

**Local Government York and North Yorkshire
20 January 2012**

North Yorkshire Community Plan 2011/14

1.0 Purpose of report

1.1 To update LGNY Y on the North Yorkshire Community Plan 2011/14.

2.0 Background

2.1 The North Yorkshire Community Plan 2011/14 is a refresh of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) for North Yorkshire, which was launched by the North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership (NYSP) in 2008.

2.2 The SCS was a ten-year vision setting out how partners would work towards making North Yorkshire “an even better place in which to live, work and visit” and was closely linked to the Local Area Agreement. The SCS stated that it would be refreshed every three years, to make sure that it continues to focus on the right priorities for our communities.

2.3 While the original vision of the strategy remains the same, much has changed in terms of the economic and governmental contexts since it was published. The NYSP partners agreed in 2010 that a revised plan was needed, which would reflect the current economic climate by focusing on a few really critical priorities for communities over the next three years.

3.0 Development of the North Yorkshire Community Plan

3.1 Following consultation with partners, the partnership – now led by Local Government North Yorkshire and York (LGNY Y) and the Chief Executives Group for North Yorkshire and York (CEO Group) – proposed three priorities for the period 2011 to 2014:

- Protecting and supporting vulnerable people
- Supporting economic growth and employment
- Enabling stronger local communities.

2.2 These were identified as the priority areas which are most critical to the wellbeing of the county’s communities over the next three years and which require partnership efforts to be tackled effectively. Each priority contains specific objectives which provide a focus for action.

2.3 A public consultation on the draft plan ran from 1 July until 23 September 2011. Communication mechanisms used included press releases, the NYCC and NYSP websites, North Yorkshire Now, the NYCC Citizens’ Panel and the NYCC Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The draft was considered by LGNY Y at its meeting on 16 September 2011. There was also direct engagement with identified ‘harder to reach’ groups including the Physical and Sensory Impairment Board and the Older People’s Partnership Board.

- 2.4 Over 120 responses were received to the consultation, not including participants in the NYCC Citizens' Panel. Almost 30% came from parish or town councils, over 50% came from members of the public and the remainder came from partner organisations and voluntary and community groups.
- 2.5 Respondents were broadly supportive of the three key priorities, although a number of suggestions were made around additional objectives or areas of focus to include. A large number related to issues which would be dealt with by an individual organisation and which would not be partnership-related, such as reducing Council Tax or improving refuse collections. Where other suggestions were made around issues which were more directly linked to the three priorities, these were considered by the CEO Group in the context of whether they required the partnership to tackle them and what resources would be available to do this. This led to some small changes being made to the draft; for example around inclusion of a reference to affordable housing and also to the importance of preventative work with vulnerable people.
- 2.6 Another outcome of the consultation was that the strategy should be renamed as the "North Yorkshire Community Plan 2011/14", in order to make the title more accessible.

4.0 Approval of the Plan

- 4.1 The CEO Group agreed final changes to the draft plan on 3 November 2011. The plan (appendix 1) was then approved by NYCC full council on 14 December 2011.

5.0 Delivery against the Plan

- 5.1 The plan incorporates a simple action plan which proposes specific agencies or partnerships to take the lead in delivery against each objective. In a few cases, the CEO Group has agreed that further task and finish group work will be required to develop and implement a delivery plan. Each objective will be monitored on an annual basis through the CEO Group, who will consider progress made and whether any further actions may need to be taken.

6.0 Recommendation

- 6.1 That LGNYY approves the North Yorkshire Community Plan 2011/14.

Richard Flinton
Honorary Secretary, Local Government North Yorkshire and York
13 December 2011

Appendix 1 – North Yorkshire Community Plan 2011/14

Appendix 1

Local Government North Yorkshire and York Chief Executives Group North Yorkshire and York

North Yorkshire Community Plan 2011 - 2014

This three-point plan is a refresh of our longer term sustainable community strategy, published in 2008. Our vision remains the same: **We want North Yorkshire to be an even better place for everyone to live, work or visit.** However, we must focus our efforts on areas of critical need in the next three years, as well as making our communities more sustainable.

Our three priorities for 2011/14

- **Protecting and supporting vulnerable people**
- **Supporting economic growth and employment**
- **Enabling stronger local communities**

We recognise that other issues which are not explicitly included within these priorities play a key part in the longer-term wellbeing of communities. However, in such a challenging economic period it's about recognising that with increasingly limited public resources, we must focus our efforts on those areas where we really need to make a difference now to those who critically need our support, and where we can only do this effectively through the partnership.

Protecting and supporting vulnerable people

"Vulnerable people" can include children and young people, older people and other, specific, groups such as people who have experienced crime or people who are disabled, to name just a few.

A key factor which can contribute towards vulnerability is the general quality of life experienced by communities. Whilst North Yorkshire offers a good quality of life to many, for some communities this is not the case and the gap between these is growing larger. There are some rural and urban areas in North Yorkshire where people have significantly poorer health, fewer qualifications, lower income, are more likely to be unemployed, and have a shorter than average life expectancy. Partners need to work together more effectively to identify these areas and tackle these longstanding issues.

Additionally, with an increasing older population in North Yorkshire, partners will also be challenged in sustaining good quality health and social care provision for all who need it. Co-ordinated work around prevention will also be needed to help reduce the number of people needing critical care in the long-term.

This agenda is therefore about prevention, intervention and effective partnership-working to improve quality of life and wellbeing for all those who are vulnerable in our communities.

Provision of affordable local housing is also key to supporting these principles and will continue to require effective action by partners through the Local Government North Yorkshire and York Housing Board.

What we will do

The partners in North Yorkshire will focus specifically on:

- **Safeguarding and protecting people of all ages at risk of significant harm.** This will focus on safeguarding for children and vulnerable adults and protecting the most vulnerable.
- **Providing older and vulnerable people with a range of choice for their accommodation, care and support needs.** This will include enabling those who wish to live independently to do so and providing support mechanisms such as Extra Care.
- **Working jointly to reduce health inequalities** - by promoting healthier lifestyles and reducing risky behaviour in all ages; in particular smoking, alcohol and obesity.
- **Identifying communities where multiple deprivation exists and which issues partners need to work on in these areas to tackle this.** This is about all partners working to narrow the gaps that exist between some of our communities in terms of the quality of life they experience.

Supporting economic growth and employment

Our aspiration is for North Yorkshire to be made up of sustainable communities which enable everyone who participates to flourish and which are a place of opportunity for all. We will do this by focussing on business growth, improving our infrastructure and the quality of our workforce, leading to employment opportunities and creating an environment where individuals are encouraged and supported to create their own businesses. This also means ensuring that we have a workforce which is skilled to undertake roles in sectors or enterprises where there are gaps in provision. Linked to this, we need to enhance access to training and employment opportunities, including those available to more vulnerable groups.

The current economic climate poses significant challenges in delivering our vision. These include having to rely on a smaller working age population than elsewhere in the region and country, overcoming our access and connectivity issues and also tackling large scale unemployment in the next few years, particularly in the public sector. But there are also opportunities for us in tackling these and in preparing ourselves for a brighter economic future. These include the county's stunning natural environment and heritage, which are key economic drivers for North Yorkshire and are critical to ensuring quality of life for all. We also need to do more to encourage creative industries and invest in a sustainable, year-round tourist industry to help deliver economic growth. We recognise the need to support all types and sizes of business within the county, but it is crucial that we focus our limited resources in the short term on new and small businesses. We will also focus on those specific sectors - such as agriculture and food - which would benefit most from support to help grow their supply chains and which are critical to maintaining the stunning environment on which much of the tourism industry depends. We also need to ensure that individuals, in making career choices, understand where future opportunities may lie.

What we will do

The partners in North Yorkshire will therefore work to achieving greater economic growth; in particular by supporting the newly formed Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to deliver the following key objectives:

- **Agriculture and food.** To create business growth through growing the supply chain.
- **Visitor economy.** Provide clarity and improve the offer for visitors and tourists through joint working and collaboration between partners.
- **Rural broadband.** To help rural North Yorkshire maximise its broadband potential (*see also “Enabling stronger local communities”*)
- **Support for growth of small businesses.** To improve the success and sustainability of new and small businesses through better performance and improved access to finance.
- **Improved networks.** To make businesses in North Yorkshire the best networked and most effective networkers.
- **Skills.** To ensure skills provision is focussed on present and future business needs and to meet gaps in provision.

Enabling stronger local communities

High quality broadband is essential to attract and retain local businesses whilst providing the means for communities, particularly the vulnerable, to be able to stay in touch. If we get this right, businesses, local shops, local public services, young people and older people can all flourish in our rural villages and market towns. In short, high quality broadband has the potential to help us revitalise our rural communities.

In the next few years, the impact of public sector cuts will place considerable additional pressures on both service providers and communities, particularly in rural areas. It will be even more important for public, voluntary and community sector partners to help local communities to support themselves more, working in partnership to help shape local solutions where resources are scant but needs remain.

What we will do

The partners in North Yorkshire will work towards enabling communities by:

- **Delivering a high-quality broadband service** capable of supporting voice, video and data to meet the needs and long term growth of businesses and individuals in all areas of North Yorkshire.
- **Building capacity within communities** to help them to play a bigger role in shaping and delivering local services.

How will this plan be taken forward?

Local Government North Yorkshire and York and the Chief Executives Group for North Yorkshire and York will lead the partnership of agencies responsible for ensuring that progress is achieved against all of the key aims of this refreshed plan.

The partnership has identified a number of key agencies or groups below who will be best placed to lead on delivering against the actions outlined in this plan. Performance against these actions will be reviewed annually by the Chief Executives Group, who will take an overview of progress in these areas made from each lead.

1) Protecting and supporting vulnerable people

Objective	Lead organisation(s) or partnership(s)
1 Safeguarding and protecting people of all ages at risk of significant harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Adults' Safeguarding BoardChildren's Safeguarding Board
2 Providing older and vulnerable people with a range of choice for their accommodation, care and support needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">North Yorkshire County CouncilLGNYY Housing Board
3 Working jointly to reduce health inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">NHS North Yorkshire and YorkNorth Yorkshire County Council
4 Identifying communities where multiple deprivation exists and which issues partners need to work on in these areas to tackle this.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Task and Finish Group (membership co-ordinated via Chief Executives Group)

2) Supporting economic growth and employment

Objective	Lead organisation(s) or partnership(s)
5 Supporting economic growth and employment (<i>all objectives</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership

3) Enabling stronger local communities

Objective	Lead organisation(s) or partnership(s)
6 Delivering a high-quality broadband service	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Connecting North Yorkshire
7 Building capacity within communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Task and Finish Group (membership co-ordinated via Chief Executives Group)

Further information about this plan, how it has been developed and the other key plans which link in to it can be found at www.nypartnerships.org.uk/communityplan.

Enquiries about this plan can be sent to:

nypartnerships@northyorks.gov.uk

or call 01609 532750

or write to

Policy, Performance & Partnerships
Chief Executive's Group
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
Northallerton
DL7 8AD