

MINUTES OF THE YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER ASSEMBLY MEETING: 19 OCTOBER 2006

Regional Faiths Forum Presentation

Inderjit Singh Bhogal, Director of the Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum, and Patricia Farrell, Faiths representative on the Assembly, gave members an overview of the Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum.

Inderjit explained that a council of 21 members, representing the nine world faiths in the region, managed the Forum – which is funded by grants from the Assembly, Government Office and Yorkshire Forward.

Inderjit thanked the Assembly for its support and emphasised the value of the partnership working that the Assembly provides. He stated that faith communities were playing an increasingly active role within the region and that policy makers were recognising the importance of the input that the faith communities can provide.

Inderjit then outlined the aims of the Forum. These are :

- To advance the contribution of faith communities in the Yorkshire and Humber region;
- To encourage and educate faith communities to work together in matters of policy, strategy and action
- To challenge all forms of discrimination and injustice against persons or groups of people, particularly on the grounds of religious belief.

Inderjit concluded by saying that the differences between people are a gift and should be celebrated.

Patricia then outlined the recent activities that the Forum had been undertaking and the plans for the future. She explained that the Forum meets quarterly to provide expertise and guidance on faith issues. In addition, the Forum organises a number of activities including food festivals, walks, conferences and seminars. The Forum also works to provide a strong challenge to those who seek to undermine the aims and values of the Forum.

Patricia confirmed that further information on the Forum's activities could be found on the Forum's website - <http://www.yorkshireandhumberfaiths.org.uk/>.

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The Chair thanked Inderjit and Patricia for their presentation.

Members added that they had found the presentation interesting and informative, and asked that more presentations from partners be given at Assembly meetings with more time allocated for members to ask questions.

ACTION

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

The apologies for the meeting were **noted**. A full list of attendees and apologies can be found at **Annex A**.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting – 20 July 2006

The minutes of the AGM and the Business Meeting were **agreed** as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

The matters arising from the AGM and the Business Meeting were **noted**.

4. Approval of Deputy Chair of Regional Planning Board, Scrutiny Board Members and Notification of Changes to SEE Partner Representation on the Regional Executive Board

Following the YHA AGM, applications were sought from the SEE Partner group to fill the Deputy Chair vacancy on the Regional Planning Board. One application was received from Wendy Bundy, Rural Community Council representative on the Assembly. Members **agreed** Wendy Bundy's appointment as Deputy Chair of the Regional Planning Board.

Two Assembly members - Bill Adams, TUC and Naheed Arshad-Mather, BME Regional Panel - had expressed an interest in filling the two vacant seats on the Scrutiny Board. This was discussed and approved by the Scrutiny Board at its inaugural meeting on 6 September 2006. Members were then asked to endorse the decision made by Scrutiny Board.

Members **agreed** the appointment of Naheed Arshad-Mather and Bill Adams as members of the Scrutiny Board.

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Members were then informed of changes to the SEE Partner representation on the Regional Executive Board. These changes were **noted**.

5. Update on Statement of Accounts 2005/2006

Members considered and **approved** the revised Statement of Accounts 2005/06 as recommended by the Regional Executive Board.

6. Business Plan 2007/08 – Emerging Priorities

Members considered the process for developing the Assembly's Business Plan for the coming year including the context for the emerging priority areas of activity and a list of work priorities for the next financial year 2007-08. In the discussion that followed, the following points were raised:

- Need to make a difference in a way that can be explained to the public.
- Need to consider waste - to look at alternative methods of waste processing and disposal and the funding issues associated with them.
- Need to be careful the Assembly doesn't have too many priorities – need to focus on one or two key issues and do them really well.
- Need to take the messages from Progress in the Region and use them effectively to monitor change.
- Need to ensure that the emerging themes tie up with the Assembly's vision for the region.
- 'Driving Change' may not be the most appropriate strapline – 'Making a Difference' would be better.
- Concerns over increasing centralisation in the region – the Assembly needs to look at the overall effects of this in the region.
- Need to effectively monitor and evaluate the work the Assembly has done.
- Need to look at how the City Regions fit in.
- Transport is a key priority for the region.
- Need a strategy to deliver affordable housing in the region.
- Need to ensure the Assembly engages effectively with SEE Partner groups.
- Need to use the Assembly's lobbying role effectively to impact on policy decisions.
- Need to facilitate partnerships to create more informed

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decision making in relation to sustainable development issues.

- Need to promote the benefits and added value of the Assembly and let the public know what the Assembly does and how it impacts upon them.

It was **agreed** that these comments would be considered during the preparation of the draft business plan, which would be circulated to members for final comments prior to approval.

It was confirmed that the final draft would be presented to the Regional Executive Board on 18 January 2007 for agreement before being presented to the Assembly for endorsement at its meeting on 15 February.

Members **noted** the timetable and next steps.

7. Regional Executive Board Report

Members **noted** the activities and decisions undertaken by the Regional Executive Board at the meeting on 28 September 2006.

The Chair added Ruth Kelly had attended the ERN Meeting on 18 October 2006. He stated that the meeting had been very interesting and that a number of key issues had been discussed.

He confirmed that the Local Government White Paper would be published late October/early November and was likely to consider the links between Assemblies and City Regions.

8. Scrutiny Update

The Chair of the Scrutiny Panel, Paul Jagger, updated members on the scrutiny activity that had taken place since the last meeting.

The Innovation Scrutiny Review was now well underway and both the public and private discussions had taken place.

Members asked if there were any plans for the Scrutiny Board to look at previous reviews. It was confirmed that this would be something that the Board would be looking at.

Chris Martin

9. Information Note:

- **Regional Spatial Strategy Update**

The information item was **noted**.

Date of Next Meeting: 15 February 2007

Nicola Plumstead, Business Services Support Officer
3 November 2006

**YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER ASSEMBLY MEETING
19 OCTOBER 2006**

Attending

Members/Substitutes:

Michele Sutton	Association of Colleges
Cllr Steve Houghton	Barnsley MBC
Naheed Arshad-Mather	BME Regional Panel
Cllr Ann McAllister	Calderdale MBC
Andrew Palmer	CBI (Sub for Penny Hemming)
Cllr Peter Box	Chair
Cllr Ian Cuthbertson	City of York Council
Paul Jagger	Deputy Chair
Cllr Stephen Parnaby	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Patricia Farrell	Faiths Forum
Chris Glen	FSB
Cllr Arthur Barker	Hambleton DC
Cllr Mike Gardner	Harrogate BC
Cllr Robert Light	Kirklees MC
Cllr Barry Anderson	Leeds City Council (Sub for Cllr Carter)
Gareth Roberts	Local Councils Association (Sub for Gill Stilwell)
Cllr John Weighell	North Yorkshire County Council
Shelagh Marshall	Public Health
Lawrence Jones-Walters	Regional Environment Forum
Neil Irving	Regional Forum
Cllr John Harris	Richmondshire DC
Cllr Roger Stone	Rotherham MBC
Wendy Bundy	Rural Community Council
Cllr Mark Crane	Selby DC
Cllr Jan Wilson	Sheffield City Council
Cllr Phil Dobson	Wakefield MDC
Frank Carter	Yorkshire and Humber Chambers of Commerce
Gary Topp	Yorkshire Culture
Michael Noble	Yorkshire Universities

Observers:

Phil Younge	Environment Agency (Sub for Andrew Wood)
Maureen Taylor	Government Office (Sub for Felicity Everiss)
Vanessa Gilbert	Highways Agency
Paul Rogerson	Local Authority Chief Executives

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Don Stewart

Yorkshire Forward (Sub for Terry Hodgkinson)

Visitors:

Jane Collins

John Wilkinson

Mike Pallant

Caroline Rowley

Alice Hetherington

Martin Cantor

Mary Farrer

Caroline Gaden

Dave Wilson

John Welham

Kim Ryley

Martin Gray

Carole Hassan

Inderjit Singh Bhogal

Paul Woodcock

John Lewis

Association of Colleges

Barnsley MBC

Barnsley MBC

Calderdale MBC

East Riding of Yorkshire Council

EEF – Yorkshire and Humber

Government Office

Hull City Council

Leeds City Council

LGYH

Regional Faiths Forum

Rotherham MBC

TUC

Staff:

Amanda Johnson

Belinda Lewis

Carole Cozens

Chris Martin

Fay McCulloch

Hannah Howe

Helen Todd

Jodie Weston

Kelly Jevons

Liz Drexler

Lyla Peter

Martyn Roberts

Natalie Fudge

Nicola Plumstead

Rob Warm

Ruth Hardingham

Sian Ferguson

Sue Jeffrey

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Apologies

Cllr Kris Hopkins	Bradford MDC
Penny Hemming	CBI
Cllr Steve Galloway	City of York Council
Cllr Carl Lis	Craven DC
Mayor Martin Winter	Doncaster MBC
Andrew Wood	Environment Agency
Felicity Everiss	Government Office
Cllr Carl Minns	Kingston upon Hull City Council
Cllr Andrew Carter	Leeds City Council
Gill Stilwell	Local Councils Association
Cllr Andrew De Freitas	North East Lincolnshire Council
Cllr Liz Redfern	North Lincolnshire Council
John Fletcher	North York Moors National Park Authority
Cllr Robert Wainwright	Ryedale DC
Jim Dillon	Scarborough DC
Cllr Tom Fox	Scarborough DC
Colin Cramphorn	West Yorkshire Police
Julia Hodson	West Yorkshire Police
Jerry Pearlman	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
Terry Hodgkinson	Yorkshire Forward