

## Chief Executives' Group – North Yorkshire and York

6 November 2014

### York, North Yorkshire & East Riding Spatial Plan

#### 1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To consider a potential draft of a spatial plan for the area and agree steps towards establishing a Spatial Plan for York, North Yorkshire and East Riding

#### 2 Background

- 2.1 The following extracts from the Growth Deal for York, North Yorkshire & East Riding set the context for the preparation of a Spatial Plan.

*“The LEP and local planning authorities commit to getting up-to-date Local Plans in place, deliver effective strategic planning by working together and across boundaries, and ensure delivery of housing in Local Plans.”*

*“The Government recognises the particular housing needs identified across the LEP area and the importance of working with the LEP and partners to help meet their aim of doubling house building and tripling delivery of affordable housing.”*

#### 3. Working Draft Spatial Plan

- 3.1 The tabled working draft Spatial Plan aims to pull together and set out the key spatial implications of the Strategic Economic Plan and by doing this provide a ‘growth direction’ to shape and co-ordinate local plans, strategies, investment programmes and decisions.

- 3.2 Key features of the content of working draft spatial plan are that it:

- a. Reflects the Growth Towns, growth drivers and strategic investments set out in the Strategic Economic Plan
- b. Seeks to explain the functional basis of the LEP area as a whole and the four ‘key geographies’ used in the SEP
- c. Highlights key functional relationships with adjoining LEP areas
- d. Utilises the ‘Growth Towns Draft 5 Year Plans’ included in the SEP, which reflect the situation with Local Plans as at March 2014

- 3.3 The intended added value of the working draft Spatial Plan is that it:

- a. Articulates the ‘growth’ message
- b. Pulls together the key SEP messages for places and areas

- c. Assists Local Planning Authorities with identifying and addressing genuinely strategic issues (as required by the NPPF)
- d. Provides part of an evidence base for meeting the Duty to Cooperate and articulating the LEP's view, as a prescribed body that LPAs need to work with
- e. Sets out 10 priorities to give a sense of required spatial outcomes
- f. Provides a spatial dimension to the 'Strategic Fit' element of project appraisal and prioritisation

3.4 process of preparing the working draft Spatial Plan has been based on:

- a. An independent desk top exercise of reviewing the SEP and framing the key place and spatial components as a plan
- b. Discussions with the Leeds City Region, Tees Valley Unlimited and Humber LEPS on priorities and inter-relationships and a desk top review of the Cumbria, North Eastern and Lancashire SEPs
- c. A workshop hosted by the York, North & East Riding Spatial Planning & Transport Officers Group with a wider invite to economic development and housing strategy officers from local authorities and also other agencies such as the Highways Agency, Network Rail and the Homes & Communities Agency

#### **4 Possible Short Term Development of the Spatial Plan**

4.1 Given that the tabled working draft Spatial Plan is based on the SEP and the Local Growth Deal, it could be evolved to articulate a slightly broader set of priorities that have a major strategic bearing on the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Area. For example on:

- a. *Transport strategy/priorities* – reflecting the significance of ECML, HS2, Rail North and One North to future economic prospects
- b. *Roles of Places* – building on the 2011 North Yorkshire & York Strategy and more recent place statements in Local Plans

4.2 A more challenging evolution would be on *strategic sites*. The Humber Spatial Plan has a focussed purpose to set out a portfolio of sites for investors and for this to prioritise the infrastructure investment of statutory agencies. The strategic investments in the SEP do this to an extent but the site content of the 'Growth Towns 5 Year Plans' is variable in content, reflecting the now further changed different positions on Local Plans across the LEP area. Set out below is an example of what could be included in the Yorkshire Coast Spatial Priority just for Scarborough. In more firmly identifying strategic sites the challenges include:

- a. The different stages of local plan preparation across the LEP area
- b. The criteria to determine what a 'strategic site' is

- c. How any potentially long list of strategic sites is prioritised to identify a clear offer to investors

<p><b>G: Strategic Sites Growth Towns 5 year Plans</b></p> <p><i>Employment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Scarborough Business Park</li> <li>2) Whitby Business Park</li> </ul> <p><i>Housing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) Middle Deepdale</li> <li>4) High Mill Farm, Scalby</li> <li>5) West Garth, Cayton</li> </ul>	<p>There are opportunities to create more serviced land at the business parks in Scarborough and Whitby. There are three major housing schemes in the Scarborough urban area that can accommodate over 1000 dwellings each.</p>
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## 5 Possible Medium to Long Term Development of a Spatial Plan

- 5.1 Discussion at the workshop identified a number of messages which were tested with the group to confirm that they were agreed as overall conclusions that the Spatial Plan:
  - a. Needs to focus on how the SEP will be delivered
  - b. Should assist with cross boundary and cross agency infrastructure provision and co-ordination
  - c. Reflect a business led and broader local authority and partner led approach
  - d. Keep tightly focused on the 'larger than local'
  - e. Should meaningfully shape Local Plans in the future
  - f. To do the above cover not just economic strategic issues
  - g. Support collective working can deliver over and above what's planned
  
- 5.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out a list of five strategic priorities: homes and jobs needed in an area; the provision of retail/leisure/commercial development; infrastructure provision (including transport and energy) & flood/coastal management; community/cultural infrastructure; and climate change mitigation/adaptation. The NPPF focus is on cross boundary issues.
  
- 5.3 Different models of strategic planning are emerging that address these wider strategic priorities. AGMA are now taking forward a statutory Joint Plan for the Greater Manchester. There are other more long standing examples of Joint Core Strategies, such as for the Black Country. Other examples of joint working include non-statutory Joint Planning Statements and joint evidence base/methodology working that can also serve to co-ordinate.

5.4 Whatever form of joint working is undertaken it raises the need for effective Governance arrangements in looking at and arriving at a view or position on cross boundary issues. Arrangements need to achieve buy-in. A form of strategic spatial planning for the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding creates an opportunity to:

- a. Support effective cross boundary working
- b. Establish an agreed and shared single procedure for discharging the Duty to Co-operate
- c. Instigate joint commissioning to achieve alignment and economies of scale
- d. Make Local Plan more defensible at Examination
- e. Support the delivery of the SEP and the growth agenda
- f. Ultimately provide a collaboration mechanism for agreeing and meeting development needs - and also for meeting development needs that cannot wholly be met within individual local authority areas
- g. Helping to reconcile the 'strategic' growth agenda with 'local' agendas

## **6 Benefits of Wider Cross Boundary Working**

6.1 Discussions with adjoining LEPS have highlighted the benefits that could be achieved with cross LEP area working. There are particular economic, housing and transport policy approaches that require cross boundary alignment to be successful. Commonalities are evident with priority economic sectors and with strategic investment projects. For example improving East-West connections is a key theme for Tees Valley Unlimited and also the Humber. A combined East-West Connectivity Package for the North East of England (e.g. from the A1 to the coast) could for be a more powerful addition to the strong (and also helpful) transpennine emphasis of One North.

## **7 Recommendations**

7.1 A draft high level spatial plan is submitted to LGNYY covering the LEP geography, with a view to formal production of a spatial plan for York, North Yorkshire and East Riding, in partnership with local authorities and stakeholders.

## **8 Appendices**

8.1 Appendix 1 – Draft Spatial Plan – Separate document

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6 November 2014