

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NORTH YORKSHIRE AND YORK

16 APRIL 2010

LGNYE ECONOMY AND SKILLS BOARD

REPORT OF JONATHAN FRENCH (CHIEF EXECUTIVE, YORK AND NORTH YORKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP UNIT)

Purpose of the Report

1. This report provides an update on this theme and some of the key issues. It seeks LGNYE endorsement of the terms of reference for the Economy and skills Board.

Update on Economy and Skills Board

2. The Economy and Skills board has now met three times and is chaired by Cllr. John Watson who will occupy the chair for a year when the City of York will take over.
3. The main issues that have been addressed at these meetings have included
 - a. The impact of the downturn on the sub regional economy
 - b. Concerns on the impact of empty property rates
 - c. The preparation of economic assessments both to provide evidence for the regional strategy and also to meet the statutory requirements for North Yorkshire to have completed an assessment by the end in 2010 and to provide support to the City Of York's assessment
 - d. The emerging cultural strategy, the relationship with tourism delivery and the need to take up opportunities created by the 2012 Olympics.
 - e. Endorsement of a set of sub regional work and skills priorities proposed by the Work and skills Partnership.
 - f. The progress to date on taking up European Regional Development funding (ERDF) and the concerns that the region may not fulfil its objectives in future years
 - g. The availability of Yorkshire Forward funding in the future and the impact of that on programmes such as the Renaissance market Town programme
 - h. The importance of engaging with the private sector and work with the Leeds, York and North Yorkshire chamber of Commerce on that.
 - i. Consideration of the business plan for Partnership Unit

Terms of Reference

4. Attached in Appendix 1 are the proposed terms of reference approved by the board in October. They need to be endorsed by LGNYE. The main issues to note are as follows.

Partnership working

5. Economy issues have always been taken forward on a partnership basis working with the main agencies and the private and voluntary sectors. This proposal

continues that practise, with other bodies representing local interests, having equal status on the board.

Chair

6. It is proposed that initially the chair is jointly held by the County and City Councils with the County Council holding the chair for the first year. However there is a proposal that an independent chair is sought once the Board has had a number of meetings and this will be discussed at a future date.

Private sector

7. There are three private sector representatives and it is proposed that these representatives provide the core group to guide work on increasing the level of private sector engagement. It is intended that they will be supported in that role by the Leeds, York and North Yorkshire chamber of Commerce. Similar arrangements are being developed with the voluntary sector through the NYFVO.

Skills

8. Much of the work around skills will be taken forward by the York and North Yorkshire Work and Skills Partnership which is now chaired by LGNY's nominee on the regional Work and Skills Board, Cllr. Chris Metcalfe. These terms of reference suggest that he has an ex officio place on the Economy and Skills Board.

Regeneration

9. The Regional Housing Board includes regeneration in its role. In this instance this refers to resources such as Working Neighbourhoods that are not available in this sub region. Regeneration in areas of social housing and low income households in York and North Yorkshire are dependent on resources from skills and employment and these are the responsibility of this board. Therefore it has been put forward that 'regeneration' falls within the remit of this board.

North Yorkshire issues

10. There are a number of issues that appertain just to the area covered by the County of North Yorkshire. It is intended as was the practise at the Development Board to discuss these at this Board rather than have a separate meeting.

Recommendations

- 11. It is recommended that the Terms of reference for the Economy and Skills board is endorsed**

Jonathan French
York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit

19 March 2010

APPENDIX 1

DRAFT (subject to endorsement by LGNY)

YORK AND NORTH ECONOMY AND SKILLS BOARD

Terms of Reference

- A. Local Government North Yorkshire and York (the new sub regional leaders' board) agreed at its meeting in June 2008 to establish a series of thematic partnerships to ensure that the sub region was effectively represented in the region's preparation of a new Integrated Regional strategy and other issues of importance to local people.
- B. 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 Development Board.

Main purpose

- C. The Board will lead consideration of issues appertaining to the economy that need to be addressed at a sub regional level.
- D. This will include issues of
- business support
 - the development of key business sectors
 - skills and worklessness
 - investment in employment land and premises
 - the promotion of the area
 - the renaissance of city and town centres
 - linkages with further and higher education and the economic objectives in pre 16 education
- E. It will seek to influence regional strategies and organisations to ensure they reflect sub regional priorities in their objectives.
- F. It will consider whether the resources made available to support that work from the Government and the European Union are used to best effect for this sub region.
- G. The Board will only address issues where it can add value or require a high level decision as many matters are dealt with at a local level or through special interest partnerships.

Specific Roles

- H. 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 region's 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

Regional Linkages

- I. In that context, it would have overall responsibility for working with the regional Work and Skills thematic board, although the bulk of the work will be undertaken by the York and North Yorkshire Work and Skills Partnership. It will liaise with Yorkshire Forward on economy issues and European Union funding matters. It would also lead on 'regeneration' issues working with the sub regional housing board on influencing the regional Housing and Regeneration thematic board.

Officer Support

- J. The Board is supported by the York and North Yorkshire Partnership Executive, made up of Chief Executives and senior officers of key organisations. They act as advisor to the Board and, wherever practical, will give prior consideration to all matters that are placed before the Board. The chair of the York and North Yorkshire Partnership Executive would be the principal advisor. The Executive Manager of the Partnership Unit will act as secretary to the Board. The Partnership Executive is also the initial reporting body for the Partnership Unit.
- K. The Assistant Director of Yorkshire Forward for the sub region would also attend.

Membership

- L. The Board is 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.
- M. The membership is as follows

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

Voluntary and community sector – nominated by NYFVO

Private sector organisations (three seats)

- Leeds, York and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce
- North East Chamber of Commerce
- One nominated by the NFU and CLA

Regional Bodies (non voting member)

- Yorkshire Forward

N. 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.

O. Formal substitutes, where possible, should be nominated as well.

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

Chair

Q. The Board will be chaired in alternating years by North Yorkshire County Council and City of York Council. The County Council representative will chair the group for the first year.

R. The Chair of the Board will present their advice and input to LGNYY.

S. Consideration will be given at a future meeting to the appointment of an independent chair.

Voting

T. It is intended that on most issues the Board will be able to reach a consensus on the agreed way forward.

U. If however a vote is required then each representative on the board will have one vote. If there is a tied vote then the chair will have an additional casting vote.

V. The Board cannot mandate the actions of its partner bodies.

W. In respect of a vote on a North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership issue, the City of York representative will abstain.

Jonathan French
York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit
10 December 2009