

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NORTH YORKSHIRE AND YORK

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Friday 12 July 2013
at 10.30 am at Craven District Council Offices
1 Belle Vue Square, Broughton Road, Skipton**

Present:-

<u>Constituent Authority</u>	<u>Representatives</u>
City of York Council	Councillor James Alexander Ian Floyd (Director of Customer and Business Support Services) (as Substitute for Kersten England)
Craven District Council	Councillor Chris Knowles-Fitton Paul Shevlin (Chief Executive)
Hambleton District Council	Councillor Mark Robson Phil Morton (Chief Executive)
Harrogate Borough Council	Councillor Alan Skidmore (as Substitute for Anthony Alton) Rachel Bowles (Assistant Chief Executive) (as Substitute for Wallace Sampson)
North York Moors National Park Authority	Mr Malcolm Bowes (as Substitute for 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 Tony Clark (Managing Director)
Ryedale District Council	Councillor Linda Cowling Janet Waggott (Chief Executive)
Scarborough Borough Council	Councillor Tom Fox Hilary Jones (Deputy Chief Executive) (as Substitute for Jim Dillon)
Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority	Mr Peter Charlesworth David Butterworth (Chief Executive)

In Attendance:-

Barry Dodd (LEP Chairman).

James Farrar (LEP Chief Operating Officer).

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

Deputy Chief Constable Tim Madgwick (as Substitute for Julia Mulligan (Police and Crime Commissioner)).

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

Apologies for Absence:-

Apologies for absence were received from Martin Connor (Chief Executive, Selby District Council) and Andy Wilson (Chief Executive, North York Moors National Park Authority).

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

County Councillor John Weighell in the Chair

1. LGNYY Membership

Considered –

The report of the Honorary Secretary listing the names of representatives appointed to LGNYY for the 2013/14 civic year. The meeting was advised orally that, subsequent to preparation of the report, Ryedale District Council and North York Moors National Park Authority had appointed Councillor Caroline Goodrick and Mr Malcolm Bowes respectively as their Substitute representatives for the year.

Resolved –

That the report be noted.

2. Appointment of Chair

Resolved –

That Councillor James Alexander (City of York Council) be appointed Chair, to serve until the Annual Meeting of LGNYY to be held in 2014.

Councillor James Alexander in the Chair

3. Appointment of Vice-Chairs

Resolved –

That County Councillor John Weighell and Councillor Linda Cowling (Ryedale District Council) be appointed Vice-Chairs, to serve until the Annual Meeting of LGNYY to be held in 2014.

4. Minutes

Resolved -

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2013, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

5. Community Safety

Considered –

The report of the Police and Crime Commissioner setting out the Commissioner's approach to commissioning services to enable communities to 'Be Safe, Feel Safe'.

Deputy Chief Constable Tim Madgwick introduced the report, highlighting that Community Safety Partnerships would be re-shaped into two main delivery bodies, namely, a County CSP and City of York CSP, and that there was a desire to support all Districts. Deputy Chief Constable Tim Madgwick and Superintendent Lisa Winward would be attending meetings of all CSPs during September/October 2013 because there was no desire to reduce what worked locally. There was a tension regarding funding around delivery without administration and more detailed discussions would take place at a later date.

During debate:-

- Janet Waggott (Chief Executive, Ryedale District Council) highlighted that everyone was supportive of reducing bureaucracy but that somewhere the costs previously met by the District Councils had to be picked-up. She expressed concern that the cost of administering CSPs at District level would not be picked-up.
- In response to questions, Deputy Chief Constable Tim Madgwick advised that many of the discrete tasks, under each Phase identified in the report, would be performed under him, as part of his new portfolio.
- Deputy Chief Constable Tim Madgwick emphasised the need for appropriate attendance at Forum meetings. He also advised that the Executive Group, at a meeting to be held during the following week, would be asked to consider frequency of its meetings. He further advised that the involvement of the Health and Wellbeing Boards was essential to ensure all components of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment were covered, and that a recent meeting of the City of York Council's Health and Wellbeing Board had been very positive.
- Councillor James Alexander referred to ideas to reduce bureaucracy and costs at York through the use of CCTV. He offered to bring a paper and an officer from the City of York Council to a future LGNYY meeting to share information regarding those suggestions.

Resolved –

- (a) That the following approach principles, as set out in the Police and Crime Commissioner's report, be supported:-
- Services will be delivered by commissioning community outcomes rather than by wholesale grant distribution to organisations.

- Commissioning will be targeted to a number of key strategic themes informed by a Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment process and an overarching Police and Crime Plan.
 - Commissioning bids must clearly demonstrate how successful achievement of the Police and Crime Plan outcomes will be measured, both qualitatively and quantitatively.
 - Commissioning funds will only be used for service delivery investment directly for the community and not for any administration costs.
 - The production of commissioning bids by local districts or other agencies without the necessary infrastructure may receive support from the PCC's Office or North Yorkshire Police.
- (b) That the City of York Council submit a paper to a future meeting of LGNYY to share suggestions for reducing bureaucracy and costs and that the paper be introduced at that meeting by an officer from the City of York Council.

6. LEP 5 Year Strategy - Update

Considered –

The report of LEP Chief Operating Officer providing an update on the development of the LEP Strategy and outlining the emerging model for managing the delivery strategy and various funding streams.

Barry Dodd (LEP Chairman) and James Farrar (LEP Chief Operating Officer) introduced the report. They emphasised that the LEP was a conduit to maximise funding from Central Government but that this would require the LEP, Councils and the National Parks to demonstrate real collaboration. Barry Dodd suggested that the challenge was consensual leadership.

Members acknowledged that the New Homes Bonus was a contentious issue and that the LEP area had to be very clever in its actions to attract maximum Central Government funding. The Chair suggested that arguments to Central Government concerning top-slicing, although recognised by all Political Groups at York, might not come to fruition and that Councils now needed to operate in the way which maximised Central Government funding. Barry Dodd identified that one of the great opportunities for New Homes Bonus was Catterick Garrison and that the LEP was finding it very difficult to engage with the Military.

Members discussed opportunities to strengthen the relationship between local teams. It was highlighted that Economic Development Officers were already meeting on a fortnightly basis. However, Members felt that it would be beneficial if Chief Executives could, as a task and finish piece of work, identify how Councils could work more closely together in order for the area to be, and appear to be, the most collaborative. It was suggested that District Councils' Chief Executives could discuss this on the afternoon of 12 July 2013 and subsequently involve the County Council, the City of York Council, and the National Parks in discussions. Barry Dodd advised that the East Riding of Yorkshire had offered the LEP a secondee and funding and that they were firmly on-board. James Farrar asked Chief Executives to emphasise the need for Economic Development Officers to attend the fortnightly meetings held in York.

Resolved –

- (a) That District Councils' Chief Executives discuss, on the afternoon of 12 July 2013, how Councils can work more collaboratively together and subsequently involve the County Council, the City of York Council, and the National Parks in discussions.
- (b) That Chief Executives emphasise the need for Economic Development Officers to attend the fortnightly meetings held in York.

7. Tour de France - Update

Considered –

The oral report by Richard Flinton (Chief Executive, North Yorkshire County Council) highlighting the need for delivery of the Tour de France to be up-to-pace in the forthcoming few months and also his disappointment that the grant provided by the Government had been accompanied by many conditions which effectively halved the amount which was available to allocate to cover Councils' costs. He highlighted that the costs of highway works had not been taken into account within the Government grant and therefore the County Council felt at risk financially. He also reported that a Governance Group had been established, but had not yet met, to consider delivery across the country. It would be chaired by Sir Rodney Walker from Wakefield and County Councillor John Weighell was a member of the Group.

David Butterworth (Chief Executive, Yorkshire Dales National Park) asked Councils to include the National Parks in discussions and highlighted various items of expenditure which his National Park Authority was incurring in connection with the Tour de France.

Deputy Chief Constable Tim Madgwick reported that the Tour de France would be the most significant policing event that North Yorkshire Police had ever undertaken. There were policing costs which could not be recouped from elsewhere and would therefore have to be borne by the Policing budget.

Paul Shevlin (Chief Executive, Craven District Council) referred to a request from the City of York Council seeking a contribution of £5,000 from each District Council for Tour de France Legacy activity. On behalf of the District Councils, he queried what work would be delivered, what the £5,000 contributions would be used for, and whether it was appropriate for each District Council to pay the same amount. Ian Floyd (Director of Customer and Business Support Services, City of York Council) responded that the Legacy work had already been discussed regionally at a couple of forums. Various Leaders commented that they had received no information about Legacy activity and the Chair suggested that the City of York Council should provide information to ensure all Leaders and Chief Executives were aware of the detail of the work. Members expressed the hope that the Legacy work was picking-up other Tour de France Legacy activities being undertaken by others, eg cycling groups.

A Chief Executive clarified that the formula for allocating Legacy costs between Councils had not been discussed at other meetings. The Chair asked the District Councils to propose such a formula.

Leaders acknowledged that the Governance work about to commence might dictate how the race was undertaken which might consequently have cost implications for Councils.

Members agreed that the event on 5 and 6 July 2014 would be good for the whole region and bring massive benefits to the economy.

Resolved –

- (a) That the City of York Council be requested to ensure that the Leader and Chief Executive of each Council are provided with the detail of the Legacy activity work.
- (b) That the District Councils be asked to consider and propose a formula for allocating the costs of the Legacy activity between Councils.

8. Impact of Welfare Benefit Reforms on North Yorkshire Residents

Considered –

The report of Neil Irving (Assistant Director – Policy and Partnerships, North Yorkshire County Council) providing a summary of the initial impacts of benefit changes brought about by the Welfare Reform Act 2012 and associated regulations.

The report was introduced by Paul Shevlin (Chief Executive, Craven District Council) on behalf of Neil Irving. He highlighted the key issues within the report, namely:- that those in receipt of Welfare Benefits appeared generally to be getting by for now, although it was not known whether they could sustain that across the long term; there was an impact on Citizens Advice Bureaux; and a significant amount of money was being taken out of local economies.

Members advised that they would find it helpful to have a further report in October 2013, and six-monthly thereafter.

Janet Waggott (Chief Executive, Ryedale District Council) referred to actions which had been agreed at a meeting held on 11 July 2013, including the identification of things which were working locally. A Member suggested that it might be helpful to also identify the things which were not working, such as the disproportionate cost of £60,000 to get one long-term unemployed person back into work.

Members expressed support for a suggestion that the DCN and the LGA should be kept informed of actions undertaken in this sub-region with a view to lobbying Government, as appropriate.

Resolved –

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That further updates on the impact of welfare benefit changes in North Yorkshire and York be submitted to LGNYY's meeting on 4 October 2013 and six-monthly thereafter.
- (c) That information be shared between Councils concerning things which are not working.
- (d) That the DCN and the LGA be kept informed of actions undertaken in this sub-region with a view to lobbying Government, as appropriate.

9. Pooling of Business Rates - Update

Considered –

The oral report of Paul Shevlin (Chief Executive, Craven District Council) providing an update concerning the pooling of Business Rates.

Paul Shevlin highlighted that, in the Leeds City Region Pool, £1M had been saved which would otherwise have gone to Government. There was opportunity for a similar approach to be taken in North Yorkshire. Pixel had been engaged to undertake work in this area and were due to report in autumn 2013. Pixel was also aware of certain quirks of the system ie uncertainty about whether Selby was eligible to join the North Yorkshire pool as it was technically cut off from the North Yorkshire area as Harrogate and City of York were already members of the LCR Pool, and that Craven was only able to join if Richmondshire decided to join, the determinant being that councils had to be geographically connected.

Members expressed support for a Member's suggestion that the quirks in the system, to which Paul Shevlin referred, should be brought to the Government's attention.

Resolved –

That Paul Shevlin be requested to draft a letter to Government to highlight the quirks in the system and circulate the draft letter to other Councils before finalising and posting it.

10. Health Funding

Considered –

The oral report by Councillor John Blackie (Leader of Richmondshire District Council) expressing concern about resourcing of rural health services.

Councillor John Blackie referred to two cases causing concern about resourcing of rural health services. Firstly, NHS England intended to withdraw the Minimum Practice Income Guarantee (MPIG) from the funding which GP Practices received to deliver services. MPIG was currently the compensatory payment to recognise that it cost more to deliver services across a sparsely populated area compared to an urban area. The reason provided, by the Secretary of State for Health, for the withdrawal of MPIG was to ensure equitable funding for GP Practices. However, the implication in North Yorkshire would be to threaten the sustainability of various rural GP Practices which, if they closed, could result in patients having to make a round trip of 50 miles to visit a GP. The second issue giving cause for concern was the Friarage Hospital in Northallerton, which provided services to residents in Richmondshire, Hambleton, Harrogate and Ryedale. With regard to the Friarage Hospital, the Secretary of State for Health had said that he would not sanction a review, but instead would go to consultation and he had made it clear that the consultation document could be amended to satisfy all concerns. However, the subsequent consultation document had included none of the options which supporters of the Hospital wished to see. Councillor John Blackie advised that he was disappointed that the Secretary of State for Health had not made sure that his own advice had been followed. Councillor John Blackie was similarly disappointed that a report from Deloitte was not being followed. He asked LGNY to agree to send representations to local MPs and the wider NHS network to state that these were issues of concern.

Councillor Tom Fox (Scarborough Borough Council) advised that there were two GP Practices in the Scarborough Borough area whose funding would be severely detrimentally affected if MPIG was withdrawn. Each Practice might have to reduce to one GP. He added that Scarborough Borough Council had already agreed to write to the Secretary of State for Health. Councillor Tom Fox highlighted that the funding which would be re-distributed on the withdrawal of MPIG would result in an additional £8.50 per Practice which, he argued, would make no difference to those other Practices. He expressed support for Councillor John Blackie's proposal, emphasising that the evidence was that MPIG supported rural communities and access to amenities.

Mr Peter Charlesworth (Chairman, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority) advised that his Authority had already written to local MPs and that very helpful replies had been received. He urged other Members to support Councillor John Blackie's proposal.

Councillor James Alexander (City of York Council) highlighted that York and Bradford were hardest hit in the North of England. He advised that he would need to see the affect on funding formulas before agreeing to sign-up to a letter. Other Leaders commented that they would wish to see the letter before agreeing to sign-up. County Councillor John Weighell highlighted that, whilst he fully supported the proposal, he would first like to see all relevant information, including a list of the other GP Practices whose finances would be detrimentally affected by the withdrawal of MPIG. A Member commented that many GPs now worked only three days a week.

Resolved –

That it be agreed, in principle, to lobby local MPs and the wider NHS network and that Councillor Tom Fox be asked to draft the letter in consultation with Councillor John Blackie and that the draft subsequently be circulated to other LGNYY Members for comments before being finalised and posted.

11. Appointment of Representatives to Serve on Outside Bodies

Considered –

The report of the Honorary Secretary inviting LGNYY to appoint Member representatives to serve on outside bodies for 2013/14.

Councillor Jim Clark (Harrogate Borough Council) was proposed and seconded for appointment as the District Councils' representative on North Yorkshire Pension Fund Committee. No nomination was submitted for appointment as the District Councils' Substitute representative on that Committee. Councillor John Blackie offered to submit a Richmondshire nomination for the Substitute seat to LGNYY's next meeting for appointment.

Resolved –

- (a) That Councillor Jim Clark (Harrogate Borough Council) be re-appointed as the District Councils' representative on North Yorkshire Pension Fund Committee, to serve until LGNYY's Annual Meeting to be held in 2014.
- (b) That Councillor John Blackie submit a nomination from Richmondshire District Council to LGNYY's next meeting for appointment as the District Councils' Substitute representative on North Yorkshire Pension Fund Committee.

- (c) That no appointment be made to Yorkshire and Humber Strategic Migration Group for 2013/14.
- (d) That the continuing appointments on other bodies, as set out at paragraph 3.1 of the report, be noted.

12. General Updates

Considered –

The report of the Honorary Secretary providing brief updates on recent deliberations of the following:- the Sub-Regional Housing Board; the Sub-Regional Spatial Planning and Transport Board; the Yorkshire and Humber European Regional Development Fund Performance Management Board for North East and West Yorkshire; and the Yorkshire and Humber Member Improvement and European Board.

Richard Flinton (Honorary Secretary), in introducing the report, highlighted the underspend on the ERDF Programme.

Councillor James Alexander expressed his thanks to County Councillor John Weighell for the way in which he had chaired LGNYY during the previous year.

Resolved –

That the report be noted.

13. Arrangements for Future Meetings

Resolved -

- (a) That the following, previously agreed, arrangements for LGNYY meetings be noted:-
 - 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.
- (b) That the Honorary Secretary be requested to commence work to identify arrangements for meetings of LGNYY to be held during the 2014 calendar year.

14. Business for Next Meeting

Resolved –

- (a) That the following be submitted to LGNYY's meeting on Friday 4 October 2013:-
 - (i) Tour de France – Update by Peter Dodd (Welcome to Yorkshire), as per Resolution 168 of 8 March 2013.

- (ii) Impact of Welfare Benefit Changes in North Yorkshire and York, as per Resolution 8 of 12 July 2013.
 - (iii) Appointment of District Councils' Substitute Representative on North Yorkshire Pension Fund Committee, as per Resolution 11 of 12 July 2013.
- (b) That the following be submitted to future LGNYY meetings:-
- (i) Pooling of Business Rates - A report on the outcome of further research to explore the merits of a North Yorkshire pooling arrangement for the 2014/15 financial year, as per Resolution 144 of 28 September 2012.
 - (ii) Community Safety – Suggestions for reducing bureaucracy and costs – A report from the City of York Council, as per Resolution 5 of 12 July 2013.

The meeting concluded at 12.30 pm.

RAG/ALJ