

MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD: 18 MARCH 2009

	ACTION
<p>1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</p> <p>Cllr Barry Anderson chaired the first part of the meeting. Everyone was welcomed and apologies were noted. A full attendance list is attached as Annex A.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of the Regional Planning Board Meeting – 21 October 2008</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record.</p>	
<p>3. Matters Arising</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	
<p>4. New Governance Arrangements</p> <p>Chris Martin introduced this item and circulated a report on new arrangements that had been presented at the Joint Regional Board meeting on 6 March.</p> <p>The main points of this report are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Joint Regional Board has sought nomination from Government to become the Regional Planning Body with effect from 1 April. • The new thematic Boards will have chairs and deputy chairs nominated from LGYH and Yorkshire Forward. For the Spatial Planning Board Cllr Peter Box would remain the LGYH nominated Chair for the Board in the interim until the LGYH AGM in June, with Julie Kenny the Yorkshire Forward nominated deputy chair. • The general terms of reference for the new Boards have been agreed and are set out in the report, but the first meetings of the thematic boards will need to consider and report back on detailed terms of reference, consultation and engagement with stakeholders, a future work programme and issues of delegation. 	

- There will be particular emphasis in the new arrangements on building up strategy and priorities from the local level, with a key role for functional sub-regions.

The following questions were raised by members:

- How much of the current membership will be carried forward to the new planning board? It was noted that LGYH are currently looking into the nominations procedure for the new thematic boards and that information will be circulated shortly.
- How will the National Parks be involved in the new Spatial Planning Board? Members were advised that a National Park member will need to be co-opted to the Joint Regional Board for the purposes of making decisions as the Regional Planning Body.
- Will thematic board meetings be open to the public? Members were told that although no decision had yet been made it is thought that the spirit of the Freedom of Information Act will be followed.
- How will sectoral representation be identified – will members be invited or have to nominate themselves? It was noted that this has yet to be made clear although there is a stakeholder event being held in Leeds on 31 March which will focus on the role and engagement of stakeholders in the new arrangements.
- In the proposed terms of reference for the Spatial Planning Board does 'spatial' encompass environmental, social and rural issues? Members were advised that it did.
- Are these arrangements accepted as final or is there still potential for change? It was noted that these are the final arrangements but finer detail on terms of reference and engagement with stakeholders has yet to be agreed. It is hoped that there will be a cycle of board meetings before June.

This update was **noted** by Members.

At this point Cate Hammond took over as Chair of the meeting

5. Work Programme Update

Richard Wood introduced this item and gave Members an update on the work that the Regional Planning Board has been doing since the last meeting in October of last year.

It was noted that an update was circulated to Members on the support the Assembly has given to local authorities with Employment Land Reviews on 1 December last year.

A detailed update was given on the Sand and Gravel Stud, which has been underway since last year in response to diminishing easy-to-extract supplies and the national emphasis on moving extraction away from national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty.

This study raises many potential sensitivities in different parts of the region and Members raised the need for political input. Members were advised that there are plans to hold a Regional Aggregates Working Party event to look at the findings of this work and to report on this to the new Spatial Planning Board.

Members **noted** this update.

6. **RSS Annual Monitoring Report and Implementation Priorities**

Richard Wood introduced this item and firstly highlighted to Members the key implementation activity that had been undertaken over the past year. It was reported that the Annual Monitoring 2008 had been completed and submitted to Government.

Ten areas emerged from the AMR findings where further work is necessary to ensure the achievement of the objectives of the RSS.

Members were then asked to agree priority implementation activities for the coming year. It was noted however that this would be best done after agreeing the options for moving forward under the RSS which are listed at item 7c.

Members did press the need for an ongoing focus on Flood Risk management/planning and working with the Environment Agency (problems in the Humber sub region and Leeds were highlighted).

It was **agreed** to return to this item after item 7c.

7. a) **RSS Review - 2009 Update of the Yorkshire and Humber Plan - Consultation Responses to the Spatial Options**

Harriet Fisher introduced this item and gave Members an update on the responses to the Spatial Options consultation that took place between November 2008 and January 2009.

Members were advised that there had been four consultation events held across the region and these were attended by over 200 organisations and people representing a wide variety of interests. It was also noted that 130 responses to the consultation were received. Work had also been undertaken with Yorkshire Futures Citizens Panel.

It was then noted that the Assembly has appointed Savills to independently analyse the findings of the consultation responses and that their final report will be available on the Assembly website.

Members raised the issue of bias in reporting and agreed on the need to clearly recognise who had made particular comments. The low level of responses from the general public was highlighted.

Members **noted** this update.

b) **RSS Review - 2009 Update of the Yorkshire and Humber Plan - Further Work on Housing and Migration**

Andy Haigh introduced this item and gave Members a presentation on the further work being done by the Assembly.

This focused on the Experian study looking at the correlation between growth in the economy of the Yorkshire and Humber and the scale and distribution of its housing provision; the Housing Delivery Enquiry held by the Assembly on Friday 13 March, chaired by Professor Ian Cole of Sheffield Hallam University; and the refresh of the migration work which was carried out by Edge Analytics in early 2008, to take into account recent variations in migration policy and changes in the economy.

Members raised the importance of natural population growth as a key driver alongside migration and asked whether there

are any conclusions about the lack of land supply (it was noted that the Assembly is still awaiting findings of the enquiry before confirming this). It was clarified that Experian had not been asked to look at infrastructure issues.

This update was **noted** by Members.

c) RSS Review - 2009 Update of the Yorkshire and Humber Plan - Options for Moving Forward

Richard Wood introduced this item and asked Members to provide a steer on the way forward with the RSS Review for the new Joint Regional and Spatial Planning Boards.

There were three options given in the report with regards to taking forward the RSS Review; "Submit as Intended", "A More Selective Submission" or "Maintaining Momentum through the IRS and the RSS Implementation Plan".

Members highlighted the need to look at housing numbers now given reduced delivery. It was noted that the RSS approach does embody a stepping up in provision. The new Integrated Regional Strategy will need to pick up on the issue of whether under-provision now is made up for later.

In summary Members showed no support for the first option, some support for the second option but most support for the third option. It was **agreed** that this option would be suggested as a steer for the new Joint Regional and Spatial Planning Boards.

At this point the Chair directed the agenda back to Item 6c

Annex 6C – Proposed RSS Implementation Action Plan Activities for 2009/10

It was noted that Members had already raised the issues of flood risk and infrastructure needs (already reflected). The Chair asked if there were any other issues to be raised in relation to this item.

Members asked if there should be anything in the activities relating specifically to CO₂ emissions. It was noted that there is a need to concentrate on areas the RSS can have a direct impact on. This issue will however be picked up as part of the new Climate Change Action Plan and Adaptation Study

work which was launched on 13 March.

Members **agreed** the RSS Implementation Action Plan Activities for 2009/10 with the addition of Managing Flood Risk as a key activity and that under 'Achieving Housing Delivery Outcomes' work should look at the impact of five year supply periods.

8. Integrated Regional Strategy

Richard Wood introduced this item and advised Members on the opportunity that the Integrated Regional Strategy (IRS) would provide for carrying forward the work of the Assembly.

It was noted that there are three main issues that the IRS will be expected to address are Economic Outcomes, Housing Outcomes and Climate Change.

Members suggested that these three issues should not be seen as an exclusive list and that the good work that the RSS has achieved should not be lost but carried forward into the new arrangements.

Members **agreed** the key points generated from the discussion at the Regional Planning Forum on 4 March and summarised in paragraph 6 of the report.

This report was **noted** by Members.

9. Any Other Business

It was noted that this was the last meeting of the Regional Planning Board under Assembly arrangements and as a result thanks were **noted** for both the members of the board for their hard work and contribution to regional work and also to the officers of the Assembly for their continued support during the lifetime of the Assembly and particularly over the last few uncertain months.

Emma King, Business Services Officer
March 2009

Attendees

Cate Hammond	Deputy Chair (Chair)
Andrew Palmer	Business Sector
Gill Stride	Environment Sector
Richard Wilson	Environment Sector
Margaret Jackson	Government Office
Cllr John Fareham	Hull and Humber Ports City Region
Cllr Mick Grant	Humber Local Authorities
Cllr John Fletcher	North Yorkshire Local Authorities
Cllr Peter Sowray	Rural Local Authorities
David Slater	Social Sector
Cllr David Whiteley	Town and Parish Councils
Cllr Barry Anderson	West Yorkshire Local Authorities
Patrick Bowes	Yorkshire Forward (Sub)

Visitors

David Feeney	Leeds City Council
Chris Barwell	North East Lincolnshire Council
Tom Smithard	Yorkshire Post

Staff

Chris Martin	Harriet Fisher	Ruth Hardingham
Richard Wood	Rob Murfin	Will Kemp
Emma King	Andy Haigh	Stuart Clewlow

Apologies

Duncan Melville	Business Sector
Cllr Peter Box	Chair
Cllr Anne Hawkesworth	Leeds City Region (No Sub)
Cllr Gerald Smith	Sheffield City Region
Cllr Bill Newman	South Yorkshire Local Authorities (No Sub)
Simon Foy	Yorkshire Forward (Sub)