

## **MINUTES OF THE YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER ASSEMBLY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 12 JULY 2007**

### **Action**

### **1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and the apologies were **noted**.

A full list of attendees and apologies is attached at **Annex A**.

### **2. Flooding – Latest Situation – Cllr Arthur Barker (Chair LGYH)**

Cllr Barker explained that a brief meeting about the recent flooding incidents had taken place prior to the AGM with leaders from across the region. This had looked at individual experiences of the floods and a discussion had taken place about how the region could be better prepared to deal with the situation should it arise again in the future. It had been **agreed** that the region's Chief Executives would submit reports with ideas on how to coordinate this.

### **3. Keynote Speaker – Tom Riordan (Yorkshire Forward)**

The Chair welcomed Tom Riordan, Chief Executive of Yorkshire Forward, to speak about the progress of the agency over the last 12 months and to update Members on forthcoming work.

Tom spoke about a number of issues and highlighted the following points:

#### **Floods**

- The recent severe weather conditions had a serious impact on businesses, particularly in South Yorkshire and in the Humber.
- A £1 million Small Business Recovery Scheme and emergency helpline had been set up by Yorkshire Forward to help with immediate assistance businesses needed after the flooding. This fund has been raised to £2 million in the last few weeks.
- This funding has helped businesses to start trading again quickly, with up to £2,500 allocated to each company – the first payment was made to a business in Rotherham less than a week after the flooding.
- Larger businesses have found the impact more difficult and

have been dealt with on a case by case basis – e.g. Forgemasters in Sheffield.

- It is important that the Assembly and its partners help to put across the message to tourists and visitors that the region is still 'open for business' despite the floods.
- The work of the Assembly on Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Flood defence is of critical importance now – whether a direct link to the flooding can be proven or not.
- The general resilience of the region in dealing with this emergency has been impressive.

### **Business**

- Yorkshire Forward has been named a 'strong performing Regional Development Agency' in its recent audit and has delivered its Government targets again this year.
- The agency has won national and international awards, one of which was for creating a masterplan for Bradford city centre, which was showcased in New York's Museum of Modern Art.
- Agreed and clear priorities between the agency and local authorities in the renaissance programme are enabling increased investment in the region.
- The agency realises the contributions that Further Education has to make and is working on improving links with this area.
- Yorkshire Forward is the only RDA in the country to directly invest in transport.
- The agency has invested £10million in a regional charity bank to support third sector organisations in the Region who generally are unable to get assistance from commercial banks.
- Yorkshire Forward's initiative 'Carbon Action Yorkshire' is gathering success –  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the Region's NHS Trusts and  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the top 100 businesses are to sign up to the Regional target of a 25% cut in carbon dioxide emissions.
- Support for the City Region debate – 'federal working' the only way to work.
- The agency upholds its decision to put out the tender for the provision of the new Business Link service – couldn't justify a closed tender for £30million of public spending.

### **Bollywood**

- This was a huge risk for the agency but one worth taking – Leeds beat New York to host the Indian Film Awards, it created £10 million in tourism spend and £50 million in blanket media coverage.
- A trade agreement with Indian businesses is being set up.
- Diversity needs to be viewed in a positive way if social cohesion is to be achieved.

**Conclusions**

- This region has a lot to be proud of – extremely self confident and self reliant.
- The region has had seven years of economic growth above the European average.
- Importance of working as a team.
- Importance of business in creating wealth.

Members questions addressed the following points:

- The amount of calls from businesses in Hull affected by the floods and the work being done to assist them.
- The possibility of adding more local authority representatives to the Yorkshire Forward Board.

The Chair thanked Tom for his informative speech and the ensuing debate it had allowed.

**4. Minutes of the Last AGM – 20 July 2006 (*Previously Approved*)**

The minutes of the last AGM were presented for information only and were **noted**.

**5. Appointments****a. Appointment of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Assembly**

Cllr Peter Box and Paul Jagger were confirmed as Chair and Deputy Chair (respectively) of the Assembly for the two-year term 2007/2009 subject to annual confirmation at the intervening AGM.

**b. Appointment of Regional Executive Board**

The Regional Executive Board membership was circulated and confirmed for the year 2007/2008.

**c. Appointment of Honorary Treasurer**

Judith Badger was confirmed as Honorary Treasurer for the year 2007/2008.

**d. Election of Chairs and Deputy Chairs of Boards - Housing, Planning, Transport, Sustainable Development**

Details of nominations for the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of the

Housing, Planning, Transport and Sustainable Development Boards were circulated.

It was explained that only one post was contested, with two candidates putting themselves forward for Chair of the Regional Transport Board. Members took a vote and Cllr Mark Kirk was elected as Chair of the Regional Transport Board, with Chris Glen taking the post of Deputy Chair.

The following nominations were confirmed for the year 2007/2008;

#### **Regional Housing Board**

- Chair – Cllr Kris Hopkins
- Deputy Chair – Patricia Farrell

#### **Regional Planning Board**

- Chair – Cllr Steve Galloway
- Deputy Chair– Wendy Bundy

#### **Regional Transport Board**

- Chair– Cllr Mark Kirk
- Deputy Chair - Chris Glen

#### **Sustainable Development Board**

- Chair – Cllr Arthur Barker
- Deputy Chair – Naheed Arshad-Mather

#### **e. Approval of Scrutiny Board Members**

Membership of the Scrutiny Board was circulated and approved by Members for the year 2007/2008.

#### **6. Amendments to Constitution and Governance Arrangements**

The proposed changes to the Assembly Constitution and Governance Arrangements were tabled and **approved** by Members.

#### **7. Draft Annual Report 2006/07**

The Draft Annual Report from 1 April 2006 – 31 March 2007 was tabled and **approved** by Members.

#### **8. Draft Statement of Accounts 2006/07**

The Draft Statement of Accounts 2006/2007 was recommended to Members by the Regional Executive Board and was **confirmed**.

The 2005/2006 Audit Action Plan was tabled and Members **noted** progress on this.

## **9. Members Allowances**

Members **noted** the implementation of a Dependent Carer's Allowance Scheme.

## **10. Schedule of YHA Meetings 2007/08**

Members noted the proposed schedule of meetings 2007/2008.

## **11. Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the New Yorkshire and Humber Assembly Governance Structures – Final Report**

The Chair welcomed Tom Bridges from ARUP to present his findings from their recent research into the effectiveness of the new governance structures put in place by the Assembly last year.

Tom highlighted the following points:

- The right structures have been put in place.
- The Assembly is more focussed than before, with more effective work being produced as a result.
- The Boards are engaged in important strategic work for the Region.
- The Assembly is being more proactive at City Regional and Sub Regional level.
- Three key messages from the research:
  - the Assembly needs to continue to build on this progress.
  - the Assembly needs to lead constructive and open debate on new governance arrangements.
  - the Assembly needs to keep its eye on important issues.

An addendum to the main report was then circulated to Members updating them on progress with the Sub National Review update. The Chair then invited discussion.

Members highlighted the following points:

- The difficulty in having a debate about new arrangements before an official announcement from Government.
- The potential lack of time available for a consultation following a Government announcement.
- The need for increased involvement of local authorities in

- regional development agencies – chairing or sitting on boards.
- The need for a more robust scrutiny of procedures and a more democratic mandate.
- The need to keep social issues on the agenda for the region if the Assembly and Regional Development Agency join to become one organisation, and if regional strategies are amalgamated.
- The importance of responding as a region rather than as individual partners.
- The need to see the new arrangements as a positive step and an opportunity to improve.
- The importance of national accountability, through such mechanisms as select committees, to strengthen financial commitments and provide a forum for national agencies to demonstrate how they are helping regions.
- The need to keep the momentum on this discussion.

The Chair noted that plans were underway for the Assembly to meet with representatives from Government Office, Yorkshire Forward and Local Government Yorkshire and Humber. An invitation has also been sent to the new Regional Minister, Caroline Flint, for a meeting.

Members **agreed** that discussion on the SNR should be picked up at the next full Assembly meeting on 4 October.

## **12. Minutes of the Last Meeting – 15 February 2007**

Members agreed the minutes of the last meeting.

## **13. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

## **14. Report Back from Regional Executive Board**

Members **noted** the decisions and activities of the Regional Executive Board since the last Assembly meeting on 15 February 2007.

## **15. Report Back from the Boards**

Members **noted** the key issues from the Assembly Boards since the last Assembly meeting on 15 February 2007. The following additions were made by the Chairs of the Boards:

- **Planning/Housing** – There have been further Government

- policy statements on housing published recently.
- **Transport** – Plans are underway for a Board Away Day in September
- **Sustainable Development** – The draft IRF report has been developed and circulated to Members.

## **16. Scrutiny**

### **a. Employment Scrutiny Review Report**

The Chair of the Scrutiny Board thanked colleagues for their help in producing this report and asked Members for their approval.

A number of points of detail were raised on the report but it was **agreed** that these could be picked up outside of the meeting. Members **approved** the report on this basis.

### **b. Scrutiny Activity**

Members **noted** the next scrutiny review on the 'Rural Economy'.

Members **noted** the progress made on 'The Northern Way Opportunities' and 'Innovation' scrutiny action plans.

Members **agreed** the provisional timetable of future scrutiny topics for the Scrutiny Board.

## **17. Any Other Business**

There was no other business. The following information notes were **noted**;

- Mainstreaming Ageing into Regional Strategies
- RSS Update

## **18. Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 4 October 2007 at 2pm.

Emma King, Business Services Officer  
17 July 2007

## **YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER ASSEMBLY MEETING - AGM 12 JULY 2007 - ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

### **Attendees**

#### *Members/Substitutes:*

Caroline Rowley	Association of Colleges (Sub for Michele Sutton)
Cllr Michael Stokes	Barnsley Metropolitan District Council (Sub for Cllr Steve Houghton)
Naheed Arshad-Mather	BME Regional Panel
Cllr Kris Hopkins	City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Ann McAllister	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Penny Hemming	CBI
Cllr Peter Box	Chair
Cllr Steve Galloway	City of York Council
Paul Jagger	Deputy Chair/Learning and Skills Council
Cllr Bill Mordue	Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
Chris Glen	Federation of Small Businesses
Cllr Arthur Barker	Hambleton District Council
Cllr Mike Gardner	Harrogate Borough Council
Kathryn Riddle	Health
Cllr Carl Minns	Hull City Council
Cllr Andrew De Freitas	North East Lincolnshire Council
Cllr Mark Kirk	North Lincolnshire Council
Cllr John Weighell	North Yorkshire County Council
Cate Hammond	Regional Environment Forum
Neil Irving	Regional Forum
Cllr Melva Steckles	Richmondshire District Council
Cllr Roger Stone	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Wendy Bundy	Rural Community Councils
Cllr Tom Fox	Scarborough Borough Council
Cllr Mark Crane	Selby District Council
Cllr Steve Jones	Sheffield City Council (Sub for Cllr Jan Wilson)
Tom Glossop	Town and Parish Councils
Bill Adams	TUC
Nick Pontone	Yorkshire and Humber Chamber of Commerce (Sub for Michael Oughtred)
Patricia Farrell	Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum
Gary Topp	Yorkshire Culture
Michael Noble	Yorkshire Universities

*Chief Executives Group (Non-voting):*

Tony Reeves	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
John Foster	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council

*Observers:*

Felicity Everiss	Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber
Phil Younge	The Environment Agency
Tom Riordan	Yorkshire Forward

*Visitors:*

Tom Bridges	ARUP
Jake Scott	Environment Agency
Margaret Jackson	Government Office for Yorkshire and The Humber
Maureen Taylor	Government Office for Yorkshire and The Humber
Mick King	Humber Economic Partnership
Steve Walmsley	Local Government Yorkshire and Humber
Lucy BJORCK	RSPB
John Lewis	TUC
Kazuko Kakegawa	University of Birmingham
Colin Mellors	University of York
Inderjit Singh Bhogal	Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum
Richard Oliver	Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum
Janet Dean	Yorkshire and Humber Strategic Health Authority
Jane Hustwit	Yorkshireurope

*YHA Staff:*

Amanda Johnson  
Andy Haigh  
Andy Horrocks  
Chris Martin  
Emma King  
Fay McCulloch  
Harriet Hanison  
Helen Todd  
Iain Lovell  
James Paton  
Jess Jubb  
Kelly Jevons  
Liz Drexler  
Lyla Peter  
Lyndsey Bunn  
Mark Shaw  
Martyn Roberts

Natalie Fudge  
Nicola Plumstead  
Rob Murfin  
Rob Warm  
Sue Jeffrey

## **Apologies**

### *Members:*

Michele Sutton	Association of Colleges
Cllr Steve Houghton	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Stephen Parnaby	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
John Fletcher	North York Moors National Park Authority
John Marsden	North Yorkshire County Council
Cllr Keith Knaggs	Ryedale District Council
Cllr Jan Wilson	Sheffield City Council
Cllr Denise Jeffery	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
Michael Oughtred	Yorkshire and Humber Chambers of Commerce
Malcolm Petyt	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

### *Associate Member*

Meredydd Hughes	South Yorkshire Police
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### *Observers*

Vanessa Gilbert	Highways Agency
Peter Nottage	Natural England
Terry Hodgkinson	Yorkshire Forward

### *Chief Executives*

Michael Walsh	Harrogate Borough Council
Paul Rogerson	Regional Chief Executives Group

### *Visitors*

Margaret Coleman	Learning and Skills Council
Carole Hassan	Local Government Yorkshire and Humber
Prof Paul Johnstone	Regional Public Health Group
Christine Hawkins	Yorkshire Forward