

MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD: 28 SEPTEMBER 2006

Present: Cllr Peter Box (Chair), Paul Jagger (Vice Chair), Cllr Arthur Barker, Cllr Andrew Carter, Cllr Steve Galloway, Chris Glen, Penny Hemming, Cllr Kris Hopkins, Neil Irving, Margaret Jackson, Michael Noble, Cllr Stephen Parnaby, Don Stewart, Cllr Roger Stone, Cllr Jan Wilson, Cllr John Weighell

Carole Hassan (LGYH), Fiona Bolam (Yorkshire Forward), Chris Martin, Sue Jeffrey, Sian Ferguson, Iain Lovell, Cath Cook, Lyndsey Bunn, Emma King

Apologies: Wendy Bundy, Felicity Everiss, Cllr Robert Light, Cllr Carl Minns, Tom Riordan, Paul Rogerson, Michele Sutton

ACTION

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting with a special welcome to those Members attending for the first time. Cllr Barker was welcomed back from his recent illness.

2. Minutes of the Regional Executive Board - 29 June 2006

The minutes of the last meeting were **agreed** as a true record.

3. Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere on the Agenda)

The progress on matters arising was **noted**.

4. Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 Regional Response/Northern Way Response

Members considered a report setting out the main propositions included in the regional response to the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 as updated by a further tabled report.

Each proposition was set out in turn and the following

comments made and issues raised:

- Lack of reference to the link between the Sheffield City Region and Manchester and also to the Humber Ports. It was **noted** this was set out in the accompanying text.
- SEE Partner concerns over the consultation on the CSR document and the importance of its link to other strategies. It was **noted** that the response builds on the work to develop the RES/RSS/RHF carried out over the last 18 months.
- The importance of mentioning the three largest cities in the Region and the need to reinforce the role of City Regions. It was **noted** this was set out in the accompanying text.
- Concerns over the references to congestion charging were **noted**.
- Concern that key issues had been underplayed including environmental issues, rural priorities and social inclusion. Noted that this joint YHA/YF document was prepared in response to a letter from Minister John Healey. The guidance had been very specific limiting the contribution to focusing on the five drivers of productivity plus employment. Later discussions with Departments had relaxed these rules slightly and issues including the ones mentioned were now addressed to some extent in the document. Additionally, a range of other responses were being produced by sector specific organisations eg the Regional Housing Forum.
- The need to retain HE students in the Region was **noted**.
- The need to ensure housing affordability issues were fully addressed. It was **noted** that a proposition on affordability appeared to have got lost from the latest report and this would be reintroduced.
- The need to make a case for more funding for transport. Noted that these points had been included but were limited by guidance from government that had clearly stated requests for additional funds would be 'disregarded'. Need to consider further how the Assembly might lobby on this.
- The possibility of asking Government to consider streamlining the number of skills bodies in the Region was **noted**.

It was further **noted** that this was not the end of the process and that there would be more opportunity to influence the debate including opportunities for bi lateral discussions with individual Departments about the propositions.

It was **agreed** that the submission be approved subject to the points raised being incorporated as indicated above. It was also **agreed** that a copy of the final document be forwarded to Members.

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Members also **noted** the Northern Way response.

5. **Strategic Review of Sub Regional Investment Planning**

Members consider a report setting out progress on the strategic review of Sub-Regional Investment Planning.

As agreed at the last meeting of the Regional Executive Board, a meeting of Local Authority Leaders and Chief Executives was held on 8 September 2006 and the SEE Partner group also discussed the issue of city-regional and sub-regional planning at its meeting on 22 September.

A paper setting out the views of Local Authority Chief Executives was tabled and introduced by Carole Hassan (LGYH).

Following discussion it was felt that this issue had been subject to lengthy debate and that Yorkshire Forward were aware of the key points being raised. It was therefore **agreed** that it was now for Yorkshire Forward to develop a proposal for consultation.

6. **Regional Governance Arrangements**

a) **Implementation and Evaluation**

It was **noted** that ARUP had been commissioned to carry out work to evaluate the new governance arrangements and as part of this would be monitoring the effectiveness of the structures over the coming year.

Members asked for clarification on the Regional Executive Board Advisory Group and it was **agreed** to circulate details of this to all Members.

Business
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Members also asked for summaries of the Regional Executive and Functional Boards activities to be circulated. Iain Lovell explained that this is already happening with 'Mini Essentials' and Board round ups available to Members.

b) Away Day and Forward Work Programme for the REB

The paper was introduced and Members **agreed** the date of 6 November for the Away Day.

7. Scoping Report for the Integrated Regional Framework

A Scoping Report setting out the basis for developing the new Integrated Regional Framework was introduced and discussed.

Members **agreed** that the report be the basis for the development of the Framework and that further discussion would take place at the meeting on 16 November.

Additionally it was **agreed** that the report be submitted as the response to Defra on how high-level regional strategies in Yorkshire and Humber will be 'refreshed' in accordance with Government guidance.

8. Update on Statement of Financial Accounts 2005/2006

Members considered and **agreed** the revised Statement of Accounts 2005/06 for recommendation to the full Assembly.

Members **approved** the transfer of reserves to Local Government Yorkshire and the Humber on the basis set out noting an error at paragraph 5 should be corrected to read that the total amount of reserves retained by the Assembly is £634,512.

9. European Structural Funds Consultation

Members **noted** a report setting out the process for consultation on the draft Operational Programme for the European Structural Fund 2007 – 2013.

10. AOB

The Chair gave feedback from the ERN fringe meeting at the Labour Party Conference in Manchester also attended by Chris Leslie (NLGN), Dermot Finch (Centre for Cities), and Treasury Minister John Healey.

ACTION

The Chair reported on a conversation with Sir Robin Wales, elected Mayor of Newham, about his role in the London 2012 Olympics. Sir Robin is keen to meet with Assembly members to discuss how the Region can benefit from the Olympics. It was **noted** that considerable work was already happening around the Olympics and would be a useful item for discussion at a future meeting of the Assembly and that Sir Robin should be invited to attend.

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Date of Next Meeting:

YHA Meeting 19 October 2006 @ 2.00 pm
Executive Board 16 November 2006 @ 10.00 am

Emma King, Business Services Officer
October 2006