

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NORTH YORKSHIRE AND YORK

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 2 October 2015 at 10.30 am at
Harrogate Borough Council Offices, Crescent Gardens, Harrogate**

Present:-

<u>Authority</u>	<u>Member/Chief Executive</u>
City of York Council	Steve Stewart (Chief Executive)
Craven District Council	Councillor Richard Foster Paul Shevlin (Chief Executive)
Hambleton District Council	Councillor Mark Robson Phil Morton (Chief Executive)
Harrogate Borough Council	Councillor Richard Cooper Wallace Sampson (Chief Executive)
North York Moors National Park Authority	Jim Bailey
North Yorkshire County Council	County Councillor Carl Les (in the Chair) Richard Flinton (Chief Executive to the County Council and Honorary Secretary to LGNYY)
Richmondshire District Council	Councillor Yvonne Peacock Tony Clark (Managing Director)
Ryedale District Council	Councillor Linda Cowling Janet Waggott (Chief Executive)
Scarborough Borough Council	Councillor Derek Bastiman Nick Edwards (Director of Business Support) (as Substitute for Jim Dillon)
Selby District Council	Councillor John Mackman (as Substitute for Mark Crane) Mary Weastell (Chief Executive)
Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority	Mr Peter Charlesworth David Butterworth (Chief Executive)

In Attendance:-

East Riding of Yorkshire Council:- Councillor Jonathan Owen (Deputy Leader) and Nigel Pearson (Chief Executive).

Julia Mulligan (North Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner).

County Councillor Chris Metcalfe (North Yorkshire County Council's Executive Member whose portfolio covers economic development and rail strategy).

Scott Walters (Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer and Company Secretary of NYnet Ltd).

James Farrar (Chief Operating Officer, York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP).

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

Apologies for Absence:- Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Chris Steward (City of York Council) and Andy Wilson (Chief Executive, North York Moors National Park Authority).

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

88. Minutes and Matters Arising

The Chair referred to Minute 83 and reported that, subsequent to the last meeting, the following representatives had been appointed to the outside body "Shadow Board of the European Structural and Investment Funds Programme Management Committee":-

- Councillor Ian Gillies (City of York Council).
- County Councillor Chris Metcalfe, with County Councillor Gareth Dadd as Substitute (North Yorkshire County Council).
- Councillor Linda Cowling (the District Councils).

Resolved -

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2015, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

89. Syrian Refugees and Asylum Dispersal Scheme

Considered -

The report of Neil Irving (North Yorkshire County Council's Assistant Director - Policy and Partnerships) proposing that the eight local authorities in North Yorkshire work together in partnership to respond to the Government's requests regarding Syrian refugees and the Asylum Dispersal Scheme.

The Home Office had been tasked with significantly increasing the number of local authorities voluntarily participating in the Asylum Dispersal Scheme to enable the demand for dispersal accommodation to be spread across a much wider.

The Home Office was also asking local authorities to volunteer to offer to resettle a specific number of Syrian refugees and to agree a package of support measures that authorities would provide, either directly or indirectly. The Home Office would pay a grant, likely to be around £10k per person, to local authorities accepting refugees.

As the Government's requests regarding Syrian refugees and the Asylum Dispersal Scheme could not be managed alone by any one of the eight North Yorkshire local authorities, it was suggested that a joint approach was required, to include a mapping exercise to establish what provision might realistically be provided locally; detailed consideration of the funding to be made available by the Government; and the development of options by the end of October 2015 which could then be considered by all eight authorities. It was highlighted that, given the immediacy of the refugee crisis, such work needed to be prioritised by the participating authorities.

During debate:-

- A Leader highlighted that some North Yorkshire District Councils had no housing stock of their own to directly support the resettlement of refugees and were likely to require the support of their stock transfer housing association partners and/or private landlords.

- A Leader asked for consideration to be given to local reactions if homes were offered to refugees whilst local people had been waiting for housing accommodation for some time.
- The Police and Crime Commissioner advised that North Yorkshire Police might be able to make available some housing accommodation on a temporary basis, although it would require work to make it fit for purpose.

Resolved -

- (a) That Craven District Council, Hambleton District Council, Harrogate Borough Council, North Yorkshire County Council, Richmondshire District Council, Ryedale District Council, Scarborough Borough Council and Selby District Council work in partnership to develop a joint response to the Government's requests regarding Syrian refugees and the Asylum Dispersal Scheme.
- (b) That the comments made during this debate, as recorded in the last paragraph of the preamble to this Minute, be forwarded to relevant officers.

90. Rail North, Transport for the North, and the Northern Powerhouse

Considered -

The verbal report from County Councillor Chris Metcalfe providing an update on the following:-

- Discussions between councils in the north of England about a Northern Powerhouse and a preference being expressed for greater collaboration between Councils using current structures.
- Developments relating to Transport for the North, including:- North Yorkshire representatives being appointed to Transport for the North's Executive; production of the North Yorkshire Strategic Transport Prospectus, which could be adapted to meet the needs of York and the East Riding of Yorkshire; the allocation of £30m over three years to Transport for the North for intelligence and secretariat purposes; and work to look at the introduction of smart ticketing across the north (ie similar to the Oyster card in London) and the east/west movement of freight to improve connectivity with Liverpool.
- Rail North's work to seek, amongst other things, the removal of all pacer trains by 2020; increased frequency of services; shorter journey times; and greater investment in stations.

During debate, County Councillor Chris Metcalfe advised of the following:-

- Investment in rail would be provided only where there was a strategic outcome. Whilst there was great sympathy for the Wensleydale Railway, it served a locality rather than being a strategic issue.
- Discussions about electrification were currently on pause. The funding had not been withdrawn and the current issue was about Network Rail capacity.
- The County Council was happy to have discussions with Craven District Council and local Members about improving the situation at the Crosshills level crossing. However, goodwill would be required to improve the situation.

Resolved -

- (a) That the update be noted.
- (b) That County Councillor Chris Metcalfe prepare, for circulation to Members, a paper setting out the issues within his verbal report.

91. Devolution

Considered -

The presentation by Steve Stewart (Chief Executive, City of York Council) providing an update on discussions concerning proposals for the devolution of powers and funding from Government to combinations of local authorities. (A copy of the presentation slides is in the Minute Book.)

The presentation identified the four propositions relating to Yorkshire, feedback received from Government, and some of the key decisions which would be made in other forums.

Resolved –

That the presentation be noted.

92. Broadband Update

Considered -

The presentation by Scott Walters (Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer and Company Secretary of NYnet Ltd) providing an update concerning the provision of Broadband across North Yorkshire.

The presentation advised of the vision for Superfast North Yorkshire; the current challenge in providing broadband across North Yorkshire; the phases of broadband rollout; demand stimulation; and statistics showing the level of support provided to businesses.

During debate:-

- It was noted that mobile operators were able to offer internet coverage in some of the most remote areas. However, they were not interested in working with NYnet or other similar organisations elsewhere in the country.
- Members congratulated NYnet on having done a really good job to get to the current situation. However, representatives of Ryedale District Council expressed frustration at the length of future timescales and advised that Scott Walters and Janet Waggott were scheduled to have a separate discussion, outside LGNYY's meeting, concerning the provision of Superfast Broadband in the Ryedale area.

Resolved -

- (a) That the presentation be noted.
- (b) That an electronic copy of the presentation slides be emailed to Members.

93. General Updates

Considered -

The report of LGNYY's Honorary Secretary which advised of the following:-

- (a) Recent deliberations of the Sub-Regional Housing Board and the Sub-Regional Spatial Planning and Transport Board.
- (b) A Government consultation "Enabling Closer Working between Emergency Services" which set out proposals to transform the way the police, fire and rescue and ambulance services worked together.

Julia Mulligan advised that all Fire Authority Chairs and all Police and Crime Commissioners had been invited to a meeting with Ministers in London during the week commencing 5 October 2015.

Resolved -

That the report be noted.

94. Arrangements for Future Meetings

Resolved -

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

- Friday 4 December 2015 at 10.30 am, Hambleton District Council offices.
- Friday 11 March 2016 at 10.30 am, Selby District Council offices.
- Friday 8 July 2016 at 2 pm, venue tbc. (A joint LGNYY/LEP Board event is scheduled for the morning of 8 July 2016.)
- Friday 7 October 2016 at 10.30 am, Craven District Council offices.
- Friday 2 December 2016 at 10.30 am, City of York Council's offices

95. Business for Next Meeting

Resolved –

- (a) That the 2015 Annual Report of Dr Lincoln Sargeant (Director of Public Health for North Yorkshire) be submitted to the next meeting.
- (b) That further items of business for the next meeting be notified to the Honorary Secretary.

96. Other Business – Returning Officer for Election of North Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner on 5 May 2016

Janet Waggott reported that she has been appointed as the Police Area Returning Officer (PARO) for the NY Police and Crime Commissioner Election in May 2016 and thanked City of York for their support and assistance.

The meeting concluded at 12.20 pm.

RAG/JR