

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NORTH YORKSHIRE AND YORK

5 OCTOBER 2009

LGYH SPATIAL PLANNING BOARD

REPORT OF COUNCILLOR KEITH KNAGGS

1. The Board had its first meeting on 29 June and meets again on 12 October and 14 December.
2. The meeting agreed
 - (a) the initial terms of reference
 - (b) a future work programme relating to the spatial planning aspects of the Integrated Regional Strategy, to the implementation of existing planning policies and to help Local Authorities in the preparation of Local Development Frameworks
 - (c) a response to draft government guidance on “planning for prosperous economies” (PPS4)
3. The work programme proposed by officers was criticised by members as being too much “business as usual”, whereas the new governance arrangements are not a continuation of the Regional Assembly but a stronger emphasis on sub-regions as the drivers. This in turn poses a massive challenge to sub-regions to build the capacity to do what needs to be done at this level.
4. The main changes to the original proposed programme are
 - a more focussed programme concentrating on infrastructure provision, the roles of settlements, matching housing types to housing needs, affordable housing, reaction to changing economic circumstances and proactive flood risk management
 - the programme to link in with the work of the other thematic boards
 - environmental capacity, sustainable development and response to climate change to be clearly identified as cross-cutting themes in the preparation of the integrated regional strategy
5. Draft PPS4 suggests there is no separate rural economy., and tends to see rural areas as places where urban economic activities can be located subject to suitable controls. The Board felt that agriculture and its supply chains should continue to be recognised as a key component of the countryside.

Keith Knaggs