

Members Regional Scrutiny Network

Meeting Notes - 18 October 2010 – City of York Council

1. Attendance

Councillors

Cllr John Galvin – City of York Council – Chair
Cllr Sonia Crisp – City of York Council
Cllr Mick Burnett – North East Lincs Council
Cllr Jane Bramley – North East Lincs Council
Cllr Ros James – North East Lincs Council
Cllr Chris Shaw – North East Lincs Council
Cllr Richard Burton – East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Cllr John Blackburn – North Yorkshire County Council
Cllr Ashley Evans – Calderdale Council
Cllr Ruth Goldthorpe – Calderdale Council
Cllr Stephen Baines – Calderdale Council
Cllr Hilda Jack – Rotherham MBC
Cllr Robert Iredale – Kirklees Council
Cllr John Roper – Ryedale District Council
Cllr Adrian Naylor - Bradford MDC Council

Officers

Cath Saltis - Rotherham MBC
Bronwen Moss – Rotherham MBC
Justin Homer – LGYH
Lesley Whiting – LGYH
Melanie Carr – City of York
Tracy Wallis – City of York
Dawn Steel – City of York
Penny Bunker – Kirklees Council
Jane Stewart – East Riding of Yorkshire
Steve Barnbrook – Calderdale Council
Hugh Williamson – North Yorkshire CC

Apologies received from:

Doncaster MBC
Scarborough District Council
North Lincolnshire Council
Cllr Clive Skelton - Sheffield City Council
Cllr John Ruding – Bradford MDC
Cllr Helen Firth – Craven District Council
Cllr Ian Cooper – Calderdale Council
Cllr Barbara Boyce – City of York Council
Cllr Glyn Whelbourn – Rotherham MBC

2. Regional Scrutiny Event Report 29 September 2010

Matters Arising:

Members asked that communications, reports & agendas were sent directly to members as well as officers – this was confirmed as all relevant Members e-mail addresses were now be available;

Date of next meeting to be advised – Members suggested Bradford for the next meeting.

Recommendations arising from the Report for discussion

Members discussed how a regional representation/delegation of cross party Members' to attend the LGYH Executive meeting on 21st October should be selected.

It was agreed to appoint 5 members – one from each of the sub regions. Members agreed that a balance of representation was needed and not politically biased. The Members selected are:

Cllr Adrian Naylor - Bradford MDC representing West Yorkshire
Cllr John Galvin - City of York - representing North Yorkshire
Cllr Hilda Jack - Rotherham MBC - representing South Yorkshire
Cllr Chris Shaw - North East Lincs - representing south of the Humber
Cllr Richard Burton - East Riding of Yorkshire Council - representing north of the Humber.

Discussion was held to agree the objectives for the meeting with LGYH Executive. These were agreed to be:

- ✚ Aim to achieve acceptance by the Leaders for the principle of a Members Regional Scrutiny Network;
- ✚ An acknowledgment by Leaders that each LEP may work along with the regional scrutiny arrangements; Members acknowledged that scrutiny should be undertaken by Members associated with/local to, a particular City Region/LEP;
- ✚ Members wish to look for opportunities for joint scrutiny on issues that are supported or proposed by the LGYH Executive;
- ✚ The delegation will present to the LGYH Executive the Terms of Reference supporting the Network and arrangements for joint working as set out in the Protocol;
- ✚ Members wanted to stress that the Network was not a short life task & finish group but an ongoing regional scrutiny structure.

A discussion took place on reaching a consensus on the associated issues around LEP's to be discussed with the LGYH Executive. Issues raised were as follows:

- ✚ North Lincolnshire Council reiterated the significance of their area in relation to economic development within Yorkshire & Humber; Members representing this sub region are concerned that they have been included in the Lincolnshire LEP without a full consultation;
- ✚ Concerns about the level of influence that any one LA may have within a LEP structure; e.g. Barnsley were possibly going to be members of two LEP's, whereas other LA's are only members of one. All agreed to be aware of a possible imbalance in membership of the LEP's.
- ✚ LEP's should be issue led not area led. Examples were discussed on areas for joint working; e.g. the east coast may scrutinize tourism as the whole sub region attracts the same customers.
- ✚ Members suggested that if LEP bids had to be re submitted, then their concerns could be taken into account at a later date;
- ✚ Members acknowledged that issues around membership will remain uncertain until LEP bids have been agreed.
- ✚ Members felt that developing the case for scrutiny operating on a regional/sub regional basis to ensure the accountability & transparency of the LEP's/City Regions/functional sub regions was their priority at the current time.
- ✚ **Members resolved that the principles of the Network need to be established with the LGYH Executive before concerns around LEP's are raised. This can take place at a later date.**

3. Draft Terms of Reference and Protocol for Regional Scrutiny

Members considered a draft terms of reference to support the work of the Regional Network and a draft protocol for regional/joint scrutiny working as and when appropriate.

- ✚ Officers clarified that the Terms of Reference is to support the Network which will act as a communication forum and umbrella 'organisation' to all other regional scrutiny activities. The Protocols are for undertaking cross boundary joint scrutiny reviews via task and finish groups and ongoing sub regional scrutiny panels who wish to monitor specific services such as health or tourism etc.
- ✚ Members were reminded that scrutiny still had a legislative basis and scrutiny members could examine services and topics as they

felt it was appropriate to do so – it was recognized that the Coalition Government could opt to change or appeal current legislation but this was not the case at the current time.

- ✚ It was agreed that Members would report back to their own LA's when the Network identified issues for joint working – in doing so, it was hoped that local Members with the best skills and knowledge would offer their expertise and wish to contribute to the work a scrutiny review or panel.
- ✚ Members moved to accept and adopt the Terms of Reference and the Protocols; this motion was seconded.

4. Administrative Support

- ✚ Members raised concern about administrative support for regional scrutiny with reducing resources available.
- ✚ LGYH will continue to support the co-ordination of the Network, but Leaders will need to be approached to ensure support is continued locally. It was firmly believed that regional scrutiny would add value to local and cross boundary services.
- ✚ It was agreed to review and develop the Terms of Reference and working arrangements in due course and to commit to sharing good practice on the basis that shared expertise and knowledge will make scrutiny stronger.

5. Date & Time of Next Meeting

- ✚ It was agreed that the next regional network meeting would be held in Bradford – the date & time is still to be agreed pending the outcome of the LGYH Executive meeting on the 21st October.
- ✚ The principle of rotating the meetings around the region was also agreed.
- ✚ Members proposed that the Comprehensive Spending Review should be included on the agenda at the next meeting.