

## Local Government North Yorkshire and York

### Towards Sub-Regional Collaboration on Infrastructure Planning

20 January 2012

#### **1. Purpose of this Report**

A report was presented to the 3 November 2011 meeting of the North Yorkshire and York Chief Executive Officers (CEO) Group addressing potential sub-regional approaches to more collaborative working in relation to the planning, funding and delivery of capital infrastructure for growth. The meeting agreed, as a short term action, that David Bowe from the County Council would assist, with the involvement of partners, in a mapping exercise. In turn, partners would assist with the provision of information and ideas to support it.

The aim of this report is to advise Leaders and Chief Executives of the nature of the work now underway, and to invite comments as to how it might best be configured and presented in order to be of the greatest use and value for all.

#### **2. Sub-Regional Infrastructure Mapping : Progress to Date.**

The infrastructure mapping work is now underway. With the assistance of partners, information is now being recorded on the County Council's MapInfo Geographical Information System (GIS) at a number of levels. Key types of information being mapped include:

- Significant housing and employment development sites and clusters across the sub-region as proposed or allocated in Local Development Frameworks (LDF) over the next 15-20 years.
- Programmes for the delivery of key types of strategic infrastructure, such as the development or extension of schools, and the provision of Extra-Care facilities.
- As much information as possible as can be gathered about the infrastructure needs of the sub-region's main housing and employment development sites including the type of infrastructure needed (eg, bridge, primary school etc); the phasing of the site / infrastructure requirement; and the estimated cost of each piece of infrastructure.

By mapping as much information as can be gathered on different 'layers' within the GIS system, the aim is that it will be possible to extract and present whatever specific information partners' require in relation to where development and growth is proposed within the sub-region; what infrastructure each site or scheme may need; when this might be needed; and at what estimated cost.

The aim is ambitious, and it is important to set progress to date in context. It can only be progressed at the pace that resources and the availability of information allow. For example, much of the information is related to the development of Local Development Frameworks, including their associated Site Allocations Documents

and Infrastructure Delivery Plans. As these are all at different stages of preparation across the Sub-Region, it will be some time before a complete suite is in place. As such the infrastructure mapping resource will need to be live and evolving, with more detailed and updated information added over time as it becomes available.

Nonetheless, good progress is already being made with good support being offered from Local Planning Authorities. The intention is that the resource will continue to be developed through a partnership approach, and expanded through the addition of further layers of information over the coming months.

### **3. Ensuring the Development of a True Sub-Regional Resource.**

At the CEO Group meeting in November it was clear that the mapping resource would be helpful for all local authorities across NYY. It is still at an early stage of development and it is important that it grows in a way that reflects wider partnership needs. Fundamentally it is critical that the resource is helpful and useful in a practical way to all. As part of ensuring this, it is proposed that the information held so far is reflected back to each Local Planning Authority in due course to confirm accuracy, and also where possible to enable joint working to identify and fill any gaps that might exist.

However as well as ensuring that information is accurate, it is also important that there is a shared agreement as to how the work develops, and what form the mapping resource takes. The views and suggestions of sub-regional partners would therefore very much appreciated to inform the on-going development of this mapping work. In particular Members are invited to comment on their aspirations for this work; how authorities may wish to make use of it; and whether there are any issues to be taken into account in relation to the form that it takes. Whilst existing officer and Elected Member partnership mechanisms exist across the sub-region (for example the NYY Spatial Planning and Transport Board and its supporting Technical Officer Group) to assist where necessary with the development of mapping work, partners are also invited to comment as to whether there are preferred or alternative means of working together on this project.

### **4. Conclusions**

Following CEO discussions in November, good early progress in developing a sub-regional infrastructure mapping resource is being made. It is important now to ensure that work progresses in a way that ensures that the resource is useful for planning activities within individual local authorities (for example in relation to the 'Duty to Cooperate' under the Localism Act), including as a resource to inform and support more coordinated and collaborative work on infrastructure planning at a sub-regional scale. This is likely to be essential if our collective growth aspirations are to be realised.

Views and suggestions are therefore welcomed to help to ensure that this resource is as valuable and powerful as it can be for all local authorities across North Yorkshire and York.

## **5. Recommendations**

1. Members note the work that is continuing, as detailed in the report, and provide any comments that would help shape the work as it progresses.

Presenter of the report : Richard Flinton, Chief Executive North Yorkshire County Council.