

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER ASSEMBLY MEETING

4 OCTOBER 2007: 12.15PM – 1.00PM

SAVILES HALL, ROYAL ARMOURIES, LEEDS

AGENDA

1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

BUSINESS ITEMS

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting (AGM) – 12 July 2007 Attached
3. Matters Arising – Including Update on Government's Proposed Changes to the Yorkshire & Humber Plan (RSS) Verbal
4. Approval of Final 2006/07 Statement of Accounts Attached
5. Activities and Decisions of the Regional Executive Board Attached
6. Activities and Decisions of the Functional Boards Attached
7. Election of Assembly Representatives to the New European Programme Management Boards Attached

DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. Review of Sub National Economic Development and Regeneration (SNR) – Summary of Key Recommendations and Implementation Attached
9. Regional Inclusion and the Julian Cummins Awards Attached
10. Any Other Business

Date of Next Meeting: 6 December 2007

MINUTES OF THE YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER ASSEMBLY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 12 JULY 2007

Action

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and the apologies were **noted**.

A full list of attendees and apologies is attached at **Annex A**.

2. Flooding – Latest Situation – Cllr Arthur Barker (Chair LGYH)

Cllr Barker explained that a brief meeting about the recent flooding incidents had taken place prior to the AGM with leaders from across the region. This had looked at individual experiences of the floods and a discussion had taken place about how the region could be better prepared to deal with the situation should it arise again in the future. It had been **agreed** that the region's Chief Executives would submit reports with ideas on how to coordinate this.

3. Keynote Speaker – Tom Riordan (Yorkshire Forward)

The Chair welcomed Tom Riordan, Chief Executive of Yorkshire Forward, to speak about the progress of the agency over the last 12 months and to update Members on forthcoming work.

Tom spoke about a number of issues and highlighted the following points:

Floods

- The recent severe weather conditions had a serious impact on businesses, particularly in South Yorkshire and in the Humber.
- A £1 million Small Business Recovery Scheme and emergency helpline had been set up by Yorkshire Forward to help with immediate assistance businesses needed after the flooding. This fund has been raised to £2 million in the last few weeks.
- This funding has helped businesses to start trading again quickly, with up to £2,500 allocated to each company – the first payment was made to a business in Rotherham less than a week after the flooding.
- Larger businesses have found the impact more difficult and

have been dealt with on a case by case basis – e.g. Forgemasters in Sheffield.

- It is important that the Assembly and its partners help to put across the message to tourists and visitors that the region is still 'open for business' despite the floods.
- The work of the Assembly on Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Flood defence is of critical importance now – whether a direct link to the flooding can be proven or not.
- The general resilience of the region in dealing with this emergency has been impressive.

Business

- Yorkshire Forward has been named a 'strong performing Regional Development Agency' in its recent audit and has delivered its Government targets again this year.
- The agency has won national and international awards, one of which was for creating a masterplan for Bradford city centre, which was showcased in New York's Museum of Modern Art.
- Agreed and clear priorities between the agency and local authorities in the renaissance programme are enabling increased investment in the region.
- The agency realises the contributions that Further Education has to make and is working on improving links with this area.
- Yorkshire Forward is the only RDA in the country to directly invest in transport.
- The agency has invested £10million in a regional charity bank to support third sector organisations in the Region who generally are unable to get assistance from commercial banks.
- Yorkshire Forward's initiative 'Carbon Action Yorkshire' is gathering success – $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Region's NHS Trusts and $\frac{3}{4}$ of the top 100 businesses are to sign up to the Regional target of a 25% cut in carbon dioxide emissions.
- Support for the City Region debate – 'federal working' the only way to work.
- The agency upholds its decision to put out the tender for the provision of the new Business Link service – couldn't justify a closed tender for £30million of public spending.

Bollywood

- This was a huge risk for the agency but one worth taking – Leeds beat New York to host the Indian Film Awards, it created £10 million in tourism spend and £50 million in blanket media coverage.
- A trade agreement with Indian businesses is being set up.
- Diversity needs to be viewed in a positive way if social cohesion is to be achieved.

Conclusions

- This region has a lot to be proud of – extremely self confident and self reliant.
- The region has had seven years of economic growth above the European average.
- Importance of working as a team.
- Importance of business in creating wealth.

Members questions addressed the following points:

- The amount of calls from businesses in Hull affected by the floods and the work being done to assist them.
- The possibility of adding more local authority representatives to the Yorkshire Forward Board.

The Chair thanked Tom for his informative speech and the ensuing debate it had allowed.

4. Minutes of the Last AGM – 20 July 2006 (*Previously Approved*)

The minutes of the last AGM were presented for information only and were **noted**.

5. Appointments

a. Appointment of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Assembly

Cllr Peter Box and Paul Jagger were confirmed as Chair and Deputy Chair (respectively) of the Assembly for the two-year term 2007/2009 subject to annual confirmation at the intervening AGM.

b. Appointment of Regional Executive Board

The Regional Executive Board membership was circulated and confirmed for the year 2007/2008.

c. Appointment of Honorary Treasurer

Judith Badger was confirmed as Honorary Treasurer for the year 2007/2008.

d. Election of Chairs and Deputy Chairs of Boards - Housing, Planning, Transport, Sustainable Development

Details of nominations for the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of the

Housing, Planning, Transport and Sustainable Development Boards were circulated.

It was explained that only one post was contested, with two candidates putting themselves forward for Chair of the Regional Transport Board. Members took a vote and Cllr Mark Kirk was elected as Chair of the Regional Transport Board, with Chris Glen taking the post of Deputy Chair.

The following nominations were confirmed for the year 2007/2008;

Regional Housing Board

- Chair – Cllr Kris Hopkins
- Deputy Chair – Patricia Farrell

Regional Planning Board

- Chair – Cllr Steve Galloway
- Deputy Chair– Wendy Bundy

Regional Transport Board

- Chair– Cllr Mark Kirk
- Deputy Chair - Chris Glen

Sustainable Development Board

- Chair – Cllr Arthur Barker
- Deputy Chair – Naheed Arshad-Mather

e. Approval of Scrutiny Board Members

Membership of the Scrutiny Board was circulated and approved by Members for the year 2007/2008.

6. Amendments to Constitution and Governance Arrangements

The proposed changes to the Assembly Constitution and Governance Arrangements were tabled and **approved** by Members.

7. Draft Annual Report 2006/07

The Draft Annual Report from 1 April 2006 – 31 March 2007 was tabled and **approved** by Members.

8. Draft Statement of Accounts 2006/07

The Draft Statement of Accounts 2006/2007 was recommended to Members by the Regional Executive Board and was **confirmed**.

The 2005/2006 Audit Action Plan was tabled and Members **noted** progress on this.

9. Members Allowances

Members **noted** the implementation of a Dependent Carer's Allowance Scheme.

10. Schedule of YHA Meetings 2007/08

Members noted the proposed schedule of meetings 2007/2008.

11. Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the New Yorkshire and Humber Assembly Governance Structures – Final Report

The Chair welcomed Tom Bridges from ARUP to present his findings from their recent research into the effectiveness of the new governance structures put in place by the Assembly last year.

Tom highlighted the following points:

- The right structures have been put in place.
- The Assembly is more focussed than before, with more effective work being produced as a result.
- The Boards are engaged in important strategic work for the Region.
- The Assembly is being more proactive at City Regional and Sub Regional level.
- Three key messages from the research:
 - the Assembly needs to continue to build on this progress.
 - the Assembly needs to lead constructive and open debate on new governance arrangements.
 - the Assembly needs to keep its eye on important issues.

An addendum to the main report was then circulated to Members updating them on progress with the Sub National Review update. The Chair then invited discussion.

Members highlighted the following points:

- The difficulty in having a debate about new arrangements before an official announcement from Government.
- The potential lack of time available for a consultation following a Government announcement.
- The need for increased involvement of local authorities in

- regional development agencies – chairing or sitting on boards.
- The need for a more robust scrutiny of procedures and a more democratic mandate.
- The need to keep social issues on the agenda for the region if the Assembly and Regional Development Agency join to become one organisation, and if regional strategies are amalgamated.
- The importance of responding as a region rather than as individual partners.
- The need to see the new arrangements as a positive step and an opportunity to improve.
- The importance of national accountability, through such mechanisms as select committees, to strengthen financial commitments and provide a forum for national agencies to demonstrate how they are helping regions.
- The need to keep the momentum on this discussion.

The Chair noted that plans were underway for the Assembly to meet with representatives from Government Office, Yorkshire Forward and Local Government Yorkshire and Humber. An invitation has also been sent to the new Regional Minister, Caroline Flint, for a meeting.

Members **agreed** that discussion on the SNR should be picked up at the next full Assembly meeting on 4 October.

12. Minutes of the Last Meeting – 15 February 2007

Members agreed the minutes of the last meeting.

13. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

14. Report Back from Regional Executive Board

Members **noted** the decisions and activities of the Regional Executive Board since the last Assembly meeting on 15 February 2007.

15. Report Back from the Boards

Members **noted** the key issues from the Assembly Boards since the last Assembly meeting on 15 February 2007. The following additions were made by the Chairs of the Boards:

- **Planning/Housing** – There have been further Government

- policy statements on housing published recently.
- **Transport** – Plans are underway for a Board Away Day in September
- **Sustainable Development** – The draft IRF report has been developed and circulated to Members.

16. Scrutiny

a. Employment Scrutiny Review Report

The Chair of the Scrutiny Board thanked colleagues for their help in producing this report and asked Members for their approval.

A number of points of detail were raised on the report but it was **agreed** that these could be picked up outside of the meeting. Members **approved** the report on this basis.

b. Scrutiny Activity

Members **noted** the next scrutiny review on the 'Rural Economy'.

Members **noted** the progress made on 'The Northern Way Opportunities' and 'Innovation' scrutiny action plans.

Members **agreed** the provisional timetable of future scrutiny topics for the Scrutiny Board.

17. Any Other Business

There was no other business. The following information notes were **noted**;

- Mainstreaming Ageing into Regional Strategies
- RSS Update

18. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 4 October 2007 at 2pm.

Emma King, Business Services Officer
17 July 2007

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER ASSEMBLY MEETING - AGM 12 JULY 2007 - ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendees

Members/Substitutes:

Caroline Rowley	Association of Colleges (Sub for Michele Sutton)
Cllr Michael Stokes	Barnsley Metropolitan District Council (Sub for Cllr Steve Houghton)
Naheed Arshad-Mather	BME Regional Panel
Cllr Kris Hopkins	City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Ann McAllister	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Penny Hemming	CBI
Cllr Peter Box	Chair
Cllr Steve Galloway	City of York Council
Paul Jagger	Deputy Chair/Learning and Skills Council
Cllr Bill Mordue	Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
Chris Glen	Federation of Small Businesses
Cllr Arthur Barker	Hambleton District Council
Cllr Mike Gardner	Harrogate Borough Council
Kathryn Riddle	Health
Cllr Carl Minns	Hull City Council
Cllr Andrew De Freitas	North East Lincolnshire Council
Cllr Mark Kirk	North Lincolnshire Council
Cllr John Weighell	North Yorkshire County Council
Cate Hammond	Regional Environment Forum
Neil Irving	Regional Forum
Cllr Melva Steckles	Richmondshire District Council
Cllr Roger Stone	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Wendy Bundy	Rural Community Councils
Cllr Tom Fox	Scarborough Borough Council
Cllr Mark Crane	Selby District Council
Cllr Steve Jones	Sheffield City Council (Sub for Cllr Jan Wilson)
Tom Glossop	Town and Parish Councils
Bill Adams	TUC
Nick Pontone	Yorkshire and Humber Chamber of Commerce (Sub for Michael Oughtred)
Patricia Farrell	Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum
Gary Topp	Yorkshire Culture
Michael Noble	Yorkshire Universities

Chief Executives Group (Non-voting):

Tony Reeves	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
John Foster	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council

Observers:

Felicity Everiss	Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber
Phil Younge	The Environment Agency
Tom Riordan	Yorkshire Forward

Visitors:

Tom Bridges	ARUP
Jake Scott	Environment Agency
Margaret Jackson	Government Office for Yorkshire and The Humber
Maureen Taylor	Government Office for Yorkshire and The Humber
Mick King	Humber Economic Partnership
Steve Walmsley	Local Government Yorkshire and Humber
Lucy Bjorck	RSPB
John Lewis	TUC
Kazuko Kakegawa	University of Birmingham
Colin Mellors	University of York
Inderjit Singh Bhogal	Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum
Richard Oliver	Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum
Janet Dean	Yorkshire and Humber Strategic Health Authority
Jane Hustwit	Yorkshireurope

YHA Staff:

Amanda Johnson
Andy Haigh
Andy Horrocks
Chris Martin
Emma King
Fay McCulloch
Harriet Hanison
Helen Todd
Iain Lovell
James Paton
Jess Jubb
Kelly Jevons
Liz Drexler
Lyla Peter
Lyndsey Bunn
Mark Shaw
Martyn Roberts

Natalie Fudge
Nicola Plumstead
Rob Murfin
Rob Warm
Sue Jeffrey

Apologies

Members:

Michele Sutton	Association of Colleges
Cllr Steve Houghton	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Stephen Parnaby	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
John Fletcher	North York Moors National Park Authority
John Marsden	North Yorkshire County Council
Cllr Keith Knaggs	Ryedale District Council
Cllr Jan Wilson	Sheffield City Council
Cllr Denise Jeffery	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
Michael Oughtred	Yorkshire and Humber Chambers of Commerce
Malcolm Petyt	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

Associate Member

Meredydd Hughes	South Yorkshire Police
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Observers

Vanessa Gilbert	Highways Agency
Peter Nottage	Natural England
Terry Hodgkinson	Yorkshire Forward

Chief Executives

Michael Walsh	Harrogate Borough Council
Paul Rogerson	Regional Chief Executives Group

Visitors

Margaret Coleman	Learning and Skills Council
Carole Hassan	Local Government Yorkshire and Humber
Prof Paul Johnstone	Regional Public Health Group
Christine Hawkins	Yorkshire Forward

APPROVAL OF FINAL 2006/07 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

For Approval

To Approve the final Statement Of Accounts 2006/07 as recommended by the Regional Executive Board.

Background

1. The draft Statement of Accounts for 2006/07 was presented to the Assembly AGM on 12 July. The audit was then in progress and has now been completed.

Amendments

2. The following amendments have been made to the draft Statement of Accounts presented in July following recommendations from the Audit Commission:
 - Creditors have been reduced by £23,608 and an invoice for £14,500 has been treated as a payment in advance. The effect of these amendments is to:
 - Reduce expenditure (other costs) by £38,108 with a consequential increase in the surplus for the year.
 - Decrease in creditors of £23,608.
 - Increase in payments in advance of £14,500
 - Increase in general reserves of £38,108
 - Minor changes to wording on the advice of the Audit Commission and correction of typographical errors.

The full document is available on the Assembly website.

Audit Report

3. The Audit Commission has concluded that the Statement of Accounts gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Assembly as at 31 March 2007 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended.
4. The Audit Commission has concluded also that, in all significant respects, the Assembly has made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and

effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ending 31 March 2007.

Audit Action Plan

5. The draft Annual Governance Report has been issued. This sets out the main findings of the audit and recommendations for the future. When finalised this will be presented to the Executive Co-ordination Team with an agreed action plan to address the issues raised.

Source Papers

6. Past reports on this matter are available as follows:

Report	Location
Yorkshire and Humber Assembly Annual General Meeting: 12 July 2007 Draft Statement of Accounts 2006/07 Regional Executive Board: 6 September 2007 Approval of Final 2006/07 Statement of Accounts	All available from: Emma King Yorkshire and Humber Assembly 18 King Street Wakefield WF1 2SQ Tel: 01924 331590 E-mail: Emma.King@yhassembly.gov.uk

Mark Shaw, Resources Manager
September 2007

ACTIVITIES AND DECISIONS OF THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

For Information

Members are asked to note the decisions and activities of the Regional Executive Board since the Assembly AGM on 12 July 2007.

Sub National Review

1. In July, the Government announced the initial outcomes from the Sub-National Review of Economic Development and Regeneration (SNR), which has a number of implications for the way in which regional and sub-regional level working takes place.
2. Whilst the headlines emerging from the review are relatively clear - including that Assemblies will not continue in "their current form" and a bigger role for Regional Development Agencies - the detail of how the recommendations will be implemented has yet to be developed. Further clarification is expected in the autumn.
3. The Government has made it clear Assemblies themselves, regional agencies, and other groupings of local authorities will all have key roles to play in helping shape the detail of how the region wishes to work in the future, with the changes phased for an anticipated completion date of 2010.
4. A number of meetings between various regional partners and agencies have already taken place. Further consultation on elements of the implementation of the review will take place during the autumn and before the end of the Year.
5. Members raised a number of issues on which they will be seeking clarification. These include more details from the Government on the planned timetable, concerns over future governance and accountability, the role of local authorities and SEE partners and the need to maintain established regional partnership working. There is an update report on SNR included on this agenda and the Assembly's Policy Conference today will also provide an opportunity to discuss these issues.

Delivering Regional Growth

6. Members discussed a detailed report on how the region might address the implications of economic and housing growth issues facing Yorkshire and

Humber.

7. The context to this debate was the recent publication by the Government of the Housing Green Paper, which – amongst other things - proposes increasing the number of homes being built across the country. However, the evidence of continuing employment growth in Y&H, particularly in the Leeds City Region also provides a more specific regional context to the increased need for more homes to be built in future. The regional picture on housing figures and Government expectations will become clear when it publishes the proposed changes to the Regional Spatial Strategy.
8. In response to need for more homes to be built nationally, the Government has outlined proposals for new “eco-towns” and “growth points” to help deliver sustainable growth and regeneration, with up to £300m of investment to support transport and other infrastructure to aid this.
9. A number of members expressed concerns over the likely impact of increase in house building in the region and in specific areas of the region, particularly with regards to transport infrastructure and Green Belt. Members supported the idea of pursuing the investigation of the “growth point” and “eco towns” concept, as set out in the report, as a way of helping bring much needed investment in infrastructure into the region and in helping play a part in future solutions to accommodating growth.
10. However, it was agreed that further examination and discussion on the proposed housing numbers for the region would need to take place when the proposed changes to the RSS are published.

Yorkshire and Humber Plan (Draft RSS) and the Integrated Regional Framework (IRF) – Handling Arrangements

11. Members discussed the next steps in work to complete the Yorkshire and Humber Plan (draft RSS) and the IRF. Members agreed a process that will involve calling an additional Assembly meeting on 6 December to agree the Assembly’s response to the Government’s proposed changes to the draft RSS and to ‘sign off’ the IRF in time to meet a Christmas deadline for submission to Government.

Communities England

12. The Government is currently consulting on proposals to establish Communities England - a new agency formed by merging English Partnerships and the Housing Corporation.
13. Members discussed how the Assembly should respond, focussing on the broader relationship of Communities England to emerging thinking around the sub-national review. They agreed the response would focus on three

areas:

- Developing a model that is flexible enough to meet the needs of the Yorkshire and Humber region;
- Developing a clear relationship with regional strategies - particularly around housing, planning and economic development; and
- Ensuring there are clear links with existing and future structures - in the light of likely changes emerging from the sub-national review.

SEE Partner Representation

14. Members agreed to a request from SEE partners that a pool of named substitutes be created to cover meetings normal REB SEE partners representatives were unable to attend.

Regional Executive Board (REB) Work Programme 2007/8

15. Members were updated on progress on the Regional Executive Board work programme which has been developed. The programme covers five top priorities- Developing the Integrated Regional Framework; Exercising regional leadership; Lobbying/working with government and others on key issues; Coordinating, overseeing and monitoring the work of Functional Boards; and policy/strategy development and endorsement.

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

16. The new Governance arrangements for overseeing the new ERDF programme which will bring almost £400m to the region between 2007-13 were discussed. Members welcomed an offer from Yorkshire Forward to increase the local authority representation on the Programme Monitoring Committee to replace one of Yorkshire Forward's representatives.

Iain Lovell, Head of Scrutiny and Communications
September 2007

ACTIVITIES AND DECISIONS OF THE FUNCTIONAL BOARDS

For Information

Members are asked to note the decisions and activities of the Assembly's Functional Boards since the Assembly AGM on 12 July 2007.

Regional Planning Board

1. The Regional Planning Board met on 18 September 2007. A number of new members were welcomed to the Board.
2. This meeting was an opportunity for the Board to discuss the implications that the sub-national review (SNR) would have for regional planning, so that the views of the Board could be fed into further discussions in the region and with Government.
3. Following on from discussions at the Regional Executive Board on housing growth in the region, this meeting was also an opportunity for the Board to consider the Assembly response to the Housing Green Paper and the wider issues of growth in the Region. Members stressed that the response to the Green Paper needed to highlight the importance of housing quality and type, so that the focus was not just on the numbers of houses and people's needs and aspirations were considered. The Board emphasised that any growth point or eco-town proposals needed to have a strategic fit with regional strategies, particularly to support the core urban transformation approach set out in The Yorkshire and Humber Plan. Members recognised key concerns about the scale of likely housing requirements and infrastructure pressures. The Board endorsed further work being undertaken to help inform forthcoming debates and decisions on the RSS Proposed Changes. This work would examine the migration assumptions of the latest Government household projections and current regional evidence on housing and economic change.
4. The Board agreed a response to the current consultation on the Water Framework Directive that would endorse the 'significant water management issues' in the region as identified by the Environment Agency. The Board also wanted to emphasise the need for a genuine two-way process of influence between the implementation of the Water Framework Directive in the Region and the preparation and implementation of the Regional Spatial Strategy. This would help to ensure that the wider consequences for sustainable

development of the Water Framework Directive were understood and that links to flood management, for example, were made effectively.

5. The Board received a summary of the Regional Aggregates Working Party advice on mineral extraction in the region. This advice helps local authorities to prepare local development frameworks and to determine planning applications for aggregates extraction as well as providing vital information for the Assembly on monitoring aggregate extraction and on commenting on strategic minerals planning applications. The Board agreed that the full report should be circulated to local authorities and that its findings should feed into future work on minerals and waste policies and their implementation in the region.
6. The Board received a report on consultations received on planning applications. In July and August 2007, the Assembly was consulted 19 times as a statutory consultee on strategic planning applications. Ten of these applications raised issues for the implementation of the RSS and these issues were set out in responses that were either agreed by the Planning Board via electronic communications (four in number) or set out in officer responses (six in number). At the meeting the Board reiterated the need for it to concentrate its efforts on responding to the more strategic applications. The Board also agreed that it would be helpful to have more time to consider their responses to applications and officers agreed to seek longer extensions of time for comments whenever possible with local authorities.

Regional Housing Board

7. The Regional Housing Board met on 21 September 2007. The meeting was followed by a tour of Park Hill Flats in Sheffield – one of the regional Flagship schemes that the Board is supporting. This gave members the opportunity to see how the Board's investment is delivering real change on the ground.
8. The Board considered the implications of the sub-national review on regional housing policy. The key outcome of this discussion was a desire to see housing continue to be dealt with at a regional level, building on the work of the Board. The Board agreed to undertake some more work to help influence the emerging arrangements as part of the broader Assembly response.
9. The Board also discussed lobbying to ensure that policy and investment fully meets the region's needs. This involved agreeing a draft of key housing messages to inform lobbying activity and planning around the forthcoming housing and planning Parliamentary reception.
10. The other substantive item was around the recent Housing Green Paper and the challenge of housing growth in our region. Members set out their views on how growth could best be managed in the region, stressing the need for the growth agenda to be seen in the context of delivering our existing regional strategic priorities.

Regional Transport Board

- 11.** The Regional Transport Board met on 14 September. A key item of debate was the Sub-National Review (SNR) and the implications this would have for the work of the Board. The Board also received a presentation from a representative of the Hull and Humber Ports City Region on a transport vision for the area. This was one of a series of presentations to the Board over recent meetings to enable Members to gain a perspective of transport aspirations across the region.
- 12.** The Board also debated rail issues. It was agreed that a letter should be written to the Transport Minister and the Regional Minister setting out concerns with the recently published Rail White Paper – particularly the lack of vision and likely inadequacy of investment in new capacity in our region. The Board also agreed a response to the consultation on the future development of the East Coast Mainline that also highlighted concerns about future service development.
- 13.** The Board considered proposals for the development of a new 'Bus Rapid Transit' service between Sheffield and Rotherham that aims to achieve a significant improvement in public transport connections at a lower cost than the previously proposed Tram extension that Ministers had rejected. The Board agreed its support for the funding of the first phase of the scheme from the transport element of the Regional Funding Allocation, although it is the Transport Secretary who takes the final decision on funding.
- 14.** The Board is to hold an 'awayday' on 12 October to discuss a number of key areas of activity that will be the focus of work over the next year.

Sustainable Development Board

- 15.** The Board considered an update on current adaptation activity and the potential for undertaking a regional adaptation study. The proposed study is significant extension of the earlier work both in terms of the detail of information to be acquired and the range of potential adaptive actions to be identified. The provision of Local Authority area specific reports will enable Local Authorities to better meet the requirements of the new performance framework (particularly the Progress towards a Climate-Resilient Local Area indicator) and the commitments of the Nottingham Declaration. Following discussions. It was agreed to scope out further work on a regional study, including seeking funding support from partners, and invite colleagues from the North East Assembly, which is already carrying out a similar study, to the December Board meeting where a firmer proposal can be discussed.
- 16.** A colour version of the Executive Summary of the report on Climate Change and Regional Strategies has been produced and sent out to Assembly and Board members. In addition, a simpler version of the Executive Summary has

been written and is available on the Assembly website and will be included in the next edition of the Yorkshire Futures Newsletter. Presentations on the research have been given at a workshop for the IRF, to the Regional Planning Forum and to Yorkshire Forward. Further presentations are planned to the Regional Energy Forum and Regional Housing Forum. Copies of research have also been provided to Hillary Benn - Minister for the Environment, Caroline Flint - the Region's Minister, and John Healy - Minister for Local Government. It was agreed by the Board that consultants should be employed to assist the Board to examine how a low-carbon transport system could be achieved. Consultants have now been appointed to carry out this work, which should be concluded by March 2008.

17. Members heard further details of this Yorkshire Futures-managed project to produce a most likely scenario for the state of the region in 2030 and a detailed analysis of existing and likely future inequalities. One of the reasons for undertaking this work is to provide the Board with evidence to enable it to formulate advice on how the IRF could tackle the trend for widening inequalities. The work is to be completed by early November 2007 and will be available to inform the final version of the IRF.

Scrutiny Board

18. Following the endorsement of the Employment scrutiny review at the AGM in July, the Employment report and accompanying summary documents has been published and widely distributed. The new Scrutiny Board have held an Away Day to discuss their role and to develop skills needed to carry out to the scrutiny function.
19. The Rural Economy review has started and following the production of statistical information and information regarding Yorkshire Forward activity, the Scrutiny Board agreed the lines of enquiry for this review at their first board meeting on 4th September.
20. The lines of Enquiry will concentrate on two key areas:
 - Making rural areas more enterprising
 - Regeneration of rural town centres
21. 'Making rural areas more enterprising' will focus on initiatives and activities by Yorkshire Forward that create the right conditions for businesses to start-up, trade and grow in rural communities. It will take stock of the existing projects focussed on rural areas and assess the impact and outcomes achieved, identify any gaps in support and infrastructure, and highlight exemplars of good practice. 'Regeneration of rural town centres' will consider the policies, strategies and regeneration activities that generate new sources of income for the rural economy. It will assess how financial investment in rural areas is supported by Yorkshire Forward, and how regeneration is delivered with and through partners.

- 22.** Preparation is underway for the public discussion meeting on 11th October and various focus groups meetings are being set up to generate views of the business and community sectors.
- 23.** An early meeting has also been held between Scrutiny officers and Mike Hennessey to discuss potential future implications for regional scrutiny with the introduction of Regional Select Committees. A meeting with the Yorkshire and Humber Clerk is being organised to discuss further. The Board have agreed to discuss these developments at each Scrutiny Board meeting.

Emma King, Business Services Officer
September 2007

AGENDA ITEM: 7

**YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER ASSEMBLY MEETING:
4 OCTOBER 2007**

ELECTION OF ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES TO THE NEW EUROPEAN PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT BOARDS

For Decision

Members are asked:

- To note progress to secure the Assembly representative on the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Programme Management Committee, and
- To agree the Assembly representative on the European Social Fund (ESF) Programme Management Committee.

- 1.** At the Regional Executive Board Meeting held on 6 September 2007, members agreed the proposed membership of the ERDF PMC, its roles and responsibilities and the frequency of meetings. It was also agreed that, nominations would be sought for the Assembly representative. This request will be circulated to members shortly and will be considered by the Regional Executive Board at their meeting in November.
- 2.** Members will also be aware that a separate invitation that has been circulated seeking nominations for the Assembly representative to another Programme Management Committee that has been established for the European Social Fund (ESF).
- 3.** Nominations for these positions have been sought with a return date of 27 September 2007. Details of nominations will be available at the meeting.
- 4.** If there is only one nomination members will be asked to confirm the appointment. If there is more than one nomination there will be an election at the meeting.

Source Papers

- 5.** Past reports on this subject are available as follows:

Report	Location
<p>Regional Executive Board Meeting: 12 April 2007 'Draft European Regional Development Fund Operational Programme'</p> <p>Regional Executive Board Meeting: 6 September 2007 'Arrangements For Governance The New ERDF Operational Programme'</p>	<p>All available from:</p> <p>Lyndsey Bunn Yorkshire and Humber Assembly 18 King Street Wakefield WF1 2SQ Tel: 01924 331565 E-mail: lyndsey.bunn@yhassembly.gov.uk</p>

Sue Jeffrey, Executive Director
September 2007

**REVIEW OF SUB-NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
REGENERATION (SNR) – SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS AND
IMPLEMENTATION**

For Discussion

Members are asked to note the key headline recommendations from the sub-national review and ongoing activity in the region.

Background

1. On 16 July the Government announced the initial outcomes from the Sub-National Review of Economic Development and Regeneration (SNR). The SNR has a number of implications for the way in which we work together at a regional and a sub-regional level. Whilst the headlines emerging from the review are relatively clear, the detail of how the recommendations will be implemented has yet to be developed.
2. CLG has made it clear that it expects there to be 'a properly managed transition' with new arrangements building on the successful partnerships already established at the regional level. We have been told that Assemblies, regional agencies, and other groupings of local authorities will all have a key role to play in helping to shape the detail of how the region wishes to work in the future.
3. We are currently awaiting guidance from Government on the production of our business plan for 2008-9. This will provide more clarity on what Government expects to see forming the basis of the transitional period.
4. The key recommendations set out in SNR are summarised in the information note attached as **Annex A**.

Activity Following Publication

5. Members and other stakeholders have already had a number of discussions about SNR and its potential impact. These are continuing. These discussions are important in ensuring that all partners in the region understand the potential implications of the Review. However, early views of members indicate that, until there is more clarity from government they consider it to be too early to start detailed planning around implementation.

6. At its meeting on 6 September, the Regional Executive Board had an opportunity to consider the implications of the report in some detail. Key concerns emerging from that discussion included:
 - The make up and role of regional select committees and how these would relate to regional scrutiny through Local Authorities.
 - The extent to which any new Single Integrated Strategy would guide investment in housing and transport to give members confidence that in signing off the SIRS the investment implications were clear.
 - A concern that the SNR is essentially about 'shuffling' responsibilities at regional level – and does not refer to any devolution of additional powers.
 - The need to make sure that the region remains focused on delivery during this period of uncertainty.
7. Local Authority Partners have met separately to discuss the SNR within the structures provided by Local Government Yorkshire and Humber. Given the strong steer that SNR gives to local authorities, they are currently leading thinking on how they wish new arrangements to work.
8. SEE Partners have also met separately to discuss the potential implications of SNR on broader partnership working in the region. SEE Partners expressed concern that SNR simply doesn't begin to recognise or reflect the value that partners bring to regional policy making, and they will be seeking to challenge this as the region moves into discussions on implementation. Concerns were also raised about the 'narrowness' of an agenda dominated only by economic growth. The SEEP group agreed that whatever the long-term outcomes of SNR, non-LA interests would continue to meet at a regional level.
9. The SEE Partners are currently in the process of agreeing a 'position statement' on their response to SNR. This is a key item for discussion at their meeting on 27 September. This will form the starting point for discussions with Local Authority partners, Yorkshire Forward, Government and other stakeholders. An update on this will be given at the meeting.

Discussions at Boards

10. In the current cycle of meetings, reports on the SNR have been taken to each of the Assembly's Board meetings in September to allow each to understand and consider the implications for their activity. Key points from these discussions include:
 - A widespread concern about the perceived narrowness of an agenda dominated by economic growth – particularly around broader sustainable development principles. This view was common across all of the Boards, but was particularly raised by the Sustainable Development Board.
 - A desire to see robust accountability mechanisms put in place alongside the RDA getting new responsibilities.
 - A desire to seek reassurance on how the RDA would ensure that broader

Sustainable Development principles inform policy in the future.

- The need for the region to continue to shape the use of housing resources that it currently influences – with clarity on the respective roles of any enhanced RDA and the new Homes and Communities Agency.
- A desire to maintain a regional approach to housing strategy that goes beyond numbers.
- The need to maintain flexibility within regions.
- A shared commitment to ensure that delivery continues through a period of change and uncertainty.
- The need for clarity on the role of the regional minister.

Next Steps

- 11.** There are many aspects of SNR that remain unclear. The gap between the announcements of the outcomes of the review, and the provision of further detail potentially provides a further opportunity for members to influence the shape of future regional arrangements.
- 12.** There will be further clarification later in the autumn when BERR (the new Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform) and CLG produce a detailed SNR implementation plan for Minister's consideration in September/October. It is anticipated that this will form the basis of a consultation paper to be published before the end of the 2007. There will also be an opportunity to discuss the implications of the review for the region at the policy conference on 4 October.

Rob Warm, Head of Housing and Communities
August 2007

What you need to know about...

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

What is it?

On 16 July 2007 the Government announced the initial outcomes from the Sub-National Review of Economic Development and Regeneration. Not unexpectedly, the SNR has a number of implications for the way in which organisations work together at a regional and a sub-regional level.

Whilst the headlines emerging from the review are relatively clear, the detail of how the recommendations will be implemented has yet to be developed. Government has made it clear that Assemblies themselves, regional agencies, and other groupings of local authorities will all have a key role to play in helping to shape the detail of how the region wishes to work in the future.

What are the key recommendations?

Regional Assemblies: Regional Assemblies will not continue 'in their current form' after 2010. However, there is clearly an expectation that local authorities will work collectively at a regional level in some way, and that wider partners will continue to be involved in shaping policy. It is indicated that each region will have a role to play in helping to determine the most appropriate arrangements for that region, within the broader national policy context that Government is setting.

Single Regional Strategies: SNR proposes bringing together the regional spatial strategy and regional economic strategy to form a single integrated regional strategy (SIRS) in each region. The extent to which the Regional Housing Strategy will form part of this SIRS remains slightly unclear. Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) will be responsible for preparing these integrated strategies, working with local authorities and other partners.

Accountability: Local authorities in each region will be responsible for agreeing the integrated strategies and scrutinising RDAs. Again, further consultation will be published later in 2007 on how these reforms can be implemented, although there are references in the report to suggest that integrated regional strategies will be 'built up' from proposals at the local level. It is not yet clear how this accountability mechanism will work alongside the new regional ministers and proposed select committees.

Multi Area Agreements: The review recommends that Government works with sub-regions to develop Multi Area Agreements that are voluntary at the point of creation and focus on activity where sub-regional working can add value and relate principally to economic development. Guidance will be published by the end of 2007.

City regions: The review suggests Government explore the potential for allowing local authorities to set up statutory sub-regional authorities to pool responsibilities, as they are already in some areas for transport (i.e. Passenger Transport Executives). Other functions that are identified as potentially being delivered through this route are housing, planning and economic development.

Assembly essentials

What you need to know about...

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

How will this be implemented?

All of these changes will be phased with an anticipated completion date of 2010. There remain many aspects of SNR that remain unclear, and it is expected that there will be further clarification in autumn 2007.

The Assembly has also recently received correspondence from civil servants about Government's plans to implement the findings of the SNR. This letter makes a number of very helpful points:

- Government is committed to further consultation on how the new arrangements will work in practice.
- The new regional architecture should build on the successful partnerships already established at the regional level.
- Government is promising 'a properly managed transition' assuring Assemblies that 'nothing will change overnight'.
- Regional Assemblies have a key role in revising Regional Spatial Strategies for 2011 – this was set out in the recent Housing Green Paper – and Government expects Assemblies to discharge this responsibility.
- Assemblies and RDA's will have to work as partners to build a consensus on spending priorities for the region as part of the expanded round of Regional Funding Allocations work announced in RFA
- BERR and CLG will be preparing a detailed SNR implementation plan for Minister's consideration in September. It is anticipated that this will be followed by a consultation paper to be published before the end of the 2007.

Next steps?

SNR makes it clear that we are moving into a different phase of regional working. Assemblies will no longer exist in their current form, RDA's will take on a newly expanded role, and different mechanisms for scrutiny and accountability will emerge which involve local and national politicians.

At the same time, there is a clear invitation from Government for existing bodies like the assemblies to play a full and active role in shaping the detail around how this will work in our region.

As part of this, the Assembly is holding a policy conference at the Royal Armouries in Leeds on October 4, where issues surrounding SNR will be among items discussed. Speakers include new Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber, Caroline Flint, and Minister for Local Government, John Healey.

REGIONAL INCLUSION AND THE JULIAN CUMMINS AWARDS

For Decision/Discussion

Members are asked to agree the draft inclusion document 'Promise' (attached as **Annex A**) and to note the plans to use the production of this document as an opportunity to celebrate the memory of Julian Cummins who died earlier this year.

Background

1. In February of this year, Julian Cummins, long time member of the Assembly and former Board member of Yorkshire Forward died. Following his death, at the Assembly meeting on 15 February 2007, members agreed that in discussions with Yorkshire Forward, the Assembly should identify a fitting way to remember the contribution he made to the region.
2. Given Julian's work on inclusion issues, particularly as Chair of the Quality of Life Commission, the most appropriate area of work was around the RES commitment to produce a 'Regional Inclusion Framework'. The Assembly is identified as a lead partner on this work, and we have been working with partners to develop the framework.

'Promise'

3. The RES commitment suggested that the region needed a 'framework' to help the region address inclusion issues effectively. There has been extensive consultation with local authorities and other partners on the nature of this framework and partners were clear that what would be most useful was a document that:
 - Built on work the region had already done on inclusion as 'Part of the Picture'
 - Was focused on 'how we work', and not just on 'what we do' – challenging the region to work differently to achieve different outcomes.
 - That was situated firmly within the context provided by the emerging Integrated Regional Framework.
 - Identifies the key 'success factors' that make some projects truly transformatory in addressing inclusion issues.

The Julian Cummins Awards

4. However, simply identifying success factors is not enough. Consultation showed that partners believe that regional agencies have a key role to play in

incentivising ways of working that we believe will be particularly effective – and promoting their wider adoption.

5. That is why, as part of 'Promise', the Assembly, Yorkshire Forward and Government Office will be creating the Julian Cummins Awards to recognise excellence in each of these areas. Part of this award scheme will be about finding the best practice that there is in the region and giving practitioners the support to share their expertise with a wider audience.
6. Nominations will be sought from organisations and projects under each of the key seven factors from appropriate delivery bodies and/or partnerships. Once the judging panel has made its decision, there will be an event to showcase the achievements of the nominees and to present the awards to the winners.
7. In addition, the winning Voluntary and Community Sector organisation in each category will receive one of seven £10,000 bursaries to share and develop new and innovative inclusion working practice with others. The scheme will run for the next three years until 2010. Yorkshire Forward will be launching more details of the awards in November. The concept of the award scheme has been discussed with Julian's widow who believes it is a fitting way for the Region to remember him.

For Decision

8. Members are asked:
 - To be asked to agree the draft inclusion document 'Promise' (attached as **Annex A**)
 - To note the plans to use this as an opportunity to celebrate the memory of Julian Cummins.

Rob Warm, Head of Housing and Communities
August 2007

'Yorkshire Promise' - Delivering Inclusion in Yorkshire and the Humber

Introduction

Welcome to Yorkshire Promise, the region's new framework for inclusion. This document marks a new approach in how the region will work together to address this issue, but it builds on work that the region has already carried out.

It is called Yorkshire Promise for two reasons. Firstly, the title describes our commitment to improve the life chances of the poorest communities and people in our region. Secondly, it refers to the 'promise' that we see in our most disadvantaged neighbourhoods – the untapped potential that the region cannot afford not to use.

The Assembly, working closely with Yorkshire Forward, Government Office and the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Forum, has developed this document. This collaborative approach reflects the partnerships that will be needed to bring about the change that we all want to see. It is only by working in partnership with a wide range of organisations that we will deliver this promise for the region.

The document has a close relationship to the developing Integrated Regional Framework and to any future Integrated Regional Strategy – which will set the long-term vision and objectives for the region. The IRF/IRS will challenge us to respond positively to address the landmark issues that we face as a region. Yorkshire Promise sets out some of the ways of working that will make it more likely that we will succeed.

How Did We Get Here?

In 2004 the region launched Part of the Picture, the region's first report into social inclusion. This document did not aim to be a comprehensive look at every aspect of inclusion in the region. Nor did it try to provide a full monitoring framework for work around inclusion. This job was, and continues to be, done by Progress in the Region – published annually by Yorkshire Futures.

Instead, Part of the Picture aimed to provide a snapshot of the region and to showcase some of the very different ways that different people, communities and agencies were working to help deliver the wider vision for the region.

The document was also ambitious in its desire to challenge the way that we think and work in the region. Part of the Picture was about making connections between local activity and regional vision. It was successful in helping groups and communities understand the way that the real projects and activities that they

were delivering on the ground contributed to a broader set of regional objectives.

This Framework, which builds on Part of the Picture, is called 'Yorkshire Promise'. It takes the work that the region did in the earlier document and moves it forward. It restates our vision for inclusion, sets out in detail some of the issues we face and finally issues a challenge to all agencies in the region to be ambitious in their expectations of the level of change that we can achieve.

The Vision

One of the key achievements of Part of the Picture was establishing a vision for inclusion in the region. The Assembly, Government Office for Yorkshire and Humber and Yorkshire Forward, agreed this vision. It provided a common starting point in our discussions about inclusion:

We want Yorkshire and Humber to be a region where all people enjoy good quality of life, no matter who they are or where they live. This means a commitment to tackling poverty, particularly where it affects children and the elderly; to improving the responsiveness of services; to reducing crime and the fear of crime; and to narrowing the inequalities in health that characterise the region.

This vision for inclusion still stands. The key challenges that we face as a region, of inequality, poverty, crime and poor health remain. Unless the region meets these challenges, it will not achieve its full potential.

Meeting the Challenge

The region shares a commitment to meet the needs of our most disadvantaged communities. The revised Regional Economic Strategy, issued in 2006, set out for the first time the need for a Regional Inclusion Framework.

The region, through the RES, was clear that improved co-ordination and clear leadership was essential if the region was to improve the life chances of its poorest and most marginalized communities. Despite large amounts of investment in some of these areas, over a long period of time, some of the most intractable problems remain.

The RES commitment was not a blueprint for a document. It was a signal that the region recognised that it needed to work differently if it was to address some of the difficult challenges that it faces.

This commitment was the basis for a series of discussions with key stakeholders in the region to identify what sort of support the region could put in place to help improve delivery on the ground. These discussions focused on the two key areas of leadership and co-ordination.

The message back from partners was clear – that the framework should try and challenge the region to work differently to achieve different outcomes – with the focus being very much on ‘how’ we work, not just on ‘what we do’. *Yorkshire Promise* reflects this approach.

Understanding Inclusion Issues

Policy Context

Tackling social exclusion is a national as well as a regional issue. The government has a wide range of strategies and policy initiatives designed to address the needs of those individuals and groups who have the most severe problems and suffer from multiple disadvantage. For adults this can include poor health prospects, unemployment and poor educational achievements, addictions and behaviour difficulties.

There are many good examples of work in the region that starts to address the causes and effects of exclusion. The region has a good track record in encouraging innovative and effective ways of working that make a real difference to people’s lives. Where we need to do much better is making sure that the most effective ways of working are captured and shared.

How the Region Performs

The region continues to face a number of challenges around inclusion. In our region there are significant areas of deprivation – with concentrated pockets of disadvantage in parts of West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and Hull. There are also particular groups who, for a variety of reasons, are excluded from sharing in the good things that the region has to offer.

Progress in the Region 2006 charts regional performance against a range of key indicators relating to issues such as health, deprivation and education. Progress in the Region can be accessed at www.yorkshirefutures.com.

What *Progress in the Region* clearly shows that there are some areas – such as prevalence of obesity, where the region is not making progress? In these areas, the trend is for an increasing gap with the rest of the England, and with the more affluent parts of our own region.

In work to develop the IRF, the region has identified this growing gap as a key challenge. Whilst the extent of deprivation people face is reducing, it appears to be becoming more concentrated in certain areas and the differences in income between the poorest and most affluent is widening. Divisions can be tied to localities and ethnicity, too, with implications for economic inclusion and community cohesion.

In other areas we do see some limited progress. For example the region is seeing fewer working age people living in workless households, but there is still a significant gap with the England average. Similarly, whilst crime trends show some improvements, it remains an uncomfortable fact that you are more likely to be burgled in this region than any other region outside of London.

It is not the role of this document to detail the wide range of local level activities that will be helping to address some of these problems. However, what this document can do is encourage agencies and groups within our region develop new and innovative ways of tackling these long-term issues.

'Changing Cultures, Changing Lives'

How can the region achieve more for its poorest people, for those who live in the most disadvantaged areas, or who at the highest risk of crime or poor health?

The evidence set out in this document shows that the region faces a number of challenges, challenges that we have struggled to address in the past. Meeting these challenges is not just about what we do, but how we work. The region wants to identify where different ways of working are really achieving major dividends. What are the key 'ingredients' that make some projects succeed in a transformational way, and distinguish the truly exceptional projects from those that have limited impact.

We have worked with key partners to identify these factors. They are set out below:

- **Ambition** – In order to deliver transformational change, the best projects and organisations set themselves the highest targets, changing the aspirations of the people and communities that they work with. Our poorest communities and people deserve ambitious aspiration. Our work needs to be about more than alleviating the effects of poverty; it also needs to be about a long term commitment to transform the expectations that we have about some of the region's neighbourhoods and communities.
- **Diversity** – The most successful projects recognise and maximise the benefits of our diverse region, rather than seeing diversity as a 'problem to be solved'. Inclusion work needs to embrace and respect diversity, reflecting some of the unique exclusion issues some of our communities face.
- **Leadership** – Evidence shows that individuals make a key difference to the success of projects. The region is interested in identifying those individuals who are inspiring and leading change and share their skills with others in the region.
- **Involvement** – The best projects have governance structures that fully involve the communities and users who benefit from them. Finding and sharing best practice on how to involve communities in shaping services, will be key to

creating more transformational change.

- **Creating a culture of change** – If the region is serious about changing some of our poorest communities, then projects and agencies need to be committed to creating a culture within which change is encouraged and welcomed, where old paradigms are constantly challenged and new ways of working evolve. Harnessing the region's expertise in enabling change will help deliver effective regeneration.
- **Partnership working** – The most successful projects share one thing in common – they bring a range of different agencies, partners and individuals together and the whole is more than the sum of the parts. Establishing and maintaining effective partnerships is difficult, but when it works it makes a real difference. The region is committed to learning from where things do work well and supporting the replication of this where partnerships are currently weak or ineffective.
- **Measuring effectiveness** – as a region we constantly struggle to find the best way to measure the progress that communities are making. Some organisations have been incredibly innovative in developing new models to monitor progress and effectiveness. Sharing these with the region would enable us to have a much clearer sense of what works.

The Regional Challenge: The Julian Cummins Awards

As set out earlier, this framework is not just a document. It is about identifying success factors and approaches that work, and attempting to make sure that more projects use them.

The region has a role in helping this to happen – not least by building these factors into overall programme design. The role that regional organisations have, as funders, as key partners and as facilitators, means that we can encourage and incentivise ways of working that will make a real difference. This cannot be about identifying bad practice – but it must be about identifying true excellence and putting structures and support in place that will allow this to be shared.

That is why, as part of this framework, the Assembly, Yorkshire Forward and Government Office will be creating the Julian Cummins Awards to recognise excellence in each of these areas. Part of this award scheme will be about finding the best practice that there is in the region and giving practitioners the support to share their expertise with a wider audience.

This award scheme will encourage excellence and innovation in meeting the needs of our most excluded people and communities. Given this ambition, all of the regional agencies wanted to use the scheme as an opportunity to celebrate the life and the memory of Julian Cummins who died earlier in 2007. Julian made an immense contribution to the region, both as a member of the Assembly, as Board

member of Yorkshire Forward. Julian was passionate about inclusion issues – and it seemed entirely right that his desire to nurture innovative approaches to promoting inclusion was remembered in this way.

Nominations will be sought from organisations and projects under each of the key seven factors from appropriate delivery bodies and/or partnerships. Once the judging panel has made its decision, there will be an event to showcase the achievements of the nominees and to present the awards to the winners. In addition, the winning Voluntary and Community Sector organisation in each category will receive a bursary of £10,000 to share and develop new and innovative inclusion working practice with others. The scheme will run for the next three years until 2010.

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