

York & North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (YNYLEP)

Friday 1 June 2012 at Selby College, Selby

MINUTES OF MEETING

PRESENT

Barry Dodd	Chairman
David Kerfoot	The Kerfoot Group Ltd
Shaun Watts	Chameleon Business Interiors
Nigel Pulling	Yorkshire Agricultural Society
Ruth Smith	PM Management Consultants
Robert Miller	Bluebird Vehicles
David Bruce	Nestle Uk
Colin Mellors	University of York
Cllr Stephen Parnaby	East Riding
Cllr John Weighell	North Yorkshire County Council
Cllr Keith Knaggs	Ryedale – also rep. Hambleton & Richmondshire
Cllr James Alexander	City of York Council
Cllr Chris Knowles-Fitton	Craven – also rep. Selby and Harrogate

IN ATTENDANCE

James Farrar	Chief Operating Officer
Richard Flinton	North Yorkshire County Council
Tim Frenneaux	York, North Yorkshire & East Riding Enterprise Partnership
Andrew Leeming	York, North Yorkshire & East Riding Enterprise Partnership
Michelle Walker	York, North Yorkshire & East Riding Enterprise Partnership

1. APOLOGIES

Neil Warman	The Nostrum Group
Cllr Tom Fox	Scarborough

2. Minutes of last meeting, Matters arising

Minutes agreed

Presentation on Selby College

3. Skills

- 3.1 Presentation by Selby College
- 3.2 Skills Funding Agency Research - initial findings
Presentation by Simon Foy

The skills research has been commissioned by the Skills Funding Agency and operated across all Yorkshire & Humber LEP's. The presentation was of the initial findings.

Broad economic evidence was presented showing that the impact of the downturn was less severe in the LEP area, but future growth was also lower than other areas moving forward. Inconsistencies in some of the data, particularly around York was highlighted as in need of further analysis.

Key findings from stakeholders;

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| Employers | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Do not expect to expand workforce but to upskill existing staff.- Lack of funding is an issue- Availability of skills remains a problem. This includes basic employability skills and the lack of work experience is a factor in this.- Less than 20% recruit graduates. |
|-----------|---|

Providers & industry - Better links are needed with businesses to allow them to respond to demand.

4. Growing Places

At the previous Board the task & finish group were delegated the authority to progress projects to the next stage of due diligence. 5 projects were recommended to go forward, with a further 2 requested to provide additional information.

The Board discussed decision making on the current round of proposals. It was agreed that the final decisions should be delegated to the Task and Finish Group. All Board members have been invited to join the task & finish group for presentations by the applicants immediately following the Board meeting.

Decision – Growing Places Investment Decisions to be made on projects by T&F Group.

Future Investments

The Board discussed the current approach and agreed the need to have a stronger strategic approach, with an investment prospectus identifying key strategic investment themes, based on the outcome of the strategic review.

There is c.£500k of revenue funding within the latest allocation of Growing Places funding and this can be used to stimulate opportunities. The potential to use the revenue element to support work following from the Skills Review was also raised.

The Board expressed a clear desire not to use the fund as a generic loan fund, similar to Finance Yorkshire, reflecting that there are a number of existing funds and Community Development Finance institutions in operation with varying degrees of success.

Decision – To establish a strategic investment prospectus to guide future investments.

5. LEP Priorities – 1 Year review

Key Lessons learnt – Partners are keen to work with us, however the ability to deliver varies, with many still restructuring following the demise of Yorkshire Forward and public funding streams.

We have strong relationships with local authorities but can better align activities.

We are a limited resource and must focus on what really matters and retain a small number of priorities.

Certificate in Business Growth

The Pilot is complete and given the amount of free support available and constant launch of new national initiatives causing confusion in the marketplace, a start up module cannot be produced at a price the market will stand.

A more suitable market is young businesses wishing to expand and the content will be revised to address this issue.

We must retain the strong bank relations.

Network & Support

40 business networks signed up and positive relations retained.

We need to better understand the networks and their membership to be able to identify opportunities.

Business Support offers are being developed with Chartered Institutes to be delivered by their local members.

Agri-Food

We need to develop the strategic Agri-Food innovation opportunity, capitalising on FERA being in our region. .

Support for small business growth will look at a different delivery model, whereby we handpick a selection of small food producers with potential, linking them to mentors, exemplar companies and support.

Action: DK to meet with Deliciously Yorkshire to explore future working relations.

Broadband

Good progress now being made. We are;

- Working closely with Connecting North Yorkshire on the ERDF Business Support Programme
- Actively engaged with York City Council & KCom regarding developments in York & East Riding.

Visitor Economy

Our campaign with Welcome to Yorkshire helped increase membership in the region by 41%

Action : Press release to promote our success and further encourage membership.

We have strong working relations with DMO's with positive feedback on the masterclasses in York.

Action: Work with DMO's to support their ERDF bid and link in to work with Visit England/BIS on Innovation in Tourism

Skills

The scale of the skills agenda has made it difficult for the LEP to pinpoint its role. The skills research should provide direction.

We have good relations with all colleges, which provides a potential platform for delivery.

Employability skills remain an issue for business.

Central Government Relations

We retain strong relations across government, however need to develop a clear vision of our major Strategic opportunities. Opportunities to access Central Government support often have short timescales and we need to be in a position to capitalise.

Positives to come out of the unsuccessful Rural Growth Network bid are;

1. A Planning Toolkit is being created to help businesses navigate the system and submit stronger applications. Hambleton will be first to be rolled out.
2. The Business Support offers through the Chartered Institutes

Communications

With the website, social networking, press relations, business networks and database of 18000 businesses, we have a strong communications platforms to build on.

We can better use the Board Members as the local presence on the ground.

6. Strategic Review – Process & Timeline

An updated mission and vision statement were presented. These were;

Vision statement: Grow businesses Create Jobs
Mission Statement: To support businesses that want to grow, to achieve their ambitions and create good quality sustainable jobs.

AL presented the review process. The evidence and intelligence will be circulated to board Members by 22 June, allowing for a response by 2 July. The co-ordinated results will be presented to the next Board Meeting to finalise and plan the critical actions.

JF is meeting all LA Chief Execs in June and we also have the Business Networks meeting on 29 June to provide business input.

Actions
June. 1. Evidence base and key questions circulated to Board members by 22 June.
2. Board to respond by 2 July

7. AOB

Board Members Annual Review - BD will be contacting everyone individually to meet up for their annual review and feedback.

Action – BD to undertake reviews before the next meeting.

New Board Member - A new board member for tourism has been identified and will be joining the board in due course.

All Party Parliamentary Group for Yorkshire & North Lincolnshire - has written for the LEPs support. We are very supportive of the group, however the LEP is not in a position to contribute financially.

Action – JF to write to encourage but we won't be supplying funding.

8. Future meetings

13 July 2012	Scarborough
7 September 2012	Richmondshire