



LOCAL GOVERNMENT YORKSHIRE & HUMBER (LGYH) LEADERS' BOARD SCHEME

2 March 2010

Summary

This document sets out the arrangements for the operation and management of the Local Government Yorkshire & Humber (LGYH) Leaders' Board, following the introduction of new legislation that requires Leaders' Boards to be established for all English Regions.

In the case of Yorkshire and Humber, the LGYH Leaders' Board has been in place since June 2008 and the new legislation allows this existing Board to be placed on a statutory footing.

The LGYH Leaders' Board, through the full membership of LGYH - which includes all 22 district, unitary, county and metropolitan council leaders, police, fire and rescue and national park authorities in Yorkshire and Humber - represents the collective voice of local government in Yorkshire and Humber. It also has a particular responsibility, in partnership with Yorkshire Forward, to oversee the production and delivery of a new, integrated strategy to replace the existing Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and Regional Economic Strategy (RES).

The enclosed Scheme sets out how the LGYH Leaders' Board is constituted, in terms of how it represents local authorities across Yorkshire and Humber through a structure based on the four Functional Sub Regions (FSRs) of Leeds City Region, Sheffield City Region, Hull and Humber Ports and North Yorkshire and York. The role of the Leaders' Board as part of the Joint Regional Board, in partnership with the Regional Development Agency (Yorkshire Forward), its accountability arrangements and how its membership will be reviewed and refreshed over time is also explained.

In accordance with Government guidance, all relevant participating authorities and wider interested organisations/ agencies have been consulted on the Scheme, which is now being submitted formally to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for final approval, in line with the new legislative requirements.

A full summary of the responses to the consultation exercise and the actions taken as a result of comments received is available separately.

YORKSHIRE & HUMBER LEADERS' BOARD SCHEME

2 March 2010

Legislative Background

1. The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009¹ (“the Act”) implements statutory provisions that require “participating” local authorities in each English region to establish new local authority Leaders’ Boards.
2. The Act places a duty on the Leaders’ Board for Yorkshire and Humber, in partnership with the relevant Regional Development Agency (i.e. Yorkshire Forward) as the defined joint “responsible regional authorities”, to prepare and implement a new integrated Yorkshire and Humber Strategy, replacing the existing Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and Regional Economic Strategy (RES).
3. In line with the Act and its associated Guidance², Local Government Yorkshire and Humber (LGYH), as the representative organisation for all of the local councils, police, fire and rescue and national park authorities in Yorkshire and Humber (including all of those defined under the Act as “participating authorities”), is responsible for the publication of this Scheme, setting out how the Leaders’ Board operates in Yorkshire and Humber.

A Leaders’ Board for Yorkshire and Humber

4. In the case of Yorkshire and Humber, the Act provides a legal mechanism for the existing LGYH Leaders’ Board to be put on a statutory footing and recognised through new legislation.
5. The LGYH Leaders’ Board was first constituted at LGYH’s Annual General Meeting (AGM) in June 2008 and its current Membership details, including named deputies, are enclosed at **Annex A**. The LGYH Leaders’ Board replaced the previous LGYH Executive Board (formed in 2006) and represented local government in Yorkshire and Humber’s response to the Government’s developing thinking at that time with regard to new regional strategy and decision-making structures, following the Review of Sub National Economic Development and Regeneration³.
6. The LGYH Leaders’ Board met formally for the first time in September 2008 and has continued to meet on an approximately bi-monthly basis since then; with the LGYH constitution⁴ requiring it to meet at least seven times during its annual cycle between LGYH AGMs each June. All secretarial, managerial and policy support for the LGYH Leaders’ Board is provided by officers within LGYH.
7. As set out in section 4 of the LGYH constitution, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Leaders’ Board reflect directly the Chair and Vice Chair of LGYH. The positions are appointed to at each LGYH AGM, for a two-year period of office and on a rotating basis from the four Functional Sub Regions (see paragraphs 10 to 12 below).

¹ See www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2009/pdf/ukpga_20090020_en.pdf

² See www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/1303429.pdf and www.communities.gov.uk/documents/citiesandregions/pdf/1129855.pdf

³ See www.berr.gov.uk/files/file45468.pdf and www.communities.gov.uk/documents/citiesandregions/pdf/1073344.pdf

⁴ See www.lgyh.gov.uk/The%20Library/Corporate-information/

Joint Decision-Making with the Regional Development Agency, Yorkshire Forward

8. In addition, the Leaders' Board represents half of a Joint Regional Board (JRB) for Yorkshire and Humber, in partnership with eight members of the Regional Development Agency, Yorkshire Forward's Board.
9. The JRB was established and met for the first time in November 2008 to ensure a joint decision-making, partnership structure on issues relating to the preparation and delivery of a new, integrated Yorkshire and Humber Strategy, as noted in paragraph 2 above. Current JRB Membership is enclosed for information at **Annex B**.

Representing the Functional Sub Regions (FSRs) of Yorkshire and Humber

10. The core principle of the LGYH Leaders' Board is to ensure appropriate representation of the democratic local authorities in Yorkshire and Humber across the four Functional Sub Regions (FSRs), namely:
 - The Leeds City Region;
 - The Sheffield City Region;
 - The Hull and Humber Ports City Region; and
 - North Yorkshire and York.
11. The four FSRs represent the spatial, collaborative structures in which local authorities in Yorkshire and Humber have come together, to reflect genuine socio-economic geographies, rather than what can be arbitrary and restrictive administrative boundaries. Local authorities are working together at these FSR levels to deliver more joined-up, more effective and more sustainable economic strategies, reflecting the "real-life" experiences and needs of individuals, organisations and businesses in their areas. A map illustrating the FSRs is enclosed at **Annex C**.
12. Given this focus on economic activity and collaborative strategy development at FSR level, the LGYH Leaders' Board has been constituted around equal representation across the four FSRs.

Composition, Representation and Accountability

13. The LGYH Leaders' Board, therefore, is made up of eight, democratically elected local authority leaders, nominated to the Board by each of the four sub-regional local authority leaders structures (i.e. two elected Yorkshire and Humber local authority members per FSR); and accountability for the Leaders' Board is provided through two important mechanisms.
14. Firstly, the relevant sub-regional structures are responsible for nominating their two representatives on the Leaders' Board. This process ensures that the wider group of local authorities in each sub-region is content with their representation and that the Leaders' Board nominees can be held to account in terms of how effectively they represent their partners.
15. Secondly, there is further direct accountability to LGYH's Full Membership, which has been re-constituted to ensure that the Leaders' Board is fully accountable to all local authorities across the region (including all those defined as "participating authorities" under the Act). This has been achieved through an increased number of Full Membership meetings, ensuring that meetings are held prior to JRB meetings, so that they can inform and influence discussion. LGYH's Full Membership has also been expanded to ensure the inclusion of all local councils, police, fire and rescue and national park authorities in Yorkshire and Humber.

16. A full communication strategy and delivery plan for the Leaders' Board will be produced separately to this Scheme, which will be reviewed annually.

Voting Rights on matters related to the Yorkshire and Humber Strategy

17. On matters relating to the integrated Yorkshire and Humber Strategy and its delivery discussed at the JRB, each "responsible regional authority" has an equal vote, should this need to be exercised. This ensures an entirely equitable distribution of voting rights between the LGYH Leaders' Board and Yorkshire Forward Board membership, as the two, statutory responsible authorities for the Strategy.
18. Should an occasion arise where agreement on strategic matters cannot be reached with Yorkshire Forward, wider advisory and managerial/support structures for the JRB would be engaged as appropriate. This includes the *ex-officio* advisors with a seat on the JRB, such as the Regional Government Office Director and Chair of the regional Local Authority Chief Executives Group.
19. If required, the JRB's managerial partnership - the "Regional Executive Group", which involves the LGYH Chief Executive, Yorkshire Forward's Chief Executive, the Government Office Regional Director and a number of local authority Chief Executives (two nominations per FSR) - will be able to take the necessary steps to resolve any such issues.

Effective and timely decision making

20. A forward programme of JRB and Leaders' Board meetings has been established, linked to the provisional timetable established for the production and implementation of the Yorkshire and Humber Strategy (as set out in the Strategy's agreed Project Plan).
21. The JRB's four supporting Thematic Boards, the Independent Sustainability Board and wider officer/Member networks have taken on appropriate responsibility to allow the Leaders' Board and JRB to focus on the most critical strategic decisions, with systems in place for progress to be reported.

Refreshing Leaders' Board Membership

22. Membership of the Yorkshire and Humber Leaders' Board, including its named Deputies, is reviewed annually, with nominations confirmed or amended as required at LGYH's AGM each June. This ensures that membership remains live and up-to-date with any political or representative changes that may take place at FSR level.

Further information

23. Any enquiries with regard to this document or the Leaders' Board for Yorkshire and Humber more generally should be directed to LGYH, as follows:

Local Government Yorkshire and Humber
18 King Street
Wakefield
West Yorkshire
WF1 2SQ

Telephone: 01924 331631

Fax: 01924 331559

Email: leadersboard@lgyh.gov.uk

ANNEX A:**YORKSHIRE & HUMBER LEADERS' BOARD MEMBERSHIP, MARCH 2010**

Name	Council	Representing (Functional Sub Region)	Political Party
Cllr Kris Hopkins	Bradford MDC	Leeds City Region	Con
Cllr Andrew Carter (Vice Chair)	Leeds CC	Leeds City Region	Con
Cllr Steve Houghton	Barnsley MBC	Sheffield City Region	Lab
Cllr Roger Stone (Chair)	Rotherham MBC	Sheffield City Region	Lab
Cllr John Watson	North Yorkshire County Council	Local Government North Yorkshire & York	Con
TBC	TBC	Local Government North Yorkshire & York	TBC
Cllr Stephen Parnaby	East Riding of Yorkshire Council	Hull & Humber Ports City Region	Con
Cllr Andrew De Freitas	North East Lincolnshire Council	Hull & Humber Ports City Region	LD

Named Deputy Members of the Leaders' Board, invited to attend to represent their Functional Sub Regions, should the above Members be unavailable:

Name	Council	Representing (Functional Sub Region)	Political Party
Cllr Stephen Baines	Calderdale MBC	Leeds City Region	Con
Cllr Paul Scriven	Sheffield City Council	Sheffield City Region	LD
Cllr Andrew Waller Cllr Tom Fox	City of York Council Scarborough BC	Association of North Yorkshire Authorities Association of North Yorkshire Authorities	LD Con
Cllr Carl Minns	Hull City Council	Hull & Humber Ports City Region	LD

ANNEX B:

YORKSHIRE & HUMBER JOINT REGIONAL BOARD MEMBERSHIP, 2009/10

16 Members in total made up of 8 Members of the Yorkshire & Humber Leaders' Board and 8 Members of the Yorkshire Forward Board.

Name	Organisation/Council
Cllr Kris Hopkins	Leader, Bradford MDC (representing Leeds City Region)
Cllr Andrew Carter	Leader, Leeds CC (representing Leeds City Region)
Cllr Steve Houghton	Leader, Barnsley MBC (representing Sheffield City Region)
Cllr Roger Stone	Leader, Rotherham MBC (representing Sheffield City Region) & Co-Chair
TBC	TBC (representing Local Government North Yorkshire and York)
Cllr John Watson	Deputy Leader, North Yorkshire CC (representing Local Government North Yorkshire and York)
Cllr Stephen Parnaby	Leader, East Riding of Yorkshire Council (representing Hull and Humber Ports City Region)
Cllr Andrew De Freitas	Leader, North East Lincolnshire Council (representing Hull and Humber Ports City Region)
Terry Hodgkinson	Yorkshire Forward (Chair)
John Vincent	Yorkshire Forward Board (Business representative)
Bill Adams	Yorkshire Forward Board (Trade Union representative)
Laura Moynahan	Yorkshire Forward Board (Voluntary and Community Sector representative)
Kath Pinnock	Yorkshire Forward Board (Local authority representative)
Linda Pollard	Yorkshire Forward Board (Business representative)
John Weighell	Yorkshire Forward Board (Co Chair, Joint Regional Board)
Jan Wilson	Yorkshire Forward Board (Local authority representative)

ANNEX C:

MAP SHOWING YORKSHIRE & HUMBER'S FUNCTIONAL SUB REGIONS (FSRs)

