

Chief Executives' Group – North Yorkshire and York

18 June 2015

York, North Yorkshire and East Riding (YNYER) Spatial Plan

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update and seek the approval of the Chief Executives Group of the draft YNYER Spatial Plan; to seek delegation to the Chair of the YNYER Directors of Development Group to make final minor amendments to the document prior to its presentation to the Local Government, North Yorkshire and York (LGNYY) Leaders and the YNYER Local Enterprise Partnership Board; and to seek support for further work to be undertaken by the Directors of Development to inform a further report to be presented to the Chief Executives' Group in due course in relation to options and approaches for the future development and evolution of the Spatial Plan.

2.0 Background and Context

- 2.1 Work was undertaken during late 2014 on a baseline position from which to develop a sub-regional, non-statutory, Spatial Plan for the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding sub-area. Chief Executives subsequently gave their support to the further preparation of the Spatial Plan and tasked the YNYER Directors of Development Group with progressing it. Directors considered the draft Spatial Plan accompanying this report at their meeting of 4 June 2015.
- 2.2 Building upon the foundation work undertaken late last year, the Directors of Development further commissioned Richard Wood of O'Neill Associates to support this work funded through agreed contributions from each local authority. The draft version of the Spatial Plan accompanying this report reflects the further comments of Directors. It is important to note however that it is not yet fully finalised and that detailed refinements from local authorities are in the process of being incorporated, although none will result in any significant change to the vision, objectives and strategic thrust of the document.

Chief Executives are therefore requested to delegate authority to the Chair of the YNYER Directors of Development (currently David Bowe of NYCC) to incorporate any final detailed points from authorities together with any further amendments required by Chief Executives during their discussion of the report. It is then proposed that the draft Plan be presented to the YNYER Local Enterprise Partnership Board and LGNYY Leaders in July for approval and endorsement.

3.0 The YNYER Spatial Plan : Summary Outline and Key Issues

3.1 The draft Spatial Plan has been prepared over the course of around a month. Care has been taken to ensure that the draft Plan has full alignment with the existing Humber Spatial Plan. It is intended that together these two documents represent a coherent spatial planning framework for the YNYER sub-area as a whole. The preparation process has largely been undertaken through 1:1 meetings with planning and transport authorities thereby including officers at district, unitary, county and national park authorities, and the YNYER LEP. The discussions have focused on:

- The role and value of a Spatial Plan
- Strategic priorities and cross-boundary issues (strategic and topic based)
- Scale and location of planned housing and economic growth
- Environmental management / flood protection priorities.
- Transport priorities for growth.

3.2 The draft Spatial Plan builds on earlier work that was produced to identify the key spatial implications of the LEPs Strategic Economic Plan, with a view to adding more specific content on priorities from current and emerging Local Plans. As such the Spatial Plan largely reflects existing and emerging planning policy across the sub-area but provides a coherent framework within which infrastructure investment decisions to support growth can be assessed and prioritised, and the wider needs and opportunities of the YNYER area can be articulated.

It is also widely felt that the document will be helpful in evidencing inter-authority collaboration in relation to the Duty to Cooperate as local planning authorities take their Local Plans to examination. It will also help to support bids for external funding to facilitate growth.

3.3 Enabling economic growth is central to the Plan. It sets a Core Aim:

The Spatial Plan seeks to co-ordinate plans and planning/investment decisions in the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding area to support sustainable growth by focusing and delivering strategic development and infrastructure to deliver:

- i. **Distinctive and successful cities, towns, rural and coastal areas**
- ii. **A high quality living and business environment**
- iii. **More inclusive and sustainable communities.**

3.4 Section 9 of the draft Plan sets out priorities for action in relation to the three identified SEP geographic priority areas of the A1/A19 Growth Corridor; the Yorkshire Coast; and the Dales, Moors and Wolds. Overlaying all of these, the Plan identifies a core growth zone focussed on the Harrogate and York area, and stresses the need for improved north-south, and in particular east-west, transport corridors with a strategic focus on:

- Regenerating the towns of Bridlington, Goole, Scarborough and Selby, and
 - Strengthening the roles of Beverley, Driffield, the major Haltemprice settlements, Malton and Norton, Northallerton, Thirsk, Richmond and Catterick Garrison, and Skipton.
- 3.5 From a transport and connectivity perspective, the Plan highlights the need for improved east-west links, including in relation to A64 / York Outer Ring Road / Harrogate / A59 corridor. It also supports measures to make our sub-area HS2 and HS3 ready by improving connectivity to the HS2/3 network and getting stations ready as HS2 passenger hubs.
- 3.6 The Plan also promotes a network of growth towns and identifies critical infrastructure necessary to unlock growth opportunities within them. It also provides policy support for the sustaining of local service centres as viable hubs for services, facilities, employment and housing. It supports growth in the food manufacturing, agri-tech and bio-renewables sectors as well as harnessing our environment and heritage to support rural based businesses to grow. Finally, it seeks to increase housing supply including for affordable housing, and to promote local distinctiveness in new housing developments.

4.0 Further Development

- 4.1 The draft Spatial Plan under consideration very much reflects current planning policy across the YNYER area as set out within existing and emerging Local Plans, the LEP SEP, and sub-regional Housing and Local Nature Partnership strategies. It does not set further targets for housing or employment development over and above those set out by partner local authorities within their Local Plans.
- 4.2 However, there is considerable scope for the Spatial Plan to continue to evolve in the future in order that it can begin to provide a more robust framework for influencing and shaping future planning policy with a view to unlocking even greater growth opportunities across the sub-region through a genuinely collaborative and strategic approach. Before any further work of this nature is done, it is important that all local authorities involved are in agreement as to the objectives driving the work, and the approach to be adopted to achieve them.

It is therefore recommended that the Directors of Development scope-out the issues and options for the further evolution and development of the Spatial Plan, and that this work be presented in a report in due course for the consideration of Chief Executives before any further work on the Spatial Plan itself is undertaken.

5.0 Recommendations

- 5.1 That Chief Executives note, discuss and support the draft YNYER Spatial Plan.
- 5.2 That the Chair of the YNYER Directors of Development Group be authorised to incorporate the comments of Chief Executives, alongside any further detailed comments of local planning authorities, and that the resulting finalised YNYER Spatial Plan be submitted to the LGNYY Leaders and the YNYER Local Enterprise Partnership Board for their support and endorsement.
- 5.3 That the YNYER Directors of Development be requested to undertake further work to scope out the benefits, issues, options and approaches for the further evolution and development of the YNYER Spatial Plan, and that a further report detailing their conclusions be presented to the YNYER Chief Executives for consideration at a future meeting.

Appendix 1 - York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Spatial Plan (Draft)

Appendix 2 – York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Spatial Plan key diagram

David Bowe,
Corporate Director - Business and Environmental Services
North Yorkshire County Council and current Chair of the YNYER Directors of
Development Group