

Investment Planning

This is the latest partner briefing on Investment Planning setting out progress to date. It follows the June meeting of Yorkshire Forward's Board at which draft Investment Plans for each of the four sub-regions in Yorkshire and the Humber were considered along with outline proposals to be supported by the Yorkshire Forward Development Fund.

What is Investment Planning?

Investment Planning is a new partnership approach aimed at maximising the impact of public sector funds on the delivery of the Regional Economic Strategy (RES).

Five year investment plans are being produced in each of the four sub-regions – North, South and West Yorkshire and the Humber. They set clear economic priorities based on robust analysis and will commission specific projects to address those agreed priorities. The central purpose of the plans is to ensure the most effective use of public funds by ensuring close co-ordination of funding streams including Yorkshire Forward's single pot, European funds and other key public sector funds.

How are the Plans being produced?

The investment plans are being produced and agreed by each sub-regional partnership. These partnerships bring together the full range of local partners, Yorkshire Forward, as the lead strategic agency on economic development, and other funders such as the European secretariats of the Government Office.

Funding decisions on specific projects will still be made, through existing appraisal systems, including Yorkshire Forward's Performance Management Framework.

What are the benefits of Investment Planning?

There are three main benefits:

- **Joined-up delivery** will result in more effective use of tax-payers money. For example, joint commissioning and appraisal of projects using both Yorkshire Forward and European funds will ensure that the region not only utilises all of the EU money available up to 2006, but ensures a more integrated approach to economic development and the avoidance of duplication.
- Longer-term planning and financial certainty will lead to **higher quality projects**. Five year planning cycles will encourage the dedication of more resources to project development, prevent individual projects and organisations having to chase funding through different processes and provide the private sector with a clear picture of future development priorities in local areas.
- Clearer processes and roles of different agencies will ensure **stronger partnerships and greater transparency**. People will start to see a clearer rationale for funding decisions. The link between regional strategy and local delivery will also be strengthened.

How much progress has been made in developing the Plans?

In February and March each sub-regional partnership agreed a Strategic Economic Assessment, providing a full assessment of their sub-regional economy. This assessment informed the identification and agreement of specific priorities to be pursued through Investment Planning. Also in March, Yorkshire Forward's Board made an indicative financial commitment of £737m of uncommitted single pot funding to support Investment Planning for the 2004/09 period and the priority focus which Yorkshire Forward would wish to see in those plans.

Geographic Distribution of uncommitted Single Pot funding for the period 2004/09

Uncommitted single pot funding	
Humber	£118m
North Yorkshire	£47m
South Yorkshire	£243m
West Yorkshire	£192m
YDFD	£137m
Total	£737m

During April and May, partners, including Yorkshire Forward have been working hard to finalise the initial Plans for formal endorsement by the sub-regional partnerships. Yorkshire Forward's Board considered each of the draft Plans at its most recent Board meeting on the 18 June. The Board felt that the Investment Planning process was making a positive contribution towards more effective delivery of the Regional Economic Strategy as a result of much stronger partnership working taking place. Yorkshire Forward has provided specific feedback to each sub-regional partnership on the draft investment plans. The Board also considered the scale of resources identified in the Plans. Clearly it will be necessary to undertake a degree of over-programming. Over-programming will need to take account of the level of resources available, at the same time as recognising the need for flexibility in bringing forward a rolling programme of interventions that can respond to in-year opportunities over the five-year planning cycle.



What about regional projects?

£137m of Yorkshire Forward's uncommitted resources will be retained for the Yorkshire Forward Development Fund (YFDF). The fund will be used to support genuinely regional projects, in-year opportunities and the development of pilot projects. Entry criteria have been agreed and projects will be tested against them,

The criteria are:

- **Regional projects** – such as Yorkshire Futures, regional marketing, technology transfer and innovation activity with universities and Yorkshire Forward's representation in overseas markets.
- **Research and Development Work** – the fund will support research and development including testing new models, pilots and early feasibility projects in Yorkshire Forward's core policy areas. Any projects resulting from research and development activity, except regional projects, will be delivered via sub-regional investment plans.
- **In-year opportunities** – an element of the fund will be used to enable Yorkshire Forward to react to opportunities as they occur.

What happens next?

By the end of July, each sub-regional partnership will aim to have agreed the initial Investment Plans for the 2004/09 period. It is clear significant progress has been made in shaping priorities to be pursued in Investment Plans, further work will be required in agreeing specific projects to pursue the agreed priorities as we move forward under Investment Planning. It will be important to identify a first tranche of projects for early endorsement to make an early start in delivering the outputs and outcomes required to achieve the step change in the performance of the regional economy if we are to meet the aspiration set out in the RES.

Proposals seeking support from the YFDF are currently being developed by Yorkshire Forward, a full outline of these proposals will be shared with partners in the August Investment Planning briefing.

Sub-Regional Co-ordinators

Humber

Humber Forum
Mick King
Tel: 01482 596 777
mking@humberforum.co.uk

North Yorkshire

York & North Yorkshire Partnership Unit
Jonathan French
Tel: 01904 477 970
jonathan.french@nypu.org.uk

South Yorkshire

South Yorkshire Partnership
Graham Joyce
Tel: 01226 773 477
grahamjoyce@barnsley.gov.uk

West Yorkshire

West Yorkshire
Economic Partnership
Neil Heavens
Tel: 01924 305 282
nheavens@wakefield.gov.uk

Yorkshire Forward Sub-Regional Contacts

Humber

Sarah Pearson
Tel: 01482 599 000
sarah.pearson@yorkshire-forward.com

North Yorkshire

Geoff Needham
Tel: 01904 693 335
geoff.needham@yorkshire-forward.com

South Yorkshire

Neil Jenkinson
Tel: 01706 766 400
neil.jenkinson@yorkshire-forward.com

West Yorkshire

Andrew Wallhead
Tel: 01274 386 900
andrew.wallhead@yorkshire-forward.com

Yorkshire Forward Development Fund

Simon Foy
Tel: 0113 394 9692
simon.foy@yourhire-forward.com



Yorkshire Forward
Victoria House
2 Victoria Place
Leeds LS11 5AE

www.yorkshire-forward.com