

The New YHRAF Management Group

1. Introduction

The review and refresh of the YHRF and discussions on how the RAF will support the new regional structures in representing the rural voice and offering expertise as appropriate, necessitates a restructuring of the YHRAF Steering Group to form an enlarged Management Group. This restructuring aims to include formal representation from the four functional sub-regions, LGYH on behalf of local authorities in the region, and key partners as well as covering expertise and the main sectoral interests in the rural sphere. Current indications are that rural expertise will be covered on the cross-cutting regional Sustainable Development Board and the YHRAF has requested that the person selected for this role will be required as part of their remit to join the Management Group. In this way it is hoped to cover the widest spectrum of interests, expertise and network linkages that is manageable in steering the YHRAF's business and communicating with YHRAF members and the wider rural constituency.

The role of the Management Group remains unchanged and the relevant extract from the revised YHRAF Terms of Reference is set out in Annex 1.

2. Composition of the Management Group

The Management Group (SG) will consist of individuals who have been nominated by partner organisations, all of whom are YHRAF members, or selected from nominations made by YHRAF members as follows:

- Chair – Independent. Selected from respondents to public advertisement by a panel of regional/national stakeholders /funders (LGYH, YF, GOYH, CRC).
- Vice-Chair – elected from nominations by SG members.
- Two members nominated from each of the four Functional Sub-regional rural partnerships. One to be an elected Councillor and one to be an official.
- Local Government Yorkshire and Humber – nominated by LGYH
- Yorkshire Forward – nominated by YF
- Government Office for Yorkshire and The Humber – nominated by GOYH
- Commission for Rural Communities – nominated by CRC
- Food and Farming Partnership – Chair or nominee of partnership
- Two representatives from the Forum's environmental membership – selected by Chair from RAF members' nominees

- Two representatives from the Forum's economy and business membership - selected by Chair from RAF members' nominees
- Two representatives from the Forum's social sector membership - selected by Chair from RAF members' nominees.
- Sustainable Development Board member (may also be one of the above)

Note. As key rural bodies, it is expected that nominees from Natural England and the Rural Community Councils would occupy one place for their respective sectors. It is also expected that both agricultural production (e.g NFU) and other rural business (e.g FSB) should be represented from the economy and business sector.

3. YHRAF Structure

The new Management Group arrangement will be complemented by sub-groups and 'task and finish' groups. With the exception of the Finance sub-committee, which will report direct to the Chair and the Accountable Body, the sub-groups will operate independently within the YHRAF family. At present the sub-groups comprise the Food and Farming Forum and a Rural Practitioners Group which, like its predecessor, will focus on practical issues of rural policy and service delivery. Further sub-groups may be established as necessary but 'task and finish' groups are likely to be the best way of dealing with specific rural issues. All sub-groups will report to the Management Group and the RAF.

Annex 1: The role and operation of the Management Group.

(From Annex D Terms of Reference)

1. Management Group members are responsible for:

- Managing the Forum's work programme and monitoring performance.
- Responding to issues arising between full RAF meetings or matters of urgency, as necessary, on behalf of the Forum.
- Joint responsibility with the Chair for the RAF's financial affairs.
- Acting as a link between RAF members and the Chair.
- Where appropriate, overseeing projects, research or sub-group working and/or representing the RAF on relevant committees or regional forums.
- Consulting the sector they represent, and representing their concerns and ideas to the SG and the full RAF to inform regional and national consultations and RAF activity.

- Networking and communicating within their sector to disseminate and support the work of the RAF
- Supporting the work of the Executive Manager

2. Forum members can ask the Management Group:

- to consider developing particular areas of Forum activity, which may involve expressing opinions or passing information to bodies such as Defra and appropriate Ministers, through the Chair.

3. Operation of the Management Group

- The group will meet at least 4 times a year at dates set in advance.
- Papers for meeting and other communication will be circulated electronically.
- The Secretariat will circulate agenda and papers at least seven days prior to each meeting and will post minutes of the meeting on the Y&H RAF website
- Meetings will require a quorum of at least twelve members.
- Deputies will only be accepted by agreement with the Chair in exceptional circumstances.
- Additional members may be invited to meetings on occasion to contribute expertise on specific matters.
- The Chair reserves the right to replace any Management Group member should their contribution or attendance be deemed unsatisfactory.