

# **LOCAL GOVERNMENT NORTH YORKSHIRE AND YORK**

**2 JULY 2010**

## **APPOINTMENTS TO LGYH LEADERS' BOARD**

### **REPORT OF GARY FIELDING, ACTING HONORARY SECRETARY**

#### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To consider sub-regional representation on the LGYH Leaders' Board.

#### **2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 LGNYY, on 16 April 2010, re-appointed County Councillor John Watson OBE and Councillor Tom Fox (Scarborough), together with Councillor Andrew Waller (York) as Substitute, to the LGYH Leaders' Board to serve until 2 July 2010. It also asked me, as the then Acting Honorary Secretary, to hold discussions with LGYH to investigate possible solutions to difficulties expressed during the meeting on 16 April 2010.
- 2.2 Members may recall that, on 16 April, Councillor Andrew Waller (York) highlighted that LGYH officers had advised that, for legal reasons, the 2 seats to represent this sub-region on the Leaders' Board must be taken by a North Yorkshire County Councillor and a District Councillor. However, at the Board's recent meeting, Councillor Waller felt there had been issues which were of critical importance to York and it was therefore essential that the City of York Council had a Member on the Leaders' Board rather than having a Substitute seat. It was further highlighted that this was the only sub-region whose Local Government structure included a County Council, District Councils and a Unitary Council.

#### **3.0 DEVELOPMENTS SINCE 16 APRIL 2010**

- 3.1 Following the meeting of LGNYY on the 16 April, I had conversations with colleagues at LGYH about sub-regional representation on the regional Leaders' Board. During those conversations, it became clear that there had been similar thinking taking place within LGYH. There was therefore the possibility of the Leaders' Board being asked to consider increasing the number of sub-regional representatives. However, given the uncertainty on regional arrangements post election, and an apparent increase in consensus on the need to review the existing regional infrastructure, no formal proposals were tabled and instead, a general discussion was planned at the Leaders' Board meeting on 27 May.
- 3.2 Prior to 27 May, having been advised of my recent discussions, Councillors John Watson, Tom Fox and Andrew Waller agreed that, in the interim, whilst the sub-region is constrained by existing arrangements, Members should work towards an approach where the nominated County Council, District Council and City of York Council Leaders should all make themselves available for future Leaders' Board meetings and, once the agenda is produced (and I asked LGYH to try and bring this forward significantly), then a decision can be taken about which 2 representatives are best placed to represent the sub-region's interests.

3.3 At the Leaders' Board meeting on 27 May, the following was agreed:-

- To agree that existing regional appointments be continued at the LGYH AGM as far as practical and instead focus on phasing out or replacing such structures, in line with local authority needs.
- That any "models" of collaborative working, particularly at the regional level, should not be agreed or pursued until local authorities have reached a clear understanding, in their local and sub regional partnership structures, about what they need from a re-organisation of the existing system. They asked Chief Executives to take this work forward on behalf of the Leaders' Board, with a view to drawing up a potential governance "map" and associated structure options. In the meantime, the Leaders' Board stated that they would continue to have discussions on these issues over the summer, and that the findings/options would be discussed at an "awayday", to which all Local Authority Leaders and Chief Executives would be invited, in early September.

**4.0 RECOMMENDATION**

4.1 That the current arrangements through which representatives are identified to attend each Leaders' Board meeting, as described at paragraph 3.2, be continued for the time being.

GARY FIELDING  
Acting Honorary Secretary

County Hall  
NORTHALLERTON

24 June 2010  
GF/RAG/ALJ

Background Documents: None.