

**MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:
4 SEPTEMBER 2008**

ACTION

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

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

2. Minutes for Approval

The minutes of the Regional Executive Board meetings held on 22 May and 26 June were both agreed as accurate records.

3. Matters Arising

There were no further matters arising other than those listed.

4. Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration (SNR)

Sue Jeffrey introduced the item and asked Members to consider activity relating to the SNR and comment on the 'next steps' listed in the report.

Cllr Arthur Barker, Chair of LGYH, informed Members that the LGYH Leaders' Board had, that morning, agreed to recommend to the full LGYH a timetable to move to new governance arrangements by 1 April 2009.

Members raised the following points:

- Whether the Government is committed to making a decision to implement SNR given that a General Election may be called before legislation is in place – so does the Region need to make changes by April?
- Whether the Executive Board should endorse this decision given that there had been no opportunity for a substantive discussion at this meeting.
- That continuing existing arrangements post April 2009 could damage the reputation of the Region and its ability

to influence Government

- The desire to continue to involve SEE Partners in the development of the new structures.
- That having a definite timescale could be beneficial to promoting sensible and constructive discussions that take into consideration the implications for Assembly staff.

Members agreed to endorse the recommendation of the LGYH Leaders' Board and recommend that the next full Assembly meeting on 2 October support the move to new governance arrangements by 1 April 2009.

It was also noted that the Chair of the Assembly should attend LGYH Leaders Board Meetings in the future.

5. Assembly Transitional Arrangements

Members considered a report setting out progress in relation to transitional arrangements. In discussion it was noted:

- That David Curtis has been appointed the new Regional Director of the Homes and Communities Agency; and
- That we are still waiting for a full response from CLG on their responsibility for wind-up costs but CLG had indicated informally that they did not expect these to be excessive

Members noted the update.

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

Members considered the findings of the 2007/08 audit presented by Audit Manager, Simon Dennis.

Minor typographical errors were noted in the Annual Governance Report as follows:

- Page 3, paragraph 6 – "Audit Committee" should read "Regional Executive Board"
- Page 6, paragraph 14 – second to last bullet point should read "Note 12" rather than "Note 10".

Members noted the following:

- That the Audit Commission charged fees of £16,000
- That the Assembly have always used the Audit Commission to complete their annual audit.

- That the annual accounts had taken account of inflation – in particular for energy costs.

Members noted the findings of the audit report and agreed to recommend the final statement of accounts to the full Assembly.

7. RSS Implementation Action Plan 2008/2009

Richard Wood introduced this item and asked Members to endorse the RSS implementation priorities for 2008/2009.

In discussion Members raised the following points:

- Social housing should be mentioned more explicitly in the priorities.
- Although house building has slowed or stopped in a lot of areas, the demand for affordable housing is greater than ever – in light of this, priorities i & ii are inadequate.

It was noted that the RSS Implementation Plan was necessarily a high-level document. Detailed work looking at how the Region should respond to the housing crisis was being undertaken by the Housing Board and the outcome will be reported to a future meeting.

Members agreed to endorse the priorities but requested that the Planning and Housing Boards also look at specific social/affordable housing issues in terms of the current economic climate.

8. RSS '2009 Update' – Progress Report

Richard Wood introduced this item and asked Members to note progress on the review of RSS and publicise the options stage of the RSS review.

Members noted progress and agreed to give their support in these two areas.

9. Regional Funding Advice 2008

Sue Jeffrey introduced this report and asked Members to note the process and timetable for the development of Regional Funding Advice (RFA).

Members asked for clarification on the following points:

- Whether there was any scope to amend the report to give final sign off to the new Regional Board. It was noted that as work on the RFA was due to be completed by 31 March 2009 it would need to be done under the existing arrangements. The report already proposed the Regional Board as well as the Assembly Executive Board and Yorkshire Forward Board would need to agree the RFA submission.
- Whether the Regional Funding Advice will reflect the priorities of the Single Regional Strategy (SRS). It was noted that the RFA submission will be based on existing strategies but inevitably also influence the SRS in the future.
- Whether the RFA is necessary given that it will be happening ahead of the development of the SRS. It was noted that the last round of advice was three years ago and this new exercise was for a new funding period.
- Whether the Chief Executives' Group should be represented on the RFA Coordinating Group.

Members noted the process and timetable for development of the Regional Funding Advice and agreed that a representative of the Chief Executives' Group should be represented on the RFA Coordinating Group.

10. Report Back from the Boards

Members noted the activities and decisions of the Assembly's Functional Boards since 10 April.

11. Any Other Business

It was noted that Yorkshire Futures have recently released their report on Communities, Perceptions and Civic Participation and copies were available for Members at the meeting.

There was no other business.

Date of Next Meeting: 6 November 2008

Emma King, Business Services Officer
September 2008

Attendees

Cllr Peter Box	Chair
Cllr Carl Minns	Hull and Humber Ports City Region Partnership
Cllr Stephen Parnaby	Humber Local Authority Partnership
Cllr Andrew Carter	Leeds City Region Partnership
Cllr Arthur Barker	North Yorkshire Local Authority Partnership and Chair of Local Government Yorkshire and Humber
Cllr Kris Hopkins	Regional Housing Board
Cate Hammond	Regional Planning Board
Bill Adams	SEE Partner Group
Naheed Arshad Mather	SEE Partner Group
Michael Noble	SEE Partner Group
Cllr Roger Stone	South Yorkshire Local Authority Partnership
Cllr Robert Light	West Yorkshire Local Authority Partnership

Observers

Margaret Jackson	Government Office
Paul Rogerson	Regional Chief Executives Group

Visitors

Simon Dennis	Audit Manager
Elizabeth Wharton	Auditor

Staff

Sue Jeffrey
Chris Martin
Emma King
Mark Shaw
Iain Lovell
Rob Warm
Richard Wood

Apologies

Felicity Everiss	Government Office
Cllr Mark Kirk	Regional Transport Board
Cllr John Weighell	Rural Local Authorities
Patricia Farrell	SEE Partner Group
Penny Hemming	SEE Partner Group
Paul Jagger	SEE Partner Group (Deputy)
Cllr Paul Scriven	Sheffield City Region Partnership
Tom Riordan	Yorkshire Forward

