



PRE-DRAFT



**REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY
(RSS)**



TOPIC PAPER 19:

CLIMATE CHANGE



**Consultation
Winter 2004/05**



Foreword

The Yorkshire and Humber Assembly has reached another crucial stage in the development of 'PLANet Yorkshire and Humber' - the new Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). A draft of the new RSS is to be submitted to Government by the end of April 2005.

In preparing the new draft RSS the Assembly is committed to involving as wide a range of organisations and individuals as possible. The preparation process for the new draft RSS therefore provides for two specific periods of public consultation *before* a new draft RSS is prepared and submitted to Government. This is in addition to the continual involvement of many partners in the technical work for the new RSS.

The first consultation document - 'Draft Spatial Vision and Strategic Approach' (July 2004) - considered the overall approach that should guide the preparation of the new RSS (particularly the role of sub-areas), key issues facing different parts of the region and possible responses to these issues.

We have now reached the second stage of consultation. This is based on the need to consider in more detail how we can develop a clear spatial strategy for the region that takes into account all of the issues identified in the RSS Project Plan ('Shaping the Future', January 2004). This second stage of consultation is therefore structured around a series of 'topic papers', of which this is one. The full list of topic papers is:

Topic paper 1:	Introduction to Pre-Draft RSS
Topic paper 2:	Spatial Options
Topic paper 3:	Housing
Topic Paper 3a:	Distributing the Housing Requirement
Topic paper 4:	Economy
Topic paper 5a:	Freight
Topic paper 5b:	Strategic Public Transport
Topic paper 5c:	Public Transport Accessibility
Topic paper 5d:	Demand Management
Topic paper 5e:	Aviation
Topic paper 5f:	Transport Investment Priorities
Topic paper 6:	CAP reform
Topic paper 7:	Energy
Topic paper 8:	Water
Topic paper 9:	Sustainable Tourism
Topic paper 10:	Forestry
Topic paper 11:	Biodiversity
Topic paper 12:	Culture
Topic paper 13:	Health
Topic paper 14:	Education
Topic paper 15:	Minerals
Topic paper 16:	Sustainable Waste Management
Topic paper 17:	Retail and Leisure
Topic paper 18:	Monitoring
Topic paper 19:	Climate Change

Please bear in mind that these topic papers are raising many challenges that policies in the new RSS will need to address. The topic papers do not include draft policies and there will need to be a great deal of integration across topic areas before the policies are drafted. The purpose of this stage of consultation is to receive feedback on what direction you think RSS policy should take.

Please note that these topic papers have not been endorsed by the Assembly, or its advisory body the Regional Planning and Infrastructure Commission. They do not represent Assembly policy but give an important opportunity for a wide range of stakeholders to feed in to the further development of the new RSS for the Yorkshire and Humber region.

Your comments

We would like your comments on these topic papers. You can answer the questions that we ask in the papers or you can send us your general comments.

We need to hear from you by **Friday 18th March 2005** so that your views and ideas can be taken into account as we prepare the new draft RSS to submit to Government.

Please send your comments to

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All the topic papers and accompanying documents can be found at www.yhassembly.gov.uk

Strategic Environmental Assessment/Sustainability Appraisal

At each stage of the development of the new RSS, a Strategic Environmental Assessment/Sustainability Appraisal (SEA/SA) is being carried out. At this stage, this appraisal has particularly concentrated on Topic Paper 2 – Spatial Options. The report of this appraisal is also available from the Assembly.

Any queries

If you have any queries about the topic papers, or any aspect of RSS, please call the Regional Planning and Transport team on 01924 331590.

Topic Paper 19 - Climate Change

Introduction

1. In line with Government targets, the Regional Economy Strategy commits this region to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% below 1990 levels by 2010. This equates to a reduction of about 1.3 million tonnes of carbon per year to 2010.
2. This target is reflected in policy in current RSS (December 2004, based on the Selective Review of RPG12). Policy S5 requires local authorities to both help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to take into account the implications of the predicted impacts of climate change.
3. This Topic Paper has been prepared in order to explore how the preparation of the new RSS can build on this policy.

Background

4. The UK Government is committed to reducing greenhouse gases by 12.5% below 1990 levels over the period 2008-2012 and to moving towards a 60% cut in carbon dioxide emissions below 1990 levels by 2050 (with a 20% cut by 2010). Planning Policy Statement 11 (PPS11) also provides for regional planning bodies to “consider their region’s vulnerability to climate change” and how their region’s activities “affect the production of the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change”. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 also provide for the assessment of the significance of adverse effects of development plans on “climatic factors”.
5. The Climate Change Impacts Scoping Study for Yorkshire outlines climatic scenarios for the 2020s, 2050s and 2080s, showing that the region’s climate will become warmer (with winters becoming wetter and summers drier) and will be subject to both increased rainfall and extreme events (e.g. droughts and floods), with varying impacts throughout the region.
6. Policy S5 of the current RSS (which represents the outcome of the selective review of RPG and was issued in December 2004) is cross-cutting and encourages local and regional authorities and agencies to take a twin-track approach to climate change by:
 - a. including policies and proposals in development plans etc. to help reduce the region’s greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% below 1990 levels by 2010 and by at least 25% below 1990 levels by 2015.
 - b. considering the land use implications of the predicted impacts of climate change and plan for successful adaptation accordingly

7. Other Policies in current RSS aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or plan for successful adaptation to the effects of climate change – along with other considerations – by various measures including: -
 - reducing the need to travel (T1, T2, T3, T5 and T6)
 - increasing urban density (P1)
 - increasing renewable energy generation (R12)
 - increasing sustainable waste management (R5-11)
 - increasing resource efficiency (S4 and S6)
 - reducing development in flood risk areas (R2)
 - increasing carbon capture through increased tree cover (N4)
 - conserving adequate water resources (R3)
 - protecting biodiversity (N1)
 - maintaining existing shoreline, allowing for managed retreat (R1)
8. Although there is no statutory guidance requiring the RSS to have a policy on climate change at all, it is understood that the current RSS for Yorkshire and the Humber is the only RSS and/or Regional Policy Guidance (RPG) document in the country to provide a comprehensive cross-cutting policy on climate change.

Process for developing the new draft RSS

9. In developing the new RSS, the Assembly has made it clear that it is committed to building on the objectives and strategic policies in the current RSS as they provide key building blocks for future policies. This includes a continued commitment to ensure that the RSS does what it can to help to address the causes of and implications of climate change in the region.
10. Further to undertaking a great deal of work on climate change for the Selective Review of RPG12 (which formed the basis of the current RSS issued in December 2004), a full consideration of the relationship between RSS and climate change in the region took place prior to and during the Public Examination of the draft policies in February 2004. The Panel's subsequent report agreed with the Assembly's proposed approach taken to climate change, as reflected in Policy S5.
11. Paragraph 3.36 of current RSS states that "In view of the need to establish more information on the causes and effects of climate change throughout the region, the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly will seek to secure improved mapping of the potential impacts of climate change and other guidance about the causes of climate changes both to help local authorities plan for climate change in their area and to inform reviews of the RSS". To this end, the Assembly invited members of various organisations (Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber (GOYH), Yorkshire Forward, The Environment Agency, the Countryside Agency, English Nature, Forestry Commission, Yorkshire and Humber Regional Environment Forum) to meet to explore this issue on two occasions with only GOYH replying. At a subsequent meeting between officers of GOYH

and the Assembly it was considered whether a regional climate change map would add anything over and above the Environment Agency's Flood Map. It was agreed that GOYH would lead on the potential mapping of climate change impacts, seeking views from English Nature accordingly.

12. Paragraph 3.36 of current RSS also states that "the Regional Sustainable Development Framework (RSDF) and the Regional Climate Change Action Plan will set out a series of actions to help meet these aims [ie Policy S5]". The Regional Climate Change Action Plan (RCCAP) is currently out for consultation and the Assembly will be keen to ensure that it does indeed support the implementation of Policy S5 and those policies identified in paragraph 7 above and includes realistic and achievable actions. Crucially, the RCCAP itself identifies the need for further information and intelligence on climate change, including its spatial effects, in the region to be gathered.

Proposed way forward

13. In view of the above, it is proposed that the policy coverage of climate change in the new draft RSS will build on that in current RSS (December 2004) as this is a robust and recently tested approach. It is proposed that there will be a policy equivalent to S5 and that other policies (such as those listed in paragraph 7 above) that can address climate change causes and effects will be clearly identified and taken forward. These are the spatially-orientated means by which the statutory land use planning system can realistically deliver sustainable and value-added measures to help address the causes and effects of climate change.
14. It is also considered that, in view of the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, the sustainability appraisal of the new draft RSS will provide an opportunity to assess the extent to which each policy (and in particular those identified above), will help address the causes and/or effects of climate change as appropriate.
15. The Assembly will continue to work with its partners, including the Regional Environment Forum, over the coming months to ensure that the development of new RSS properly reflects the climate change issues in the region and that the proposed policies of the new RSS are doing all that they can realistically do to address these issues. Responses to this Topic Paper will play an important part in these discussions.

Questions for consultation

1. *Do you agree with the proposed approach to ensuring that the new RSS addresses both the causes and implications of climate change in the region? If not, what more do you think the new RSS can do?*

References

Regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire and the Humber (based on the Selective Review of RPG12), HMSO, December 2004.

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Warming up the Region – Overview Document and Full Report (Climate Change Impacts Scoping Study), Atkins consultants, 2002.

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The Planning Response to Climate Change – Advice on Better Practice, ODPM, HMSO, September 2004.

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Draft Regional Climate Change Action Plan, HGOYH/YHA January 2005.

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