

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT NORTH YORKSHIRE AND YORK

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Friday 8 July 2016 at 2.00 pm at  
The Pavilions of Harrogate, Great Yorkshire Showground**

**Present:-**

<u>Authority</u>	<u>Member/Chief Executive</u>
City of York Council	Councillor David Carr Phil Witcherley (Policy, Performance and Change Manager) (as Substitute for Steve Stewart (Chief Executive))
Craven District Council	Councillor Richard Foster Paul Shevlin (Chief Executive)
Hambleton District Council	Dr Justin Ives (Chief Executive)
Harrogate Borough Council	Councillor Richard Cooper Rachel Bowles (Director of Corporate Affairs) (as Substitute for Wallace Sampson (Chief Executive))
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 (Chief Executive)
Ryedale District Council	Councillor Linda Cowling Janet Waggott (Chief Executive)
Scarborough Borough Council	Councillor Helen Mallory (as Substitute for Councillor Derek Bastiman) Jim Dillon (Chief Executive)
Selby District Council	Councillor John Mackman (as Substitute for Councillor Mark Crane) Mary Weastell (Chief Executive)
Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority	Mr Carl Lis OBE

**In Attendance:-**

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

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

**Apologies for Absence:-**

Apologies for absence were received from Jim Bailey (Chairman of North York Moors National Park Authority), David Butterworth (Chief Executive of Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority), Julia Mulligan (North Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner) and Councillor Mark Robson (Hambleton District Council).

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

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**County Councillor Carl Les in the Chair**

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**112. LGNYY Membership**

Considered -

The report of the Honorary Secretary listing Members and Substitutes appointed to serve on LGNYY for 2016/17. It was reported orally that the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority had appointed Mr Ian McPherson as its Substitute on LGNYY, to attend meetings in the absence of Mr Carl Lis OBE.

**Resolved –**

That the report be noted.

**113. Appointment of Chair**

**Resolved –**

That Councillor David Carr, Leader of the City of York Council, be appointed Chair to serve until the Annual Meeting of LGNYY to be held in 2017.

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**Councillor David Carr in the Chair**

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**114. Appointment of Vice-Chairs**

**Resolved -**

That County Councillor Carl Les and Councillor Richard Foster (Craven District Council) be appointed Vice-Chairs to serve until the Annual Meeting of LGNYY to be held in 2017.

**115. Minutes**

**Resolved -**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2016, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**116. Appointment to Outside Bodies**

Considered -

The report of the Honorary Secretary inviting LGNYY to make appointments to outside bodies for 2016/17.

## **Resolved -**

- (a) That the following representatives and substitutes be appointed to serve, until LGNYY's Annual Meeting in 2017, on the Shadow Board 2014-2020 European Structural and Investment Funds Programme Management Committee:-

### Representatives:-

1. Councillor Ian Gillies (City of York Council)
2. County Councillor Chris Metcalfe (North Yorkshire County Council)
3. Councillor Linda Cowling (District Councils)

### Substitutes:-

1. David Walmsley (City of York Council officer) – Substitute for Councillor Ian Gillies
2. County Councillor Carl Les – Substitute for County Councillor Chris Metcalfe
3. Julian Rudd (Ryedale District Council officer) – Substitute for Councillor Linda Cowling)

- (b) That, subject to their agreement to being re-appointed, the following District Council representatives and substitutes be appointed to serve, until LGNYY's Annual Meeting in 2017, on North Yorkshire Pension Fund Committee:-

Representative - Councillor Jim Clark (Harrogate Borough Council)

### Substitutes:-

1. Councillor Yvonne Peacock (Richmondshire District Council)
2. Councillor Linda Cowling (Ryedale District Council)

- (c) That, in respect of the Yorkshire and Humber Strategic Migration Group:-

- no elected Member be appointed to the Group for 2016/17
- Ann-Marie Douglas (City of York Council's Temporary Accommodation Manager) and Neil Irving (the County Council's Assistant Director - Policy and Partnerships) be appointed as the two representatives for the North Yorkshire and York area and Jonathan Spencer (the County Council's Corporate Development Officer) be appointed as Neil Irving's substitute.

## **117. York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership Update**

### Considered -

The report of James Farrar (Chief Operating Officer - York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)) advising of the LEP's key risks, performance, local growth deal, and a proposal to expand the remit of the LEP Infrastructure Programme Board to take on the role of Joint Public Assets Board for the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP area.

James Farrar highlighted that the report had been written before the Referendum on the EU had taken place and therefore it contained no references to the risks associated with Britain leaving the EU. A strong case was being made to retain the EU funding programme and consequently it was important to maintain pressure to ensure those developments and investment went ahead.

With regard to the proposal concerning a Joint Public Assets Board:-

- It was noted that “Fourth Option” Councils would need to take a report through their respective Councils prior to formal approval of this proposal.
- It was noted that the HCA supported the proposal. The HCA was currently in discussions with the MoD to transfer ownership of MoD land to the HCA. This would give greater flexibility and control over what happened to MoD sites.
- Mr Carl Lis OBE (Chairman, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority) highlighted that smaller sites for affordable housing needed to be viable and that landowners within the National Parks were not prepared to sell land for less than they considered it was worth.
- Members commented that the principle of the Joint Public Assets Board was good because the Board would be able to help landowners or public sector bodies, whose first duty was not land ownership, to rationalise their holdings. In particular, care needed to be taken to avoid piecemeal disposals, as had occurred during the 1960’s, 70’s and 80’s, when the British Rail Property Board had disposed of many small pieces of land and consequently large opportunities were wasted.
- Mary Weastell (Chief Executive of Selby District Council) agreed to work with James Farrar to ensure the governance arrangements for the proposed Board were clarified. Issues which Members identified as being not completely clear were:- whether the Board would be a combined Board for both public assets and the LEP Infrastructure Board; what the decision making of this Board would be; who would be responsible for the Board’s decision making; to whom would any decisions go higher than the Board; and who currently served on the LEP Infrastructure Programme Board and whether Councils wished to change their representation on that Board.
- James Farrar undertook to consult the HCA on a Member’s suggestion that “Advisory” should be inserted into the name of the Board.
- James Farrar clarified that the reference in the report to “doubling housebuilding” referred to doubling the rate at which new houses were being built, which would, if achieved, therefore deliver Local Plans.
- James Farrar confirmed that the Board would be using the expertise of the Sub-Regional Housing Board to ensure that the programmes which the Joint Public Assets Board designed would achieve the outcomes which were needed.

**Resolved -**

- (a) That the key risks and performance issues be noted.
- (b) That the LEP approach to Local Growth Fund Round 3 be supported.

- (c) That, subject to agreement of the wording to clarify the governance arrangements, the proposal that the LEP Infrastructure Board shall take on the role of Joint Public Assets Board for the YNYER LEP area, and be known as the LEP Infrastructure and Joint Assets Board, be supported in principle.

#### **118. Devolution**

Considered -

The verbal report of Richard Flinton (Chief Executive, North Yorkshire County Council) providing an update on the current situation regarding devolution. He referred to the need to recognise the national political situation following the EU Referendum and the Secretary of State's very clear commitment to the on-going importance of the issue of devolution made at the recent LGA Conference in Bournemouth. Richard Flinton also highlighted that it was now clear that the YNYER area was not in a position to move to mayoral elections for May 2017 and that the current period of pause presented an opportunity for discussions.

Leaders discussed the situation and:-

**Resolved -**

That the following way forward be agreed:-

- Chief Executives aim to provide a comprehensive update to LGNY's next meeting.
- In the meantime, Chief Executives look at the 'asks' and 'positions' which YNYER have arrived at and get into a state of readiness in case it is necessary to report back to Leaders quickly, outside the formality of a LGNY meeting.
- Also in the meantime, Chief Executives, co-ordinated by the City of York Council and based on work undertaken previously, pull together the 'asks' from both West Yorkshire and YNYER and prepare a version of what a Greater Yorkshire combined authority would look like so that Leaders can take soundings from Government and MPs about pulling together a full bid.

#### **119. North Yorkshire Business Rate Pool - Allocation of Economic Development Fund 2015/16**

Considered -

The report of Scarborough Borough Council (Lead Authority for the Business Rate Pool) advising of the final benefits to North Yorkshire from operating the North Yorkshire Business Rate Pool (NYBRP) and recommending that a contribution of £250,000 be made to Welcome to Yorkshire from the NYBRP - Economic Development Fund.

Jim Dillon (Chief Executive, Scarborough Borough Council), in introducing the report, highlighted the decisions made previously concerning the operation of the Pool and the agreement that the balance held in the Economic Development Fund would be committed to support Welcome to Yorkshire. A similar agreement had been made in respect of the West Yorkshire Business Rate Pool.

Richard Flinton (Chief Executive, North Yorkshire County Council) advised that an officer group, including officers from West Yorkshire, had been established to monitor Welcome to Yorkshire's financial governance arrangements and implementation of the Financial Recovery Plan produced by KPMG. He also advised that the officer group was content with the arrangements which Welcome to Yorkshire had in place and that the Financial Recovery Plan had been actioned.

Members asked for governance of the officer group to be reviewed, to include provision for the group to report on its work to Council Leaders and the Chairmen of the two National Park Authorities.

Leaders advised that they were highly delighted at the decision to set up the North Yorkshire Business Rate Pool because, had the Pool not existed, £1.563k would have been repayable to central government rather than being retained in North Yorkshire.

**Resolved -**

- (a) That the contribution of £250,000 from the 2015/16 North Yorkshire Business Rate Pool Economic Development Fund to Welcome to Yorkshire be approved.
- (b) That authority be delegated to North Yorkshire County Council to agree governance arrangements with Welcome to Yorkshire on payment of the Fund.
- (c) That governance of the officer group which is monitoring Welcome to Yorkshire's financial governance arrangements be reviewed, to include provision for the group to report on its work to Council Leaders and the Chairmen of the two National Park Authorities.

**120. North Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel: Allowances for Community Members**

Considered -

The report of Neil Irving (North Yorkshire County Council's Assistant Director - Policy and Partnerships) setting out a proposal to pay an allowance to the Community Members of North Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel. Community Members were the independent non-elected co-opted members, of which there were currently two on the Panel.

During discussion, it was clarified that the proposal was to pay the allowances for the Community Members from the grant which the County Council received from the Home Office towards the cost of providing the secretariat to the Panel.

**Resolved -**

- (a) That the proposal that Community Members of North Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel should qualify for the payment of a responsibility allowance of a half-unit (currently £772 pa) be supported.
- (b) That the proposal be referred to the County Council's Independent Remuneration Panel for consideration.

## **121. General Updates**

Considered -

The report of LGNYY's Honorary Secretary which set out the recent discussions of the Sub-Regional Housing Board and advised that the Sub-Regional Spatial Planning and Transport Board had not met subsequent to LGNYY's last meeting.

Mary Weastell (Chief Executive, Selby District Council) advised that the Sub-Regional Housing Board would be monitoring the impact of the outcome of the EU Referendum on sites progressing through to completion.

**Resolved -**

That the report be noted.

## **122. Arrangements for Future Meetings**

**Resolved -**

(a) That the following LGNYY meeting arrangements, as previously advised, be noted:-

- Friday 7 October 2016 at 10.30am, Craven District Council offices
- Friday 16 December 2016 at 10.30am, City of York Council's offices
- Friday 7 July 2017 at 2pm, venue tbc. (A joint LGNYY/LEP event may be held on the morning of 7 July.)
- Friday 6 October 2017, 10.30am, venue tbc
- Friday 1 December 2017, 10.30am, venue tbc
- Friday 9 March 2018, 10.30am, venue tbc

(b) That a meeting of LGNYY be held on Friday 24 March 2017 at 10.30 am, venue tbc.

## **123. Business for Future Meetings**

**Resolved -**

(a) That it be noted that the following business is currently scheduled for future meetings:-

- 7 October 2016 meeting – Devolution
- 16 December 2016 meeting – Director of Public Health's Annual Report 2016
- To a future meeting – YNYER Spatial Plan

(b) That further items of business for the next meeting be notified to the Honorary Secretary.

The meeting concluded at 3.15pm.

RAG/JR