

YORK AND NORTH YORKSHIRE RESEARCH FORUM

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING ON THE 1st MARCH 2006

Present: David Andrews Yorkshire Tourist Board
Sophie Thompson YNYPU
Charlotte Hursey Selby AVS
Jane Snowball Yorkshire Forward
Ben Smith Yorkshire Futures
Laura Davis YNYPU
Tim Ashelford Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber
John Walker LSC

Apologies: Ian Cunningham Safer York Partnership
Rob Chilton Business Link York and North Yorkshire
Chris Dickinson North Yorkshire County Council

1. Introductions

The group began with a brief introduction from each member. It was also highlighted that the York and North Yorkshire Research Forum meeting was taking place at the same time as the Regional Intelligence Network meeting and there was a need to avoid such a clash when arranging future meetings.

2. Overview of the Research Forum and strategic links

The group were provided with a copy of a diagram which outlined the strategic links between the Sub Regional Investment Plan process, the Sub Regional Research Partnership and the monitoring of the Region's Strategic Framework. David Andrews further expanded this by explaining how the Research Forum can feed into the development of the Advancing Together indicators and make links to private sector research.

It was acknowledged that the diagram provided a useful overview of the Research Forum but the group raised issues around the links to the Regional Spatial Strategy, Rural strategy and Local Area Agreements, however this further discussion around the group's role and its influence was continued under item 4.

3. Development and Role of Progress in York and North Yorkshire

Ben Smith provided the group with a presentation around the development and role of Progress in York and North Yorkshire. The key points from the presentation were that the Progress in the Sub Region report would fit in and inform reviews of the Investment Plans, with a major review only taking place every three years. Within the intervening years there would be a light touch review which would involve an update of key data sources, the work of the research partnership would then focus on research co-ordination. The presentation was based on a report by Les Newby; this was circulated to the group.

The group emphasised the need for local level data to be included within the report and for an update of the core datasets each year.

Action – Ben Smith will feedback the main conclusions from the discussion to YF.

4. Group discussions around the main conclusions from Progress in York and North Yorkshire

Sophie Thompson explained that the Research Forum meeting was the first stage of consultation in relation to the Progress in York and North Yorkshire report. Further consultation will involve the chapters being available via the Partnership Unit and Yorkshire Futures websites and provide individuals with the opportunity to respond and make comments.

The group split in two and were provided with a summary of each of the draft chapters and were then asked to answer a series of questions: were there any gaps in information? had prominence given to the correct information? and whether there were any areas of further exploration? The groups came up with a number of suggestions in relation to the chapters which are outlined in the attached document.

5. Future Development of the Research Forum – Terms of Reference, Membership and Workplan

David Andrews outlined the revised terms of reference and new membership which had been circulated to the group. He explained that there was a need to link the Regional Forum within the existing sub regional partnerships; recent research had recommended that the Research Forum refocus its remit as it could have an important role in developing the sub regional economic strategy and advising groups about the commissioning of new research.

The group then discussed ways and options of improving and expanding the Research Forum. This included a relaunch of the group linked to the release of Progress in York and North Yorkshire; which could involve a seminar which would take place on the same date as the Research Forum meeting. It was felt that there was a need to link to existing networks such as Local Authority Consultation Group or approach the Local Authority representatives on the Mapping Group. There was also a suggestion that there should be a change in the group's name.

In terms of the group's workplan, it was felt necessary for an audit of existing research across the sub region to take place in order to evaluate existing gaps in research. It was recognised that this should take place prior to any new activities for the group. This gap analysis will provide support and strengthen the argument for any potential funding towards research which may be co-ordinated by the group.

Action – Sophie Thompson to initiate the changes suggested by the group
All – any suggestions of a new name for the group to be provided to Sophie

6. AOB

LSC – There is currently a reorganisation taking place which will lead to a regional research function.

GOYH – Recent review of Regional Rural Governance has highlighted the need for a "Rural Observatory" in the Region.

Voluntary Sector – NYFVO is currently developing a database of community/voluntary sector organisations in York and North Yorkshire. Scarborough CVS are about to start working with other agencies in the area to establish a minority groups forum and to begin to develop ways of consulting with people from BME backgrounds. There is also a project improve engagement and support of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) voluntary and community organisations (VCOs) which is being carried out by the NYFVO.