

**MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:  
10 JANUARY 2008**

**ACTION**

**1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

The Deputy Chair welcomed members to the meeting and the apologies were **noted**. A full list of attendees and apologies can be found at **Annex A**.

Cllr Mark Kirk was congratulated on his recent appointment to the Yorkshire Forward Board and the Deputy Chair also asked that congratulations be passed to Cllr Stephen Parnaby who had received an OBE in the New Year's Honours List for Services to Local Government.

**2. Minutes of the Last Meeting – 8 November 2007**

The minutes of the last meeting were **agreed** as an accurate record.

**3. Matters Arising**

Members were informed that the new Regional Forum representative on the Assembly had been confirmed as Helen Groves - Helen replaces Neil Irving.

It was confirmed that a replacement for Neil on the Regional Executive Board was currently being sought, with elections taking place at the SEE Partner Meeting on 31 January 2008.

It was noted that, following agreement at the last meeting, Caroline Flint MP was now receiving copies of Regional Executive Board papers/minutes etc for information.

Members were informed that the Assembly's response to the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes to the Draft Yorkshire and Humber Plan was submitted to Government on 21 December 2007. It is hoped that the final version of the Plan will be published in late spring 2008.

Members were also informed that the draft Integrated

Regional Framework had been submitted to Defra and the Sustainable Development Commission for comment. Responses were expected by the end of January 2008. A further report will be brought to the March Executive Board meeting to agree the final IRF document.

#### **4. Budget and Business Plan for 2008/2009**

Members considered the Assembly's work priorities and budgetary principles for the next financial year.

It was **noted** that the Assembly was still awaiting the Business Planning Guidance from Government detailing budget and priorities, therefore it had been necessary to make a number of assumptions regarding the work the Assembly will be required to undertake over the next year.

Members then discussed the report in detail. Key points raised during the discussion were:

- Good report despite the lack of guidance from Government and it does lay out the right priorities.
- Need the Business Plan to be prudent given uncertainties.
- Figures on pension and redundancy liabilities set out in the report assume full closure of the Assembly in 2010. A more realistic 'worst case' scenario could be developed for financial planning.
- The prudent position, however, would be to keep current reserves in place to cover potential liabilities. Need a provision from Government and/or other regional bodies in the region to deal with anything beyond this.
- Need to ensure the Assembly retains staff and skills during the transition process – Executive Coordination Team needs to do some work on how to address this.
- We need to ensure that the work continues through the transition period for the benefit of the region.
- Conversations need between regional agencies to take place to ascertain what mechanisms are required to ensure a smooth transition.
- The Assembly's King Street offices are currently on a handover lease – six months notice required from either party.
- Funding for the Regional Housing Forum is currently under review.
- Concerns that the Assembly's sustainable development work will only focus on core activities. It was confirmed that further work will be dependent on funding from Defra

(confirmation expected in February 2008).

Members **agreed** the work priorities and budgetary proposals set out in the report, and that these should be revisited, if necessary, once Government business planning guidance has been received.

Members also **noted** the timetable and next steps in the process.

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

Members **noted** the key issues arising from the Functional, Sustainable Development and Scrutiny Boards.

### Sustainable Development Board

It was confirmed that there had been significant support for a Regional Climate Change Adaptation Study from both the Board and Local Government Yorkshire and Humber.

Cllr Mark Kirk said that he welcomed the suggestion that the Regional Transport Board should have a joint seminar with the Sustainable Development Board to discuss the findings of the *Achieving Low Carbon and Sustainable Transport Systems in Yorkshire and Humber* study.

### Scrutiny Board

Members were informed that a Scrutiny Board Meeting had taken place on 9 January 2008 looking at the monitoring of previous scrutiny reviews.

It was **noted** that the Sub National Review would mean changes to the scrutiny process. The ERN Scrutiny Conference, that took place on 5 December 2007, discussed the role of scrutiny during the transition period, the proposed Scrutiny Select Committees and future regional scrutiny arrangements.

## **6. Sub National Review – Update**

*\* Cllr John Weighell and Cllr Mark Kirk declared an interest in this item as members of the Yorkshire Forward Board.*

Members considered the progress of current Sub National Review (SNR) activity outlined in the report.

In the discussion that followed, a number of key points were

raised:

- This is a big issue – need clarity as soon as possible.
- Suspicion that there are still some tensions within Government departments on detail of SNR and what is to go in the consultation paper.
- Need to keep track of what is being said in different forums elsewhere – need to ensure that Executive Board doesn't get disconnected from the debate.
- Need to remember that SNR is also about devolution and more power to the regions – and be watchful that the Government doesn't 'back track' on this (e.g. in the forthcoming Regional Funding Allocations round).
- SNR does provide a real opportunity to build on the good work that is already taking place in the region and regions will have flexibility to ensure that post-SNR arrangements meet their specific needs.
- If we were starting from scratch, what would we want regional structures to look like – both now and in the future?
- Need to ensure the new structures add value and improve on the current structures and that they are challenging.
- At the ERN Stakeholder Meeting civil servants emphasised there would be no funding from central Government for SEE Partner involvement at a regional level and that the new regional arrangements must not look like the current Assemblies.
- It is important to ensure capacity and expertise is retained in the region and we need to work together effectively to ensure delivery during the transition period.
- Concerns regarding the future of sustainable development in the region – proper funding needs to be established and the champion body needs to be independent, however it evolves.
- There needs to be an ongoing relationship between SEE Partners and Yorkshire Forward – could possibly look at developing a service-level agreement with SEE partners.
- SEE Partners need to think about how they are going to position themselves in the region.
- Work still to be done to consider SNR in individual organisations/sectors – need to think through more what we would like from the new arrangements and what the structures should be.
- Publication of the consultation would then allow us to bring these different views to the table – would be likely we would find 80% in common.
- We need to aim to ensure there is a joint/joined up

regional response to the consultation.

It was **agreed** that each organisation and sector should each consider how they would like to see the regional structures develop and identify the key issues. An opportunity should be sought for these to be collated so that the main points identified and discussed. These discussions should then provide the basis of a single regional response to the consultation.

## 7. Yorkshire Forward Draft Corporate Plan 2008/11 – Consultation Draft

*\* Cllr John Weighell and Cllr Mark Kirk declared an interest in this item as members of the Yorkshire Forward Board.*

Members received a presentation on Yorkshire Forward's draft Corporate Plan (slides attached at **Annex B**).

It was explained that the Plan was currently out for consultation and that the Assembly had been asked for its comments.

Members were then asked to consider and comment on the draft Plan. In the discussion that followed, a number of key points were raised:

- How will Yorkshire Forward measure success in the sustainable development cross-cutting themes? CO<sub>2</sub> reduction targets could be added and future scrutiny arrangements could also be used to monitor progress.
- Sub Regional spending is currently a constraint. Can't do a City Regional allocation and local authority allocation under the new arrangements – need to decide how the five year allocations will be set.
- Although Sheffield City Region extends beyond the Yorkshire and Humber boundaries – the funding cannot pass over these boundaries.
- 'Yorkshire and Humber – a great place to live, work and do business' – should we be encouraging people to live, work and do business in the same place?
- We currently have a 'two speed' economy, with growth in regional centres side by side with deprivation. Addressing this problem remains a priority but there is still a long way to go.

Members were thanked for their initial comments. It was

Nicola Baylis

**ACTION**

**agreed** that an e-mail would be sent to all Assembly members seeking their views on the draft Plan.

The responses, including the comments made at the meeting, would then be compiled into a draft Assembly response. The draft response would then be presented to members at the Assembly meeting on 7 February 2008 for final approval before being submitted to Yorkshire Forward.

Sue Jeffrey

**Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 13 March 2008**

In addition, there will be a Special Meeting of the Regional Executive Board on **Thursday 7 February 2008**, immediately before the full Assembly Meeting, to consider and endorse the Business Plan and Budget for Assembly approval.

Nicola Baylis, Business Services Officer  
15 January 2008

**REGIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: 10 JANUARY 2008**

**Attendees**

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Paul Jagger         | Deputy Chair  |
| Cllr Ann McAllister | Leeds City Region Partnership (Deputy for Cllr Carter)        |
| Cllr Arthur Barker  | North Yorkshire Local Authority Partnership and Chair of LGYH |
| Cllr Kris Hopkins   | Regional Housing Board Chair                                  |
| Cllr Mark Kirk      | Regional Transport Board Chair                                |
| Cllr John Weighell  | Rural Local Authorities                                       |
| Gary Topp           | SEE Partners  |
| Michael Noble       | SEE Partners  |
| Patricia Farrell    | SEE Partners  |
| Cllr Roger Stone    | South Yorkshire Local Authority Partnership                   |
| Cllr Robert Light   | West Yorkshire Local Authority Partnership                    |

**Visitors**

|                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Matthew Gladstone | Rotherham MBC |
|-------------------|---------------|

**Observers**

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Simon Foy        | Yorkshire Forward |
| Terry Hodgkinson | Yorkshire Forward |
| Tom Riordan      | Yorkshire Forward |

**Staff**

Andy Haigh  
Chris Martin  
Iain Lovell  
Mark Shaw  
Nicola Baylis  
Richard Wood  
Rob Warm  
Sue Jeffrey

## **Apologies**

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Cllr Peter Box                   | Chair                                       |
| Felicity Everiss                 | Government Office                           |
| Cllr Carl Minns                  | Hull & Humber Ports City Region Partnership |
| Cllr Stephen Parnaby             | Humber Local Authority Partnership          |
| Cllr Andrew Carter               | Leeds City Region Partnership               |
| Paul Rogerson                    | Regional Chief Executives Group             |
| Cllr Steve Galloway              | Regional Planning Board Chair               |
| Penny Hemming                    | SEE Partner Group                           |
| Cllr Jan Wilson/Cllr Steve Jones | Sheffield City Region Partnership           |