

LGNYY MEETING: 6 July 2018
REPORT PRESENTED BY: James Farrar
TITLE OF PAPER: Yorkshire Devolution – vision and ambition for York, North Yorkshire & East Riding

1.0 Summary

1.1 This paper summarises progress on developing a stronger, more ambitious vision and proposition for York, North Yorkshire & East Riding alongside the emerging spatial framework. This is to support and feed into the wider Yorkshire devolution plans to ensure York, North Yorkshire & East Riding are clear on their ambitions and asks within the proposals.

2.0 Context

2.1 Further to discussions around Yorkshire Devolution, Chief Executives asked Directors of Development to start the development of a stronger proposition for the York, North Yorkshire & East Riding sub-region. The objective is to fill a gap in our narrative around the collective vision and direction of the sub-region – something which articulates what we want to achieve together over the next 20-30 years and what we need to do to get there.

2.2 In March 2017 Leaders agreed the principle of preparing a long term non-statutory Spatial Framework (SF) and to use the technical work undertaken as a starting point for next steps. An ‘SF Narrative’ document was considered and agreed by Leaders, its content has formed the focus of a second phase of work consisting of:

- i. A key evidence update
- ii. A limited engagement exercise on the emerging narrative and approach
- iii. A methodology for the further development of Strategic Development Zones (SDZs)

3.0 Vision and Proposition

3.1 All Local Authorities and both National Parks were represented at the meeting, which was facilitated by ARUP and supported by Richard Wood who has been leading the development of the Spatial Framework.

3.2 The vision needs to be simple, about places and ambitious.

3.3 The key themes which emerged were;

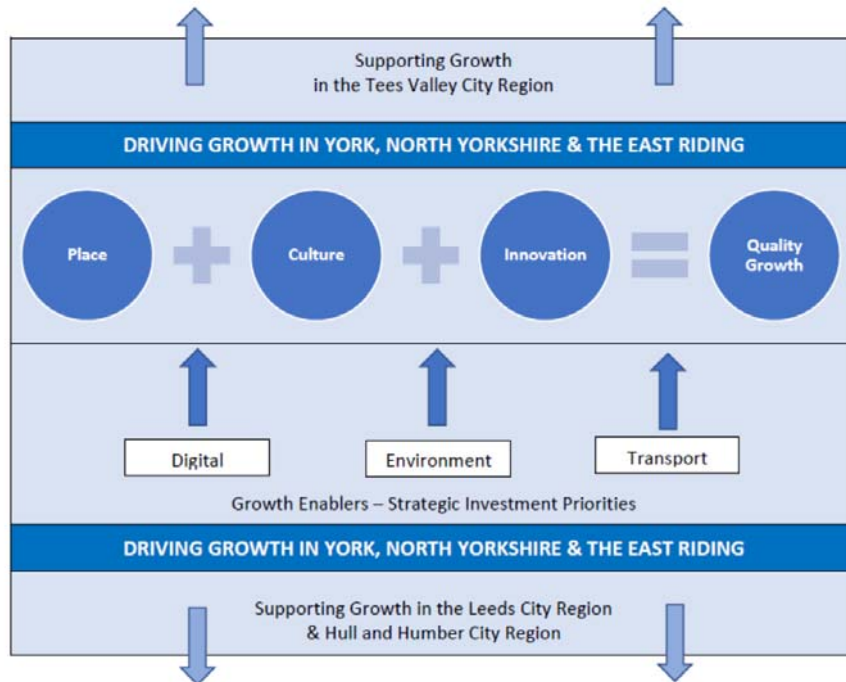
- A much more assertive articulation of the **role of rural in supporting neighbouring geographies** to achieve their growth.
- **Super-connected both physically and virtually.** This covers both the role of York as a rail hub and the need to connect into York, but also the role of market towns and rural areas with digital connectivity.
- **World class natural assets** driving growth, this includes Yorkshire Coast, where the natural assets underpin visitor economy, but are also driving multi-billion investment in potash and offshore wind.
- **Synergies and the combined strength of the sub-region,** where the sum of the whole is greater than the sum of the parts

3.4 There was some discussion around 'distinct' asks which could deliver some of the above themes, these included

- Pilot a new 'local' approach to post CAP payments to farmers.
- Commit to 80% fibre to premises and deregulation of rural mobile masts to enforce roaming.
- Improved power connectivity to key towns and sites

Further work is needed to identify transformational asks.

3.5 An overriding theme was 'good growth'. The diagram below summarises how good growth could work;



3.6 The challenge of the above is the breadth and volume of key assets and the different characteristics across the region. Whilst Directors of Development understand the economics of the region, there is a need to tell our story in a more compelling manner.

3.7 **The proposed next step is to commission the creative sector to work with Director of Developments to animate the sub-region and provide recommendations for a future vision.**

4.0 Spatial Framework

4.1 The SF provides a means to:

- Set out a long-term vision & direction for the area – above individual programmes & projects.
- Articulate sub-regional spatial priorities (including to provide an underpinning and justification for 'asks' of Government in relation to Yorkshire Devolution)
- Explain a 'strategic fit' for Government, Northern (e.g. Transport for the North) and private sector investment
- Meet Government requirements for the agreement of Housing Deals.

- Convey international, national and sub-regional transport and digital connectivity priorities.
 - Set a framework for enabling collaborative cross-boundary planning for sustainable growth.
- 4.2 The emerging SF has been carefully developed to ensure that it is focussed on adding long term value to Local Plans and not cutting across those already in place or nearing completion. Importantly the Framework is:
- Based on existing/emerging Local Plans which setting the approach for the next 15-20 years. It does not undermine these in any way.
 - Focussed on the long term, with a broad time horizon of 2035 to 2050, and for which key national and pan-Northern investment decisions are yet to be made.
 - Non-statutory with a focus on a shared strategy and broad locations.
- 4.3 In terms of developing an effective relationship with Local Plans the SF does not:
- Set a settlement hierarchy or identify housing or employment needs.
 - Prescribe how development should be accommodated (e.g. urban redevelopment, urban/village extensions and or new towns/villages).
 - Make site allocations or set out development management policies.
- 4.4 The further work that Leaders requested when last considering the SF in March 2017 has now been completed. It has reaffirmed broad stakeholder support for the approach set out within the draft document, and has identified some further ways in which it can be enhanced and refined in the light of changing national policy. The work consisted of three key tasks as follows:

i) A Key Evidence Update

This task drew out most significant implications of the key evidence and policy documents issued since the first phase of work was completed last Spring. It is a selective update rather than a comprehensive updating of the previous evidence review reports. The following documents have been reviewed:

- 1) The draft updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
- 2) UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations
- 3) The Clean Growth Strategy
- 4) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment
- 5) Transport for the North's draft Strategic Transport Plan
- 6) Government's Strategic Vision for Rail
- 7) The study of the economic benefits of improved east-west connectivity in York, North Yorkshire, East Riding and Hull (Regeneris Consulting and WSP)
- 8) Skipton-Colne Rail Feasibility Study
- 9) DfT Proposals for the Creation of a Major Road Network Consultation
- 10) Ageing of our Towns, Centre for Towns

ii) Targeted Stakeholder Engagement

A focused engagement exercise has been undertaken as requested with key stakeholders based on the content of the emerging narrative and approach. The engagement has been targeted on neighbouring authorities, key partnership bodies, Duty to Cooperate bodies and key infrastructure providers.

Attempts have been made to engage with just over 40 organisations. There have been some non-respondents – mainly utility providers and individual adjoining local authorities although responses from adjoining Combined Authorities and County Councils largely provide views covering all adjoining areas.

iii) Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) Standardised Methodology

This task provides a standardised structure which Local Authorities can use to guide their detailed work in developing their SDZ's in a consistent way.

4.5 The draft Framework breaks the overall YNYERH region into **sub-areas** with their own distinct roles, characters, issues and opportunities; proposes an overall strategic approach that focuses most growth into **transport and development corridors**; and within these identifies specific areas with the greatest potential to deliver economic growth (**Strategic Development Zones**).

4.6 *Transport and Development Corridor Strategy*

Recent TfN and DfT consultation proposals alongside experience elsewhere, such as the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford corridor, all highlight the importance of a multi-modal transport corridor approach. This also addresses the issue of scale, a key consideration in attracting public and private investment.

4.7 The development corridor approach provides the overall strategy of the existing SF narrative. This tight focus will be continued, however reflecting the diversity of the area, it will be accompanied by further work around specific issues

- Reflecting the collective vision for the sub-region
- Conveying the important and diverse roles of places, alongside the SDZ approach
- Providing a long term/place-based context for the Local Industrial Strategy
- Setting out international, national and sub-regional connectivity priorities
- Highlighting key natural capital/ green & blue infrastructure investment priorities
- Steering an inclusive growth approach to achieve better health & well-being for people

4.8 *Strategic Development Zones (SDZ)*

The identification of SDZs & associated priorities provides the key focus of the growth within the transport and development corridors. These zones will continue to be developed by the Authorities and partners where zones are located and will be brought forwards in a way, and at a time, that does not interfere with those Local Authorities existing or emerging Local Plans.

4.9 Comments have also been made through the engagement exercise about the role of SDZs in terms of investment priorities – including how the Framework can also help to deliver shorter term investment priorities through its longer-term growth and place-shaping role. The identification of key infrastructure issues/opportunities/interventions would provide a means for the SF to influence investment plans to 2050. Key delivery and land assembly challenges could also be identified through the further SDZ work.

4.10 *Further Expansion of the SF*

The Government envisages a greater role for Statements of Common Ground (SoCG). The revised NPPF requires SoCG's to provide evidence that cross-boundary strategic matters have been dealt with rather than deferred by joint working (part of the 'effective' test of soundness). Without further development, the SF could provide an important input to SoCGs. However, **it is recommended that a distinct focus should be kept between SoCGs (which address duty to co-operate issues for current/emerging local plans) and the SF which addresses the longer term.**

5.0 **DECISIONS REQUESTED**

- 5.1 **The LGNY Board is requested to note and support the work in developing the stronger vision and ambition for the region.**
- 5.2 **The LGNY Board is requested to formally support and endorse the emerging YNYERH Spatial Framework including in relation to its role in underpinning priority workstreams including the preparation of a YNYER Local Industrial Strategy and 'Yorkshire' devolution.**