

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NORTH YORKSHIRE AND YORK

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 20 JANUARY 2012 AT 10.00 AM AT THE PAVILIONS OF HARROGATE

PRESENT:-

<u>Constituent Authority</u>	<u>Representatives</u>
City of York Council	Councillor James Alexander Steve Dann (Regional Policy Officer) (as Substitute for Kersten England)
Craven District Council	Councillor Chris Knowles-Fitton Paul Shevlin (Chief Executive)
Hambleton District Council	Councillor Neville Huxtable Peter Simpson (Chief Executive of Hambleton and Richmondshire District Councils)
Harrogate Borough Council	Councillor Don Mackenzie Wallace Sampson (Chief Executive)
North York Moors National Park Authority	Mr Jim Bailey
North Yorkshire County Council	County Councillor John Weighell Richard Flinton (Chief Executive of the County Council and Honorary Secretary to LGNYY)
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 Tom Fox (in the Chair) Jim Dillon (Chief Executive)
Selby District Council	Martin Connor (Chief Executive)
Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority	Mr Carl Lis OBE David Butterworth (Chief Executive)

IN ATTENDANCE:-

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Representatives</u>
NHS North Yorkshire and York	Jayne Brown OBE (Chief Executive) Alan Witterick (Project Director for the North Yorkshire Review)

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Representatives</u>
BDUK	Shiela Cullen (Spectrum Policy, Department for Culture, Media and Sport) William Barry (working with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, as Mobile Infrastructure Project Lead)
North Yorkshire County Council	County Councillor Carl Les (Deputy Leader) Gary Fielding (Assistant Chief Executive - Policy, Performance and Partnerships)
LGNYY Secretariat	Ruth Gladstone (Principal Democratic Services Officer, North Yorkshire County Council)

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE:-

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mark Crane (Selby District Council).

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

113. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2011, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

114. UPDATE ON THE FINDINGS OF THE NORTH YORKSHIRE REVIEW INTO HEALTH CARE PROVISION

CONSIDERED -

The oral report of Jayne Brown OBE (Chief Executive of NHS North Yorkshire and York) and Alan Wittrick (Project Director for the North Yorkshire Review) providing an update on the findings of the North Yorkshire Review into Health Care provision. Information within the report included the following:-

- The review had produced 44 recommendations which fell into three broad categories:- (i) efficiencies relating to day to day work; (ii) recommendations around infrastructure issues, eg transport, the estate; and (iii) Service provision and doing things differently. Category (iii) was the most contentious.
- A Programme Board had been established which included the Chief Executives of the County Council and the City of York Council. The Board had met once to date.
- A plan was scheduled to be agreed during the subsequent couple of months and would include timescales.

- It was unlikely that any major consultation exercises would be carried out in the very near future. Strategic issues would take 12-15 months to develop although, during that time, other “easy wins” were likely to be achieved.

Richard Flinton (North Yorkshire County Council) suggested that, when the plan had been produced, appropriate points could be identified when LGNYY might engage in the debate. He also highlighted that the Heath and Wellbeing Boards also provided opportunities to engage.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

115. PROPOSED CHANGES TO NATIONAL PARKS

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Honorary Secretary providing information concerning two sets of proposed changes to the National Parks, namely:-

- Proposed changes to the governance of National Parks, including the following:- the introduction of a maximum term of office, probably eight years, for all Members of National Park Authorities including local authority Members; to end the political balance requirement on local authorities when appointing Members to National Park Authorities; and a possibility that regulations would allow National Park Authorities to have direct elections.
- A proposed extension of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

David Butterworth (Chief Executive, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority) highlighted that different bodies were taking different views in relation to the proposed extension of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and these would be dealt with at any public inquiry. With regard to the proposed changes to the governance of National Parks, he expressed the view that the proposal to introduce a maximum term of office for all Members of National Park Authorities was unlikely to survive the consultation stage. He also reported that the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority supported the retention of the political balance requirement on local authorities when appointing Members to National Park Authorities but considered that Councils should be required to appoint Members whose Wards were within the National Park. He highlighted that that suggestion would not be included within the DEFRA consultation document.

Mr Jim Bailey (Chairman, North York Moors National Park Authority) advised that he supported the retention of the political balance requirement on local authorities when appointing Members to National Park Authorities. He also highlighted that the introduction of a maximum term of office for Members of National Park Authorities would result in Members being displaced. He also advised that Members of the North York Moors National Park Authority felt that there should be a slight reduction in the number of Members on that Authority.

Various Members outlined the views of their respective Councils on the proposals. There was general support for the following:- objection to the introduction of a maximum term of office for all Members of National Park Authorities; objection to

direct elections to National Park Authorities on the basis that too many direct elections would result in voter fatigue; and that local authorities should be required to appoint Councillors to National Park Authorities who represented Wards within, or partly within, the National Park.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the Honorary Secretary, on behalf of LGNYY, draft a response to the governance proposals and circulate the draft for comments to constituent Authorities.
- (b) That individual Authorities submit any responses they consider appropriate.

116. MOBILE PHONE COVERAGE

CONSIDERED –

The report of the County Council's Assistant Chief Executive (Policy, Performance and Partnerships) and a presentation by Sheila Cullen (Spectrum Policy, Department for Culture, Media and Sport) and William Barry (working with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, as Mobile Infrastructure Project Lead). The report and presentation related to the Government's announcement of £150m in capital expenditure to improve the coverage and quality of mobile voice network services for the 5%-10% of consumers and businesses who lived/worked in areas of the UK where existing mobile voice network coverage was either poor or non-existent and to extend coverage to 99% of the UK population. The project was being run by Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK). BDUK was currently seeking views on various issues, including how local development priorities could be used to inform how "not spots" were prioritised. BDUK was working closely with Ofcom to identify locations where there was insufficient coverage for calls made outside buildings. During 2012 BDUK would be procuring a provider to deliver infrastructure to allow each mobile phone operator to introduce coverage. It was not known, at present, whether mobile phone masts would be required and it was possible that some "not spots" would be in communities where less intrusive solutions would be sought. BDUK was interested to know if communities would be able to encourage landowners to make land available if necessary.

Members expressed enthusiasm for the BDUK project. They also advised that they were very pleased that North Yorkshire had been identified as a potential early part of this national project. It was noted that a discussion between BDUK and a range of North Yorkshire officers was seeking to explore issues in more detail following LGNYY's meeting.

Members discussed whether LGNYY should express a view on whether priority should be given to boosting economic growth or to bringing coverage to isolated communities. It was felt, on balance, that this meeting was too early for such a view to be expressed.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the work being undertaken be welcomed.
- (b) That arrangements be made for the sub-regional Transport and Strategic Planning Board to discuss this project with a view to identifying opportunities to streamline the planning process.

117. NORTH YORKSHIRE COMMUNITY PLAN 2011/14

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Honorary Secretary providing an update concerning the North Yorkshire Community Plan 2011/14. The report advised of responses received to the draft North Yorkshire Community Plan, small changes which had been made, subsequent approval of the Plan by the CEO Group and the County Council, and arrangements for delivering the Plan and monitoring each objective.

RESOLVED –

That the North Yorkshire Community Plan 2011/14, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

118. FUTURE COLLABORATION - UPDATE

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Honorary Secretary advising of developments in the Shared Services Initiative affecting the following areas:- Access to Services; Revenues and Benefits; Fleet Management; and Business Rates.

Councillor John Blackie (Richmondshire District Council) enquired whether LGNYY's views concerning Fleet Management, as expressed at its meeting held on 16 September 2011, had been considered. Gary Fielding (Assistant Chief Executive - Policy, Performance and Partnerships) confirmed that such views had been reported and that two subsequent officer meetings had been held. The last meeting, in particular, had been excellent and enthusiastic and it was anticipated that a number of significant areas would be pursued.

Peter Simpson (Hambleton and Richmondshire District Councils) highlighted, in respect of Council Tax Benefits, that Authorities would need to have a conversation on whether common schemes should be adopted. He also highlighted that the proposed reforms relating to Council Tax Benefits also impacted on North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service and North Yorkshire Police and consequently those Authorities had been brought into this area of collaborative work.

Peter Simpson (Hambleton and Richmondshire District Councils) questioned whether Authorities could have a common Members' Code of Conduct and common procedures for dealing with complaints that a Member had breached the Code. He undertook to write to Authorities to ascertain whether there was support for such an approach.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That Peter Simpson write to Authorities within the sub-region to ascertain whether there is support for adoption of a common Members' Code of Conduct and common procedures for dealing with complaints that a Member has breached the Code.

119. POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Honorary Secretary providing an update on discussions between the nine principal Councils in North Yorkshire and York regarding the Police and Crime Panel. Information within the report included the following:-

- Panel membership included the proposal that each of the District Councils and the County Council would appoint one Councillor as a Member of the Panel and that the City of York Council would appoint two Councillors.
- Support for the Panel, including the proposals that:- (i) the County Council would be the lead Local Authority to provide administrative and other support to the Panel and its Members within an overall budget agreed by the nine Councils; and (ii) the Home Office might provide around £40,000 per Panel per year for at least the first year.

Members expressed strong support for a suggestion that LGNYY should lobby the Home Office to make a higher and transparent level of funding available on a permanent basis. Members commented that it was important that the Panel was able to test and challenge the commissioner and queried why the cost of doing so should fall to the County Council, the City of York Council, or the District Councils.

Members expressed reservations about paying allowances, other than for travelling, to Members of the Police and Crime Panel. It was highlighted that some Councils did not provide a Special Responsibility Allowance for Members appointed to similar bodies eg the Scrutiny of Health Committee, National Park Authorities.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That the Honorary Secretary, on behalf of LGNYY, write to the Home Office to lobby for more than £40,000 per Panel per year and for such funding to be available on a permanent basis.

120. TOWARDS SUB-REGIONAL COLLABORATION ON INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Honorary Secretary advising of work currently underway, with the assistance of partners, to record information on the County Council's MapInfo Geographical Information System at a number of levels. Key types of information being mapped included:-

- 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 could 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.

The aim was to make it possible to extract and present whatever specific information partners required in relation to where development and growth was proposed within the sub-region; what infrastructure each site or scheme might need; when this might be needed; and at what estimated cost.

Good early progress was being made. Members commented that the resource would provide a powerful piece of information and its various uses should be considered by the CEO Group. It was felt the resource would be used, in particular, in planning infrastructure schemes to ensure maximum economic impact.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That the uses for this resource be considered further by the CEO Group.
- (c) That the conclusions arising from the sub-regional collaboration on infrastructure planning be submitted to a future meeting of LGNY.

121. YORK AND NORTH YORKSHIRE LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

CONSIDERED –

The Minutes of Board Meeting held on 18 November 2011.

A Member suggested that Welcome to Yorkshire should be asked to undertake the marketing of tourist attractions in the sub-region on the basis that too many different organisations were undertaking such marketing at present which had led to a fragmented system. Following discussion, it was concluded that such a suggestion should not be pursued for various reasons, including recognition of the role of Welcome to Yorkshire as an umbrella organisation which focused on destination marketing campaigns.

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes be noted.

122. GENERAL UPDATES

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Honorary Secretary advising of recent discussions at meetings of the Sub-Regional Housing Board and the various regional bodies to which LGNY had appointed representatives.

County Councillor John Weighell expressed the view that LGYH should have an absolute maximum of 3 staff and should have a very low annual subscription rate.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

123. ARRANGEMENTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED –

That it be noted that future meetings of LGNYY shall be held on:-

- Friday 25 May 2012 at 10.00 am at Richmondshire District Council offices
- Friday 28 September 2012 at 10.00 am (venue to be notified)
- Friday 7 December 2012 at 10.00 am (venue to be notified)

124. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED –

That any business for the meeting on 25 May 2012, to supplement the following, be notified to the Honorary Secretary:-

- Oral report from Rosie Seymour concerning her role as the Deputy Director, Local Public Service Reform, DCLG
- Future Collaboration Update
- LGNYY Constitution

The meeting concluded at 1.00 pm.

RAG/ALJ