

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NORTH YORKSHIRE AND YORK

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 8 March 2013
at 10.30 am in the Grand Meeting Room, County Hall, Northallerton**

Present:-

| <u>Constituent Authority</u> | <u>Representatives</u> |
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| City of York Council | Councillor Tracey Simpson-Laing (as Substitute for James Alexander) Kersten England (Chief Executive) |
| Craven District Council | Paul Shevlin (Chief Executive) |
| Hambleton District Council | Councillor Ron Kirk (as Substitute for Neville Huxtable) Mr Phil Morton (Chief Executive) |
| Harrogate Borough Council | Councillor Anthony Alton Wallace Sampson (Chief Executive) |
| North York Moors National Park Authority | Mr Jim Bailey |
| North Yorkshire County Council | County Councillor John Weighell (in the Chair) Richard Flinton (Chief Executive of the County Council and Honorary Secretary to LGNY) |
| Richmondshire District Council | Councillor Mick Griffiths (as Substitute for John Blackie) Tony Clark (Managing Director) |
| Ryedale District Council | Councillor Linda Cowling Julian Rudd (Head of Economy and Infrastructure) |
| Scarborough Borough Council | Councillor Tom Fox |
| Selby District Council | 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, North Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel).

Barry Dodd (Chairman, York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership).

James Farrar (Chief Operating Officer, York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership).

Neil Irving (Assistant Director – Policy and Partnerships, North Yorkshire County Council).

Richard Owens (Assistant Director – Integrated Passenger Transport, North Yorkshire County Council).

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

Apologies for Absence:-

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Chris Knowles-Fitton (Craven District Council), Councillor Mark Crane (Selby District Council) and Jim Dillon (Chief Executive, Scarborough Borough Council).

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

162. Minutes

Resolved -

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2012, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

163. LEP Strategic Plan

Considered –

The report of James Farrar (Chief Operating Officer, York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership) advising of the development of a 5 year Growth Strategy. The Growth Strategy would provide opportunity to access various sources of funding and be the strategic framework against which future EU funds would be invested. In developing the Growth Strategy, it was imperative to demonstrate priorities driven by private sector growth opportunities and public/private partnership from the bottom up. The structure for developing the Growth Strategy included various Task and Finish Groups, nominations for which were required by Wednesday 13 March 2013.

The report was introduced by Barry Dodd (Chairman, York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP), assisted by James Farrar.

During Members' discussion, the following issues were highlighted:-

- The Government was putting its weight behind LEPs.
- There was a delicate balance for the LEP to achieve, ie in moving outside its usual comfort zone into services traditionally provided by the public sector, and in getting the private sector involved.
- It was crucial not to under-estimate the amount of work required to deliver the Growth Strategy to Government and in getting funding into the area. North Yorkshire local authorities had the resources to play their part and to positively contribute to the work.

Resolved –

That the report be noted.

164. Representation of Local Authority Leaders on the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership

Considered –

The report of Richard Flinton (Chief Executive, North Yorkshire County Council) asking LGNYY to identify a Leader of a District Council for appointment to a vacancy on the Board of the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). The vacancy had arisen as a consequence of Councillor Keith Knaggs having recently stepped down as Leader of Ryedale District Council. Leaders of other District Councils, who were already serving on the Board, were Councillor Tom Fox (Scarborough Borough Council) and Councillor Chris Knowles-Fitton (Craven District Council).

It was proposed that Councillor Anthony Alton (Harrogate Borough Council) should be appointed to the vacancy, with District Councils' representation on the Board being re-arranged as follows:- Councillor Tom Fox to represent Scarborough and Ryedale; Councillor Anthony Alton to represent Harrogate and Selby; and Councillor Chris Knowles-Fitton to represent Craven, Richmondshire and Hambleton.

Councillors Tom Fox and Anthony Alton each indicated that they recognised the need, and were happy, to liaise with the other Council they would be representing on the Board under the proposed re-arrangement. Paul Shevlin (Chief Executive, Craven District Council) advised that Councillor Chris Knowles-Fitton was keen to continue on the Board and was aware of his role.

Martin Connor (Chief Executive, Selby District Council) advised that Councillor Mark Crane had indicated an interest in standing for appointment, although recognised the calls on his time which included full-time employment.

County Councillor John Weighell enquired whether a District Council Leader on the LEP Board, if unable to attend a meeting, could send a Leader of another Council as Substitute/Alternate. Barry Dodd (Chairman of the LEP Board) responded that the LEP needed the commitment of its main Board members, although the Board could relax its rules to permit Substitution/Alternate arrangements in circumstances of diary clashes but for no other reason. He also advised that a Private Sector member of the Board from York had expressed an interest in assisting with communication with Selby.

During discussion, the general consensus which emerged was that Councillor Anthony Alton should be appointed to the vacancy.

Resolved –

- (a) That Councillor Anthony Alton (Harrogate Borough Council) be appointed to the vacancy on the Board of the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership.

- (b) That District Councils' representation on the Board being re-arranged as follows:- Councillor Tom Fox to represent Scarborough and Ryedale; Councillor Anthony Alton to represent Harrogate and Selby; and Councillor Chris Knowles-Fitton to represent Craven, Richmondshire and Hambleton.

165. Community Safety

Considered –

The PowerPoint presentation by Julia Mulligan (Police and Crime Commissioner) outlining proposals for Community Safety and requesting feedback. The presentation identified the following:- the goal; context; progress to date; future structures; a staged approach; a new model with local communities at its centre; the added value to be provided by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner; the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment as the key output; and the underpinning principles ie the 'red lines'. (A copy of the presentation slides is in the Minute Book.)

During discussion, Julia Mulligan confirmed that there was no suggestion that existing local branding would be affected, although she was keen for areas to share best practice. Members expressed support for the proposals assuming that locality work, as a way of identifying problems and getting things done, was protected.

Resolved –

That the presentation be noted.

166. Rail Issues

Considered –

The report of Richard Owens (Assistant Director – Integrated Passenger Transport, North Yorkshire County Council) providing updates concerning:- High Speed Rail (HS2) and, in particular, the announcement of the preferred route to Leeds and Manchester to operate from 2033; the East Coast Main Line and its importance; and a proposal to devolve the running of 'local' Northern and Transpennine franchises to the new Rail in the North body.

During discussion, Members emphasised the need for investment in the East Coast Main Line, especially as HS2 would not be operational until 2033, only a comparatively modest amount of money was required, and the investment would enable most North Yorkshire residents to travel to London in shorter time than by HS2.

In response to questions, Richard Owens outlined the work being undertaken to improve the Harrogate/York line and offered to circulate the consultants' report once it was received by the County Council.

Resolved –

That the report be noted.

167. Impact of Welfare Benefit Reforms on North Yorkshire Residents

Considered –

The report of Neil Irving (Assistant Director – Policy and Partnerships, North Yorkshire County Council) setting out an estimation of the potential impacts of the benefit changes brought about by the Welfare Reform Act 2012 and associated regulations, identifying work undertaken across the County to date to prepare for the welfare benefit changes, and inviting LGNYY to consider additional actions which could be introduced to address the implications of the welfare benefit changes.

During discussion, Members expressed grave concern at the impact of the various changes on many local government services and on local economies. It was also highlighted that the changes would have multiple impacts on the same families, many of whom were lacking awareness of the reforms. The Police and Crime Commissioner asked to be kept updated.

There was some concern at the proposal to establish a Welfare Reform Strategy Group (North Yorkshire and potentially including the City of York) comprising interested parties, both statutory and voluntary sectors, including the DWP and JobCentre Plus. As an alternative, it was suggested that the necessary tasks would best be undertaken by appropriate existing groups eg the Welfare Benefits Officers' Group.

Members commended the report and the Honorary Secretary offered to send it to Rosie Seymour (Deputy Director, Local Public Service Reform, DCLG) and other central government officials.

Members asked for a further report to be submitted to LGNYY's meeting on 12 July 2013 with an assessment of the situation at that time.

Resolved –

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That a further report be submitted to LGNYY's meeting on 12 July 2013.

168. General Updates

Considered –

The report of the Honorary Secretary providing an update on the Tour de France and recent proceedings of the sub-regional Housing Board, the sub-regional Spatial Planning and Transport Board, the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP Board, and the LGYH Council.

Resolved –

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That it be noted that Peter Dodd (Welcome to Yorkshire) is attending LGNYY's meeting on 4 October 2013 to provide an update about the Tour de France.

169. Arrangements for Future Meetings

Resolved -

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

- 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

170. Business for Future Meetings

Resolved –

- (a) Welfare Benefits Reforms – A report be brought to the meeting on 12 July 2013, in accordance with Minute 167 of 8 March 2013.
- (b) Pooling of Business Rates – A report be brought to a future meeting on the outcome of further research to explore the merits of a North Yorkshire pooling arrangement for the 2014/15 financial year, in accordance with Minute 144 of 28 September 2012.
- (c) Tour de France – An update from Peter Dodd (Welcome to Yorkshire) be presented on 4 October 2013, in accordance with Minute 168 of 8 March 2013.

The meeting concluded at 12.20 pm.

RAG/ALJ