

# Local Government North Yorkshire and York

4 October 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 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](mailto:colin.dales@richmondshire.gov.uk)

#### **2.1 Progress to date/update**

- (a) North Yorkshire Home Choice (choice based lettings) has concluded its review after the first year of operation. A revised policy has been agreed by all current partners and a new / revised policy will become operational at the end of September.
- (b) Further work has been undertaken to strengthen the links between housing investment priorities and economic priorities of the new (LEP) Growth Strategy. The Local Government York and NY Housing Board has previously agreed that the link between housing and the LEP needed to be strengthened via the new Growth Strategy. The Housing Board will receive an update report on 23 September articulating what the key links are and highlighting new / emerging housing investment “asks”. This will ensure that key housing messages cross over into the Growth Plan and vice versa, thus ensuring close alignment of these two key strategic priorities. This will ensure that funding opportunities for York and NY are maximised as the new growth funding landscape develops. Further updates will be given.
- (c) The North Yorkshire Housing Strategy post, currently funded by local authorities, has been reviewed and the Local Government NY & York Housing Board has agreed that the part-time post will continue to be supported beyond 31 March 2013 on a two-year fixed-term contract basis. The LEP has agreed

to provide funding to make the post full-time and an appointment has been made. The new NY Housing Strategy Manager is Sarah Hall. Sarah is currently Selby District Council's Rural Housing Enabler and has a wealth of strategic housing experience. Sarah will take the lead in strengthening the links between economic growth and housing growth / improvement.

- (d) The Young People's Pathway (HUB) services are currently being reviewed. These services cater for homeless young people and bring key agencies / funding together including Supporting People, local authorities and Children Services. It is hoped that the review will address some operational and resource issues which are currently being experienced. This issue is currently being considered by the North Yorkshire Supporting People Commissioning Body.

## 2.2 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. However, housing market conditions and associated confidence appear to be improving and it is hoped that this barrier begins to lower in the proceeding months.
- (b) Lack of suitable land continues to be a barrier to the delivery of affordable housing although local authority planning frameworks are continuing to develop with a growing number receiving or anticipating Planning Inspectorate approval. This progress should ease housing land supply in general terms.
- (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.

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

*(A report was awaited at the time when LGNYY Agenda papers were printed and circulated.)*

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

### 4.1 The PMB met in July 2013 when the following issues were discussed:-

- It was reported that, in May 2013, all English programmes were re-valued by a combination of the euro value of aggregate claims certified by the Certifying Authority and the application of the appropriate yearly forecast rate to

undeclared expenditure. This has resulted in a £16.7M increase in the YH programme allocation to £488.4M. The revaluation has increased the Yorkshire and Humber area by £8.9M from £250.6M to £259.5m.

- We were asked to approve two projects into the programme to progress to the submission of full business case subject to the conditions specified. The two projects are as follows:-

1. Willerby and Derringham Flood Alleviation Scheme
2. LCR - Green Business Support (this project will help SME's to understand and adopt new environmental technologies which reduce resource impact on the environment)

4.2 The PMB met again on 18 September 2013 but I was unable to attend.

#### **5.0 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)**

5.1 The Board met on 18 September 2013 when the following issues were discussed:-

- It was agreed that Cllr Roger Stone be appointed as Chairman of the Board and that Cllr Derek Bastiman be appointed as Vice Chairman of the Board.
- We received an update on recent activity by the Yorkshire and Humber Lead Members' Network for Children and were provided with the Conference report on the Child Sexual Exploitation Conference. Key themes and messages were:-
  - Partnership---- in particular, partnerships with schools, parents and young people
  - Training and Development
  - Prevention-----and building resilience
  - Communication and information sharing
  - Practice----- the notion of professional curiosity
- We received an update on activity relating to the Directors of Public Health and Wellbeing agenda and were provided with a copy letter that was sent to the Secretary of State on future support and funding on adult social care, following a request by LGYH Improvement and European Board.
- Cllr Roger Stone gave an update to members on the EU2020 and Electric Vehicles initiative, an innovative approach to utilising electric vehicles in public service delivery in the Yorkshire and Humber Region.
- Cllr Roger Stone has inspired Local Authority partners to come together with a view to tackling major problems facing local areas, including CO2 emissions, carbon reduction, rising cost of fuel, and social and environmental impacts of traditional transport. Through partnership working and lobbying, the Yorkshire and Humber region is on a mission to ensure more vehicles are electric/sustainable.

- Cllr Derek Bastiman updated members on the Committee of the Region's Youth on the Move programme, where the consensus of opinion was as follows:- Education and youth employment should be retained as priorities, if not strengthened; Education and youth employment could be presented as factors for growth and development, creativity and renewal and hence be tied more strongly to other topic areas; Many other member states called for a greater participatory role of local and regional authorities; Young people are recognised as being important constituents and drivers of economic growth as well as part of the social fabric and their active participation in the education sector and labour market must be promoted, secured and rewarded.

## **6.0 Recommendation**

6.1 That the report be noted.

**Richard Flinton**

Honorary Secretary to Local Government North Yorkshire and York