

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NORTH YORKSHIRE AND YORK

16 APRIL 2010

REGIONAL WORK AND SKILLS PARTNERSHIP –

Report of County Councillor Chris Metcalfe

A Board meeting was held on 3 December 2009. The meeting was chaired by Mark Andrews with Cllr Steve Parnaby as Vice Chairman

New terms of reference were agreed with a clear view that the regional board should not duplicate the work of the Sub Regional Boards. We then discussed Red light performance issues with regards the RWSP Balanced Score Card. There were four areas of concern and they were directly attributable to the down turn in the economy. Whilst it was agreed that in the current climate it was doubtful that these targets would be met it was agreed that additional efforts should be made to address the problem. A range of performance targets relating to promoting the image of the board were removed on the basis that there is no data readily available that would be meaningful and also the board in its new form was part of a process informing the Integrated Regional Strategy and not a stand alone organisation.

We received a verbal presentation from consultants evaluating the ESF framework and as part of their consultations some common themes were emerging namely that there should be a universal approach to people achieving level 3, up skilling as opposed to accreditation to improve added value to the job and to develop green job opportunities. The green jobs issue created a lot of discussion on what exactly are green jobs and is there a demand that is sustainable.

Sub regional representatives gave presentations on their individual priorities; Jonathan French articulated the priorities that had been recently agreed at the sub regional board which I chair.

A lengthy discussion took place on the impact of the recession on young people namely the difficulty for young people to compete for work when employers had a large pool of experienced unemployed people to recruit from. It was felt that it was not just about getting young people into work but to give them support to continue their engagement with work and a routine. The 19 to 24 age range appeared to be a real problem area for young people accessing work.

The meeting closed at 12.30.

CHRIS METCALFE