

MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD: 13 MARCH 2008

ACTION

1. **Welcome, Introductions & Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a special welcome to Naheed Arshad-Mather who was attending for the first time.
Apologies were noted.

2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting – 10 January 2008 Minutes of the Pre-YHA Meeting – 7 February 2008**

Both sets of minutes were **agreed** as accurate records.

3. **Matters Arising**

There were no additional matters arising.

4. **Business Plan Update**

Chris Martin gave a brief verbal update on the Assembly Business Plan 2008/09 – 2010/11. Members were advised that confirmation of funding was expected from CLG by the end of March.

5. **Integrated Regional Framework (IRF)**

Richard Wood gave an update on the IRF process to date and took Members through the final changes made to the document in light of final development work, the North East Regional Assembly's Sustainability Appraisal and comments made by Defra, and the UK Sustainable Development Commission. It was noted that the final document will be launched at the Assembly's AGM in June.
Members **agreed** the changes.

6. **Report Back from the Boards**

Updates were given by the Chairs of the Assembly's Functional and Scrutiny Boards:

Housing

- The Board met on 7 March.
- Members were broadly content with Housing Investment allocations despite concerns that this process threw up in each of the sub-regions.
- Members agreed that the small underspend in year one for the Regional pot would be added to the Regional Supporting Delivery Fund.
- Members agreed the outline work plan stressing the need for absolute focus on delivery.

Sustainable Development Board

- The Board is still awaiting the report on 'Achieving Low Carbon and Sustainable Transport Systems in Yorkshire and Humber'.
- Funding of £110k for Regional Climate Change Adaptation Study has been confirmed.
- The Board is next due to meet on 20 March.

Planning

- The Board has agreed responses to a number of proposals and applications including CLG's PPS12 (Streamlining Local Development Frameworks) and the review of the 'Call In' criteria for major planning applications.
- The Board is next due to meet on 8 April.

Transport

- The Transport Board is holding a joint event with the Sustainable Development Board on 4 April to discuss the implications of the report on 'Achieving Low Carbon and Sustainable Transport Systems in Yorkshire and Humber'.

Scrutiny

- The Board has not yet received the recommendations on the Rural Economy Scrutiny Review from Yorkshire Forward (Yorkshire Forward agreed to look into this).
- The Board will meet with and question Yorkshire Forward Board members at the public discussion meeting on 18 March in Goole.
- Climate Change issues were discussed at a Stakeholders meeting held in Barnsley last week.

Members asked that the Transport Board's priority actions for the year 2008-09 be circulated for information.

Emma King

The decisions and activities were **noted** by Members.

7. Sub National Economic Development and Regeneration Review

Members noted that there was still speculation about the date when the SNR consultation paper will be released though it is thought this will be before Government Statutory Restrictive Period begins on 10 April.

Arthur Barker reported back on the 2 meetings that LGYH had held with the Yorkshire Forward Board and made the following points:

- SNR creates significant opportunities for the Region but also some major challenges.
- The main challenge will be gaining consensus on the best way to deliver strategies.
- There is a definite intent to move forward together in the Region to make joint decisions and work is underway to look at the best place to make these decisions.

Carole Hassan emphasised that local authorities want to make the most of the existing regional partnership work and are also keen to hold discussions with each of the Assembly's Boards about future work on SNR.

An additional SNR report written from the perspective of the SEE Partners was tabled at the meeting. Paul Jagger spoke to the paper and made the following points:

- SEE Partners have made it clear from the beginning of the SNR process that they will continue to meet as a group and facilitate discussion, whatever the outcome of SNR.
- However it has become clear that the argument for advocacy and strategy now needs to be strengthened by the delivery role that SEE Partners can offer.
- It is recognised that SEE Partners in Yorkshire and Humber are in a stronger position than some regions though the continued uncertainty is a problem.
- There is a need to look at how sustainable a SEE Partner delivery role is as part of the Assembly Business Plan.

Members **noted** these updates and **agreed** the next steps as outlined above.

8. Eco Towns, Growth Locations and the RSS Review

Richard Wood gave an update on the RSS Process to date and noted that The Yorkshire and Humber Plan was due for publication by the Secretary of State in May. In terms of looking at future growth it was important to reaffirm that the best way to look at growth issues facing Yorkshire and Humber, such as Eco Towns and Growth Locations, was through the review of the RSS. This would ensure a strategic and more joined-up response to such issues.

Members noted that more clarity was needed on the timetable for developments such as Eco Towns to allow for proper consultation and decision making.

Members **noted** and **agreed** the three recommendations made in the paper - the need to test Eco Towns through the RSS Review, the proposal for a 'call for evidence' stage on growth proposals and a strengthened approach to partnership working in undertaking the Review. In agreeing this Members stressed the need for co-ordination on work being done at the regional and city-regional level.

9. Any Other Business

Members raised the issue of the financial implications arising from pensions liabilities as a result of the closure of the Assembly. It was noted that discussions were underway with CLG about this issue.

Members **agreed** that a paper should be brought to the next meeting on this subject.

Emma King

Emma King, Business Services Officer
March 2008

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: 13 MARCH 2008

Attendees

Peter Box	Chair
Cllr Kris Hopkins	Chair of Regional Housing Board
Cllr Steve Galloway	Chair of Regional Planning Board
Cllr Mark Kirk	Chair of Regional Transport Board
Paul Jagger	Deputy Chair
Cllr Carl Minns	Hull and Humber Ports City Region Partnership
Cllr Arthur Barker	North Yorkshire Local Authority Partnership and Chair of Local Government Yorkshire & Humber
Naheed Arshad-Mather	SEE Partner Group
Patricia Farrell	SEE Partner Group
Penny Hemming	SEE Partner Group
Michael Noble	SEE Partner Group
Gary Topp	SEE Partner Group
Cllr Roger Stone	South Yorkshire Local Authority Partnership

Observers

Don Stewart	Yorkshire Forward (Sub for Tom Riordan)
Felicity Everiss	Government Office

Staff

Chris Martin
Sue Jeffrey
Iain Lovell
Richard Wood
Rob Warm
Andy Haigh
Andy Horrocks
Emma King

Apologies

Cllr Stephen Parnaby	Humber Local Authority
Cllr Andrew Carter/ Cllr Ann McAllister	Leeds City Region Partnership
Paul Rogerson	Regional Chief Executives Group (Observer)
Cllr John Weighell	Rural Local Authorities
Cllr Jan Wilson/Cllr Steve Jones	Sheffield City Region Partnership
Tom Riordan	Yorkshire Forward

