



When telephoning, please ask for:
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Dear Colleague

Following the decision by the coalition government to scrap Regional Development Agencies and the call for proposals to develop Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) I thought it would be useful to tell you about our position at this point. Whilst I do not have all the answers I will use this letter to summarise the current position for the Ryedale district.

In order to plug some of the gaps that will be left by the Regional Development Agencies (Yorkshire Forward), the Government has expressed a desire for local authorities (in partnership with business) to promote economic development through a new LEP model. The guidance from Government is that the new bodies would be made up of partnerships of local authorities and private sector representatives and will set out "local economic priorities" and a "clear vision for their area".

They outlined that LEPs will play a central role in delivering the Government's commitment to "rebalance the economy towards the private sector" and will deal with issues such as planning and housing, local transport and infrastructure, employment and enterprise as well as working closely with universities and colleges on skills.

Not all RDA functions will pass to the LEPs as some activities will be scrapped such as the Regional Spatial Strategy and others may be scaled up to a national level - potentially business support, inward investment, innovation and access to finance.

Business Link

As a public sector funded organisation, the future of Business Link Yorkshire (the delivery agency for business support in the region) and business support generally is also under national review. Further details are anticipated in the Autumn, following the Comprehensive Spending Review. However, in the mean time, Business Link are still open for business although have reduced their service in line with an in year reduction of 17% of their budget. For further details, www.businesslinkyorkshire.co.uk or call 08456 048 048

What is not clear is whether LEPs will have any guaranteed funding of their own but it is certain that the RDA funds will not simply be transferred to the LEPs as they will be cut back significantly. Instead we understand that LEPs will have to bid into a £1 billion Regional Growth Fund which will be spread over 2011/12 and 2012/13 of which 90% is expected to be capital funding.

Whilst there is much to conclude in the coming weeks what is clear is that the direction is away from regional to more 'local' planning and delivery. As such there currently is a great deal of political debate in our district and region about what geographical level an LEP can and should cover, as well as what their governance and funding structure might look like. There is a



commitment from political leaders in Yorkshire and Humber to look at the creation of LEPs in the region around the 3 city regions of Leeds, Sheffield and Hull as well as North Yorkshire.

What this means for the Ryedale district

The key issue for Ryedale is that we sit within 2 potential LEP areas – North Yorkshire and Hull & East Yorkshire. Our current position is to maintain membership of both LEPs although this will be financially taxing because it is likely that the running costs of the LEPS will have to be self funded from the members.

How can you help to shape the LEPs?

LEPs present an opportunity for businesses to shape and influence the delivery of economic development in their local area. If you do want to get involved, please do pass on your views via your business association or direct to us, at the Council to Jos Holmes , Economy and Community Manager jos.holmes@ryedale.gov.uk 01653 600666 ext 240

Further updates on progress with the LEP development will be posted on the Ryedale District Council website www.ryedale.gov.uk on the business/regeneration pages.

If you wish to discuss the progress of the LEPs and how they are likely to function, the relationship with businesses and agencies we suggest that you contact the following:

Their contact details are:

Jonathan French
York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit
12 Clifton Moor Business Village
James Nicholson Link
Clifton Moor
York YO30 4XG

Telephone: 01904 477974

Paul Bell
Head of Economic Development
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
County Hall
Cross Street
Beverley
HU17 9BA

Telephone: 01482 391610

Yours sincerely



Janet Waggott
Chief Executive