

YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE

12 November 2009, 10.00 -12.00 hours

Meeting Room 3, County Hall, NYCC

A G E N D A

Apologies and Welcome

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

2. Matters Arising

3. European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

This report sets out the difficulties faced in implementing the ERDF programme that apply both regionally and locally. It proposes that some flexibilities are introduced into the programme and that Yorkshire forward should be encourage to set a target utilisation of ERDF on both the regional and local components of the Geographical programmes.

4. Key account Management

This is a report from NYCC and the City Of York Council on how key account management (i.e. gathering information from major employers) might be managed in the future, working with Yorkshire Forward.

5. Integrated Regional Strategy and Economic Assessment

This report provides an update on the work of the Unit and others in taking forward the preparation for the Integrated Regional Strategy and the preparation of an Economic Assessment for the sub region. It looks at opportunities to use additional RIEP resources.

6. North Yorkshire Geographic Programme - Delivery Teams

This report sets out proposals for how the resources in the Renaissance market town programme for delivery teams might be utilised.

7. Yorkshire Forward's Rural Renaissance Product Range

This is a presentation on the RDA's regional projects from Andy Tordoff, Assistant Director for Rural Renaissance who is also responsible for tourism investment

8. Update on Cultural Partnership

This gives an update on the conference and proposed strategy for the Cultural partnership

9. Managing the Visitor economy (from c.11.15)

This is a presentation from Gary Verity of 'Welcome to Yorkshire'. This is part of a series of discussions on Yorkshire Forward Regional Projects.

10. Economy & Skills Board

The first meeting of the Economy & Skills Board was on the 19th October 2009. This reports on that meeting and looks to the future agenda.

11. Any Other Business

Jonathan French
York & North Yorkshire Partnership Unit
01904 477974

YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE

MINUTES OF MEETING

4th September 2009

PRESENT

John Marsden (NYCC-Chair)

John Fox (Business Link Yorkshire)

Steve Guest (Jobcentre Plus)

Paul Shevlin (Craven DC)

Wallace Sampson (Harrogate BC)

Christine Bainton (NYFVO)

Janet Waggott (Ryedale DC)

Bryn Jones (City of York Council)

Martin Connor (Selby DC)

Ian Williams (Leeds, York & NY Chamber)

Martin Wynn (Learning & Skills Council)

Colin Mellors (University of York)

Peter Simpson (Hambleton DC /Richmondshire DC)

Andy Wilson (North York Moors Nat.Park)

Julie Hutton (Yorkshire Forward)

Jim Dillon (Scarborough BC)

Alan Stewart (Selby College)

IN ATTENDANCE

Jonathan French (YNYPU)

Andrew Leeming (YNYPU)

Richard Flinton (NYCC)

Jim Farmery (Yorkshire Forward– for Item 6)

Joanne Pollard (CO2 sense – for Item 6)

Rhona Pringle (Yorkshire Forward – for Item 7)

APOLOGIES

Bill Woolley (City of York Council -Bryn Jones substituting)

Roger Ranson (City of York Council)

Gary Verity (Welcome to Yorkshire)

Liz Burdett (LSC – Martin Wynn substituting)

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

1.1 These were approved

2. MATTERS ARISING

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

3. Private Sector Engagement

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

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

Simpson felt that the outcomes needed to be sharper and to recognise the need to work with existing activity. Business only wanted one conversation

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

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

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

4. Integrated Regional Strategy and Economic Assessments

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

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

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

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

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

4. The report was noted.

5. Business Link – Local Development Plans

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. Low Carbon Economy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.9 John Marsden thanked Yorkshire Forward for the presentation.

7. Item 7a

North Yorkshire Renaissance Market Towns Programme

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

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

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

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

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

7.6 It was agreed that

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

Item 7b

Delivery Teams

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

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

Item 7c

Rural Capitals Programmes Report

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

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

7.11 The report was noted.

Item 7d

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

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

8. Update on Partnerships

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

9. Employment & Skills Board

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

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

9.3 Other wise the report was noted

10. Any Other Business

There was none.

Jonathan French

*York & North Yorkshire Partnership Unit
18th September 2009*

YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE ITEM 3

12 NOVEMBER 2009

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (ERDF)

Purpose of the report

1. This report reviews the current situation regarding ERDF investment in the sub-region and highlights concerns about the low level of future projections for ERDF spend in York and North Yorkshire. The report also considers some possible actions to improve the potential for ERDF investment, both in local projects and in those region-wide projects that benefit the sub-region.
2. The process for the evaluation of the Programme has recently started and the report suggests we use this opportunity to advocate some issues and changes to the appropriate regional bodies.

The current position

3. As reported at previous Executive meetings, the start of the current ERDF Programme saw some initial successes with large projects attracting substantial investment including the Leeming Bar Food Incubator units and the Science City York/University of York Embedded Workspace project.
4. These have been followed by Scarborough Council's Jobs Match project and a further project from Science City York for specialist business support.

Sponsor(s)	Project	£ ERDF
Hambleton DC	Managed Workspace – Northallerton and Leeming Bar	2,446,000
Scarborough BC	Scarborough Job Match	594,000
Science City York, York University, FERA	Embedded business space and technology transfer	19,500,000
Science City York	Specialist Business Services	1,500,000
		£24,040,000

5. Regarding projects in the pipeline, Hull University Scarborough Campus development (estimated £2m) and the Coast and Moors Voluntary Action "Hub" project (estimated £3), also in Scarborough, have both passed the initial Enquiry Stage for ERDF funding.
6. There are other projects in Geographic Programmes that have a potential for ERDF support. These include projects to be developed through the Enterprising Rural Capitals Programme, Renaissance Market Towns and Urban Renaissance in Scarborough and some proportion of the City of York Geographic programme. The ERDF potential of these projects might total £7m but it should be emphasised that this is a speculative figure. Most of these projects are in very early stages of development and considerable work will be needed to make these a reality and achieve compliance with ERDF requirements. It will require a willingness of Yorkshire Forward and local Partners to see that as a key objective.

			£m ERDF
Scarborough Renaissance	Urban	Scarborough Eco/Innovation Centre	1
City of York programme	Geographic	York City developments	3
Enterprising Capitals	Rural	Projects to be developed	2
Renaissance Towns	Market	e.g. Ryedale Assembly Rooms & site remediation	1
			£7m

7. York and North Yorkshire will also benefit from ERDF projects based outside of the sub-region but delivering across the whole region. This share may be estimated at c.£14m. **Annexe 1** lists these projects which have either already been contracted or are expected to be contracted soon. There is also a proposal for a bio-refinery which could be located in the sub region. If so this will deliver a further £5 million of ERDF.
8. The table below shows the total amounts of ERDF actually benefiting, or anticipated to benefit the sub-region.

Project	£m ERDF – actual or anticipated	Source of match
Y&NY Contracted projects	24.0	SRIP, HE and FERA
Hull Uni. Scarborough Campus	2.0	HE (but also £2m from GP supporting other aspects of project)
Scarborough “Hub”	3.0	Volcom
Potential benefit from regional projects	14.0	Geog. Prog.
Speculative geographic Programme projects	7.0	Geog. Prog.
TOTAL	£50m	£23 Million from Geog. Prog.
Yorkshire Bio-refinery (may not come to sub region)	£5m	Geog. Prog.

9. This sum of £50 million still falls short of the sub-regional benchmark which we estimate should be around £60-65m. This figure is subject to change because of fluctuations in the exchange rate. There is little sign of any new projects coming forward to bridge the gap. Even within this figure for the sub region much is speculative and will require major effort to align Geographic Programme projects with ERDF. The table estimates that £23 million may come from the Geographic Programme
10. These issues are not unique to York and North Yorkshire, but are also shared by other sub-regions. Although some 56% of the ERDF Programme is contracted, committed or in the pipeline, the majority of this spend is in South Yorkshire, due in large part to the major Digital Region Project. Outside of South Yorkshire, just 39% of Priority 1 (for Knowledge Base), 35% of Priority 2 (for Enterprise) and 43% of Priority 3 (for Communities) has been committed or contracted. The low level of activity in general is causing concern that the region as a whole may not achieve full spend on the ERDF Programme.

The evaluation of the programme

11. Consultants have been appointed to undertake the strategic evaluation of the Programme and they have made proposals with the aim of increasing the volume and size of ERDF projects going through the system. They have noted improvements to the process but state that a combination of the economic downturn and the availability of public sector match both now and in the future is a cause for concern.
12. The consultants do make a number of initial recommendations that are within the control of the region. These include:
 - improvements to the application and appraisal process
 - identifying new sources of match funding
 - the setting of targets for matching a proportion of Yorkshire Forward's Single Pot budget with ERDF
 - a compulsory requirement for projects applying for Single Pot funding to also seek ERDF match, where the project is eligible for this (YF have concerns about making this an imposition on partners)
 - exploring the potential for strategic commissioning of projects
 - increasing the capacity of the ERDF team to undertake project development
13. This interim evaluation also recommends that Partners consider the options for the Programme targets and outputs in the light of the current economic conditions. This will be considered in 2010 as they will need to be discussed and agreed with the EU. Issues include:
 - Should Programme indicators be shifted towards outputs concerned with safeguarding economic activity rather than creating new businesses and jobs?
 - Or should the focus remain on investment in projects with the greatest potential for new business and job creation?

Issues for this partnership

14. This section looks at possible actions to address this issue. These centre on addressing
 - minimum thresholds for projects
 - securing ERDF for the current sub regional project pipeline
 - securing additional match
 - broadening criteria

Minimum thresholds

15. A regionally determined minimum investment threshold applies to all projects seeking ERDF support. This is £1m for projects in Priorities 1 and 2 and £500K in Priority 3. Although Yorkshire Forward is keen to stress that there is some flexibility in these thresholds, it is clear that the focus remains firmly on larger scale projects.
16. The intention here is to maximise the impact of ERDF through investment in a relatively small number of key strategic projects, and from the Yorkshire Forward perspective, this also has benefits for the management of the Programme as the thresholds put a limit on the number of projects going through the application, appraisal and contracting process.
17. Reducing the thresholds to e.g. a £250K minimum ERDF investment would increase the potential number of eligible projects, particularly in market towns, and open routes to other, non-public sector sources of match funding. This would encourage smaller projects more relevant to a rural area, from the

voluntary sector and local business support projects using HE and other resources to come forward.

Securing ERDF for the current sub regional project pipeline

18. We have identified opportunities for using ERDF in the current geographic programmes but these need to be brought to fruition. Making these fit with ERDF requires a two way process with flexibility on criteria but also for project sponsors to adjust their plans and outputs. Do we need to see more of a collective obligation to bring forward ERDF eligible projects for part of the programme? This does need to operate in a regional context that has the same sense of purpose as no sub region could or should do this on their own.
19. Currently only Yorkshire Forward can draw down EU support funds (technical assistance) to support development of ERDF eligible projects. We need to increase that effort and spread that load. Substantial sums are available to support delivery teams across the sub region and the RDA could explore using part of that as match for technical assistance to provide local ERDF expertise.

Securing additional match

20. The Geographic Programmes for North Yorkshire and the City of York provide over £62.8m for local projects over the next 5 years, including investment in Scarborough and Selby Urban Renaissance, the City of York, market towns and Enterprising Rural Capitals and £109.7m as a share of regional projects. This analysis might suggest that of the total Geographic Programmes in the sub region of £172.5 million, c. £23m million is actually being used (or has the potential to be used) as match for ERDF.
21. Therefore the amount of match funding included in the total Geographic Programme for actual or potential ERDF projects is just over 13% (of the GP total) but rises to 16% if the bio refining project comes here. This rough and ready calculation would imply that 14% of the local projects line in the GP is matching ERDF and 13% of the regional projects line.
22. Yorkshire Forward appear to be reluctant to insist partners maximise use of ERDF but this is a collective responsibility for the whole region and it might be possible to advocate a target for the use of single pot as match for ERDF in both regional and local projects. If this target was 20% then it might enable the sub region to reach its benchmark by increasing the proportion of the geographic programme matched to ERDF by £12 million (around £4 million from local projects and £8 million from regional projects.). These calculations can only be made on the information available to us. Clearly if this was addressed regionally a much more sophisticated approach would be possible but we think the same general ratios would apply. Making such a change might imply that the RDA supplies around half the match required in total, with the remainder coming from HE and other local sources.
23. However, achieving increased ERDF investment may imply changes to both the local and regional components of the Geographic Programme, as well as changes to the ERDF Programme itself, and this could have some effect on Geographic Programme support for tourism and Renaissance, although even in this scenario 80% of the geographic programme would not be required to match ERDF.
24. The consultants have suggested the setting of targets for matching a proportion of Yorkshire Forward's Single Pot budget with ERDF; a compulsory requirement for projects applying for Single Pot funding to also seek ERDF match, where the project is eligible for this – although Yorkshire Forward

have concerns about making this an imposition on partners; and the exploration of the potential for strategic commissioning of projects.

25. Partners regionally need to consider supporting Yorkshire Forward in maximising the potential of the ERDF Programme. All the sub-regions could benefit from large, strategic regional projects and, despite Yorkshire Forward's fears, partners may not object to the RDA commissioning such projects or to mandatory ERDF applications from projects in receipt of Single Pot funding.

Broadening criteria

26. Compared with previous ERDF Programmes, the eligibility criteria are quite tight, focussing support on the development of innovation and technology-led businesses. While this has benefited Science City and University developments in York, and food business development in Hambleton, it does tend to exclude a more broadly-based strategic support for business in general. Property grants and general business premises support fall outside the remit of the current ERDF Programme as do the major employment sectors in tourism and the visitor economy.
27. A wider range of projects is fundable through Priority 3 of the ERDF Programme ("Sustainable Communities"). However funding from this Priority is only available in the most deprived areas of the region and, in York and North Yorkshire, this is restricted to certain parts of Scarborough town.
28. It would benefit the sub region if broader business support and investment in a wider range of business property was supportable. No doubt we would also like to include tourism, the visitor economy and culture within the scope of ERDF eligible activities but is highly unlikely that the Commission would agree to this. However a more creative approach to the needs of these sectors through some slackening of the criteria should be explored at the same time.

Taking a Regional View

29. One of the key points in this paper is that this is a collective issue, not just one to be faced by the RDA alone; and it is also an issue beyond the remit of individual sub regions. Partners could give Yorkshire Forward support to take a more assertive approach to ensuring that the ERDF programme is achieved. There is a real danger that the region will not achieve the programme and that will have serious implications for any future investment by the EU.
30. The executive is asked whether a debate on these issues should be promoted at the Joint Regional Board.

Recommendations

31. **The executive is asked whether it wishes**
 - i. **to take forward the proposals on**
 - **securing ERDF for the current sub regional project pipeline**
 - **Securing additional match**
 - **minimum thresholds for projects**
 - **broadening criteria****as set out in paras 15 to 27 and forward them to Yorkshire Forward as the managing body**
 - ii. **to suggest that this matter is discussed at the joint Regional Board.**

Jonathan French
York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit

Annexe 1

Regional ERDF Projects – contracted and committed

Priority 1	Sponsor	Project	ERDF	
<i>Contracted</i>	Sheffield Hallam	Innovation Futures	1,673,826	
	Yorkshire Forward	Innovation Networks	1,909,022	
	<i>Endorsed</i>	Yorkshire Forward	Large Company R&D Awards	6,170,700
		Yorkshire Forward	R&D Grants	3,700,000
		Leeds University	Inst. Of Product & Process Dev.	4,527,254
		Leeds University	Nanomanufacturing Innovation	2,511,000
Priority 2				
<i>Contracted</i>	Electronics Yorkshire Ltd	Electronics Yorkshire	888,400	
	Sustainable Futures Co	Resource Efficiency Yorkshire	1,909,022	
	YFM Business Dev Ltd	Manufacturing Advisory Service	1,909,022	
<i>Endorsed</i>	Ven Group	Procurement & Supply Chains	3,660,000	
	International Synergies Ltd	Industrial Symbiosis	1,602,000	
	Yorkshire Forward	Venture Capital & Loan Fund	30,000,000	
	Yorkshire Forward	Understanding Finance	3,230,000	
	People United Against Crime	Business Crime Reduction Centre	2,507,864	
Priority 3				
<i>Contracted</i>	Keyfund Yorkshire	Keyfund Yorkshire	1,456,000	
<i>Endorsed</i>	UrbanBiz	Social Enterprise Support	4,086,000	
Total			71,740,110	
Y&NY Share			13,630,621	
Bio-refinery			4,950,000	

YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE ITEM 4

12 NOVEMBER 2009

THE FUTURE DELIVERY OF KEY ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT (KAM) AND INWARD INVESTMENT ACTIVITY IN YORK AND NORTH YORKSHIRE

Summary

Yorkshire Forward have held some informal discussions with York City Council and NYCC, as funders of york-england.com about the ongoing function of the organisation and opportunities for rationalisation.

Both York City Council and NYCC believe there are opportunities for rationalisation and efficiencies. Some initial discussions have taken place with NYCC and City of York to outline how a new approach might work and this paper outlines an approach for discussion and comment by partners. The proposal below is very much an outline and would require more development which it is proposed would be done following discussion at the Partnership Executive. A process is also underway of 1 to 1 discussions with North Yorkshire District Councils.

The proposal in essence is that the KAM and inward investment activity of york-england.com would be delivered directly by the two councils as part of their mainstream economic development operations, by staff employed by the councils. The objective would be to continue to deliver YF outputs in KAM and inward investment, while bringing closer alignment with council economic development activity. This is particularly the case for business engagement where KAM activity undertaken by york-england sits outside other council activity.

The delivery of the service in this way would remove the need for york-england to continue as a separate organisation, along with its Board arrangements and overheads.

These proposals do not seek to interfere with existing District Council activities, but it would be an obvious aim of any new arrangements to work more effectively with them.

Please note that the issues raised within this paper directly effects existing employees and the ongoing operation of york-england.com and Members of the Executive are asked to treat the information sensitively.

Outline of Proposal

The key elements of the proposal are :

- 4 Key Account Managers to be employed – 2 each by CYC and NYCC
- Salaries/NI/Superannuation to be paid by YF. Other overheads to be met by CYC/NYCC as part of their contributions
- KAM to be employed on the basis of Job Descriptions based on the YF specification of main duties and responsibilities
- 2 KAM to be based in North Yorkshire and 2 in York City
- they will deliver the specific outputs set out in the YF contract
- there will be a requirement that they work closely together as a team, sharing information and working on a sub-regional basis when appropriate
- this core KAM capacity to be supplemented by additional resource from CYC and NYCC core staff
- key areas would be supporting property forums, maintaining databases, undertaking promotional/advertising activity and ambassadorial role of representing North Yorkshire and City of York

- in addition CYC and NYCC would fund appropriate activity from the financial contributions currently made to york-england, including domestic inward investment which sits outside the YF contract

Special considerations in North Yorkshire

It has to be recognised that the proposal will need to recognise the particular circumstances of 2 tier local government in North Yorkshire. It will be a priority to build on the existing relationship between york-england and the District Councils.

Existing DC activity on KAM and inward investment will continue, the difference being the relationship will be with NYCC rather than york-england.

It is anticipated that joint working can be enhanced in certain key areas around supporting property forums and maintaining the property database. In this respect it could be an objective to achieve a consistent approach in the application of the database across North Yorkshire District Councils and indeed there may be an opportunity for economies of scale, for example in licence fees.

It will be a priority to hold discussions with District Councils to agree and finalise joint working arrangements.

Special considerations in York

Within York, a key requirement is to simplify current arrangements for business liaison through the reformed York Economic Partnership, supported and facilitated by the City of York Council. The York Economic Partnership acts as the catalyst for taking forward York as a thriving city, achieving strategic objectives set in the Sustainable Community Strategy. The work of the York Economic Partnership is currently facilitated by the City of York Council, primarily through its economic development service. The addition of two posts focussed on KAM and business liaison based within the Council will provide a single point of entry to the York economy for existing and incoming businesses. Elements to this single, unified approach will include:

- maintaining and where possible extending business engagement through KAM;
- marketing the city as a business location and a science city (working in conjunction with Visit York and Science City York in particular);
- business intelligence and trends;
- building upon the excellent practice to date of effective partnership working;
- focussed work on inward investment - within the Council, linked to bringing forward developments on major sites (eg potential for government relocations) and targeting key sectors (working in partnership with Science City York);
- maintaining a website and a commercial land and property database, and handling enquiries in relation to these – scope for joint working and protocols with North Yorkshire to be considered;
- promoting the skills agenda.

Staff and Personnel Issues

It is recognised that this proposal will have an impact on staff currently working on york-england activity. One of these, the Chief Executive, is employed by York City; the rest by york-england itself.

If this proposal is agreed, the 4 KAM would be employed by NYCC and CYC on their terms and conditions. There may be TUPE issues to consider and indeed potential redundancy.

The priority will be to agree Job Descriptions and Person Specifications for the 4 KAM; these will then need to go through NYCC and CYC Job Evaluation processes to determine appropriate salaries for the posts.

Following that there will need to be a skills match of existing staff against the agreed person specification to determine the position of these staff.

Following that, the personnel implications for current staff can be considered and dealt with appropriately.

Next Steps and Timescales

It is proposed that a short life working group be established to firm up the detail of this model and the associated transition arrangements to a point where YF, NYCC and CYC can formally commit to its introduction. Membership of the working group would be open to any of the Districts who wish to be involved.

Whilst this work would be progressed as quickly as is practical, it is unlikely that a new model could be introduced in time for the start of the next financial year. The working group will therefore need to establish a realistic timeline and target date for the introduction of the new arrangements. Interim continued funding for york-england.com would be determined accordingly.

Andrew Harper
Assistant Director (Economic & Rural Services) – NYCC

Roger Ranson
Assistant Director (Economic Development and Partnerships) - CYC

YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE ITEM 5

12 NOVEMBER 2009

INTEGRATED REGIONAL STRATEGY AND ECONOMIC ASSESSMENTS

Purpose of the report

1. This report provides a position statement on the Integrated Regional Strategy (IRS) and Economic assessments (EA). It also discusses the production of a sub regional integrated strategy and how additional RIEP resources from LGYH might be utilised.
2. It builds on the reports to previous meetings

Economic assessments

3. The Sub Regional Partnership has two tasks
 - a. Providing by March 2010 an initial local economic assessment of the Sub region which forms part of the evidence for the drafting of the Integrated Regional strategy (IRS)
 - b. Fulfilling the statutory requirements for an economic assessment for North Yorkshire and to support the preparation of the assessment for the city of York which will be prepared by the end of 2010
4. A scoping paper for the assessment was produced in September and was mapped out to the Partnership Executive at its last meeting. The EA will be produced through an iterative approach with partners. It is planned that we will seek to achieve: -
 - By end of November- to have the first evidence collation
 - By end of February - to have completed consultation and enhancements of evidence. Consultation may include a conference and workshop event.
 - By end of March - to have a final sub regional economic assessment
5. Work is now proceeding on the 'initial local EA' based on the scoping paper. There are three components to the work

Labour Market Areas (LMAs) – The sub region has been divided into 35 areas in agreement with District Councils. This will also facilitate the production of the North Yorkshire statutory EA next year in understanding and engaging on local impact. York is treated as one area and the City will explore its sub areas in its own EA. An initial iteration for the LMAs in North Yorkshire has been prepared and has been made available to District Councils.

Spatial areas - The LMAs provide the statistical base to aggregate data to the spatial areas viz.

- Leeds City region
- York sub area (also part of Leeds City region)
- Remoter Rural area (two – the Moors and the Dales)
- Vales and Tees links
- The Coast

This is now being drafted and will be the basis for the first iteration of the EA in December which will then be widely discussed with partners. Spatial areas rely on ward data and there are limitations in content but they provide the 'building from below' component

Technical assessment – This is the more traditional ‘top down’ presentation of data against topics such as enterprise, skills etc. It has been agreed with Yorkshire Futures that this will replace ‘Progress in the sub region’ this year. It will provide data for administrative areas and be the ‘data bank’ for the EA. Within that special papers or think pieces are being prepared around key topics of concern to this sub region. Both the chapters in the technical assessment and the think pieces will be discussed with partners at an early stage.

6. It is expected that the next meeting of the Executive will consider the initial conclusions of the EA.

7. Integrated Regional Strategy

8. Since the last Executive meeting a Project Plan for the IRS has been approved by the Joint Regional Board (JRB). This includes a timetable for IRS development setting out a process for refining understanding of the evidence and the policy implications in a series of incremental steps. The JRB will be the principal decision making structure at regional level and many of the stages in the timetable are structured to inform key decisions that need to be taken by the JRB.

Stage 1: Project Planning & Key Lines of Enquiry, August – October 2009

Stage 2: Initial Evidence & Outcomes, November – December 2009

Stage 3: Further Evidence & Developing Policy Options, January – July 2010

Stage 4: Consulting on Policy Options, August – October 2010

Stage 5: Production of a Draft IRS, November 2010 – January 2011

Stage 6: Statutory Consultation on Draft IRS, February – April 2011

Stage 7: Examination in Public, June - December 2011

Stage 8: Regional Refinement & Finalisation of the IRS, January – October 2012

9. A proposal to hold a regional conference on this in February has now been dropped. One issue is the potential impact of the outcome of the election on the latter stages.
10. Following the meeting of the last Executive a discussion was held with the sub regional theme leaders for housing, transport, spatial planning and the economy. This meeting exchanged information and agreed to meet regularly. The spatial planning theme had not yet established its means of operation although actions are now in place.
11. Yorkshire Forward are proposing for all sub regions that staff from their Chief economists unit, strategy section and the sub regional offices meet with the local theme leads. This could also include a planner from LGYH. These staff would be allocated to the sub region for part of their time and may even work for some of their week with sub regional colleagues. They could provide support and connectivity. The next sub region meeting will move forward to this joint approach.
12. There is a need to consider whether and how to move to some form of sub regional integrated Strategy. This is being actively pursued in the Humber and through the forerunner work in the Leeds City Region. Any Strategy for this sub region would interface with that for Leeds. This has been mentioned at the executive as a requirement to explore but no decision has been taken to do so.

13. It would appear to offer some benefits especially in drawing together the work of the themes and providing an advocacy position both for the regional IRS but also in the context of working with Leeds and the Tees valley. My initial thinking might be that it would be a 'light' document that might be prepared in the April to July 2010 period to feed into the development of policy options stage of the IRS.
14. It is proposed that this idea is progressed and resources from the RIEP be made available to take it forward.

Regional Improvement and Efficiency Programme (RIEP)

15. In June the Executive approved a RIEP programme of £200,000 with LGYH to support this work. LGYH decided in September to allocate a further £100,000 to each sub region. An additional sum of £200,000 has also been allocated to the Leeds City Region to assist with their forerunner proposals and to implement the proposals from the Districts of Craven, Harrogate and Selby to develop their role in the City region.
16. This section sets out a proposed response from the York and North Yorkshire Partnership to the offer of an additional £100,000. This would need to be approved by LGYH.
17. A series of activities have been identified and are set out in appendix 1. This shows the activities agreed in June, the enhancements and a revised budget profile.
18. The enhancements (*with the rationale in italics*) include
 - a. The inclusion of work on a sub regional strategy
In order to achieve a more 'effective building from below' for the IRS, the sub region needs to undertake a short exercise to join together the various strands and articulate a common vision. This work would interface with the Leeds City Region Strategy for those areas in both sub regions
 - b. Support for spatial planning
The local capacity at sub regional level for economic development and housing is well established and funded from a range of resources. Local partners have made available resources for transport along side established officer involvement in regional discussions. However there are very limited resources available to join up spatial planning and RIEP resources provide an initial element of capacity building with the expectation that this work will be mainstreamed in the future.
 - c. External validation and specialist advice for the economic assessment
Work has started on the assessment and it is clear that additional assistance will be required to produce a level of commitment to the conclusions of the assessment which is key to the statutory approach. This enhancement seeks resources for specialist advice especially around key sectors and external validation.
 - d. Additional resources for data coordination
One of the by products of considering spatial planning issues is the need to ensure compatibility with the LDF and economic assessments. Likewise community strategies will be reviewed next year and the additional resources will ensure greater use and development of common data banks.

19. LGYH are also making available RIEP resources to support a worklessness network. This totals £100,000 and includes £20,000 for an innovative project in each sub region to support individuals find employment. This would be for deprived areas only and currently York and Scarborough are being consulted in the proposals.

Recommendations

20. The Executive is asked to agree that the proposals

- a. For a sub regional integrated strategy should be progressed**
- b. For the utilisation of additional RIEP money be approved.**

Jonathan French
York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit

APPENDIX 1

REVISED LIST OF ACTIVITIES	Original bid costs	Additional activity costs	Budget Profile	
			2009/10	2010/2011
Strategy Liaison <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist coordination of input to IRS Support sub regional representatives on regional boards Liaison with Sub regional Housing forum and transport partnership around IRS issues Provide support to the rural partnership to facilitate linkages to IRS issues. Assist development of work on Climate Change and Environmental Resources and Quality of Life and Equalities 	60000		15000	45000
Sub Regional strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Sub regional Integrated strategy 		20000	5000	15000
Supporting Spatial Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building capacity Assisting spatial planning assessments 		45000	20000	25000
Joint working on York Sub area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and scope key issues on joint working ion the York sub area Support the building of partnership capacity to take forward joint working 	25000		6000	19000
Policy and research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist in preparation of economic assessments for York and North Yorkshire and Leeds City Region (joint activity with LCR) External validation of assessment Specialist advice 	60000	25000	85000	
Data Coordination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate the drawing together of CAA, LDF, community strategy and other local data with IRS information 	5000	10000	5000	10000
Private sector engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist Skills and employment partnership develop private sector links and develop those linkages for inputting to all IRS issues. 	25000		8000	17000
Support for NYFVO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to facilitate Volcom participation in IRS work 	25000		15000	10000
TOTAL	200000	100000	159000	141000

YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE ITEM 6

12 NOVEMBER 2009

NORTH YORKSHIRE RENAISSANCE MARKET TOWN DELIVERY TEAMS

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider a proposal on the future of the Renaissance Market Town Delivery Teams across North Yorkshire.
2. A paper was presented to the previous meeting of this Executive that set out a draft proposal for Delivery Teams across North Yorkshire. This proposed that initially the District Economic Development Officers covering each of the six RMT priority towns would set out what delivery support they required over the next 4 years. This would then be brought together to form an overall county wide proposal for delivery support for RMT beyond April 2010. This report sets out these proposals for consideration by this Executive and subsequently its endorsement in forming the basis for an application to Yorkshire Forward for funding.
3. In summary it is proposes that:-
 - Three Delivery 'Teams' are established – Hambleton/Richmondshire, Harrogate/Craven and Ryedale, delivery within Whitby will be incorporated within the Scarborough Urban Renaissance delivery support;
 - A Delivery support budget is established in order to 'buy in' specialist support when required and specifically on helping to deliver cross area projects, such as Creative hubs development; and
 - A network is set up to share the skills and experience across North Yorkshire in order to ensure effective delivery of the RMT Plans.

Background

4. Just to reiterate from the last meeting, Delivery Teams were established back in 2005 with a mix of funding ranging from Local Authority, Yorkshire Forward to European Objective 2 funding. Since then they have been revisited and redefined, current Yorkshire Forward funding has been agreed up to March 2010 from the existing Sub Regional Investment Plan Renaissance Market Town (RMT) budget. Any further Yorkshire Forward funding to support Delivery Teams, beyond 2010, will then come from the Geographic Programme RMT budget (£8 million). A previous decision by this executive has set the maximum budget for Delivery Teams/Support at 10% of the RMT pot, therefore £800,000 and also agreed a set of criteria that included the following:-
 - That the delivery of RMT should wherever possible be carried out at a local level and this should be built into any new arrangements for the Delivery Teams/Support;
 - That the priority for the Yorkshire Forward RMT funds must be focused on the delivery and support for projects within each of the six priority towns, with some assistance to the transitional towns;
 - That funding should not be provided to back fill posts that have been subject to redundancy;
 - That any support or posts will not be 100% funded by Yorkshire Forward, so other funding will need to be identified;

- That full time posts would not be funded in areas where the proposed RMT capital programme doesn't warrant full time support.
- That the Delivery teams do not necessarily have to involve the employment of staff and could incorporate commissioning or buying services/support as and when required;
- That we should avoid establishing a Team or support/delivery service that is not sustainable beyond the next round of funding and should look for innovative approaches to delivery;
- That joint and shared working either between areas or on common projects should be encouraged as a more effective and efficient means of providing the delivery support;
- That, whatever the arrangements are for Delivery Teams, there should be improved mechanisms established to share experiences and skills across the whole of North Yorkshire.

This has formed the basis for the proposal that follows.

RMT Delivery Team/Support Proposal for North Yorkshire

5. The proposal consists of three distinct parts. The appointment of Teams operating across the RMT towns, the establishment of a commissioning/specialist support programme, and the establishment of a North Yorkshire RMT Delivery network.

Delivery Teams:

6. In determining the nature, size and coverage of any proposed delivery teams, consideration has been given to a number of factors. These include the level and type of projects identified within the RMT Delivery Plans, and the potential for joint authority working. The proposed teams are therefore as follows:-

7. **Hambleton and Richmondshire RMT Delivery Team:**

This Team would support the delivery of RMT projects within Northallerton and Richmond/Catterick and provide support to the transitional towns of Bedale and Thirsk. In particular assisting the development of capital property schemes in Northallerton and Richmond, help to support the delivery of the Northallerton Northern Development Option and working closely with the MOD in the future proposed developments at Catterick.

It is proposed that the Team comprises of 2 full time officers covering the various skill levels and operating across both areas. The estimated cost covering the period from April 2010 to March 2014 will be £400,000 which includes all salary and related costs and general support and service costs. A Yorkshire Forward contribution towards this Team is being requested for £200,000.

8. **Harrogate and Craven RMT Delivery Team:**

This would cover the development and delivery of RMT projects within Skipton and Knaresborough and will provide some support to assist the transitional RMT towns of Boroughbridge, Pateley Bridge and Settle. The key projects and therefore skills required include the development and delivery of the community and social enterprise centre at Knaresborough, the Adventure centre at Craven and further development for a 'property/renaissance grant' scheme within each town.

As the proposals for these two areas are at early developmental stages, the Team may be developed more incrementally, however once fully established it is proposed to comprise 2 full time officers. The estimated cost covering the period from April 2010 to March 2014 will be £400,000 which includes all salary and related costs and general support costs. A Yorkshire Forward contribution towards this Team is being requested for £200,000.

9. Ryedale RMT Delivery:

In Ryedale there is proposed to be a concentration on the delivery of the key capital projects in Malton town centre, in particular the property grant scheme and the redevelopment of the Milton Rooms. To this end a new Regeneration Team will be established. The Team will consist of a Regeneration Manager who will work specifically on the development and delivery of these schemes, a Community Regeneration Officer offering support for the transition towns of Helmsley, Kirkbymoorside and Pickering, and an administrative support post which will be in the form of an apprentice as part of the Future Jobs Fund programme.

The estimated costs of the Regeneration Team over the full four year period is £433000. There is a funding requirement from the Yorkshire Forward of £150,000.

Joint working and Development support commissioning fund.

- 10. In addition to the officers employed to develop and deliver the projects contained within the RMT Delivery Plans, it is proposed that a small fund is established to further enable delivery through purchasing specialist help when and if required.
- 11. In the delivery of major capital schemes issues arise that need specialist help and support. In many cases this blocks or delays the delivery of a scheme, so easy accessible resources that the Delivery Teams can use to unblock these would be made available. In addition this could be utilised to assist in supporting similar projects across North Yorkshire through sharing of specialisms in particular areas.
- 12. This would be co-ordinated at a County level and look for a Yorkshire Forward contribution of £250,000.

RMT Delivery Network:

- 13. Ultimately the primary aim of the Delivery Team/Support resources is to ensure that North Yorkshire maximises the opportunities and resources available through the RMT programme. To help achieve this, it is proposed that a network is established that brings together the Delivery teams across North Yorkshire to identify issues, share good practice and enable full delivery of the ALL the RMT Delivery Plans. This would also be used to oversee the performance management of the programme and the Commissioning Fund.
- 14. The York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit would provide the secretariat for this group as part of their role in performance managing the North Yorkshire Geographic Programme. There would be no additional cost or funding requirement for this role.

Summary and costs:

- 15. The following table sets out a summary of the proposals detailed above:

	Cost:	Yorkshire Forward requirement:
1: RMT Delivery Teams		
Hambleton and Richmondshire	£400,000	£200,000
Harrogate and Craven	£400,000	£200,000

Ryedale	£433,000	£150,000
Total	£1,233,000	£550,000
2: RMT Commissioning Fund		
County-wide RMT development and delivery commissioning fund.	Tbd	£250,000
Total		£250,000
3. Network		
No costs		
Overall Totals	£1,233,000+	£800,000

At this stage this simply provides an indication of costs, further more detailed costings will be provided in the outline business plan as part of the funding application to Yorkshire Forward.

In addition and referenced in the paper on ERDF (item 7), ERDF technical assistance will also be explored with Yorkshire Forward for supporting delivery and providing local ERDF expertise.

RMT Delivery Plan progress

16. Since their consideration at the last Partnership Executive meeting further discussions have been held between Yorkshire Forward, the Partnership Unit and individual Districts regarding the RMT Delivery Plans. These are still ongoing, particularly in reference to outputs and funding requirements. It is therefore proposed that a further report is presented to the next meeting of this Executive with a more up to date position on each Delivery Plan and its progress.

Recommendation

17. The Executive is asked to consider the proposals set out above regarding the Delivery Teams across North Yorkshire and to agree to this being the basis of the funding submission to Yorkshire Forward.

Andrew Leeming
York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit

12 NOVEMBER 2009

YORK AND NORTH YORKSHIRE CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Partnership Executive on the work of the Cultural Partnership, in particular the consultation on the draft Cultural Strategy for York and North Yorkshire.
2. To ask the partnership to receive this report and receive the final version of the Strategy at the next partnership executive meeting.

Background

3. In March 2009 the Cultural Partnership Executive agreed to refresh the York and North Yorkshire Cultural Strategy which was originally written in 2004. Following a development period of six months, a draft strategy for consultation was launched at the York and North Yorkshire Cultural Conference on 1st October 2009.
4. The draft strategy was produced following research, in-depth interviews with stakeholders, focus groups and workshops with over hundred key partners from the sub-region.

The York and North Yorkshire Cultural Strategy

5. Copies of The York and North Yorkshire Cultural Strategy – consultation draft will be available at the meeting. It is also available to download from www.ynyculture.org/index.php/Strategy_Consultation
6. The strategy focuses on four priorities which emerged from the consultation as areas for better partnership working. These are Celebrating the culture of York and North Yorkshire, Discovering the Outdoors, Developing our creative and cultural businesses and Experiencing culture in communities.
7. The strategy also highlights how partnership working can contribute to existing strategies and targets, as well as two underlying areas of the sub-region's response to London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and Skills and Business Support.
8. The priority **celebrating the culture of York and North Yorkshire** focuses on our strength of festival and events and makes the distinction between 15-20 high growth festivals which impact on tourism and smaller community events. The priority also recognises the need for use to package our tourism and cultural experience more effectively.
9. **Discovering the Outdoors** theme looks at how the sub-region can promote outdoor adventure better and in particular looks to exploit our strength in cycling. This is of course, linked to the success of securing the Mountain Bike World Cup opening stage next year.
10. The priority of **developing our creative and cultural businesses** has an ambitious aim of establishing a York and North Yorkshire network of creative hubs. This would highlight three areas for collaboration among existing and proposed hubs: capital infrastructure, support and networks and centres of excellence.

11. Finally **experiencing culture in communities** focuses on cultural participation and in particular widening access to it. Volunteering is also a major aspect of this strand and event volunteering is an opportunity presented by the London 2012 Games.
12. The underlying themes of the London 2012 Games and Skills and Business Support are currently being developed through working groups. The Skills and Business Support group initially met on 14th October and agreed a programme of discussion to improve services to the creative and cultural sectors.

Cultural Conference

13. Around 130 delegates attended the York and North Yorkshire Cultural Conference held in Scarborough on 1st October. The conference and visit of Charles Allen to North Yorkshire attracted significant press coverage including Yorkshire Post, Yorkshire Coast Radio, Scarborough Evening News, The Press, Darlington and Stockton Times, Northern Echo, Radio York, Malton and Pickering Mercury and Yorkshire Life.
14. The strategy for consultation was launched by a presentation by Chair of the York and North Yorkshire Cultural Partnership, Richard Flinton.

Consultation

15. Responses were sought from participants at the conference with regards to the content of the day also the draft strategy. This was done via email.
16. Comments on the strategy are being sought online from all partners till 18th December and this can be done through an online form at : http://www.ynyculture.org/index.php/Strategy_Consultation
17. Responses will be analysed, with an interim report going to the cultural partnership executive on 9th December 2009. A final version of the strategy incorporating changes will be presented to the cultural partnership executive on 11th February 2010.

Next Steps

18. Work to implement the strategy is running parallel to the consultation, and working groups are being formed to pull together action plans for the various themes. These are also testing the feasibility of proposed ideas.
19. Initial action plans will be put to the Cultural Partnership Executive on 9th December 2009, and will be lead by champions within each of the working groups.

Recommendation

20. The partnership accepts this report and receives the final version of the York and North Yorkshire Cultural Strategy at the next partnership executive meeting.

Andrew Leeming
York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit

YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE ITEM 10

12 NOVEMBER 2009

ECONOMY AND SKILLS BOARD

Purpose of the report

This report is on the meeting of the board on 19 October and considers what might be its agenda for 13 January

Feedback from board meeting

The first meeting was chaired by Cllr. John Watson who will occupy the chair for a year when the City of York will take over. They will be a discussion at some future point about an independent chair. Most representatives have been appointed.

The bulk of the meeting was concerned with a general discussion on the economy and the downturn. This included the impact of climate change on agriculture, the importance of supporting micro businesses to add recovery from the recession, securing civil service jobs leaving London, the issues of health and social care industries and the impact of rates on empty properties. It was agreed that this last issue would be brought to the attention of leaders at the LGNY.

The Board agreed the terms of reference with some minor amendments and these would now need ratification at the LGNY. There is a concern as to what the role of the board is and what might be its added value. There is a need to explore areas of influence for the board. Reference was made here to transport and infrastructure, including Broadband. The private sector wanted to make sure feedback was received from any issues the Board expressed a view on.

They received a report on the current issues before the Executive.

They felt that each meeting would review the economy and then discuss one or two subjects and it was suggested that consideration be given to Broadband and/or the role of FE at the next meeting.

The Board will need to consider the economic assessment at its next meeting.

Does the executive have any views on issues which should be discussed?

Jonathan French
York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit