

## **Local Government North Yorkshire and York**

**2 July 2010**

### **Refresh of the North Yorkshire Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement**

## **2 Background**

- 1.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) sets the North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership's long-term strategic vision for securing the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of North Yorkshire. The SCS currently has ten priorities, focussing on areas such as affordable housing and community safety. Each of these priorities is linked to a specific target through the Local Area Agreement (LAA), the three-year delivery agreement with central government.
- 1.2 Work has already started to simultaneously refresh both the SCS and LAA. This will ensure that their key themes and targets continue to reflect the priorities of North Yorkshire's communities. The aim is to ensure that the documents continue to reflect local needs and priorities, supported by robust evidence. The revised documents also need to ensure that they draw on the recent findings of other key plans such as the joint strategic intelligence assessments, as well as district-level sustainable community strategies.
- 1.3 Previously the SCS was approved by the NYSP Partnership, but following the deletion of the NYSP Partnership, this role has passed to the extended meeting of Local Government North Yorkshire and York with the Chairs of the Primary Care Trust, the Police Authority and the Fire and Rescue Authority.

## **2 Progress and Next Steps**

- 2.1 Phase 1 of the refresh consultation ended on 31 March 2010 and the results of this were fed into the NYSP Executive meeting on 15 April 2010. The aim of this initial phase was to seek the views of key partners and the public on whether the current ten priorities still reflect the needs of local communities in North Yorkshire and whether any changes need to be made.
- 2.2 Over 30 responses were received to this consultation from key partners, representatives of partnership groups and individual members of the public. The majority of respondents concurred that the current priorities - because they are wide-ranging - still reflect the needs of local communities in North Yorkshire. However, certain issues have assumed even greater importance

or significance since the SCS was published in 2008, such as climate change and digital inclusion. There were also a few question marks over the NYSP continuing to distinguish priorities such as 'Alcohol' and 'Children and Young People' as stand-alone issues. It was also recognised that the SCS will need to reflect the current economic challenges for the public sector.

- 3.3 The NYSP Executive discussed these outcomes on 15 April 2010 and agreed that the priorities should be re-grouped to fall roughly in line with the six Thematic Partnership areas, in part to help condense and focus the priority areas. It was also agreed that the new SCS should identify some key cross-cutting issues which could run across the Thematic Partnerships such as access and inclusion.
- 3.4 Work has started to develop the consultation draft of the SCS which will be made available for a three-month consultation from the end of July until the end of October 2010. In the meantime, all Thematic Partnerships have held initial discussions regarding LAA indicators and some have produced draft lists of indicators to be included within the new LAA 2011/2014. A draft of the LAA will also be available during the summer consultation. A sustainability appraisal will also be undertaken against the draft SCS and made available to partners over the summer period.
- 3.5 Copies of both the draft SCS and LAA, along with details of how to respond to the consultation, will be circulated widely to partners and published on the 'consultation' areas of the NYSP and North Yorkshire County Council websites at the end of July via [www.nysp.org.uk/consultation](http://www.nysp.org.uk/consultation) and [www.northyorks.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/consultations). Local authorities, the Primary Care Trust, the Police Authority and the Fire and Rescue Authority will particularly be encouraged to take an active part in the consultation.
- 3.6 A final draft of the SCS and LAA will be circulated to members of the extended LGNYY group ahead of its next meeting on 28 January 2011. Members will be asked at the meeting to review the final drafts and give their endorsement to them.

#### **4 Recommendations**

- 3.1 That members note the progress report on the refresh of the SCS and LAA and agree to review and approve the final drafts in January 2011.

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