

A YORK AND NORTH YORKSHIRE LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

SEEKING PRIVATE SECTOR LEADERSHIP

The Coalition Government

1. The Government has decided that Regional Development Agencies, including Yorkshire Forward, will cease operations by March 2012 and new arrangements, Local Enterprises Partnerships, will be encouraged to fulfil the role of leading local business and economic development.
2. A letter from Vince Cable and Eric Pickles on 29 June set out the issues and requested submission of proposals by 6 September. The main points in that letter are
 - *invites local groups of councils and business leaders to come together to consider how you wish to form local enterprise partnerships.*
 - *anticipates that local enterprise partnerships will wish to provide the strategic leadership in their areas to set out local economic priorities. A clear vision is vital*
 - *rebalance the economy towards the private sector.*
 - *create the right environment for business and growth in by tackling issues such as planning and housing, local transport and infrastructure priorities, employment and enterprise and the transition to the low carbon economy. Supporting small business start-ups will therefore be important.*
 - *work closely with universities and further education colleges,*
 - *business and civic leaders normally have an equal representation on the boards*
 - *prominent business leader should chair the board.*
 - *robust to ensure proper accountability for delivery by partnerships.*
 - *partnerships to better reflect the natural economic geography*
 - *include groups of upper tier authorities*
3. A Regional Growth Fund has also been announced. Local Enterprise Partnerships and other private sector groupings could bid into this fund for mainly capital investment for the period 2011/12 and 2012/2013. The first bids would need to be in by the end of 2010.

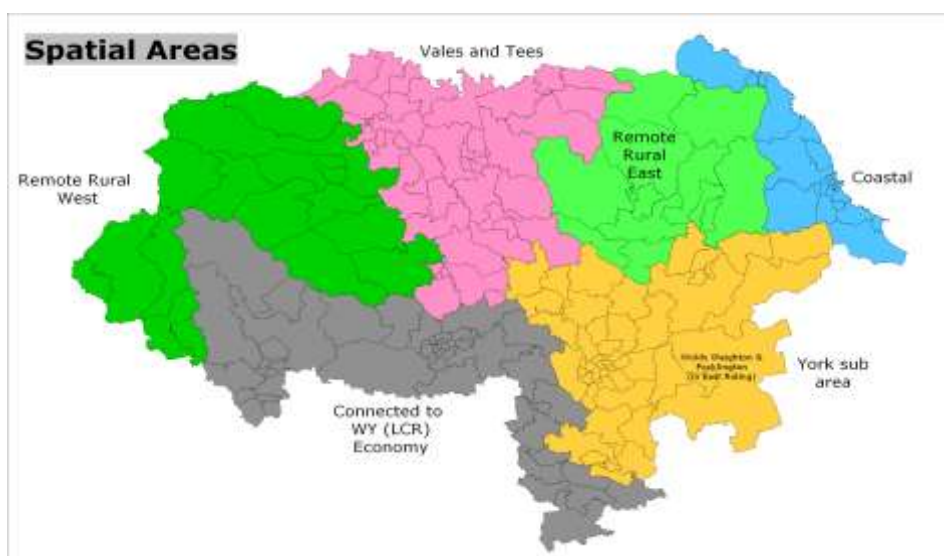
York and North Yorkshire

4. Local Government North Yorkshire and York (LGNYY), the forum where all leaders of local authorities in the sub region meet, agreed on the 2nd July 2010 that, in principle, we should establish a York & North Yorkshire LEP.
5. This requires the active participation and leadership from the private sector and also needs to involve a consideration of the geography we are seeking to address.

Functional economic geography

6. This proposal addresses the needs of a number of functional geographies that share some common characteristics and seek to work collaboratively on areas of common interest and to maximise efficient use of resources.
7. These functional geographies have been confirmed in an economic assessment and subjected to independent academic review. They are

- West Yorkshire Connections - this area is fully integrated into the Leeds City Region
- York and its Hinterland – partially in the Leeds City region but also extending eastwards beyond the city region boundary especially in terms of labour markets and retail catchment
- Dales – the Dales uplands and associated market towns
- Moors – the Moors uplands and associated market towns
- Vales– the lowland area with strong north south communications links, influenced in the north by the Tees valley but with strong economically independent market towns
- Coast - the North Yorkshire coast with links to the north and south in terms of common interest although economic linkages less pronounced.



(The names of these spatial areas need to be changed to relate to the text)

Private sector leadership

8. Private sector leadership is integral to the principles of Local Enterprise Partnerships sharing responsibilities with civic leaders.
9. Meetings with business leaders in Hambleton district have taken place and also with the Federation of Small Business. Further meetings on a District by District basis need to be completed this month. Meetings with the CLA and NFU are programmed. Yorkshire Agricultural Society has made contact. The Leeds, York and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce are being kept informed of developments. NYCC will be organising a meeting with the business ambassadors (previously supporting York-England.com) after 6 September
10. Clearly there is a need to establish a stronger private sector leadership for the LEP as it develops and this will be put in place in the autumn. Business input to ideas is also very important at this stage. The proposals to support start up and very small businesses below were private sector suggestions.
11. The Local Enterprise partnership will also want to work across Yorkshire on key inward investments, tourism marketing, and innovation sector

development activity. It is proposed that York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise partnership support cross-Yorkshire private sector led proposals, the Yorkshire Enterprise Partnership that seeks to deliver that service.

What would a York & North Yorkshire LEP do?

Management objectives

- a. To seek to place, over time, relevant local authority economic development, business support and inward investment functions and resources under joint business and civic leadership with a view to developing a shared service, including specialist services, and achieving economies and a one stop shop for delivery.
- b. To reduce the number of boards and partnerships incorporating them in a single entity
- c. To develop cases for investment by Government and the private sector towards key economic objectives and critical infrastructure.
- d. To collaborate with other Local enterprises partnerships including
 - i. The Leeds City region proposals for innovation, business support, transport and housing investment, covering the West Yorkshire connections and part of the York and its Hinterland functional geographies. The York and North Yorkshire LEP will ensure complementarity with those proposals. This will be achieved by the development of specialist activities in enterprise, tourism, rural programmes and the food sector.
 - ii. Working with the East Riding on the specialist programmes above and also on wider spatial planning and investment in the York and its Hinterland functional geography. A key investment activity will be in undertaking a coastal regeneration programme along the whole of the Yorkshire coast covered by the area of Scarborough Borough Council and East Riding Council.
 - iii. Working with the Tees Valley on labour supply both to the City region but also offering job opportunities to Tees valley residents especially around the significant MOD investment at Catterick and the food industry.

Action objectives

- a. **Measures to promote start up businesses and support for small enterprises** – mainly using local resource to facilitate start up business and support micro businesses by working closely with Further Education Colleges and private sector organisations. A voluntary scheme of mentoring new enterprises by established businesses would be explored
- b. **Continued development of the provision of broadband including a next generation service** – support investment to ensure all businesses have standard broadband capacity and move towards investment in next generation broadband
- c. **Investment in the visitor economy** –to ensure effective collaboration on skills, business and product development in tourism and cultural sector.
- d. **Support the Food and the Agricultural sector** – to assist local food producers, working with Deliciously Yorkshire, overcome barriers to growth for larger food companies and assist York and North Yorkshire farmers to sustain their businesses.

- e. **Developing the role of York as Economic driver for the sub region** – this includes ensuring effective planning and investment in transport and housing in York and its Hinterland, including parts of the East Riding and areas not within the Leeds City region such as Ryedale and Hambleton. Additionally to invest in the role of York’s extensive role in respect of tourism, culture, HE and FE provision and innovation through the eastern and central areas of the sub region
- f. **Rural Programmes** – In the first instance, to seek to provide rural programmes across the sub region, including the Leeds City region area within York & North Yorkshire, but to explore whether this LEP could specialise in rural programmes covering, perhaps the whole of the city region and indeed maybe other LEPs within the region.
- g. **Support for a coastal regeneration package** - Joint working with East Riding on a package of investment covering the coastal functional geography and to address deprivation and worklessness
- h. **Support for investment, business support, innovation, enterprise and skills in market towns** – to ensure that businesses and communities not covered in City Region activities can address barriers to economic growth, reduce dependence on the public sector and enable communities to develop in a sustainable way

Your Ideas and Support

- 12. York and North Yorkshire will respond to the request from Government for a Local Enterprise Partnership proposal by 6 September. Local authorities will be approving their response on this on 1 September.
- 13. Currently the Government is planning that the Local Enterprise Partnerships will be fully functioning by September 2011 but some tasks may be taken up before then. This note seeks to set out the main objectives and context for preparing a business plan over the next few months to put a Partnership in place.
- 14. It derives mainly from discussions within local authorities and some private sector input.
- 15. It however needs input from the private sector around the main objectives and agreement from private sector groups that they would in principle want to take up the challenge of the joint leadership of developing the local economy.
- 16. This paper will be used in discussions with private sector organisations but views, ideas and statements of support can also be sent to

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