

Local Government North Yorkshire and York

**Minutes of the Meeting held on
Friday 7 December 2012 at 10.30 am at Selby District Council Offices,
Civic Centre, Doncaster Road, Selby**

Present:-

<u>Constituent Authority</u>	<u>Representatives</u>
City of York Council	Councillor James Alexander
Craven District Council	Paul Shevlin (Chief Executive)
Hambleton District Council	Mr Phil Morton (Chief Executive)
Harrogate Borough Council	Wallace Sampson (Chief Executive)
North Yorkshire County Council	County Councillor John Weighell (in the Chair) Richard Flinton (Chief Executive of the County Council and Honorary Secretary to LGNYY)
Richmondshire District Council	Councillor John Blackie Tony Clark (Managing Director)
Ryedale District Council	Councillor Keith Knaggs Janet Waggott (Chief Executive)
Selby District Council	Councillor Mark Crane Martin Connor (Chief Executive)
Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority	Mr Carl Lis OBE David Butterworth (Chief Executive)

In Attendance:-

Julia Mulligan (Police and Crime Commissioner).

County Councillor Carl Les (Chair of North Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel).

Superintendent Dave Foster (Head of Specialist Operations, North Yorkshire Police).

County Councillor Jim Clark (Chairman of the County Council's Scrutiny of Health Committee).

Councillor Christina Funnel (Chair of the City of York Council's Health Scrutiny Committee).

Michael Coughlin (Executive Director, LGA).

Ruth Gladstone (Principal Democratic Services Officer, North Yorkshire County Council and LGNYY Secretariat).

Apologies for Absence:-

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Anthony Alton (Harrogate Borough Council), Councillor Neville Huxtable (Hambleton District Council), Councillor Chris Knowles-Fitton (Craven District Council), Councillor Tom Fox and Jim Dillon (Scarborough Borough Council) and Kersten England (City of York Council).

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

151. Minutes

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2012, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

152. Police and Crime Commissioner

Considered –

The oral report of Julia Mulligan (Police and Crime Commissioner) advising that she was looking forward to working in partnership with all Councils across North Yorkshire and York, that she was starting work on a Police and Crime Plan which would be available for consultation from February 2013, and that she wished Leaders to encourage CSP Chairs to take up her offer to meet her during the forthcoming months.

During a later discussion concerning local NHS finances, Julia Mulligan advised that she was interested in funding for mental health services and would be pleased to receive any briefing papers Councils wished to send her, to include comparisons with other rural Counties and funding allocation issues eg high priority given to deprivation but no priority given to sparsity or age profile.

Resolved –

That the report be noted.

153. Police and Crime Panel Budget

Considered –

The report of the Honorary Secretary seeking approval for the budget for the operation of the North Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel.

Councillor James Alexander (City of York Council) expressed concern that it was proposed that only the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Panel would receive a Special Responsibility Allowance. He highlighted that the Panel would be meeting during the day when many Members of the City of York Council worked.

In response, the following were highlighted:-

- The grant from the Home Secretary was insufficient to provide an allowance of £1k pa for each Member without Councils having to make up the deficit.

- Many Councillors served on panels eg the Scrutiny of Health Committee, for which they received no Special Responsibility Allowance.
- North Yorkshire was such a large County that it often took Members 1½ hours to travel home after a meeting and, for that reason, County Council meetings were usually held during the day.

It was proposed that the decision in respect of Special Responsibility Allowances, and any affect that had on appointments to the Panel, should be reviewed after 12 months.

Note: County Councillor Carl Les made no comment concerning Special Responsibility Allowances during this meeting.

Resolved –

- (a) That the arrangements for the Panel and the projected costs in accordance with the grant received, as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.
- (b) That elected Members submit claims for expenses to their appointing Authority.
- (c) That expenses incurred by the two Co-opted Independent Members be paid by North Yorkshire County Council and recharged as part of the costs of the Panel.
- (d) That the decision to not pay a Special Responsibility Allowance to Panel Members who are not either the Chair or a Vice-Chair, and any affect that has had on appointments to the Panel, be reviewed in 12 months time.

154. Flooding – Debrief on Multi Agency Response to Events of September 2012

Considered -

The powerpoint presentation made by Superintendent Dave Foster (Head of Specialist Operations, North Yorkshire Police). A copy of the presentation slides is in the Minute Book.

Members expressed sincere thanks to the various agencies who had been involved in responding to the flooding which had occurred during September 2012. However, it was highlighted that the Army might not be similarly available, due to operational tours, when flooding occurred in future. It was also recognised that precise estimates provided by the Environment Agency needed to be regarded with a wider margin of error at the earlier stage of future flooding incidents in order to give responders more time to prepare.

During the debate, reference was made to the economic impact of the closure of the A1 and also to the recent announcement, in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement, that the A1 from Catterick would be upgraded to motorway status. Councillor John Blackie (Richmondshire District Council) requested that it be recorded in the Minutes that he hoped the upgrade would comprise a three-lane carriageway as far as Barton and that there would also be a local relief road.

Resolved –

That the presentation be noted.

155. Local NHS Finances

Considered –

The discussion, involving the Chairman of the County Council's Scrutiny of Health Committee and the Chair of the City of York Council's Health Scrutiny Committee, concerning local NHS finances.

Members expressed the view that the PCT was in an extremely serious financial state. They also highlighted that many of the NHS's most highly valued services were under review and, in some cases, threatened with closure.

Members noted that four PCT representatives had been invited to attend this meeting. However, all had failed to attend. The PCT's Chief Executive had also failed to attend the last meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Members commented that it was essential that the elected representatives of the people who used NHS services should have an input into the decision-making process and that the failure of the PCT to attend today's meeting did not give Members confidence that the issues would be addressed in the way in which such issues deserved.

Members also commented that the PCT would cease to exist as part of the reforms of the NHS in April 2013 and that they were now hopeful that a more meaningful and positive relationship could be established with the Clinical Commissioning Groups which were taking over responsibility for health care provision.

It was proposed that a press release should be issued to advise communities of LGNYY's views.

Resolved –

That a press release be issued to advise communities of the views expressed during this debate.

Note: Please also see Minute 160 below which records a further decision relating to the PCT.

156. Migration Yorkshire Request for Financial Contributions

Considered –

The report of the Honorary Secretary concerning requests from Migration Yorkshire to the County Council and the District Councils for a financial contribution.

Resolved –

That the requests be declined on the grounds that North Yorkshire tax payers' money cannot be justified for this purpose during the current period of financial austerity.

157. General Updates

Considered –

The report of the Honorary Secretary providing an update on the following issues:- the Chancellor's Autumn Statement; the Credit Union; Council Tax Support; Tour de France; NYnet roll-out; and recent proceedings of the York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership, the sub-regional Housing Board, the sub-regional Spatial Planning and Transport Board, and the European Regional Development Fund Performance Management Board for North East and West Yorkshire.

Councillor James Alexander (City of York Council) thanked other Councils for their support in respect of the Credit Union.

Resolved –

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That arrangements be made for the Clinical Commissioning Groups to be invited to the Conference, to be held in early 2013, proposed by the sub-regional Housing Board, to explore how links can be strengthened between housing, spatial planning, economic development and transport across the county.

158. LGA's Work and Business Plan

Considered –

The oral report of Michael Coughlin (Executive Director, LGA) providing information concerning the LGA's work and Business Plan.

Members expressed support for the LGA's approach to lobbying Central Government, although it was felt that the LGA could be more proactive in communicating Local Government's message to the public.

Resolved –

That the report be noted.

159. Arrangements for Future Meetings

Resolved –

That the following, previously agreed, arrangements be noted:-

- Friday 8 March 2013 at 10.30 am at County Hall.
- Friday 12 July 2013 at 10.30 am at Craven District Council offices.
- Friday 4 October 2013 at 10.30 am at City of York Council's new offices.
- Friday 6 December 2013 at 10.30 am at Hambleton District Council offices.

160. Business for Next Meeting

Considered –

The discussion about possible business for consideration at LGNYY's meeting on 8 March 2013. It was noted that the PCT had already been invited to attend that meeting.

Resolved -

That, given the fact that at, as at 8 March 2013, the PCT will be on the verge of abolition, there will be little purpose to a discussion between LGNYY and the PCT and there is no longer any need for the PCT to attend.

161. Other Business – Councillor Keith Knaggs

Members expressed their best wishes and Councillor Keith Knaggs who was stepping down as Leader of Ryedale District Council with effect from 31 December 2012.

The meeting concluded at 12.50 pm.

RAG/ALJ