

YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE

MINUTES OF MEETING

20th May 2010

PRESENT

Colin Mellors (Yorkshire Universities – Chair)
Richard Flinton (NYCC)
John Fox (Business Link – Yorkshire)
Julie Hutton (Yorkshire Forward)
Roger Ranson (City of York Council)
Anna Knight (GOYH)
Paul Shelvin (Craven DC)
Gillian Cruddas (Welcome to Yorkshire)
David Butterworth (Yorkshire Dales National Park)

IN ATTENDANCE

Jonathan French (YNYPU)
Andrew Leeming (YNYPU)

APOLOGIES

Martin Connor (Selby District Council)
Jill Gibson (Jobcentre Plus)
Wallace Sampson (Harrogate Borough Council)
Kersten England (City of York – Roger Ranson substituting)
Jim Dillon (Scarborough Borough Council)
Allan Stewart (Selby College)
Gary Verity (Gillian Cruddas substituting)
Stephanie Sturrock (NYFVO)
Andy Wilson (North York Moors – David Butterworth substituting)
Peter Simpson (Hambleton District Council)

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

1.1 These were approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING

2.1 Andrew Leeming reported on the e-mails following the meeting on the renaissance market town programme circulated to Partnership Executive members. This led to agreement that the Heart of Malton and Whitby business Park being the priority projects.

3. Economic Assessments

3.1 Jonathan French introduced the report on progress on the production of the assessment. It set out the basis of the approach and the role it has both in providing the sub regional economic assessment as well as the statutory assessment for North Yorkshire. He indicated that the people and enterprise skills might be the primary conclusion of the assessment rather than the importance of physical infrastructure. Added to this would be the importance of securing opportunities such as R&D and HE development in York, and the culture and visitor economy as well as particular sectors such as finance and business services and manufacturing. He also said the issue of the ageing population would be critical.

3.2 It is intended to produce a full assessment for the sub region, around 50-60 pages by the end of June. The statutory economic assessment for North Yorkshire County Council will be produced in a first draft by September 2010 for consideration by the Economy & Skills Board. We need further discussion with the County Council and District Councils to consider how the consultation process should be developed following that.

3.3 David Butterworth stressed the importance of picking up the reductions in public sector expenditure and the impact that might have on employment.

3.4 Richard Flinton wondered whether it would be appropriate to continue to rely on the trend rate of growth. How long could North Yorkshire parallel the national trend?

3.5 Julie Hutton said that Yorkshire Forward had done work on the impact of jobs in the decline of public expenditure and the Chief Economist unit could supply that.

3.6 Paul Shevlin said that growth has to be in the private sector and there was a possibility of a 25% reduction in the public sector outside of health and education, which could have a major impact in some areas. He pointed out that the worse was yet to come.

3.7 Julie Hutton said that also there were a proportion of SME's were dependent on public sector activity.

3.8 David Butterworth said that clearly we would have to await the impact of the budget on the 22nd June 2010 and the CSR in the autumn to get the full measure of the change.

3.9 Roger Ranson said that from the York perspective the public sector has significant impact on private sector investment, for instance, science. He observed that Government re-locations may be an opportunity for further development.

3.10 The report was noted along with the need to factor in the impact of decline in public sector employment.

4. Sub Regional Strategy

4.1 Jonathan French introduced what he considered to be the main item on the agenda, namely seeking approval for a scoping paper for the production of a sub regional strategy. The LGNYY had agreed in April 2010 to the development of such a strategy and placed this as the responsibility for the Partnership Executive to take forward. The report went through the background on the six thematic partnership / evidence streams that that been developed for the Integrated Regional strategy which would be the basis for the sub regional strategy.

4.2 The sub regional strategy had grown in importance in that the new Government had now decided to abandon the regional spatial strategy and questioning the integrated strategy approach at regional level. The paper set out a time frame for producing the sub regional strategy and emphasised a need to have a clear set of sub regional priorities that would give the new strategy added value. It is intended that the strategy would bring out what was the appropriate conclusions for each administrative area.

4.3 David Butterworth raised the issue about priorities and the importance of involving the LSP's in tackling climate change and environmental resources. Colin Mellors identified the needs and the importance of specificity in applying priorities to localities.

4.4 Richard Flinton emphasised the merits of sub regional strategy especially in a sub region with two tiers working with a unitary authority and two national parks needing strong strategic direction.

4.5 Roger Ranson said that he felt that priorities should be appropriate at a sub regional level, although Jonathan French said that some could be spatially specific if they were particularly important for the sub region.

4.6 Roger Ranson felt that maybe the suggested priority around the East Coast mainline was not perhaps a high enough action.

4.7 The Executive agreed to the approach set out in the report to the SRS and also decided that it would not necessary to have a further report back at this stage to LGNYY.

5. Independent Sustainability Board

5.1 Jonathan French introduced the report on the Regional Independent Sustainability Board and set out some of the issues addressed by them. However, one of those was the integrated appraisal of the regional strategy and this might fall by the wayside with the new Government arrangements. He noted that there was no general thematic group structure to support the sub regional representative on this Board at a sub regional level and there was a need to bring the relevant parties together, but not as a partnership, but as a means of channelling interest to support the work of this Board. He said that the Partnership Unit (in the absence of any others were supporting the representative, Cllr. Brian Phillips).

5.2 The Executive noted the report.

6. The Regional Improvement Efficiency Programme (RIEP)

6.1 Jonathan French introduced the report on what was now RIEP2. There are now proposals to bring forward a third tranche of RIEP money if that is released by the Government.

6.2 The report set out the background to the current RIEP 2 activity which was discussed at the previous Executive as there were concerns that we might not achieve our financial objective. In fact the programme since then has been re-profiled and it is intended that the full £296,000 is spent by 31st March 2011.

6.3 The report set out the objectives and what the project might achieve and this was on target. It set out progress to date and the appendix provided more detail of how those resources were being utilised.

6.4 The Executive noted the report and approved the project list as set out in the Appendix.

7. Sub Regions and Regions

7.1 This was an item on the agenda without a report which afforded members an opportunity to discuss some of the emerging issues with the change of Government. Julie Hutton said that it was clear that the new economic partnership would depend upon what Local Authorities wanted to happen. There

might be potential for a joint Local Economic Partnership to replace the RDA but as the Government says it will only take the form of an RDA where is it "popular".

7.2 Colin Mellors noted that ERDF activity would still need to be continued.

7.3 Paul Shevlin pointed out that it could be 2012 before RDA's were replaced and he also noted that Local Authorities were expected to pay for Local Economic Partnerships.

7.4 Roger Ranson wondered if it would be the case that a local Authority could only be in one Local Economic Partnership. This would have serious implications for sub regional working.

7.5 Richard Flinton felt there was a need to start looking at what arrangements might be established in the sub region (similar to the processes now being addressed in the Leeds City Region), and the need for a discussion that pulls together all the various interests. He noted that there would be political changes in the Leeds City Region, which may have some effect and there was a possibility that the future of Government Office was under consideration.

7.6 Colin Mellors said that it was important there were relationships at all levels and any structure needed to involve other stakeholders such as Higher Education and not just Local Authorities. He felt his sector could have an important (and has had an important) influence on debates.

7.7 Richard Flinton said that the Leader's group would need to look at the ambitions for this sub region and rationalise the structure considerably. He thought maybe some form of task group could get the process going.

7.8 David Butterworth said that it was important to keep the excellent relationships that existed with stakeholders but he recognised the complexity of structure and he felt that the lack of resources would drive change.

7.9 Colin Mellors felt that they would need to establish some core principles such as legitimacy, to include stakeholders, to involve partners that could leverage resources and to minimize transition costs. He felt there was a need for a possible scenario around that. There was a danger of this sub region being slow to respond to the new environment. It would be beneficial to do a piece of work to look at the future architecture and this should be led by Local Authorities

7.10 Richard Flinton agreed this approach and suggested that representatives of the City Council and the County Council and 2 District Councils, one within the Leeds City Region and one elsewhere should get together. He asked Paul Shevlin to see if he could engage further with Chief Executives on representation. It was agreed that this should try to be brought together in time to report to the September meeting.

8. European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

8.1 Jonathan French went through the report which built on the report considered by the Executive in November 2009. This had set out a series of proposals on the sub region as to how the ERDF programme could be modified to particularly benefit this sub region and also achieve a higher spend profile. This included actions to establish minimum thresholds and to secure additional ERDF for the current project pipeline, to find additional match and to broaden the criteria of eligible activities. The report set out the progress in respect of all of those.

8.2 Julie Hutton said that in respect of the communities work under priority 3, Yorkshire Forward is working with the Chief Economist Unit to see if other areas can be identified outside of Scarborough. Could the Scarborough Jobs match scheme be expanded to the whole of York & North Yorkshire? Likewise, Regeneris, a Consultancy, are looking at opportunities around Ministry of Defence and low carbon activity.

8.3 Proposals to incorporate more activity on Tourism seem to be acceptable to the Commission and that provides some opportunities.

8.4 David Butterworth felt that the work on Tourism had strong links to renewables and it was important to concentrate on increasing the value of the Tourism product, making it more sustainable. He felt that it important to promote a "Greener Experience".

8.5 Gillian Cruddas said that Welcome to Yorkshire had a Green business scheme but the issue is convincing businesses of its importance. They have had some discussions with the ERDF process.

8.6 Roger Ranson felt that it was important to press for the capital aspects of tourism. Although Jonathan French said that the Commission seemed to be very firmly against any support for infrastructure.

8.7 It was agreed that the sub region should push the Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) on the infrastructure issue and also seek to ensure the thresholds for individual projects were set as low as possible.

9. North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership

9.1 Andrew Leeming introduced the report which set out the current position on the strategic partnership, on achievement of the targets and some of the issues around refreshing the sustainable community strategy. The economic component could not really be ready until September when the economic assessment had been largely completed.

9.2 The Executive received the report and agreed the process as set out on updating the Sustainable Community Strategy and the new LAA from the economic development thematic point of view.

10. Yorkshire Forward Update

10.1 Julie Hutton provided an update from Yorkshire Forward including the news that Theo Stein has now been appointed the interim Chief Executive and there will be a recruitment process for a new Chief Executive. Clearly, financial restrictions on the Agency at this point were a cause of concern and this would include a range of projects including possibly delivery teams.

10.2 The report was noted and it was agreed that the Partnership Executive would express its thanks to Tom Riordan for all his work.

11. Economy and Skills Board

11.1 Jonathan French presented a report on the Economy & Skills Board with a suggestion that because of the current uncertainties, that the next meeting in June should be cancelled.

11.2 The Executive noted the report and agreed to the cancellation of the next meeting of the Economy & Skills Board.

12. Any Other Business

The Tees Valley – Richard Flinton wondered whether there was interest from the whole Partnership Executive having a meeting with the Tees Valley City region. He had previously being asked to think about a select group but felt that it would now be of a broader benefit. **This was agreed**

Chair - It was agreed that Richard Flinton (as the new Chief Executive of the County Council) would take up the Chair of the Partnership Executive.

Jonathan French

York & North Yorkshire Partnership Unit
01904 477974

7th June 2010