

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NORTH YORKSHIRE AND YORK

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 7 March 2014
at 10.00 am at The Hawkhills, Easingwold**

Present:-

<u>Constituent Authority</u>	<u>Representatives</u>
City of York Council	Councillor James Alexander (in the Chair) Phil Witcherley (Head of Policy) (as Substitute for Kersten England)
Craven District Council	Councillor Richard Foster (as Substitute for Chris Knowles-Fitton) Paul Shevlin (Chief Executive)
Hambleton District Council	Councillor Mark Robson 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 Richard Flinton (Chief Executive of the County Council and Honorary Secretary to LGNYY)
Richmondshire District Council	Councillor Mick Griffiths (as Substitute for John Blackie) Tony Clark (Managing Director)
Ryedale District Council	Councillor Linda Cowling Janet Waggott (Chief Executive)
Scarborough Borough Council	Councillor Tom Fox Jim Dillon (Chief Executive)
Selby District Council	Councillor Mark Crane Mary Weastell (Chief Executive)
Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority	Mr Peter Charlesworth David Butterworth (Chief Executive)

In Attendance:-

Emma Smiles (Development Manager, Federation of Small Businesses).

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

Sue Lang (Regeneration and Funding Group Manager, East Riding of Yorkshire Council).

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

Graham Titchener (Regional Director, Cycle Yorkshire).

Neil Irving (Assistant Director (Policy and Partnerships), 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 Stephen Parnaby (East Riding of Yorkshire Council), Julia Mulligan (Police and Crime Commissioner) and Andy Wilson (Chief Executive, North York Moors National Park Authority).

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

35. Minutes

Resolved -

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2013, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

36. Tour de France

Considered –

(a) Delivery

The oral report of Richard Flinton (Chief Executive, North Yorkshire County Council) concerning delivery of the Tour de France 2014. Overall, satisfactory progress was being achieved. Key issues being actively addressed included crowd numbers and the intention to have further discussions with the Government about costs which exceeded budget.

(b) Legacy

The written report of Graham Titchener (Regional Director, Cycle Yorkshire) concerning the Tour de France legacy. Actions and suggestions, as outlined in the report, aimed to ensure that the benefits of the Tour de France 2014 were experienced across the region over the forthcoming 10+ years. These included a further cycling event for 2015 covering the east coast and South Yorkshire. It was also reported that a Members' Working Group was considering cycle tourism and would be liaising with those working on the legacy.

Resolved –

That the reports be noted.

37. Federation of Small Businesses

Considered -

The presentation by Emma Smailes (Development Manager, Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)) concerning the FSB's objectives and highlighting the benefits of small businesses to the local economy. Authorities' obligations under the Social Value Act 2012 were highlighted and Emma Smailes suggested that Social Value should be taken into account in making procurement decisions. The practice of some Councils, of including, within their payment terms, the requirement that contractors must pay all sums due to any relevant sub-contractor within 30 days of receipt of a valid invoice, was commended by Emma Smailes. Members commented that North Yorkshire Police should be encouraged to adopt that practice. Emma Smailes advised that DCLG was due to publish new guidance during late March 2014 and that Councils were welcome to put forward articles for inclusion the FSB's regional magazine.

Members and Barry Dodd (Chairman of York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership) commended the work of the FSB. Members advised that they understood the FSB's issue regarding procurement. They asked Emma Smailes to identify how else Councils could help small businesses. Emma Smailes advised that it would be very helpful if Councils could improve their consultation with small businesses. She suggested that there should be a joined-up consultation process for small businesses to sign up to.

Members commented that they wished to consider, at a future LGNYY meeting, how business rates should be calculated in future, with any suggestions being supportive of the FSB's position. The aim would be for LGNYY to consider making a submission to Government.

Resolved -

That a paper be submitted to a future LGNYY meeting concerning how business rates should be calculated in future, with any suggestions being supportive of the FSB's position.

38. Impact of Welfare Benefit Reforms on North Yorkshire Residents

Considered -

The written report of Neil Irving (the County Council's Assistant Director - Policy and Partnerships) providing an update on the impacts of benefit changes brought about by the Welfare Reform Act 2012 and associated regulations.

During debate, the following issues were highlighted:- more officer time was being used for the purpose of providing advice to prevent people getting into a spiralling situation and eviction; advice provided across the sub-region needed to be consistent, including advice provided by CABs; there was a risk that Disabled Facilities Grants were being used to adapt houses which would be too big for grant recipients to remain in in future; Districts which did not have a Credit Union presence should approach the lead officers within District Councils in areas where Credit Unions currently operated to seek advice about Credit Union facilities. Leaders had a political debate about the use of rent caps, during which varying views were expressed.

Note: During the discussion about rent caps, County Councillor John Weighell and Councillor Linda Cowling each expressed an interest as a private landlord.

Resolved -

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That a further update report concerning the impact of Welfare Benefit Reforms on North Yorkshire residents be submitted to LGNYY's meeting on 3 October 2014 and annually thereafter.

39. North Yorkshire Community Plan

Considered -

The written report of Neil Irving (the County Council's Assistant Director - Policy and Partnerships) seeking final comments on the draft Community Plan. The draft Community Plan had been updated to reflect comments received during the partner consultation which ended on 17 January 2014.

In response to a question, Neil Irving advised that Priority 3 of the draft Community Plan did not mention obesity because the view of Public Health was that smoking and alcohol were more significant issues.

Resolved -

That the draft Community Plan 2014/17, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be submitted to the meeting of the County Council's Executive on 8 April 2014 and thereafter to the meeting of the full County Council on 21 May 2014 for formal approval.

40. General Updates

Considered –

The written report of Richard Flinton (Honorary Secretary) which provided a brief update on the recent deliberations of the Sub-Regional Housing Board, the Sub-Regional Spatial Planning and Transport Board, and the Yorkshire and Humber Member Improvement and European Board.

Resolved –

That the report be noted.

41. Arrangements for Future Meetings

Resolved –

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

- Friday 18 July 2014, 10.30 am, Ryedale District Council offices.
- Friday 3 October 2014, 10.30 am, Richmondshire District Council offices.
- Friday 5 December 2014, 10.30 am, Scarborough Borough Council offices.

42. Business for Next Meeting

Resolved -

That a report from the Chairman of the Police and Crime Panel, concerning the payment of allowances for Independent Co-opted Members of that Panel, be submitted to LGNYY's meeting on 18 July 2014.

43. Other Business – Closure of HM Prison Askham Grange

Considered –

The oral report of Councillor James Alexander advising that he was meeting the Secretary of State for Justice to talk about HM Prison Askham Grange. He sought the support of other Leaders to advise the Secretary of State for Justice that Leaders wanted the closure decision to be looked at. Other Leaders indicated support for the request.

Resolved –

That Councillor James Alexander convey, to the Secretary of State for Justice, that Leaders of North Yorkshire Councils would like the decision to close HM Prison Askham Grange to be looked at.

The meeting concluded at 11.10 am.

RAG/JR