

## **YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

4<sup>th</sup> September 2009

#### **PRESENT**

**John Marsden** (NYCC-Chair)  
**John Fox** (Business Link Yorkshire)  
**Steve Guest** (Jobcentre Plus)  
**Paul Shevlin** (Craven DC)  
**Wallace Sampson** (Harrogate BC)  
**Christine Bainton** (NYFVO)  
**Janet Waggott** (Ryedale DC)  
**Bryn Jones** (City of York Council)  
**Martin Connor** (Selby DC)

**Ian Williams** (Leeds, York & NY Chamber)  
**Martin Wynn** (Learning & Skills Council)  
**Colin Mellors** (University of York)  
**Peter Simpson** (Hambleton/Richmondshire)  
**Andy Wilson** (North York Moors Nat.Park)  
**Julie Hutton** (Yorkshire Forward)  
**Jim Dillon** (Scarborough BC)  
**Alan Stewart** (Selby College)

#### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Jonathan French (YNYPU)  
Andrew Leeming (YNYPU)  
Richard Flinton (NYCC)  
Jim Farmery (Yorkshire Forward– for Item 6)  
Joanne Pollard (CO2 sense – for Item 6)  
Rhona Pringle (Yorkshire Forward – for Item 7)

#### **APOLOGIES**

Bill Woolley (City of York Council -Bryn Jones substituting)  
Roger Ranson (City of York Council)  
Gary Verity (Welcome to Yorkshire)  
Liz Burdett (LSC – Martin Wynn substituting )

#### **1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

1.1 These were approved

#### **2. MATTERS ARISING**

2.1 Jonathan French said that in respect of item 8 on ERDF he would be coming back to the next meeting with a paper around the issues.

#### **3. Private Sector Engagement**

3.1 Jonathan French introduced the report which resulted from discussions at the previous meeting on working with the private sector. It set out proposals that he and Ian Williams had developed to take forward this issue. The report set out various areas for immediate action. The report also included a proposal to utilise REIP money to fund the work of the Chamber in managing this process.

3.2 Ian Williams said it was the ambition of the chamber to be actively involved in the economy and not act as arms length body. Area of concern might be transport and skills issues. And that might lead to the advocacy of high speed rail and planning issues. John Marsden commented that there was some concern that the region had not got its act together on high speed rail. Martin Wynn said there was a need to be more explicit about the needs of the existing workforce. Peter Simpson felt that the outcomes needed to be sharper and to recognise the need to work with existing activity. Business only wanted one conversation

3.3 In response to a question from Janet Waggott on match money Jonathan French said that in effect Ian Williams work was contributing to that match along with resources at the partnership unit and the money was to provide a support worker to enable a new sustainable method of working to be established

3.4 John Marsden, in conclusion said that transport was a good example of the sort of issues we wish to progress. It is a challenge for the private sector in a sense that it needs to work closely with the public sector on this.

3.5 *The Executive noted the report subject to the comments made being taken account of.*

#### **4. Integrated Regional Strategy and Economic Assessments**

4.1 Jonathan French introduce the report which was an update on the preparation of the Economic Assessment and how we were moving forward on the Integrated Regional Strategy.

4.2 The report set out the proposal to prepare the assessment in two halves, namely one forming part of the evidence for the IRS by March 2010 and the second prepared during 2010 to fulfil statutory requirements for North Yorkshire and support the preparation of the assessment for the City of York. The report set out a summary of the scoping report and the next steps that need to be undertaken. The report also covered the current position in respect of the preparation of the IRS and the taking forward of the RIEP funding.

4.3 Peter Simpson reiterated a view that there was a need for a sub regional Integrated Regional Strategy and there was a need to start work on this. It was important to integrate housing, transport, planning and link those to economic issues, particularly barriers to development. It was thought helpful to make the paper available to sub regional housing and indeed the process was relevant to all the local Thematic Partnerships. Richard Flinton said there was a need to pull together the Officer Leads for the four Thematic Partnerships.

4.4 Colin Mellors felt that in respect of the proposed stages of the assessment he would add "How do we know we got there?". It was important that the sub region preserved its style of working and concentrating on identifying on its needs and opportunities.

4.5 Janet Waggott emphasised the importance of working together, but that the transport issues are most difficult to address.

4. **The report was noted.**

#### **5. Business Link – Local Development Plans**

5.1 John Fox from Business Link Yorkshire, gave a verbal report on the development of local area plans. He said that he was now the Partnership Manager responsible for York & North Yorkshire, dealing with strategic issues and local development plans for each district area. These plans are designed to shape Business Link Yorkshire's activities in local delivery and are a part of their contractual obligations to Yorkshire Forward. The aim is to sign off these plans by the end of September.

5.2 It is intended that these documents would cover individual financial years and evolve over time to set out how priorities would relate to local economic circumstances and needs and opportunities.

5.3 John Marsden felt that it would be helpful to have a note of John Fox's presentation which could be circulated with the minutes. He thought it might be difficult to sign off all those documents by September, but he would hope that if there was an interim signing then discussions would continue after the event.

5.3 Peter Simpson said that he had met Helen West the Chief Executive of Business Link, and discussed the issues. It was important to find how Business Link Yorkshire might be accountable to local bodies, but there would be a need to find time for a more local dialogue.

5.4 Wallace Sampson and Paul Shevlin agreed that engagement was critical and sought to establish what were the appropriate outcomes from contact with Business Link.

5.5 The Executive noted that a written report would be circulated.

## **6. Low Carbon Economy**

6.1 Jim Farmery of Yorkshire Forward introduced his report and pointed out the range of activities being undertaken by Yorkshire Forward. This included support for the environmental technology sector, where there are 150 businesses in the region and pursuing the issue of fuel efficiency and the management of energy and waste.

6.2 A new organisation, CO2 Sense, (previously Yorkshire & Humber's Sustainable Futures Company Limited) has been formed with the aim of delivering Yorkshire Forward's sustainable development policies. York & North Yorkshire, as a sub region is relatively active in this area with expertise in the research base and with many active companies.

6.3 Joanne Pollard of CO2 Sense then did a presentation on the major areas of intervention. This included work on carbon mitigation with companies including many in North Yorkshire, supporting wood base technologies and the development of new digester plants. Funds were to support recycling and the development of renewable energy. A major project potential is Co2 capture linking the power stations in Yorkshire with the capacity to store Co2 under the sea.

6.4 John Marsden raised the issue of whether there was a finite limit to the amount of biomass available. Joanne Pollard said there was a debate on where that point was and that we should determine what our capacity is. There is potential to use more fast growing crops and see the potential in waste wood. John Marsden also pointed out that with the rising population there is also a requirement to look at growing increasing food production.

6.5 Jim Farmery said that the sub region's academic institutions play a pivotal role in the centre of a low carbon futures which are a resource for us to look at these critical issues. In response to further questions from John Marsden, Joanne Pollard said that they were working closely with the top 100 organisations, looking for exemplar projects with Local Authorities in particular around energy efficiency and building.

6.6 Peter Simpson asked whether it would be possible for us to do more in terms of working closely with the top 100 institutions and also looking at potential cost savings around Co2 reductions. Also, how could we best assist our micro businesses? Joanne Powell said they were working on developing proposals to expand their remit to the top 500 organisations.

6.7 Andy Wilson pointed out that there is still a need for a very substantial reductions in CO2 emissions and it is hoped that the Integrated Regional Strategy should seek to achieve those targets.

6.8 Jim Farmery said that North Yorkshire had a key role in this . It can build on the development of new technology and also making sure we are moving forward from just having demonstrators to having real impact.

6.9 John Marsden thanked Yorkshire Forward for the presentation.

## **7. Item 7a**

### **North Yorkshire Renaissance Market Towns Programme**

7.1 Andrew Leeming introduced the report saying that delivery plans for each of the main renaissance towns had been received although they were still work in progress. There was a considerable issues to address in terms of ensuring that the output targets could be achieved.

7.2 Peter Simpson said that he agreed with the proposals in the report but still felt that there was a need for a bigger aggregation of activity to enable us to draw down ERDF. Rhona Pringle said that they had explored this with the ERDF team and there was some concerns about having a single project because of eligibility issues.

7.3 Wallace Sampson noted that it was work in progress and there was a need for a very clear steer on the outputs. He felt, for instance, that the delegated fund would need to achieve more.

7.4 In respect of budgeting, Rhona Pringle said they were taking a much broader view and would be re-profiling the budget into future years. However next year they might be fairly short of funds.

7.5 Colin Mellors raised the issue of ERDF and his concern that only 12% of the Geographic Programmes for York & North Yorkshire are ERDF eligible. There is a need for much greater creativity in this area. Peter Simpson said that some of these issues need to be addressed at a programme level.

### **7.6 It was agreed that**

- a) **Jonathan French would come back to the next meeting with a view on how we might improve on our performance in respect of ERDF in terms of match funding and what we can achieve with our current proposals.**
- b) **the delivery plans received form the basis for further development work with particular emphasis on the first three priorities on each of the town's delivery plans and the priorities set out in the report.**
- c) **an output strategy for North Yorkshire for RMT programmes is prepared to address the potential underperformance of RMT.**
- d) **a funding strategy for North Yorkshire RMT programmes is prepared to provide an holistic projection for the future of Yorkshire Forward and match funding requirements and issues.**
- e) **further development of the RMT programme forms the basis of future monitoring and progress reports to future meetings at this Executive.**

## **Item 7b**

### **Delivery Teams**

7.7 Andrew Leeming reported that there is a need for continuing discussions and he would hope that by the end of September/ early October that the Unit would begin to be able to draw together proposals leading to a coordinated approach to Yorkshire Forward in December. Janet Waggott offered to assist if it was difficult to achieve agreement.

**7.8 The Executive endorsed the proposals to date as a way forward in developing the future arrangements in the RMT delivery plan in North Yorkshire. The Executive felt that it was important in future reports to look at aggregation of activity in sharing the skills base.**

**Item 7c**

**Rural Capitals Programmes Report**

7.9 This was a report from Yorkshire Forward. Julie Hutton set out the detailed progress on the delegated fund, Low Carbon Rural Capitals, Enterprise Rural Capitals and the budget profile. She also noted that Andy Tordoff will be coming to the next meeting of the Partnership Executive in November and these issues could be discussed further then.

7.10 Peter Simpson expressed concern in respect of Rural Enterprise Capitals in that property developers might only go to the easier developments.

**7.11 The report was noted.**

**Item 7d**

**North Yorkshire Geographic Programmes – Activities in Scarborough, Selby and Harrogate**

7.12 Jonathan French said that because of a shortage of time it would not be easy to look at these projects in detail and he felt that it might be helpful for a future meeting to come back and perhaps the appropriate Chief Executives might provide a report.

**8. Update on Partnerships**

8.1 This report was taken as read. Richard Flinton reminded members of the Cultural Conference on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009.

**9. Employment & Skills Board**

9.1 Jonathan French introduced a proposed draft Agenda for the meeting. John Marsden felt that in respect of the independent Chair it might be appropriate for the Board to have a number of meetings before any subsequent changes were put into place. There was a need for some further discussion on this.

9.2 Jonathan French said he would circulate the Terms of Reference within the Economy & Skills Board within the near future.

**9.3 Other wise the report was noted**

10. Any Other Business

There was none.

**Jonathan French**

*York & North Yorkshire Partnership Unit  
18<sup>th</sup> September 2009*