

## SUMMARY OF LGYH/RIEP “TOTAL GOVERNANCE” PROPOSAL

### Context – localism and local place shaping

‘Total Place’ has encouraged new thinking in various national pilots across the country (e.g. Bradford) and beyond in terms of delivering public services more effectively and efficiently. However, there is a real risk that Total Place comes to be seen as yet another Whitehall ‘top down’ initiative, with a “managerialist” agenda and a narrow focus on imposing cuts. If so, it will miss an opportunity to advance the cause of democratically elected, local leadership, and improved public services.

Building on the ‘Core Principles of Localism’ statement issued by LGYH in March, it is proposed that YoHr Space/LGYH work together on a study – along the lines of the research on ‘public sector cuts’ produced for LGYH by the Work Foundation - to explore how we can take Total Place further, towards a model of ‘Total Governance’. It would define a new model of public service delivery with democratic local authorities at the core of decision-making.

### Themes and strategy

At a time of such significant national/political change, this study will assist local authorities in Yorkshire and Humber to “make sense” of current developments, and will support leaders in becoming more proactive in shaping how future policy develops. It is proposed that an influential report be produced, structured around three strategic themes:

- Setting the context – explaining how public policy relating to public services over the years has moved from bureaucratic service provision, through managerial service improvement (driven by central performance targets), to the current focus on politically-led public service innovation and “localism”.
- Setting out what’s preventing genuine localism in the delivery of public services - revealing how the most important public service challenges now facing society require the exercise of political judgement and local knowledge.
- Outlining practical options for “Total Governance” models – exploring ways of extending local democratic influence and accountability to cover all the public services delivered locally, and articulating the benefits.

### Timeline and deliverables

The project would run for six months (May-October), providing flexible and responsive assistance throughout as the new political landscape emerges; with four main deliverables:

- Interactive CEX “Master-class” workshop (already scheduled for 26 May)
- Shaping and facilitation of discussion/workshop with Leaders at LGYH AGM (25 June)
- Influential research report with practical Total Governance models (September)
- Presentations at all three Party Political Conferences (September/October)