

Local Government North Yorkshire and York

**Meeting of
Local Government North Yorkshire and York
to be held on
Friday 2 October 2015 at
10.30 am at
Harrogate Borough Council offices,
Crescent Gardens, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG1 2SG
(Location plan attached)**

A G E N D A

1. **Minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2015 and matters arising.**
(Pages 1 to 6)
2. **Syrian Refugees and Asylum Dispersal Scheme** - Report of Neil Irving (North Yorkshire County Council's Assistant Director - Policy and Partnerships).
(Pages 7 to 11)
3. **Rail North/Transport for the North and Northern Powerhouse** – Verbal updated from County Councillor Chris Metcalfe.
4. **Devolution:-**
 - (a) **General Update** – Richard Flinton (Chief Executive, North Yorkshire County Council).
 - (b) **Update on Greater Yorkshire Proposal** – County Councillor Carl Les (Leader, North Yorkshire County Council).
 - (c) **Progress on the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Proposal** – Steve Stuart (Acting Chief Executive, City of York Council).
5. **Broadband Update** – Presentation by Scott Walters (Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer and Company Secretary, NYnet).
6. **General Updates** – Report of the Honorary Secretary.
(Pages 12 to 16)

7. Arrangements for Future Meetings - To note the following, previously notified, arrangements:-

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

8. Business for Next Meeting, to include:-

- 2015 Annual Report of Dr Lincoln Sargeant (Director of Public Health for North Yorkshire).

9. Any other business.

Richard Flinton
Honorary Secretary

County Hall
Northallerton

24 September 2015
RAG

**Local Government North Yorkshire and York
Membership as at 24 September 2015**

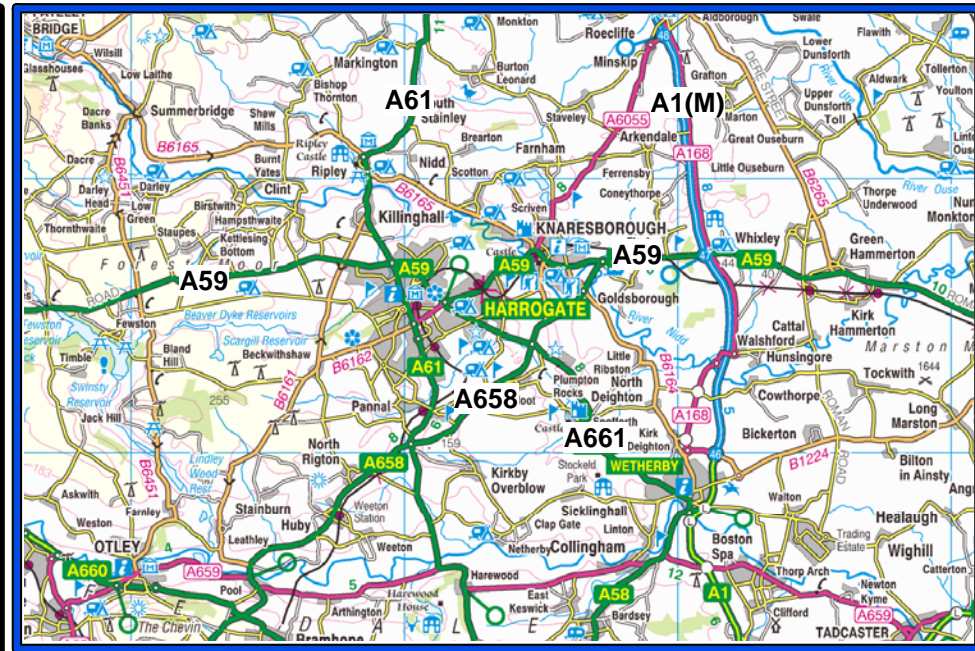
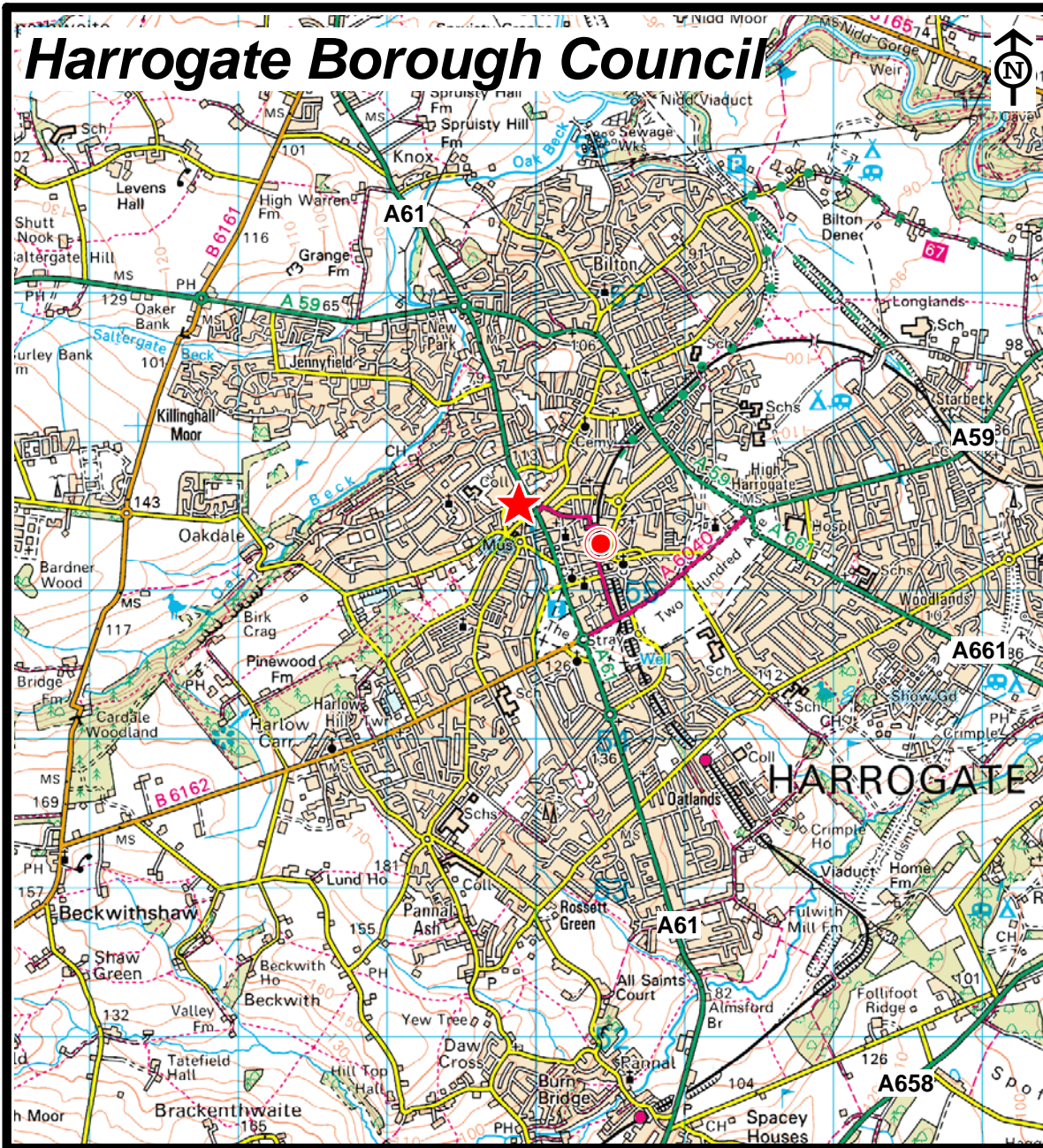
_ Constituent Authority	Representative
City of York Council	Member:- Councillor Chris Steward Substitute:- Councillor Keith Aspden
Craven District Council	Member:- Councillor Richard Foster Substitute:- Vacancy
Hambleton District Council	Member:- Councillor Mark Robson Substitute:- Councillor Peter Wilkinson
Harrogate Borough Council	Member:- Councillor Richard Cooper Substitute:- Councillor Michael Harrison
North York Moors National Park Authority	Member:- Mr Jim Bailey Substitute:- Mr Malcolm Bowes
North Yorkshire County Council	Member:- County Councillor Carl Les Substitute:- Councillor Gareth Dadd
Richmondshire District Council	Member:- Councillor Yvonne Peacock Substitute:- Councillor Ian Threlfall
Ryedale District Council	Member:- Councillor Mrs Linda Cowling Substitute:- Vacancy
Scarborough Borough Council	Member:- Councillor Derek Bastiman Substitute:- Councillor Helen Mallory
Selby District Council	Member:- Councillor Mark Crane Substitute:- Councillor John Mackman
Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority	Member:- Mr Peter Charlesworth Substitute:- Councillor Carl Lis OBE

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 following each have a standing invitation to attending LGNYY meetings:-

- North Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner (*LGNYM Minute 142*).
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council Leader and Chief Executive or their Substitutes (*LGNYM Minute 29*)

Harrogate Borough Council



**Jubilee Multi-Storey
Car Park HG1 1DJ
(Enter via Cheltenham Crescent)**



Harrogate Railway Station

**Crescent Gardens
Harrogate
North Yorkshire
HG1 2SG**



**North
Yorkshire County Council**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NORTH YORKSHIRE AND YORK

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Friday 24 July 2015 at 3.30 pm at
The Pavilions of Harrogate, Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate**

Present:-

<u>Authority</u>	<u>Member/Chief Executive</u>
City of York Council	Councillor Stuart Rawlings (as Substitute for Chris Steward)
Craven District Council	Councillor Richard Foster Paul Shevlin (Chief Executive)
Hambleton District Council	Councillor Mark Robson Phil Morton (Chief Executive)
Harrogate Borough Council	Wallace Sampson (Chief Executive)
North York Moors National Park Authority	Jim Bailey
North Yorkshire County Council	County Councillor Carl Les 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	Councillor Carl Lis OBE (as Substitute for Peter Charlesworth) Gary Smith (Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Director of Conservation and Community) (as Substitute for David Butterworth)

In Attendance:-

Naz Parkar (Executive Director for the North-East, Yorkshire and the Humber, Homes and Communities Agency)

David Bowe (Corporate Director – Business and Environmental Services, North Yorkshire County Council and Chair of YNYER Directors of Development Group)

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

Ruth Gladstone (Principal Democratic Services Officer and LGNYY Secretariat)

Apologies for Absence:- Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Richard Cooper (Harrogate Borough Council), Steve Stewart (Acting Chief Executive, City of York Council), Andy Wilson (Chief Executive, North York Moors National Park Authority), Councillor Stephen Parnaby and Nigel Pearson (East Riding of Yorkshire Council) and Julia Mulligan (North Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner).

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

Councillor Linda Cowling in the Chair

75. LGNYY Membership

Considered -

The report of the Honorary Secretary listing Members appointed to LGNYY for 2015/16 and advising that the Leader and Chief Executive of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council and the North Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner, each had a standing invitation to attend LGNYY meetings.

Resolved –

That the report be noted.

76. Appointment of Chair

Resolved –

That County Councillor Carl Les be appointed Chair, to serve until the Annual Meeting of LGNYY to be held in 2016.

County Councillor Carl Les in the Chair

77. Appointment of Vice-Chairs

Resolved -

That Councillor Chris Steward (City of York Council) and Councillor Derek Bastiman (Scarborough Borough Council) be appointed Vice-Chairs, to serve until the Annual Meeting of LGNYY to be held in 2016.

78. Minutes

Resolved -

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2014, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

79. Devolution and Experiences in Other Areas

Considered -

Presentation from Naz Parkar (Executive Director for the North-East, Yorkshire and the Humber, Homes and Communities Agency) advising of devolution experiences elsewhere in England and the Government's expectations of devolution. (A copy of the presentation slides is in the Minute Book.)

Naz Parkar highlighted that, in advance of the 4 September 2015 deadline for the submission of proposals from local authorities pursuing devolved powers, the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) was available to work in partnership with Councils to shape Housing Devolution Asks. Members thanked Naz Parkar for his

presentation and Janet Waggott (Chief Executive, Ryedale District Council) confirmed that officers would contact the HCA for information and advice about possible Housing Devolution Asks.

Resolved –

That the presentation be noted.

80. York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Update

Considered -

The report of James Farrar (Chief Operating Officer, York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP) advising of:- progress in implementing the Local Growth Deal and highlighting the work to be done to resolve outstanding issues relating to Scarborough Middle Deepdale and Selby Olympia Park; the opportunity available to bid to become new Enterprise Zones; and the progress made by Innovation and Growth drivers.

Resolved -

- (a) That progress in implementing the Local Growth Deal, as described in the report, be noted.
- (b) That local authorities who are interested in an Enterprise Zone contact the LEP as soon as possible.
- (c) That the development on the Innovation and Skills agenda be noted.

81. York, North Yorkshire and East Riding (YNYER) Spatial Plan

Considered -

The report of David Bowe (Chair of the YNYER Directors of Development Group) seeking support and endorsement for the YNYER Spatial Plan, a copy of which was appended to the report.

The Spatial Plan aimed to reflect existing and emerging planning policy across the sub-area, providing a coherent framework within which infrastructure investment decisions to support growth could be assessed and prioritised, and the wider needs and opportunities for the YNYER area could be articulated. The Plan would also be helpful in evidencing inter-authority collaboration in relation to the Duty to Co-operate as local planning authorities took their Local Plans to examination.

For the future, the Spatial Plan could continue to evolve in order that it could begin to provide a more robust framework for influencing and shaping future planning policy. Before further work was done, it was important that all local authorities were in agreement as to the objectives driving the work and the approach to be adopted to achieve them.

Councillor John Mackman (Selby District Council) advised that he wished to see other main highway routes in/out of Selby included in the Spatial Plan. David Bowe undertook to discuss Councillor John Mackman's suggestions outside LGNYY's meeting.

Confirmation was provided that the development of a Ministry of Defence site at Ripon would be part of the forward-looking plan to be developed. The importance was highlighted of the strategic highway connection to East Lancashire, and tow paths as an alternative means of transport.

Resolved -

- (a) That, subject to the views of Selby District Council's Executive, the YNYER Spatial Plan, as set out in the Appendix to the report, be noted and formally endorsed.
- (b) That a further report be submitted to LGNYY in due course in relation to the benefits, issues, objectives, options and approaches for the further evolution and development of the YNYER Spatial Plan.

82. North Yorkshire Strategic Transport Prospectus

Considered -

The report of David Bowe (Corporate Director – Business and Environmental Services, North Yorkshire County Council) presenting the North Yorkshire Strategic Transport Prospectus. (Copies of the Prospectus and Executive Summary were circulated at the meeting and have been placed in the Minute Book.)

Transport for the North had suggested that the County Council produce a Strategic Transport Prospectus to set out North Yorkshire's potential to benefit from and contribute to The Northern Powerhouse. The content of the Prospectus had been mainly drawn from the current Local Transport Plan 3, YNYER Strategic Economic Plan, and the development of the Spatial Plan for YNYER. Planning Authorities had been engaged and Transport for the North and the Department for Transport had provided some comments and input.

Resolved -

That the North Yorkshire Strategic Transport Prospectus be noted.

83. Appointments to Outside Bodies

Considered -

The report of LGNYY's Honorary Secretary inviting the appointment of elected Members to serve on various regional and other outside bodies for 2015/16.

In relation to the Shadow Board 2014-2020 European Structural and Investment Funds Programme Management Committee, it was noted that a nomination was invited from the Leader of the City of York Council for appointment to the seat formerly occupied by former Councillor Tracey Simpson-Laing. LGNYY's other two 2014/15 appointees on the Committee, both now being Council Leaders, advised that they did not wish to stand for re-appointment to the Committee. The Honorary Secretary offered to seek nominations from Councils outside LGNYY's meeting in order that the three vacancies on the Committee could be filled as soon as possible.

Resolved -

- (a) That the Honorary Secretary to LGNYY be authorised to seek nominations, and conduct any electronic ballot necessary, to fill the following three vacancies on the Shadow Board 2014-2020 European Structural and Investment Funds Programme Management Committee as soon as possible:-

- 1 vacancy to be filled by a City of York Councillor (Councillor Chris Steward to nominate).
 - 1 vacancy to be filled by a County Councillor (County Councillor Carl Les to nominate)
 - 1 vacancy to be filled by a District Councillor (District Councils to nominate).
- (b) That Councillor Derek Bastiman (Scarborough Borough Council) be re-appointed as the sub-region's representative on the Yorkshire and Humberside European Regional Development Fund Performance Management Board for North East and West Yorkshire, to serve until the Annual Meeting of LGNYY to be held in 2016.
- (c) That Councillor Jim Clark (Harrogate Borough Council) be re-appointed as the District Councils' representative on North Yorkshire Pension Fund Committee, to serve until LGNYY's Annual Meeting to be held in 2016, and that Councillor Yvonne Peacock (Richmondshire District Council) and Councillor Linda Cowling (Ryedale District Council) be appointed as Councillor Jim Clark's Substitute Members, to serve until LGNYY's Annual Meeting to be held in 2016.
- (d) That no elected Member be appointed to Yorkshire and Humber Strategic Migration Group for 2015/16.

84. General Updates

Considered -

The report of LGNYY's Honorary Secretary which advised of the recent deliberations of the Sub-Regional Housing Board, the Yorkshire and Humberside European Regional Development Fund Performance Management Board for North East and West Yorkshire, and the Shadow Board 2014-2020 European Structural and Investment Funds Programme Management Committee.

Resolved -

That the report be noted.

85. Arrangements for Future Meetings

Resolved -

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

- Friday 2 October 2015 at 10.30 am at Harrogate Borough Council's Crescent Gardens offices.
- Friday 4 December 2015 at 10.30 am at Hambleton District Council offices.
- Friday 11 March 2016 at 10.30 am at a venue to be confirmed.
- Friday 8 July 2016 at 2 pm at a venue to be confirmed.
- Friday 7 October 2016 at 10.30 am at a venue to be confirmed.
- Friday 2 December 2016 at 10.30 am at a venue to be confirmed.

86. Business for Next Meeting

Resolved –

That business for the next meeting be notified to the Honorary Secretary.

87. Other Business

None

RAG/JR

The meeting concluded at 4.20 pm.

Local Government North Yorkshire and York**2 October 2015****Syrian Refugees and Asylum Dispersal Scheme****1. Purpose of report**

1.1. To propose 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 together in partnership to respond to the government's requests regarding Syrian refugees and the asylum dispersal scheme.

2. Background

2.1. Representatives of the eight local authorities met with Home Office officials on 17 September 2015.

2.2. The meeting was planned some time ago to discuss the extension of asylum dispersal areas; however the developing humanitarian crisis involving Syrian refugees led to the scope of the meeting being extended to address the matter.

2.3. The meeting was supported by Migration Yorkshire, the local authority-led regional migration partnership hosted by Leeds City Council.

3. Asylum Dispersal Scheme

3.1. The Home Office provides accommodation, subsistence and ancillary services (for example advice and guidance) for eligible asylum seekers (individuals and families) while their applications for asylum are being processed. Asylum seekers are people who are in the UK, have asked for asylum in the UK, and are waiting for a decision on that claim. Most are people who originally arrived legally in the UK. To be eligible for accommodation and support an asylum seeker has to prove that their application has been recorded; they are destitute; they have applied for asylum 'as soon as reasonably practicable'; and, if unaccompanied, they are over 18 years of age.

3.2. The asylum dispersal scheme has operated since 2000. G4S, on behalf of the Home Office, has managed the service in Yorkshire and the Humber and

the North East since 2012. The current contract ends in 2017, with the Home Office having an option to extend it up to 2020.

- 3.3. Initially asylum seekers are placed in short-term, hostel-style accommodation provided whilst the asylum seeker makes an application to the Home Office. The local provision is in Wakefield. The Home Office target for the length of stay is no more than 19 days.
- 3.4. Once the Home Office has assessed and confirmed their eligibility for support, asylum seekers are then moved to more permanent dispersal accommodation (for example a flat or shared house; mostly housing leased from private landlords). The length of stay varies, typically six months if the asylum seeker's claim is successful or longer to allow for appeals processes.
- 3.5. If the asylum seeker's claim is successful they are known as a refugee and have the same rights and entitlements as any UK citizen. They are then issued with identify documents, a national insurance number and supported to find permanent accommodation.
- 3.6. In Yorkshire and the Humber there are 10 local authorities participating in the scheme: all the South and West Yorkshire authorities plus Hull. Nationally, the authorities participating have remained unchanged for the 15 years of the scheme and there are increasing pressures to expand the number of participating authorities.
- 3.7. Participating authorities (both the county and district councils in two-tier areas) are consulted before any house is used for asylum seekers regarding the suitability of the accommodation, the availability of other services including schools, and community cohesion issues.
- 3.8. Ministers have tasked the Home Office with significantly increasing the number of local authorities voluntarily participating in the scheme to enable the demand for dispersal accommodation to be spread across a much wider area. The Secretary of State has the power to instruct the cooperation and support of local authorities regarding asylum dispersal; however this power has not been used to date.
- 3.9. The Home Office wants to work closely with local authorities that give in principle support to becoming an asylum dispersal area regarding the potential numbers in particular locations. As part of this, a mapping exercise would need to be undertaken to establish what provision might realistically be provided and where. Many parts of North Yorkshire may not be appropriate because of factors such as housing affordability, availability of school places, proximity to services such as post offices and public transport.

4. Syrian refugees

- 4.1. In September 2015 the Prime Minister announced that, during the remainder of this parliament, the UK will accept up to 20,000 Syrian refugees from refugee camps in countries neighbouring Syria.
- 4.2. The government will work with the UNHCR to identify who will enter the UK. Those who are accepted will be granted a five year humanitarian protection visa before they enter the UK and have the same rights as UK citizens to education, employment, health care and public funds
- 4.3. There have been resettlement schemes in the UK for refugees for some years, known as the Gateway Protection Programme. However the numbers to date have been relatively small, for example until earlier this month the Home Office was planning on the basis of taking 750 of the most vulnerable people from refugee camps in countries neighbouring Syria over the next three years.
- 4.4. The Home Office pays a grant per person to local authorities accepting refugees under a resettlement programme. This covers the costs of support including 'induction' costs, initial accommodation costs, health and social care costs. In some cases the local authority has contracted with another organisation (such as the Refugee Council or Migration Yorkshire) to provide some or all of these services.
- 4.5. The grant should cover full costs in the first year. After this time it is expected that the refugee will have been 'mainstreamed' into society. Currently the refugees from Syria being resettled in the UK have very complex needs and the grant averages £18,000 to £25,000 per person. Given the significantly increased numbers of refugees who will now be accepted into the UK, almost all will have much less complex needs and it is anticipated that the average grant will be around £10,000 per person.
- 4.6. There is no expectation at present that local authorities will be required to resettle Syrian refugees. The Home Office is asking authorities to volunteer to offer to resettle a specific number of Syrian refugees over the five year period (the number to be set by the authority); and as part of this to agree a package of support measures that authorities would provide (directly or indirectly).
- 4.7. Migration Yorkshire is encouraging local authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber area to reach a collective agreement on the number of Syrian refugees that the region would be prepared to take in each authority area or group of authority areas.

5. Discussion

- 5.1. There is considerable public support regarding the resettlement of Syrian refugees and a consensus among all North Yorkshire local authorities that we should play our part in helping them with this.
- 5.2. However, given the implications associated with the resettlement of refugees, this is not something that can be entered into lightly or something an individual local authority in North Yorkshire can do alone. If refugees are to be resettled locally it is essential that they are given the support they need. In addition, given the financial pressures on authorities and the existing local demand on services we need to fully understand the resource implications associated with this before we are able to make any firm commitments to government in terms of numbers. An added dimension for 'non-stock holding' authorities such as Craven, Hambleton, Ryedale and Scarborough is that they have no housing stock of their own to directly support resettlement and are likely to require the support of their stock transfer housing association partners and/or private landlords.
- 5.3. Although the issue of asylum dispersal has not attracted the attention of the public in the same way as Syrian refugees, there is still a need to respond to government on the issue. As with the resettlement of refugees, this is not something that can be entered into lightly or something an individual local authority in North Yorkshire can do alone.
- 5.4. Asylum dispersal presents a very different set of challenges for participating authorities than the proposed resettlement of Syrian refugees. Although the Home Office supports eligible asylum seekers while their applications for asylum are being processed, there is no grant for local authorities towards any additional costs after the final decision on asylum has been made (for example increased costs associated with homelessness and the provision of temporary accommodation). Whilst local authorities appear to have some degree of control in relation to the location of any proposed dispersal accommodation, they appear to have less control over the numbers of asylum seekers being routed through the system. In addition, the government's recent consultation "Reforming support for failed asylum seekers and other illegal migrants" casts a degree of uncertainty over levels of support to be offered by Government to refused asylum seekers in future years.
- 5.5. Given the nature of local housing markets, it is anticipated that opportunities for asylum dispersal accommodation across North Yorkshire are limited. Potential opportunities are more likely to be located in areas with lower rents and higher concentrations of rented accommodation and Houses in Multiple Occupation. Strong concerns have already been expressed by

representatives from Scarborough Borough Council to the Home Office that the location of such accommodation in areas with high levels of deprivation would be at odds with Scarborough's wider housing and regeneration strategies.

5.6 Other issues, in addition to the availability of housing and public services, will also need to be considered such as 'myth busting', community cohesion and supporting refugees into economic activity. There can be significant benefits for the local economy if refugees are well integrated as they can help fill local skills shortages or build new businesses.

5.7 Because the government's requests regarding Syrian refugees and the asylum dispersal scheme cannot be managed alone by any one of the eight North Yorkshire local authorities, a joint approach is required. Given the immediacy of the refugee crisis, this work needs to be prioritised by the participating authorities. It also needs to involve other partners including the NHS, Police, Local Enterprise Partnership and relevant voluntary sector organisations.

5.8 It is envisaged the joint approach would 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 that can then be considered by all eight authorities.

6 Recommendation

6.1 It is recommended that the eight local authorities in North Yorkshire work in partnership to develop a joint response to the government's requests regarding Syrian refugees and the asylum dispersal scheme.

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

Local Government North Yorkshire and York

2 October 2015

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 Mary Weastell (Chief Executive, Selby District Council)

Progress report as at 9 September 2015

Enhanced two tier project title:
Affordable Housing

Project Description:
Working Together to Increase the Number of Affordable Housing Units

Project Lead:
Colin Dales, Corporate Director (Operations), Richmondshire District Council
Tel: 01748 901002 Email: colin.dales@richmondshire.gov.uk

2.0 Progress to date/update:

- (a) The Housing Board has received a performance update for quarters 3 and 4 of 2014/15 (full year outturn) and a summary was provided to LGNYY via the last quarterly briefing. An annual report for 2014/15 will be published during October via the Housing Partnership website.
- (b) The Housing Board is closely monitoring national policy developments, particularly around the extension of the Right to Buy to Housing Associations and annual rent changes for social landlords being set at -1% each year for the next 4 years. The details of how and when these key policies will be rolled out is not clear as yet but it is very likely that they will have a significant impact on the housing sector and the associated delivery of the new Housing Strategy.
- (c) A new York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Housing Strategy with a new set of key priorities is currently in the process of being adopted by partners. A formal launch event was held on 14 September.
- (d) The Housing Partnership has been tasked with formulating a series of high level housing “asks” as part of any agreed devolution deal. A workshop has been held to develop this piece of work which has been forwarded to the Directors of Development Group for final sign-off.

- (e) The Rural Housing Enabler network is holding an event at Duncombe Park, Helmsley on 23 September to promote affordable rural housing. All stakeholders are welcome with more details available from Sarah Hall, York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Housing Strategy Manager.

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 continuing to improve and this barrier continues to lower as housing market confidence grows.
- (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 the medium term. The Growth Deal makes specific reference to the need to have up to date local plans and associated land supply.
- (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.
- (d) Local opposition to housing (including affordable housing) is also hindering progress in boosting housing supply. The Housing Board has written to the Housing Minister to request that more supportive key messages come out of Government, supporting new housing and the key role it plays in boosting local economies and sustaining communities. The Chair of the Board has also met with the Housing Minister when he visited the region in July in order to reinforce this message.
- (e) Funding the infrastructure needed to bring housing sites forward is also a barrier which has, at least in part, been resolved via the allocation of Local Growth Funding. However, this is likely to be an on-going pressure as further key sites come forward.
- (f) Selby District Council has also had a further barrier raised by developers and agents within its area which relates to delays in statutory agency consultee responses to planning applications.

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

3.1 A meeting of the LGNYY Spatial Planning and Transport Board took place on Thursday 10 September 2015. The following issues were discussed at this meeting:

- (a) **Harrogate BC, Harrogate District Local Plan Issues and Options consultation** – Cllr Rebecca Burnett (HBC) introduced a paper presented to the Board prior to the meeting and gave a brief oral update, as follows, principally regarding feedback received to the consultation which closed on 28 August 2015:

- There are approximately 5000 individual contributors
- Approximately 4000 comments have been received
- Comments have been received from neighbouring authorities and 'Key consultees'
- House-builder and agent responses have, typically, suggested the Plan has insufficient growth
- Resident responses in the main related to where residents live
- HBC is currently considering the responses
- The next stage of consultation is expected in summer 2016

The Board noted the report and update.

- (b) **The distribution of the provision of housing in the York housing market area** - Martin Grainger (CYC) introduced a paper, presented to the Board prior to the meeting, which sought to gauge the appetite of the Board and the constituent authorities for a sub-regional approach to delivering housing within the context of the Duty to Cooperate. The main points arising from discussion were:

- Whilst City of York's neighbouring authorities sympathised with it, there was little support at this point in time for the approach advocated by CYC and they expressed concerns in relation to:
 - CYC's apparent 'shift' in position from one of being able to meet its own (housing) need to one of asking others to take some of its need, without any evidence to support it, particularly as the local plans for all other local authorities (LAs) in the sub-region do, or will seek to, meet their own needs.
 - The timing of the sub-regional approach advocated by CYC and the impact it will have on the local plans being prepared by other LAs.
 - There was some agreement in principle for future plans (but not this current round of plans) to be more sub-regional in approach.

- (c) **Amalgamation of the NY&Y SP&T TOG with the North Yorkshire Development Plans Forum** – Ian Stokes (CYC) introduced a paper, presented to the Board prior to the meeting, which recommended the Board amalgamate the two officer groups. Some Board members expressed concerns with regard to:

- The level of support provided to the Board by the TOG.
- The focus of the TOG (and Board)
- The respective roles and functionality of the TOG and the NYDPF
- The interaction with other Member / officer groups.

The Board resolved:

- To refer the paper back to the NYDPF to seek its view on it.
- To accept the offer by CYC (as the secretariat) to prepare for the next TOG / Board a report that addresses some of the concerns expressed and consider the functions of other sub-regional groups.

- (d) **Planning Advisory Service Duty to Cooperate Workshop for Members** – IS advised the Board that the former package offered by the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) had ended, but a new support package was available to use, if desired.

The Board resolved that before pursuing this, it should:

- Await the completion of work being undertaken by Government on strengthening the Duty to Cooperate (DtC).
 - Invite PAS to give a short presentation (similar to one it had recently given to the Leeds City Region Planning Portfolios) to the Board.
- (e) **Board and TOG work programme** – It was suggested that any work programme should be tailored to the Board’s function and for what it has been constituted to achieve and it was agreed that the report looking into the functions of the TOG and NYDPF (see above) could inform this.
- (f) **Election of new Chair** – The Board noted that CYC has chaired the Board since 2012 and that having the CYC Member as Chair has made it easier for CYC to perform the secretariat function for the Board.

The Board resolved that Cllr. Ian Gillies (CYC) shall be the Chair for the coming year.

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

4.1 The Board has not met since my last report to LGNYY.

5.0 Enabling Closer Working between the Emergency Services

5.1 The Government is consulting on proposals to transform the way the police, fire and rescue and ambulance services work together, in particular:

- Encouraging collaboration by introducing a new statutory duty on all three emergency services to look at opportunities to work with one another better to improve efficiency and effectiveness.
- Enabling police and crime commissioners (PCCs) to take on the duties and responsibilities of fire and rescue authorities (FRAs), where a local case is made.
- Where a PCC takes on the responsibilities of a FRA, expanding the remit of the Police and Crime Panel to include scrutiny of the PCC’s fire responsibilities (including any necessary changes to membership to ensure fire and rescue expertise).
- Where a PCC takes on the responsibilities of a FRA, allowing them to create a single employer for police and fire staff so it is easier for them to share back office functions and streamline management.
- Enabling a PCC to be represented on their local FRA in areas where they do not take on the responsibility for fire and rescue services.
- Improving joint working between PCCs and NHS ambulance foundation trusts by encouraging trusts to consider PCC representation on their council of governors.

5.2 The proposals do not alter the important distinction between operational policing and firefighting. The law preventing a member of a police force from being a firefighter will remain in place and there is no intention to give firefighters the power of arrest. Similarly, central government funding for the two organisations will continue to remain separate, as will council tax precepts.

5.3 Further information at www.gov.uk/government/consultations/enabling-closer-working-between-the-emergency-services. Comments should be submitted to the Home Office. The closing date for response to this consultation is 23 October 2015.

6.0 Recommendation

6.1 That the report be noted.

Richard Flinton

Honorary Secretary to Local Government North Yorkshire and York