

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT NORTH YORKSHIRE AND YORK**

**5 OCTOBER 2009**

**LGNYE ECONOMY AND SKILLS BOARD**

**REPORT OF JONATHAN FRENCH**  
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**Introduction**

The Economy and Skills Board will hold its first meeting on 19 October with Cllr. John Watson in the chair.

**Role and terms of reference**

The annexe sets out the role of the Board and this will provide the basis for the terms of reference. The main roles are

*Regional interface* - ensuring the economic objectives of the sub region are represented in regional priorities

*Sub regional coordination and collaboration* – promoting joint working between public and private sector interests across York and North Yorkshire

*County of North Yorkshire* - Undertaking collective decision making between the County and District Councils and partners in North Yorkshire where required

**Initial tasks**

One of the first tasks will be to oversee the production of the 'Initial economic assessment' by March 2010 which will be an important input into the generation of policy options into the new Integrated Regional Strategy. It will also provide the basis for the statutory economic assessment to be prepared in the County in 2010 and facilitate linkages to and support for the City for York preparing its assessment.

The Board will also need to need to develop a work programme that identifies the critical issues it needs to address over the coming year.

**Initial agenda**

The draft agenda for the first meeting might include the following areas

1. *The economy of York and North Yorkshire* –a discussion on the medium and longer term future of the economy of the sub region including background on the major initiatives and policies currently in place and possible emerging issues that might arise in the economic assessment.
2. *Impact of the downturn* – Analysis of short term consequences for the sub region and what measures are in place to address them.
3. *Terms of reference for board and procedures for meetings* – to include setting specific roles for the County of North Yorkshire e.g. geographic programme
4. *Appointment of Independent Chair* – to discuss the potential for an independent chair in the long run once the board has settled into its role.

5. *Future workplan* - to include economic assessment, input to IRS and Regional partnerships, reports on business support, culture and skills, EU and other funding and North Yorkshire geographic programme.

Jonathan French  
York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit  
18 September 2009

## ROLE OF YORK AND NORTH ECONOMY AND SKILLS BOARD

### Introduction

Local Government North Yorkshire and York (the new sub regional leaders' board) agreed at its meeting in June to establish a series of thematic partnerships to ensure that the sub region was effectively represented in the region's preparation of a new Intergraded Regional strategy and other issues of importance to local people.

These include a Transport Board and a Planning Board. The existing Strategic Housing Board will continue to address housing issues. It was agreed that a new Economy and Skills Board be formed replacing the current Development Board.

In that context, it would seek to influence directly the work of the regional Work and Skills thematic board as well as Yorkshire Forward. It would also lead on 'regeneration' issues working with the sub regional housing board on influencing the regional Housing and Regeneration thematic board.

### Role

The role of the York and North Yorkshire Economy and Skills Board will include;

*Regional interface* - The sub region needs to ensure that

- The economic objectives of the sub region are reflected in the new integrated regional strategy and the relevant regional thematic Boards
- Regional funding through regional institutions and regional delivery projects need to reflect the sub regions needs and opportunities
- To develop an appropriate relationship with the Tees valley city region

*Sub regional coordination and collaboration* – Undertaking joint work on:

- Implementing the sub region Investment Plan
- Coordinating activity on skills, Business support and Culture and tourism
- Facilitating EU and other sources of funding
- Ensuring coordination with Leeds city region objectives
- Research including joint working on economic assessments
- Coordination for the York sub area
- Oversight of Partnership Unit

*County of North Yorkshire* - Undertaking collective decision making between the local authorities in North Yorkshire and partners and acting as the economic thematic partnership for the North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership, working with District LSP economy or prosperity groups. To include:

- Signing off the geographic programme
- approving and monitoring LAA targets
- agreeing statutory North Yorkshire economic assessment

### Partnership Executive

The Development Board is supported by the Partnership Executive, made up of chief executives and senior officers of key organisations. They act as advisor to the Board and will give prior consideration to all matters that are placed before the Board. The Executive will continue as constituted and become the advisor to the Economy and Skills Board. It is the primary reporting body for the Partnership Unit.

## **Membership**

As with the Development Board, the new board should be a body where local authority representation is at member level and other interests should be represented by lay persons rather than paid officers, although it may not be possible to do this in all cases. There should be no cross membership with the Partnership Executive.

The Economy and Skills Board seeks

- local authority nominations at cabinet, lead member or committee chair level rather than leader (although in some instances the leader has the economic portfolio)
- to increasing the involvement of private sector members organisations
- To ensure involvement of other public bodies.

### *Proposed membership*

Local authorities – a member from each of the nine authorities.

The National Parks - an authority member from each of the two National Park authorities

Other bodies - one representative from

- Further Education
- Higher education
- Yorkshire Forward board member
- Voluntary and community sector – nominated by NYFVO

Private sector organisations (three seats)

- Leeds, York and NY Chamber
- North East chamber
- Land based - a business person from NFU or CLA

It is intended that this core group of private sector representatives would facilitate wider engagement with the private sector largely on a task and finish basis.

This adds up to 18 members. Formal substitutes should be nominated as well.

The sub region's representative on the regional Work and Skills board will be invited to the meeting as an 'ex officio' member.

## **Officer Support**

The Executive Manager of the Partnership Unit will act as secretary to the Board. The chair of the York and North Yorkshire Partnership Executive would be the principal advisor. The Assistant Director of Yorkshire Forward for the sub region would also attend.

## **Chair**

The Board is chaired initially by the North Yorkshire County Council and the City of York Council representatives on an alternating basis, but with a view to consider the appointment of a high profile independent chair at some later date.

JF  
9/09