is to be met from the existing Economic Development Unit budget. Cabinet also agreed to fund growth of £15,000 (2006/07) to support the continuation of a full time, district-wide, Partnership Development Officer to support local partnership development activity.</p>
SG2	Formation of Service Level Agreements	Rachel Cudmore, EDU	<p>The Economic Development Unit has introduced a process of annual meetings with individual partnerships to consider service level expectations. These issues are discussed at the start of each year and form a basis of the working relationship between the EDU and the partnership concerned.</p>
SG3	Support from Stakeholders	Rachel Cudmore, EDU	<p>Yorkshire Forward has now agreed its position. It will provide between £30,000-£40,000 per year (for 3 years) to support project delivery capacity for the Sub-Regional Investment Plan (SRIP) and Renaissance Market Towns Programme (RMT). This will enable the Borough Council to employ a full-time SRIP Delivery Officer. Yorkshire Forward will not provide funding to support the capacity of the</p>

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			local delivery networks. Harrogate Borough Council has therefore agreed to find additional resources to support the local partnership network (see SG1).
SG4	Support for Succession Planning	Rachel Cudmore, EDU	<p>Ripon City Partnership is leading the way in developing an exit from the Ripon Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) programme. The Partnership has involved local stakeholders in developing a new vision for Ripon.</p> <p>The Yorkshire Forward funded Market Town Initiative programme in Pateley bridge finished in March 2005. Agreement has now been reached for the Economic Development Unit business unit reserves to fund the Partnership Development Project (matched to European Objective 2 funding), which provides a key staffing resource for the partnership (until December 2007). This will enable the Nidderdale Plus partnership to continue its current activities until December 2007 and to focus on succession planning for the future.</p>
IMPROVING CAR PARKING			
CP1	Improve Car Parking in Ripon	Chris McGonigle, DDS	<p>Further adjustments/improvements to achieve the short and medium term aims of parking strategy have now been approved.</p> <p>The car parking areas adjacent to the Arcade and on the upper level of the car park to the rear of Sainsburys store has been given over to short-stay car parking. The remaining 2 levels of the car park are available for medium/long-stay parking.</p> <p>A package of temporary parking arrangements is being promoted and planning</p>

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			<p>permission sought to cater for those vehicles that will be displaced from the west of the Market Place once the new development commences.</p>
CP2	Improve Car Parking in Knaresborough	Chris McGonigle, DDS	<p>Work is continuing on Stage 2 of the Knaresborough parking study to identify new sites (within 300m of the town centre), which could meet the existing shortfall in short stay car parking spaces (120/130 spaces) but this is proving difficult.</p> <p>Reductions in the maximum stay time at Chapel Street and Fisher Street car parks were introduced experimentally in 2006 but it was determined over a six-month time period that this did not achieve increased usage of the car parks and the experiment was, therefore, abandoned.</p> <p>The car park resigning scheme was completed in April 2006.</p>