

# ASSOCIATION OF NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCILS

## MINUTES OF THE TENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION HELD ON MONDAY, 10 JULY 2006 AT RICHMONDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES, SWALE HOUSE, FRENCHGATE, RICHMOND

Start: 2.00 pm

Finish: 3.55 pm

### **PRESENT:**

#### **Council**

#### **Representatives**

North Yorkshire County Council

Councillor J K Weighell  
Councillor Bill Hout  
John Marsden (Chief Executive)

Craven District Council

Councillor C H Lis  
Mrs Gill Dixon (Chief Executive)

Hambleton District Council

Councillor Brian Phillips  
Peter Simpson (Chief Executive)

Harrogate Borough Council

Peter Jordan (Head of Legal and Democratic Services)(as Substitute for Mick Walsh (Chief Executive))

Richmondshire District Council

Councillor John Blackie  
Harry Tabiner (Chief Executive)

Ryedale District Council

Councillor C R Wainwright  
Harold Moseley (Chief Executive)

Selby District Council

Martin Connor (Chief Executive)

City of York Council

Councillor Keith Orrell (as Substitute for Stephen Galloway)

Yorkshire Local Councils' Association

Councillor Gaynor de Barr

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE WERE RECEIVED FROM:**

#### **Council**

#### **Representatives**

North Yorkshire County Council

County Councillor David Billing  
County Councillor C Metcalfe

Harrogate Borough Council

Councillor R Cooper

**Council**

**Representatives**

Scarborough Borough Council

Councillor Mrs Eileen Bosomworth  
Jim Dillon (Chief Executive)

Selby District Council

Councillor M Crane

City of York Council

David Atkinson (Chief Executive)

Yorkshire Local Councils' Association

Ian Strong (Chief Officer)

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

Mr Jerry Pearlman  
David Butterworth (Chief Executive)

North York Moors National Park Authority

Councillor Helen Schroeder  
Andrew Wilson (Chief Executive)

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**COUNCILLOR JOHN BLACKIE IN THE CHAIR**

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**1. CHAIR – APPOINTMENT FOR 2006/07**

**RESOLVED –**

That County Councillor John Weighell be appointed as the Association's Chair for 2006/07.

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**COUNTY COUNCILLOR JOHN WEIGHELL IN THE CHAIR**

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**2. VICE-CHAIR – POSSIBLE AMENDMENT OF ANYC CONSTITUTION**

**CONSIDERED –**

Report of the Honorary Secretary inviting the Association to amend its Constitution to provide that it may have two Vice-Chairs.

**RESOLVED –**

That the Constitution be amended to read as follows: "Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chairs – a Chair and up to two Vice-Chairs shall be elected for a term of 12 months at the Annual Meeting of the ANYC. The Chair shall rotate annually between a Member of the County Council, a Member of the District Councils, and a Member of the City of York Council. The Vice-Chair(s) shall also rotate annually, being drawn from the Members of the two types of Council not represented by the Chair for that year".

**3. VICE-CHAIRS – APPOINTMENTS FOR 2006/07**

**RESOLVED –**

That Stephen Galloway (City of York Council) and Councillor John Blackie (Richmondshire District Council) be appointed as the Association's Vice-Chairs for 2006/07.

**4. HONORARY SECRETARY – APPOINTMENT FOR 2006/07**

**RESOLVED –**

That Mr John Marsden be appointed as Honorary Secretary of the Association until the Annual Meeting in 2007.

**5. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Association held on 10 May 2006, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**6. MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION**

CONSIDERED -

Report of the Honorary Secretary setting out the Association's membership for the 2006/07 municipal year.

**RESOLVED –**

That the report be noted, subject to the membership list being amended by replacement of Councillor D S Murkett's name with the name of Councillor Gaynor de Barr in respect of the representative of the Yorkshire Local Councils' Association.

**7. ASSOCIATION SUBSCRIPTIONS AND POSSIBLE AMENDMENT OF ANYC CONSTITUTION**

CONSIDERED –

Report of the Honorary Secretary asking the Association whether it wished to seek financial contributions from member Authorities for 2006/07 and amendment of the Constitution, if appropriate. It was noted that the Association's Statement of Income and Expenditure showed a net surplus of £105 and it was suggested that this might be donated to charity.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That no contributions be sought from member Authorities for 2006/07.
- (b) That the Association's Constitution be amended by deletion of the paragraph relating to subscriptions.

**8. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2006/07**

CONSIDERED –

Report of the Honorary Secretary inviting the Association to appoint representatives to various outside bodies for the period ending at the Association's Annual Meeting in 2007.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the decision, to appoint Councillor Arthur Barker (Hambleton) as the North Yorkshire sub-regional Leader on the LGYH Executive Board for 2006/07, be endorsed.
- (b) That an Alternate be appointed for Councillor Arthur Barker as the North Yorkshire sub-regional Leader on the LGYH Executive Board for the forthcoming couple of months, the Alternate to be identified on a meeting-by-meeting basis and selected depending on the nature of the business to be conducted at each meeting.
- (c) That the under-mentioned Members be appointed to serve on the bodies listed until the Annual Meeting of the Association in 2007:-

Body	2006/07 Representative
(NYCC) Pension Fund Committee – One Member and two Substitutes (all from the District Councils)	Member: Councillor John Blackie (Richmondshire)  Substitutes: Councillors J Clark (Harrogate) and Pamela Anderson (Ryedale).
(YHA) Regional Planning and Infrastructure Commission Executive	County Councillor Peter Sowray (North Yorkshire County Council)
(YHA) Regional Energy Forum	Councillor Andrew Waller (York)
(YHA) Local Government Improvement and Innovation Partnership	Councillor Carl Lis (Craven)
Yorkshire and Humber Representation on the LGA Local Government Regional Forum – One Alternate Member.  (The full Member on this Forum is the sub-regional Leader on the LGYH Executive Board (Councillor Arthur Barker) – see (a) above.)	Alternate: Councillor John Blackie (Richmondshire)
(Yorkshire Forward) Recycling Action Yorkshire Steering Board	County Councillor John Fort BEM
(YHA) Regional Planning Board	Member: County Councillor Peter Sowray  Deputy/Substitute: To be nominated by the District Councils

(YHA) Regional Transport Board	Member: Councillor Carl Lis (Craven)
	Deputy/Substitute: County Councillor Clare Wood
(YHA) Sustainable Development Board	Member: Councillor Arthur Barker (Hambleton)
	Deputy/Substitute: Councillor Andrew Waller (York)

- (d) That the representatives on outside bodies be asked to submit, to future meetings of the Association, regular written reports not exceeding one sheet of A4, on the work of the organisations to which they have been appointed.

**9. RICHMOND STATION GROUP – PRESENTATION**

On behalf of Richmondshire Building Preservation Trust Ltd, Donald Cline, accompanied by Councillor Sheila Clarke (Richmondshire District Council’s representative on the Trust), gave a presentation about the Richmond Station Regeneration Project. The project aimed to redevelop Richmond’s former railway station, which included a Grade II\* listed building, to provide facilities including an auditorium, restaurants, public meeting rooms and office space. Significant funding had been agreed by the County Council, District Council, Town Council, Yorkshire Forward and from the Heritage Lottery and ERDF. However, the funding package was subject to timely completion of the current legal negotiations which required agreement by four chargeholders.

**10. THE RURAL FRAMEWORK AND YORK/NORTH YORKSHIRE RURAL PARTNERSHIP**

CONSIDERED –

Report by Harry Tabiner which provided an update on the emerging Rural Partnership for York/North Yorkshire. The “sixth theme” group set up as part of the LAA was developing into a Rural Partnership to mirror those which already existed in South and West Yorkshire and the Humber. The development of a Rural Partnership had been strongly supported by the GOYH and Yorkshire Forward and followed developments on rural issues at national and regional level, including the recent adoption of the Yorkshire/Humber Regional Rural Framework (RRF). The aim, governance arrangements and priorities of the RRF were set out in the report. It was emphasised that the RRF aimed to provide “added value” by ensuring that current delivery organisations addressed rural issues and priorities; in ‘rural proofing’ activity; and in making the best use of available resources using the principle of aggregation. The RRF had no funding directly allocated to it, although there were potentially significant sums of current funding streams involved and examples of these were set out in the report. The Humber Rural Pathfinder Group, which was trialling sub-regional partnerships working, had provided a presentation to the Group.

Members commented that it was important to replicate the arrangements seen elsewhere within the region if North Yorkshire was to play a full part in, and gain access to, a fair share of any funding available as part of the regional rural agenda.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the action taken to date be noted and the development of a Rural Partnership be supported.
- (b) That Mr David Frazer of GOYH be invited to give a presentation at the Association's next meeting to explain how the process was operating across the region and how York/North Yorkshire could fit into those arrangements.

## **11. LAA – UPDATE ON PROGRESS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **CONSIDERED –**

Report by Bill Cross which provided an update on progress on the development of the LAA for North Yorkshire, together with an oral report by John Marsden concerning financial matters.

Bill Cross's report advised that the outcomes framework had been sent to GOYH, having previously been discussed, on 15 June 2006, by the LAA Management Group/NYSP Steering Group. The next stage was for the consultation draft of the outcomes framework to be published and comments sought from the NYSP wider partnership. The results, and other on-going technical work, would form the basis of the next GOYH submission which was due by 15 September 2006. That would be an initial draft of the LAA and the final report was scheduled for 1 December 2006. In the meantime, workshops, to be attended by representatives of LSPs, were being held during July and the County Council was planning to provide funding for an officer to support the work required of the voluntary and community sector for the LAA.

John Marsden advised that approximately 50 targets and approximately 12 stretch targets, needed to be identified. Around £1.3m was available to pump-prime the stretch targets and partners were also expected to contribute their own resources. £14m - £16m reward grant was potentially available depending on performance against the stretch targets. Chief Executives intended to debate the level of resources which Councils could contribute towards the stretch targets and how any funding which was received would be used. Chief Executives would ensure the Association was kept informed of progress.

Members expressed the view that there appeared to be duplication of activity, although it was acknowledged that the process had resulted in a new level of maturity in partnership working.

In relation to CDRPs, Harold Moseley reported that, as Chair of the Pan North Yorkshire Group, he was arranging a series of forthcoming meetings with key partners to discuss closer co-operation. He asked colleagues to let him have, within the forthcoming few weeks, ideas on how closer co-operation might be achieved.

### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the following be noted:-
  - (i) the good progress to date;
  - (ii) the arrangements made to ensure the involvement of the wide range of interested parties who need to be involved in the development of the LAA; and

- (iii) the tight timescale for the development of the initial submission on 15 September 2006.

- (b) That the Association receive the final report at the November 2006 meeting.

## **12. LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER AND IMPROVED TWO-TIER WORKING**

### **CONSIDERED –**

Joint report by Peter Simpson and John Marsden advising of discussions between District and County Leaders and Chief Executives on improved two-tier working as an option against the anticipated content in a Local Government White Paper on further reorganisation. There were a number of existing areas of joint working on matters of common interest and it was expected that those partnership arrangements would continue to develop. However, it was also recognised that there were some priority areas where improvements could be made. The report set out the principles which it was felt were important to underpin partnership or collaborative working. Possible areas for enhanced two-tier working were also identified in the report, namely, waste management; customer access; and transport. It was appreciated that the two National Parks had an interest in these topics and that they should be invited to be part of any joint initiatives. It was emphasised that the list which had been put forward was not exclusive but recognised a small number of priority areas where some stretch would enhance both tiers' responsibilities.

Copies of the speech made by Ruth Kelly MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, to the LGA Conference on 5 July 2006 were circulated at the meeting. It was noted that the speech hinted that any reorganisation to achieve unitary government would not be universal. However, there was a clear expectation that Councils should work more effectively together and with other public services to make efficiencies and improve outcomes. The Association discussed the possible implications of the content of the speech.

Councillor Gaynor de Barr stressed the importance of Districts and County Councils considering how they could work more effectively with Town/Parish Councils.

### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That each Authority take a paper, based on the discussions by the District and County Leaders and Chief Executives, to its own Executive to seek endorsement on how two-tier working could be enhanced at this stage ahead of publication of any White Paper.
- (b) That, subject to (a) above, the Chief Executives' Group put together more detailed proposals and timed actions for further consideration.
- (c) That the National Parks take a view on how they might like to be involved in the topic areas.

## **13. REPORTS OF NORTH YORKSHIRE MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

### **CONSIDERED –**

Reports from the Association's representatives on:-

- Yorkshire Regional Energy
- Regional Economy Commission
- Regional Forum on Ageing and Scrutiny of the Northern Way

- Arts Council
- North Yorkshire Pension Fund Committee

**RESOLVED –**

That the reports be noted.

**14. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED –**

That the following business be brought to the next meeting:-

- (a) Presentation by Mr David Frazer, GOHY (as recorded at Resolution (b) of Minute 10 above).
- (b) Developments with regard to a White Paper on further Local Government reorganisation and Kersten England, GOYH, be invited to attend.

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED –**

That the next meeting be held on Monday 13 November 2006 at 2.00pm (with lunch at 1.00pm), if possible at the offices of Selby District Council.

RAG