

**MINUTES OF THE YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER ASSEMBLY MEETING:
2 OCTOBER 2008**

1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted. A full attendance list is attached as **Annex A**.

Members were advised that there would be an additional report on how the Region is managing the current financial downturn, presented by Simon Foy of Yorkshire Forward.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting – 26 June 2008 (AGM)

The minutes of the Assembly AGM were **agreed** as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

The Matters Arising were **noted** by Members. No further matters were raised.

4. Effects of the Economic Downturn in Yorkshire and Humber – Simon Foy, Yorkshire Forward

Simon began by advising Members that although economic growth has slowed nationally, results from the first two quarters of the year show overall growth for 2008 in this region. It was also noted that until recently things were starting to look up for the economic situation though this has changed in recent weeks.

It was noted that the Region has been affected by the situation in the following ways:

- Reduced access to credit facilities and the liquidity in assets such as property
- Low property sales with little expectation of this improving in near future
- Rise in unemployment

ACTION

- Effect on small businesses as larger companies take decisions impacting on their supply chains
- Disruption in financial sector – banks in crisis

Simon noted that the Region is dealing with these problems in a pro-active and decisive way and some positives can be detected:

- Site acquisition both for commercial and residential development has improved
- House prices are staying relatively stable in this Region, compared to other areas nationally
- There has been a recent reduction in the price of basic commodities recently, which could reduce the cost of living and help the Bank of England reduce the base interest rate
- The Region's businesses are holding up well so far although it is expected that manufacturing companies may take a hit in the near future

Focusing on the financial sector in the Region, Simon advised Members that a meeting was taking place that day to discuss the future of Bradford & Bingley and HBOS. It was noted that it is important to see the opportunities that the financial crisis can provide and The Minister for Yorkshire & Humber, Rosie Winterton MP, was preparing to make a positive case for future investment in these institutions at the meeting. That said it was important to consider potential job losses and impacts on related infrastructure.

Simon also advised Members that the Chair of Yorkshire Forward, Terry Hodgkinson, has recently written to Members and stakeholders detailing the action that Yorkshire Forward is taking in relation to the current situation and their proposals on how to mitigate the impact of the economic downturn. Members were encouraged to feed into these proposals. This work would relate to the update that DBERR are currently working on to advise on the situation.

Simon concluded by highlighting that this Region is in a much stronger position to deal with the current situation than it would have been 10 years ago, as the economic base is now much more diverse, there is a flexible and responsive labour market, and confidence remains in the financial services sector.

Members **noted** this report and the Chair thanked Simon for

the update.

5. Audit of Constitution/Governance Arrangements

Members were updated on the audit of the Assembly's constitution and governance arrangements, which has recently been carried out by Wakefield MDC's Internal Audit Department.

It was noted that although the audit report showed that the Assembly's procedures are generally good, there is an outstanding issue around the completion and return of members' Code of Conduct and Register of Interest forms.

Members were reminded that it is imperative this action is dealt with and that Assembly staff are available to assist with this if necessary.

This action was **noted** by Members.

6. Final Statement of Accounts 2007/08 and Audit Report

The findings of the 2007/08 Assembly audit were **noted** and the final accounts 2007/08 **approved** by Members.

7. Activities and Decisions of the Regional Executive Board

Members **noted** the activities and decisions of the Regional Executive Board since the Assembly AGM on 26 June 2008.

8. Activities and Decisions of the Functional Boards

Members **noted** the activities and decisions of the Assembly's Functional Boards since the Assembly AGM on 26 June 2008.

9. Deputy Chair of the Regional Transport Board

Members were advised that since the report for the meeting was written the Assembly's Social, Economic and Environmental Partners have met and approved the nomination of Cllr Tom Glossop to the position of Deputy Chair of the Transport Board, subject to the agreement of the full Assembly.

Members **agreed** this appointment.

10. Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration (SNR) Progress and Transition Issues

Members were asked to consider activity relating to the SNR as set out in the report and agree the recommendations provided. An update was provided by the Chair of LGYH, Cllr Arthur Barker and the following points were noted:

- Members have responded to the significant challenges that the SNR has raised
- Ministerial response to the consultation is expected shortly
- At its meeting on 4 September the Leaders Board recommended a deadline of 1 April 2009 to move to new governance arrangements and this was endorsed as a 'target' date by the Assembly's Executive Board on the same day
- The Assembly's Functional Boards are being consulted by representatives of LGYH and Yorkshire Forward, at their current round of meetings, on how the proposed thematic boards will function and what powers they will have in the new arrangements
- It is important to continue to work together to streamline arrangements and continue the good work of the Assembly

Paul Jagger, Chair of the SEE Partners then raised the following points on behalf of the SEE Partners:

- Partners have sharpened their focus since the Executive Board meeting on 4 September and are being more proactive in deciding their role in the new arrangements
- It is important that any engagement role for SEE Partners is given formal status
- SEE Partners are consulting in their individual constituencies as well as collectively to ensure their interests are represented

Members then raised the following points:

- What are the timescales for setting up the thematic boards? It was noted that new arrangements will begin on 1 April 2009, though the details of individual boards are yet to be worked out
- What will be the role/work of the Boards? Members were

advised that the main role of the Boards will be to develop and promote the new Single Regional Strategy and to monitor this

- It is important to remember that 1 April is a 'target' date and even with the best intentions this may get pushed back by actions outside of the Assembly's control (i.e. Government intervention)
- Members should note that there is expected to be Business Planning Guidance for the next two years at least, albeit with reduced funding. This means that the current work of the Region can continue in some form, although under and through new governance arrangements
- It was noted that there will be flexibility in the new arrangements for Regions to work out their own solutions

Members noted this update and **agreed** recommendations including that April 2009 be set as a target date to move to new governance arrangements.

11. Business Plan - Half Year Report on Progress

Members **endorsed** the half-year report of progress on the Assembly's Business Plan and Budget, as recommended by the Regional Executive Board.

12. Regional Climate Change Adaptation Study – Interim Report with Presentation by Royal Haskoning

Members were given a presentation by Nick Cooper of Royal Haskoning which detailed the interim findings of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Study.

Following the presentation the following points were raised by Members:

- The periods used for testing climate change evidence are not sufficient enough to provide long term predictions and it is difficult to see evidence of some of these changes taking place from the figures presented
- There is not enough evidence relating to the two national parks in the Region
- It is time to stop focusing on reports and start taking action on climate change. Extremes will get more extreme and people need to be given practical ways of dealing with this
- This Region has been badly affected by the results of

climate change and Members have a responsibility to make sensible and evidence based decisions on how to adapt to better cope with future occurrences

Members **noted** the interim findings of this report.

13. Information Notes:

- **Regional Funding Advice**
- **Regional Spatial Strategy '2009 Update'**

Members **noted** the two information notes provided.

14. Any Other Business

Members were advised that Cllr Ann McAllister had recently stood down as Leader of Calderdale Council and Cllr Stephen Baines has been appointed as new Leader. It was **agreed** that letters of thanks and welcome be sent.

Naheed Arshad Mather drew Members' attention to a new document that the BME Regional Panel has recently launched on the inequalities in healthcare in the Region.

There was no further business.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 12 February 2009

Business
Services Officer

Emma King, Business Services Officer
October 2008

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER ASSEMBLY MEETING

2 OCTOBER 2008

Attendees

Members/Substitutes:

Cllr Mike Stokes	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Naheed Arshad Mather	BME Regional Panel
Cllr Kris Hopkins	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Graham Hall	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Peter Box	Chair
Cllr Carol Runciman	City of York Council (Substitute)
Cllr Richard Foster	Craven District Council
Patricia Farrell	Faiths Forum
Tony Cherry	Federation of Small Businesses
Cllr Arthur Barker	Hambleton District Council
Cllr Mike Gardner	Harrogate Borough Council
Cllr Carl Minns	Kingston upon Hull City Council
Cllr Robert Light	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Paul Jagger	Learning & Skills Council (Deputy Chair)
Cllr Mark Kirk	North Lincolnshire Council
Cllr John Weighell	North Yorkshire County Council
Cllr John Fletcher	North York Moors NPA
Cate Hammond	Regional Environment Forum
Helen Groves	Regional Forum
Cllr Melva Steckles	Richmondshire District Council
Cllr Roger Stone	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Tom Fox	Scarborough Borough Council
Cllr Tom Glossop	Town and Parish Councils
Michael Noble	Yorkshire Universities

Observers:

Louise Rice	Environment Agency (Substitute)
Tim Godson	Government Office
Vanessa Gilbert	Highways Agency
Simon Foy	Yorkshire Forward

Peter Nottage
Cllr Andrew De Freitas
Meredydd Hughes
Cllr Paul Scriven
Bill Adams
Michael Oughtred
Gary Topp
Kevin Lancaster

Natural England (No Sub)
North East Lincolnshire Council (No Sub)
Police (No Sub)
Sheffield City Council (No Sub)
TUC (No Sub)
Yorkshire & Humber Chambers of Commerce (No Sub)
Yorkshire Culture (No Sub)
Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (No Sub)