

York and North Yorkshire Research Forum

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING ON THE 16TH AUGUST 2006, 1.30pm

ST WILLIAMS COLLEGE, YORK

Present: David Andrews	Yorkshire Tourist Board
Laura Oldridge	YNYPU
Laura Davis	YNYPU
Jane Snowball	Yorkshire Forward
Tim Ashelford	Government Office for Yorkshire and Humber
Mark Kibblewhite	North Yorkshire Cultural Officers Group
Ian Cunningham	Safer York Partnership
Gary Robinson	LSC
Steve Crowther	LSC
Malcolm Spittle	NYCC
Johanne Allinson	NYCC
Margaret Wilkinson	Yorkshire and Humber Public Health Observatory
Ben Smith	Yorkshire Futures
Andrew Leeming	YNYPU

1. Welcome and Introductions

There were a number of new members in the group, therefore David Andrews commenced with an overview of the Research Forum and brief introductions from each member.

2. Review of Progress in York and North Yorkshire 2006 Launch Seminar

David Andrews provided the group with a summary of the Launch Seminar in the morning. Overall, it was acknowledged that the morning was thought to have been a useful and interesting event.

Issues were raised surrounding the need for the Forum to look into areas where gaps were thought to exist, particularly research into work patterns and migrant workers.

Gary Robinson raised concerns regarding the use of Advancing Together Indicators as a method of evaluating the sub-regions performance, and whether there were more useful indicators available. The group also raised concerns that indicators should be standardised as different indicators clearly produce differing results. This subsequently may require a review to be carried out at a regional level and specific indicators developed for sub-regional use if required.

3. Update on the future development and work plan of the Research Forum

3. a Membership and Terms of Reference

The terms of reference were circulated to the group. David Andrews outlined the terms of reference for all members and asked for any objections to be raised before the terms were signed off.

The only objection raised was that one of roles of the Research Forum should be slightly re-worded.

- ◆ To support and advise (*rather than 'oversee'*) the production of Progress in York and North Yorkshire

The group then discussed membership and how as part of re-launching the group, it would be building on existing membership. Gaps were still evident including the private sector, environment and National Parks.

David Andrews explained he had been chair of the Research Forum since its beginnings four years ago and whilst he is happy to continue in this role, he would not object for someone else to take over. The group confirmed David's role as chair, in the absence of any other volunteers.

Action:

- ◆ Laura Oldridge to amend and circulate final versions of Terms of Reference
- ◆ Laura Oldridge to follow up gaps in membership and Environment Agency contact with Tim Ashelford

3.b Name, Profile and Prominence on the Internet

The name of the group was discussed. It was thought that 'Research' was an old term and that the group ought to move away from this. Suggestions involved terms around 'data', 'intelligence' and 'knowledge'. A suggestion of York and North Yorkshire Data and Intelligence Partnership (YNYDIP) was made and this was agreed to.

Prominence of the group on the Internet was also discussed. Opportunities to display research and highlight links on the YNYPU website were outlined. It was concluded that partners and members of the Forum would forward information to Laura Oldridge at the Partnership Unit. It was also suggested that it may be useful to have links from the Partnership Unit website to Forum members web pages. A question was raised as to whether it was possible to monitor activity of the YNYPU website.

Action:

- ◆ Laura Oldridge to initiate changes to name and update website

3.c What Works Agenda – Yorkshire Futures

Ben Smith provided the group with an outline of the Yorkshire Futures Programme – What Works. The main points of the paper were that the What Works Programme is a new addition which will look at evaluations, good practice, research findings and benchmarking activity. This will take place across the region and the success is dependent on partner input. The two main audiences are local/national Government and practitioner level researchers. The data will appear on an online regional searchable database which will be built upon the West Yorkshire Matrix.

It was agreed that an email would be circulated to the network with regards to gathering information about What Works case studies, and this would be actioned by mid September.

Action:

- ◆ Laura Oldridge to design pro forma and circulate electronically
- ◆ All to start to consider what case studies could be used for the What Works Programme

3.d Work Plan, Research Audit and future meetings and seminars

Laura Oldridge provided the group with a brief outline of what would be covered in the future work plan of the group now that Progress in the Sub Region was to be produced every 3 years. Priorities were outlined by David Andrews as an audit of research, What Works programme, updating and developing the website, production of a Sub Regional Rural Evidence Base and outlining the case for a budget.

The group were asked to discuss how the Research Audit which was highlighted in the previous meeting could be conducted. It was felt that a Research Audit was necessary to identify what research was available and where there were gaps in North Yorkshire. This also links to the What Works Agenda as the results for both will appear on an online searchable database. It was agreed that an electronic pro forma would be most useful for collecting the information and that if possible it could incorporate information for both the Audit and What Works.

Andrew Leeming outlined the background and purpose to the Sub Regional Rural Evidence Base and the plans for developing this over the next few months.

The group were happy to continue with the meetings quarterly and seminars should be held according to research/discussion topics availability. The group were asked for ideas for seminar topics – The topic of migrant workers was suggested.

Action:

- ◆ Laura Oldridge to draw up a work plan
- ◆ Laura Oldridge to circulate future dates for Meetings and Seminars and an email asking for suggestions about Seminar topics
- ◆ All to consider ideas for Seminar topics

4. Update on the Strategic Economic Assessment

Andrew Leeming provided the group with an overview and update of the Strategic Economic Assessment (SEA). The document is now in its final version and will be signed off shortly. The full document will be available on the Partnership Unit's website once finalised. The SEA priorities will be discussed with the York and North Yorkshire Development Board in September and key themes and priority headings will be identified.

5. AOB

No other business

Date of next meeting: To be confirmed