

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NORTH YORKSHIRE AND YORK

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2011 AT 10.00 AM AT HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES, CIVIC CENTRE, STONECROSS, NORTHALLERTON

PRESENT:-

<u>Constituent Authority</u>	<u>Representatives</u>
City of York Council	Councillor Tracey Simpson-Laing (as Substitute for James Alexander) Bill Woolley (Director of City Strategy and Deputy Chief Executive) (as Substitute for Kersten England)
Craven District Council	Councillor Chris Knowles-Fitton Paul Ellis (Deputy Chief Executive) (as Substitute for Paul Shevlin)
Hambleton District Council	Councillor Ron Kirk (as Substitute for Neville Huxtable) Peter Simpson (Chief Executive of Hambleton and Richmondshire District Councils)
Harrogate Borough Council	Councillor Don Mackenzie Rachel Bowles (Assistant Chief Executive) (as Substitute for Wallace Sampson)
North York Moors National Park Authority	Jim Bailey
North Yorkshire County Council	County Councillor John Weighell (in the Chair) Richard Flinton (Chief Executive of the County Council and Honorary Secretary to LGNY))
Richmondshire District Council	Councillor John Blackie Peter Simpson (Chief Executive of Hambleton and Richmondshire District Councils)
Ryedale District Council	Councillor Keith Knaggs Janet Waggott (Chief Executive)
Scarborough Borough Council	Councillor Derek Bastiman (as Substitute for Tom Fox) David Archer (Strategic Director) (as Substitute for Jim Dillon)
Selby District Council	Martin Connor (Chief Executive)
Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority	Carl Lis OBE Gary Smith (Director of Conservation and Community) (as Substitute for David Butterworth)

IN ATTENDANCE:-

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Representatives</u>
NHS North Yorkshire and York	Katie Needham (Consultant in Public Health)
Hambleton and Richmondshire District Councils	Liz Smith (Executive Director and Deputy Chief Executive)
North Yorkshire County Council	County Councillor Carl Les (Deputy Leader) Gary Fielding (Assistant Chief Executive (Policy, Performance and Partnerships))
LGNYY Secretariat	Ruth Gladstone (Principal Committee Administrator, North Yorkshire County Council)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:-

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mark Crane (Selby District Council) and Andy Wilson (Chief Executive, North York Moors National Park Authority).

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

101. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2011, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

102. REVIEW OF LOCAL PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Chief Executive of Hambleton and Richmondshire District Councils providing a statement from each District Council within North Yorkshire concerning the progress/outcome or possible timescale for the review, in each area, of local partnership arrangements.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

103. LGNYY SPATIAL PLANING AND TRANSPORT BOARD

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Honorary Secretary setting out draft terms of reference for the Spatial Planning and Transport Board. The draft terms included provisions for the Board relating to the following:- status; purpose; membership; Chair; Secretariat; meetings; conduct of business; and officer groups.

RESOLVED –

That the draft terms of reference for the LGNYY Spatial Planning and Transport Board, as set out in the Appendix to the report, be approved.

104. UPDATE ON PUBLIC HEALTH REFORMS

CONSIDERED –

The report of Katie Needham (Consultant in Public Health, NHS North Yorkshire and York) which provided a brief summary of the following:- the Government's response to the public health white paper "Healthy Lives, Healthy People"; how public health transition was being taken forward locally; and current key issues.

Members highlighted that the two key pieces of information which they particularly wished to receive as soon as possible were:- the amounts of funding to be transferred to the County Council and the City of York Council; and the human resources framework within which Councils would be required to operate in respect of the delivery of public health services.

In response to questions, Katie Needham advised that NHS North Yorkshire and York had estimated that it had spent £42m on its Public Health Programme.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

105. FUTURE COLLABORATIONS UPDATE INCORPORATING SHARED SERVICES, ASSET MANAGEMENT AND FLEET MANAGEMENT

CONSIDERED –

The reports of Liz Smith (Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director, Hambleton and Richmondshire District Councils) and Gary Fielding (Assistant Chief Executive (Policy, Performance and Partnerships, North Yorkshire County Council) advising of progress of collaborative work with parties across York and North Yorkshire in relation to Shared Services, Asset Management and Fleet Management.

In respect of Shared Services, Members expressed support for the recommendations set out in the report and highlighted the need for purposeful engagement to take this work forward.

In respect of Asset Management, Members welcomed the progress which was being made. They also welcomed the clarity provided by those Authorities who had indicated that they did not wish to collaborate more closely in respect of Asset Management at this time. It was suggested that, for the future, Authorities should inform each other if/when they had plans concerning assets. It was clarified that all partners had provided information for the mapping of assets, but not all had supplied the more in-depth property data.

In respect of Fleet Management, Members expressed surprise that the Consultants appointed to look at various areas of Transport Efficiency, including Fleet Transport, had concluded that little further savings could be achieved through collaboration on

procurement of vehicles and fuel. It was felt that a group of officers should meet to share knowledge and good practice and also consider areas of joint working, including procurement. However, as Fleet Managers were seen to have a vested interest in maintaining the status quo, other appropriate professionals must also be involved. It was also emphasised that it was important that the officers involved were sufficiently senior and had the necessary mandate to drive forward the identification of possible further savings through collaboration. Each Council was asked to nominate a senior officer by the end of September and produce a short position statement. Liz Smith and Gary Fielding were then tasked with bringing together those nominated individuals to explore opportunities and to bring an update concerning collaboration on Fleet Management to a future meeting of LGNYY. In addition, Gary Fielding undertook to ensure that the issue of insurance was considered.

RESOLVED –

(a) That, in respect of Shared Services:-

(i) For the overarching strategic framework, the approach be based on clusters of councils initially, with opportunities for other public sector organisations to work with the appropriate cluster as they choose; a focus on priority services; partnership working founded on “a coalition of the willing” with scope for individual partners to join at a later date; and a commitment to action. In addition, a review of partners be undertaken on an annual basis to identify forthcoming opportunities for sharing.

(ii) For the Access business case:-

(1) the implementation of a joint web and telephony infrastructure and service be committed to as the top priority to be delivered. In doing so, participating councils accept that they are committing to joining the full service for web and telephony including the technology, staffing and other supporting elements;

(2) North Yorkshire County Council and Selby, Richmondshire and Hambleton District Councils be recommended as the councils to be involved in the initial implementation phase with the remaining councils confirming their commitment to the joint approach at a future date which is appropriate to them, should they decide to do so. It is noted that York has indicated an interest in further discussions on the technology infrastructure;

(3) it is recognised that the above will build on the work of the Connect Partnership, which enables the technology solution, with a project focussed on the transformational elements including sharing staffing and joint approaches on processes/procedures and dealing with customers;

- (4) those councils involved in the pilot will work together to produce a detailed project plan along with specific information which explores the implications for the individual councils. These will then be provided to those councils to enable a final commitment to the project to be made.
- (iii) For the Revenues and Benefits business case, more detailed explorations be committed to with a further report back within six months to enable a decision to implement a shared service, or not, to be taken. These explorations include securing discussions with the Department of Work & Pensions to better understand the implications of the Universal Credit and whether this provides opportunities, or not, for creating a shared service - either in part or completely - across the sub-region. In addition, the explorations focus on a cluster of councils which have indicated their ability to move forward in line with the timescales and can be actively involved in these explorations and include Selby, Craven, Richmondshire and Hambleton Councils. It is noted that York has also indicated its interest to be involved in the further discussions around Universal Credit.
- (iv) For the Economic Development business case, it be noted that the explorations which have supported the development of that business case have helped to show that, because of the pace of change in this area over recent months, the deliverability of savings through shared services is questionable. There is scope, however, to seek to increase the resilience, ability and capacity of the sub-region's collective Economic Development resource. Therefore councils agree to:-
- (1) share a statistics service using the data provided by the NYCC/LEP support team;
 - (2) build on the new LEP support team which is providing strategic input;
 - (3) retain within each council local delivery arrangements; and
 - (4) further explore how the collective resources will work together to deliver the LEP strategic aims whilst supporting local delivery.
- (v) For CCTV, sharing be based on the low level of sharing option which includes a sub-regional CCTV user group for partners, and the sharing of training and procurement where appropriate. Opportunities for higher levels of sharing be also pursued by individual councils working together, to be initiated by the particular councils rather than as part of a sub-regional shared service project. Alternatively individual councils can initiate discussions with the larger CCTV providers in the region to explore contractual arrangements which deliver efficiencies as an alternative approach to delivering the CCTV service in-house.
- (vi) High level business cases be developed on other services (namely:- ICT, procurement, internal audit, and legal) over the next 12 months to identify if there is scope and opportunities to develop sharing for these services.

(b) That, in respect of Asset Management:-

(i) The paragraphs of the report which set out how the following work is progressing be noted:- High level opportunities; Economic Development assets; public sector rationalisation opportunities in Malton; community ownership in Knaresborough; and shared Council and Community Office accommodation in Richmond.

(ii) The paragraphs of the report which set out the more detailed information about aspects of the project, including achievements and issues which need to be considered further as work progresses, be noted and that it be recognised that there is value in working collectively at the strategic level but that the sharing of physical assets will be more tightly bound by geography.

(b) That, in respect of Fleet Management:-

(i) A group of officers be established to share knowledge and good practice and consider areas of joint working, including further savings which can be achieved on vehicle and fuel procurement.

(ii) Each Council nominate appropriate officers to be involved in the group to which (i) above refers, such officers to be sufficiently senior and having the necessary mandate to drive forward the identification of possible further savings through collaboration on procurement.

(iii) The nominations to which (ii) above refers be forwarded to Gary Fielding (Assistant Chief Executive (Policy, Performance and Partnerships, North Yorkshire County Council) and Liz Smith (Executive Director and Deputy Chief Executive, Hambleton and Richmondshire District Councils) if possible by 30 September 2011.

(iv) Gary Fielding arrange for the issue of insurance to be explored.

(v) An update be submitted to a future meeting of LGNYY.

106. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY FOR NORTH YORKSHIRE – REFRESH 2011/14

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Honorary Secretary outlining progress on refreshing the Sustainable Community Strategy for North Yorkshire 2008/18 and inviting LGNYY to consider and comment on the draft strategy for 2011/14.

David Archer (Strategic Director, Scarborough Borough Council) commented that reducing inequality was a major issue, and that the reference within the draft strategy to the "creative industry" was too narrow because it excluded, for example, renewables. He also commented that health was increasingly important. He advised that he would like to see references to those sectors in the economic development section of the draft strategy.

RESOLVED –

That the consultation update be noted.

107. LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESOURCE REVIEW; PROPOSALS FOR BUSINESS RATE RETENTION AND LOCALISING SUPPORT FOR COUNCIL TAX

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Chief Executive of Hambleton and Richmondshire District Councils suggesting how work might be undertaken to provide an independent analysis of the consequences of:- (a) proposals for the localisation of business rates; and (b) proposals for the localisation of Council tax benefits.

Members described this as an absolutely essential piece of work and expressed the wish that Chief Executives should stay in close contact with developments.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That a project group be formed to:-
- (i) develop terms of reference for and commission an independent analysis of the consequences of the proposals for localisation of business rates as currently set out; and
 - (ii) develop terms of reference for and commission an independent analysis of the consequences of the proposals for localisation of Council tax benefits as currently set out.
- (b) That the project group to which (a) above refers comprise the following officers, together with any other officers which Councils wish to nominate:-
- Peter Simpson, Hambleton and Richmondshire
 - Nick Edwards, Scarborough
 - Paul Cresswell, Ryedale and Chair – North Yorkshire Finance Officers Group
 - Peter Yates, NYCC
 - John Murray, Harrogate
 - Keith Best, York

108. NEW HOMES BONUS

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Chief Executive of Hambleton and Richmondshire District Councils seeking a discussion concerning the use of the New Homes Bonus monies and any partnership opportunities.

Views expressed during debate included the following:-

- Generally residents opposed new house building in their immediately vicinity. The New Homes Bonus was an advantage which could be put forward as a benefit for the local community arising from that new house building.
- The National Parks' preference was for Districts effectively to passport a sum to them in recognition of house growth in the Parks' areas because they saw the New Homes Bonus as an incentive for local planning authorities to allow housing growth.
- It might be difficult for District Councils to agree that New Homes Bonus monies earned in one District would be spent on infrastructure in another District.
- Some types of infrastructure, eg Broadband, benefited all.

- County Councillor John Weighell advised that the County Council was not affected on the issue of possible pooling, unless the City of York Council was involved. He highlighted that there would be benefits to the sub-region if District Councils agreed to pooling.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That Chief Executives discuss how discussions on the impact of future growth requirements across the sub-region might progress.

109. GENERAL UPDATES

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Honorary Secretary providing a brief update on issues not requiring a decision from LGNYY. The issues within the report related to the following:- recent business of the various outside bodies to which LGNYY made appointments; recent business of LGNYY's Housing Board; arrangements for North Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum to test plans which partners had in place; arrangements for discussions concerning the Police and Crime Panel; and arrangements for the local authority representative on the Welcome to Yorkshire Board to discuss his role with sub-regional tourism Lead Members and how he/they could work most effectively together.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

110. ARRANGEMENTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED –

That the following previously agreed arrangements for LGNYY meetings be noted:-

- Friday 9 December 2011 at 10.00 am, Ryedale.
- Friday 20 January 2012 at 10.00 am, Harrogate Borough Council offices.
- Friday 25 May 2012 at 10.00 am, Richmondshire District Council offices.

111. BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the following business be scheduled for LGNYY's meeting to be held on 9 December 2011:-

- Oral report from Rosie Seymour concerning her role as the Department for Communities and Local Government Locality Manager for York and North Yorkshire.
- DEFRA proposals relating to the appointment of elected Members to serve on National Park Authorities.

- (b) That a further report be submitted to LGNYY within six months to enable a decision to be taken to implement, or not, a shared service in respect of Revenues and Benefits.

(c) That an update on Collaboration on Fleet Management be submitted to a future meeting of LGNYY.

(d) That a report concerning what has happened to the findings of the North Yorkshire Review into health care provision, undertaken by Professor Hugo Mascie-Taylor, be submitted to a future meeting of LGNYY.

(e) That Minutes of meetings of the York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership be submitted to future meetings.

112. OTHER BUSINESS

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Honorary Secretary advising that a North Yorkshire Wider Partnership Conference would be held on 28 November 2011. Each local authority and National Park had already been contacted to nominate attendees.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

The meeting concluded at 12.10 pm.

RAG/ALJ