

**CHIEF EXECUTIVES' GROUP – NORTH YORKSHIRE AND YORK
10 MAY 2012**

**YORK, NORTH YORKSHIRE & EAST RIDING ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP
UPDATE**

PRESENTED BY: BARRY DODD, CHAIRMAN

YEAR 1 PROGRESS

- We are approaching the end of the first year of the LEP and are now starting a strategic review to ensure our resources are allocated to the right priorities. This will be complete by the July Board meeting.
- By the end of year one, we will have delivered
 - **Access to Finance** - An e-learning bank ready business plan toolkit
 - **Business Networks** - A network of networks with 40 business networks signed up to work with the LEP. This provides a valuable route to market.
 - **Business Support Products** - A 'basket of products' developed with professional membership bodies (Chartered Institute of Accountants, Chartered Institute of Marketing, Chartered Institute of Professional Development), covering Finance, Sales & Marketing, Business Planning & Workforce Development. The institute will act as our quality assurance and local members will deliver the service.
 - **Visitor Economy** pilots considering
 - Innovation in tourism with Visit York
 - Promoting the Y brand with W2Y
 - Supporting the development of Welcome to Harrogate
 - Small Business Clustering in Scarborough
 - **Broadband pilots** to inform the Broadband Business Support programme to be delivered alongside the roll out of rural broadband by NYNET & Connecting North Yorkshire. One delivered in Ryedale, one in York.
 - **Agri-Food** - A small food producers growth programme delivered by Deliciously Yorkshire
 - **Skills** - A bespoke Employment & Skills Database including employment forecasts and business survey results.
 - **Enterprise** - An Enterprise Development programme in Colleges
 - **Apprentices** - An Apprentice Extra programme will provide 35 incentives of £2,000 per Apprenticeship vacancy to local food manufacturers and engineering companies.

- **Growing Places** – Initial investments identified. It is worth noting all will be on a repayable basis.
- **Tourism Board Member** – we are currently in the process of appointing a tourism board member. Pat Oxley, from Pickering is the preferred candidate.

OPPORTUNITIES MOVING FORWARD

- The strategic review will position the LEP moving forward to ensure we are focused on the right priorities to be able to take advantage of opportunities and support small business growth.

Key issues to address

- **Planning for the Future** - Whilst the first year has been focused on practical help for businesses, the strategic review will allow us to identify longer term developments which provide opportunities for the area. Local authority priorities will feed into this process. Within this we expect to see;
 - Spatial Priorities where aligned with business opportunities
 - Key areas for lobbying
 - Future workforce development

Whilst the LEP may not take the lead in delivering these investments, they are the first port of call when central government are looking for investment opportunities and greater understanding and alignment with local Authority partners is essential.

- **Strategic Opportunities** – recent discussions with FERA and Drax have identified a potential opportunity to position the region as leading on the Agri-Innovation agenda. FERA are a world class science facility & Drax are making significant investments in biomass. With the strength York can bring to this (York University, Centre for Non Food Crops, Askham Bryan) we need to work together to understand how best to capitalise on these key assets.
- **Rural Deals** – Leeds are in the final stages of negotiating their city deal. Information from Ministers is that if these are successful, they will look to extend the model to non-city deals or rural deals. A key output of the strategic review needs to be a clear understanding of what our 'ask' of government would be for a rural deal. We need to ensure, if asked the question, we have a clear vision of what we could achieve and all partners clearly in support. Whilst there is no guarantee of Rural Deals, we must be prepared should the opportunity arise.
- **Resources** – the LEP is a small team and needs to focus on doing a few things well. Best impact will be achieved if we can better align resources between the LEP and local teams.

Barry Dodd