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**YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER PLAN
PUBLICATION OF SECRETARY OF STATE'S PROPOSED CHANGES**

Following the Examination in Public into the draft Regional Spatial Strategy (Yorkshire and Humber Plan) and publication of the Panel report in May, I have pleasure in enclosing a copy of the following documents:

- Yorkshire and Humber Plan incorporating the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes
- Schedule of the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes and Reasons
- Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Changes

I am grateful for all of the work of the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly in preparing the draft Plan and in contributing to the Examination in Public. I am also grateful to Chris Offord and Geoffrey Hill and their team for holding the Examination and producing a comprehensive report.

The draft Plan is a substantial document, and the Panel made numerous recommendations for changes, mainly to improve clarity and to make detailed improvements. These have been considered, along with all representations not considered by the Panel, and further analysis about potential job growth, housing growth and quantities of waste to be managed. Sustainability Appraisal and an Assessment under the Habitats Regulations have been carried out. The main Proposed Changes are summarised below.

Whilst the basic structure and format of the draft Plan has been retained, changes are proposed to reduce its length and to make it clearer. In particular, the first five sections of the Plan, and the supporting text to the policies, have been edited. A clearer Spatial Vision is proposed, along with a new Key Diagram to more clearly illustrate the strategy and main policies.

Changes are proposed to the job growth figures and economic development policies to reflect more recent information about the economy and to ensure that the region plans for sustainable economic growth. Latest forecasts suggest that job growth could potentially

be significantly higher (up to 29,000 per year, compared to up to 19,000 per year in draft RSS). This reflects ambitions set out in the Regional Economic Strategy and Northern Way City Region Development Plans, and it is appropriate for RSS to provide a framework so that this can be delivered in the most sustainable way.

Changes are proposed to increase housing growth in the region to around 22,000 per year from 2008, reflecting the Government's commitment to delivering more homes as set out in the Housing Green Paper. Changes are also made to make it clear that this level of growth should be planned for to 2026 (unless the Plan is reviewed before then) in line with PPS3. Most of the additional growth is proposed in the Leeds city region, particularly Leeds and Bradford to reflect the size of those cities and their high job growth potential, but also elsewhere in West Yorkshire. Increases are also proposed in South Yorkshire, and to a lesser extent in Scarborough, Selby, York, Hull, North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire. Policies on development and flood risk have been strengthened to minimise the risk of flooding to this new development. Changes are also proposed to policies to meet needs for market and affordable housing in all parts of the region, including rural areas, and to provide more accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers.

Changes are proposed to the policy on Green Belt to provide clearer spatial guidance for the definition of the detailed boundaries of the Green Belt around York, and to encourage the West Yorkshire authorities to work together to review Green Belt boundaries if necessary to accommodate the higher housing growth in the most sustainable locations in the Leeds City Region.

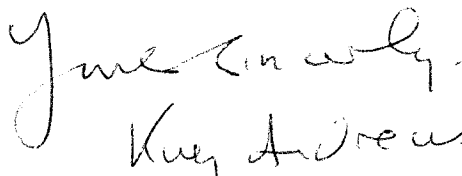
Changes are proposed to the transport policies to integrate them better with the spatial strategy and to give a clearer indication of the priorities for future investment and management. These included giving priority to introducing stronger demand management measures (including consideration of road charging when justified by local conditions), improvements to public transport in Leeds and Sheffield, and improving access to the Humber ports.

A new policy on Green Infrastructure, as recommended by the Panel, has been added.

Changes are proposed to the waste policies and figures for waste to be managed to reflect more recent information, the Waste Strategy 2007, and to bring RSS more in line with PPS10. These show that achieving targets for reducing the amount of waste that goes to landfill and to increase recycling will require significant new waste management facilities in all parts of the region.

This letter and the consultation documents are being sent to all of the region's local authorities, MPs, MEPs, all those who took part in the Examination in Public or who made representations about the draft Plan. We will also endeavour to consult everyone else who the Assembly consulted about the draft Plan in January 2006. Copies of the documents and relevant information are available from GOYH and on the internet (www.goyh.gov.uk).

Responses to the Proposed Changes should be sent to GOYH by Friday 21 December 2007.

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BARONESS ANDREWS