

Chief Executives' Group – North Yorkshire and York

12 September 2013

North Yorkshire Community Plan

Introduction

- 1 The North Yorkshire Community Plan (also known as the sustainable community strategy) is due for a refresh in 2014. Legislation requires local authorities, in consultation with partners, to produce a sustainable community strategy “for promoting or improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area and contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom”.
- 2 This report seeks an initial steer regarding the purpose, scope and content of the refreshed North Yorkshire Community Plan, and on the development process.

Purpose, scope and content of the refreshed North Yorkshire Community Plan

- 3 The North Yorkshire Community Plan 2011-14 (attached) is a six page document setting out three key priorities, the delivery of which requires partners to work together to help make North Yorkshire “an even better place in which to live, work and visit”:
 - Protecting and supporting vulnerable people.
 - Supporting economic growth and employment.
 - Enabling stronger local communities.
- 4 These three priorities were identified as the most critical following initial consultation at the wider partnership conference in autumn 2010 and a public consultation over the summer of 2011. Progress against the eleven objectives is monitored by the Chief Executives' Group.
- 5 The previous Community Plan (2008/18 Sustainable Community Strategy for North Yorkshire) was a 44 page document, closely linked to the Local Area Agreement, setting out:
 - A collective vision for 2008/18 – “North Yorkshire - a place of equal opportunity where all can develop their full potential, participate in a flourishing economy, live and thrive in secure communities, see their high-quality environment and cultural assets maintained and enhanced and receive effective support when they need it”; summarised as “we want North Yorkshire to be an even better place for everyone to live, work or visit”.
 - The ten most important issues for the county for 2008/11 (access to services and public transport, affordable housing, alcohol, children and young people, community cohesion, community safety, economy and enterprise, environment, health and wellbeing, older people), with three to six ‘we aim to’ statements for each of the ten issues.
- 6 There is no statutory guidance regarding community plans and there are many different formats of community plan across the country. Some start from a detailed analysis of the area, leading to broad sets of long-term aims and objectives across the breadth of public life. Others are more focused with a small number of priority

outcomes; for example in Leicestershire the priorities are a reduction in the number of troubled families, enabling older people to live independently for longer, growth of the local economy, a healthier population with increased life expectancy, and a reduction in health inequalities. The trend appears to be towards shorter documents with a smaller number of priorities.

- 7 Broadly speaking, there are three options for North Yorkshire:

Options	Implications
A. Not have a community plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No cost option • Would breach the duty placed on the local authorities to produce a community plan • No agreed statement by partners of priorities for the county • Could be seen as unwillingness or inability to engage partners in developing an agreed statement of priorities
B. Have a community plan focused on a small number of priority outcomes for the county	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low cost option • Fulfils the duty placed on local authorities • Agreed statement by partners on key priorities for the county • Should facilitate focused action by partners on improving key outcomes
C. Have a community plan including a detailed analysis of the area and broad long-term aims and objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High cost option • Fulfils the duty placed on local authorities • Agreed analysis by partners on all key issues for the county - but may duplicate others such as Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment, and Local Enterprise Partnership Growth Strategy • Agreed statement by partners on a broad range of priorities for the county, but may be less focused on improving key outcomes

- 8 Option B (a community plan focused on a small number of priority outcomes for the county) is recommended, as this will fulfil the statutory duty and create an agreed statement by partners on key priorities for the county, at minimum cost.
- 9 It would be helpful to identify the way in which the community plan will be used by partners. The previous community plan was closely linked to the Local Area Agreement, with many measurable targets reviewed on a quarterly basis by the NYSP Executive. The current community plan is monitored through annual, mainly narrative, updates on priority areas to the Chief Executives Group. One option for a refreshed community plan is a document with a small number of shared priorities

(for example economic growth, housing and transport) that could support strategic discussions within both Local Government North Yorkshire and York and the Chief Executives Group, as well as between these groups and other strategic partners.

- 10 The Chief Executives' Group is asked to provide an initial steer regarding the purpose, scope and content of the refreshed North Yorkshire Community Plan.

Development process

- 11 The development process for the community plan needs to involve all the organisations involved in the Chief Executives' Group and Local Government North Yorkshire and York, as well as consultation with wider partners.
- 12 It is recommended that all members of the Chief Executives Group are invited to nominate a representative to form a project team, led and supported by North Yorkshire County Council. It is envisaged that the bulk of the work will be undertaken by telephone and email, with the minimum number of physical meetings.
- 13 It is recommended that the key stages include:
- Formation of the project team
 - Initial consultation and engagement regarding general principles and likely priorities
 - Preparation of first draft and sign off by Chief Executives' Group (perhaps electronically between meetings)
 - Consultation and engagement on first draft
 - Preparation of final draft following consultation and engagement
 - Approval of final draft by Chief Executives' Group and Local Government North Yorkshire and York
 - Formal sign off by North Yorkshire County Council (probably at full council on 21 May 2014)

Recommendations

- 14 It is recommended that the Chief Executives Group:
- i) Provides an initial steer regarding the purpose, scope and content of the refreshed North Yorkshire Community Plan.
 - ii) Agrees the proposals in paragraphs 11 to 13 regarding the development process.

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4 September 2013

Appendix 1 - North Yorkshire Community Plan 2011-14