

# **York & North Yorkshire Development Board**

**18 June 2008**

**13.30 for 14.00 -16.00**

A buffet lunch will be provided.

Meeting Room 3  
County Hall  
Northallerton

## **A G E N D A**

- 1. Minutes of the Last Meeting**
- 2. Matters Arising**
- 3. Consultation on the Sub-National Review**
- 4. Geographic Programmes**
- 5. Re-invigorating the North Yorkshire Cultural Partnership**
- 6. Integrating Skills and Employment within Economic Development**
- 7. Business Support Update**
- 8. Progress in York & North Yorkshire 2008**
- 9. Local Area Agreements**
- 10. Progress on Programmes and Projects**
- 11. Any Other Business**

**Jonathan French**

*York & North Yorkshire Partnership Unit*  
01904 477974

## **YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

**4<sup>TH</sup> February 2008**

### **M I N U T E S of the Meeting**

**Held at Conyngham Hall, Knaresborough**

#### **PRESENT**

Steve Galloway (City of York Council) (CHAIR)  
John Weighell (North Yorkshire C.C.)  
Keith Knaggs (Ryedale D.C.)  
Brian Percival (Selby D.C.)  
Mike Gardner (Harrogate Borough Council)  
Brian Cantor (University of York)  
Arthur Barker (Hambleton D.C.)  
Christine Bainton (NYFVO)  
Robert Heseltine (Craven D.C.)  
John Goodfellow (Business Link Y&NY)  
Melva Steckles (Richmondshire D.C.)

#### **In Attendance**

John Marsden (Chair – York and North Yorkshire Partnership Executive)  
Julie Hutton (Yorkshire Forward)  
Jonathan French (York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit)

#### **Apologies**

Barry Dodd (Yorkshire Forward)  
Carl Lis (Yorkshire Dales National Park)  
David Fraser (GOYH)  
David Scott (City of York Council)  
Tom Fox (Scarborough Council)

Arthur Barker was substituting for Brian Phillips.

#### **1. Minutes of the Last Meeting (12<sup>th</sup> July 2007)**

1.1 These were approved.

#### **2. Matters Arising**

2.1 There were no matters arising.

#### **3. Sub-National Review of Economic Development and Regeneration**

3.1 Jonathan French introduced the report on the Sub-National Review (SNR). He pointed out that it was the first opportunity the Board had to consider the implications of this review. He presented the key points and set out the contents of the progress report from the Government, published in December, on taking forward the review. This referred to a consultation which will be issued in the near future, which address how local authorities might approach their potential new statutory duty on undertaking Economic Assessments for their areas. The SNR was an important component of the thinking behind the Corporate Plan from Yorkshire Forward which will be discussed in the next item on the agenda. It essentially provided the direction of travel for the Government which would

determine the future of both Economic Development and of sub-regional economic partnerships.

3.2 Keith Knaggs said that there was a need for a strong collective structure especially for the non city region area and to concentrate on making sure that something is done. This especially applies to item 5 on the agenda on the relationships between partnerships and city regions. Brian Percival was concerned about plans for housing and the proposal for 'eco towns' arising from Governments concentration on affordable housing. An important point was to attract good people to the region.

3.3 Arthur Barker felt that the SNR offered a lot of opportunities particularly for Local Authorities and addressed concerns such as the accountability of Regional Development Agencies. The Local Authorities have important roles in taking forward the new single regional strategy.

3.4 John Weighell was concerned how it would affect the York & North Yorkshire sub-region. He had no arguments against a single regional strategy but his concern concentrated on how local government was involved. It shouldn't just be in the form of post decision scrutiny. It is also not known how matters might operate at sub-regional level. He thought this group could fit into new arrangements, for instance, how does the sub region influence other issues such as planning and transport? That may be an issue the board would need to talk about in the future.

3.5 Steve Galloway agreed with that point. It is not entirely clear how the dialogue on planning and transport will evolve. There was a danger of drift. He felt that the capacity for Local Authorities to take advantage of new responsibilities varied enormously. He felt that Yorkshire Forward needed to put together a resource package effectively creating a level playing field for Authorities.

3.6 John Weighell considered that there was need to develop a Development Board view on issues not previously been discussed such as housing, planning and transport; but also how Yorkshire Forward programmes might be implemented in the future.

3.7 Arthur Barker pointed out that there was already a housing partnership in the sub-region but there was certainly a need to discuss transport and planning issues. There was a need also for a strong regional presence as well as sub-regional structure. It would help the Regional Development Agency, if it dealt with just four sub-regional/city regional entities rather than individual Local Authorities.

3.8 John Goodfellow felt that the Development Board should express its view on how the single Regional Strategy might be taken forward. He was concerned about the relationships within the city region between West Yorkshire and that part in North Yorkshire as well as the area not included within the city region boundaries.

3.9 Arthur Barker felt that it was important in respect of the consultation on the SNR that any views of the Development Board were lined up with the Association of North Yorkshire Authorities. John Weighell felt that the sub-region partnership itself expressed what it wanted to see as well as individual authorities.

3.10 Christine Bainton felt it was important that all partners' views were considered as well as those for just the Local Authorities.

3.11 Steve Galloway felt that at some point the hybrid approach between the Leeds City Region and the York & North Yorkshire Development Board would have to come to an end.

**3.12 It was agreed that it would be helpful if the Development Board would prepare a position statement to re-iterate some of the points made about the role of the sub-region in achieving economic development objectives and promoting cross-boundary working. The Development Board could also have a role in respect of planning and transport issues.**

#### **4. Yorkshire Forward Corporate Plan 2008-11 Consultation**

4.1 Julie Hutton introduced the proposals in the Yorkshire Forward Corporate Plan upon which they are consulting widely on for the first time. The issues the Corporate Plan addresses were identified by both Yorkshire Forward and in its recent audit. It would be submitted to the Government after it has been given final Board approval. She noted that the SNR was very important to RDA's and it would lead to significant changes through the devolution of responsibility. Currently the RDA run some 2,000 projects and wants to move forward to sub-contract a significant amount of work to key partners, particularly Local Authorities.

4.2 The RDA expects to see out the existing Investment Plans and then roll over to new geographic programmes which will need to be agreed with Local Authorities. There will much greater delegation through them enabling the RDA to become more strategic. It is proposed to start this process by drawing up a high level partnership agreement. Jonathan French pointed out that the report also included a proposed response on behalf of the Board to the proposals of Yorkshire Forward.

4.3 Mike Gardner particularly supported the concerns about insufficient reference to culture and tourism. He noted that business tourism was a £350 million contribution to the Harrogate economy, creating some 5,000-6,000 jobs. This needs to be emphasised more. He also felt that there was lots of potential in culture, attracting much more activity particularly through major events.

4.4. Steve Galloway felt that a much greater mention needs to be given to the importance of knowledge and the science base.

4.5 Robert Heseltine welcomed the RDA's approach to become a strategic organisation although he retained concerns about the criteria for funding. Christine Bainton was concerned about potential withdrawing support to market towns and the effect that may have on the voluntary and community sector. There was a need for tapered change. Julie Hutton said they would try to avoid a cut-off of activity in 2009 and it was important to build on what already has been achieved.

4.6 Brian Percival was concerned about the consequences of the city region of Selby and in particularly proposed developments of eco towns. He would also like to see the future of Burn Airfield secured as an economic asset.

4.7 John Weighell agreed with some of the issues of the new town in Selby. In respect of the proposed response he agreed that the current way of distributing resources in Yorkshire Forward between business renaissance and inclusion was inappropriate and he felt that in the future, more money should be spent on business and renaissance. In respect of the geographical spread he felt that the sub-region did not get a fair share at only 6% of the RDA's resources and one of the problems of Leeds City Region was that more resources would go to Leeds

and Bradford. He was concerned about that part of North Yorkshire that was not in the city region.

4.8 Brian Cantor felt that there were difficulties in seeing how the Leeds City Region and sub-region could run in parallel and how it would work in the future. John Weighell emphasised the issues also applied with South Yorkshire and its relationship with the North Derbyshire and the Peak District. Brian Cantor felt that the city region was an important step for Yorkshire and it needs to be successful. The problem was that administrative boundaries and economic zones did not coincide. John Marsden said that there was a need to work at various levels and there was an understanding of the importance of the city region but to ensure that other matters were taken up as well.

4.9 Robert Heseltine was concerned that Yorkshire Forward was not clear about its relationship with the city regions. For Craven, clearly the Airedale investment corridor was an important opportunity. They also have a relationship with North Yorkshire for rural areas.

4.10 Julie Hutton felt there needs to be clarity about what is important for the sub-region and there was a need to build on the existing strong partnership.

**4.11 It was agreed to amend the proposed response to the consultation taking into account the comments made at the Board and to circulate a copy of the final response when it is ready.**

## **5. Partnerships and City Regions**

5.1 Jonathan French introduced the report which sought to draw together the current position in terms of the development of city regions and how economic partnerships might respond to that. The report set out some key questions and issues, discussed the role of economic partnerships in the future and identified a series of objectives and next steps of activity for 2008/09. The report sought an endorsement of those objectives and next steps.

5.2 John Weighell supported the paper but felt that it was important that the process was kept under continuous review. John Goodfellow felt that there was a need for a broad approach to these issues.

5.3 John Marsden commented that we should aim for business as usual, developing our own spatial elements and set a pace that suits us. Clearly transport was a major issue.

5.4 Arthur Barker supported the approach in the report which he thought was pragmatic.

5.5 Steve Galloway felt that there was a need to consider an action programme for the area outside of the city region. Mike Gardner emphasised the importance of avoiding a sudden cut off of renaissance market town activity. In respect of the city region, its influence will grow but there is a need for a greater steer from Yorkshire Forward as to the way forward.

5.6 Brian Percival felt that the city region had an enormous effect upon Selby district. Metro Card had been promised but had not yet been delivered. Melva Steckles felt that it was important to identify those districts which have key interface with the Tees Valley City region.

5.7 Robert Heseltine felt that obviously Craven and Harrogate benefited from the Leeds City region, but they also needed an ongoing relationship with the sub-region

5.8 John Weighell said that the area has always benefited from Leeds economic activity. The issue was the future investment plan and the potential of how resource allocation might be biased towards Leeds and Bradford. He felt that the Government was not clear on a city region issue and that it was important to keep working within the context of this partnership.

**5.9 The Board noted the report and endorsed the objectives in the next step.**

## **6. York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit**

6.1 Jonathan French introduced the report which set out the outcome of the review of the unit in 2007 and the proposed budget and activities for 2008/09.

6.2 John Marsden said that Gordon Gresty who had led on this review would be retiring at the end of March and would be replaced by Richard Flinton.

**6.3 The Board agreed the budget set out in the report.**

## **7. Sustainable Community Strategy for North Yorkshire**

7.1 Jonathan French introduced the report which set out the North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership's Community Strategy. The Development Board was one of the Thematic Partnerships and it was responsible for the economy.

7.2 There was a discussion on the potential for stretch targets although there was no pump priming money within the new Local Area Agreements. It was noted there would be new resources in 2009/10 for economic development for Local Authorities but this would be much reduced from the current LABGI.

**7.3 The Board agreed to support the strategy.**

## **8. Update Report**

**8.1 The Board noted the report.**

## **9. Any Other Business**

**9.1 There was none.**

### **Jonathan French**

York & North Yorkshire Partnership Unit  
01904 477974

## **YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE DEVELOPMENT BOARD ITEM 3**

**18 JUNE 2008**

### **SUB-NATIONAL REVIEW OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION - RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION**

#### **1.0 Purpose of the Report**

1.1 This report firstly seeks the agreement of the Board to a sub regional response the Consultation. It then goes on to discuss the changing landscape for economic development in the light of previous discussions at the Board and finally considers some issues around the proposed new duty for economic assessments.

#### **2.0 The Sub National Review (SNR)**

2.1 The SNR was launched by the Government in order that national economic objectives could be effectively supported at all levels of administration. It seeks to ensure that policy and delivery is managed at the right spatial level, whether national, regional, sub-regional (including City Region) or local and there should be clarity of roles and organisations within that context.

2.2 The review seeks to develop a framework in which –

- The local level is given greater leadership and responsibility for service provision in the delivery of Local and Economic Development activity.
- Sub-Regional level arrangements are encouraged as a mechanism for strategic co-operation of Economic Development issues that transcend the local level.
- Regional governance arrangements are strengthened and streamlined with investing of authority for a single integrated regional strategy within RDA's. The review suggests the end of a role for Regional Assemblies.

2.2 The key points to note from the review are that the government proposes to:

- Consult on the creation of a focused statutory economic duty for Local Authorities which will require all upper tier Authorities to carry out an assessment of their economic circumstances and challenges for the local economy.
- Work with RDA's so they play a more strategic role delegating responsibility for funding to Local Authorities and sub-regions where possible, unless there is a clear case for retaining funding at a regional level or there is a lack of capacity at lower levels.
- Develop proposals for multi-area agreements to allow groups of Local Authorities to agree collective targets for economic development issues.
- Work with interested sub-regions to explore the potential to allow groups of Local Authorities to establish statutory sub-regional arrangements which will enable the pooling of responsibilities for economic development policy areas.

#### **3.0 The changing landscape for economic development**

3.1 The review also includes proposals set out in other Government announcements to make local authorities the single local strategic leader for the 14-19 agenda. In addition, there will be a new Skills Funding Agency, which will fund adult skills principally through Train to Gain and Skills accounts. These two changes will replace the role of the Learning and Skills Council. This is discussed further in item 6 on this agenda.

3.2 A number of important changes in economic development funding and delivery have begun in 2008. The Business Link contract is now be delivered on a regional basis rather than through sub-regional Business Links and this is discussed in item 7 on this agenda. Yorkshire Forward is now directly responsible

for European Union Funding (European Regional Development Fund) and European Social Fund, delivered through the Learning and Skills Council, now has a stronger regional emphasis in delivery.

3.3 One of the challenges for Local Authorities and their partners is how they will implement their new duty for economic development drawing together the local case for business support, skills and employment programmes and advocate those at a regional level rather than current practice of working through existing sub-regional delivery partners. This needs to feature in both in the new geographic programmes discussed in item 4 and in economic assessments in section 6 of this report.

#### **4. Consultation**

4.1 The Government issued its long awaited consultation on the SNR on 1 April 2008. A summary is given of the consultation attached to this report and also a sub regional response to the questions raised which has prepared by the Partnership Executive.

4.2 This response proposes a focus on the issues around capacity (para 9 and Q1) and the new duty on assessments, (para 14-16 and Q7-10) on the basis that the issues around the regional strategy (para 11-13 Q4-6) and the establishment of a regional leaders forum (para 10 Q2 and 3) should be addressed through other mechanisms. The Executive felt that there was no need to respond to the issue of statutory based collaborative arrangements (para 18 and 19 Q12-15).

#### **5.0 The Role of Economic Partnerships in the Future**

5.1 The Board at its last meeting noted that the changing context for economic development will, and indeed already is, engendering change as to what is required of sub regional (including city regional) economic partnerships. The process has already begun of a growing concentration of resources at a regional level. This means for sub regional economic partnerships, a process of moving away from playing discrete functions around funding, through a number of sub regional delivery and developmental mechanisms, towards the following roles.

- supporting strategic leadership
- evidencing and articulating the needs and opportunities of the sub region
- providing specialist advice and support
- influencing regional strategy and priorities
- promoting coordination between partners and funding streams
- Monitoring and evaluating progress

5.2 In the context of the SNR the Board at its last meeting also discussed the Single Regional Strategy and there was a view that there was a need for the Board to consider whether it should become an advocate on Transport and planning issues for the sub-region (in the context that there was always an existing sub-regional housing partnership). They felt that this potential should be drawn together in some form of position statement which might be used in the SNR debate and to engage with partners as to whether this is a direction that might be followed. The role would need to be worked through in the context of working with the Leeds City Region and how the Board might position itself in that context.

5.3 The Partnership Executive has considered this and feels there is a need to consider how the sub region works cohesively in advocating its needs and opportunities particularly at a regional level. These might concentrate on cross boundary issues and proposals of major impact. One area might be the coordination of planning and development in the York sub area (as defined in the Regional spatial strategy), advocacy of major transport interventions, and

ensuring broader labour market and business support matters are reflected at a regional level. Elsewhere on this agenda it is proposed that the cultural partnership is linked more closely with the Board.

5.4 The proposals from Yorkshire Forward for the management of a Geographic Programme in the County area also gives a role for the Board. This is discussed in item 4.

5.5 There is now much greater clarity on the future of the sub regional partnership. Issues such as the role and membership of the Development Board and the Partnership Executive need to be looked at further along with what might be the key tasks for the Partnership Unit. The Board's observations at this stage would be helpful and more detailed proposals could be brought back to the next meeting in November.

## **6.0 Assessments**

6.1 Research published with the consultation on SNR looked at economic assessments and local strategies and made a number of interesting conclusions. These were

- There is a marked degree of similarity between strategies relating to places with very different economic and social contexts. It raises the concern that in some cases strategy may be related to policy fashions and aspirational objectives that may be unrealistic or even in conflict with other aspects of the strategy.
- Many Local Authorities which produce assessments pay little attention to the wider sub-regional/city economies with which they are embedded and display little integration and co-ordination of activity across spatial scales.
- It is possible to produce detailed and well informed economic assessment and strategy that have little impact. Many are bland and adopt a particular approach that fails to really engage with the specificities of the sub-regional and local areas.
- The effectiveness of the assessments ultimately depends on how it forms part of an ongoing process of analysis which engages all the economic stakeholders within the area to advance a clear economic strategy which can be implemented. Where this does occur it normally reflects a longer term history of partnership working.
- Effective work is also apparent when there is clarity and shared understanding with respect to the roles and responsibilities of different spatial levels in undertaking economic assessments and strategy formations.

6.2 In preparing assessments for York and North Yorkshire there is a case for taking an early look at scoping what they might address. Much information already exists and thinking in many areas is well developed. The key issue is to focus research over the next two years (assessments are due for preparation in 2010) to ensure that the evidence is up to date and conclusions reflect current economic thinking and possible future trends. The Partnership Unit, through its research role, proposes to look at these scoping issues in the next few months.

## **7 Recommendations**

### **7.1 The Board is recommended to**

- a. Approve the response to the consultation on the sub national Review**
- b. Consider the issues raised as the developing role of the Board**

**Jonathan French**

**York & North Yorkshire Partnership Unit**

## **APPENDIX**

### **SUB – NATIONAL REVIEW – CONSULTATION**

#### **A YORK AND NORTH YORKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP RESPONSE**

1. This paper sets out a proposed response to the consultation for consideration by the Development Board.
2. The main text is a summary of the consultation. A suggested response to a series of 15 questions, in bold, posed by the Government is set out, in italics.

#### **The Consultation**

3. In July 2007 the Government published its Review of Sub-National and Economic Development and Regeneration (known as the SNR), which aims to strengthen economic performance through a range of measures including:

- Streamlining the regional tier, introducing integrated strategies and giving RDAs' lead responsibility for regional planning.
- Strengthening the Local Authority role in economic development including a new statutory duty to assess local economic conditions and
- Supporting collaboration by Local Authorities across economic areas.

4. The consultation identifies 15 questions which relate to the three main chapters namely:

- Stronger partnerships for regional growth
- Integrating regional strategies to promote regional growth
- Strengthening sub-regional economies – the role of Local Authorities

5. The SNR recognises that economic activity takes place at different spatial levels; national, regional, sub-regional and local. (Sub-Regional in this context means a wide variety of collaborative activities and includes City Region Partnerships). The SNR seeks to reform public institutions to facilitate economic regeneration at all levels and places a strong emphasis on devolved decision making to the most appropriate level.

6. This is in the context of a wider programme of reform and changes in the performance framework for Local Authorities, and changes in reforms in the funding for Education at 14-19 levels. The latter is set out in another consultation paper "Raising expectations: enabling the system to deliver" produced by the department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. It proposes to give greater responsibilities to Local Authorities in respect of funding for 16-18 year group and establishes a key role for them in commissioning Further and 6<sup>th</sup> Form Education.

#### **Stronger Partnerships for Regional Growth**

7. This chapter concentrates on the decision that the RDA's would lead on the development of the Regional Strategy (which will lead to the end of the Regional Assembly). The RDA will then be responsible for economic and social and environmental issues that are balanced through the planning system. This new regional strategy will replace the Regional Economic Strategy and the Regional Spatial Strategy.

8. It is proposed that RDAs should become increasingly strategic and will want to move forward to commissioning partners to deliver outcomes agreed in the strategy. It is expected that RDAs will delegate their single pot funding where appropriate on a programme rather than on a project basis. Local Authorities will play an increasing role in delivery, take forward their proposed legal duty to assess their economies and work with neighbouring Local Authorities to tackle problem problems. Local Authorities will also be closely involved in the preparation of the Regional Strategy through a regional form of Local Authority Leaders.

9. The RDA will need to ensure that capacity exists at Local Authority or sub-regional level to undertake delegated activities. In Yorkshire and Humber the moves towards Geographic Programmes are a step in that direction. Full delegation would require legislation and there will remain complex issues about accountability for these government resources.

***Q1. How should the RDA satisfy themselves so that sufficient capacity exists for programme management and delivery at local or sub-regional level?***

*There should be clear evidence that there is a decision-making process that establishes priorities based on the evidence and engages partners, stakeholders and other funders around those priorities developing an outcome based approach.*

*Local Authorities and partnerships need to demonstrate that they will work in the context of National objectives but also to stimulate innovation especially in responding to local needs.*

*Clearly, competence in financial management and accounting is critical and experience in managing EU schemes, SRB and the single pot will be important considerations. There has to be proper mechanisms for evaluation*

10. The SNR consultation then goes on to look at the issues about strengthening the role of Local Government at regional level. The consultation suggests that Local Authorities should develop new arrangements for exercising their scrutiny panels at regional level through the Leader's forum. It asked two questions, namely:

***Q2. Do you agree that Local Authorities should determine how they set up a Local Authority Leader's forum for their region, and the Government should only intervene if the required criteria are not met or if it failed to operate effectively? If not, what would you propose instead?***

***Q3. Are proposed regional accountability scrutiny proposals proportionate and workable?***

*No response is proposed.*

**Integrating Regional Strategies to Promote Growth**

11. The previous chapter set out proposals how the RDAs and Local Authorities could best organise themselves to fill their new functions. The Regional tier will be strengthened by integrating existing regional strategies into a single regional strategy, setting out a high level vision over the next 15-20 years. It would ensure closer alignment between economic and spatial planning to support sustainable economic growth. Other strategies such as culture, housing and transport will be integrated into the new strategies. The Government proposes that every regional strategy should cover:

- An overview of the key regional challenges over the planned period
- How economic growth can best be delivered having regard to employment and the key drivers of productivity as well as regeneration.
- A distribution of housing supply figures as well as targets for affordable housing and achieving quality homes for all, including vulnerable and socially excluded people.
- How the region will manage the risk of opportunities of unavoidable climate change, achieving development in a way which is consistent with national targets for cutting carbon emissions.
- Those areas within the region identified as priorities for regeneration, investment, investment and intervention and;
- Strategic requirements and provision for transport, waste, water, minerals, energy and environmental infrastructure in so far as these are not already specified in national policy.

12. The consultation goes on to consider in further depth the level of detail expected in the Regional Strategy. The principles of developing the Regional Strategy include that all Local Authorities must be involved collectively through the Leader's Forum and when necessary, individually in the full life-cycle of the strategy. The process of developing the single Regional Strategies will need to be clear, open and transparent.

13. It is expected that a full Regional Strategy Review could potentially be achieved within 24 months. The strategy would be independently tested by an independent panel which would be appointed early in the process. It is suggested the strategy should be signed off by Local Authorities and Ministers. If there is a failure to agree, then the RDA will submit the draft strategy to Ministers noting the points of disagreement.

***Q4. Do you agree that the Regional Strategy needs to cover the elements listed? Are there other matters which will be included in the Regional Strategy to help in the delivery of key outcomes?***

***Q5. Do you agree with the way we propose to simplify the preparation of Regional Strategies illustrating the figure to allow the flexibility for regions to determine detailed processes? If not, what other steps might be taken?***

***Q6. Do you think that the streamlined processes will lead to any significant change in the cost and benefits to the Community and other impacts?***

*No response is proposed.*

### **Strengthening Sub-Regional Economies – The Role of Local Authorities**

14. This chapter sets out the details around the Local Authority Economic Assessment duty and states that such a duty would:

- Require upper tier and unitary Local Authorities ("Lead Authorities") – in consultation with other key partners, including District Authorities and RDAs, to carry out an assessment of the economic conditions of the local area; and
- Result in assessment that would contribute to the analytical underpinning of strategies and targets at local, sub-regional and regional level.

15. The assessment may be produced jointly by two or more legal authorities in a single functional economic area or sub-region, for example by all Authorities participating in an MAA. The consultation paper sets out three options for consideration namely:

Option 1 - Primary legislation will be introduced to place a duty on local Authorities for the assessment along with a duty to consult certain named partners, such as district authorities who will also be under a duty to respond to consultation within a specific period of time. Government guidance will be issued which will set out the purpose of assessments, how they might be undertaken, who could undertake them on behalf of local authorities, the questions that should be looked at and the data sets that can support successful completion. The purpose of any guidance would be to support effective assessments whilst remaining light touch. The paper suggests this option is similar in approach to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Health and Social Care.

Option 2 - This option is the same as 1, but there will be no requirements on Authorities with regards to guidance. However, the legislation will set out some priority areas that would need to be covered such as the level of employment in the area, transport, procurement of goods and services and land and property market. Non-statutory guidance will be issued.

Option 3 - This option looks at the possibility of no duty being introduced but the Government believes this option fails to enhance economic development and regeneration interventions.

**Q7. Which of these options (or any other proposals) is most appropriate?**

*If the proposal for guidance on assessments is essentially of a light touch nature and would follow the spirit of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Health and Social Care, option 1 should be supported as that would provide some consistency across all Local Authorities as to what might be included in an assessment.*

*However, guidance should be kept to a minimum and should not act as a brake or constraint on Authorities developing assessments that relate particularly to local conditions. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment guidance refers to each assessment reflecting local conditions.*

*If however, guidance would be much more restrictive, perhaps to tie in assessments to pre determined national or regional objectives, then option 2 might be more appropriate to ensure that assessments are independent and reflect the reality of conditions on the ground. It is proposed that the sub-regional partnership agrees with the Government that option 3 is not appropriate.*

**Q8. What additional information and support do Local Authorities consider valuable for the purpose of preparing assessments?**

*There should be a general presumption that data collected at Government level both through from national statistics but also from service delivery should be available at an appropriate spatial level, to facilitate the preparation of assessments by local authority authorities. This includes information from the LSC, Jobcentre Plus, RDAs and Business Link. In many instances it will be helpful to have this information at a level below that of the Local Authority boundary, but where it is not practical to provide this as an SOA level Government or RDA's should establish a standard by which service delivery agencies will report on a consistent spatial basis. This should also apply to ONS data.*

*Similarly, information on service delivery using European Union funded projects should also be made available on a similar basis.*

*Consideration needs to be given as to appropriate data sets for more local assessments of economic performance. In that respect the availability of*

*GVA per employee, in addition to per resident, in local spatial areas would be especially helpful.*

*Better quality data on self employment is important for many rural areas as well as certain urban locations particularly those relying on tourism, agriculture and cultural industries.*

*Finally, regional research organisations or research arms of RDA's should seek to set out analysis and economic forecasts for key economic drivers in the region in a manner that facilitates local spatial analysis.*

16. The SNR goes on to discuss who is responsible for carrying out the assessment. This is a particular issue in two-tier areas where it notes that functional economic areas are likely to be sub-regional and therefore this makes greater sense to place the duty on the upper tier Authority. (For a North Yorkshire assessment there will be a need to understand to complex overlay of functional economic areas as set out in the Investment plan analysis – namely the city regions of Leeds and the Tees Valley, the coast and remoter rural areas). It recognises that expertise and capacity exist at a district level and it is important that the lower tier is fully involved. The SNR also sets out a number of Government agencies who will be consulted in the preparation of the assessment.

***Q9. How should Local Authorities engage partners, including district councils in the preparation of assessment?***

*Clearly, an effective economic assessment within a two-tier governance context needs to be undertaken collectively and fully engage all local authorities in firstly scoping the assessment, undertaking the analysis of data and in identifying priorities. A shared commitment to the conclusions has been identified by Government research papers as the key to a successful assessment and strategy.*

*Whilst the upper tier authority would have the primary responsibility for producing the assessment, clearly the quality of that assessment will be measured by the degree of collaboration undertaken in producing it. Where appropriate, it might be actually prepared by sub-regional partnerships that have this responsibility for the last few years. This would embed a partnership approach.*

***Q10. Which partner bodies should be consulted in the preparation of the assessment?***

*The list presented in the consultation of the major Government agencies would be appropriate. In rural areas there would be an expectation that National Park Authorities would be brought into any collaborative arrangements before preparing assessments.*

17. The next section and **Q11** dealt with issues in London.

18. The consultation paper goes on to discuss collaboration particularly around multi-area agreements and proposals for integrated transport authorities which is addressed in the local transport bill.

19. The SNR recognised that some sub-regions may wish to go beyond MAA's and develop a statutory basis for sub-regional collaboration where there is demand from Local Authorities and it is appropriate to do so. The Government would need to know what projects could be facilitated by giving sub-regional partnerships such powers. These might include delivering parts of the regional strategy, to prepare a joint local development framework, assume the

responsibilities of an integrated transport authority, co-operating on economic growth projects supported by business rate supplements and making decisions in its relation to higher education, skills, investment for housing, growth and renewal. There would be a requirement for legislation to provide some of these powers to any new statutory partnership. The consultation also brings to the attention of Councils that actually 'mergers' may be a possible route as well as more statutory collaborations. The consultation sets out four questions in respect of this:

***Q12. Do you agree that there is value in creating statutory arrangements for sub-regional collaboration and economic development issues beyond MAA's? What form might any new arrangements take?***

***Q13. What activities would you like a sub-regional partnership to be able to carry out? And what are the constraints on them doing this undercurrent legislation?***

***Q14. How would a sub-regional economic development Authority fit into the Local Authority performance framework?***

***Q15. Should there be a duty to co-operate as sub-regional level where a statutory partnership exists? And to whom should this apply?***

*No response is proposed.*

**Jonathan French**

*York & North Yorkshire Partnership Unit  
01904 477974*

## **YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE DEVELOPMENT BOARD ITEM 4**

**18 JUNE 2008**

### **GEOGRAPHIC PROGRAMMES**

#### **1. 0 Purpose of the Report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to firstly give feedback on the consultation on Yorkshire Forwards Corporate Plan and secondly set out how Geographic programmes will be prepared in the sub region and especially discusses the arrangements for the County of North Yorkshire.

#### **2.0 Yorkshire Forward's Corporate Plan**

2.1 The Board at its last meeting in February agreed to a response to the consultation on Yorkshire Forward's draft Corporate Plan. The plan was prepared in the context of the SNR. Appendix 1 sets out a summary of the Plan, a summary of the Board's comments and a letter from Yorkshire Forward giving general feedback on all comments received.

2.2 The plan set out an approach to geographic programmes for each local authority area which will be based on agreed economic master plans. Each programme will:

- ◆ Set out the direct Yorkshire Forward funding elements which will be delivered by the Local Authority.
- ◆ The additional Yorkshire Forward contribution to the geographic programme delivered by the intermediaries such as Business Link.
- ◆ What key businesses and other public agencies can do to contribute to the collective effort.

#### **3.0 Geographic Programmes**

3.1 Yorkshire Forward are now moving forward to work with local authority partners to put in place a Geographical programmes for their area.

3.2 In York, which has its own geographic programme, the process involves the completion of the sustainable community strategy by end of June, which will then provide the basis for preparation of draft economic development strategy during July/August to be used as the basis for the Programme. This will also take account of the Future York Group report, other ongoing work around Regional Spatial strategy and the Local Development Framework, as well as the York elements of the SRIP. The programme will be prepared in the autumn.

3.3 For the County of North Yorkshire, Yorkshire Forward has been meeting with partners to consider the implications of both the SNR and the development of the Geographic Programme. In a report to the Partnership Executive , the RDA set out the following proposals

##### 1. Economic Development Master Plan

The revision of the York and North Yorkshire SRIP in 2007 has provided the sub-region with a clear statement of its economic development priorities. We believe the revised SRIP provides a good basis for the development of an economic master-plan. The Partnership Unit have already been asked to undertake additional work on the revised 2007 SRIP to help ensure that it meets the requirements for an economic plan.

##### 2. Geographic Programme

Discussions with local authority partners have not produced a single agreed approach to the development of a geographic programme for North Yorkshire. Despite this Yorkshire Forward's view is that a single programme for the county area represents the right approach to managing economic development.

In developing our thinking on a geographic programme we have taken on board the views and aspirations of both the local authorities and county council and accept that whatever solution proposed may not have support from all partners.

We expect the format of the geographic programme to be that of a single county-wide plan but with specific chapters for each local authority area. These chapters would highlight the economic issues in that area and identify specific activities, unique to that area that might be developed to meet the priorities of the Investment Plan. The geographic approach will not limit partners to working within one partnership and the opportunity will exist for co-operation and joint working with the City Regions. Local Authorities will however only receive Yorkshire Forward funding from one programme not from each they engage with.

Our proposal would be that for contract management purposes Yorkshire Forward would have a relationship with the Tier One authority in the County, which would be North Yorkshire County Council. NYCC would assume the role of Accountable Body for the North Yorkshire programme.

We also recognise that the current partnership arrangements in the sub-region are working well and have no wish to see change for change sake. Therefore, we would see programme management, primarily as the responsibility of the Partnership Executive with both the Partnership Unit and Accountable Body, NYCC reporting to it on programme issues. The Partnership Executive would continue to work closely with Yorkshire Forward.

To make this arrangement work the Partnership Executive may wish to consider restructuring to ensure that all local authorities are properly represented. Any decision on restructuring the membership is a matter for the partnership. This is an issue the Partnership Executive might want to consider early on in the process.

As with the current SRIP process, final sign off of the geographic programme would sit with the York and North Yorkshire Development Board. How this might work in practice would need to be developed further.

### 3. Existing Renaissance Towns Programmes

Through the development of this outline geographic programme we have been aware that currently a separate direct arrangement between Yorkshire Forward and local authorities has existed for the delivery of some existing key large-scale activities, notably the renaissance process, in Scarborough and Selby,

As the content of the geographic programme is developed, should we choose to continue investing in renaissance in these towns, we do not feel that there is any added value in changing the current direct arrangement we have with local authority partners. Any future investment would be in the form of a ring-fenced mini programme, managed directly by the local

authority but reporting its outputs and outcomes through the main North Yorkshire programme.

#### 4. Regional Programmes

All Yorkshire Forward activity in the North Yorkshire area will form part of the geographic programme, but not all will be directly delivered by local authorities. Where activity is best delivered on a regional basis it will continue to be so. New arrangements will be developed with contractors of these regional programmes to ensure that they are delivering on identified priorities in the sub-region. Enhanced monitoring arrangements will be put in place to report this progress back to partnerships.

#### 5. Support for Delivery

Discussions are still underway internally about what support Yorkshire Forward will offer to support the delivery of the geographic programme. However partners are already aware that Yorkshire Forward will not be continuing to support the current delivery teams beyond their current contracts. Options for supporting delivery include for example, a fully funded small sub-regional team working across York and North Yorkshire to help deliver major capital projects. Or, the development of a separate delivery vehicle to manage the delivery of the whole programme, working with local authority partners. Further discussion with partners will need to be held before a final decision on this is reached.

#### 6. Next Steps

Partnership agreement on the governance arrangements for a North Yorkshire programme will be needed before we can move on to decide the content of the programme. We are aiming to agree a draft geographic programme by January 2009. To reach this deadline, an early agreement on governance issues will be required.

3.4 Yorkshire Forward has set out an indicative content of the geographical programme and this is attached as Appendix 2

3.5 The Partnership Executive received these proposals two days before its last meeting and had only limited time to consider them. It was agreed that proposals would be developed with partners on how the programme might be managed but that work would start on the programme now and be undertaken in parallel to the governance issues. Scenarios for managing the programme would be discussed at its meeting in July with a proposition being developed by its October meeting which could then be recommended to the Board at its November meeting. The Partnership Unit and NYCC are calling a meeting of all local authorities, National Park authorities, the LSC, Business Link Yorkshire and Yorkshire Forward to start the process of producing the programme

#### **4. Recommendations**

##### **4.1 The Board is recommended to approve the course of action set out in para 3.5 of the report and to note the response on the Corporate Plan**

Jonathan French  
York & North Yorkshire Partnership Unit

## APPENDIX 1 CONSULTATION ON YORKSHIRE FORWARD CORPORATE PLAN

### *The Corporate Plan*

1 The plan set out Yorkshire Forward's approach to the future of Investment Planning and included proposals to strengthen a Partnership approach to economic prioritisation vs.:

- The investment plan will move to a city region basis from March 2009. There will be the need to agree appropriate investment planning arrangements for North Yorkshire.
- Prioritisation will be largely based on strategic economic analysis for regional and city regional prioritisation and economic master planning at a local level.
- Building stronger and more direct relationships with Yorkshire Forward and Local Authorities through development of geographical programmes which provide the basis of Yorkshire Forward's contribution to Local Area Agreements.
- Investment decisions by the RDA will be based on the policy products
- The establishment of geographic programmes will enable Investment Planning Partnerships to focus on outcomes and impact rather than spend and delivery.

2 Yorkshire Forward developed policy product ranges within 3 of the corporate objectives as follows:

- A. Helping people to access good jobs, skills and transport
  - Skills
  - Transport
  - Economic inclusion
- B. Helping businesses to start up, grow and compete for innovation
  - Competitiveness
  - Enterprise/access to finance
  - International business.
- c. Regenerating cities, towns and rural communities
  - urban renaissance
  - rural renaissance
  - low carbon economy
  - property
  - visitor economy and major events.

3. The plan set out an approach to geographic programmes which will be based on agreed economic master plans. Each programme will:

- Set out the direct Yorkshire Forward funding elements which will be delivered by Local Authority.
- The additional Yorkshire Forward contribution to the geographic programme delivered by the intermediaries such as Business Link.
- What key businesses and other public agencies can do to contribute to the collective effort.

4. The Plan stated that the policy product ranges and geographic programmes are effectively two different descriptions for the same set of single pot investment. The policy product range is designed to ensure strategic focus on the RES. The geographic programme is designed to ensure transparent and clear accountability, and an agreement of what Yorkshire Forward is delivering at a local level.

5. The plan notes that historically resources have been split evenly within Yorkshire Forward between the three areas of business, renaissance and

skills/inclusion. The plan says that it proposes to use the transition towards policy product ranges to review the balance of resources against those three policy areas for the 2008/11 period.

6. In terms of geographical allocations Yorkshire Forward intends to consult with Local Authority partners during 2008/09 on future options on how resources might be allocated. Previously resources for the investment plans for the four sub-regions were allocated from the single pot through a formula approach.

*The Board's response to the consultation*

7. Yorkshire Forward sought views on the following areas (a short summary of the Board's response is given in italics)

A. The 11 Policy Product Ranges;

- *the importance of Finance and Business Services and Tourism as key sectors of regional significance.*
- *it fails to use the word culture or identify it as one of the key planks for a successful economy.*
- *There should be process of a migration over time in rural renaissance (say 2/3 years) towards a rural capitals approach*

B The future long-term balance of resources against our operational objectives - inclusion, business and renaissance, which to date have been split evenly between these three areas;

- *treating the three objectives equally in budget terms is not sustainable. An initial assessment of the proposals in the geographic programmes, identifying the high value added activities, could be an indicator of the potential optimal budget distribution.*

c. The long-term geographic allocation of the Single Pot in light of the transition to a City Region basis for Investment Planning and the establishment of geographic programmes;

- *A critical issue is how Yorkshire Forward intends to approach, with partners the area not covered by City Regions in North Yorkshire.*
- *there needs to be a process which assesses both needs and opportunities in respect of the distribution of resources between geographical areas*

D. The development of geographic programmes over the next six months, which will apply the policy priorities to Local Authority areas.

- *The key for York and North Yorkshire is to use the current Investment Plan as the basis for the geographic programmes.*

8 The Corporate Plan has now been submitted to Government and will be published when it is approved. A letter from the RDA sets some of the adjustments that have made to the Plan and this is attached.

To York & North Yorkshire Development Board

13 May 2008

## **YORKSHIRE FORWARD CORPORATE PLAN 2008/11**

Thank you for your response to the consultation on our draft Corporate Plan. As you are aware, we asked for general comments and specific feedback on the 11 Policy Product Ranges, the future balance of resources against our operational objectives and the geographic allocation of our funding. We have now received comments from a range of partner organisations and individuals, reflecting the significant interest in the way in which Yorkshire Forward intends to deliver its contribution to sustainable economic development within the region, and are incorporating these, where appropriate, into the next draft.

The feedback we have received has revealed a positive view towards our proposed approach, particularly in relation to the Policy Product Ranges, with comments reflecting strong support for our move towards a more systematic prioritisation of action and encouraging strategic linkages between policy areas. Stakeholders also highlighted support for Yorkshire Forward's renewed commitment to robust evidence based decision making, and our emphasis on the importance of effective partnership working also appears to have been widely welcomed. Over the Corporate Plan period we intend to build on these partnerships, working with Local Authorities and central Government to strengthen Local Area Agreement indicators to better reflect economic performance. Yorkshire Forward will contribute to the development of Multi Area Agreements by working to improve the evidence base and providing financial support to Local Authorities through Geographic Programmes.

We are also committed to increasing our understanding of local and macro level economic changes, including economic shocks linked to incidents such as flooding, the 'credit crunch', the ongoing challenges associated with globalisation, and the potential impact of any wider economic slowdown on the regional economy.

There were a number of areas, however, where we received clear and consistent feedback on the current draft's content. As such, we have focused our redrafting activity on these key issues, attempting to strengthen or modify the plan to better reflect regional views, as summarised below:

- **Review of Sub-national Economic Development and Regeneration (SNR)**

In response to a number of concerns regarding a lack of clarity around the impact of SNR on Yorkshire Forward and its relationship with partners, our Corporate Plan has been further developed to clarify our enhanced strategic role, our commitment to the stronger role for Local Authorities in economic development, and the need for maintaining strong engagement with business, key stakeholders and the third sector, recognising the need for effective governance arrangements.

- **Policy and Geographic Resource Allocations**

The general consensus from respondents was that a more sophisticated approach to resource allocation is required between the inclusion, business

and renaissance agendas. Our work with partners to date has suggested that there are a number of ways of assessing the relative contribution of the Policy Product Ranges to sustainable economic growth and particularly the overarching Gross Value Added (GVA) target. The geographic element of future funding should therefore be more strongly based around a robust evidence base that takes full account of economic needs as well as opportunities. We have now reflected this view within the plan and will be working with partners to develop an approach over the 2008/09 financial year. More widely, we will seek to influence and align the investments of other key agencies through investment planning and strengthen linkages between our urban and rural areas.

- **Sustainable Development**

Sustainable development is at the heart of Yorkshire Forward's approach; the revised Corporate Plan aims to respond to comments that this emphasis could be clearer. We recognise the challenge of delivering economic growth in an environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive manner, and will continue to embed the principles of sustainable development into all of our interactions with the regional economy and ensure sustainable practice is incorporated in our internal operations. We intend to set a regional carbon reduction target at or above 60% by 2030, if Government approves our proposals for carbon capture. For the period from 2008/9 to 2010/11, our target is to reduce greenhouse gas (CO<sup>2</sup>) emissions by 500,000 tonnes per year through our interventions. We will also be piloting a carbon management decision-making tool in 2008 to enable us to better understand how to accelerate progress towards a lower carbon economy.

- **Priority Sectors**

We have developed a solid evidence base from which we will continue to prioritise industry sectors which will have the greatest impact on the future economy of the region. Our approach is based on providing priority access for businesses to the future Business Link branded business support programmes, rather than developing bespoke programmes of support for each sector. Our approach will be applied to the following sectors: Food & Drink; Advanced Engineering & Materials; Environmental Technologies; Healthcare Technologies; Digital and New Media Industries, Financial and Business Services and Logistics. Tourism is also a sector of growing regional significance, strongly linked to our unique blend of cultural and environmental assets.

Once again, thank you for your comments and contributions. It is anticipated that the final version of our Corporate Plan will be approved by Government during May 2008. The plan will then be published on our website, [www.yorkshire-forward.com](http://www.yorkshire-forward.com)

Yours sincerely,

**Tom Riordan**  
Chief Executive

## APPENDIX 2

### Geographic Programme – Guidelines for Minimum Requirements

1. Overview of how Delivery Plan fits with LA Economic Strategy/Economic Masterplan.

Should contain the following items

- Current position/rationale
- Partnership arrangements (plus evidence of support)
- Governance and management arrangements
- Capacity issues
- KPIs
  - Monitoring
  - Evaluation
  - Assessment of impact
- Risk assessment
- Funding overview (pulling together individual schedules referred to below)

2. For each priority/theme

- An overview of how fits with LA Economic Strategy/Masterplan
- Objectives, outputs and outcomes
- Partner involvement/input
- Milestones/timescales

3. For each priority/theme a schedule covering

- Details of key priorities/activities/projects (ranked with rationale/evidence base – high/medium/low?)
- Key delivery partners
  - Lead organisation/officer
  - Evidence of support
- Outputs/Outcomes/objectives for each key priority/activity
- Milestones for each key priority/activity
  - Key dates/timescales
- Funding requirements
  - Timescales
  - Sources/availability
  - Amounts
  - Value for money
- Management arrangements - general
  - Management – individual activity - who and what
  - Funding
  - Monitoring
  - Evaluation

## **YORK AND NORTH YORKSHIRE DEVELOPMENT BOARD ITEM 5**

**18<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

### **REINVIGORATING THE NORTH YORKSHIRE CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP**

#### **1. Purpose of the Report**

1.1 This report sets out a proposal from the Partnership Executive for the restructuring of the North Yorkshire Cultural Officers Group (NYCOG) and North Yorkshire Cultural Partnership.

1.2 The Development Board is asked to consider these proposals, in particular that:

- The Cultural Partnership reports formally to this Partnership Executive and through them to the Development Board
- A financial contribution is made by each local authority, which would form part of the subscription to the Partnership Unit, in order to support the work of the Cultural Partnership.
- The sub regional tourism coordinating group and the existing cultural partnership are integrated into a single Partnership

#### **2. Background**

2.1 This report sets out briefly the outcome of discussions of NYCOG, the Sub regional Tourism Group and the Partnership Executive and sets out a proposed new structure for a reinvigorated York and North Yorkshire Cultural Partnership.

2.2 The current North Yorkshire Cultural Partnership consists of a Member group (North Yorkshire Culture) and an Officer group (North Yorkshire Cultural Officers Group). The Member group meets approximately three times a year and provides the mechanism for updating Members on progress, endorsing decisions and agreeing the strategic vision. The Officer Group meets more frequently, and reports up to the Member Group.

2.3 In addition, in relation to tourism, there is a Sub Regional Co-ordination Group which includes representatives from each of the Area Tourism Partnerships (ATPs). This meets quarterly to discuss sub regional issues regarding tourism.

#### **3.0 Review of Current Arrangements – Successes and Failures.**

3.1 In proposing to restructure the North Yorkshire Cultural Partnership it is first important to highlight some of key aspects of what a reinvigorated Partnership should have the ability to do:

- Raise the profile of the sector at a local, sub-regional, and regional level
- Turn the vision and transformational priorities into delivery on the ground
- Strengthen the linkages between the tourism partnerships and the cultural offer
- Report formally into other higher level partnerships across York and North Yorkshire
- Be a driver for change and transformation within the cultural sector

#### **4. Proposed New Structure**

4.1 Firstly it is worth noting that to do nothing is not an option. It is clear from the reasons set out above that the Partnership needs to change and be reinvigorated in order to meet new challenges, deliver on transformation and raise the profile of the cultural sector in York and North Yorkshire.

4.2 It is therefore proposed that:

- NYCOG is reformed into a new York and North Yorkshire Cultural Partnership merging the existing NYCOG and the Sub Regional Tourism Co-ordinating Group together.
- The Partnership is better resourced with dedicated staff. This is being provided by the 2012 Delivery Team based at the Partnership Unit. This Team would also provide the Secretariat to the Partnership and ensure that the delivery of the transformational themes and priorities.
- The Partnership will develop a high level Cultural Strategy for York and North Yorkshire with refreshed “transformational priorities”, clear targets and assigned action plans.
- A Non-Executive ‘champion’ or ‘Ambassador’ for culture is appointed for York and North Yorkshire. This would be a high profile individual who would raise the profile of the sector at a regional and national level. This is not the Chair of the Partnership; this will be selected from one of its members.
- The Members Group is replaced by an Annual York and North Yorkshire Cultural Conference.
- The Executive of the Partnership to be made up of all the local authorities, representatives of the sectors or themes, the Area Tourism Partnerships and the regional cultural and tourism agencies. This will need further discussion but the aim is to be as inclusive as possible.
- The Partnership to directly report up to the Partnership Executive and Development Board.
- Further links are developed and strengthened with the NYLAA and NYSP, District LSPs and City of York LSP and LAA
- That local authority partners are required to pay a subscription/ contribution towards the cost of the Partnership. This would be in the form of an addition to the current contribution currently made by each Authority to the Partnership Unit.

## 5 Recommendations

**That the Development Board endorses the changes to the Cultural Partnership set out in section 4 of this report.**

Jonathan French  
York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit

## **YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE DEVELOPMENT BOARD ITEM 6**

**18<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

### **INTEGRATING SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT WITHIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

#### **1. Purpose of the report**

1.1 This report sets out for the Board the changing context for skills and some recent discussions on how skills might be more effectively integrated with economic development activity. It report is to note but provides some important context as to work in this broad subject area is developing.

1.2 One change over the last year is that there is now no longer a sub regional LSC Council but a regional one. Mike Galloway of York College used to represent the local Council with Maureen Vevers as his substitute. Mike Galloway has now retired and the Joint chairs have invited Maureen Vevers, who is on the regional LSC Council, to become a Board member.

#### **2 The changing context**

2.1 In the context of this report 'skills' is short hand for a wide number of issues affecting the ability of people to compete and achieve fulfilment in the labour market. For employers, it means that the workforce has the competencies to meet existing and future needs and to capitalise on opportunities. Essentially it is the activity which currently fits within the 'People' theme of the SRIP. Importantly, we should not see skills in isolation, rather as an underpinning aspect of economic development and fundamental to individual and collective inclusion and prosperity.

2.2 Specifically 'skills' covers operational matters such as the work related outcomes of the 14-19 agenda (including addressing NEETs, ie Not in Education, Employment or training), employment programmes for those on benefit, adult skills, especially in the workplace, and the development and maintenance of a knowledgeable population especially through progression to higher education and continuing learning opportunities via a widely available FE and HE infrastructure. It also requires effective advocacy of the area's requirements for funding and investment especially through the European Social Fund (ESF), HEFCE and the LSC and Jobcentre plus.

2.3 The Government announced in March proposals under the title 'Raising Expectations – Enabling the System to Deliver', to radically change the institutional structure for the delivery of post 16 and adult learning and training. The proposals are in two parts. This reflects the changes in Government with the creation of the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills. The proposals will lead to the transfer of the LSC's roles to other bodies.

2.4 Firstly it is proposed to make local authorities the single local strategic leader for the 14-19 agenda. They will perform a commissioning role working collaboratively across labour markets and FE college catchment areas working with a new Young Peoples Learning Agency. They will be the funders of institutions in their areas on behalf of those collaborative partnerships.

2.5 Secondly, there will be a new Skills Funding Agency, which will fund adult skills principally through Train to Gain and Skills accounts. It will be the performance management body for FE colleges and will host the National

Apprenticeship Service which will report to both Departments. It is anticipated that enabling legislation will be put before the next session of parliament and that the transition will be completed by the autumn of 2010.

2.6 The national policy context has been strongly influenced by the Leitch Review which has set challenging targets for improving the skills of the workforce by 2020. What is driving change is Government thinking expressed in proposals such as the Sub national review and the changes to skills/employment delivery associated with it

2.7 Moving people from not working to working is assuming increasing importance with local planning and integration vital. This continues to be high on the political agenda and there may be a process which sees more joint commissioning by LSC/JCP with a need to join up more closely with local programmes.

2.8 Local government is encouraged to be at the centre of all aspects of economic development and skills will need to be a key theme within this work, especially the new duty to undertake an economic assessment. The transfer of the funding for 14-19 to Local Authorities will mean the need and opportunity for integrated planning is much greater. Local government will be encouraged to set up employer led Employment and Skills Boards linking the skills and jobs agenda. Scarborough already has firm proposals on this and discussions have been held in York about how this approach may fit with plans for a relaunched Economic Development Board.

2.9 Geographic programmes might be the vehicle where the proposals around 'skills' are ultimately encapsulated in a formal process.

### **3. Responding to change**

3.1 Local economic development is in a process that is diminishing the role of sub regional institutions for policy development and contracting delivery with a regional focus becoming the norm for a range of activities such as business support, adult skills and managing EU funding, with a much greater emphasis on the role of local authorities in both local delivery and the articulation of local needs and opportunities.

3.2 The Learning Partnerships play an important role in drawing the supply side of learning and skills together, are highly valued by partners and have considerable experience. They have a key role at the very least in the short term to maintain coordination/continuity. They do however face significant resourcing issues and their ability to engage around the broad agenda at a strategic and policy level is dependent on input from key organisations at a senior level.

3.3 Employment and Skills Boards may be a way forward and certainly would help address the 'demand' side as they provide a focus for employers. However it is very difficult to get a rounded employer input that reflects a holistic view of the labour market especially if there is an emphasis on knowledge and a high level of competencies which may not align with the immediate needs of some employers. This particularly applies to increasing the impact of Higher Education.

3.4 The role of articulating and championing 'skills' is therefore a complex one. It needs to have a thorough understanding of the economic and demographic characteristics of an area and the partnership and networking linkages to both establish appropriate interventions and then articulate them to agencies and funding bodies. Clearly, that profile begins to fit local authorities especially as they develop their role as set out in the Sub National review.

## **4. Moving Forward**

4.1 The Partnership executive wants to see that 'skills' are championed during a period of transition and that any new arrangements are effective. In order to take this forward, the executive has established a task and finish group that will identify the short and long term issues on skills as articulated above, and make recommendations for how the sub region should address the skills agenda in economic development. This is chaired by the Area director of the LSC. It should report to the Partnership Executive with an initial report by late autumn.

4.2 It has met and agreed the following areas for further work

- Local authorities' role in and relationship with the skills agenda; how links are made to economic development plans and strategies, and what it means for them in terms of the health and wealth of the communities for which they are responsible
- Skills and economic development indicators in LAA2 and developments with NYSP and Without Walls.
- The skills components of the Leeds City Region and Tees Valley City Region Multi Area agreement (MAA).
- Future and positioning of Learning Partnerships, including their potential to be the skills arm of LSPs, developing into Employment and Skills Boards.
- Broadening employers' and businesses' engagement in workforce development and their links to local economic issues.
- Children's and Young People's Strategic Partnerships, especially in connection with NEETs policies and business and enterprise and education programmes.
- Implications of the transfer of 14-19 funding to local authorities, especially in terms of FE and how that might be related to skills outcomes
- Alignment and coordination of 14-19 and adult learning activities in an environment where different funding bodies exist for each area
- Proposals in the SRIP being developed by Higher York and HE institutions to increase the impact of HE in the sub region
- Employment programmes in York and Scarborough drawing together European funding, Yorkshire Forward inclusion policy product and LSC/JCP mainstream funding, and linkages to other community planning for deprived communities

**The Board is asked to note the report**

Jonathan French  
York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit

## **YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE DEVELOPMENT BOARD ITEM 7**

**18<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

### **Business Support Update**

#### **1. Purpose of the Report**

1.1 This report provides an update on how the new Business Link contractor, Business link Yorkshire, is progressing and looks at some issues as to how the partnership will address business support issues in the future.

#### **2. Business Link Yorkshire**

2.1 Business Links were established in the early 1990's to draw together publically funded business support into a single brand and contact point. In this sub region the service was delivered by Business Link York and North Yorkshire, a not for profit company founded by the then North Yorkshire Training and Enterprise Council, NYCC, The city of York Council and the Chamber of Commerce. The majority of the Board was drawn from the private sector and was chaired by John Goodfellow of the Skipton Building Society, who also represented Business Link on this Board. The joint chairs of the Board have invited him to remain on the Development Board.

2.2 The resources for Business Links are channelled through the RDAs and last year a tender exercise was undertaken to establish Business Links on a regional basis. The contract was awarded to YHIDB Ltd a joint venture between and Reed in Partnership and Exemplas Holdings Ltd (the business link contractor for the East of England owned by the University of Hertfordshire). This trades as Business Link Yorkshire. Many staff was transferred to the new contractor and Helen West Chief executive of the sub regional Business Link was successful in being appointed CEO of Business Link Yorkshire.

2.3 Business Link Yorkshire (BLY) became operational from April 2008. They have established two business advisor teams in the sub region, one for Richmondshire, Hambleton, Scarborough and Ryedale with 9 advisors and one for York, Selby, Harrogate and Craven with 12 advisors. There is also a new enterprise team for the sub region of 8 advisors. High growth business and social enterprises are supported by regional teams. Two partnership managers operate in this area. BLY have established three key location centres in Catterick, Scarborough and York along with 22 Local delivery points and 40 local access points in the sub region.

#### **3.0 Business Support Partnerships**

3.1 Business Link York and North Yorkshire established a Business Support Partnership (BSP) which drew partners together, identified priorities and help deliver programmes especially EU funded. They had prepared a statement for business support priorities as a part of the Investment Plan. This partnership decided to continue after the changes in contractors and the Partnership Unit agreed to facilitate the continued meetings. BLY is giving its support to partnership.

3.2 It was agreed that the purpose of the meeting would change and move away from detailed consideration of aspects of Business Link's contracts especially on European issues and more towards supporting local authorities in developing their new responsibilities around geographic programmes and economic assessments. The role of the group was to ensure that the sub regions needs for business support were recognised in these processes.

3.3 The new partnership has met in May. Initially it has been decided to develop work around enterprise in disadvantaged communities, business support through incubators, enterprise and education and support for tourism.

3.4 A regional Business support Partnership has also been called together by Yorkshire Forward to address the Business Simplification agenda. It is seeking to develop strong linkages with this national initiative, but also provide a body which will enable sub regions/city regions and other stakeholders to set out their point of view of business support issues.

**The Board is asked to note the report**

Jonathan French  
York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit

18<sup>th</sup> June 2008

## Progress in York and North Yorkshire 2008

### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide the Development Board with a summary of the recently published Progress in York and North Yorkshire 2008 Light Touch Review, copies of which accompanied these agenda papers.

### 2. Introduction and purpose

- 2.1 A full update of the Progress in York and North Yorkshire report is now published every three years (the next being in 2009), with 2008 seeing the second annual 'light touch review' <sup>1</sup>.
- 2.2 The report is based on the proposed Integrated Regional Framework (IRF) indicators. This merges the Advancing Together (AT), the indicators previously used for Progress in York and North Yorkshire, and those of the Regional Sustainable Development Framework. Each Indicator is measured against a baseline year of 1998 where available, or the earliest year possible otherwise.
- 2.3 The report, as in previous years, is set out under six chapter headings. It not only features data for the sub region, but for the first year it also reports on Local Authority Districts within the Leeds City Region (LCR) and those outside the Leeds City Region.

### 3. Overall progress

- 3.1 Out of the 63 indicators, 37 can be measured at sub regional level where a baseline is available and a trend can be considered. Overall, the sub region is performing very well, with 24 making good progress / improving, 10 moving in the wrong direction and the remaining 3 either making little or no progress.

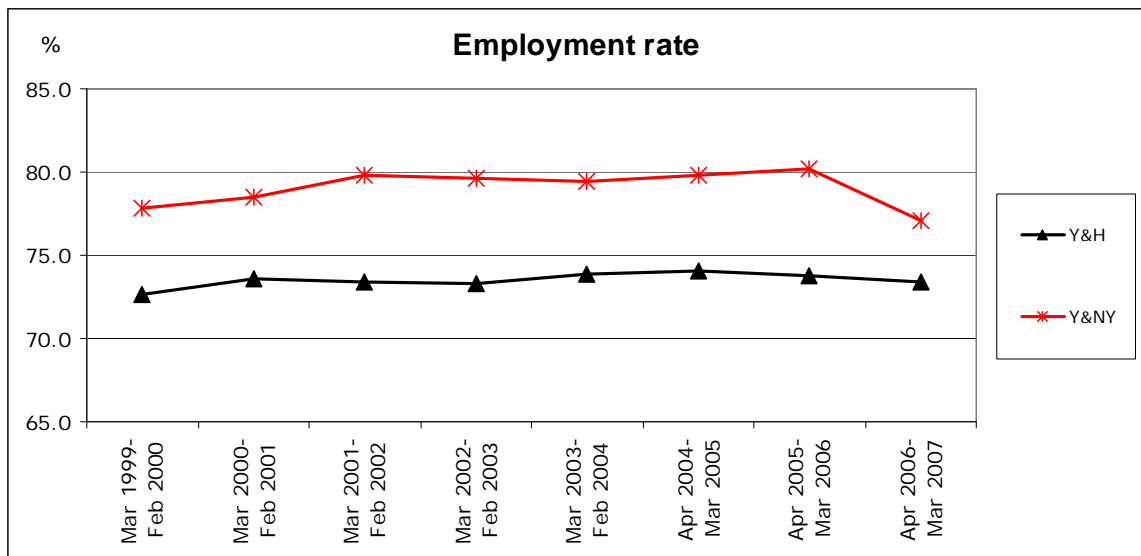
Six Chapter Headings	Improving	No real change	Declining / worsening
An advanced economy	7	-	2
Excellent Infrastructure	1	-	3
High quality environments	5	-	1
Educated and skilled people	5	2	1
First class quality of life	5	1	3
Good governance and civic participation	1	-	-

- 3.2 The sub region also compares favourably to the region as a whole, with 24 indicators performing higher or better, 10 being lower or worse and the remaining 7 showing no notable difference to the region.

#### *Focus on the economy*

<sup>1</sup> This work is funded by Yorkshire Futures and managed by the Partnership Unit on behalf of the York and North Yorkshire Data and Intelligence Partnership

- 3.3 The sub region is performing particularly well on the Advanced Economy measures, with 7 of the 9 indicators showing a positive progress since the baseline<sup>2</sup>.
- 3.4 Key highlights of good performance include GVA per head continuing to increase (+4,133 since the baseline), as have both business stocks (+3 per 1,000 adult population) and also VAT registrations (+3 registrations per 10,000 adult population), the proportion of businesses surviving after 3 years is increasing and VAT registrations in rural areas have also increased and deregistrations declined since the baseline.
- 3.5 The majority of the economy indicators are also positive when compared to the Region, with only average wage levels (albeit marginally) and VAT registrations as a percentage of business stock in rural local authority districts being worse / lower in the sub region.
- 3.6 There are perhaps two main areas of most concern. Firstly a fall in the proportion of those of a working age who are in employment. Whilst the rate is still higher than that for the region, the sub region's figure is now below the baseline figure. Secondly, this has been coupled with an increase in the unemployment rate within the area's rural districts (+0.6pp since the baseline to 5.0%).



#### **Other key findings**

- 3.7 The percentage of 16 year olds achieving 5+ GCSEs (A\*-C) including Mathematics and English has seen a recent increase and is notably higher than that for the region. Progress on the percentage of 19 year olds with 5+ GCSEs at A\*-C or equivalent (level 2) is more of an issue, albeit still being significantly higher than that seen for the region.
- 3.8 Whilst Adult Skills are generally positive, the relative lack of progress on the percentage of working age population without qualifications is a concern.
- 3.9 Employees' skills gaps have reduced significantly (previously an area of concern where the region was highlighted as experiencing particular problems). The percentage of adults receiving job related training has however decreased again, both in the region and sub region

<sup>2</sup> Although some of these do however show little, or no change when compared to the previous year.

- 3.10 The long term trend on the completion of houses is positive, yet the re-use of previously developed land for housing has shown a dramatic decline since last year. The sub region is still experiencing particular problems in relation to housing affordability.
- 3.11 Household waste recycled each year continues to dramatically increase.
- 3.12 Finally, in terms of the quality of life indicators the sub region is progressing well, with life expectancy increasing and crime figures tending to be better than the baseline and positive in comparison to regional figures, although the trend for violent crime is negative.

#### **4. Recommendation**

- 4.1 The Development Board are asked to note the report and the areas of concern. A seminar to launch the report and discuss the findings is also planned to take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008.**

Jonathan French  
York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit

## YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE DEVELOPMENT BOARD ITEM 9

18<sup>th</sup> June 2008

### Local Area Agreements

#### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To seek formal approval, from the Development Board, for the economic components of the revised North Yorkshire Local Area Agreement (LAA) in its role as the economy and enterprise thematic partnership of the North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership.
- 1.2 To report to the Board, for information purposes, the York LAA economy indicators.

#### 2. North Yorkshire LAA – Economic indicators.

- 2.4 Over the past six months discussion with partners and analysis of data and evidence has been undertaken in determining the new indicators and targets to be included within the North Yorkshire Local Area Agreement. This includes the Partnership Executive and the North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership Executive. These indicators have now been submitted to Government Office for consideration and agreement, this report now seeks their formal approval by the Development Board.
- 2.5 In determining the economic indicators for the revised LAA, a number of factors have been taken into account. These are:
  - That they should take account of the transformational themes and priorities set out in the Sub Regional Investment Plan and derived from the Strategic Economic Assessment;
  - That they should address the priorities set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy for North Yorkshire, reported to the last meeting of this Development Board;
  - That any designated indicator chosen must be from the nationally agreed National Indicator Set;
  - That any indicator chosen should add value to what is already happening or due to happen and where real improvement is needed.
- 2.6 These factors led to a series of indicators (set out in para 2.4 below), in terms of the economy and enterprise, based on the follow:
  - The need to increase the number of enterprises across the County;
  - The need to address the issues of disadvantage in areas of Scarborough Town;
  - The need to grow and increase the value of tourism, and the creative and cultural sectors; and
  - The need to improve the skill levels of the working population.
- 2.7 The LAA Economy Indicators determined from this are therefore as follows. These are divided into 'designated' indicators (the ones that form the core of the LAA and are scrutinised by Government Office and Government Departments) and 'Local' indicators (those determined locally and therefore scrutinised locally):

Designated Indicators:

  - **New Business registration rate** (per 10,000 resident population aged 16 and above). The target will be to increase this rate over the

three years of the Agreement. However the New Business registration rate data is not yet available and so actual targets and baselines will not be set until later in the year.

- **Working age people on out of work benefits.** This will apply only to Scarborough Borough where the current baseline is 13.8% of the population of working age and the target in three years is to reduce this by 3%.
- **Working age population qualified to at least level 3 or higher.** The current baseline for North Yorkshire is 48.7% of the population of working age and the target is to increase this to 57.1% in three years.

Local Indicators:

- **Grow the Creative Industries sector.** The target here is to increase the number of Creative industry businesses in North Yorkshire from 1,900 currently to 2,020 in three years.
- **Increase the value of tourism earnings.** This follows the Regional target to increase the value of tourism earnings by 5% per annum over the next three years.

- 2.8 In addition two further local indicators related to working age population qualified to Level 2 and numeracy skills amongst the adult population are proposed. In determining the baselines and targets for these, there has been difficulties in obtain up to date and robust data within the time scale for submission. However as there is an opportunity to refresh and review the LAA during the first year, this seemed to be a more appropriate time in which to consider their inclusion. The refresh will also look at the other indicators and in particular will aim to fill any gaps in the current baselines and targets, e.g. business rate data.

### 3. York LAA

- 3.1 Although the Development Board do not have the same role when it comes to the York LAA, it is worth outlining their indicators for information. These are as follows:

Designated Indicators:

- **Working age people on out of work benefits.** The target being to reduce the rate by 1% over the next three years.
- **Working age population qualified to at least level 2.** The current baseline being 73.3% and the target is to increase this to 80.8% by 2010/11.
- **Working age population qualified to at least level 4.** The current baseline for York is 33.8% and the target is to increase this to 36.8% by 2010/11.
- **Average earnings of employees in the area.** The baseline is 0.9758 ratio to the England average, the target being to increase this to 1.00.
- **New Business registration rates.** No baseline or target available until new data becomes available in October 2008.

### 4. Recommendation

- 4.1 **That the Development Board approves the set of LAA economic indicators set out in paragraph 2.4 of the report.**

Jonathan French  
York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit

## **YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE DEVELOPMENT BOARD ITEM 10**

**18<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

### **Progress on Programmes and Projects**

#### **1. Purpose of the Report**

1.1 This report sets out progress made against the agreed 23 Sub Regional Investment Plan programmes in the revised SRIP. It also reports on what EU funding applications are being taken forward.

#### **2.0 Sub Regional Investment Plan 2007 - Progress to date**

2.1 A report in this format was considered by the Board at its last meeting. That report stated that the priority was to progress immediate applications for funding where those opportunities presented themselves. The appendix sets out the position in respect for each programme. These will be the basis for the Geographical programmes.

2.2 The Table is self explanatory but it is worth highlighting a number of points under each of the priority groupings. These are as follows:

##### **York and Science Priority Grouping**

The programmes in the York and Science Priority Grouping are fairly well developed with a particular concentration on the potential ERDF early win proposals. The first is around the investment at the University, and related development at the Central Science Laboratory that could result in £19.5m of ERDF assistance. (titled - Science City York –Embedded business space and technology transfer)

The second is the extension and enhancement of the work of Science City York through its 'nurturing creative, science and technology businesses' contract which is implemented both in York and North Yorkshire. (titled - Science City York - specialist services for Business growth and Innovation).

The proposal for the Ryedale Enterprise Centre were progressing well through the ERDF and Yorkshire Forward process however the planning application has been called in and could take a while to resolve. This has therefore not gone forward as an 'early win' application for ERDF and we await the outcome of the planning decision.

In terms of the 'Transforming Selby Town' programme taking this forward depends firstly in achieving the first tranche of investment in the 2004 SRIP. Three projects are currently out to tender for completion by June 2009 which will utilise 80% of the original urban renaissance budget.

Progress is good on the other York and Science programmes.

##### **Enterprise and Innovation Priority Grouping**

In terms of Enterprise and Innovation the potential programmes are well developed. These need to be drawn together to form the basis of engagement with Yorkshire Forward particularly on ERDF funding and with Business Link Yorkshire.

Further progress has been made on developing a programme for the visitor economy and also the programme supporting the creative and digital sector.

### **Rural, Outdoor Adventure and Landscape Priority Grouping**

Progress on developing proposals within the Rural, Outdoor Adventure and Landscape Priority Grouping is still mixed.

The programme around outdoor adventure is well advanced, the study into the potential coast to coast mountain biking route is now complete, the outdoor adventure website has been soft launched at the National Outdoor Show and should be fully operational soon, and Dalby Forest has been confirmed as the venue for a stage finish of the 2008 Tour of Britain, together with the formal approach to LOCOG to be the venue for the 2012 Olympic Mountain Bike event.

The Landscape heritage programme is being seen as the basis for the LEADER proposals. These are now at stage 2 for the Moors/Coast and Dales.

In terms of rural towns, progress has continued on the delivery of RMT however further development of this Programme is awaiting further details regarding the proposed Rural Capitals Programme set out in Yorkshire Forwards draft Corporate Plan.

### **People and Skills Priority Grouping**

The Proposals within the People and Skills priority Grouping are fairly well developed and are informing initial rounds of European social Fund activity and LSC mainstream funding.

There are active proposals from the HE sector to bring forward a project to increase the presence of Higher Education in rural North Yorkshire.

### **Scarborough Town Priority Grouping**

Progress on the programmes within Scarborough Town is fairly well advanced, with a particular concentration on developing the potential ERDF and ESF proposals in the disadvantaged communities. An application for Yorkshire Forward single pot and ERDF for the Scarborough Employment Programme is progressing well.

### **Harrogate, Craven and the Lowlands Priority Grouping**

In terms of Harrogate, Craven and the Lowlands again there has been initial concentration around developing the proposals for specialist premises at Leeming Bar and Northallerton in order to maximise early ERDF, this is well on track and should begin on site shortly. Proposals are well developed for Harrogate Business Tourism including the development of the Harrogate Exhibition Halls. Further work, however, is still required in developing the proposals around the food and drink innovation hub and Catterick.

## **3.0 Progress on EU funding**

### *ERDF*

3.1 As already mentioned above initial activity has been centred on ensuring the sub region maximises the opportunity for early ERDF funding from the new programme. This has centred on the following projects:

Application	ERDF	Yorkshire Forward	Other
Science City York –Embedded business space and technology transfer	19,500,000		52,940,000 (University of York and 1,000,000 from Central Science Laboratory)
Leeming Bar Food Incubator and Northallerton Workspace	2,500,000	1,985,000	1,551,000 (HDC)
Scarborough Skills Match	735,000	735,000	42,000 (SBC)
Science City York - specialist services for Business growth and Innovation	1,500,000	3,261,000	
TOTAL	24,235,000	5,981,000	54,533,000

3.2 This does represent a substantial achievement. All projects have yet to be agreed but they do result from discussions with Yorkshire Forward as to what might be appropriate. It is the first project in the region to reach this stage under the new ERDF programme. Bearing in mind that the sub region is aiming for a benchmark of achieving at least £5 million per annum of ERDF over the lifetime of the programme applications for £27 million of ERDF is significant progress but 80% of that relies on one project.

3.3 The programmes continue to be developed and in some cases are now being implemented. In addition to continuing to develop these programmes, work over the next few months will centre on ensuring the SRIP programmes are aligned and integrated into geographical programmes.

3.4 The 'early wins' proposals continue to make progress with the Leeming bar Food incubator and Northallerton workspace now at the contract stage, endorsement has been given to the University expansion project and the additional activity by Science City York to proceed to the full business plan stage , the stage that also applies to the Scarborough Skills match projects. The additional activity by Science city York includes proposals for the food sector and environmental industries.

#### *ESF*

3.5 The LSC and JCP are now proceeding to final stages of the first round of tender specifications and are agreeing detailed contracts. Two LSC specifications for North Yorkshire –Skills for Jobs and Young offenders- are being re let. The LSC is also seeking tenders regionally for a Community Grant scheme (previously global grants) giving grants of up to £12000 to small organisations for skills and capacity building.

3.6 The Partnership Unit is also applying through NYCC for ESF technical assistance to support its work on helping to implement the programme and to give similar support to the York and North Yorkshire Learning Partnerships.

*Leader*

3.7 The LEADER Local Development Strategies are now well under way for the Yorkshire Dales and the North York Moors, Hills and Coast, and the Filey and Wolds area which is included in the submission led by East Riding. In terms of the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors, Hills and Coast both have now held scene setting and full partners meetings and are now currently holding a series of smaller community based events across the proposed LEADER areas. The outcome of these events will feed into the priorities and programmes to be set out in the Local Development Strategies. The Strategies will be formally submitted to Yorkshire Forward on the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2008. A response should be made on these by late summer.

**The Board is asked to note the report**

Jonathan French  
York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit

## Aspire-Achieve-Enjoy The York and North Yorkshire Sub Regional Investment Plan March 2008

### York and Science Priority Grouping

<i>Outcome</i>	<i>Programme</i>	<i>Progress/current position</i>
A readily available portfolio of sites and premises with an institutional infrastructure that secures economic growth and makes the area the best place to locate science investment in the UK.	<b>Invest in Strategic sites for business growth and Science investment</b>	<p>This programme is currently concentrating on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The opportunities for development at York North West (previously York Central) are being taken forward through an LDF Action plan</li> <li>▪ Ryedale Enterprise Centre – part of the new Technology Park. Approx. £6m development with the aim of attracting YF (RMT), ERDF and Ryedale DC. Progressing well through PMF but has now been held up through the Planning process. May be delayed by 12 months.</li> <li>▪ Heslington East – Development of incubator space as part of the expansion of the University of York. Progressing well and will go forward for substantial assistance from ERDF.</li> </ul> <p>Yorkshire Forward is currently considering the future of Burn Airfield as major location for R and D investment</p> <p>Yorkshire Forward has agreed on-going support for York England up to 2010.</p>
A substantial part of the growth opportunities in the York economy driven by technological innovating businesses and research organisations.	<b>Developing the York Innovation Hub</b>	Programme proposals are being developed. Priority is being given to progressing the extension and enhancement of the work of Science City York through its 'nurturing creative, science and technology businesses' contract for ERDF and continued Yorkshire Forward support which is implemented both in York and North Yorkshire. This will facilitate work on the Food and drink sector, Environmental technologies and professional services.
York is a world class visitor destination deriving increasing benefits to the economy from cultural and tourism investment	<b>Create a sustainable, contemporary cultural City</b>	<p>A Programme has been clearly defined that sets out how these elements will be delivered. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Investing approx. £4-5m in the quality of the place and building on the vision of the York cultural quarter.</li> <li>▪ £19m investment at York Minister.</li> <li>▪ Investigations and discussions are underway in identify a location for the new City centre visitor information centre.</li> <li>▪ Discussions have been held with the major events team at YF and CYC .</li> </ul>
Reduce worklessness and improve skill levels within the six key wards of multiple disadvantage in York, connecting residents in these areas to employment opportunities in the city, along with other inactive individuals, from across the city.	<b>Connecting people to Jobs.</b>	A Programme has now been set out through the York Learning Partnership. This proposes a series of interventions in key wards in the city. It is influencing the development of specifications for ESF programmes and will form part of the consideration of the response to the York Future group report.

Selby town to be a vibrant community, with high levels of aspiration, enterprise, skills, learning and culture, fully engaged with the dynamics of the Leeds City Region.

**Securing  
transformational  
change in Selby  
Town**

There is a need to identify and set out a programme for Selby beyond the current Selby Renaissance Programme.

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## Enterprise and Innovation Priority Grouping

<i>Outcome</i>	<i>Programme</i>	<i>Progress/current position</i>
A vibrant enterprise culture which produces a large volume of new businesses and drawing its entrepreneurship from all parts of the community.	<b>Promoting an Enterprise Culture and Entrepreneurship</b>	Proposals have been developed and agreed by the Business Support Partnership .  They are providing the basis for engagement with Yorkshire Forward and the Business Link Yorkshire both on YF's programmes and ERDF.
For visitors and customers to have a high quality experience from attractions, accommodation, food service and products that enhances the visitor experience and promotes a positive sense of 'place' and a desire to return	<b>Developing ambition and innovation within businesses that relate to or depend on the visitor economy</b>	Proposals have been developed and agreed by the Business Support Partnership .  They are providing the basis for engagement with Yorkshire Forward and the Business Link Yorkshire both on YF's programmes and ERDF.  Application process is now open for RDPE applications.
Businesses that have the strategy and leadership to address new markets, develop new processes, products and services so they remain competitive utilising their resources sustainably.	<b>Promoting business competitiveness</b>	Proposals have been developed and agreed by the Business Support Partnership.  They are providing the basis for engagement with Yorkshire Forward and the Business Link Yorkshire both on YF's programmes and ERDF.
The digital and creative industries contribution to the local economy to be 50% more significant by 2017	<b>Supporting the growth and impact of the creative and digital cluster</b>	A programme proposal, from Science City York, has been produced that sets out their current and future plans to work across the sub region in supporting the digital and creative industries sector.  In addition discussions have been held with the North Yorkshire Creative Industries Network and the Festival and Events Group, to identify how support and development can be offered to the arts based creative sector and festival and event organisers. Business Plans for these two sectors have also been produced.  This also includes the potential development of creative/arts units at Knaresborough (proposed through RMT) and a Music Technology Centre at Ripon. Feasibility studies for the these two developments have been produced and further discussions have been held regarding the potential funding avenues for Ripon.

## Rural, Outdoor Adventure and the Landscape Priority Grouping

<i>Outcome</i>	<i>Programme</i>	<i>Progress/current position</i>
To have strong, sustainable and vibrant rural towns building on their distinctiveness and role within their wider landscape	<b>Creating culturally vibrant rural towns</b>	Further discussions are required to draw together the details of this programme further. This will build on exit strategies through the RMT programme and discussions with individual Districts regarding future proposals and plans for rural towns. This will also take into account proposals for a Rural Capitals programme as set out in the draft Yorkshire Forward Corporate Plan. A research report to provide the basis for this programme has just been published
To have a supply of high quality specialist businesses premises available across rural communities in order to attract higher value added businesses and help to build a sustainable rural economy.	<b>Developing Specialist sites and premises within rural settlements</b>	Detailed proposals need to be developed for this programme. Some analysis work is being undertaken e.g. study into the future economic development needs of the upper dales by Richmondshire DC, however further discussions are required within individual Districts and NYCC to establish clear proposals to take forward. This could form the basis of a significant part of a geographical programme across North Yorkshires rural areas.
To transform the image and perception of North Yorkshire through exploiting and building on its outdoor adventure offer and to ensure that outdoor adventure is a key driver for growing the visitor economy and provides an opportunity to create a more vibrant image of the sub-region	<b>Achieving international recognition for our Outdoor Adventure</b>	Outdoor Adventure group established. A programme has been drawn together and agreed by partners. Progress has been made on the programme elements in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A feasibility study on the c2c (coast to coast mountain bike route) has been completed.</li> <li>▪ Adventure Centre proposals are being pulled together by CDC.</li> <li>▪ FC are working up costs and undertaking further feasibility work on further developments at Dalby.</li> <li>▪ A group is being drawn together , working closely with YF, to ensure full benefit of is made of the Tour of Britain cycle race that will finish at Dalby Forest in 2008.</li> <li>▪ A formal approach to LOCOG has been made for Dalby to be the Olympic venue for Mountain Biking and also investigations are ongoing to attract a further major outdoor event to the sub region.</li> <li>▪ An outdoor adventure web portal is being developed in conjunction with National Park Authorities, NY Sport, ATPs and YTB and should be launched shortly.</li> </ul>
To maximise the economic value gained from our heritage landscape, broaden the economic base or rural communities and maintain and enhance the areas special qualities.	<b>Increasing the economic value of our heritage landscape</b>	The River Renaissance Opportunity Plan has been produced and there is now a need to identify detailed proposals and funding opportunities. This is being led by the Environment Agency through the Strategic partnership for the River Ouse and its Tributaries.  The Moors, Wolds, and Dales landscape character areas are the basis for YNYs LEADER proposals based on the theme of Heritage and Culture. These have been agreed at stage 1 of the application process and full development strategies are now being prepared under Stage 2 to go forward for the Dales, Moors and Coast and a Ryedale Wolds/Filey jointly with East Riding.  The Festival and Events Group are currently working up proposals for the development of major events based around NY's key landscape features.

## People and Skills Priority Grouping

<i>Outcome</i>	<i>Programme</i>	<i>Progress/current position</i>
Individuals are inspired to invest to fulfil their own potential within the local economy.	<b>Raising aspirations within York and North Yorkshire</b>	<p>A complete set of proposals have been prepared and form the basis for the current work on the ESF and LSC mainstream specifications.</p> <p>The programme is intended for all ages, will target 'learning communities' with a range of learning opportunities and provide the necessary infrastructure and co-ordination in order to raise individuals' awareness and confidence. It is intended to use the strength of a cohesive body to support and sustain individual development. Integrated IAG and individual mentoring are to be offered as part of the programme. 'Learning communities' could but not exclusively include the following: rural communities, coastal communities, migrant workers, BME groups, and new settlers in Catterick, TUs, families and potential entrepreneurs.</p> <p>There are two distinct target groups for this programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- disadvantaged people, particularly families and young people (focusing on drop out at 17 and disengagement at 14-16) who are experiencing multiple barriers to inclusion</li> <li>- under-employed and unfulfilled people in all demographics (but particularly in rural areas) needing to progress.</li> </ul>
Consistent and ambitious development for all people in skilled and professional employment, through learning with plentiful and high quality learning opportunities	<b>Sustaining the high level knowledge base for competitiveness</b>	A partnership between HE Institutions and FE colleges is being drawn together with a view to develop a major proposal for a Strategic Development Fund bid from HEFCE to increase the role of Higher education in North Yorkshire
An employer base committed to and investing in developing the workforce at all levels.	<b>Engage employers in renewing skills</b>	<p>The programme will specifically focus on the following areas/activities which form the basis for the current work on the ESF and LSC mainstream specifications.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Enhance the existing Train to Gain service, particularly in rural areas by supplementing and boosting the work of Train to Gain brokers to incentivise them to address barriers in more rural areas.</li> <li>2) Concentrate on and engage with predominantly SMEs in order to offer and deliver qualifications and courses which are not part of the existing Train to Gain service. Particular target areas include Scarborough, Whitby and York.</li> <li>3) Work with the NHS and appropriate broker and co-ordinator to add value to Train to Gain activities which address the large numbers of NHS employees with low and outdated qualifications.</li> <li>4) Build capacity of the Voluntary Sector –A focus is needed on training relating to management committee development, leadership and management qualifications.</li> </ol> <p>The programme will be sub region wide but with particular focus on rural areas, rural SMEs, York (linked to the Innovation Hub), and food, drink, retail (focus on customer service) and tourism businesses in York, Harrogate and the lowland areas</p>

## Scarborough Town Priority Grouping

<i>Outcome</i>	<i>Programme</i>	<i>Progress/current position</i>
The growth opportunities of the Scarborough economy to be driven by knowledge based, creative and digital industries and a high quality tourism and cultural offer, transforming the image and perception of the town.	<b>Developing a contemporary and vibrant Scarborough - renaissance programme</b>	<p>A programme proposal has been set out for this area. This has been discussed by partners locally and contains a number of proposals that will help to build on the current Renaissance programme. This needs further refinement re. Costs, funding and detail and work is ongoing.</p> <p>Proposals are being developed to bid for CABE Sea Change funds for coastal resorts</p>
Higher education making a substantial contribution to the Scarborough town economy and where local communities achieve levels of attainment and skills on a par with the national average.	<b>Developing Scarborough as a Learning Town</b>	An initial draft programme has been developed with local partners and the local area learning partnership. This includes a major proposal for significant new investment at the University of Hull and Yorkshire Coast College.
To connect people in the disadvantaged communities to the new employment opportunities created within the Town, reducing the levels of worklessness and benefit dependency.	<b>Connecting Local People to Local Jobs</b>	A programme proposal has been drawn up setting out how Scarborough can address problems of worklessness and disadvantage in its most disadvantaged wards. This includes the development of a Scarborough Employment Programme which is currently being discussed with potential funding partners. The Scarborough Skills Match project has been submitted to Yorkshire Forward for both single Pot and ERDF funding. New ESF programmes will support worklessness and disadvantage interventions in the town. It also forms a key strand of the new LAA for North Yorkshire.

## Harrogate, Craven and the Lowlands Priority Grouping

<i>Outcome</i>	<i>Programme</i>	<i>Progress/current position</i>
To have no business growth constrained by lack of suitable premises	<b>Developing specialist high quality sites and premises</b>	<p>The priority within this programme has been the development of incubator units at Northallerton and the Food Incubator at Leeming Bar. This joint £5m development package is now at the contract stage of approval using ERDF funding, YF and HDC public sector funds.</p> <p>Also see creative/digital industries above Re. Music Technology Centre and Knaresborough creative units.</p>
Creating the North Yorkshire Food and Drink innovation hub, to increase value of the sector.	<b>Exploiting the sub regions strengths in Food and drink</b>	The Science City York proposals above include support for they food and drink sectors centred on Leeming Bar and will provide a focus to take forward this programme.
A business tourism business in Harrogate that sustains its competitiveness for the next fifty years and promotes the region as a preferred business destination	<b>Promoting Harrogate as a centre for business tourism</b>	Priority is towards the refurbishment of the Exhibition halls. A Feasibility study has been completed and discussions are underway with Yorkshire Forward on this major investment proposal.
Catterick Garrison is a sustainable settlement growing with MOD investment yet balancing that with a wider and diverse economic and community base.	<b>Capitalise on the economic opportunities arising through the investment in Catterick garrison</b>	Programme proposals still to be developed and worked up. However early discussions have taken place with local partners to begin to identify the opportunities.