

# Local Government North Yorkshire and York

8 March 2013

## General Updates

### Report of the Honorary Secretary

<b>1.0 Purpose of the Report</b>
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1.1 To provide a brief update on issues which do not require a full paper.
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#### **2.0 Tour de France**

2.1 Richard Flinton will provide a verbal update at today's meeting concerning the Tour de France.

#### **3.0 Sub-Regional Housing Board – Report of Wallace Sampson (Chief Executive, Harrogate Borough Council)**

Enhanced two tier project title: Affordable Housing

Project Description: Working together to increase the number of affordable housing units

Project Lead: Colin Dales, Richmondshire District Council  
01748 827007. E-mail: colin.dales@richmondshire.gov.uk

#### **3.1 Progress to date/update**

(a) The Housing Partnership has established links with the newly established Health and Wellbeing Board via regular updates on how housing can contribute to health and wellbeing outcomes. Colin Dales (Richmondshire) and Wyn Ashton (Craven) have given a presentation to the Board, outlining the links between housing and health and wellbeing, welcoming joint initiatives with health colleagues.

(b) North Yorkshire Home Choice (choice based lettings) is currently undergoing a review following its first year of operation. Several factors are feeding into this review including feedback from waiting list applicants, research by Joseph Rowntree Trust and Birmingham University, implications of the Localism Act and experience of partners during the first year of operation. A set of proposed changes are currently being discussed between partners and a further update will be given in due course.

(c) A new initiative to tackle social housing fraud across North Yorkshire is seeking Government funding and is likely to involve the majority of social landlords in York and North Yorkshire. The bid is being led by Veritau with City of York being the fund holding body should the bid be successful. An

earlier project undertaken in York proved very successful, hence the proposal to role the approach out to North Yorkshire landlords.

- (d) The Yorkshire Energy Partnership have been successful in bidding for Government funding to support three work streams all aimed at improving energy efficiency and reducing fuel poverty. The Housing Partnership is working closely with YEP in order to maximise the benefits of these work streams which can be summarised as follows
- Green Deal Pioneer – removing obstacles to improving energy efficiency in rural homes
  - Fuel Poverty Fund – replacing inefficient gas boilers in targeted areas
  - Collective Switching – delivering a local energy tariff which provides best value for residents
- (e) The LG NY & York Housing Board has considered how to make the links stronger between housing, spatial planning, economic development and transport across the county. There is some appetite among partners to strengthen these links but a lack of clarity on how this can be achieved without diluting the focus and delivery record of the Housing Board. To this end the Board recommended a conference in the new year in order to explore how links can be made stronger. The conference has been put on hold following a report recently considered by the Local Enterprise Partnership. The report considered a 5 Year Growth Strategy in response to the Autumn Statement and proposes that it incorporates housing, skills, transport and worklessness. James Farrar has been invited to the LG NY and York Housing Board in order to outline the draft proposals and explore how the LEP and the Board would work together if housing is to be included in a new strategy. Further updates will be given.
- (f) The North Yorkshire Housing Strategy post, currently funded by Local Authorities, has been reviewed and the LG NY & York Housing Board has agreed that the post will continue to be supported beyond 31st March 2013. A work programme for 2013/14 has been approved.

### 3.2 Barriers to progressing the project over the next period

- (a) The main barrier continues to relate to current housing market conditions which are hindering the contribution that the planning system can make to affordable homes delivery.
- (b) Lack of suitable land continues to be a barrier to the delivery of affordable housing.
- (c) Homes and Communities Agency funding has been cut as part of CSR by approximately 70% which has created a great deal of uncertainty in terms of future outputs. Funding is based on a new affordable housing model whereby rents are up to 80% of market levels. This will impact differently across the county depending on housing benefit levels and the strength of the private rental market.
- (d) Private sector housing improvement funding ceased from 1 April 2011 as a direct result of CSR. Local Authorities still have the freedom to fund private sector housing renewal from their own funds, but current feedback from Local Authority colleagues is that this area of activity has stopped with Disabled Facilities Grants being the core business.

#### **4.0 Sub-Regional Spatial Planning and Transport Board – Report of Ian Stokes (Development Officer (Transport Strategy), City of York Council)**

- 4.1 The last meeting of the Spatial Planning and Transport Board took place on 2 August 2012. Since then two meetings of the SP & T Technical Officer Group have taken place.
- 4.2 At the last of these, on 29 November 2012, items for inclusion on a forward programme for the Board and TOG were proposed. However, on preparing the forward programme it was considered that the scope and scale of the work for this programme requires resourcing. Therefore, a report setting out options for how this could be achieved will be submitted to a future TOG meeting after the next meeting of the TOG due to take place on 6 March 2013.
- 4.3 It is expected that this report will then be presented to the Board (at a future meeting for which the date is yet to be determined) for its consideration.

#### **5.0 York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership**

- 5.1 The Minutes of the LEP Board meeting held on 19 October 2012 are appended.

#### **6.0 LGYH Council – Report of Councillor Tom Fox (Vice-Chair of LGYH Council) (Scarborough Borough Council)**

- 6.1 LGYH last met on Thursday, 13 December 2012 – Wakefield.
- 6.2 Leeds Children’s Heart Surgery Unit Closure Decision – Y&H Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Inquiry:
- We were brought up to date with regards to the Leeds Children's Heart Surgery Unit Closure Decision – Y&H Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Inquiry.
  - We received an update paper from Cllr John Illingworth, Chair, Y&H Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC), on the latest position in relation to the proposed future delivery of Children's Congenital Heart Services in England and the work of the JHOSC.
  - A copy of a recent letter from the Secretary of State for Health to Cllr Illingworth was also circulated and noted. Cllr James Lewis, Leeds CC, informed Members that the Secretary of State for Health had accepted the Independent Reconfiguration Panel's (IRP) advice to include the JHOSC's referral within the scope of its full review currently underway; extending the period of the review to account for the additional referral. Plans for JHOSC input into the IRP review had now started and the JHOSC was due to be invited to identify any specific stakeholder groups it believes the IRP should speak to. It was suggested that LGYH Council Members could be formally consulted as one of the stakeholder consultative groups and suggested that any Members close to the issues may wish to participate.

- It was agreed that any individual LGYH Council Members interested in being part of the IRP stakeholder consultative group make contact direct with LGYH or Cllr John Illingworth direct.

### 6.3 European Funding Programme 2014-2020 – Opportunities for Yorkshire and Humber:

- Isobel Mills (Director, BIS Y&H and North East), Kevin Richardson (EU Structural Fund Practitioner, BIS) and Heather Waddington (Chair, European Officers Network & Kirklees Council) informed the meeting of the process and progress to date of Government involving local government in shaping the new EU funding programmes from 2014-2020.
- In the context of the proposals giving a key role for LEPs as the building blocks underpinning the new programme, the following key issues were highlighted:
  - LEPs and their partners were being encouraged to now start planning a staged approach to proposals in the run up to the new Programme expected to commence in May 2014.
  - It was seen as important to make the most of opportunities for LEPs to work across boundaries and collaboratively to develop a Y&H-wide position to articulate local authority views and shared priorities.
  - Ensuring the region's local economies are not disadvantaged by the formula used to determine allocations was seen as vital for the LEPs to have and share a robust evidence base to demonstrate opportunities for “growth”, rather than focus on “need”.
  - Ensuring there is the right level of capacity and expertise in the system (in both LEPs and councils) to deliver the requirements during consultation, evidence gathering and delivery phases.
- It was also stated that the Y&H European Officers' Network and Y&H Chief Executives' Group, as well as individual local authorities working in their LEP geographies, had been working behind the scenes in helping to shape and influence the initial development of the UK approach towards the new Programme.
- It was agreed to continue to press the case to ensure Y&H receives its fair share and to propose to MPs that this should be included as a key priority for the APPG for Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire going forward. It was also agreed to support the preparations made locally to develop or broaden local strategies that can be turned into an Investment Prospectus for the new funds.

### 6.4 HM Treasury Autumn Statement/Local Government Finance Settlement:

- A report detailing implications of the Government's Autumn Statement on 5 December, and the expectations surrounding the provisional Local Government Finance settlement (expected on 19 December), considering the impacts across Y&H was noted.

- Two main issues of concern raised by Members during discussion was the impact of the distribution formula and the consultation on changes to TUPE regulations, which should be picked up by LGYH and supporting officers/Networks going forward.

#### 6.5 Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) – Ongoing Engagement:

- In the absence of Police and Crime Commissioner Member representatives at this meeting (apologies from each PCC had been received), Tricia Holder, Policy Director, Office of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner, was invited to update Members on developments in West Yorkshire following the election of Cllr Mark Burns-Williamson.
- She informed the meeting that Cllr Mark Burns-Williamson, as the newly elected PCC, would be visiting each of the five districts in West Yorkshire and conducting a series of consultation events over the coming months. An on-line 'Listening to You First' campaign had also been launched to ensure the views of communities were fully represented in the PCC Budget and Police and Crime Plan; with Mark Burns-Williamson recently confirming a decision to pass-port the Community Safety Fund back to local areas for 2013/14. She also informed Members that the PCC team planned to move offices to central Wakefield in order to be more visible and accessible to the public.
- The meeting welcomed opportunities at future LGYH Council meetings to discuss with the newly appointed Police and Crime Commissioners in Y&H specific opportunities for collaboration on common issues and to be updated on early progress with regard to Budget and Police and Crime Plans etc. One option may be to invite PCCs to present on their local issues at future LGYH Council meetings.

#### 6.6 Draft LGYH “Corporate Priorities Plan” & Mid Year Budget Update:

- A draft three-year LGYH “Corporate Priorities Plan” and budget monitoring report was presented to Members.
- It was agreed the LGYH “Corporate Priorities Plan” for the three year period (January 2013 to March 2015) and the mid year budget monitoring report was noted and agreed to transfer £88,600 from reserves to fund transitional costs incurred as a result of the LGYH restructure.

#### 6.7 Asylum and Migration in Yorkshire and Humber:

- Cllr Olivia Rowley, Chair of the Y&H Strategic Migration Group and David Brown, Manager, Migration Yorkshire updated Members on asylum and migration developments across the region, including transition in asylum delivery arrangements and changing migrant populations and pressures.
- It was noted that a similar update had been provided to all local authority Chief Executives at their recent meeting where it had been proposed that LGYH Members receive a similar briefing.

- Cllr Rowley highlighted the importance of the Migration Board of local authorities in the region, which provides a forum for all local authorities to collectively discuss and take forward key strategic migration issues and oversee the work of Migration Yorkshire.
- She also informed Members of the concerns about G4S's ability to deliver the new asylum housing contract within the set timeframe and emphasised the issue of disproportionate housing in specific parts of the region.
- It was agreed to notify all Councils in Y&H, drawing attention to the briefing provided to Members and highlighting the potential benefits of working closely with Migration Yorkshire. It was also agreed that Migration Yorkshire should link and feed in more closely with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and Directors of Children's Services networks in the region.

#### 6.8 All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire:

- An update on the work of the APPG for Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire and its recent session, 'Yorkshire's Energy Revolution: Delivering Greener Growth', held on 21 November, was noted by the meeting.
- Members also noted the forthcoming sessions taking place in 2013 – "Skills" on 29 January and "Manufacturing Growth" on 19 March.
- It was also agreed to include the European Funding Programme as one of the priorities for the APPG going forward (as discussed and agreed at another item of business on the agenda).

#### 6.9 Updates and Reports Back:

- LGA Executive & Boards
  - An update report detailing key strategic policy issues recently debated at LGA meetings since the last LGYH Council meeting and the latest iteration of the draft LGA Business Plan for 2013/14 was also noted by Members.
  - The meeting was informed that Carolyn Downs, Chief Executive, LGA would be attending the next meeting of the Regional Chief Executives' Group meeting on 31 January 2013; and Sir Merrick Cockell would be attending the LGYH Council meeting on 23 May 2013.
- Yorkshire and Humber Improvement and European Board Update - Cllr Roger Stone, Chair, Y&H Improvement and European Board provided an update on recent activity of the Board. He highlighted that the new European funding programme, children's services, welfare reform and health were the board's main ongoing priorities.
- Employers' Committee - Cllr Mark Crane, Chair, Employers' Committee updated Members on workforce issues. Members in particular provided feedback to Cllr Crane on their latest expectations around local pay award budgeting for 2013/14; as well as provided views on local applications of the "Living Wage" principles in some local authority areas.

- Y&H Chief Executives' Group – The notes from the last meeting of the Y&H Chief Executives' Group were noted.

**7.0 Yorkshire and Humberside European Regional Development Fund Performance Management Board for North East and West Yorkshire – Report of Councillor Derek Bastiman (Scarborough Borough Council)**

7.1 The last ERDF meeting coincided with Scarborough Borough Council's Cabinet meeting and I was therefore unable to attend.

**8.0 Yorkshire and Humber Member Improvement and European Board – Report of Councillor Derek Bastiman (Scarborough Borough Council) on behalf of himself and Councillor Tracey Simpson-Laing (City of York Council)**

8.1 Due to inclement weather, the last meeting of this Board was cancelled.

**9.0 Recommendation**

9.1 That the report be noted.

**Richard Flinton**

Honorary Secretary to Local Government North Yorkshire and York

Appendix: LEP Board Minutes

## York & North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (YNYLEP)

Friday 19 October 2012 at Solberge Hall, Northallerton

### MINUTES OF MEETING

#### PRESENT

<b>Barry Dodd</b>	Chairman
<b>Nigel Pulling</b>	Yorkshire Agricultural Society
<b>Ruth Smith</b>	PM Management Consultants
<b>Robert Miller</b>	Bluebird Vehicles
<b>Shaun Watts</b>	Chameleon Business Interiors
<b>David Kerfoot</b>	The Kerfoot Group Ltd
<b>Neil Warman</b>	The Nostrum Group
<b>Cllr Stephen Parnaby</b>	East Riding
<b>Cllr John Weighell</b>	North Yorkshire County Council
<b>Cllr Tom Fox</b>	Scarborough
<b>Cllr Stephen Parnaby</b>	East Riding
<b>Cllr Keith Knaggs</b>	Ryedale – also rep. Hambleton & Richmondshire
<b>Pat Oxley</b>	17 Burgate
<b>Chris Knowles-Fitton</b>	Craven – also rep. Harrogate & Selby

#### IN ATTENDANCE

<b>James Farrar</b>	Chief Operating Officer
<b>Richard Flinton</b>	North Yorkshire County Council
<b>Phil Morton</b>	Hambleton District Council
<b>Ron Kirk</b>	Hambleton District Council
<b>Sue Lang</b>	
<b>Tracy Simpson-Laing</b>	York City Council
<b>Andrew Leeming</b>	York, North Yorkshire & East Riding Enterprise Partnership
<b>Tim Frenneaux</b>	York, North Yorkshire & East Riding Enterprise Partnership
<b>Jane Connolly</b>	York, North Yorkshire & East Riding Enterprise Partnership

### 1. Hambleton District Council

Ron Kirk provided an insight into the issues being faced by Hambleton District Council in the current economic climate.

Positives: Unemployment 4.8% (Nationally 7.9%)  
 Business rate collection – 99%  
 Managed workspace – 65% occupied  
 Industrial Unit - 100% occupied  
 Car Parking income – slightly higher than budget  
 Negotiating the sale of land in Leeming Bar industrial park

Negatives: Businesses can not afford their current rents.  
 No enquires are being made of the 7.5 acres of available land at Leeming Bar  
 Housing benefit claims have increased by 15%  
 Despite planning permission for 1036 new homes – little or no building taking place.  
 Difficulty in engaging with small businesses



A discussion was held around the impact of Community Infrastructure Levies and other Public Sector constraints placed on developers and the effect on progress in developing our approved development sites.

**Action – T&F group to pull together a response for LEP on planning issues**

## **2. APOLOGIES**

**David Bruce**

Nestle Uk

**Cllr James Alexander**

City of York Council

**Shaun Watts**

Chameleon Business Interior

## **3. Minutes of last meeting, matters arising**

Minutes agreed

## **4. Growth Hubs**

An update was provided by TF as to what work has been done around growth hubs and mentoring. There are now 60 mentors and the challenge now is to help people understand the benefit of having a mentor.

TF provided a proposal to work with existing managed workspace in the region to create a network of Growth Hubs. These will provide a local access point to the support available.

**Action: T&F group (CM/RS/RM) to assist with creating the evidence base and developing the growth hubs proposal.**

## **5. LEP Resources**

A broad discussion was held on the LEP resources, both financial and personnel, on how to build on progress to date and improve the impact of our communications;

JF requested that he be given a level of sign off for the BIS money so that there was not a need to return to the Board with each request. A report would follow at the next Board meeting which outlined what the money had been allocated to.

DK raised concerns with the Secretariat role and the what support the board should expect to receive. It was felt that this was a good time to review the Secretariat.

RF provided an overview of the process of setting up the LEP and that he agreed with the review, however he felt that things should not be complicated and that there should be caution about what resources are available.

### **Actions:**

**Level of sign off agreed - £5K JF, £10K BD & JF**

**BD/JF to discuss T&F group for review of secretariat.**

## **6. Growing Places Update**

An update was provided on the 'round one' applications which are still in progress. A discussion took place as to how the money was being allocated and the issues that were being encountered with these.

Discussions took place around the investment criteria and flexibility of the fund.

The first draft of the revised prospectus was reviewed and will be signed off by the T&F group.

A request was made that the T&F group is given the authority to be able to sign off the grants rather than having to return to the board. This was approved

**Action: AL and CKF to discuss improvements to prospectus.  
T&F group to decide on what funding is made.**

## **7. Information papers**

Business Support update – paper to be presented in January.

Major Growth Opportunities update -

## **8. AOB**

1. Board Meeting Support – requests have been received for observers to attend LEP Board meetings. It was felt that this could change the dynamics of the group and the ability to talk openly about confidential matters. It was agreed that observers would be by invitation only and that an invitation would be extended to the Leader and CEO of District Council when meeting in that district.

2. Meeting Board frequency – agreed to stay at 6 weekly. Next meeting is 7 December 2012 in Selby.

Meeting closed at 12.45pm