

**POLICY BRIEFING ON THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE SNR
CONSULTATION AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE VCS**

- The Government has decided to give Yorkshire Forward and the Local Authority Leaders' Board **joint responsibility** for the **regional strategy**. This includes drafting, implementation plan, and monitoring delivery. If they cannot agree or fall out then the government will reserve the power to intervene, and give the lead **back** to Yorkshire Forward! How will the LA's react to this? The 'compromise' change is because of concerns expressed in the consultation response about RDA's accountability.
- It will be up to the region to decide what should be in the regional strategy, but it will also have to reflect government priorities. There will be legislation to ensure that the strategy delivers 'sustainable economic growth' and that it contributes to 'sustainable development'. The government will also publish detailed guidance on how the strategy should/ could be developed. **Opportunity for VCS engagement at regional level on sustainability agenda?**
- There will be a 'duty' on the RDA and Leaders' Board to '**consult and engage stakeholders**'. Yorkshire Forward and the Leaders' Board will be required to prepare and comply with a published statement setting out how they will engage with stakeholders and **communities**. They want to share best practice on this. **This is a key point of intervention for the VCS at Regional Level and an opportunity for a possible VCS Leaders' Board to help shape emerging thinking.**
- There will be **Examination in Public** panels to help identify big areas of contention early in the Strategy making process. Further guidance to be issued. **Key points of intervention for the VCS.**
- They are going ahead with plans to legislate to place a statutory duty on lead Local Authorities to carry out an assessment of economic conditions in their areas. **Possible point of intervention for the VCS.**

- The Government still sees the purpose of the SNR to **devolve delivery** to sub regional and local levels, but continues to give RDA's strategic management. It has decided against passing legislation to underpin the roles of LA's and the RDA's. The way in which this pivotal relationship works remains to be seen! **Key area for the VCS to monitor, at all levels.**

CONCLUSION

- There are still more questions than answers after the Government response. Indeed, the government itself is clear that this is just the start of the process. Rumours about a possible watering down of the proposals in 'Prosperous Places' because of the recession seem to have been groundless, but it is obvious that the Treasury and ERR will retain control through RDA's. There is no mention of extra resources for LA's or the Third Sector, and no further clarity on **how** the SNR sits with the recent 'Framework for Regeneration' consultation, Regional Select Committees, and LAA's. There are opportunities for VCS engagement with this agenda at the regional level but this needs to be organised and strategically led.

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