

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NORTH YORKSHIRE AND YORK**28 JANUARY 2011****REPORTS OF LGNYT THEMATIC BOARDS****1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To present the report of the lead officer for each of LGNYT's Thematic Boards concerning the recent proceedings of those Boards.

**2.0 ECONOMY AND SKILLS BOARD –
REPORT OF JONATHAN FRENCH (EXECUTIVE MANAGER, YORK AND
NORTH YORKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP UNIT)**

- 2.1 There most recent meeting of the Board was held on 15 September 2010. The proceedings of that meeting were reported to LGNYT's last meeting.

**3.0 TRANSPORT BOARD –
REPORT OF DAVID BOWE (CORPORATE DIRECTOR – BUSINESS AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL)****3.1 High Speed Rail**

The Government will consult in February 2011 on building a 'Y' shaped high speed rail network with an initial leg from London to Birmingham and separate legs from the West Midlands to Manchester and Leeds before connecting to the East Coast Mainline north of Leeds. The Transport Board lobbied for the inclusion of the additional link to the East Coast Mainline because it will help to ensure that the advantages of a high speed rail connection serving Yorkshire are fully realised in North Yorkshire and York. In the Comprehensive Spending Review the Government committed to spend over £750m on high speed rail in the Spending Review period.

3.2 A64 Corridor Study

The draft final report is currently out to consultation with stakeholders. The study has demonstrated the benefits of reducing travel demand in the corridor and the targeting of A64 improvement interventions particularly towards the western end of the road. These targeted interventions will address road safety, traffic flow and journey-time reliability issues and offer the greatest value for money both currently and to 2026. The report confirms that there is no justification or economic case for full dualling of the A64 currently or to the end of the study period in 2026. The focus will now be on promoting the study and at possible ways of taking forward the recommendations.

3.3 Local Transport Plan (LTP3)

The North Yorkshire LTP3 was adopted by the County Council on 15 December 2010. The County Council has adopted a commitment for LTP3 to manage, maintain and improve transport networks and services' as a hierarchy of intervention. The objectives for LTP3 are:

- local economies
- environment and climate change
- safety and healthier travel
- access to services
- quality of life

3.4 It is anticipated that the City of York LTP3 will be approved by City of York Council early in 2011. The York Transport Strategy is likely to be based around five strategic aims:

- Provide Quality Alternatives to the Car
- Provide Strategic Links
- Implement Behavioural Change
- Tackle Transport Emissions
- Improve the Public Realm

4.0 HOUSING BOARD – REPORT OF WALLACE SAMPSON (CHIEF EXECUTIVE, HARROGATE BOROUGH COUNCIL)

Enhanced two tier project title: Affordable Housing

Project Description: Working together to increase the number of affordable housing units

Project Lead: Colin Dales, Hambleton and Richmondshire District Councils,
Telephone 01748 827007,
e-mail colin.dales@richmondshire.gov.uk

4.1 Progress to Date/Update

4.1.1 In terms of 2010/2011 quarter two completions, figures are still awaited but performance is likely to be relatively low. However, as reported in the previous update a significant number of new affordable homes are currently in the pipeline. More detailed figures will be provided via the next update.

4.1.2 The Second Homes Evaluation Panel has made its final recommendations to the County Council's Executive and three housing schemes have been approved:-

- Women's Move-on Scheme - Harrogate
- Foyer Project - Richmond
- Extra Care - Skipton

The three schemes also received Homes & Communities Agency funding.

A number of recommended schemes have not received NYCC Executive approval. It is understood that the Executive is considering withdrawing the unallocated funding and diverting it solely into extra care provision.

4.1.3 The Single Housing Strategy has been approved by all partners with a formal launch planned for January 2011.

- 4.1.4 Work continues on a North Yorkshire Local Investment Plan, converting strategic housing priorities into delivery.
- 4.1.5 The Rural Housing Enabler Programme funding ends on 31 March 2011, and a new business plan has been developed to continue this important programme beyond 1 April 2011 onwards. The business plan is heavily dependent on a bid (£160,000) for LAA Reward Grant and Housing Association contributions. More details are available on request.
- 4.1.6 A county-wide strategic housing market assessment will start early in the New Year, representing the biggest housing survey ever undertaken in the county, achieving significant efficiencies/economies of scale. The results will be used to develop housing policies and provide a sound evidence base for LDFs.
- 4.1.7 The sub-regional staffing resource is to be reduced from three members of staff down to two due to funding reductions beyond 31 March 2011, following approval by the LGNY&Y Housing Board.
- 4.1.8 A North Yorkshire Housing Partnership website is being developed in order to improve information/consultation opportunities.

4.2 Barriers to Progressing the Project Over the Next Period

- 4.2.1 The main barrier continues to relate to the affordable homes target as current market conditions have created a slow down in the house building sector which means the planning system can only make a limited contribution to the target. The overall target will not be achieved.
- 4.2.2 Lack of suitable land continues to be a barrier to the delivery of affordable housing.
- 4.2.3 The Supporting People financial recovery plan continues to be implemented, with further savings being needed following CSR. Work is currently being undertaken to assess the detailed impact.
- 4.2.4 Homes and Communities Agency funding has been cut as part of CSR by approximately 70%. The impact on North Yorkshire is that, in essence, no new development money will be available during 2011/2012. Future funding will be based on a new affordable housing model whereby rents will be up to 80% of market levels. This will impact differently across the county depending on housing benefit levels and the strength of the private rental market.
- 4.2.5 Housing Associations are currently undertaking financial modelling to assess the true impact of the new regime.
- 4.2.6 Private sector housing improvement funding will cease from 1 April 2011, again as a direct result of CSR. Local Authorities will still have the freedom to fund private sector housing renewal from their own funds but it is likely that this area of activity will stop with Disabled Facilities Grants being the core business.
- 4.2.7 One piece of good news, homeless prevention grant has been protected/increased as part of CSR.

**5.0 SPATIAL PLANNING WORKSTREAM –
REPORT OF BILL WOOLLEY (CITY OF YORK COUNCIL)**

5.1 The North Yorkshire and York Spatial Planning Board and Spatial Planning Technical Officers Group (TOG) are continuing to progress work and provide an input in to the emerging Sub Regional Strategy as set out below. An update on the future of sub regional spatial planning arrangements and the emerging York Sub Area Study is also provided.

5.2 North Yorkshire and York Spatial Planning Assessment

At a meeting of the Spatial Planning Board on 22 November 2010 Members were given a presentation on the North Yorkshire and York Spatial Planning Assessment, which refines the regional evidence (from the RSS and Integrated Regional Strategy) to reflect the North Yorkshire and York sub region. Members noted the content of the Spatial Planning Assessment and the role it has played in supporting wider sub regional strategies and investment plans. Members also approved the Spatial Planning Assessment to be used as evidence base to inform the North Yorkshire and York Strategy and Local Enterprise Partnership submission.

5.3 North Yorkshire and York Strategy

At the same meeting Members, subject to amendments, approved the sub regional and sub area priorities identified in the first draft of the North Yorkshire and York Strategy (agreed by Local Government North Yorkshire and York on 8 October 2010). It was also agreed that a meeting of the Board would take place in January 2011 for Officers to provide Members with an update on further work that provided more detail on the sub-area critical priorities and to agree a response to Local Government North Yorkshire and York. This took place on 12 January 2011 when Members were informed of the outcomes of a sub regional workshop, attended by Officers and representatives from several statutory bodies to discuss the sub area priorities from the Strategy. Comments from Members on the North Yorkshire and York Strategy have been incorporated into a Spatial Planning Workstream response to the York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit.

5.4 Future Spatial Planning Arrangements for North Yorkshire and York and the Role of the Spatial Planning Board

Members of the Spatial Planning Board have agreed that there is a need for collaboration between Local Authorities within the sub region on spatial planning uses that have 'larger than local' impacts. These include the following:

Issue	Likely Strategic Matters
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gathering of evidence on capacity• Supporting lobbying for investment• Engaging with regional infrastructure providers who deal in longer time frames than local plans
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sharing an approach to climate change adaptation objectives and techniques• Developing and implementing a strategic approach to flood risk and upstream land management practices

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger scale energy and heat production requires connection to wider infrastructure and/or spatial links between end-users and suppliers that may cross-boundaries.
Economic Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining an understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing the economy and how these relate to wider planning issues • Ensuring an appropriate supply of employment land, including with regard to econometric modelling • Developing a strategy to deal with significant out-of-centre pressures for employment e.g. airfields, retail and leisure
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matching new homes with new jobs • Ensuring that the necessary community infrastructure is in place
Minerals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the need for minerals over the long term because the supply of minerals is a long-term business • Apportioning the extraction of minerals between those local authorities that have them in a sustainable manner
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping communities take responsibility for managing their own waste whilst acknowledging that the technologies, economies of scale and sustainability issues involved in waste developments make planning for waste facilities a matter of more than local significance. • Gathering information, data and providing consistent advice
Roles of Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying the main places that are going to drive the sub-regional economy in the future and assisting them in fulfilling that role • Understanding the connections between places and how these facilitate links between homes, jobs & services • Understanding the patterns of development that will best address climate change, environmental, social and economic needs

Members also agreed that the TOG, on behalf of the Board, investigate the potential for co-operative arrangements around strategic spatial planning issues. An update on progress being made towards the consideration and shaping of future arrangements for strategic spatial planning in the sub-region was provided at the meeting of the Board on 12 January 2011.

5.5 York Sub Area Study

The Spatial Planning Board have been provided with an overview of the emerging Sub Area Study at the meeting on 12 January. The outcomes of the final study will be reported to both the TOG and to Members at the next meeting of the Spatial Planning Board.

6.0 RECOMMENDATION

6.1 That the reports be noted.

RICHARD FLINTON
Honorary Secretary
County Hall
NORTHALLERTON