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Chapter 1: Introduction and Executive Summary

Introduction

This is the third edition of Progress in York and North Yorkshire (PIYNY), which has been funded by Yorkshire Futures and steered by the York and North Yorkshire Research Forum. The report aims to build on the wealth of data and information which was presented in Progress in York and North Yorkshire 2004.

Progress in York and North Yorkshire follows the Advancing Together regional strategic framework and provides an up-to-date assessment of the sub-region's performance against the 32 Advancing Together high-level indicators. The report mirrors the Progress in the Region structure however provides greater local level data and analysis.

Advancing Together is the overarching regional strategic framework within which all other local, sub-regional and regional strategies fit. The Yorkshire and Humber Assembly produce the Regional Sustainable Development Framework (RSDF) which seeks to ensure sustainable development is an integral part of policy and decision-making at all levels of planning within the region. The RSDF indicators are highlighted across the document in addition to those from Advancing Together.




The York and North Yorkshire Research Forum have steered the production of this document, providing data, guidance and technical expertise. The report then went out for wider partner consultation. The information contained within Progress in York and North Yorkshire will inform the sub-region's Strategic Economic Assessment (SEA) that will cross reference information and sources back to PIYNY. The SEA informs Investment Planning in the sub-region and follows the six objectives of the Regional Economic Strategy.

The document begins with a brief chapter which focuses on population and settlements in York and North Yorkshire; the following chapters are then structured around the six Advancing Together objectives. Each chapter begins with a summary table showing progress against the relevant Advancing Together indicators. Some data is unavailable, either because the indicator is still being developed at a regional level or because information is not available or published at a sub-regional level.

The chapter summary tables show York and North Yorkshire's position in the baseline year, which is 1998 in most cases or the earliest year possible otherwise. The most recent available data is then presented along with an assessment of whether the position has improved or not since the baseline year.

Further information about definitions and data sources are outlined in the appendices.

Key to Symbols

	Significant change in the right direction.
	Little or no change
	Significant change in the wrong direction

Executive Summary

An Advanced Economy

The Advanced Economy chapter charts progress against seven Advancing Together indicators. For those indicators where sub-regional data is available the sub-region is identified as performing well against the employment, economic growth, enterprise and rural economy indicators with the exception of rural economy VAT de-registrations.

Overview

The sub-region's businesses make up 19% of the region's total businesses. Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants constitute around a third of business, with the sub-regional figure being slightly higher than the regional average which is most likely due to the importance of the tourism sector within the area. Financial Services make up around a quarter of businesses. These businesses tend to be small in size which reflects the rural nature of the sub-region. There is a high percentage of small businesses particularly within the districts of Craven, Ryedale and Selby. Consequently York has a higher percentage of large businesses.

Good Progress

- The **employment** rate across the sub-region is consistently high, around 5 percentage points above the regional average. Distribution, hotels and restaurants account for the largest proportion of employment, which reflects the dominance of tourism in the sub-region. Other major employment sectors include public administration, education, health, banking, finance and insurance.
- The sub-region's **GVA** (Gross Value Added) in 2003 was 11,528 (£million), which contributed towards 16% of the regional GVA. York and North Yorkshire has experienced a 28% increase in GVA since 1999; this is the highest increase across the four Yorkshire and Humber sub-regions and is therefore higher than the regional average. Productivity at a sub-regional level stands at £15,185 per head which compares well to the regional GVA per head but is lower than the national figure. However, York's GVA per head is much higher than that of North Yorkshire alone and its contribution raises the overall sub-regional total
- In terms of **VAT registrations** there was a net increase of 140 businesses registering in 2004. This is a dramatic decrease in comparison to previous years when the figure was around 400-500; however this decline in net registrations was experienced across the region. Historical trends show that from 1998 to 2003 the sub-region saw VAT registrations increase by around a third. This is higher than both the national and regional increases. VAT registrations have also increased for the Rural Economy as well.
- The sub-region has a good level of **business survival rates** which is above the regional and national averages.
- Further data on enterprise demonstrates that the sub-region has high levels of self employment. Forecasts for York and North Yorkshire outline a small increase in the numbers of self-employed, but both Selby and Scarborough are forecast to experience a decrease. There are lower levels of people 'thinking about starting a business' in comparison to regional and national averages. There is a bias towards older business owners and therefore a need to increase the number of young entrepreneurs. There are high levels of female business ownership in both York and North Yorkshire, significantly so in Richmondshire and Selby. Only the Hambleton figure is lower than the England and Yorkshire and Humber average.

- Within the Rural Economy, **unemployment in rural local authority districts** has fallen from 3.5% in 1998 to 2.5% in 2004/5. The sub-region's rural districts outperform the Yorkshire and Humber progress of a decline of 0.8%.

Mixed or Uncertain Progress

- None of the indicators demonstrate mixed progress although there are several indicators for which data is not available at the sub-regional level therefore progress against these cannot be measured. These indicators include measures on **Productivity, Investment and Innovation**.
- Whilst data on the Innovation indicator is not available, other information indicates that the percentage of sub-regional businesses that have Research and Development links to Universities is lower than the regional average. Analysis at a local level highlights wide variations between districts which places certain areas at a disadvantage. The sub-region also has a lower percentage of businesses which are members of special industrial networks, however again there are great differences between districts.

No Progress

- The sub-region has experienced an increase of 1.0 percentage point (PP) since 1998 in **VAT de-registrations** as a percentage of the business stock in **rural local authority districts**. However, this is largely similar to the increase experienced by the region as a whole.

Excellent Infrastructure

The Excellent Infrastructure chapter measures progress against five of the Advancing Together indicators. The sub-region has performed well on the measures of housing completions and land re-use. However, no progress has been made on reducing traffic volume and housing affordability. Some further measures of traffic volume and transport use are not measurable at the sub-regional level.

Overview

The sub-region is generally well connected within the regional and national transport networks, although there are exceptions such as the distance from Scarborough to national and international markets, and the more remote rural communities of the Moors and Dales. There is an extensive road network across the sub-region which is well integrated into the national network. This includes the A1(M) connecting North and South, linking to the M1 to London and the South and onto the M62 east (Hull and the Humber Ports) and west across the Pennines to Manchester. There is no airport situated in the York and North Yorkshire sub-region; however the Leeds Bradford airport which is situated in West Yorkshire is in close proximity to the Craven and Harrogate districts.

Housing is a key issue for the sub-region and in particular housing affordability. In all the districts in the sub-region, house prices are higher than the regional average. Issues around affordability may be further reflected through the fact that from 2001 to 2004 there were significant increases in the numbers on local authority housing waiting lists in Richmondshire (100%), Scarborough (104%) and Ryedale (75%). Craven and York however have experienced a decrease.

Good Progress

- The number of **housing completions** has fluctuated in York and North Yorkshire over the past five years. The average number of housing completions per annum across the sub-region has exceeded the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) annual target by 440. The majority of housing completions over the past three years appear to have taken place in Harrogate, Scarborough and York; this corresponds with the major urban centres across the sub-region.
- In 2003/04, 76% of housing completions in the sub-region were on **previously developed land** and through conversions; this exceeds the regional average for such developments. This represents a significant increase, 23% ahead than the Regional Spatial Strategy target.
- There has been an increase in rail journeys from York and also across other areas of the sub-region. There are a number of key commuter routes such as the York, Knaresborough, Harrogate and Leeds line and the Transpennine Line linking Manchester, Leeds and York to Scarborough.
- In comparison to the regional average there is a lower proportion of commuters in the sub-region who travel to work by car. There are also a high percentage of people who work at home (12.16%) and who travel to work by foot.

Mixed or Uncertain Progress

- There are two indicators regarding **Traffic Volume** (Average daily motor flows on all roads) and **Transport Use** (Personal travel by mode (to work without a car)) for which data is not available at the sub-regional level and therefore it is not possible to ascertain progress on these two measures.

No Progress

- **Traffic flows** across the sub-region have increased in line with region as a whole. However York experienced a 13.5% increase in motor vehicle flows over the period 1998-2004, this was one of the highest increases across the region, whereas the North Yorkshire increase was 8.8%.
- **Housing Affordability** is a key issue for the sub-region. The average price for each district is considerably higher than the regional average; four out of the eight districts also exceed the national average. The affordability ratio of house price to gross household income in York and North Yorkshire is 4.29; this is higher than the regional ratio. York experienced the highest increase at 95% whereas Richmondshire experienced the lowest increase of 5.2%.

High Quality Environments

There are six broad Advancing Together environmental indicators against which progress is monitored. Of these the sub-region is making good progress on water quality and household waste recycled per person per year. Progress is mixed on the biodiversity measure and the biological river quality whilst total household waste is increasing. Some further measures of Biodiversity, Air Quality, Emissions and Energy consumption are not measurable at the sub-regional level.

Overview

The sub-region has a wide ranging historic environment with a large percentage of the region's listed buildings. York and North Yorkshire also has a rich and diverse natural environment. The total area of woodland in York and North Yorkshire in 2002 was 59,661 hectares, which equates to 66% of the regional total. River quality and bathing waters are generally of a good quality. Data on carbon dioxide emissions have shown the sub-region to perform badly compared to the rest of the region. In common with the region, York and North Yorkshire produces more energy than it consumes, due to the presence of the Drax and Eggborough power stations located in Selby District.

Good Progress

- With regards to **chemical river quality**, this is measured by the percentage of river length within York and North Yorkshire which is classified as good or fair. Across the sub-region quality does vary from 60% in Selby to 100% in a number of districts. However it has increased from the baseline figures. There has been general improvement in the water quality at the sub-region's beaches with Scarborough North Bay and Whitby achieving Blue Flag Status for the last two years.
- **Household waste recycled** per person per year has increased from 1998/99 to 2003/4 by 177%. York recycles the largest amount of waste and Scarborough the least.

Mixed or Uncertain Progress

- SSSIs (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) which are in a favourable condition are used as a measure of **Biodiversity**. The percentage of SSSIs in York and North Yorkshire meeting this condition is much lower than the regional average and only a +2pp increase has been made on the 2004 baseline.
- **Biological river quality** measures have remained the same at sub-regional level, however Hambleton and Selby districts experienced a decline in quality over the period 2000-2004.
- Data is not available at the sub-regional level for measures on **woodland bird population index; air quality; CO2 emissions per head; energy consumption**, which means it is not possible to measure any progress York and North Yorkshire has made.

No Progress

- There has been an increase in the amount of **household waste** collected per person across the sub-region. Only Richmondshire demonstrates a decrease in household waste collected whilst Craven and Ryedale show particularly large increases compared to the other districts.

- Information on Ecological Footprints highlights that the sub-region has a higher footprint value than the UK average and the other sub-regions. Within York and North Yorkshire, Harrogate district has the highest ecological footprint value whereas York has the lowest.
- Data on Carbon Dioxide Emissions indicates that the sub-region has the highest emissions in the region when measuring domestic emissions per capita.

Educated and Skilled People

The Educated and Skilled People chapter measures progress against five of the Advancing Together indicators. The sub-region has made positive progress on basic skills, young people's education and skills, higher level skills and economically active adults qualified to NVQ Level 3. However there is mixed progress on other measures of workforce skills and training. There is only one measure where data is not currently available which relates to IT skills. No progress has been made on decreasing the percentage of the working age population without qualifications.

Overview

Overall the sub-region performs well on these measures, both in terms of the future workforce and the working age population; although for the latter there are more improvements to be made. Levels of poor literacy and poor numeracy are lower than regional and national averages. At a district level Ryedale and Scarborough have the highest percentage of working age population with poor numeracy or literacy skills. 21% of employers reported skill gaps within their workforce which was similar to the regional picture (23%). 6% of establishments in the National Employer Skills Survey 2005 reported that they had vacancies which were due to skills-shortages, this equates to 3,175 vacancies due to this reason. Forecasts from the Regional Econometric Model suggest that employment in the sectors of gas, electricity and water, textiles and clothing and chemicals (mainly traditional, manufacturing roles) will decline. However growth is forecast to take place within the sectors of education and financial and business services.

Good Progress

- York and North Yorkshire performs well at **Key Stage 2 attainment** for English, Maths and Science, exceeding the regional and national averages, similar performance is experienced across each of the subject areas. The gap between the regional and sub-regional average has decreased, suggesting that attainment in other areas is catching up and York and North Yorkshire is not maintaining the extent of its lead. There are also good levels of attainment at GCSE, higher than regional and national averages.
- The sub-region has also seen a small increase of 2pp in the **percentage of 19 year olds with 5 or more GCSEs at A*-C or NVQ Level 2 qualification**. This is a new measure with data only available in 2003/4 and 2004/5.
- The percentage of economically active adults qualified to **NVQ Level 3 and NVQ 4** has increased in the sub-region and exceeds both the regional and national averages on these measures. The percentage of economically active adults of working age who are qualified to at least Level 3 in the sub-region has increased since 2000/01 to 58.6%. The figure is around 10% higher than both the regional and national averages. 21.1% of households in York and North Yorkshire have at least one adult with a first degree; this is slightly higher than the national average and also exceeds the regional average.

Mixed or Uncertain Progress

- The workforce skills and training measures on adults receiving **job related training** demonstrates mixed progress. 12.4% of York and North Yorkshire employees had received job-related training in the past four weeks. This is slightly higher than the regional and national averages. Closer local level analysis highlights differences between the districts; from 14.5% in Hambleton to 5.1% in Ryedale. 59% of York and North Yorkshire establishments had provided training over the past 12 months, the likelihood of training increases with size of establishment.

No Progress

- There has been no decline in percentage of working age population without qualifications. 10.1% of economically active adults within the sub-region had no qualifications. However this is lower than the regional percentage of 11.3%.

First Class Quality of Life

The First Class Quality of Life chapter focuses on seven Advancing Together indicators. The sub-region performs well against the measures on life expectancy, recorded burglaries, fear of crime. Mixed or uncertain progress is made against recorded robberies where no change has been measured in the figures. There has been a decline in one of the measures for access to services. Some other measures do not have data available at the sub-regional level or are new measures for which only baseline data is available.

Overview

The sub-region has a wealth of cultural assets with 43% of the region's listed buildings. There are high levels of participation in cultural and sports activities, significantly higher than the regional average. There were 4.9 million visits in 2003 within York and North Yorkshire which accounted for £834,000 spent in 2003 in the sub-region. This equates to 43% of the tourism spend in the region, although the sub-regional contribution towards the regional total has declined over recent years. The number of visits to the sub-region as a whole has increased since 2001.

In comparison to other sub-regions, York and North Yorkshire has the highest average income at £28,520, which is some £5,594 per year more than South Yorkshire. Local level district analysis highlights that there is much variance, with the Scarborough average below the regional figure and the Hambleton and Harrogate averages exceeding the national average. When looking specifically at the income of retired households, York and North Yorkshire is the only sub-region to have an average higher than both the regional and national averages.

The sub-region consistently has the lowest unemployment rate across the region. However the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) employment rate of 70.4% is nearly 10% lower than the white population rate of 79.8%. The economic activity rate for the sub-region experienced a small 1.1% increase between 1999 and 2005.

Good Progress

- There is good **life expectancy** for the residents of the sub-region. However there is a concentration of poor health across the Scarborough district and within some of the urban centres across York and North Yorkshire.
- The sub-region has some of the lowest **smoking** rates and with the exception of Scarborough all the districts fall below the regional average.
- York and North Yorkshire has the lowest total **crime** rate across the region, which is also lower than the national average. There are also low levels of fear of crime, lower than the regional and national averages.
- The sub-region has a high percentage of households who like the neighbourhood where they live. All the districts have a higher percentage than the regional and national average with the exception of Selby.

Mixed or Uncertain Progress

- There was no decline in the number of **recorded robberies** per 1,000 of the population, with the sub-region.
- There are a number of new measures included in this chapter for the first time for which there is only baseline data available. Therefore it is not possible to measure progress against these indicators of **physical activity rates** and the **access to**

services measure related to the number of months during 2004/5 where target performance was achieved.

- For the following indicators data is not available at the sub-regional level and therefore progress cannot be quantified: **access to sporting facilities; working age people in workless households; obesity prevalence and health of the rural and urban economies.**

No Progress

- The percentage of **rural households less than 2km from a primary school** has declined by 18.1% since 2001/2. York appears to have the highest levels of access and Ryedale district has the lowest reflecting the urban and rural nature of these areas.

Good Governance and Civic Participation

There are two indicators under this chapter. As these are both new measures only baseline information is available and it is not possible to measure progress. There are also a number of other measures for which data is not available at the sub-regional level.

Overview

The measures in this chapter are relatively new as they were introduced in Progress in the Region 2005. They focus on good governance, civic participation, quality of public services, corporate and social responsibility and impact on the global community, although there is limited information on which to draw.

Good Progress

- It is not possible to identify against the Advancing Together indicators where good progress is being made as either data is not available or the measures are new.
- However other data illustrates a number of positive aspects within the sub-region. The general election turnout for the sub-region was 65.4% in 2005; this is a slight increase in turnout from 2001 at 64.5%. However this increase was experienced by all the sub-regions. York and North Yorkshire was the only sub-region to exceed both regional and national averages.
- There are high levels of participation in the Voluntary and Community Sector across the sub-region. 10.3% of households have at least one adult who participates in the local community, which is higher than the regional and national averages. Across the region York and North Yorkshire has the highest volunteer participation in sport rate at 11%, this is higher than the regional average of 9%.
- Generally the sub-region's Local Authorities perform well with the City of York Council and North Yorkshire County Council were both rated as 'good' in the 2004 comprehensive performance assessment (CPA); the City of York has been consistent over the past three years whereas the County Council has increased its performance from a 'fair' to 'good' rating. However at a district level the results are varied with three district councils achieving either 'good' or 'excellent' results, whereas only Selby District Council was rated as 'weak'.

Mixed or Uncertain Progress

- It is not possible to measure the sub-region's progress against the following measures due to data not being available: **application of National Good Governance Standard in Yorkshire and Humber; percentage of people who feel able to influence decisions affecting their local area; percentage who participated in civic affairs in the last 12 months.**
- With regards to corporate social responsibility, 37.9% of businesses in the sub-region stated that they had a mission or value statement which incorporates responsible business practice; this is lower than the regional average of 41.5%. However this may reflect the small size of businesses within the sub-region and the likelihood of formal policies and plans.

No Progress

- It is not possible to identify against the Advancing Together indicators where no progress is being made as either data is not available or the measures are new.