

**Chapter 8: Good Governance and Civic Participation**

Figure or Table	Advancing Together Indicator	YNY Baseline	YNY Latest Data	YNY Change on Baseline	YNY Progress	Y&H Baseline	Y&H Latest Data	Y&H Change on Baseline	Y&H Progress
Table 8.3	<b>Civic Participation:</b> Overall participation in local community (NEW MEASURE)	10.3%	-	-		8.3%	-	-	
Table 8.8	<b>Good Governance:</b> Percentage of businesses with a mission or value statement incorporating the concept of responsible business practice (NEW MEASURE)	38%	-	-		42%	-	-	

<b>Other Advancing Together Good Governance and Civic Participation Indicators – Data not available for York and North Yorkshire</b>	
<b>Good Governance:</b> Application of National Good Governance Standard in Y&H (NEW MEASURE)	New National Good Governance Standard just developed. Monitoring work against progress has yet to take place.
<b>Good Governance:</b> Percentage of people who feel able to influence decisions affecting their local area (NEW MEASURE)	Not available at sub-regional level
<b>Civic Participation:</b> Percentage who participated in civic affairs in last 12 months	Not available at sub-regional level

Table 8.3 - Baseline 2004. Latest data is 2004. Source: Acxiom, National Lifestyle Survey, 2004.

Table 8.8 - Baseline 2005. Latest data is 2005. Source: Yorkshire Forward/CBI, Survey of Regional Economic Trends, April 2005.

☺ - significant change in the right direction.

☹ - little or no change.

☹ - significant change in the wrong direction.

pp – percentage point difference.

## **Chapter 8: Good Governance and Civic Participation**

### **Advancing Together Vision**

Yorkshire and Humber will possess and portray the highest standards of governance in all sectors and at all levels, and the highest levels of civic participation in decision-making and community life.

We will promote good decision-making, leadership, and management; and actively encourage people, partnerships, and communities to play an active role in civic life. We will be committed to democratic, accountable and transparent decision making in the public sector, encourage the development of responsible corporate governance in the private sector, and support a well-run voluntary and community sector in playing a full role in policy making.

Good Governance and Civic Participation is essential in achieving the Advancing Together objectives. In particular this objective highlights the importance of democratic processes, accountability and participation in civic life. The 2004 version of Progress in the Region was the first to include a chapter on Good Governance and Civic Participation. This information was expanded in Progress in the Region 2005, with a number of new measures introduced.

Since then the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly has begun work with regional partners as to how the objective can best be achieved. As part of this process, the Assembly has brought together a Steering Group of experts on different aspects of Good Governance and Civic Participation, which is overseeing a number of initiatives to take forward regional projects. These include the application of the recently launched National Standard on Good Governance in Yorkshire and Humber, work on consultation and participation with children and young people, and the development of a regional on-line consultation facility. The Steering Group are also looking at examples of best practice in good governance from around the region, at all levels.

The Steering Group has also helped advise on the choice of the Good Governance indicators featured in this year's document. As there is no catch all Good Governance indicator, three have been chosen to cover a wide spread of activity. As there were none in last year's document, this is a step forward.

This chapter will focus on five key topics: good governance, civic participation, quality of public services, corporate and social responsibility and impact on the global community and where possible provides measurement against the Advancing Together indicators numbers thirty-one and thirty-two.

### **Good Governance**

Good Governance involves the aspects of good decision-making, leadership and management at all levels of government which is accountable for transparent and democratic decision-making in the public sector. Progress in the Region stresses the difficulties in measuring good governance as it covers a wide area and lacks definition. However the following information will attempt to provide a picture for York and North Yorkshire.

## Regional Governance

Progress in the Region outlines the findings from two surveys which focus upon governance at a regional level. A third stakeholder survey is planned to be carried out by Government Office for Yorkshire and The Humber.

The Yorkshire Forward stakeholder survey highlighted an increase in satisfaction with the contribution from Yorkshire Forward into the regions economy, from 34.4% in 2004 to 37.6% in 2005 and also a decrease in dissatisfaction from 8.7% to 6.3%.

Further research carried out by the University of Warwick which looked at the level of member involvement within regional assemblies. The survey outlined that 59% of the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly members felt that the Assembly was either effective or very effective in informing them in how they could be involved in its work. Furthermore, 77% of respondents felt the Assembly's decision-making structures and processes were inclusive.

## Local Governance

### Quality Parish Council Status

Parish or Town Councils are the most local level of government in England. There are 762 parishes in York and North Yorkshire, however not all of those parishes have a Parish Council, as some have grouped Councils and others have only parish meetings. They are independent of other levels of local government, ie. District and County Councils, however they maintain a close working relationship with both. The services provided by Parish Councils vary depending on how large and how active the Councils are. Some meet infrequently and are actively involved in very few matters. Other parishes may undertake many duties such as street lighting, managing cemeteries, allotments, commons, village halls, war memorials and markets etc. Councillors are not paid and have to abide by a local government code of conduct and declare a personal or prejudicial interest if they have an interest in any matter under discussion at a parish council meeting.

Within York there is a further level of local governance; ward committees. Local councillors have delegated powers to take decisions which improve the quality of life in their ward. Ward committees have a local budget to spend; this can be used to pay for extra council services, local projects or to attract other funding into the area.

The Quality Parish and Town Council scheme was launched in June 2003, following the publication of the Government's Rural White Paper, 2000. The scheme was designed to provide a benchmark minimum standards for parish and town councils and enable them to better represent the communities they serve. The scheme also aims to enhance relationships between local councils, principal authorities and community and voluntary sector organisations. The following table outlines the number of parishes with Quality Parish Council status.

**Table 8.1: Number of parishes with Quality Parish Council status by sub-region**

Sub-Region	Quality Parish Council Status
The Humber	Hornsea Town Council, Beverley Town Council
York and North Yorkshire	Filey Town Council, Fairburn Parish Council Copmanthorpe Parish Council, Skipton Town Council
South Yorkshire	Cawthorne Parish Council, Bawtry Town Council Whiston Parish Council
West Yorkshire	Morley Town Council, Denby Dale Parish Council Oxenhope Parish Council, Shadwell Parish Council Holme Valley Parish Council

Source: Yorkshire Local Councils Associations/The East Riding and Northern Lincolnshire Local Councils Association, March 2006.

## **Influencing Decisions**

The Advancing Together indicator 32b looks at information from the Home Office Citizenship Survey which determines whether people feel they are able to influence decisions affecting their local area. Yorkshire and Humber has the lowest percentage of across the English regions people who feel they can influence decisions at 33.9%. This information is not available below the Government Office Region level and therefore a sub-regional perspective is not outlined.

The Yorkshire and Humber Assembly and Yorkshire Forward have jointly funded a question on the 2005 Acxiom National Lifestyle Survey asking whether people feel able to influence decisions affecting their local areas. The results will be available by the end of 2006 and allow us to see any variation at the sub-regional and local level.

## **Civic Participation**

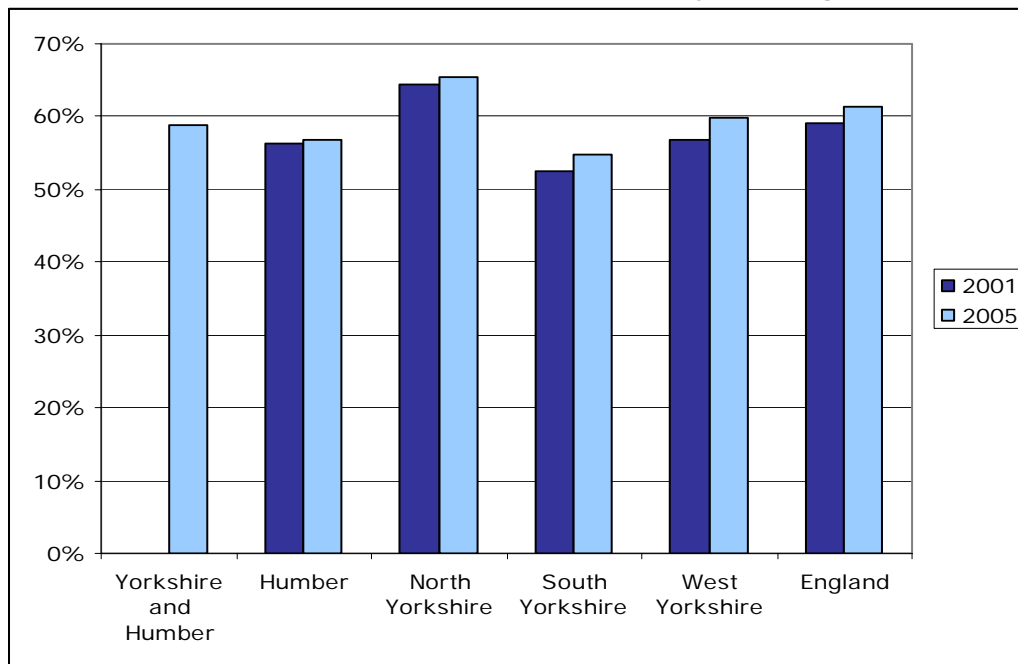
The Advancing Together framework stresses the importance of civic participation, in terms of making a contribution to the public sphere of society. This can involve engagement in democratic processes and civic institutions to influence policies and services that affect people's lives.

## **Election Turnout**

Involvement in local elections is a key indicator of the level of civic participation. This is measured as the percentage of registered voters that place a vote in an election.

The following graph outlines the general election turnout for each of the sub-regions across Yorkshire and Humber, using figures published in *Progress in the Region 2005*. The figures show that in York and North Yorkshire there was a slight increase in turnout from 2001 (64.5%) to 2005 (65.4%) 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.

**Figure 8.1: General Election turnout 2001 and 2005 by sub-region**



Source: Progress in the Region 2005

Turnout in local elections is measured as the average turnout in those wards which had a contested election. The high turnout in 2001 is due to the local elections taking place on the same day as the general elections. These figures are outlined in the following table, where there are no figures; there were no elections in the authority in that year.

**Table 8.2: Local election turnout in York and North Yorkshire, 1998 – 2004**

Area	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Craven	40.6%	36.7%	36.9%	66.7%	41.9%	36.2%	52.9%
Hambleton	-	41.4%	-	65.9%	-	38.7%	-
Harrogate	30.4%	35.9%	33.7%	64.9%	39.6%	34.7%	55.5%
North Yorkshire County Council	-	-	-	64.6%	-	-	-
Richmondshire	-	42.8%	-	65.8%	-	39.7%	-
Ryedale	-	44.7%	-	67.4%	-	40.7%	-
Scarborough	-	34.2%	-	60.9%	-	31.0%	-
Selby	-	36.4%	-	64.6%	-	35.4%	-
York	-	36.7%	-	-	-	37.2%	-

Source: University of Plymouth, Local Elections Handbooks 1998 – 2004.

## Participation Rates

### Participation in the Voluntary and Community Sector

The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) can include a wide range of organisations such as small-scale voluntary groups, community groups and charities. The sector is recognised as providing support to those who want to become involved with change in their local community. To continue the important role which the VCS sector provides, there is a need to ensure there is a continued involvement from volunteers and an available workforce.

The Valuing the Voluntary and Community Sector in York and North Yorkshire report produced by the North Yorkshire Forum for Voluntary Organisations states that nearly 12,000 people are employed in the voluntary sector within the sub-region across 3,000 organisations. 50,000 people volunteer within the sector working a total of 1 million hours. It is believed that the sector contributes between 1%-2.5% of the sub-regional GDP.

The following table outlines information from the Acxiom National Lifestyle Survey; this includes the new Advancing Together Indicator which measures the overall participation in the local community. The analysis highlights high levels of participation across the sub-region. 10.3% of households have at least one adult who participate in the local community, this is higher than the Yorkshire and Humber and Great Britain figure. (The variable is a composite of the charity/voluntary work, improving local environment and community regeneration variables). Furthermore York and North Yorkshire exceeds regional and national averages across involvement in charity/voluntary work and improving the local environment.

**Table 8.3: Participation in local community outside of work by sub-region (%), 2004**

Area	Charity/voluntary work	Improving local environment	Community regeneration	Overall participation in local community
Great Britain	8.99	2.93	1.62	9.79
Yorkshire and Humber	7.39	2.47	1.74	8.33
The Humber	7.18	2.37	1.53	8.14
York and North Yorkshire	9.48	3.03	1.68	10.25
South Yorkshire	6.25	2.28	1.71	7.27
West Yorkshire	7.44	2.42	1.86	8.40

Source: Source: Acxiom, National Lifestyle Survey, 2004. © Acxiom UK Ltd, 2004. All rights in the data contained in this figure belong to Acxiom UK Ltd and may not be used or reproduced without the express permission of Acxiom UK Ltd.

[Advancing Together Indicator 31b](#)

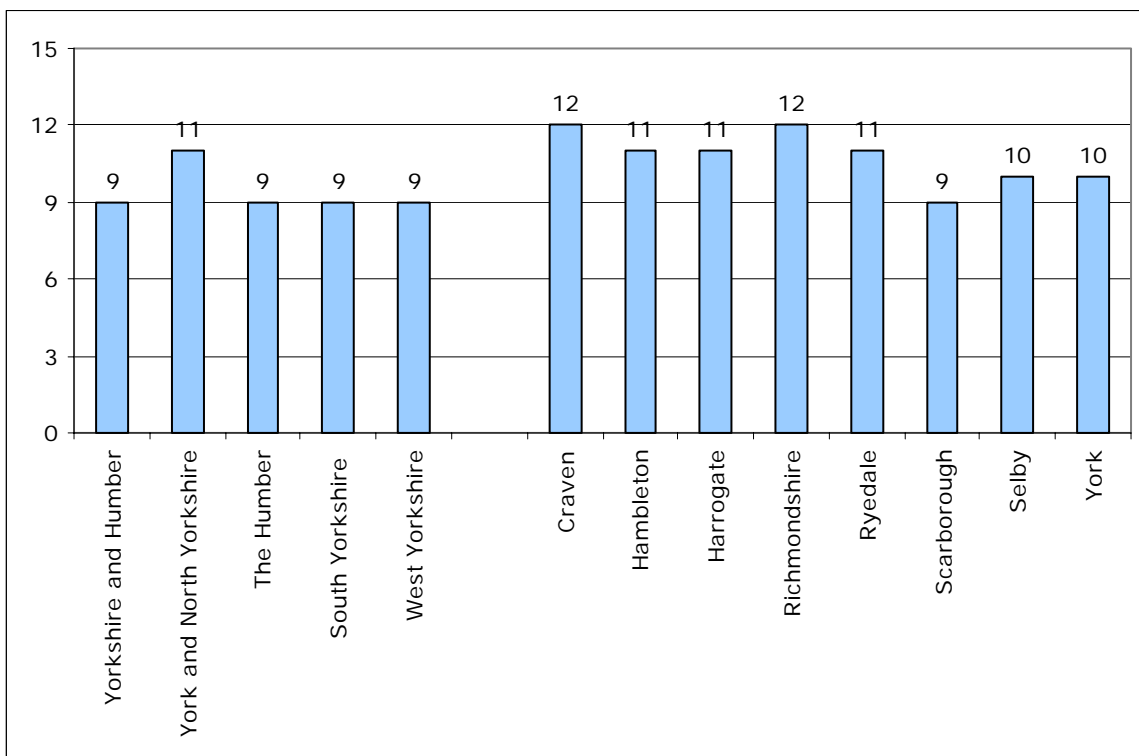
[Also a Regional Sustainable Development Framework Indicator](#)

### Volunteering in Sport

Sport England has carried out the Yorkshire and Humber Sport and Physical Activity Participation Survey which provides a comprehensive overview of physical activity participation rates across the region. The survey highlights at a regional level that men are twice as likely as women to volunteer in sport at least once at week and that people in affluent social groups are significantly more likely to volunteer. At a sub-regional level York and North Yorkshire has the highest volunteer participation rate at 11%, this is higher than the regional average of 9%. At a local level Craven and Richmondshire have a significantly higher proportion of adults who volunteer in sport.

There is further information about participation in sport in the first Class Quality of Life Chapter.

**Figure 8.2: Percentage of adults (16+) spending at least one hour a week on voluntary work for sport, 2005**



Source: Yorkshire and Humber Sport and Physical Activity Participation Survey, Sport England 2005

### Charitable Contributions

In 2004, 85.7% of households in York and North Yorkshire contributed at least once to a charitable cause, compared to 83.4% in the region and 84.9% across England. Sub-regionally, West Yorkshire (83.9%) households were slightly more likely to contribute to charitable causes than compared to the Humber (82.3%) and South Yorkshire (81.9%) (Acxiom Ltd, National Lifestyle Survey, 2004).

### Quality of Public Services

Advancing Together seeks the promotion of good decision-making, leadership and management in government at all levels. One sign of this is the quality of services provided by local government.

### Local Authority Performance

The Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) initiative is part of the Government's drive to modernise local councils and gives the country's local authorities one of five performance ratings.

The CPA initiative is led by the Audit Commission and looks at a number of areas including, education, social care for adults and children, environment, housing, benefits, libraries and leisure, use of resources, core service and the council's ability to improve. County Councils are assessed in the same categories as unitary authorities apart from housing and benefits since county councils do not deliver these services. The assessment combines the scores from each area to produce a picture of a council's performance as a whole.

Each December unitary and county councils are rated under the performance framework. For 2005, the Audit Commission have revised the CPA framework, making it a harder test, and have replaced the labels poor, weak, fair, good and excellent with star ratings - zero up to four stars. Alongside the star rating, the Commission has also published a direction of travel statement indicating progress being made by the local authority in achieving improvement. To make progress clear to local people there are four direction of travel labels; "improving strongly", "improving well", "improving adequately", and "not improving adequately". A council's overall CPA star category and its direction of travel judgement is reached through the assessment of 3 separate elements. These are an annual use of resources assessment; an annual service assessment; and a periodic corporate assessment.

The City of York Council and North Yorkshire County Council within the sub-region in 2004 were both rated as good; 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. In 2005 the Audit Commission published an update of the CPA assessment entitled – The Harder Test, Scores and Analysis. North Yorkshire County Council was seen as improving well with a 3 star overall performance, The City of York Council was seen as improving adequately also with a 3 star performance.

**Table 8.4: Unitary Authority and County Council CPA performance by individual authority, 2002 – 2004**

Local Authority	2002	2003	2004
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	Good	Fair	Good
Bradford Metropolitan Borough Council	Good	Good	Good
Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council	Fair	Fair	Good
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	Fair	Fair	Good
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	Good	Excellent	Excellent
Kingston upon Hull (City & County of)	Poor	Poor	Poor
Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Leeds City Council	Good	Good	Good
North East Lincolnshire Borough Council	Poor	Weak	Weak
North Lincolnshire Council	Good	Good	Excellent
North Yorkshire County Council	Fair	Good	Good
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Fair	Weak	Fair
Sheffield City Council	Good	Good	Excellent
Wakefield Metropolitan Borough Council	Poor	Weak	Fair
York Council (City of)	Good	Good	Good

Source: Audit Commission, 2005.

At a district level results are varied with three district councils achieving either good or excellent results whereas only Selby District Council was rated as weak. A new CPA framework of district councils is currently being developed but future assessment is likely to be a less intensive audit and inspection activity.

**Table 8.5: District Council CPA results, 2004**

District Council	2004
Craven District Council	Fair
Hambleton District Council	Excellent
Harrogate Borough Council	Fair
Richmondshire District Council	Fair
Ryedale District Council	Good
Scarborough Borough Council	Good
Selby District Council	Weak

Source: Audit Commission, 2005.

## Fire and Rescue Authority Performance

Fire and Rescue CPA is about helping fire authorities improve the services they deliver for their communities. The Audit Commission first published CPA results for Fire and Rescue Authorities in 2005. It does not give an opinion on how well Fire and Rescue authorities respond to emergency incidents. The assessment provides a baseline measurement that will help fire authorities to focus on improvement. The assessment comprises judgements based on evidence from the Commission's own inspection activity, performance indicators and the views of others. The North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue authority received a good rating in 2005.

**Table 8.6: Fire and Rescue CPA results, 2005**

Fire and Rescue Authority	2005
North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority	Good
West Yorkshire Fire and Civil Defence Authority	Good
Humberside Fire Authority	Fair
South Yorks Fire and Civil Defence Authority	Weak

Source: Audit Commission, 2005.

## Police Performance

In October 2005, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) published baseline assessment reports for all 43 police forces in England and Wales. The baseline assessment has been developed by HMIC to reflect a dynamic performance environment in which the Police Reform Act and the Policing Performance Assessment Framework (PPAF) have had a significant impact. Baseline assessment makes considerable use of self-assessment and grading criteria to produce one of four delivery grades – Excellent, Good, Fair or Poor – across a broad range of policing activities. In most cases, a 'direction of travel' grade – Improved, Stable or Deteriorated – is also noted. Baseline assessment is a diagnostic assessment that generates a tailored programme of activity for each force – i.e., future inspection will be intelligence-led and will reflect the overall performance of the force.

Across all the areas of police activity North Yorkshire performs at either a fair or good level. The direction of travel for the North Yorkshire police force across the most of the areas of activity is mainly towards improved performance.

**Table 8.7: Police Performance Assessments 2004/05, Delivery (and direction of travel)**

Area	Reducing Crime	Investigating Crime	Promoting Safety	Providing Assistance	Citizen Focus	Resource Use	Local Policing
Humberside	Poor (Improved)	Poor (Improved)	Fair (Stable)	Poor (Stable)	Poor (Improved)	Fair (Improved)	Poor (Stable)
North Yorkshire	Good (Improved)	Fair (Stable)	Fair (Improved)	Good (Improved)	Good (Improved)	Good (Improved)	Fair (Improved)
South Yorkshire	Good (Stable)	Good (Stable)	Fair (Improved)	Poor (Improved)	Poor (Improved)	Fair (Improved)	Fair (Improved)
West Yorkshire	Good (Improved)	Excellent (Improved)	Good (Improved)	Good (Improved)	Poor (Improved)	Good (Improved)	Fair (Improved)

Source: Home Office, 2005

## Beacon Councils

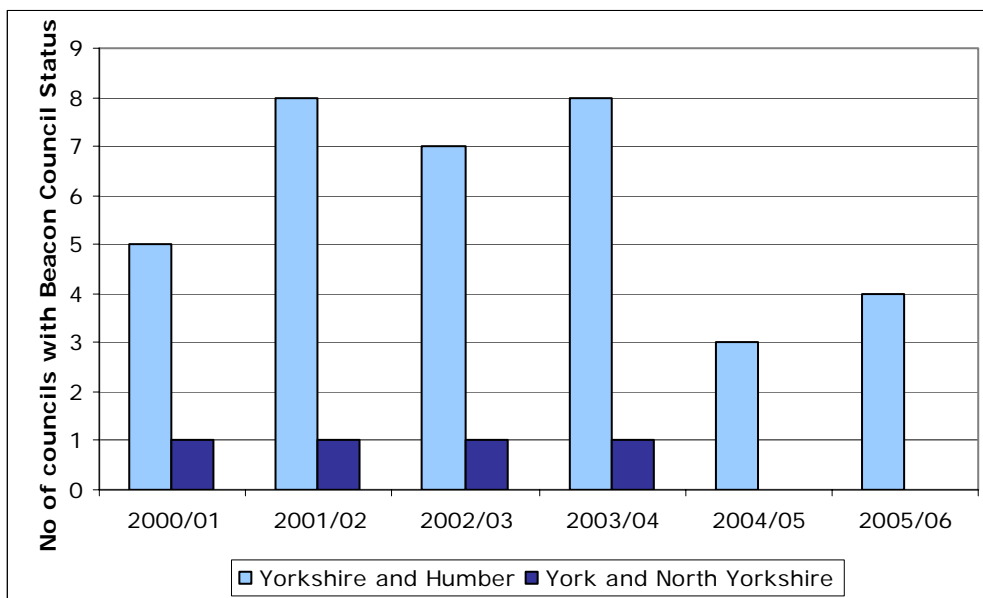
Introduced in 1999, the Beacon Council Scheme is about raising standards in local government by identifying local authorities that display excellence in specific service areas. Beacon status lasts for one year and during that period councils hold open days and undertake a variety of other activities to spread their best practice to others. The Beacon

Scheme is an important contributor to the modernisation of local government, allowing local government to learn from itself.

The Beacon Council themes change each year. Those in 2005/06 are; affordable housing, asset management, effective environmental health, getting closer to communities, healthy communities, integrated children’s services, promoting racial equality, supporting carers, supporting new businesses and sustainable energy.

The graph below outlines the number of local authorities who have been awarded Beacon status at a regional and sub-regional level. York and North Yorkshire was only awarded one beacon status per year over the period 2000-2004 and in the past two years has not received any awards, however it is important to note that these awards are only open to those authorities which apply.

**Figure 8.3: Number of local authorities with Beacon Council status**



Source: Office for Deputy Prime Minister, 2005

### Corporate Social Responsibility

Advancing Together promotes the development of responsible corporate governance in the private, public and not-for-profit sectors.

The Government sees Corporate Social Responsibility as the business contribution to overall sustainable development goals. Essentially it is about how business takes account of its economic, social and environmental impacts in the way it operates – maximising the benefits and minimising the downsides.

In 2005, as part of the Survey of Regional Economic Trends which Yorkshire Forward commissions with the CBI, 2,500 companies in the Yorkshire and Humber region and around 1,000 businesses outside responded to a self-administered postal survey. Responses were boosted through telephone interviewing in some areas. Companies were surveyed in March/April 2005.

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%. This may reflect the small size of businesses within the sub-region and the likelihood of formal policies and plans.

**Table 8.8: Businesses with a mission or value statement incorporating responsible business practice**

Area	% of Businesses with a mission or value statement incorporating responsible business practice
Yorkshire and Humber	42%
York and North Yorkshire	38%
The Humber	48%
South Yorkshire	38%
West Yorkshire	42%

Source: Yorkshire Forward/ CBI Survey of Regional Economic Trends, 2005

[Advancing Together Indicator 32c](#)

The following table outlines the percentage of businesses within the sub-region that have formal programmes to improve their impact on society, in a number of different areas. 34% of companies have a programme in relation to customers, 21% with suppliers, 21% with the environment and 24% with the local community. York and North Yorkshire percentage of businesses is lower than the regional average across all areas apart from the Local Community.

**Table 8.9: York and North Yorkshire businesses with formal programmes in place to improve their overall impact on society**

Area	Programme Area			
	Customers	Suppliers	Environment	Local Community
Yorkshire and Humber	39%	22%	21%	21%
York and North Yorkshire	34%	21%	21%	24%
The Humber	48%	30%	29%	26%
South Yorkshire	34%	21%	24%	20%
West Yorkshire	39%	20%	16%	18%

Source: Yorkshire Forward/ CBI Survey of Regional Economic Trends, 2005

Further information from the Yorkshire Forward/ CBI Survey outlined in the table below highlights the range of corporate social responsibility activities which businesses across the sub-region have taken part in.

**Table 8.10: Business Corporate Social Responsibility activities (%) across York and North Yorkshire, 2005**

Skills	Percentage
Allows employees to work flexibly	65.5
Provides work experience/apprenticeships	53.5
Improves waste management	40.9
Invests in local communities	27.4
Intentionally sources local goods and services, or Fairtrade, or organic produce	39.6
Encourages diversity/equality at work	36.7
Improves energy efficiency	40
Improves health and well-being at work	36.7
Achieved an independent external award or quality standard of any kind	26.2
Helps other businesses improve their business performance	19.5
Intentionally helps disadvantaged groups	15.1
Improves the social or environmental impact of products/services	15.1

Source: Yorkshire Forward/ CBI Survey of Regional Economic Trends, 2005

### **Impact on the Global Community**

Advancing Together wants to see citizens playing an active and positive participatory role in the communities, of which they are a part, including the wider global community. Support for Fairtrade is one way for citizens and communities in Yorkshire and Humber to do so and have a positive impact on the developing world.

Fairtrade recognises the important role that consumers play to improve the situation for producers. By buying direct from farmers at better prices, helping to strengthen their organisations and marketing their produce directly through their own one world shops and catalogues, the charities offered consumers the opportunity to buy products which were bought on the basis of a fair trade.

York achieved Fairtrade City status in March 2004 and Northallerton has recently been awarded the status in November 2005. To gain the status of Fairtrade communities are required to agree to several actions such as only serving Fairtrade tea and coffee at its meetings and in offices and canteens, Fairtrade products are to be available within the area's shops and cafes (an appropriate target is set) and the establishment of a local Fairtrade Steering Group to ensure commitment to the status awarded.

Other areas within the sub-region which are working towards Fairtrade status include Scarborough, Whitby, Knaresborough and Harrogate.