

**Yorkshire and Humber Strategy - Spatial Planning Workstream  
Current Issues/recent proceedings in the North Yorkshire and York Sub  
Region  
JUNE 2010**

This note provides an update of the key issues arising from the North Yorkshire and York (NY&Y) Spatial Planning Technical Officers Group (TOG). The main issues of the Sub Regional Strategy (SRS), the NY&Y Spatial Planning Assessment, the emerging York Sub Area Study and the NY&Y Spatial Planning Board are addressed.

**Technical Officers' Group**

There have been several well attended TOG meetings since our last update, including a special seminar involving officers from other workstreams. A summary of the key issues discussed by the TOG are set out below.

**North Yorkshire and York Spatial Planning, Transport, Economy and Housing Seminar**

The purpose of this seminar was to establish better connections and generate discussion between the different workstreams that have been created through the Yorkshire and Humber Strategy work. It is hoped this will contribute to joined up thinking across the workstream as the SRS is developed. It was also an opportunity to discuss the SRS (as discussed below). The group discussed how to join together common issues and it was agreed that a workshop event was the best way to do this.

**Sub Regional Strategy**

As well as being briefed about the decision by LGNYY to prepare a SRS the cross workstream seminar provided an opportunity for Jonathan French from the York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit to inform officers about the emerging SRS. The TOG has welcomed the first draft of the Project Plan for the SRS. The headline issues from the TOG on the plan comprised the following:

- A good draft project plan which begins to flesh out what the sub-regional strategy will seek to achieve;
- The desire for a high level and light touch document is supported;
- There remain tensions around the need for a high level and light touch document coupled with the need for a robust evidence base and how to reflect one in the other. However the TOG are confident that these issues can be addressed as we proceed;
- The strategic policy vacuum left by the abolition of the RSS may to some degree be addressed by the SRS; but we recognise that the SRS is not a statutory spatial planning policy document and not meant to replace the RSS;
- Fully support the intention to build up the SRS around places in the sub-region;
- Welcome and fully support the role of spatial planning as a way of bringing together and balancing different cross-cutting themes around a focus on place; and
- Consider that the SRS is as much for an audience of government, partners and delivery bodies as well as for LGNYY and its constituent local authorities.

## **North Yorkshire and York Spatial Planning Assessment**

Work on the spatial planning assessment for North Yorkshire and York has been underway since Autumn 2009. The driver for this work was the preparation of the Yorkshire and Humber Strategy however it is also recognised that it will play a valuable role in the development of the SRS. An early draft of the assessment was submitted to Yorkshire Forward for information in March with a commitment to prepare a revised draft by May 2010. In recognition that this work was missing a 'bottom up' approach individual meetings have been held with local authorities to gather local evidence.

Although work on the regional strategy is not to be taken forward, given the relevance of the spatial planning assessment for progressing the SRS work has continued to finalise the assessment and it is intended that a revised spatial planning assessment will be drafted by the end of June 2010.

## **York Sub Area Study**

The York Sub Area Study Project Brief was issued to eight consultants in April. Five Tender Briefs were received and two successful consultants were interviewed. Following a robust matrix scoring system Arup have been awarded the contract to undertake the Study. An inception meeting is due to take place shortly. Wider officer involvement from the TOG will be a key element through steering group consultation at various stages in the project.

Although the Study was originally commissioned to inform the Yorkshire and Humber Strategy it is considered that the outcomes of the study will form a key part of the evidence base for the emerging SRS.

## **North Yorkshire and York Spatial Planning Board**

A future meeting of the NY&Y Spatial Planning Board has not been programmed because of the coalition government's announcement to abolish RSS's. However the NY&Y Local Authorities continue to recognise the value that sub-regional planning can play in addressing key planning issues that cut across Local Authority boundaries. Given the importance of the spatial planning work in informing the SRS, it may be appropriate to continue the Board, allowing Members to shape the spatial planning input into the SRS.

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