

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NORTH YORKSHIRE AND YORK

5 OCTOBER 2009

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER STRATEGIC MIGRATION GROUP

REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR PAUL RICHARDSON

The Strategic Migration Group (SMG) is the executive policy group of the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Migration Partnership. It provides strategic leadership and coordination on migration issues, bringing together local authorities, statutory agencies and the third sector on a quarterly basis:

- to ensure that the region fully understands the way in which migration is impacting – both positively and negatively
- to help shape emerging regional and national policy to make sure it reflects the needs of local authorities and other stakeholders in our region

Recent and current key issues are:

- monitoring and managing the way asylum seekers are dispersed to and housed in the region, including possible new arrangements from 2011
- providing strategic leadership for the recently agreed Refugee Integration Strategy
- responding to the UK Border Agency consultation on 'earned citizenship'
- improving tailored briefings on the issues in each local authority area
- supporting successful projects funded by the Migration Impacts Fund
- discussions with Local Government Yorkshire and Humber about linking the SMG to LGYH structures to provide greater political ownership of its work, and establishing a new local authority group on migration (invitations are to be sent to all local authority chief executives seeking a member nomination for a first meeting in November 2009)

Local authorities in North Yorkshire and York are represented by Cllr Paul Richardson (North Yorkshire CC) and Neil Irving (Head of Policy and Partnerships, North Yorkshire CC). Neil circulates information about the work of SMG, including the excellent briefings on migration issues, by email to representatives of local authorities and partners in North Yorkshire and York.

County Hall
NORTHALLERTON

25 September 2009