

# Local Government North Yorkshire and York

Please note change of time.  
This meeting will now start at 10am and finish by 11am

**Meeting of  
Local Government North Yorkshire and York** to be held on  
**Friday 7 March 2014** at  
**10.00 am** at  
**The Hawkhill (double training room), Easingwold, YO61 3EG**  
*(Location plan attached)*

## **A G E N D A**

1. **Minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2013 and matters arising.**  
**(Pages 1 to 6)**
2. **Tour de France:-**
  - (a) **Delivery** – Verbal report from Richard Flinton (Chief Executive, North Yorkshire County Council).
  - (b) **Legacy** – Report of Graham Titchener (Regional Director, Tour de France Legacy).**(Pages 7 to 35)**
3. **Federation of Small Businesses** – Report of, and PowerPoint presentation by, Emma Smailes (Development Manager, Federation of Small Businesses).  
**(Pages 36 to 44)**
4. **Impact of Welfare Benefit Reforms on North Yorkshire Residents** – Report of Neil Irving (Assistant Director - Policy and Partnerships, North Yorkshire County Council).  
**(Pages 45 to 56)**
5. **North Yorkshire Community Plan** – Report of Neil Irving (Assistant Director - Policy and Partnerships, North Yorkshire County Council).  
**(Pages 57 to 74)**

6. **General Updates** – Report of the Honorary Secretary.

**(Pages 75 to 81)**

7. **Arrangements for Future Meetings:-**

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

8. **Business for Next Meeting:-**

- Police and Crime Panel – Payment of Allowances for Independent Co-opted Members – Report of County Councillor Carl Les (Chairman of the Panel).

9. **Any other business.**

**Richard Flinton**  
Honorary Secretary

County Hall  
Northallerton

27 February 2014  
RAG

Note: This meeting is scheduled to finish by 11am.

## LGNYY Membership as at 24 February 2014

| Constituent Authority                    | Representative  |
|--|---|
| City of York Council                     | Member:- Councillor James Alexander<br>Substitute:- Councillor Tracey Simpson-Laing |
| Craven District Council                  | Member:- Councillor Chris Knowles-Fitton<br>Substitute:- Councillor Richard Foster  |
| Hambleton District Council               | Member:- Councillor Mark Robson<br>Substitute:- Councillor Peter Wilkinson          |
| Harrogate Borough Council                | Member:- Councillor Anthony Alton<br>Substitute:- Councillor Alan Skidmore          |
| North York Moors National Park Authority | Member:- Mr Jim Bailey<br>Substitute:- Mr Malcolm Bowes                             |
| North Yorkshire County Council           | Member:- County Councillor John Weighell<br>Substitute:- County Councillor Carl Les |
| Richmondshire District Council           | Member:- Councillor John Blackie<br>Substitute:- Councillor Mick Griffiths          |
| Ryedale District Council                 | Member:- Councillor Mrs Linda Cowling<br>Substitute:- Councillor Caroline Goodrick  |
| Scarborough Borough Council              | Member:- Councillor Tom Fox<br>Substitute:- Councillor Derek Bastiman               |
| Selby District Council                   | Member:- Councillor Mark Crane<br>Substitute:- Councillor Gillian Ivey              |
| Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority  | Member:- Mr Peter Charlesworth<br>Substitute:- Mr Harold Brown                      |

Paragraph 13.2 of the Constitution states that the Chief Executive of each constituent Authority shall be entitled to attend, but not vote at, each meeting of the LGNYY, as may any other authorised officer from any constituent Authority.

# the Hawkhills

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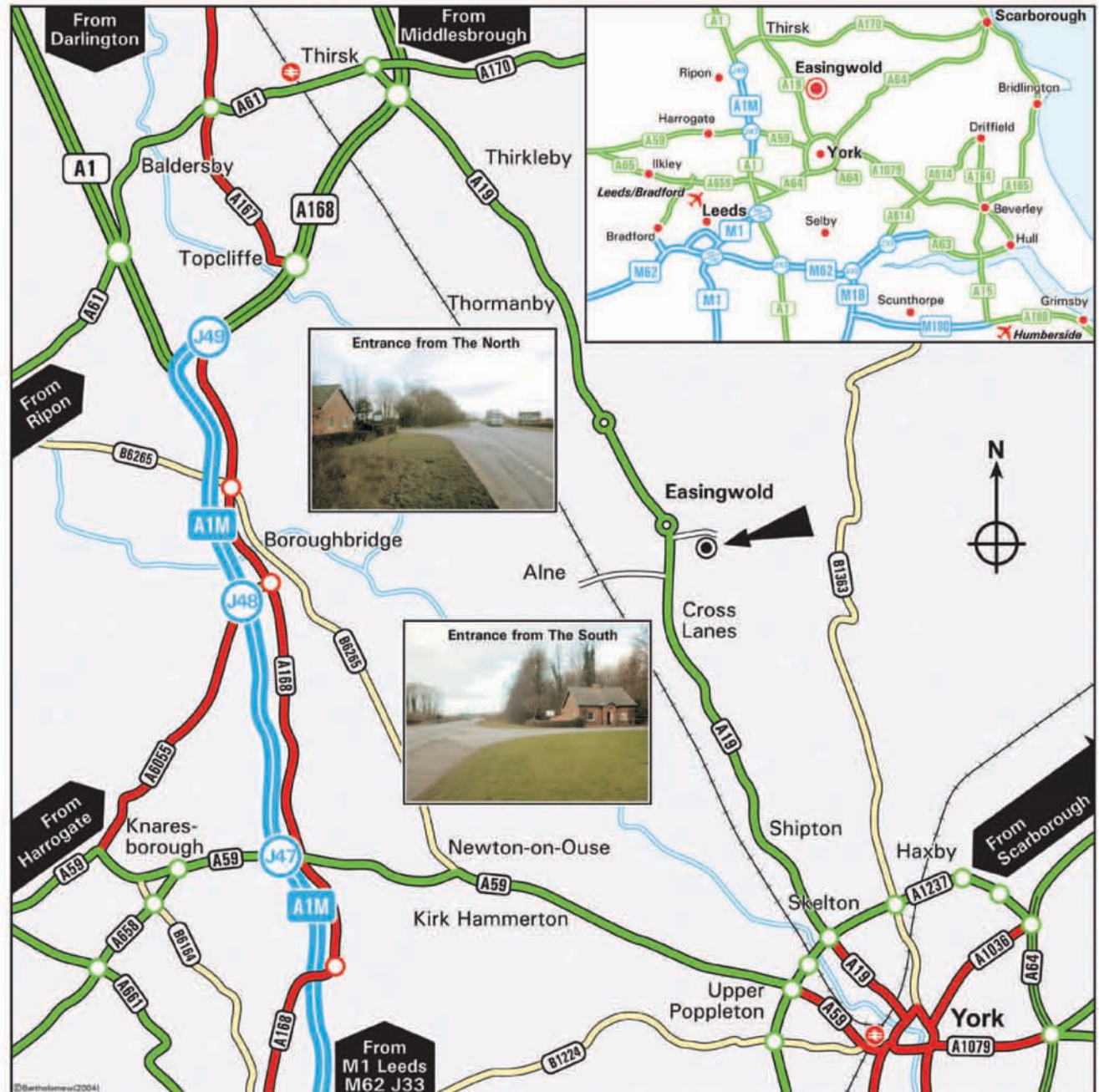
The College site at the Hawkhills is situated near Easingwold on the A19, 12 miles north of York and 10 miles south of Thirsk.

**By rail** The nearest railway station is York.

**By car from the North** A1 - exit A1 at A168 junction signpost Teeside (A19). Pick up A19 towards York. Keep on A19 for approximately 10 miles - follow signs to York - go straight over the first roundabout, at the second roundabout bear right; the Hawkhills is immediately on the left.

**By car from the South** M1 (and A1) - Stay on the M1 until it merges with the A1. Keep on A1 - exist onto A64 signpost York and Tadcaster, about 1 mile on from M1. Exit left onto the A1237 signpost Thirsk and Harrogate. At fourth roundabout on A1237, turn left onto the A19 (Thirsk). Carry on for approximately 9 miles. The Hawkhills is on the right-hand side, 200m before the Easingwold bypass roundabout.

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## LOCAL GOVERNMENT NORTH YORKSHIRE AND YORK

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 6 December 2013  
at 10.30 am at Hambleton District Council Offices**

**Present:-**

| <u>Constituent Authority</u>             | <u>Representatives</u>   |
|--|--|
| City of York Council                     | Councillor James Alexander (in the Chair)  |
| Craven District Council                  | Councillor Chris Knowles-Fitton<br>Paul Shevlin (Chief Executive)  |
| Hambleton District Council               | Councillor Mark Robson<br>Phil Morton (Chief Executive)  |
| Harrogate Borough Council                | Councillor Alan Skidmore (as Substitute for Anthony Alton)<br>Wallace Sampson (Chief Executive)                            |
| North York Moors National Park Authority | Mr Jim Bailey  |
| North Yorkshire County Council           | County Councillor John Weighell<br>Richard Flinton (Chief Executive of the County Council and Honorary Secretary to LGNYY) |
| Richmondshire District Council           | Tony Clark (Managing Director)   |
| Ryedale District Council                 | Councillor Linda Cowling<br>Janet Waggott (Chief Executive)  |
| Scarborough Borough Council              | Councillor Tom Fox<br>Jim Dillon (Chief Executive)   |
| Selby District Council                   | Mary Weastell (Chief Executive)  |
| Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority  | Mr Peter Charlesworth<br>David Butterworth (Chief Executive)   |

**In Attendance:-**

Julia Mulligan (Police and Crime Commissioner).

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

Nicky Roche (Chief Executive) and Alex Nancolas (Command, Control and Communication Manager (C3 Manager)), TdFHUB2014Ltd.

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

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

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 John Blackie (Richmondshire District Council), Councillor Mark Crane (Selby District Council), Kersten England (Chief Executive, City of York Council) and Andy Wilson (Chief Executive, North York Moors National Park Authority).

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**Copies of all documents are considered in the Minute Book**

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**27. Minutes**

**Resolved -**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2013, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**28. North Yorkshire Safer Communities Forum – Future Role and Remit**

Considered –

The report of Julia Mulligan (Police and Crime Commissioner) which outlined arrangements for a York and North Yorkshire Community Safety Board responsible for strategic planning and priorities driven by the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment, and two CSPs (ie North Yorkshire CSP and Safer York) each to provide, within its respective area, co-ordination and oversight of delivery against agreed strategy set by the Board. A copy of the terms of reference for the Board and the North Yorkshire CSP were appended to the report.

The Police and Crime Commissioner, in introducing her report, asked Councils to provide comments on the proposals by mid-January.

The Police and Crime Commissioner highlighted that only Scarborough had provided input for the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment, with the deadline for responses having now passed. Members commented that it was important that all areas input into the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment as it was the evidence base for future decisions. They queried whether there was opportunity to provide input at this stage. The Police and Crime Commissioner advised that she would check the situation with the Police Service and advise Members accordingly as a matter of urgency.

**Resolved –**

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That the opportunity for Councils to provide comments by mid-January, on the proposals within the report submitted to today's meeting, be noted.

- (c) That the Police and Crime Commissioner provide clarification, as a matter of urgency, about whether Councils can, at this stage, provide input into the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment.

## **29. York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP Update**

### **(a) Governance Arrangements**

Considered -

The written report of James Farrar (LEP Chief Operating Officer) which proposed governance arrangements for delivering the LEP strategy and securing maximum investment from Government.

Members commented that helpful discussions had been held with the LEP Chief Operating Officer.

#### **Resolved –**

- (i) That Chief Executives, including the Chief Executive of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council, discuss:-
- arrangements for membership of the Infrastructure Programme Board to reflect the breadth of potential infrastructure investments;
  - arrangements for communication with Leaders and Chief Executives which take on board the East Riding of Yorkshire Council; and
  - future arrangements to ensure Leaders are more engaged with the LEP.
- (ii) That clarification be provided about substitution arrangements for circumstances when an elected Member on the LEP Board is unable to attend a meeting and his/her normal Substitute was also unavailable.

### **(b) Growth Deal**

Considered -

The written report of James Farrar (Chief Operating Officer) which set out the key elements of proposals forming the LEP's asks to Government to secure a share of £2.1bn Single Local Growth Fund.

#### **Resolved –**

- (i) That the first draft Growth Deal submission be emailed to Members after it has been updated to reflect the guidance to be received on 15 December but before it is submitted to Government by the deadline of 19 December 2013.
- (ii) That a half-day be arranged for February/March 2013 for a Leaders and LEP Board joint meeting.

**(c) Autumn Statement**

Considered -

The oral report of James Farrar (LEP Chief Operating Officer) advising that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his Autumn Statement of the previous day, had announced that LEPs would not be receiving funding from the New Homes Bonus. As a consequence, LEP money was now for Capital purposes only, except for a very small amount.

Members commented that the implications needed to be discussed, in particular for projects the LEP was intending to fund from New Homes Bonus money. It was also commented that the interrelationship between the Accountable Body the LEP Board needed to be thought through, that the LEP Board needed an understanding of local government finance, and that clear ground rules needed to be set down from the outset. County Councillor John Weighell also highlighted a need to examine match funding for the administration of the LEP. (*See also Minute 34.*)

**Resolved –**

That the report be noted.

**(d) Chairmanship of the LEP Board**

Considered -

The oral report of Richard Flinton (Chief Executive, North Yorkshire County Council) seeking consideration a process for a formal appraisal of the LEP Chair, to be undertaken prior to the next appointment to that office.

**Resolved –**

That County Councillor John Weighell and Councillor Mark Crane (Selby District Council) be nominated to be involved in an appraisal of the LEP Chair, alongside the LEP Vice-Chair and any private sector LEP members whose names might be put forward for this purpose.

**30. Tour de France 2014**

Considered –

The presentation by Nicky Roche (Chief Executive, TdFHUB2014Ltd) which outlined the following:- the scale of the event; the dates and distances of the three stages between Leeds and London; funding; the work of TdFHUB2014Ltd; governance arrangements; the economic and social benefits; risks which needed to be managed; the impact on “business as usual”; planning, communication and engagement to mitigate the impact; and arrangements for testing and exercising. (A copy of the slides used in the presentation is in the Minute Book).

Members commented that local authorities were contributing additional funding on works which were not recognised within the £27m which was going through the hub.



Members commended the progress which TdFHUB2014Ltd was making under the leadership of Nicky Roche and thanked her for offering to visit Councils.

**Resolved –**

That the presentation be noted.

**31. North Yorkshire Community Plan**

Considered –

The report of Neil Irving (Assistant Director (Policy and Partnerships), North Yorkshire County Council) which provided an update on the development of the North Yorkshire Community Plan 2014/17 and sought comments on the draft of the Community Plan 2014/17 as part of the consultation process.

In response to Members' questions, it was confirmed that the statutory duty, to have a Community Plan, continued, although statutory guidance no longer existed. It was also confirmed that Public Health colleagues were involved in the Plan.

Mr Jim Bailey (Chairman, North York Moors National Park Authority) urged that the environment should not be forgotten in striving to focus on clear priorities.

**Resolved –**

- (a) That the update be noted.
- (b) That Members' comments on the consultation draft of the Community Plan 2014/17, as recorded in the preamble to this Minute, be noted.
- (c) That the final draft be submitted to LGNY's meeting to be held on 7 March 2013.

**32. General Updates**

Considered –

The report of Richard Flinton (Honorary Secretary) which provided a brief update on the recent deliberations of the Sub-Regional Housing Board.

It was highlighted that, within the Chancellor's Autumn Statement of the previous day, it had been proposed that housing developments of ten or few units would not qualify as affordable housing and that such a proposal was significant for deeply rural areas.

**Resolved –**

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That the Sub-Regional Housing Board prepare a collective response, on behalf of Local Government North Yorkshire and York, to the proposal that housing development of ten or few units shall not qualify as affordable housing.

### **33. Arrangements for Future Meetings**

#### **Resolved –**

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

- Friday 7 March 2014, 10.30am, Selby District Council offices.
- Friday 18 July 2014, 10.30am, Ryedale District Council offices.
- Friday 3 October 2014, 10.30am, Richmondshire District Council's offices.
- Friday 5 December 2014, 10.30am, Scarborough Borough Council's offices.

### **34. Business for Next Meeting**

#### **Resolved -**

That the following business be submitted to LGNY's meeting on 7 March 2014:-

- Federation of Small Businesses - Procurement and fast payments and the North Yorkshire economy in general (*as per Minute 26*).
- Impact of Welfare Benefit Reforms on North Yorkshire Residents – Update (*as per Minute 22*).
- Final draft of the North Yorkshire Community Plan 2014/17 (*as per Minute 31*).
- Future revenue to support the LEP and funding arrangements for projects which were intended, prior to the Chancellor's Autumn Statement, to be funded by New Homes Bonus money via the LEP.

The meeting concluded at 12.35 pm.

RAG/ALJ



To: LGNYY members

## **The Tour de France Legacy – Cycle Yorkshire.**

### **Introduction**

This meeting is to provide an opportunity to discuss and further realise the benefits for the Tour de France Grand Départ legacy, Cycle Yorkshire, and suggestions to ensure it is successful for everyone across this region. An important starting point and message is this will not be just a large two day event where the benefits will only be felt within the areas along the route. Cycle Yorkshire as also shown in the arts and cultural festival will benefit the whole region and beyond. To ensure that Cycle Yorkshire is successful this can only be assured if our communities and populations embrace this, with the inspiration that the Grand Départ will surely bring with critical support from partners, organisations and of course Local Authorities.

This of course is not just about delivering a legacy of le Tour but more importantly using this once in a lifetime opportunity to help deliver solutions to the various issues we all face across the main themes including the economy, health, environment, tourism and helping to create stronger communities all through cycling. For example supporting North Yorkshire Sports (NYS) Community Games initiative and the TdF cycling challenge theme around the Schools Games on the 1st of April and partnering up at the Great Yorkshire show with NYS, Welcome to Yorkshire, CTC and Sustrans.

### **Background**

The promise of a worthy legacy was a significant part of the bid that helped secure the Tour but further to that we all wanted to make one worthy of such a large sporting event but where the benefits are felt across the region and built upon over this next 10 plus years.

Given Yorks successes over the years in high bus, walking and cycling usage it was agreed York would assume the regional lead for this cycling legacy where Kersten England is the lead officer for Cycle Yorkshire with me as its regional director.

This has and continues to inspire and bring more partners to supporting the legacy, ranging from CTC, County Sports Partnerships (CSPs), Northern Rail, Rotary Club and other private and charity sectors wanting to help. *Two partners, British Cycling and Sport England, through Cycle Yorkshire, has resulted in attracting further*

*funding from Sport England into the region and North Yorkshire into the CSPs. All of which, including the partnership North Yorkshire has with British Cycling, would not have happened if the legacy and British Cycling's (BC) support weren't here. So the funding provide by North Yorkshire County Council has been critical to securing that partnership in North Yorkshire resulting in the doors and funding now opening, as North Yorkshire Sport and partners can endorse. Further to this and building on the good relations we have with BC they have extended the contract at not cost until April 2015, partly due to when the contract started later in the financial year.*

Using cycling as a mechanism, Cycle Yorkshire will help to provide solutions to the issues we face across a key range of themes as mentioned such as creating a healthy and more productive workforce, helping to tackle inactivity through exercise and preventative care and bringing local communities even further together through local business, charities, local champions and of course Councils. See attached for a summary of the Cycle Yorkshire strategy for further information.

In the short term what Cycle Yorkshire does is to help ensure the benefits for this race are felt across the region and to show that all the time, funding and resource put into this world-class event is not just for these two days but the benefits and the inspiration will be taken forward for years to come.

### **Going forward**

Cycle Yorkshire can not be delivered just by York and nor do we intend it to be. It can only be a success through partnerships and especially by yourselves as Leaders with your Councils, where importantly we joint make sure as far as we can that the region (everyone living, working, visiting and investing in it) embraces the Tour and all that it and this legacy can bring.

Further support by the charity, private and third sectors further helping to ensure its success it should also be clearly recognised that the strategy for Cycle Yorkshire is broad to allow all partners and Local Authorities to use by creating the environment to help you deliver against your objectives and the core themes including economy and health.

To help ensure Cycle Yorkshire is a success across North Yorkshire the following requests are put forward to you for consideration:

- Although the contract has been extended with British Cycling at no cost until April 2015 from the funding provided through North Yorkshire County Council, the on-going support post 2015 will still be needed through the North Yorkshire Partnership chaired by North Yorkshire Sport. External funding opportunities will need to be explored given the revenue budget pressures facing local authorities.

- Clearly just messages are not enough so what each Local Authority needs to look at are the enablers to help embrace this event and the legacy. External capital funding opportunities should be considered in relation to potential benefit, for example Local Sustainable Transport Fund . This type of investment can be backed up through events (spectator and participation), cycle training, schools and workplace travel planning and road safety to name a few other enablers, with increased support from partners, Sport England, private and charity sectors.
- Cycle Yorkshire can only be successful if everyone (those living, working, visiting and investing in our region) can be inspired and do their bit through the inspiration and drive the Grand Départ will almost certainly bring. For many le Tour is still something to be realised but given the size of it, those involved in it and its long history this will soon be realised but then there will only be a short period of time to grab that interest and sustain it for the future.
- As well as the above points your ongoing support and interest in this is critical, by further empowering your legacy officers, relevant directors and CEOs to help achieve the legacy and use this significant drive to further capture the public and media and deliver what you want and need to address within the themes mentioned for this and future generations to come.

Graham Titchener

Regional Director



# Cycle Yorkshire

Realising the legacy of Le Grand Départ – a strategy for cycling in Yorkshire and the Humber



**In partnership with Yorkshire and the Humber Local Authorities and Partners**

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## Executive Summary

This document presents a strategy to improve health, the environment and the economy in Yorkshire and the Humber through the promotion and increased use of cycling, as a transport mode, as a pastime and for sport, in urban and rural areas.

This strategy builds on Yorkshire's hosting of the Grand Départ of the 2014 Tour de France, which presents a once in a lifetime opportunity to raise the profile of cycling in the region. It follows British successes at London 2012 and in the 2012 and 2013 Tours, which have already brought cycling into the limelight. Cycling's profile as a low cost, low pollution, healthy and enjoyable transport mode has also increased enormously in recent years.

These reasons are amongst those causing a range of local and regional partners to want to come together to present this joint strategy for promoting cycling in Yorkshire and the Humber. By so doing, we will add value to local initiatives to promote cycling by providing strong co-ordinated leadership, by raising the profile of cycling and through sharing information on best practice. Work will be led by the Regional Cycling Delivery Group (RCDG), made up of all participating Yorkshire and the Humber Local Authorities and key partners.

Our vision is for Yorkshire and the Humber:

*"To be recognised as a great region for safe cycling, inspiring more people to cycle more often"*

We will achieve this vision by giving people of all ages, abilities and disabilities, whether living in or visiting Yorkshire and the Humber, access to the skills, facilities, equipment and enthusiasm to confidently and safely enjoy cycling.

The vision seeks to get more people in the region cycling more often, whether they are already regular or occasional cyclists, or whether they currently don't cycle at all. It seeks to get more people cycling for whatever purpose, be it as a useful transport choice, as a pastime or for sport, in urban and rural areas. Achieving this vision will contribute to a broad range of cross-sectoral objectives: for health and wellbeing, for the environment and the economy but also for social inclusion, tourism, transport and sporting success.

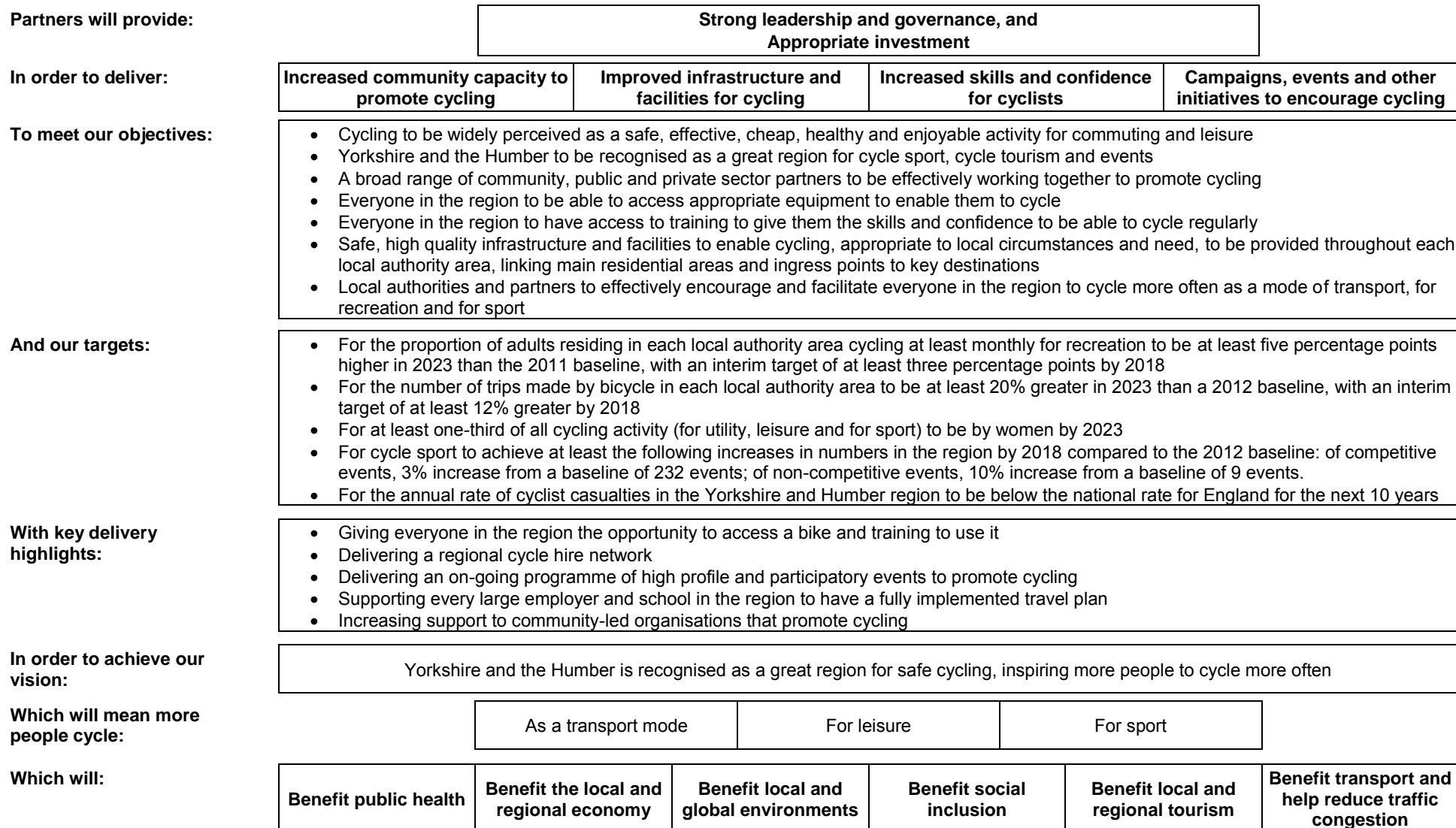
The region of Yorkshire and the Humber already has a vast range of excellent events, initiatives and resources in place, as well as examples of high quality facilities and infrastructure that support leisure, utility and sport cycling. However, no area of the region provides everything that could be offered to promote cycling to all types of people. There remains much scope for improving and expanding the opportunities on offer to both new and existing cyclists leading to many people in the region being inspired to start cycling, or cycle more and more often. Evidence from elsewhere suggests that partners are able to encourage and enable them to do so.

To achieve the vision, RCDG members will provide effective, appropriate leadership and investment to deliver improvements in four key types of initiative to promote cycling: increase capacity in communities to encourage cycling, improve infrastructure and facilities, increase skills and confidence to cycle and promote uptake. The initiatives, the benefits they will achieve and how, are shown in the figure below.

Delivery of this strategy will be guided by a Regional Delivery Plan and implemented primarily through local delivery plans defined and prioritised by Local Authorities. These will drive the delivery of the legacy and achieve the aims and objectives of it by seeing more people across Yorkshire who live, work and visit, cycling.



Figure 1. Strategy process, objectives and outcomes



# 1 Introduction

This document presents a strategy to improve health, the environment and the economy in Yorkshire and the Humber through the promotion and increased use of cycling, as a transport mode, as a pastime and for sport, in urban and rural areas.

## Why act now?

Yorkshire's hosting of the Grand Départ of the 2014 Tour de France presents a once in a lifetime opportunity to raise the profile of cycling in the region. The race will provide significant benefits to the region; before, during and after its time here. It follows British successes at London 2012 and in the 2012 and 2013 Tours, and for cyclists in the last three BBC Sports Personality awards; all of which have already brought cycling into the limelight.

Cycling's profile as a low cost, low pollution, healthy and enjoyable transport mode has also increased enormously in recent years. At the same time, the evidence of the benefits of cycling continues to grow, not least from the recent publication of guidance on promoting walking and cycling from NICE<sup>1</sup>. Political support for cycling also appears to be increasing, in part due to the recent work of the All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group<sup>2</sup>.

These reasons are amongst those causing a range of local and regional partners to want to come together to present this joint strategy for promoting cycling in Yorkshire and the Humber.

## The scope of this strategy

The strategy aims to promote cycling for everyone; residents and visitors, in urban and rural locations throughout the region. It seeks to build much upon Yorkshire's hosting of the Tour de France Grand Départ to get more people in the region cycling more often, whether they are already regular or occasional cyclists, or whether they currently don't cycle at all. It seeks to get more people cycling for whatever purpose; be it as a transport mode, as a pastime or for sport. It aspires to increase investment to encourage cycling, but not at the expense of promoting other healthy or sustainable choices.

However, this is not simply a cycling strategy but a strategy to deliver a broad range of outcomes across the region and locally.

## The benefits of a regional strategy

Most cycle journeys will continue to be relatively short distance. Local delivery will therefore remain at the heart of work to promote cycling. Strategies and plans to promote cycling, in all its forms, are already in place in many parts of the region. This strategy promotes a region-wide approach in order to add value to existing initiatives by:

- Demonstrating co-ordinated leadership to realise our vision and enabling efficient delivery
- Raising the profile of cycling and helping to influence social norms towards it being a more common transport or recreational choice for more people
- Providing high quality facilities and support, shared across the region or sub-regions, to promote cycling for sport
- Sharing information on best practice, of which much exists within the region
- Harnessing the power of regional, sub-regional or local events and campaigns.

## 2 The starting line

### The benefits of promoting cycling

Investment in cycling has an overwhelmingly strong economic and policy rationale, and can deliver great value for money. It achieves useful contributions towards meeting a broad range of social, environmental and economic policy objectives. The main policy benefits are summarised in this section.

These can be realised whether cycling is promoted for transport, as a pastime or for sport. Moreover, and particularly in comparison with many other forms of transport investment, most initiatives to promote cycling can be delivered quickly and are almost universally well received within target communities.

#### Cycling benefits health

There is clear evidence that cycling improves public health; physical inactivity is a key determinant of poor health, and many people find cycling a good way to get more exercise. NICE<sup>3</sup> estimates that 61% of adult men and 71% of adult women do not meet the recommended physical activity levels. Many people are at risk of a range of chronic health problems including obesity, respiratory complaints, mental disorders and joint ailments as a result. Increased use of motorised transport modes has been one of the main reasons why activity levels have fallen in recent decades.

However, for many people, cycling is one of the easiest and most acceptable forms of physical activity to incorporate into everyday life. Cycling has one of the best ratings for energy expenditure and calorie burning for a 'moderate' intensity exercise, and is highly recommended for improved health by the Chief Medical Officer<sup>4</sup>. NICE advocates the implementation of town-wide programmes to promote cycling for transport and recreational purposes, as well as cycle promotion alongside other interventions, to achieve specific health outcomes in the local population.

The World Health Organisation's HEAT (health economic assessment tool) estimates the value just in terms of reduced mortality of a non-cyclist becoming a regular cyclist to be £4,000 over ten years<sup>5</sup>.

#### Cycling benefits the economy

The British Cycling Economy Report<sup>6</sup> quantifies the full economic benefit of cycling to the UK economy as £2.9 billion; this encompasses bicycle manufacturing, cycle and accessory retail, employment as well as improved health from increased physical activity. This is stated to be equivalent to £230 of economic benefit from every cyclist every year.

At the local level, cycle improvement schemes are, by transport standards, low-cost and quick to deliver. They also provide exceptional value for money: the Eddington Transport Study, a major UK Government-funded study into links between transport and the economy, concluded that 'some of the best projects are small scale, such as walking and cycling schemes'<sup>7</sup>.

Cycling supports local economies by increasing and encouraging access to shops and services in local centres. Furthermore, by reducing unnecessary car use, cycling can have positive impacts on congestion and journey time reliability; important factors for promoting business tourism, for successful local economies and attracting inward investment.

People that are more active are proven to be more productive. Regular cyclists take half as many sick days as the workforce at large<sup>8</sup>.

### Cycling benefits leisure and tourism

Cycling as a leisure activity has boomed in recent years. It is estimated that the UK saw 1.3 million new cyclists in 2010<sup>9</sup>. Over 200,000 people took part in Sky Ride events in the UK in 2010, creating a 'vibe' around cycling as an activity that is fun, inclusive and easy to master. This has grown more and more with a staggering 2 million people at the end of 2013 taking part in these rides across the country..

Yorkshire and the Humber is a fantastically scenic place for cycling, and offers a range of terrain to suit cyclists of all types. It has many miles of dedicated cycle routes, including scenic traffic-free paths, quiet roads and lanes, signed on-road routes and themed long-distance routes<sup>10</sup>. These attract local people to cycle in their region and tourists to visit from further afield.

Cycling events help to promote cycling and also benefit the region's tourist economy. Dalby Forest, within the North York's Moors National Park, hosted the Mountain Bike World Cup in 2010, which was estimated to have generated £0.63m into the local economy and drew a crowd of nearly 7,000 spectators. Ampleforth hosted the National Road Race Championships in 2012, drawing a television audience of 100,000 due to the high-profile names racing the event, showcasing the Yorkshire landscape. Tourist businesses in the region started reporting increased sales as a result of the Tour de France in 2014 within weeks of the announcement of the route.

### Cycling benefits the environment

Motorised transport is a major contributor to the UK's greenhouse gas emissions. One-third of all transport carbon emissions in the UK are generated by short, local trips (less than 10 miles) but, for all except the very shortest, the private car remains the dominant mode of choice.

Poor air quality caused by motorised transport is also a problem in parts of the Yorkshire and the Humber region, resulting in the declaration of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) where pollution standards are exceeded. A regional air quality plan is in place for the achievement of the EU air quality limit values for nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)<sup>11</sup>.



That road transport is such a large contributor to harmful emissions, combined with the fact that many trips are very local in nature<sup>12</sup>, means increased cycling has huge potential to reduce the impact of travel on both the local and global environment.

Any measure to reduce the use of motorised travel will additionally lead to reduced problems of transport noise and community severance.

### Cycling benefits social inclusion



Most people can (or could) cycle. Many of those that currently cannot could be given training, equipment and/or support to be able to do so. Cycling provides a low-cost mode of transport, which is particularly important for people that do not have access to a car. It provides significant benefits for children's independency, as well as physical activity.

Cycling is thus a highly inclusive transport mode.

Supporting people to cycle in their local communities will help to reduce inequalities across the region, by providing improved access to shops, services, as well as to employment, social and leisure opportunities. Opening up cycling and supporting services to better cater for female, disabled and minority groups through courses, rides, equipment and other activities will aid equality and integration.

Cycling offers a relatively low cost opportunity to partake in sport and active leisure and, because of its inclusivity, offers an activity that can be undertaken together, notably by family groups.

### **Cycling benefits transport**

Two thirds of all journeys in the UK are less than five miles in length<sup>13</sup>. Local journeys like this can easily be made by bike by many people; five miles is approximately a 30-minute cycle. However, Department for Transport statistics for 2012 show that nationally only 2% of all trips between 2 and 5 miles were made by bicycle, whilst 79% were made by car (the latter being a two percentage point increase since 2010).



The school run is a major cause of congestion; one in five cars on the road during the morning peak is taking children to school.<sup>14</sup> The average primary school journey is less than 1.5 miles<sup>15, 16</sup>, which is a distance that can easily be undertaken on foot or by bike by many pupils, and research shows that there is appetite for change, with nearly half of all school children wanting to cycle<sup>17</sup>, which in turn can help with their health and independence.

This evidence shows the huge potential for cycling to replace less sustainable modes for many journeys; increasing the cycle mode share for local journeys for whatever purpose will help to reduce road congestion, and improve the journey experience for both cyclists and other road users.

## **Participation and trends in cycling**

More people in the UK own a bike than own a car. In 2011, 85% more bikes were sold in the UK than cars (3.6M bikes<sup>18</sup> versus 1.9M cars<sup>19</sup>).

Thirteen percent of the population of the Yorkshire and Humber region already cycle at least monthly. In some areas of the region (Craven, the East Riding, North East Lincolnshire, York), this rate is 20% or more, however some districts have less than 10% of residents cycling this often<sup>20</sup>. Even within authorities, the proportion of people cycling regularly will vary substantially between areas.

Statistics from the Department for Transport<sup>21</sup> show that the proportion of cyclists in Yorkshire and the Humber who always or usually cycle for recreational purposes is higher than the national average; 82% of cyclists in the region are purely recreational cyclists (compared to 77% in England), whilst the proportion who always cycle for utility purposes is lower than the average (12% opposed to 16%).

There is a correlation between uptake of types of cycling and rurality. Utility cycling is inevitably generally more attractive for more people in urban and sub-urban areas, where journey distances are often short and good facilities can be provided. In rural areas, journey distances tend to be longer and, if on-road, cyclists will commonly have to share roadspace with fast-moving traffic.

However, the scenery and topography make many rural parts of the region attractive to leisure and elite cyclists.

There are also large disparities in the types of people that commonly cycle. In particular there is a large gender imbalance; men dominate cycling in the UK, making over 72% of all bicycle trips<sup>22</sup>. In contrast, women cycle much more in the Netherlands, making around 55% of all bicycle trips<sup>23</sup>. But change is possible: half of all cycle trips in York are now made by women whilst British Cycling has had much recent success in increasing participation in cycling amongst women, with more than 60,000 more women cycling in the last year and achieving a male/female gender balance on Sky Rides of 60:40.

Recent trends have unfortunately shown an increase in the number of cyclists killed or seriously injured on roads in Britain, with 26% more serious injuries/fatalities in 2011 than the 2005-09 average<sup>24, 25</sup>, and the rate per mile cycled also increasing, albeit at a lower increase of 5% over the same period<sup>26</sup>.

However, it is clear that in many areas and amongst some groups of people there is great potential to get more people cycling more often. Sustrans<sup>27</sup> and British Cycling<sup>28</sup> both suggest that cycling rates will typically increase by around 1% per annum in future years, so we anticipate around 10% more cycling would happen in Yorkshire and the Humber in any event by the end of the strategy period in 2023<sup>29, 30</sup>. This strategy aspires to increase cycling well above that level.

## Partners

There is a wide range of organisations, across all sectors (public, private, social enterprise, voluntary) who are engaged in promoting cycling in Yorkshire and the Humber. All are striving to meet sometimes diverse commercial and social objectives, but through the same shared output of more people cycling more often. This strategy will draw on the enthusiasm, knowledge and resource available from these and other partners:

- Local Authorities (with cross sector collaboration between transport, health, sport and physical activity, tourism and regeneration)
- Integrated Transport Authorities
- Health sector providers
- Sports partnerships
- Schools
- Travel plan networks
- Cycling clubs
- British Cycling
- Sports England
- Welcome to Yorkshire and local tourism bodies
- Sustrans
- CTC
- Bike shops
- Social enterprise/community interest companies
- National Park authorities
- Land owners such as Yorkshire Water and the Forestry Commission
- Government departments and agencies, i.e. Highways Agency, Dept for Transport and Dept of Health
- Local volunteer groups and interested parties
- The Bicycle Association of Great Britain
- County Sport Partnerships
- Northern Rail
- Private and charity sectors

## Excellence in promoting cycling

The region of Yorkshire and the Humber has a vast range of excellent events, initiatives and resources in place, as well as high quality facilities and infrastructure to support utility, leisure and sport cycling. Many of these are available across the region, but there are also a number of sub-regional assets and specialisms.

We highlight below some of the areas of excellence in promoting cycling in the region, in order for them to be recognised and celebrated, and which show how cycling can be successfully developed in both urban and rural settings.

### Community capacity

Cycling clubs are effective in encouraging many people to take up and continue cycling.

- There are 134 cycling clubs in the Yorkshire and the Humber region
- There are 4,200 British Cycling members in the region (50% of these members belong to a cycling club)
- Ilkley Cycling Club is the largest, most proactive cycling club in the country (with over 1,000 members)
- There are over 30 Go-Ride (Young People) registered clubs in the region

Outside these groups, there are many others volunteers and local resources in the region, providing the community capacity to encourage cycling. They include:

- 90 trained ride leaders (Sky Riders) employed on Bradford and Hull Sky Ride programmes
- 87 trained women's Breeze champions
- Over 100 trained commissaire officials who officiate and manage cycle events in the region
- Cycle campaign groups
- Local stakeholder groups
- Community interest companies
- Volunteer guided ride leaders
- 350 Sustrans volunteers helping keep infrastructure in good condition

### Infrastructure and facilities

Good infrastructure for cyclists exists in many parts of the region, and there are plans to make it even better.

- *For utility cycling:* There are examples of excellent infrastructure for utility cycling in the region. Most notably, York has provided ongoing investment in its cycle networks and has been rewarded with a high mode share for cycling and national recognition as great place to cycle. The National Cycle Network also provides utility cyclists with high quality routes and infrastructure. A recent report from Sustrans The Real Cycling Revolution<sup>31</sup> shows that 30% of journeys on the National Cycle Network are for commuting, education or work purposes.

- *For leisure cycling:* There are areas with excellent off-road infrastructure including canal tow paths, greenways (former rail routes), signed National Cycle Network (including the Way of the Roses and the TransPennine trail), all offering wonderful cross-local authority routes and better off-road connections to key destinations. By the time the Tour de France comes to Yorkshire, 1,000 miles of NCN will be complete in the region by Sustrans. The map appended shows priority investment in the NCN as identified by Sustrans Yorkshire. There is a mixture of new route development to fill gaps in the existing network and existing route upgrade and maintenance. This will provide and enable a high quality network that serves all communities, towns and cities.
- *For sport cycling:* Yorkshire and the Humber is home to a range of facilities to support sport cycling, including an outdoor velodrome, six BMX courses of regional and national standard, three closed road race circuits, three cycle speedways and established sportive routes. Great trails for mountain biking are available. British Cycling has an ambition to build more velodromes and closed circuit cycle tracks in Yorkshire. The region also benefits from its sub-regional county sports partnerships (CSP) that chair the sub-regional Cycle Yorkshire groups made up of Councils and stakeholders.

Good examples of signing and route maps exist in many locations, complementing available infrastructure.

Many local authorities and other organisations have ambitious plans to invest in and enhance infrastructure.

### **Skills and confidence**

There are numerous opportunities in this region for people to improve their skills and confidence in cycling. These include:

- Cycle training in schools (Bikeability)
- Cycle promotion to schools and families (Sustrans Bike It<sup>17</sup> Project)
- A cycle sports academy
- Adult cycle training (Urban Cycle Skills)
- Wheels to work initiative
- Women-specific events and support (Breeze network, spin classes and clubs providing women-only rides)
- Cycle maintenance courses
- Guided rides

Many local authorities and their partners promote road safety, which has a key benefit of making cycling more attractive for less confident riders, and measures to reduce cycle theft.

### **Promoting uptake**

Campaigns and events can be highly effective at encouraging more people to cycle more often. Examples within the region include:

- *For utility cycling:* Cycle to work and school challenges, personal travel planning advice, Bike to Work and school weeks.



- *For leisure cycling:* Guided cycle rides, Bradford, Leeds, York and Hull Sky Ride events promoting recreational cycling, community events, and festivals, such as the York Festival of Cycling.
- *For sport cycling:* Amateur racing events include criterium cycle races, time trials, hill climbs and sportives (over 20 independently organised sportives run during the summer period). Yorkshire has hosted high-profile elite events including the National Road Race Championships in 2012, the Mountain Bike World Cup in 2010 and various national criterium races.

Many public sector partners and private publishers produce maps and guides to cycling in Yorkshire (printed and on-line), which are helpful to promote all types of cycling.

York's annual Festival of Cycling has proved very successful over the years, featuring stunt shows, stalls and bicycle taster sessions for all ages, abilities and disabilities to try cycling, attracting at least 10,000 families and other non/lapsed cyclists as well as those people that already cycle regularly.

There are also good examples of local sub-regional schemes aimed at encouraging more people to cycle. As an example, go:cycling offers a range of free cycling services, including one to one and group training, bike maintenance and group rides.

There are a variety of initiatives that help people gain access to bikes. Key amongst them are bike recycling and loan schemes, many of which are led by social enterprises.

### **Investment**

The promotion of cycling in Yorkshire and the Humber is funded through a number of mechanisms, including from Local Transport Plans, the Department for Transport (e.g. Local Sustainable Transport Fund projects), British Cycling and Sustrans, along with contributions from commercial suppliers and sponsors. Additionally, the pool of volunteers and local groups provides invaluable resource and time that allows the range of cycling events and initiatives across the region to happen.

However, whilst cyclists in Yorkshire and the Humber benefit from the initiatives listed above (and many others not included in this summary), no area of the region provides everything that could be offered to promote cycling to all types of people. There remains much scope for improving and expanding the opportunities on offer to both new and existing cyclists.

### **Inspiration**

There are many cycling success stories that Yorkshire and the Humber can look to for inspiration. Many are from within the region, and a few of them are highlighted in the text above. Here, however, we highlight some examples from elsewhere, which show that a large sustained increase in cycle use amongst many people can be achieved.

#### **Dedicated investment**

Perhaps what is most inspiring is that a 'cycling culture' is not a prerequisite to achieving success. Stockholm, Sweden is an example of how quickly effective action can change attitudes to, and increase use of, cycling in an area that started from a similar baseline to many towns in Yorkshire and the Humber. Whilst the rate of cycling (6% and growing) is not as high as in some other European cities, this has been achieved in a little over ten years. In that time, car traffic stopped increasing, while cycle travel increased by 5% every year.

This was the result of consistent and continuous political leadership. The improvements included cycle network development (both cycle paths and lanes) and extensive roll out of cycle parking. Public and media opinion about the improvements went from sceptical to supportive in less than two years, due to the obvious benefits active travel investment brought<sup>32</sup>. With strong political will, continued positivity towards cycling and a clear and consistent policy and funding strategy, Stockholm has moved from being a city with relatively low levels of cycling to a place where cycling is normal and popular, and is seen to be the most practical way to travel for many trips.

Closer to home, the City of Edinburgh Council has underlined its on-going commitment to cycling by signing up to the Charter of Brussels for a 15% cycle mode share by 2020 (working from a base of approximately 7% for journeys to work).

Meanwhile, and despite the recent well-publicised investment in the 'Boris Bikes' and 'Barclays Cycle Superhighways', the London Assembly is looking to the Mayor of London to double funding for cycling in 2013/14 (to around £20 per capita)<sup>33</sup>, which is the level of investment it says London needs to match cycling levels evident in leading cycling cities.

Within the region, the City of York has provided dedicated investment in cycle infrastructure over the past decade to develop a quality network of cycle routes and facilities. It has been rewarded for this commitment with high levels of cycling within the city, particularly for utility purposes, and has been rated as one of the top three places to cycle nationally.

The West Yorkshire authorities have recently (2013) been awarded £18.1M of DfT funding in order to help get more people cycling, more often, more safely.

### Mass participation events

Since 2009, British Cycling and its principal partner Sky have been working together to get more people cycling. The partnership has already achieved its ambitious target of getting one million more people cycling by 2013; one year early. Sky Ride events have occurred in Bradford and Hull, supported by programmes of Sky Ride local led rides, to promote recreational cycling in these areas.



### Community-led action

Ilkley Cycling Club (ICC) was re-established in March 2011 and in two years has grown to a membership of over 1,000 people. This success is no doubt due to the club providing opportunities for all tastes and abilities. It runs a Youth Development Programme for children and provides rides for all levels of cyclists, including women's rides, family rides, social 'all comer' rides (for inexperienced and new cyclists), through to training rides and races for more experienced and competitive cyclists.

Other cycling clubs in Yorkshire and the Humber may benefit by adopting ICC's approach by opening cycling up to everyone, attracting new markets of cyclists and boosting membership. This approach will develop more interest in cycling, encourage greater member involvement and thus help to build more capacity within local communities.

### Key lessons

The key lesson from these case studies (and other successful examples where cycling levels have been significantly increased) is that concerted effort over time is required to develop infrastructure

and encourage and enable people to use it. Dedicated leadership and good joint working between partners with shared aims is paramount. The coming together of local authorities and partners in Yorkshire and the Humber to develop and promote this strategy is evidence of a good basis for achieving strong regional leadership and dedication to promoting cycling across the region.

The success stories show that investment is required, but that good value can be achieved for relatively modest sums. There is great potential from realigning existing spend rather than an automatic dependency on new funding. The partnership approach of this strategy also provides increased opportunity to attract other funding including from central and European Government and the private sector through joint funding bids.

Overall, these examples show that it is possible to substantially increase cycling in every setting.

### 3 A vision for cycling in Yorkshire and the Humber

Based on the background outlined above we aspire for Yorkshire and the Humber:

*“To be recognised as a great region for safe cycling, inspiring more people to cycle more often”*

We will achieve this vision by giving people of all ages, abilities and disabilities, whether living in or visiting Yorkshire and the Humber, access to the skills, facilities, equipment and enthusiasm to confidently and safely enjoy cycling in the region, for whatever purpose.



#### Objectives

Our shared objectives to meet the vision for cycling in Yorkshire and the Humber are for, by the end of the strategy period in 2023:

- Cycling to be widely perceived as a safe, effective, cheap, healthy and enjoyable activity for commuting and leisure
- Yorkshire and the Humber to be recognised as a great region for cycle sport, cycle tourism and events
- A broad range of community, public and private sector partners to be effectively working together to promote cycling
- Everyone in the region to be able to access appropriate equipment to enable them to cycle
- Everyone in the region to have access to training to give them the skills and confidence to be able to cycle regularly
- Safe, high quality infrastructure and facilities to enable cycling, appropriate to local circumstances and need, to be provided throughout each local authority area, linking main residential areas and ingress points to key destinations
- Local authorities and partners to effectively encourage and facilitate everyone in the region to cycle more often as a mode of transport, for recreation and for sport



## Targets

We set ourselves the following targets for achievement during the strategy period:

- For the proportion of adults residing in each local authority area cycling at least monthly for recreation to be at least five percentage points higher in 2023 than the 2011 baseline, as measured by the Active People Survey<sup>a</sup>, with an interim target of at least three percentage points by 2018<sup>34</sup>
- For the number of trips made by bicycle in each local authority area, as measured using local data collection processes, to be at least 20% greater in 2023 than a 2012 baseline, with an interim target of at least 12% greater by 2018
- For at least one-third of all cycling activity (for utility, leisure and for sport) to be by women by 2023
- For cycle sport to achieve at least the following increases in numbers in the region by 2018 compared to the 2012 baseline: of competitive events, 3% increase from a baseline of 232 events; of non-competitive events, 10% increase from a baseline of 9 events.
- For the annual rate<sup>b</sup> of cyclist casualties in the Yorkshire and Humber region to be below the national rate for England for the next 10 years.

## Delivery highlights

Amongst other elements, described in the next section, we commit during the strategy period to:

- Giving everyone in the region the opportunity to access a bike and training to use it
- Delivering a regional cycle hire network
- Delivering regular events to promote cycling to a range of participants in each Local Authority area
- Supporting every large employer and school in the region to have a fully implemented travel plan
- Increasing support to community-led organisations that promote cycling.

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<sup>a</sup> The 2011 baseline regional average was 13%. Individual Local Authority figures range from 8% to 32%

<sup>b</sup> With the rate of cyclist casualties to be determined by the number of cyclist casualties, divided by estimated numbers of annual cycling journeys derived from the Active People Survey

## 4 Enablers of change

In this section, we outline the key types of actions that will enable local authorities, British Cycling, Sustrans and other groups, between them, to deliver the vision and objectives described in this strategy. These will be a combination of many well proven interventions with some innovative approaches.

It will be for local stakeholders to decide which measures are most needed in which setting within the region and, as such, sub-regional action plans will be developed to support this vision. They will need to be tailored to a broad range of socio-demographic, topographic and other factors, in addition to an understanding of the baseline provision of infrastructure, promotion and capacity to support cycling in those locations. In every case, the opportunity for promoting cycling brought by the 2014 Tour de France will be maximised.

### Leadership and governance

There is clear evidence that effective work to promote cycling requires strong leadership over an extended period<sup>35</sup>. The partners promoting the vision for cycling in Yorkshire and the Humber will therefore provide consistent and high-profile leadership and co-ordination to ensure their activities, and those of others, will influence and support this legacy and what it aims to achieve.

Effective regional, sub-regional and local governance arrangements will underpin this leadership and ensure value for money is delivered. Partners will support, and be supported by the Regional Cycling Delivery Group (RCDG), who will help co-ordinate activity, share best practice and evaluate outcomes.

***A Regional Cycling Delivery Group will co-ordinate activity and share best practice***

The RCDG will be chaired by the CEO for the City of York Council. The Group will report to the Yorkshire Grand Départ Legacy Board chaired by Welcome to Yorkshire's CEO. The RCDG will be supported by the regional director who, amongst other things, will ensure the legacy is as successful as possible, provide guidance on setting strategic outcomes, ensure appropriate allocation of resources and support for local, sub-regional and regional delivery. Local delivery groups, comprising representatives of local authorities and other stakeholders, will coordinate and drive local action, informed by sub-regional and local action plans that support this strategy.

***Sub-regional and local plans will determine local delivery priorities***

These working arrangements and responsibilities will be underpinned by a Memorandum of Agreement, which all partners undertake to support.

Partners will embed the objectives of this action plan within their relevant policies and plans, relating them as appropriate to key corporate outcomes (including for improvements to health, the environment and the economy).

To ensure that the outcomes of this strategy are measured, and that lessons to improve delivery are learned during the strategy period, we will maintain an on-going research strand. This will collect and/or collate relevant data on use of and attitudes to cycling in the region.

## Investment

Investment of funds and time is required for the vision to be achieved, though this should not be at the expense of other good value initiatives to promote other active and sustainable travel choices, or other essential works as the partners see fit.

Partners will align their policies and plans, capital and revenue budgets for transport, place-making, health improvement and other relevant programmes in order to ensure they are appropriate to meet the objectives of this strategy and their own local objectives and needs. Partners will seek opportunities to attract additional funding or benefit in kind from outside organisations including charitable, private and governmental, in order to add further value to their own investment.

Partners will also seek to identify and realise opportunities to provide further value by their own investments being matched (by inputs of funds and/or time) by other partners.

Partners will share funding where appropriate, particularly to facilitate campaigns or events that have benefit across the region or within sub-regions.

## Increasing community capacity

Volunteers and social enterprise groups do much to promote cycling, through their work as trainers, group leaders and in many other roles. Support from public and private sector agencies can increase the capacity of the community to promote cycling and so be a good value way to meet objectives. Sharing best practice and inspiring local communities to deliver results should be prioritised to get more people in Yorkshire and the Humber to safely cycle, more often.

The development of cycling clubs, both recreational and competitive, is vital to ensure a lasting legacy for this and future generations. By catering for all disciplines and all levels of cyclists, clubs will attract new markets, boost membership and be one of the key under-pinning motivators and facilitators to increase cycling. This in turn can generate more local involvement and thus build capacity within local communities. Partners will support this voluntary base to ensure that local people are able to cycle more proficiently and safely and have more opportunities for their needs and abilities.

***We will support community-led activity to promote cycling***

Partners will consider the various offers available through British Cycling, Sustrans, CTC and other group programmes. These include examples such as training opportunities for local people to become Sky Ride leaders or Breeze Champions, volunteering to promote and maintain local greenways, advocating for cycling in local communities, assisting local bike hire and recycling projects and developing skill sets in local communities to promote cycling. Similarly, British Cycling's Go Ride initiative provides structured training and coaching opportunities for young people to develop their skills and supports them in accessing a quality club environment where they can develop their interest and progress through a competitive structure. The Go Ride system has been responsible for discovering and developing many of today's cycling superstars.



Unlocking the full potential for community-led activity to promote cycling may require some funding, but also potentially training and administrative support for individuals and groups.

## Improving infrastructure and facilities

The provision of good quality infrastructure is critical in order to encourage and facilitate more people in Yorkshire and the Humber to safely cycle, more often. Partners will take advantage of opportunities to expand and improve local cycle networks, cycle parking provision and sporting facilities wherever possible.

***We will encourage every large scale employer and school to have an effective travel plan in place***

Understanding where people want to go will ensure that cycle networks connect communities to employment, education and leisure activities. Local authority partners will use their ability to influence journey patterns over time through their planning policies to make them more attractive for cycling.

All good networks have high quality, appropriate and well maintained infrastructure. Journey quality and experience must be at the heart of this, to ensure that cycling is easy, enjoyable and convenient, whether it is for leisure or utility purposes, where possible. Providing cycle lanes as a dedicated road-space to cyclists is often favourable, but quality traffic-free cycle routes can be even better.

However, work must recognise that dedicated infrastructure cannot be provided everywhere and that many cycle journeys will continue to make use of streetspace shared with other users (motorists and pedestrians). Effective design and maintenance of these spaces can do much to make cycling more attractive. Slowing traffic (for example with 20 mph limits) can help attract cyclists that are otherwise fearful of sharing roadspace with vehicles. Conflicts with other road users (including pedestrians) must be avoided wherever possible, and managed by changes to infrastructure and to road users' understanding of each other.



Quality signage and maps add to the user's experience, while effective maintenance of existing infrastructure is essential if its benefits are to be sustained. All this needs to be underpinned by a good school and workplace travel planning service to encourage their staff and pupils/families to travel more sustainably and, where possible, providing match-funding opportunities. Partners will support every large scale employer to have an effective travel plan in place, tied into their corporate social responsibility objectives.

Good quality and, ideally, covered and secure cycle parking should be available at key trip attractors. Shower, locker, and drying facilities should be available in workplaces where possible so that cycling to work can be integrated into employees' daily lives.

The availability of facilities to meet the needs of competitive cyclists at a local and regional level will be reviewed, with new facilities scoped and improvements made to existing venues where appropriate.

***We will develop a regional bike hire network***

Although a large proportion of residents of the region do have access to a bike that is suitable for their needs, by no means all do. Partners will develop a regional bike hire network as part of plans to enable every person in the region to have access to appropriate cycles. This may be done via connecting and sign posting to existing cycle hire facilities and/or a regional network.



## Increasing skills and confidence

Partners will look to increase the skills and confidence of new and inexperienced cyclists, by providing training and opportunities for more people to ride, and to do so confidently. Retraining/refresher skills are often needed for people who have not ridden for a long time.

Every person in Yorkshire and the Humber will be given the opportunity to access a bike and training to use it. This could be facilitated through community events, networks, skills training, cycle maintenance training and guided cycle rides for all ages and abilities.

***Every person will be given the opportunity to access a bike and training to use it***

Focused training opportunities can be provided for target growth markets, likely to include women, older people, people in deprived areas and minority ethnic groups and for people with disabilities. Children especially will be targeted through cycle proficiency training, e.g. in schools. Partners will, in particular, strive to reduce the current gender imbalance in cycling in the region, with the aim of getting equally high numbers of women and men cycling.

Any training or support must be targeted to the needs of the individual. For some target groups (notably children who are aspiring to cycle independently) giving confidence to carers that cycling is safe can be a key enabler of change, supported by the provision of off-road/quiet street cycle infrastructure. Indoor spin classes are an increasingly popular way to get fit and continue cycling when weather conditions are less



favourable for cycling outdoors. Targeted programmes to promote cycling by women have proven particularly popular. This includes British Cycling's Breeze network, designed to encourage women to start cycling for fun and to provide ongoing support to increase confidence about riding a bike.

Work to promote cycling should be backed up by marketing and road safety campaigns to increase awareness, dispel negative perceptions and engender better respect between all road users.

## Promoting uptake

On-going work is required if potential users are to see cycling as a safe, convenient and enjoyable activity. Campaigns and events have their role in raising awareness, in helping people understand how cycling is relevant to them and to encourage them to take part.



Individual local authorities, British Cycling, Welcome to Yorkshire and other partners have already taken significant steps to raise profile and participation in cycling. As examples, mass participation cycle rides and cycling festivals are tried and tested events that encourage thousands of local people to engage with cycling, as demonstrated in Bradford and Hull which have attracted large numbers of new cyclists to take

part in their Sky Ride events. Through a national, high profile marketing campaign, Sky Rides inspire local communities to get out and have fun cycling in a safe, traffic free environment.

Due to the growing popularity and interest in cycling at all levels, British Cycling is increasingly being approached by major cycle sponsors to identify locations and hosts for new cycle races. Hosting a race series or large cycle sport event can inspire local people to get out on their bikes more often. British Cycling calls this “inspiration to participation”.

The dovetailing of elite events with those for amateur sport and less formal family events provides a good opportunity to cascade uptake throughout the population. The ‘Olympic effect’ has led to 20% of Londoners saying that they would like to cycle more<sup>36</sup>. Partners will therefore use the great opportunity of the Tour de France 2014 to organise a programme of Tour de Yorkshire-related cycle-promotion events, rides and races to take place before, during and after the time that the race is in the region. These will be targeted at a wide-ranging audience.

***A series of Tour de Yorkshire cycle-promotion events, rides and races will be organised***

Social marketing campaigns can help encourage people to cycle more. If carefully targeted to the needs of the audience they can deliver exceptional value towards objectives. Campaigns can be delivered through both mass media (billboards, local radio, etc) and individualised approaches (at schools, workplaces, within residential communities). A Tour de France resource pack has been developed and provided to all schools in the region. Campaigns will both encourage more cycling, and also be used to promote road safety messages.

Health referrals/signposting is another important tool to increase uptake in cycling as a measure to improve health for inactive and needy individuals, and partners will identify how best their use can be increased. Implementing and monitoring travel plans at key locations (schools, businesses, rail stations, etc) will also be a key tool to ensure that everyone feels part of the bigger, regional picture and doing their bit to travel sustainably around their home town or city.

## **In Summary**

Effective promotion of cycling as a transport mode, for leisure or for sport, requires a balance of infrastructure, training and promotion. Different people, in different settings, will require a different balance of these to be targeted at them if they are to cycle more often. However, if this correct balance is achieved, promoting cycling is a low cost approach to providing great value in achieving a range of important outcomes; for health, for the economy and the environment.

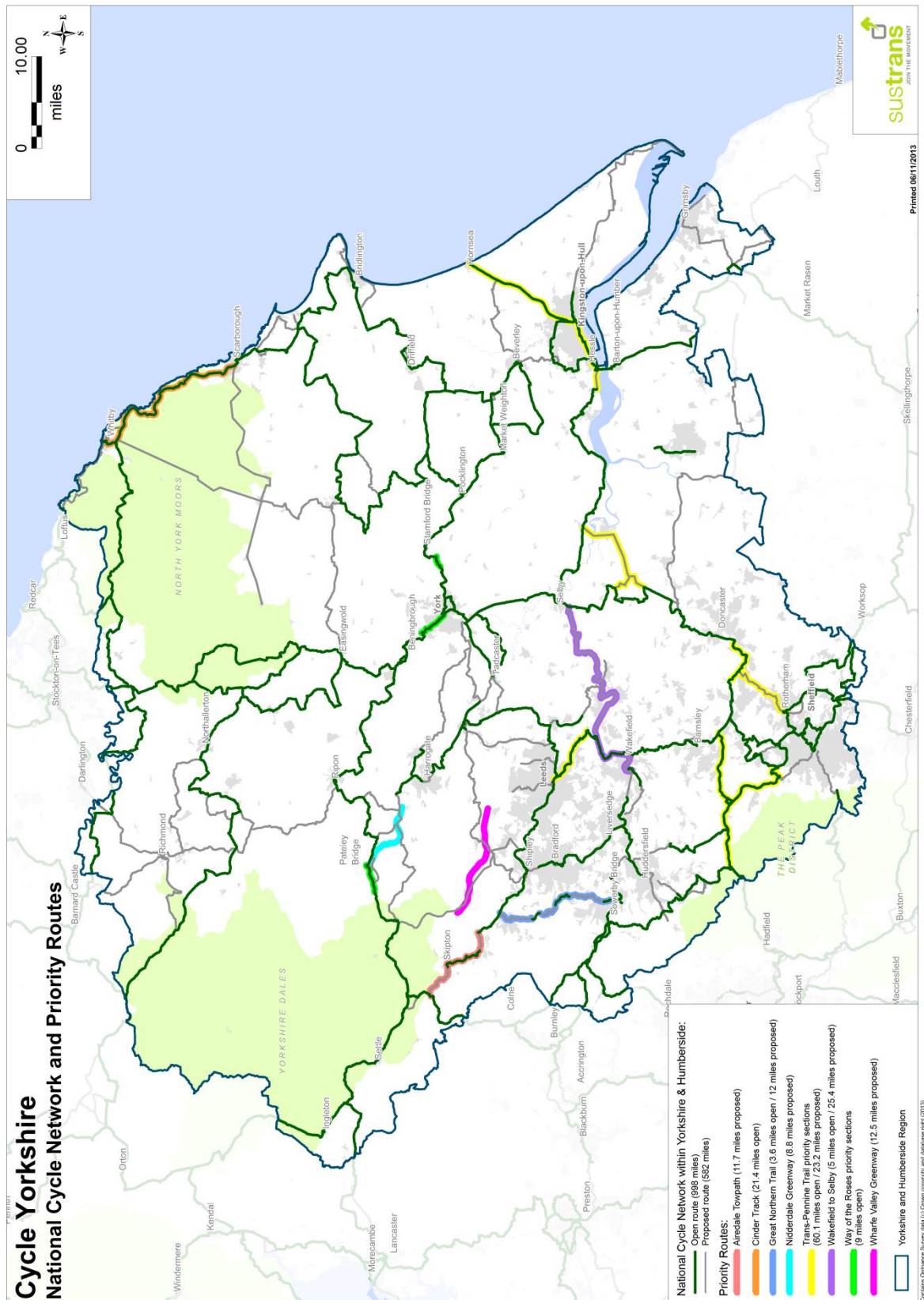
## 5 Delivery plan

Achievement of the vision and objectives for Cycle Yorkshire depends on the co-ordinated effort and investment of a broad range of partners, building on the good work already underway by Local Authorities, legacy partners and local organisations to encourage more people to cycle more often.

In order to co-ordinate that activity, a Regional Delivery Plan for this strategy will be developed. Implementation of this plan will be monitored by the RCDG.

It is anticipated that more detailed sub-regional action plans will also be developed at the discretion of each sub-regional group. These will reflect local needs and opportunities and be informed by the local delivery plans led by each Local Authority who will primarily be delivering the legacy in each of their areas across the region. Detailed actions will therefore be listed in those documents.

# Appendix: National Cycle Network and Priority Routes in Yorkshire (dated 2013)



*This map has been put together as a wish list for priority investment in the National Cycle Network (NCN) as the Sustrans Yorkshire team see it at the moment. There is a mixture of new route development to fill gaps in the existing network and existing route upgrade and maintenance. We believe that significant investment in these routes will have a dramatic effect on the use and enjoyment of the NCN. Ultimately, our aim is to provide and enable a high quality network that serves all communities, towns and cities and we will focus our efforts wherever a need is identified and our services required and valued. For more details please visit [www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map).*

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- <sup>30</sup> We note that the DfT in WebTAG anticipate a lower do-minimum annual growth in cycling of 0.25-0.52% per annum (equating to 2.5-5% growth over ten years) but we suggest that the 1% per annum growth forms a more reasonable baseline
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The UK's Leading Business Organisation



**Federation of Small Businesses**  
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- UK's leading business organisation
- Formed in 1974
- Around 200,000 members
- 33 Regions
- Non profit making
- Non Party Political
- North Yorkshire
  - 3000 Members
  - 6 Branches
  - Craven, Dales, East Coast, Harrogate, Ryedale, York
- Main objective is to promote and protect the interests of the self employed and owners of small firms. Through...
- Benefits
- Lobbying





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**Department for Business Innovation & Skills**



**UNIVERSITY of York**



Not a professional



**the chamber**  
Leeds, York and North Yorkshire



**SUPERFAST NORTH YORKSHIRE**  
CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY



LEEDS FACILITY YORK



**leeds city region**  
intelligence. strong growth.



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**Local Procurement**  
Making the most  
of small businesses

**“ Money spent with local businesses  
stays in the local economy, creating  
positive knock on effects for jobs and  
prosperity”**




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The research



41%

of local authorities spent  
£28.1 billion on goods and  
services



Of this, a total of  
**£8.7 billion**  
was spent locally



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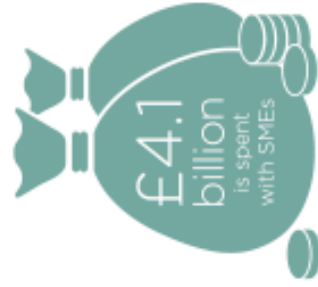
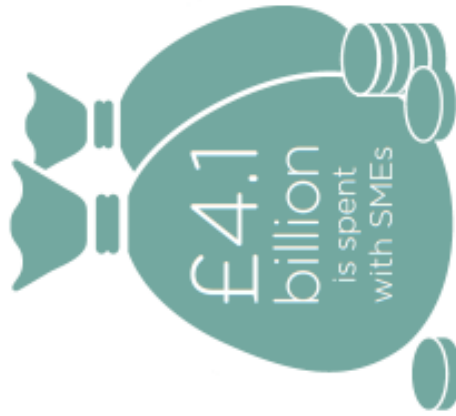
goes back into local economy



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goes back into local economy



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68%

of local authorities pay their suppliers in less than 28 days



39%

of local authorities ensure  
their main contractors use  
the same payment terms to  
help small firms

## • Payment Terms

- The Council will pay the Contract Charges by [monthly payments in arrears]. Such payment shall be made by BACS wherever possible.
- Invoices shall be in such a form as may be agreed between the Council and the Contractor and the Council will pay the invoices within 30 days of receipt of an undisputed invoice.
- The Council reserves the right to vary its invoicing policy at any time and to require electronic invoices to be directly submitted by the contractor. Any expenses of the Contractor involved in the submission of electronic invoices shall be met by the Contractor
- Where the Contractor enters into a sub-contract with a supplier or contractor for the purpose of performing its obligations under the Agreement, it shall ensure that a provision is included in such a sub-contract which requires payment to be made of all sums due by the Contractor to the sub-contractor within a specified period not exceeding 30 days from the receipt of a valid invoice.



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- Social Value Act 2012
- The authority must consider—
  - (a) how what is proposed to be procured might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the relevant area, and
  - (b) how, in conducting the process of procurement, it might act with a view to securing that improvement





## Local Government North Yorkshire and York

7 March 2014

### Impact of Welfare Benefit Reforms on North Yorkshire Residents

#### 1 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide an update on the impacts of benefit changes brought about by the Welfare Reform Act 2012 and associated regulations.

#### 2 Background

- 2.1 Local Government North Yorkshire and York (LGNYY) received a report in October 2013 detailing the initial impacts in North Yorkshire and York of the benefit changes being introduced by The Welfare Act 2012. LGNYY requested an update report to be provided for its meeting in March 2014. This is intended to be the final report unless LGNYY see the need for further updates.
- 2.2 The following welfare benefit changes have or are in the course of being implemented:
- Council Tax Support (CTS)
  - Housing Benefit Size Criteria in the social rented sector
  - Local Welfare Assistance, replacing Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans
  - Local Housing Allowance (LHA), uprated in line with the Consumer Price Index (previously capped to the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile of rents in the locality)
  - Personal Independence Payments (PIP), the replacement for Disability Living Allowance – affecting at present new claimants only
  - the benefit cap for working age people (introduced from 15 July to 30 September 2013)
  - the cap on the annual increases in most working-age benefits
- 2.3 A number of other significant changes are planned to take effect between now and 2020:
- the roll-out of Universal Credit (beginning with claims from the newly unemployed - current benefit claimants will be moved onto Universal Credit in a phased approach)
  - the migration of existing Incapacity Benefit claimants onto Employment and Support Allowance
  - the migration of existing DLA claimants to PIP
  - the rise in the State Pension age to 66 years for both men and women

### **3 National developments**

#### **3.1 Court rulings – benefit cap and Housing Benefit Size Criteria in the social rented sector**

3.1.1 The High Court ruled in November 2013 that the new capping regulations introduced by the DWP were lawful. The capping affects housing benefit, child benefit and child tax credit to families who do not work sufficient hours to qualify for working tax credit, and is set at £500 per week for couples or lone parents.

3.1.2 The High Court judges in dismissing the case said that ultimately it was a policy issue, and it could not be said that the scheme was manifestly unfair or disproportionate as to justify interference by the courts.

3.1.3 The limit on the sum that each household can claim in benefits could be lowered further. Iain Duncan Smith, The Work and Pensions Secretary announced in January that the £26,000 maximum imposed by the Government would be kept “under review”<sup>1</sup>.

3.1.4 In February 2014 the Court of Appeal ruled that the benefits cap and size criteria do not unduly discriminate against disabled tenants. Judges ruled that the two measures were not unlawful and that the Court could only intervene if the measures “were manifestly without reasonable foundation”<sup>2</sup>.

#### **3.2 Cap on overall welfare spending**

3.2.1 The Government announced last year that it intended to introduce a cap on a significant amount of Annually Managed Expenditure. The cap will apply to total welfare spending excluding the basic state pension and benefits directly affected by cyclical increases in unemployment such as Jobseekers Allowance (JSA). The precise level of the welfare cap will initially be set in this year’s Budget announcement, and will apply from 2015 onwards. The level of the cap will be reviewed at the beginning of each Parliament. The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) will assess the government’s performance against the cap once a year alongside the Chancellor’s Autumn Statement.

#### **3.3 Universal Credit: revised timetable for roll-out**

3.3.1 The DWP has acknowledged that it might miss its own deadline for moving all claimants to Universal Credit by 2017, with only 400,000 benefit claimants forecast to be added to the system in 2015-16 compared with the 4.5m that had been planned. Instead, the vast majority of the seven million people due to transfer will do so in the two years leading up to 2017<sup>3</sup>. All new claims, apart from those currently entitled to Employment Support Allowance (ESA), will be within Universal Credit by 2016; all existing claimants, apart from those

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article3974563.ece>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4013102.ece>

<sup>3</sup> <http://cdn.budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/Economic-and-fiscal-outlook-December-2013.pdf>

on ESA, will be transferred by 2017. The government estimates about 700,000 people receiving ESA might not be moved to Universal Credit until after 2017<sup>4</sup>.

### 3.4 Universal Credit Pathfinder/Pilots

3.4.1 DWP evaluation from the pathfinder authorities (Greater Manchester) found that 90% of claims were made successfully online; and 78% of those getting monthly payments were confident they could budget over the month<sup>5</sup>.

3.4.2 Research conducted by the Citizens Advice Bureaux ('Managing migration pilot project') however shows that the transition to Universal Credit is not simply about people mastering ICT. The research examined the readiness of clients in the Universal Credit pilot areas affected by Universal Credit for the transition. Clients were mapped against five key capability areas: budgeting, monthly payments, banking, staying informed and getting online. Nine out of 10 CAB clients were not ready for Universal Credit in at least one capability area and 38% were not ready in all five. However after receiving advice and support from the CAB service over half of clients had improved skills in all five key areas. The importance of the CAB and local authorities working together is underlined in the research, including in respect of getting people online.

### 3.5 Housing Benefit Size Criteria in the social rented sector (a.k.a. 'spare room subsidy' or 'bedroom tax')

3.5.1 The DWP has confirmed that social housing tenants who have had a continuous claim for Housing Benefit since at least 1 January 1996 and occupied the same dwelling since that date should not have been subject to the size criteria rules. Transitional protection should have applied. Claimants have been asked to contact their local authority if they are in this position to have their claim reassessed under the correct rules and receive money backdated to April 2013.

3.5.2 The government intends to change the law so that these same households will not be exempt from the size criteria in the near future.

### 3.6 Personal Independence Payments (PIP)

3.6.1 From 28 October 2013 the DWP started to invite some existing DLA claimants living in Wales, West Midlands, East Midlands and East Anglia to claim PIP. From 3 February 2014 the reassessment of DLA claimants for PIP began in our region for the following postcodes: CA, DL, HG, LA and YO6.

3.6.2 The DWP has said that further decisions on extending reassessment will be communicated to the rest of the country in due course. However the DWP expects that from October 2015 all the remaining claimants in receipt of a

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-25230158>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/universal-credit-working-together-for-improved-outcomes>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/275656/pip-toolkit-factsheet-reassessment.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/275656/pip-toolkit-factsheet-reassessment.pdf)

DLA award will be invited to make a claim for PIP. By October 2017 all existing DLA claimants (aged 16 to 64 on 8 April 2013) will have been invited to claim PIP.

### 3.7 Council Tax support

3.7.1 From April 2014, unitary/district councils will fund council tax support through their general resources with Government no longer providing a separate dedicated stream of funding.

3.7.2 One in three councils affected is likely to have to reduce levels of council tax support for 2014/15, according to a survey carried out by the Society of District Council Treasurers<sup>7</sup>.

### 3.8 Macro and micro economic prospects

3.8.1 The latest labour market statistics<sup>8</sup> show that unemployment has continued to fall nationally - the jobless total was 2.34 million in the final quarter of 2013, down by 125,000, giving an unemployment rate of 7.2%. People claiming JSA dipped to 1.22 million in January, down by 27,000 - the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive monthly fall. More women are also in work than at any time since records began in 1971. However 1.4 million people are in part-time jobs because they cannot find full-time work, a fall of 29,000 over the latest quarter but 46,000 higher than a year ago. Youth and long-term unemployment have both fallen, but there has been little change in the number of people classed as 'economically inactive', which has remained just under nine million. Average earnings increased by 1.1% in the year to December, 0.2 percentage points up on the previous month. The number of people out of work for longer than a year has fallen by 45,000 to 845,000, while 451,000 have been unemployed for over two years, down by 7,000. Job vacancies were up by 28,000 to 580,000 - the highest since 2008.

3.8.2 Conditions in the North Yorkshire labour market in January were mixed<sup>9</sup>. There was a rise in the total number of JSA benefit claimants. This rise though was offset by a small fall in the number of people claiming for more than a year. There was a small rise in the number of claimants' aged 18 to 24 years old while the number of people claiming for over six months was unchanged. However, all of these measures of unemployment showed an improvement over the same period in 2013. Craven and Richmondshire districts were least affected by the rise in JSA claimant numbers.

3.8.3 According to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, pensioner poverty is at its lowest level for 30 years. However for the first time there are more people in working families living below the poverty line (6.7 million) than in workless and retired families in poverty combined (6.3 million)<sup>10</sup>.

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<sup>7</sup> LGA press release, January 2014,

[http://www.local.gov.uk/media-releases/-/journal\\_content/56/10180/5819176/NEWS](http://www.local.gov.uk/media-releases/-/journal_content/56/10180/5819176/NEWS)

<sup>8</sup> *Labour Market Statistics, February 2014*, Office for National Statistics

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/lms/labour-market-statistics/february-2014/statistical-bulletin.html>

<sup>9</sup> North Yorkshire Economic Monitor, February 2014

<sup>10</sup> *Monitoring Poverty & Social Exclusion*, JRF/NPI, 2013

3.8.4 Despite the signs of national economic recovery, personal debt in the UK remains close to its all-time high of £1.43 trillion, with unsecured consumer debt reaching £158 billion, according to the Centre for Social Justice. Indebted households in the poorest 10% of the country have average debts more than four times their annual income<sup>11</sup>. Research<sup>12</sup> by the Money Advice Service (MAS) found that nearly nine million people across the UK are living with serious debt problems but of those very few people access free advice. Using data produced from Experian, the credit reference agency, the MAS has ranked each district and unitary authority area in the country by the proportion of the resident population who are over 'indebted'<sup>13</sup>. The results for North Yorkshire and York are shown in the table below.

| District/unitary local authority area | Rank<br><i>(where '1' has the highest level of indebtedness in the population (43.11%) and '406' has the lowest level (1.2%))</i> | Percentage of population identified as indebted. |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. Scarborough                        | 119   | 22.8%  |
| 2. Selby                              | 198   | 14.7%  |
| 3. York                               | 202   | 14.5%  |
| 4. Richmondshire                      | 229   | 13.2%  |
| 5. Craven                             | 282   | 9.8%   |
| 6. Ryedale                            | 290   | 9.1%   |
| 7. Harrogate                          | 297   | 8.8%   |
| 8. Hambleton                          | 309   | 8.1%   |

3.8.5 The number of people receiving benefit sanctions has continued to grow over the past year, following the introduction of the new JSA sanctions regime in October 2012<sup>14</sup>. The new regime is intended to encourage people to engage with the support being offered by Jobcentres by making it clearer to claimants what they are expected to do in return for their benefit. Parliament's Work and Pensions Committee<sup>15</sup> has, however, called on Jobcentre Plus to revise its key performance indicators immediately to ensure that staff are

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/monitoring-poverty-and-social-exclusion-2013>

<sup>11</sup> *Maxed Out: Serious personal debt in Britain*, Centre for Social Justice, November 2013

[http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/UserStorage/pdf/Pdf%20reports/CSJ\\_Serious\\_Debt\\_report\\_WEB\\_final.pdf](http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/UserStorage/pdf/Pdf%20reports/CSJ_Serious_Debt_report_WEB_final.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> *Indebted lives: the complexities of life in debt*, MAS, November 2013

<https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/static/indebted-lives-the-complexities-of-life-in-debt>

<sup>13</sup> Individuals who have been at least three months behind their bills in the last six months or have said that they feel their debts are a heavy burden.

<sup>14</sup> DWP figures show that there has been a rise in the number of sanctions compared with last year – between November 2012 (the first full month of the new sanctions) and September 2013 there were 789,000 sanctions. This compares to 705,000 sanctions between November 2011 and September 2012.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/benefit-sanctions-ending-the-something-for-nothing-culture--2> Food banks nationally and locally have reported that one of the main reasons that people are citing for needing to use a food bank is due to them having received a benefit sanction or because their benefits have been delayed. A recent study commissioned by DEFRA (*Household Food Security in the UK: A Review of Food Aid*, February 2014) notes that there is evidence that benefits payment problems – either administrative errors, or the temporary withdrawal of benefits as a result of sanctions – are a factor in the increase in demand for food aid. More generally it found that people are accessing food banks because of "crisis" poverty levels. No evidence was found to support the idea that increased food aid provision is driving demand.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/283071/household-food-security-uk-140219.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/283071/household-food-security-uk-140219.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/work-and-pensions-committee/news/jcp-rpt/>

incentivised to get jobseekers into work, not just to get them off benefits. A limited independent review of sanctioning has now been established by the DWP. The Committee has also recommended that there should be a separate, broader independent review, which amongst other things would look at whether, and to what extent, sanctioning and benefit conditionality (the use of negative incentives to encourage a return to work) is having the desired effect of encouraging claimants to engage more actively in job-seeking.

3.8.6 Crime in England and Wales fell to its lowest level in at least 32 years in the 12 months to September 2013 according to the Crime Survey of England and Wales. However the survey also showed an increase in some types of 'austerity-related' offences. These included a 4% rise in shoplifting, which was up by more than 11,000 to more than 313,000, and a 7% increase in 'theft from the person', which includes pickpocketing. The rise in shoplifting was seen in 29 of the 43 police force areas<sup>16</sup>.

## **4 Impact of the changes introduced to date**

### **4.1 Housing Benefit Size Criteria in the social rented sector**

4.1.1 Local authorities in North Yorkshire and York continue to report that the majority of the work has been to explain and advise customers about the size criteria. As detailed in previous reports, a range of measures are in place to provide support including home visits to identify potential exemptions for carers and disabled children and a programme of direct intervention with support and advice provided to enable home moves etc. City of York Council for example is helping those seeking to downsize through the Home Swapper scheme by matching those under occupying with tenants who are overcrowded and wishing to move. The Council's downsize incentive scheme provides grants of £2,500 to move to help pay for a wide range of associated costs such as moving fees, reconnection of utilities etc.

4.1.2 Most of the tenants who are affected by the size criteria in North Yorkshire and City of York have one excess bedroom. Taking Harrogate and Scarborough districts as examples, 86% and 85% of cases respectively relate to tenants with an excess of one bedroom. The average weekly loss for council tenants living in Harrogate district with an excess of one bedroom is £13.42; and £27.98 for those with an excess of two bedrooms or more. For Selby the average weekly loss for council tenants with an excess of one bedroom is £11.56; and £22.22 for those with an excess of two bedrooms or more. The average weekly loss for housing association tenants in Selby

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<sup>16</sup> North Yorkshire Police recorded an increase in the number of shoplifting offences related to food during the summer months of 2013, with the yearly average being around 95 a month. The Christmas period was higher than expected for theft of food as historically the cold weather has put people off from shoplifting, with shoplifters being more likely to steal non-consumable items for presents rather than food. Police intelligence suggests however that in the vast majority of cases food is not being stolen by an individual for the purposes of feeding themselves or their family; instead it is being sold on, usually for drugs. This is because individuals supplying drugs are now willing to take a range of items as payment for drugs instead of money. North Yorkshire Police has confirmed that if it is clear that individuals who have been arrested have a genuine need for food then in the right circumstances they would be referred on for further support.

district with an excess of one bedroom is £12.93; and £24.42 for those with an excess of two bedrooms or more.

- 4.1.3 Hambleton District Council's Housing Department has seen an increase in homelessness representations along with a rise in advice and support needs. It reports that the size restriction legislation has affected homeless clients and the properties for which they can bid i.e. due to the limited amount of one bed accommodation for single people/couples. Also the extension of the single room rate to include under-35 year olds is impacting on younger clients as there is a shortage of houses in multiple-occupation. In general there are limited housing options for residents due to high private sector rentals and limited housing association stock.
- 4.1.4 Most but not all of the Housing Associations across North Yorkshire and York have consistently reported that the size criteria has had a negative impact upon the total level of their rent arrears, even though they have put support measures in place. Broadacres reports that of the 482 households affected (not including those on the DHP allowance), over the 36 weeks since the size criteria came into effect, the shortfall between the additional income that it should have received and actual outstanding rental arrears is just under £195,000. The Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust has managed to reduce the number affected in York and North Yorkshire from 111 tenancies to 77 by proactively assisting tenants to downsize. However the total arrears for the remaining 77 tenancies affected by the size criteria rose from £16,000 at the end of September 2013 to £28,800 at the end of December 2013. The average arrears figure per tenancy was £208.12 at the end of September and £373.48 at the end of December 2013: an 80% increase.
- 4.1.5 As detailed in previous update reports the Housing Associations in our area are implementing a range of initiatives to help their tenants try to cope with the welfare benefit changes, including tackling rent arrears, and assisting tenants to downsize properties. For example the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust has suspended the requirement for a tenancy to have no arrears to be eligible to move.
- 4.1.6 The numbers affected by the size criteria in 2013/14 in North Yorkshire and York have varied from the initial estimates taken at the start of the financial year. This is due to a number of factors such as the ruling that transitional protection should have applied to social housing tenants who have had a continuous claim for Housing Benefit since 1 January 1996 and occupied the same dwelling since that date. Other factors include families having downsized to smaller properties; the size of households increasing so that there is no longer a 'spare room' in the property; a change in a household's benefit circumstances; and exemptions because of easement of rules on foster parents, severely disabled children and non-dependants on active military service.

## 4.2 Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP)

4.2.1 The amount of DHP funding left in local authority budgets varies across North Yorkshire and York, though most have seen significant increases in applications when compared with 2012/13. All housing authorities received additional transitional funding in 2013 and Craven, Richmondshire and Ryedale district councils received a further tranche of funding provided to the 21 least densely populated areas in Great Britain.

4.2.2 For Ryedale District Council the number of claims received year to date (283) has increased significantly compared to the previous year (60). However it anticipates that it will not spend its entire DHP budget this year when taking into account the additional increase in funding.

4.2.3 Craven District Council also qualified for the rural sparsity DHP funding, albeit for a smaller amount, and is using the funding to provide a benefit maximisation project. Its DHP budget is currently underspent but it anticipates a large spend from this fund within the next month as it implements a homeless prevention measure aimed at tackling the large rent arrears that have accumulated since April 2013.

4.2.4 Hambleton District Council has almost spent its DHP budget (£85,775) for this financial year and it too has seen a significant increase in DHP applications from last year (£24,180).

4.2.5 Selby District Council has £13,739 unallocated or 15.36% of the annual fund left for the financial year.

4.2.6 For City of York Council the number of applications made during the 12 months to 31 January 2013 was 268, and for the period to 31 January 2014 there were 830 – over a 309% increase. It expects to have a modest underspend of £10,000 in its DHP budget by the end of the financial year.

4.2.7 Harrogate Borough Council has found that following an initial spike in activity earlier in the year, the number of DHP claims has fallen to only marginally above 2012/13 levels. Take-up has been lower than expected, with expenditure being less than 40% of the total fund. The key influence on the growth in DHP applications has been the introduction the social sector size criteria. The second highest reason has been due to the value of the Local Housing allowance being below rent liability.

## 4.3 Benefit Cap

4.3.1 City of York Council in common with other local authorities has found that the actual number of households affected by the benefit cap has been lower than earlier DWP estimates (28 households against a predicted 40). The average loss per week is £41.06 but as family circumstances change and the reduction varies it is difficult to estimate an annual loss figure. Actual losses range from £1.02 to £99.98 per week.



- 4.3.2 Hambleton District Council has found that despite earlier indications that a small number of cases would be affected, to date no claims have been affected by the benefit cap.
- 4.3.3 Selby District Council has identified five households in the district with losses ranging from £0.50 per week to £91.58 per week.
- 4.3.4 Ryedale District Council has so far identified 34 cases with potential losses ranging from £11.87 to £138.93 per week. However of those the cap has only been applied to four households, which is a direct result of proactive working.
- 4.3.5 There are 25 cases adversely affected by the overall benefit cap in Scarborough district. All cases have been written to by DWP and the Borough Council has shared information with its main Registered Social Landlords for their affected tenants.
- 4.3.6 Craven District Council has identified four households affected by the benefit cap, with potential losses ranging from £29.42 to £108.19 per week. The Council is working in partnership with its Housing Options team and Citizen's Advice Bureau to provide help with budgeting and opportunities to relocate to smaller properties if appropriate. DHP is generally the last resort after all other avenues have been explored.
- 4.3.7 Harrogate Borough Council has found that of the 15 cases affected in the district only two are currently claiming DHP. This is because the majority are trying to budget taking advantage of the Council's in-house budgeting service.
- 4.4 Council Tax Support (CTS) – 10% reduction in Council Tax Benefit introduced nationally for claimants under pensionable age.
- 4.4.1 Local authorities in North Yorkshire continue to report that although the amount of Council Tax collected to date remains in line with last year's figures, or has fallen only very marginally, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of reminders and, in the case of some, an increase in the number of summonses issued.
- 4.4.2 Hambleton District Council reports that the number of reminders sent out in 2013/14 has increased by 1000 (14% increase). Summonses issued up to the end of January 2014 have increased by 930 compared to the previous year.
- 4.4.3 Craven District Council reports that Council tax collection rates overall remain broadly in line with the previous financial year, at 86.7% at the end of December 2013, compared to 87.3% as at the same point in 2012. For claimants in receipt of Council Tax Support the figure is 80% across all claimants. The collection rate for pensioners is higher than the average for all taxpayers (89.9%), whilst for working age claimants the average collection rate is 70.7%. For claimants classed as vulnerable the collection rate is 78%.

- 4.4.4 Ryedale District Council reports that Council Tax collection is down by approximately 0.5%. However part of this is due to some ratepayers opting to pay over 12 instalments. The monetary value collected in respect of Council Tax in 2013/14 has increased by over 4% (£300,000) compared to the same time last year. An additional recovery cycle has been also be implemented. It is anticipated therefore that the collection rate for 2013/14 should be no less than 0.3% down compared to the previous financial year.
- 4.4.5 For City of York Council the overall Council Tax collection rate was 0.43% below last years as at 31 January 2014, though the expected end of year outturn is expected to be at breakeven. The collection rate for pensioners is 97.1% and the collection rate for working age customers is currently 57.9%. The number of reminders sent out in 2013/14 has increased by 1949 (15% increase). Final Notices have increased by 687 (91% increase). Summonses issued up to the end of January 2014 have increased by 4016 (56% increase) compared to the previous year.
- 4.4.6 Harrogate Borough Council will be maintaining its current scheme and so will not be making any cuts in the Council Tax Reduction scheme for 2014/15.

#### 4.5 Universal Credit

- 4.5.1 As reported in the previous update report, Harrogate district has been selected as a progressive roll-out site for Universal Credit with effect from February 2014. The role of Harrogate Borough Council in supporting Universal Credit is limited to the provision of personal budgeting and support; on-line access and support for people to apply for the benefit; and expert support and advice to Universal Credit processing teams in relation to housing costs.
- 4.5.2 Work is on-going to establish working practices and organise partnership arrangements to deliver these services. The numbers of claims are expected to be very low, approximately 100 per month, and not be of significant impact to services or the households who claim the new benefit.

#### 4.6 Personal Independence Payments (PIP)

- 4.6.1 Harrogate district has been selected as an area to extend the roll-out of the migration of disability living allowance claims to the new PIP benefit. Data has been requested from the DWP on the impact expected by this change in the district but has not been confirmed.

#### 4.7 Local Welfare Assistance/Emergency food provision

- 4.7.1 From 2015/16 unitary and upper tier local authorities will have to fund the cost of their local welfare assistance funds from their base budgets, with no additional funding provided from central government. This could lead some local authorities to abandoning their schemes.

- North Yorkshire:

4.7.2 The bulk of awards made in relation to the County Council's Local Assistance Fund (NYLAF) from the beginning of October to the end of December 2013 have been from families under exceptional pressure (42% of all awards made), followed by people experiencing mental health problems (19%) and thirdly people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness (18%). The total amount of applications made for this quarter has been higher than for previous quarters.

4.7.3 46% of all applications have been from Scarborough district followed by Harrogate district at 13%.

4.7.4 Food has been the most requested item (37% of awards) closely followed by white goods (36% of awards). 31 % of white goods awarded were made to Scarborough district followed by Richmondshire (23%).

4.7.5 Recent changes to the fund have included extending the provision within each food parcel to at least five days, and introducing utility top-ups. Scarborough district has by far the highest number of food applications awarded at 66%. However the figures are likely to be skewed slightly due to the NYLAF having provided one-off funding to the Rainbow Centre in Scarborough to provide food parcels. Scarborough district has also made the most applications for utility top-ups, making 49% of applications. Eligibility for utility top-ups is much the same as it is for food parcels; applicants do not necessarily have to fall within a vulnerability category but need to be able to demonstrate an urgent need for utility top-up that cannot be met by other forms of support.

4.7.6 Expenditure is budgeted on monthly basis and is being fully spent.

- City of York:

4.7.7 As reported in the previous update, City of York Council has been reviewing its scheme ('York Financial Assistance Scheme'). A report was taken to Cabinet in January 2014 following analysis and consultation of the scheme. These key recommendations were agreed:

- The full administration of the Scheme remaining within the Council's Benefits Service with a strengthening of advice, referrals and researching of other sources of funding.
- The Financial Inclusion Steering Group having overall control over the general distribution of the fund and the commissioning of other organisations as necessary to target specific initiatives.

4.7.8 Expenditure is below that based on historical DWP data. From April 2013 to end of January 2014 1062 awards were made amounting to a value of £178,062. The majority of spend for 'community' need has been for 'white goods' and furniture, and for 'emergency' need it has been primarily for daily living expenses.

#### 4.8 Other welfare benefit impacts

- 4.8.1 North Yorkshire County Council's Benefits, Assessments and Charging Teams in Health and Adult Services have continued to see a further increase in demand for benefits advice and information as part of the recent decision to review the way the Council charges for services. As a result of the review the County Council will be supporting potentially another 6000 people in the community and this will include benefits maximisation for them as well as on-going clients.
- 4.8.2 Debt and benefits advice remain the largest types of enquiry locally by some margin for North Yorkshire and York CAB (Q3 figures 2013/14).
- 4.8.3 The North Yorkshire and York CAB carried out a joint piece of research last year into the concerns facing clients using an on-line Universal Credit service. Concerns included: lack of skills to use the internet; costs associated with accessing the internet; lack of privacy when entering personal data at public internet sites; lack of confidence and increased anxiety when applying for benefits online; and signs of discrimination against disabled people and those living with mental health problems. This highlighted the need for readily accessible support, in particular, personal face to face contact when dealing with complex benefit claims; customised training for claimants in the use of the internet and email; locally based, free access to the internet; privacy considerations for claimants using public access terminals; and optional, multi-channel access available for disabled people and those living with mental health problems.
- 4.8.4 The Welfare Benefits Unit for York & North Yorkshire Unit continues to be busy with training requests from second tier support for organisations working with clients with benefits issues. It remains the case that outside of the City of York the Unit does not have external funding to provide support to organisations with benefit appeals elsewhere in the county.

## **5 Recommendations**

- 5.1 Local Government North Yorkshire and York is recommended to note and comment upon the findings in the report.

Neil Irving  
Assistant Director - Policy and Partnerships  
North Yorkshire County Council

24 February 2014

**Local Government North Yorkshire and York****7 March 2014****North Yorkshire Community Plan****Background**

- 1 As Members will be aware, the partner consultation on the draft North Yorkshire Community Plan 2014/17 ended on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2014. Further to the feedback received, the Plan was updated and taken to the Chief Executives Group for North Yorkshire and York on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2014. The Group agreed the draft Plan, except for some tweaking of the action plan, which was recommended to be done to refine its purpose.
- 2 This report seeks final comments and approval from Members on the updated draft of the Community Plan, attached at Appendix 1.

**The revised Plan and forward process**

- 3 Fourteen respondents (comprising organisations and individuals) provided comments during the consultation period. Attached for information at Appendix 2 is a list of those who provided feedback, a summary of the key comments received and responses to these from the partnership.
- 4 As Members will note, respondents were broadly supportive of the three priorities, with some suggestions for how to develop the narrative further and identify some linkages with other work underway in the county. A key query for some respondents was around the action plan and how progress would be monitored. Some revisions were subsequently made to the plan to incorporate suggestions. To summarise, the key changes made were:
  - Recognition of the need to invest in infrastructure, skills and employment within delivery of Priority 1;
  - Identification of linkages with other countywide plans, where appropriate;
  - Acknowledgement that all three sectors (public, business and voluntary and community) all play a key part in supporting communities; and
  - Refinement of the action plan to clarify the key objectives, which organisations will lead them and how progress against them will be monitored.
- 5 An updated draft was subsequently taken to the Chief Executives Group for North Yorkshire and York (“the CEO Group”) on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2014. The CEO Group agreed the draft Plan and its priorities but it was highlighted that it might benefit from some further refinement of the draft action plan to ensure that objectives are clear and measurable. The Community Plan task group, comprising officers from the CEO Group partner organisations, was therefore also consulted for further comments on the action plan to ensure that this could be expedited efficiently. The draft Plan attached at Appendix 1 therefore incorporates some minor changes and comments arising from and subsequent to the Chief Executives Group discussion. Both the updated Plan and the responses to the consultation are also available now to view at [www.nypartnerships.org.uk/nycommunityplan](http://www.nypartnerships.org.uk/nycommunityplan)

- 6 Members may recall that the current timetable for formal approval of the Community Plan is for the updated draft Plan to go to a meeting of the County Council's Executive on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014. This will be prior to formal approval at a full meeting of the County Council on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2014. In order to meet this timeframe, the draft Plan needs to be finalised by the middle of March 2014.

### **Recommendations**

- 7 It is recommended that Local Government North Yorkshire and York:
- i) provide any final comments as necessary on the updated North Yorkshire Community Plan 2014/17.
  - ii) agrees that the draft Community Plan 2014/17 may proceed to the formal approval process as outlined in paragraph 6.

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

24 February 2014

Appendix 1 – North Yorkshire Community Plan 2014-17 (draft as at 24 February 2014)  
Appendix 2 – Consultation comments and draft responses

# **North Yorkshire Community Plan 2014 - 17**

**Draft as at 24 February 2014**

**Local Government North Yorkshire and York  
Chief Executives Group North Yorkshire and York**

## North Yorkshire Community Plan 2014-17

This plan sets out the key issues and actions that need to be tackled in partnership across North Yorkshire in the next three years, to help make sure that the county is well placed to respond to both challenges and opportunities. This is a refresh of the 2011-14 plan, led by Local Government North Yorkshire and York (LGNYY) and the Chief Executives Group for North Yorkshire and York.

Our vision is **we want North Yorkshire to be a thriving county which adapts to a changing world and remains a special place for everyone to live, work and visit.** This builds on our aspirations for the county in the 2011-14 plan but also focusses our efforts as partners on the ongoing challenges presented by the difficult economic situation in the county.

There are a number of strategic plans and frameworks agreed by partners across the county (for example the local enterprise partnership growth strategy *[link to be added]* and the [joint health and wellbeing strategy](#)). LGNYY and the Chief Executives Group have produced this plan to bring a joined up approach to a few critical issues that need a targeted partnership effort to tackle them. In identifying these we have adopted the following criteria:

1. Prevention - Where do we need to provide additional support, particularly in relation to issues which have the potential to create bigger problems in the next few years if we do nothing about them?
2. Partnership - Which issues do we as LGNYY and Chief Executives Group partners need to be involved in together?
3. Co-ordination - Where could we create key linkages with other partnership plans?

### Our three priorities for 2014-17

- **Facilitate the development of key housing and employment sites across North Yorkshire by delivering necessary infrastructure investments through partnership**
- **Supporting and enabling North Yorkshire communities to have greater capacity to shape and deliver the services they need and to enhance their resilience in a changing world**
- **Reduce health inequalities across North Yorkshire**

The public sector is undergoing rapid change and the way that services are delivered to communities will continue to evolve over the next few years. As well as the more traditional function of delivering services, the public sector will also rely more heavily on working with partners in the voluntary and community and business sectors to **enable** communities to develop and deliver the services they need. Additionally, there will be a need to deliver more projects which reduce service demand and provide good value to the public. Good practice is already being established in this respect by countywide projects such as the Developing Stronger Families initiative. Partners will need to ensure that best value is achieved in the delivery of actions for this plan. Partners will also need to be mindful that where a service is reduced, this could impact on delivery of a service by another partner organisation and as such we will collaborate in partnership to minimise the impact of this.



## ***Priority 1 - Facilitate the development of key housing and employment sites across North Yorkshire by delivering necessary infrastructure investments through partnership***

We want North Yorkshire to be a place of opportunity for all and where all residents are able to thrive. This requires both access to good quality employment and a range of housing that meets the needs of our communities at all stages of their lives, including in relation to affordability. This combined offer is central to attracting and retaining a local workforce to support our economy. A number of strategic development sites are planned across the county which provide large-scale opportunities to deliver housing and employment growth, but often there are barriers to bringing them forward and making the most of them. These barriers frequently come in the form of physical infrastructure, for example the need to provide new roads and junctions, or to provide new schools. Here it is important - and frequently essential - that partners, including the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) serving the county, work together in unison to deliver what is required. The infrastructure needs don't stop at the boundaries of each site though. Sometimes wider infrastructure investment, for example in the highways network, is required to ensure that these major development sites are well connected and accessible.

Complementing investments in physical infrastructure, there is a key role for local authorities, LEPs, education and training providers and other partners to make sure our local workforce has the skills to match the employment opportunities that are either immediately available or being sought. Opportunities to match graduate and apprenticeship skills with future jobs should be pursued, as should the provision of support to help families to be economically stable by giving young people who are not in education or employment the necessary skills. Enabling the development of strategic housing and employment sites therefore requires a package of targeted and focused partnership action. This will not only make direct and positive contributions to the economy of North Yorkshire but will enable a range of wider housing and social benefits for our communities improving their health and wellbeing. The importance of enabling such development is fully reflected within the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Enterprise Partnership Strategic Economic Plan and its accompanying Local Growth Deal Implementation Plan. Partners will work alongside the LEP to ensure that strategic development sites are delivered and, by supporting the preparation and implementation of the LEP's Skills Delivery Plan, that the opportunities offered for our economy and communities are maximised.

## ***Priority 2 - Support and enable North Yorkshire communities to have greater capacity to shape and deliver the services they need and to enhance their resilience in a changing world***

Public sector budget cuts have already had some impact on local services and will continue to do so considerably over the next few years. Within this changing context, partners have a key role to play in enabling communities to develop resilience and adapt. In some examples, such as the village shop and Post Office at Stillington, communities have been able to mobilise independently to take action and to retain and develop a 'hub' of services locally by recruiting volunteers and finding funding. However, there is a need for more targeted support for communities from partners, including training and support for community leaders to work with their community to shape and deliver sustainable services in an innovative way. There are already examples across the county where communities have been supported to deliver local services which best meet their needs, such as the community libraries operating in places such as Barlby and Ayton. Many partners are now signed up to the [joint working principles for](#)

[engaging communities](#) and it will be important for all partners to make best use of existing community engagement structures in developing this work.

With the growth of an older population in North Yorkshire comes a growth in age related issues such as dementia and loneliness and isolation. The growing older population also provides real opportunities to promote community action and healthy ageing, helping to tackle issues such as dementia and loneliness and isolation. Partners in North Yorkshire are actively developing and implementing strategies on prevention and dementia to improve the ways in which health and social care organisations meet increasing demand, improve care, and bring care closer to home. Key to this is the government's Better Care Fund (BCF), which brings health and social care services together through joint funding. The BCF will be a significant driver of integrated working between health and social care to prevent illness and disability, as well as providing care in a joined up way. One area of focus is on improving mental health services, and the enabling of "dementia-friendly" communities.

### **Priority 3 - Reduce health inequalities across North Yorkshire**

We know that whilst North Yorkshire offers a good quality of life for many, this is not the case for all. In particular there are significant differences in terms of health and wellbeing experienced by many people in more affluent communities compared with those who have experienced higher levels of social and economic deprivation. Additionally, the current public sector budget cuts have already started to impact significantly on public services in North Yorkshire. Changes to these services, particularly when viewed cumulatively, can impact on the health and wellbeing of the population long into the future and are likely to disproportionately affect the most vulnerable in our society. We must work to ensure that the potential negative impact of these changes is minimised and highlight where we believe those in greatest need are being affected the most.

Smoking and alcohol are two of the main drivers of ill health in the population. Smoking is also the primary reason for the gap in life expectancy between the rich and the poor. In North Yorkshire there were over 3,000 deaths between 2008 and 2010 attributable to smoking. Across the county as a whole, 16% of adults smoke, but this rises to 30% in routine and manual groups. Likewise, modelled estimates show that over 25% of the North Yorkshire population are drinking at "increasing risk" and "high risk" levels. This is not just a problem for adults; in the North Yorkshire Every Child Matters survey of children in years 8 and 10 (aged 12-13 and 14-15) showed that 32% of pupils have had an alcoholic drink in the last 7 days. Additionally, we know that alcohol abuse is heavily linked to issues around crime, disorder and road safety. These issues are preventable through co-ordinated action across organisations in North Yorkshire using "alliance" approaches with clear leadership, a shared vision, and collective action.

All partners in LGNYY and the Chief Executives Group have a key role in the health and wellbeing of their staff, as well as thousands of contacts daily with residents. This puts them and all local employers in an ideal position to improve the health (and productivity) of their workforce as well as supporting local residents to live healthy lives. There is good evidence that creating a healthy workplace reduces sickness and absence levels, accidents, injuries, and employee turnover, as well as increasing overall performance and productivity.

## How will this plan be taken forward?

Local Government North Yorkshire and York and the Chief Executives Group for North Yorkshire and York will lead the partnership of agencies responsible for ensuring that progress is achieved against all of the key aims of this refreshed plan.

The partnership has identified a number of key agencies or groups below who will be best placed to lead on delivering the actions outlined in this plan, although it is expected that all partners will have some role to play in ensuring their effective implementation. Performance against these actions will be reviewed in full at least every twelve months by the Chief Executives Group, who will receive from each lead an overview of progress made in these areas and any barriers to achievement.

### 1) Facilitate the development of key housing and employment sites across North Yorkshire by delivering necessary infrastructure investments through partnership

| Actions |  | Lead or co-ordinating organisation(s) / partnership(s)       |
|---------|--|--|
| 1a      | <p><b>The joint preparation of Infrastructure Delivery Statements for each district.</b></p> <p>These will set out what development is planned; the critical infrastructure required to support it; and how this is to be funded and delivered through partnership.</p>  | North Yorkshire County Council; District / Borough Councils; |
| 1b      | <p><b>Support the preparation and implementation of the YNYER Strategic Economic Plan and the Skills Delivery Plan.</b></p> <p>These will be designed to help equip local communities with the skills and knowledge likely to be required to participate in the full range of employment opportunities offered both during and after construction.</p> | YNYER Skills and Employability Board                         |

### 2) Supporting and enabling North Yorkshire communities to have greater capacity to shape and deliver the services they need and to enhance their resilience in a changing world

| Actions |   | Lead or co-ordinating organisation(s) / partnership(s)                                      |
|---------|---|---|
| 2a      | <p><b>Provide a coherent programme of support for communities, with the aim of developing empowered communities providing a range of sustainable local support and services.</b></p> <p>This will be designed to achieve stronger community and individual resilience in all parts of the county, effectively using all local assets (for example the skills of local people), and maximising health and wellbeing in the population.</p> | North Yorkshire County Council; District / Borough Councils; voluntary sector organisations |

|    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
| 2b | <p><b>Implement the prevention strategy and the dementia strategy, to support communities to be resilient against the challenges of dementia and loneliness and isolation.</b></p> <p>These will enable health and social care organisations to meet increasing demand, improve care, and bring care closer to home, as well as helping communities to tackle issues such as dementia and loneliness and isolation..</p> | North Yorkshire County Council; Clinical Commissioning Groups; District/Borough Councils. |
|----|--|---|

### 3) Reduce health inequalities across North Yorkshire

| Actions |   | Lead or co-ordinating organisation(s) / partnership(s)  |
|---------|---|---|
| 3a      | <p><b>Develop a proactive partnership approach to the control of alcohol and tobacco, including responsible licensing, reducing illegal sales, and reducing illicit and counterfeit products.</b></p> <p>For alcohol, this will require the full implementation of the North Yorkshire Alcohol Strategy. For smoking, this will require establishing a Tobacco Control Alliance.</p>  | North Yorkshire County Council; District/Borough Councils; Clinical Commissioning Groups, North Yorkshire Police. |
| 3b      | <p><b>Support organisations in North Yorkshire to promote a whole-organisation approach to health and wellbeing, including healthy work places and training for workers.</b></p> <p>This will require contact with organisations, particularly employers, to encourage and support them to participate in programmes such as Making Every Contact Count training <a href="http://www.makingeverycontactcount.co.uk">www.makingeverycontactcount.co.uk</a></p> | District / Borough Councils; North Yorkshire County Council.  |

Further information about this plan, how it has been developed and the partnership can be found at [www.nypartnerships.org.uk/nycommunityplan](http://www.nypartnerships.org.uk/nycommunityplan)

Enquiries about this plan can be sent to [nypartnerships@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:nypartnerships@northyorks.gov.uk) or by calling 0845 872 73 74.

You can also write to:

Policy and Partnerships  
Central Services  
North Yorkshire County Council  
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Northallerton  
DL7 8AD

If you would like this information in another language or format such as Braille, large print, on tape or CD, please ask us - telephone 01609 532917 or email [communications@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:communications@northyorks.gov.uk)



**Draft North Yorkshire Community Plan 2014/17**

**Consultation comments and responses**

**Consultation respondents**

- North York Moors National Park Authority
- Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
- Selby District Council
- individual respondents (2)
- Harrogate and District CPRE
- Richmondshire District Council
- North Yorkshire County Council
- Yorkshire Housing
- North Yorkshire Police
- Harrogate Borough Council
- Craven College
- Ryedale District Council
- Hambleton District Council

|   | Comments   | Responses  |
|---|--|--|
|   | <b><i>General feedback on the plan</i></b>   |  |
| 1 | The main focus of the three priorities does not apply directly to our work. However, it is acknowledged that authorities/partners have to prioritise and make difficult choices.   | Noted.   |
| 2 | We see synergies between our own management plan and the priority around “supporting and enabling communities”. We hope that the commitments within our plan can be accommodated within the Community Plan.  | It is important to make sure that the plan does not simply replicate the priorities and actions agreed within other partnerships and plans across the county, but provides important strategic linkages where these may not otherwise have been made. We will of course also ensure that the Community Plan does not contradict the agreed aims and objectives of other key plans. |
| 3 | We like the concise and direct layout of the document.   | Noted.   |
| 4 | The plan is well-presented and covers all of the main issues that need to be highlighted.  | Noted.   |
| 5 | Communities need to be made aware of the public sector reforms so they understand the situation they are facing. I feel many people have no idea so are not prepared.  | A number of reforms are already underway and others will take effect over the course of the next few years. Every partner is responsible for ensuring that changes to or reductions in services are communicated effectively across local communities and to support communities in mitigating against the impact of these.  |
| 6 | Happy with the content of the plan and already recognise some of the elements from the Health and Wellbeing shared plan and the draft Alcohol Strategy; we will be working towards supporting this at a local level and identifying local leads for our input. | Noted.   |

## Appendix 2

|    |  |  |
|----|--|--|
| 7  | While not disagreeing with the priorities in the plan, they are not the top priorities for our authority. There are a number of other issues being dealt with by partnerships across the county and it would be useful if the plan could list these, to reassure readers that those issues are being dealt with elsewhere.     | The aim of the partnership is for the plan to be as focussed and as concise as it can be. As such, we have not included a list of references to either the strategic issues not referenced within it or the other partnerships across the county which are dealing with them. Much of this information can be found on the NY Partnerships website at <a href="http://www.nypartnerships.org.uk">www.nypartnerships.org.uk</a> . |
| 8  | Community engagement is a driver for all organisations, including the partners outwith LGNYY. Effectively working together on community engagement activity would be a useful priority of the community plan and may result in improved experience of the residents and businesses responding to each of our service partners. | We have not treated community engagement as a separate objective in its own right but it will be critical to delivery of some of our objectives, particularly “supporting and enabling communities” and “reducing health inequalities” and as such cuts across the core of the plan.   |
| 9  | The vision and strategic intent of the plan cover the key things which need to improve in North Yorkshire and we support your proposal to focus on three key priorities.   | Noted.   |
| 10 | The plan needs to include more examples of good practice happening on the ground – show more of a link between new ways of working and how this has shaped policy (i.e. give district examples).   | We have noted this and have included a few working references which have a broader application to help improve how we illustrate some of the key priorities.   |
| 11 | We would like to see the ‘Better Together’ programme between North Yorkshire County Council and Selby District Council mentioned in the plan as this is a key development for the county, with ambitions to deliver radical transformation to public service delivery.   | We have included some specific examples to help support the narrative where these were directly illustrative, so they are focussed more around community engagement and public health.   |
| 12 | The plan is light on the ‘how’ – needs more detail about how things will be implemented and who will take them forward.  | This was developed alongside the consultation and will be agreed by the Chief Executives’ Group.   |
| 13 | There is no mention of personal debt and budgeting issues, which is a  | We recognise that this is a significant issue for a number of people across the county. However, one of our three key criteria for   |

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|    | major problem countywide.   | identifying which issues would be the most critical for the county in the next few years is around whether there is already partnership work or similar support underway on an issue. A lot of work is being delivered outside of this plan, in partnership, to assist those in financial need, such as through advice/support agency networks and through the NY Local Assistance Fund, for example. As such, the task group did not identify this issue as one to focus on in this plan.  |  |
| 14 | Who will be the leads for each action and how will the monitoring of actions be taken forward?  | This was developed alongside the consultation and will be agreed by the Chief Executives' Group   |  |
| 15 | At what point will the key leads be identified and who will be responsible at county level for co-ordinating responses to the actions listed? Are there to be key milestones when information will be required from each partner as to the supporting activity conducted? This will help us plan locally. | See also above. Further detail on implementation will be worked through via the Chief Executives Group.   |  |
| 16 | What is the relationship between the plan and the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment (JSIA)? How do these plans fit together and should they do so? The plan could look at issues more widely, such as the broader links between alcohol and crime, disorder, road safety, etc.                      | The Community Plan aims to bring strategic coherence to a few critical issues that need a targeted partnership effort to tackle them. It isn't seeking to replicate the key objectives of other countywide plans, such as the JSIA, but to make a strategic link between them; in particular by drawing out those issues which require additional partnership support to be achieved. We have, however, incorporated a specific reference to the links between alcohol (under "health inequalities") and the broader links to community safety. |  |
| 17 | The plan doesn't acknowledge the requirement to show how services provide good value to the public or explore their sustainability into the   | We have noted this and have included an appropriate reference to  |  |



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|    | future. The Developing Stronger Families programme, for example, reduces service demand and helps to save public money.  | achieving best value under “our three priorities”.   |
| 18 | Children and young people do not feature specifically in the plan.   | This demographic group are not excluded from the focus of the plan. They are seen as a key part of the communities that we want to make healthier and more resilient. In particular, protecting children and young people from the harms associated with smoking and alcohol misuse will be a key tenet of joint work on these two important public health issues.     |
| 19 | The environment is not specifically included within the priorities.  | The environment remains an important issue for partners. However, it is necessary to focus the plan on those issues which are most critical to ensuring that the county is well placed to respond to the challenges of the next few years. The three criteria identified on page 1 of the plan were developed by the task group to help focus the plan on such issues. |
| 20 | There is no reference to environmental priorities such as response to climate change (both in terms of prevention and adaptation) and local environmental protection. These are areas of great importance to the long term sustainability of our communities and economy. There does not appear to be a county wide partnership currently looking at these issues. | Noted – see also 19, above. The vision of the North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Partnership is to see the natural environment of North Yorkshire and York is conserved, enhanced and connected for the benefit of wildlife, people and the economy.  |

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|    | <b><i>Feedback on the proposed priorities</i></b>   |  |
|    | <b><i>Priority 1 – Facilitate the development of key housing and employment sites across the county</i></b>   |  |
| 21 | This priority may be better if expanded to include “with an appropriate transport infrastructure”, given the size and nature of our county.   | We have noted this and incorporated explicit references to investing in infrastructure.  |
| 22 | New housing and jobs are both needed and necessary but so is the infrastructure to go with the new Housing and Industrial Land for Employment   | See also 21, above.  |
| 23 | We welcome the recognition of the importance of developing key housing and employment sites. Infrastructure issues need to be resolved to enable this priority to be addressed.   | See also 21, above.  |
| 24 | We strongly support the inclusion of this priority. The development of strategic sites requires a partnership approach with input from a number of different organisations.   | Noted.   |
| 25 | This priority falls within the remit of the LEP. Housing and jobs are also key priorities for Ryedale; in particular, higher wages in this area. Unemployment is relatively low but the level of average wages is very low. | We have included a more explicit reference to joining up with the work of the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) in achieving against this priority. |
| 26 | This priority currently has quite a narrow focus. We need to look at the wider growth agenda, including skills and employability.   | We have noted this and have developed the narrative focus of this priority to include these points.  |
| 27 | Where the Plan does not directly deliver on this agenda, it needs to signpost to the work of the LEP.   | Noted. Please see also 25, above.  |

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| 28 | Where there is an ambition to facilitate the development of key housing and employment sites, evidence needs to be provided on how this has been done and will be done in the future.  | Noted. Further detail on the implementation of this aspect will be worked through among District/Borough councils, NYCC, the LEP and others.  |
| 29 | Ensure linkages to training providers to ensure skills are offered to support employment.  | We have noted this and have incorporated references to linking up with training providers and FE colleges.  |
| 30 | Link with FE colleges and training providers to match 'graduate'/apprenticeship skills with future employment offerings.   | As above.   |
|    | <b><i>Priority 2 – Support and enable our communities to have greater capacity to shape and deliver the services they need and to enhance their resilience in a changing world.</i></b>  |   |
| 31 | Need to include the business community in assisting to fill the gap.   | A reference to the inclusion of the business sector as key partners has been added to the beginning of the plan.  |
| 32 | This priority would benefit from greater clarity as to what it would mean in practice. There are good examples of community engagement at a local level that could be drawn on. We should continue to use these structures rather than develop new ones. | We have noted this and included a few examples of where communities have been supported to deliver innovative and sustainable services. Obviously, every area is different, so it's important to clarify that what works in one area does not necessarily work elsewhere. We have also included a reference to the protocol on joint working principles, which many partners have signed up to – this puts in place an agreement to use existing engagement structures rather than creating new ones. |
| 33 | We are supportive of this priority and of further partnership working in these areas. We are already delivering various initiatives to support these two distinct areas of work.   | Noted.  |
| 34 | Need to link with FE/HE providers to ensure quality training is delivered, e.g. team leadership, dementia awareness.   | We have noted this for the purposes of considering implementation of the plan.  |

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| 35 | Link with the North Yorkshire Community Learning Partnership to ensure community learning opportunities are maximised.   | As above.   |
| 36 | Link in with FE to create opportunities for young people to consider citizenship (could be part of their study programmes).  | As above.   |
| 37 | Work is needed/resource needed on local community groups to be able to push forward ideas and agendas (there is currently too much reliance on partner organisations to finance/donate time for co-ordination).                | We have noted this and it will be a key part of the work to help community groups to develop their own sustainable solutions and become more resilient.   |
| 38 | The reference to a “changing world” would benefit from clarification to determine the context in which the community plan is seeking to deliver. Is this plan seeking to respond to global issues?                             | We have noted this and have made a slight modification to the narrative to reflect this.  |
| 39 | We would support the objectives of developing community resilience to changes in public sector reforms. It would be worth noting that such reforms are <i>already impacting</i> on local services; this is not a future issue. | Noted.  |
| 40 | Reference to the voluntary and community sector partners in delivering this objective would be welcome here.   | Noted. We have included clarification towards the beginning of the plan that “partners” comprise all three sectors. As such, “partners” as referred to in this priority also refers to all three.   |
| 41 | The isolation experienced by many older people may also be improved by sustaining levels of community and public transport, and it would be worth referencing this in the document.  | While transport is one of the factors in helping to reduce isolation, it is only one aspect of public/community services that contributes to this and there are many. The focus of this priority is to reinforce that communities need to have support to develop resilience and determine the kinds of services they feel they need for their own community. |
| 42 | We would welcome mention of local democracy in this priority. This could involve engagement and participation in meetings, registration rates, voter turnout etc. Also there is a heavy emphasis on older people,              | The focus of this priority is around enabling and resilience and is intended to have a particular focus on our growing older population and the opportunities that this group provides.   |

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|    | when an emphasis on youth democracy and use of modern methods of communication/engagement, such as social media, would also be equally relevant.   |  |
|    | <b><i>Priority 3 – Reduce health inequalities between the most affluent communities and those that suffer from high levels of deprivation</i></b>  |  |
| 43 | This may be more effective if it was to support those with “higher” levels of deprivation rather than “high” as the latter, when measured on a national scale, will include fewer people in North Yorkshire.   | The title of this priority has now been changed to remove reference to higher levels of deprivation.   |
| 44 | To raise awareness of dementia in communities is a good move, training would be essential as it would give possible voluntary carers confidence and support.   | Further consideration will be given to the actions identified in the action plan at the Chief Executives’ Group.   |
| 45 | Impact of service reduction on the community – note that a strategic lead could have an impact where the reduction affects another partner which in turn affects their ability to deliver that and other services are not seen as linked.  | We have noted this and have incorporated it under “Our three priorities”.  |
| 46 | This section needs to be more explicit about reducing health inequalities for those who suffer high levels of deprivation, rather than simply closing the gap. Focus should also be more on tackling obesity - particularly in children – than on smoking on alcohol. It needs to reflect the positive impact local authorities in the county can make to help people improve their own health by being more active. | The plan does not seek to exclude obesity and childhood obesity as an issue for North Yorkshire, however we felt that smoking and alcohol were more relevant issues for the scope of this plan – i.e. smoking and alcohol use are significant issues for all partners; district/borough councils, Fire and Rescue, and Police. The issue of obesity is a priority for NYCC and the Public Health Team have allocated funding to take forward projects with partners (districts, schools, Children and Young People’s Services etc.). |
| 47 | Need to again ensure links with FE/HE providers regarding training and the developing community learning offer available, as above.  | We have noted this for the purposes of considering   |

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|    |  | implementation of the plan, as previously.   |
| 48 | Reducing health inequalities is essential. It is not always the poorer communities who suffer problems leading to health problems. I have noted many carers need more actual support; the cost of care is substantial and carers need to be considered. Hospitals need more beds as the population in NY and York increases.                             | Noted.   |
| 49 | The priority is commendable and essential. However, it is also essential to take action across the whole health and deprivation gradient in order to ensure some improvement across all sections of the community. Smoking and alcohol have been identified as priorities; we would also question whether obesity should be included in the Action Plan. | See 46, above.   |
| 50 | We are supportive of improving the health of the local workforce and are developing a local partnership approach to a “Healthy Business Scheme” which aims to promote issues relating to alcohol, smoking, poor diet and lack of physical activity in private sector businesses.   | Noted.   |
| 51 | In past iterations of community plans, obesity has been a key priority as a health driver with long term consequences. Would this rate alongside smoking and alcohol in this priority?   | See 46, above.   |
| 52 | Clarification that ‘partners’ includes the private sector (as local employers) would be helpful here.  | A reference to the inclusion of the business sector as key partners has been added to the beginning of the plan.   |
| 53 | We feel that district councils should be the lead organisation in the delivery of this priority.   | We have noted this and have incorporated district/borough councils, NYCC and the YNYER Enterprise Partnership as key partners leading on this in the proposed action plan. |

# Local Government North Yorkshire and York

7 March 2014

## General Updates

### Report of the Honorary Secretary

#### 1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To provide a brief update on issues which do not require a full paper.

#### 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  
1748 07. E-mail: colin.dales@richmondshire.gov.uk

#### 2.1 Progress to date/update

- (a) Work is ongoing to strengthen the links between housing investment priorities and economic priorities of the new (LEP) Growth Strategy in order to ensure that new funding opportunities are maximised. 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 received an update report on the 25 November 2013 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.

Julian Rudd (seconded to the LEP) and Sarah Hall are leading on the work to fully develop the housing “asks” via the Growth Strategy. This piece of work is taking priority with two NY Chief Housing Officer meetings already held to fully develop and agree what our housing “asks” will be, each with a named sponsor. There is a key focus on what can be realistically delivered during 2015/2016.

The developing housing/LEP work has also prompted questions around future membership of the LG NY & York Housing Board. Registered providers and house builders will have a key role to play in delivering our LEP/housing “asks” and therefore need representation at a strategic level. The East Riding of Yorkshire Council also needs to be considered in terms of their representation on the Board. A report will be submitted to the LG NY & York Housing Board on 3 March 2014 to approve our housing “asks”/outcomes as

well as considering future membership arrangements. As always, there will be a balance to be struck between ensuring the Board remains fully focused whilst ensuring we have the key players around the decision making table.

- (b) There has been growing concern regarding Government proposals to change the way disabled facilities grants are funded and administered and how this will work in a two-tier environment. The situation has been clarified whereby DFG funding will flow into the Better Care Fund and then be passed directly to districts/boroughs. A question mark remains over whether DFG funding will be subject to a payment by results mechanism. Further clarity is being sought in this respect.
- (c) The North Yorkshire Housing Partnership's annual report will be available via the partnership's website by the end of February. There have been delays due to other more pressing work priorities within the Housing Partnership.

## 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 are improving and this barrier is expected 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) 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 reduced significantly 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)**

3.1 The Board has not met since July 2013, principally because there has been nothing of particular importance to report to, or requiring a decision by, the Board recently. However, that does not mean that work has not been going on behind the scenes.

3.2 LDF Documents and Local Plans are at differing stages of preparation and I believe that there will soon be some items of relevance to present to the Board. Demonstrating compliance with the requirements of the Duty to Cooperate (DtC) remains a key issue, and two DtC workshops commissioned by the Planning Advisory Service have taken place, attended by officers. A future Board meeting may provide the opportunity to 'host' a further Member-oriented workshop.

## 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 This Board has not met recently.



## **5.0 Yorkshire and Humber Member Improvement and European Board – Report of Councillor Tracey Simpson-Laing (City of York Council) on behalf of herself and Councillor Derek Basiman (Scarborough Borough Council)**

5.1 Following the end of the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (RIEP) in 2011, Local Authorities in Yorkshire and Humber voiced their eagerness to continue their good work around service improvement and to maintain the on-going commitment to support each other through “sector led” improvement. As a result, the Improvement and European Board was established to make the key collective decisions on the remaining “RIEP legacy” funding and also help join up the range of sector-led improvement and efficiency agendas taking place across Yorkshire and Humber. The Board was also given a remit to work to maximise opportunities for future European funding.

5.2 The Improvement and European Board has proved to be a strong sub-group of members, progressing work effectively and feeding-back to the LGYH Council on a range of key issues; as well as linking in effectively with wider Member and Officer networks looking at sector-led improvement and efficiencies across the region. Over the last year the Board has particularly prioritised its focus on children’s services and health and wellbeing issues, whilst also seeking to support activity that can maximise economic benefits across the region. Recent developments include:

- Following a review of governance in November 2013 Cllr Derek Bastiman has been elected as Vice Chair of the LGYH Improvement and European Board.
- The Board has supported Children’s Services Leads to debate the big issues facing Yorkshire and Humber, and turn this into action by enabling two regional Child Exploitation Conferences in Rotherham. The conferences have served to further strengthen the political, cross-agency leadership on this agenda across Yorkshire and Humber.
- Providing financial assistance to the Children Lead Elected Members’ Network which is having a positive impact on service delivery and promoting effective collaboration with the national Children’s Lead Member Network and Association of Directors of Children’s Services (ADCS).
- The Board provided a total of £170,000 of funding that was critical in securing the successful bid from Welcome to Yorkshire for the region to host the Tour de France Grande Depart. It has been estimated that the two opening Yorkshire stages of the tour in 2014 will be worth upwards of £100 million to local economies across the region, and this £170,000 has also been a key factor in securing central government funding of up to £10 million.
- The Board has supported work on the development of “green skills” and greater use of more affordable renewable energy within councils, including vehicle fleets and more efficient energy procurement.
- The completion of a EU-funded “INTERREG” project - EU2020 Going Local - which not only brought in revenue of €90,000 but also enabled spin-off projects on Electric Vehicles and renewable energy use through good practice sharing across Europe.
- The Board is supporting Yorkshire and Humber’s engagement with the network of 160 other European regions – known as the “EU2020 Monitoring Platform” - that is shaping how future European funding streams and policies will most effectively generate jobs and economic growth. The Board also

supported Elected Members to attend the Committee of the Regions Open Days, which included a number of meetings with Director Generals of the EU.

- Recognising the changing landscape in local government and the evolving role of scrutiny, the Board is supporting a programme to support scrutiny members and officers, including a regional network for peer support and to promote good practice. A number of scrutiny events have been held across the region, including close work with East Riding of Yorkshire Council and an ongoing programme focused on health scrutiny.
- Providing funding to an innovative programme in Rotherham on developing children's literacy, delivered in a bespoke town centre location. This will be based in Rotherham but has potential to roll out across the region.
- Funding was provided to an innovative Community Interest Company project that will use emerging technology to provide a ground-breaking, two-way digital platform to enhance how local authorities and local firms can interface with each other on contracting and other local business development opportunities. Initial engagement has taken place with a number of councils, including Craven District Council.
- The Board supported a delegation from Yorkshire and Humber to go to Xi'an in China to promote Yorkshire and Humber as a place to do business. This included the Bank of China making introductions to high net worth individuals, contact with Chinese trading associations representing key investment sectors, and large businesses operating within China, but also with other global subsidiaries. Match funding was acquired from BIS to support the delegation. A number of leads are now being progressed; including a focus on aviation, tourism and developing formal trading agreements.

5.3 The Minutes of the meeting of LGYH Member Improvement & European Board held on 20 January 2014 are appended.

## **6.0 Recommendation**

6.1 That the report be noted.

**Richard Flinton**

Honorary Secretary to Local Government North Yorkshire and York

17 February 2014



## MINUTES OF THE LGYH MEMBER IMPROVEMENT & EUROPEAN BOARD: 20 JANUARY 2014

### Members in Attendance

Cllr Roger Stone (Chair & Rotherham MBC), Cllr Derek Bastiman (Vice Chair & Scarborough BC), Cllr Jonathan Owen (East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Lead Member on Health and Wellbeing), Cllr Tracy Simpson-Laing (City of York Council), Mayor Ros Jones (Doncaster Council), Cllr Ray Sutton (North East Lincolnshire Council), **Visitors/Officers in Attendance** Joanne Roney (Wakefield Council, Lead CEX on Improvement), Sarah Tyler (LGYH), Paul Cartwright (LGYH), Mark Edgell (LGA)

### Apologies

Cllr Judith Blake (Leeds CC & Y&H Member on National LGA Board), Cllr Glen Miller (City of Bradford MD Council and Y&H Member on National LGA Board), Cllr Tim Cheetham (Barnsley MBC), Cllr Martin Mancey (Hull City Council,) Cllr Imran Hussain (City of Bradford MD Council, Y&H Member on National LGA Board), Cllr Tim Swift (Calderdale Council), Cllr John Blackie (Richmondshire DC and Y&H Member on National LGA Board)

### 1. Welcome, Introduction, Apologies and Minutes

- Cllr Roger Stone, Chair, welcomed all to the meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record. The 'matters arising' document was noted, including the update on previously funded projects.

### TRANSFORMATION AND INNOVATION

### 3. Priorities for collaboration activities for sector-led improvement

Members discussed the paper outlining proposed priorities for the Board, resulting from the discussions at the previous meeting. Members noted that the priorities were very broad (which reflexed the need for the funds to be flexible) but further clarity was welcomed in terms of spending residual funds.

Members reaffirmed this was a key time to come together regarding European issues which is a priority. It was agreed that the Board prioritise funding towards European match funded projects, with a limit of £25,000 for each bid. Projects to be supported will need to include European match funding and demonstrate where the additional Improvement and European Board funding will add value. It was agreed to include European funding as a standard item on future meetings and at the next meeting raise awareness of opportunities for attracting funding into the region.

It was also noted that because there are existing funding pots related to Health and Wellbeing that this would no longer be included in a list of areas that can be match funded. The Board agreed to maintain a strategic overview on Health and Wellbeing but not to provide direct funding to support it. Questions were also raised as to whether the Board should have an ongoing focus on procurement and efficiency. Supporting children's priorities was still supported, but the activity may need to focus on specific areas where Local Authorities need support.

#### SUMMARY OF ACTIONS:

- A plain guide is to be produced on the LGYH Improvement Board fund, the priorities and criteria, and the process for application and approval. A maximum of £25,000 is recommended for each bid
- EU funding at the next meeting to provide information and raise awareness of opportunities
- EU funding to be made a standing item at future meetings
- Production of a simplistic and plain English guide to European Funding streams

### 4. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE UPDATE

Sarah Tyler introduced the Child Sexual Exploitation update. A full report is available on request. It was also noted that Rob Mayall is providing ongoing support to the Children's Lead Member Network, utilising funding provided by the Improvement and European Board. Elected Member support is also a key focus of the Network.

Mark Edgell informed the Board that the LGA are in the process of recruiting Regional Associates to work on the Children's Improvement agenda. These will be ex-Directors of Children's Services who will assist coordination with lead portfolio holders, Chief Executives and Children's Services across the region.

## 5. HEALTH AND WELLBEING UPDATE

Cllr Jonathan Owen provided an update on the Health and Wellbeing activity since the last meeting, including the meeting of Health and Wellbeing Board Chairs and Lead Members that took place on 13<sup>th</sup> January. Concern has been raised about the Better Care Fund (previously known as the Integration Transformation Fund) and the fact it is being presented as new money, rather than recycled money. At the Chair's meeting additional concerns were raised about fund accountability, issues relating to the potential holdback of funds and CCG engagement and inclusion. It was noted that all feedback from the Network meeting was forwarded to DCLG and the Department of Health for response and auctioning. A copy of this report is available on request.

Sarah Tyler informed the Board that a meeting took place on 20<sup>th</sup> January on the Better Care Fund and was targeted at officers of Local Authorities and CCGs working with NHS England to support them in developing the Better Care Fund plans. The event was well attended and feedback received has been positive. It was agreed at the event to support follow up meetings, again in partnership with NHS England, in March on further development of the plans.

It was also noted that there is existing funding provided by the Department of Health to support Health and Wellbeing boards, with more money expected in the near future.

### ACTION:

- A letter to be sent to the Minister to emphasise the collective working and need to maximise the funding that comes to the area and also highlight the good work being delivered locally.

## 6. EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

### Feedback from the Y&H business delegation to Xi'an, China

Cllr Roger Stone updated the Board on the Yorkshire and Humber delegation to Xi'an in China, which was funded by the Board plus additional match secured via BIS. Cllr Stone highlighted the main barrier to working with China on developing business opportunities was immigration and visa requirements. A meeting with the Home Office is being arranged to highlight concerns and discuss barriers to inward investment caused by the government's immigration policy.

Mayor Ros Jones highlighted the need for more coordination across the region, to present a united front for attracting investment. Joanne Roney reported that Wakefield Council has existing links with China and recommended that more work is done on a regional and sub-regional basis to ensure that existing relationships are maximized. An understanding of how Local Authorities are working with China would be useful.

### Committee of the Regions Open Day 2013 feedback

Last October the LGYH Improvement and European Board supported a delegation of Elected Members from the Board to attend the Committee of the Regions Open Days. A number of meetings with EU Director Generals were also arranged. Cllr Derek Bastiman updated the Board on the Open Days and meetings. Cllr Bastiman stressed the significance of developing policies linked to 'smart specialisation' and developing 'knowledge alliances' across business and education establishments. It was noted that a number of actions are being progressed following the meetings attended, including encouraging Local Authorities to access EU funding opportunities, working through the European Officer Network and meeting with Yorkshire Universities regarding encouraging more joint work and bids.

It was also noted that Scarborough Borough Council is working with Jon Clubb from the Regional Climate Change Partnership on a bid on skills. This includes working with Hull University and the Grimsby Institute of Further Education, linked to the Skills Academy. Cllr Bastiman informed the Board that Lord Baker is due to visit Scarborough shortly to discuss developing this.

Mayor Ros Jones discussed the benefits of an East Coast Alliance to maximize the potential that can be offered by coastal regions regarding issues such as renewable energy.

- The Board agreed that £5,000 of funding would be allocated to supporting Cllr Bastiman's continued involvement in European / EU2020 work.

## 7. Information Items

### Roma activity and progress

Cllr Roger Stone updated the Board on Roma Integration Strategies being developed through partnership work in the EU. Cllr Stone also told the Board that he is working with colleagues from the European Union and having discussions with David Blunkett and Clive Betts to see if they can use additionality funds to draw down further support to focus in integration.

Cllr Tracey Simpson-Laing informed the Board about the 'European Alliance of Cities and Regions on Integration' and how they can link into this agenda. Cllr Stone told the Board that he is meeting with the Alliance shortly.

Joanne Roney updated the Board on issues related to the G4S contract for housing asylum seekers in Wakefield and issues with allocations.

### All Party Parliamentary Group for Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire

Cllr Derek Bastiman updated the Board on the APPG meetings and highlighted future meetings scheduled for 2014. A full list of the proposed meetings can be found in the LGYH Improvement and European Board papers. Cllr Bastiman drew specific attention to the July meeting which will be focused on green growth and is working alongside the region's universities. More information on the APPG can be provided by LGYH on request.

## 8. Bids received for decision

It was agreed that funding bids received from now on will be subjected to a limit of £25,000. However, the two bids that have been submitted to this meeting will be exempt from this restriction as they have already been accepted and reviewed.

### *Improving Children's Literacy and Confidence*

A bid was received from Rotherham MB Council for £28,100 for an initiative to improve children's literacy and confidence. This funding will help pump prime the development of Grimm and Co. – a sustainable writing destination centre in the town centre for children and young people. The funding will provide match funding which is being provided by the Arts Council.

- Members agreed to this funding bid based on it fitting with the Board priorities around Improving Children's Services.

### *Sector Skills Development*

A bid was received from Scarborough Borough Council for £40,000 to match fund a EU bid for boosting activity on skills development for the East coast and will also benefit the wider Region.

- It was agreed to fund this bid based on it attracting EU match funding and fitting with the Boards identified priorities.

## 9. Date of Next Meeting – 15<sup>th</sup> April 2014, 2.00pm - 4.00pm (Orangery, Wakefield)