

Promising prospects for the region?

Integrated Regional Framework
Consultation Draft

June 2007 – August 2007

Introduction

1. This is the consultation version of the new Yorkshire and Humber **Integrated Regional Framework**.
2. Earlier this year, in 'Securing the Regions' Futures', Government set out guidance on strengthening delivery of sustainable development in the English regions. The guidance states that each region should rationalise current arrangements to produce a single high-level strategic framework by December 2007. Here in Yorkshire and Humber this means replacing Advancing Together and the Regional Sustainable Development Framework with a new Integrated Regional Framework.
3. This is the draft, consultation version of the Framework. The consultation will run from 1st June until 24th August 2007. Our aim is to complete the Framework by the Government deadline of December this year.
4. This draft version has been developed with partners following publication of a discussion paper in February. That paper included a proposed new vision for the region, principles for sustainable development and identified the seven 'landmark issues' that are holding back progress in the region. The responses received to the paper were very helpful in formulating this draft. The discussion paper and a summary of the responses are available at www.yhassembly.gov.uk.

Section 1: **The Role of the Framework**

5. This Framework sets out our vision for a sustainable future. It considers how local, sub-regional and regional agencies can work together to improve and strengthen how policies and programmes work together. Using regional intelligence as the evidence base, the Framework identifies landmark issues that are holding back progress and engages partners to tackle them. The Framework also helps monitor our activity, ensuring that the indicators we use are properly measuring our progress and providing the context to review our work.
6. It is important to remember that the Framework is not a replacement for any of our regional, sub-regional and local strategies and plans that are delivering positive progress in the region. Rather the Framework has a clearly defined and different purpose to:
 - Secure consensus that the landmark issues are the critical issues that need to be addressed by the region working together;
 - Support delivery to tackle the landmark issues using existing policies and develop and lobby for new measures and resources; and
 - Challenge and suggest new policy directions where evidence shows this

is needed.

7. The Framework will be the vehicle to examine and debate the policy implications of the regional intelligence gathered by Yorkshire Futures, the other regional observatories and other work undertaken in the region for example the Strategic Economic Assessments. In this way it will inform future reviews of strategies and plans. The Framework will be able to provide clarity and direction on matters that require collaboration across sectoral and area boundaries.
8. In tackling the landmark issues the Framework will seek to be locationally specific. It will support organisations to examine alternative policy approaches and identify opportunities to align resources better. The Framework will recognise the importance of the Local Area Agreements and emerging Multi Area Agreement models as the mechanisms to ensure resources are fully aligned to deliver this agenda.

Question One

Do you agree with the role of the Integrated Regional Framework as described in this Section?

Section 2: The Region's Principles for Sustainable Development

9. It is crucial that the Framework is based on a set of widely agreed principles for sustainable development. It is proposed that it should adopt and promote the national principles for sustainable development. They are:
 - **Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society**
Meeting the diverse needs of all people in the region in existing and future communities, promoting personal well-being, social cohesion and inclusion and creating equal opportunity for all.
 - **Living within Environmental Limits**
Respecting the limits of the planet's environment, resources and biodiversity - to improve our environment and ensure that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations.
 - **Achieving a Sustainable Economy**
Building a strong, stable and sustainable economy, which provides prosperity and opportunities for all and in which environmental and social costs fall on those who impose them and efficient resource use is incentivised.
 - **Promoting Good Governance**
Actively promoting effective participation systems of governance in all

levels of society – engaging people’s creativity, energy and diversity.

- **Using Sound Science Sensibly**

Ensuring policy is developed and implemented on the basis of strong scientific evidence. Whilst taking into account scientific uncertainty (through the precautionary principle) as well as public attitudes and values.

Question Two

Do you agree that the Framework should adopt the national principles for sustainable development?

Section 3: The Region’s Vision

10. The Region’s vision for its future is very important. It is a way of making the Framework meaningful to people in the region and should motivate us to make the decisions that will ensure our progress is sustainable. The vision is likely to be widely quoted and should become shorthand for the region’s approach to development.

11. Our region already has a commitment to work for a sustainable future that is set out in Advancing Together. This is:

“Yorkshire and Humber will be a recognisably world class and international region where the economic, environmental and social well-being of our region and its people advances rapidly and sustainably”.

12. Since it was adopted four years ago this vision has helped to ensure that the main regional strategies are better aligned and progress sustainable development. However the vision has three main weaknesses. The meaning of the term, ‘world class and international’ is unclear and it is impossible to measure or monitor. The vision is not specific to Yorkshire and Humber and it does not address the particular issues in the region that stand in the way of achieving rapid and sustainable social, economic and environmental progress.

13. This new vision for the region was proposed in the discussion paper:

“Every person in Yorkshire and Humber has pride in the region as a great place to live as we develop our economy, we are fair to all and we live within our environmental limits”.

14. But this needs to be improved further to ensure that the vision is:

- More regionally specific;
- More ambitious; and
- More meaningful to people living in the region.

15. There are some suggested alternatives:

“By 2050, Yorkshire and the Humber will see individuals, organisations and settlements with improved quality of life, prospects and greater resilience. Overall progress, well-being and sustainability will be recognised far and wide.”

Bradford MDC

“Every person in Yorkshire and Humber enjoys a good quality of life as we develop our economy, are fair to all, live within our environmental limits and move towards a more sustainable world.”

CPRE

“Every person in Yorkshire and Humber has pride in the region as a great place to live as we develop our economy, we protect and enhance our environmental assets, we are fair to all and we live within our environmental limits.”

Forestry Commission

16. Additionally, Yorkshire Culture, a member of the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly and the umbrella body for cultural organisations and interests in the region, has proposed that cultural approaches can be especially useful in developing visions. To help us build on the suggestions we have had so far and as part of the consultation on the Framework we will be working with Yorkshire Culture to help develop the vision.

Question Three

What do you think the new vision should include?

Section 4: The Landmark Issues

17. Progress in the Region, produced by Yorkshire Futures, measures how Yorkshire and Humber is performing and whether it is making progress towards sustainable development. The latest version of Progress in the Region was published last November and looks at both *absolute* progress in the region compared to the baseline year (1998 or as close to as possible) and whether Yorkshire and Humber’s position has improved *relative* to the national average. It uses the thirty-two high-level indicators of regional progress developed as part of Advancing Together.
18. So where is the region doing best and worst? For good news, the outstanding story is economic progress. Five indicators out of seven are moving forward in absolute terms, and we are closing the gap to national average on three (employment, enterprise, and the rural economy). The region has not lost

ground in percentage terms in any of the seven areas. There is also good progress in terms of skills and education levels, which are generally improving, in absolute terms and in some key areas of the local environment such as water quality and natural habitats.

19. In other areas where we have a long way to go in terms of the progress we seek – like education, crime and biodiversity - it is important to retain focus and build on positive trends. In contrast there appear to be seven major issues where there are persistent trends in the wrong direction, which have major implications for the region, and which are also intimately bound with major societal shifts and national policy. Without exception, these are also issues that cut across regional, sub-regional and city-regional strategies and plans. These seven “landmark” issues with undesirable trajectories and consequences are:

- Widening Gaps and Inequalities
- Transport
- Climate Change, Energy & Resource Use
- Housing Markets and Affordability
- Public Health and Obesity
- Higher Level Skills and Business Innovation
- Violent Crime

20. The challenge for the Integrated Regional Framework is to seek to influence change to turn around the long term trends on this spread of issues whilst maintaining progress in other areas where trends are more positive and taking account of other issues in the region such as demographic change.

Question Four

Do these seem to be the right ‘landmark’ issues? Do you have specific examples where one or more of these issues are particularly significant?

Section 5: Using the Framework to Make a Difference

21. Section one of this report explained how the Integrated Regional Framework would work. In this section, we set out the issues and describe ongoing work that will start to tackle them. The final version of the Framework will include more detail about the ways we plan to ensure the landmark issues are addressed.

Tackling the Landmark Issues

22. The seven landmark issues affect all parts of the region but with some localities very negatively affected. The Framework presents an opportunity for organisations to work collaboratively and across policy areas to tackle these.

Widening Gaps and Inequalities

The Issue

23. Whilst the extent of deprivation people face is reducing, it appears to be becoming more concentrated in certain areas and the differences in income between the poorest and most affluent is widening. This along with analysis of future trends in areas like skills, health and housing points to a potentially more divided society. Divisions can be tied to localities and ethnicity, too, with implications for economic inclusion and community cohesion.

Question Five

Is this a correct description of the issue? Where do you see this issue as most obvious in the region?

Ongoing Work

24. Yorkshire Futures and the Sustainable Development Board are undertaking a study to look at extent of economic and health inequalities now and forecasting projections into the future. The East Midlands Assembly is undertaking a separate study that this is examining the causes of inequalities and solutions that have been effective in reducing them. We will draw on the results of both studies as well as a range of other information about process and what works locally to formulate a discussion paper in the autumn.

Question Six

Are you aware of work being undertaken now or in the near future to address this issue? Where will this take place?

Transport

The Issue

25. Trends of more traffic, longer journeys and a higher proportion of journeys by car and lorry will take radical action to shift. Regional, sub-regional and local transport and spatial plans already include objectives and targets to reduce the need to travel, to support public transport and walking and cycling, but these are not yet having a positive impact on these negative trends.

Question Seven

Is this a correct description of the issue? Where do you see this issue as most obvious in the region?

Ongoing Work

- 26.** The Assembly has undertaken an evaluation of how far the Regional Economic Strategy, Regional Housing Strategy and Draft Regional Spatial Strategy are mutually supportive/consistent. The results showed that these three strategies demonstrate a remarkable degree of consistency in their approach to the strategic issues facing the region, including transport, but that there were some areas of tension. Some of these relate to transport and raise the following questions:
- How can the promotion of the city regions and their enhancement as unified economic entities be achieved alongside reducing the need to travel?
 - How can economic growth be achieved in North Yorkshire in the context of general housing restraint, without leading to increases in commuting?
 - How can the promotion of airport expansion and the accompanying growth of foreign direct investment, international trade and overseas travel be reconciled with environmental objectives, particularly those related to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality?
- 27.** The Regional Transport Board is committed to examining the findings of this study. In addition, it will be working with the Sustainable Development Board to draw on existing work, such as the South Yorkshire Multi-Modal Study, to determine what the most realistic options are for reducing the greenhouse gas emissions from transport and for reducing congestion.

Question Eight

Are you aware of any work being undertaken now or in the near future to address this issue? Where will this take place?

Climate Change, Energy & Resource Use

The Issue

- 28.** Greenhouse gas emissions are not yet reducing in line with targets and the region's economy is the most energy intensive in England. Power generation and transport are crucial areas to address. Material consumption in the region is low compared with other regions but nevertheless the region has the most energy and waste-intensive economy in England and levels of household waste production are increasing.
- 29.** Improving our resilience to climate change has been identified as a critical issue for the region, especially as Yorkshire and Humber has some of the highest flood risks affecting any regional economy in Europe and the highest in the UK outside London.

Question Nine

Is this a correct description of the issue? Where do you see this issue as most obvious in the region?

Ongoing Work

30. We have looked at how regional strategies are delivering targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions within the region. The study has established that current approaches may be enough to stabilise emissions from production processes in the region but are unlikely to achieve reductions. If emissions from consumption are taken in account, it is likely that current targets will be overshoot.
31. In order to avoid a negative impact on regional economic growth, this forces attention on, amongst other things, resource efficiency, the transport and domestic sectors to reduce emissions.
32. This study is available on the Assembly website and comments on the report and its policy implications will be discussed at special workshop on the morning of Wednesday, 4th July as at Treacy Hall in Wakefield as part of the consultation on the Framework. Further details on the workshop are available from Martyn Roberts on 01924 331577 or via e-mail at Martyn.Roberts@yhassembly.gov.uk.
33. In terms of adapting to climate change, considerable work is taking place looking at how landscape management can reduce flood risk, reduce the treatment of drinking water and maintain the moorlands as carbon sinks. This includes the work the Environment Agency is leading on for the Water Framework Directive. A discussion paper that will bring together the evidence and policy implications of this work will be produced early in 2008.

Question Ten

Are you aware of any work being undertaken now or in the near future to address this issue? Where will this take place?

Housing Markets and Affordability

The Issue

34. We remain a region of contrasts. In many parts of our region we have high value, high demand markets, where supply simply cannot meet the level of housing need. At the same time, there remain areas where the housing market needs to be restructured to help transform some of our poorest communities.

35. Affordability has now become the key issue for our region, and not just in those areas that have traditionally experienced high demand – such as the rural areas close to our cities. In short, we simply need more affordable homes – a need that is likely to grow as the region’s population continues to increase and change. Providing more homes needs to be done in a way that is guided by the sustainable development principles and does not negatively impact on other landmark issues.
36. Any approach to ‘rebalancing’ the relationship of housing and the economy needs to look at both sides of the equation – so ‘unaffordable housing’ in rural areas can partly be addressed through increasing housing supply, but it can also be partly addressed through trying to move rural areas away from the low wage economy that is seen in agricultural and service sector jobs.

Question Eleven

Is this a correct description of the issue? Where do you see this issue as most obvious in the region?

Ongoing Work

37. The Regional Housing Board’s job, working closely with the Planning Board, Local Authorities and partners is to deliver a step change in the delivery of affordable housing. This needs to be done in a way that is informed by the sustainable development principles and does not negatively impact on other landmark issues. The Regional Housing Board is already considering a range of strategies to complement new build – for instance, better use of conversions, better links to empty homes strategies.
38. But the Regional Housing Board’s influence extends beyond the funding that it influences. The Board has a key role to play in promoting good practice in delivering a housing offer that has minimum environmental impact. In particular the Board will look at how it can take on a championing and co-ordinating role – particularly around working with developers and energy companies to maximise the investment that can be levered into housing delivery. This will help create cultural change within the industry to ensure that standards of homes delivered by the private sector meet the sorts of standards that Housing Association homes currently deliver.
39. The Board is keen to build strong links between regional housing and regional economic policy. The Integrated Regional Framework and the Regional Executive Board’s role in co-ordinating delivery, provides an excellent opportunity for that to happen. The range and quality of the housing that we have as a region has a key impact on our economy, and the location of housing in relation to the location of employment is key to delivering a range of regional policy priorities.

Question Twelve

Are you aware of any work being undertaken now or in the near future to address this issue? Where will this take place?

Public Health and Obesity

The Issue

40. Despite a backdrop of lengthening lifespan, some key determinants of health – most notably obesity – are deteriorating. This risks undermining future health improvements and also impacts upon employment and the economy. In addition, the gap in health status between the best and worst areas is not closing. Rates of disease and death are higher in disadvantaged areas.
41. In Yorkshire and the Humber, obesity is the second most important preventable cause of ill health and death after smoking. Obesity in women (at 23.8%) is higher than the England average and the second highest across all regions. Young people in the Region eat only half the recommended portions of fruit and vegetables.
42. People's health and well-being are determined by a wide range of factors. Levels of income, educational attainment, feeling connected to other people, family and friends, having access to high quality, appropriately tailored health services, healthy food and opportunities for physical activity and cultural experiences all play their part in enabling us to live healthy lives. Given that so many factors contribute to our health, tackling this issue means looking at the health impacts of all policy areas.

Question Thirteen

Is this a correct description of the issue? Where do you see this issue as most obvious in the region?

Ongoing Work

43. The Health Concordat Action Plan 2006 and the Regional Strategic Framework for Public Health (see www.goyh.gov.uk/goyh/health) emphasise the importance of improving public health and tackling health inequalities. They set out a range of targets and action plans to achieve these objectives.
44. Key areas for action include the creation by the Regional Public Health Group of a Delivery Board. The Board will work closely with Government Office, Yorkshire Culture, Yorkshire Forward, Yorkshire and Humber Assembly and other major regional bodies such as Sport England to promote action on physical activity, food and building the evidence base to support those charged with delivering better services.

45. All Local Area Agreements have a mandatory target to reduce health inequalities. Work to reduce health inequalities needs to reflect local needs and community priorities, which differ from area to area. These needs and priorities should be reflected in local health plans developed by Primary Care Trusts and Local Authorities.

Question Fourteen

Are you aware of any work being undertaken now or in the near future to address this issue? Where will this take place?

Higher Level Skills and Business Innovation

The Issue

46. Both of these are crucial to a knowledge economy, but the proportion of people with high-level skills is rising slower than nationally and business R&D investment appears static.
47. Skills and innovation are two of the five factors that drive productivity. High-level skills in particular, make a telling difference to business performance. In order to grow the Yorkshire and Humber economy we need people with the right skills and attributes that match good employment opportunities. We also need to ensure that we use the talents of all individuals in all communities, to improve economic opportunity.
48. In 2004/05, the region had 205,435 students in Higher Education. This is 10.8% of the total number of students in England. Yorkshire and Humber attracts more young people into its Higher Education institutions than it loses to universities in other regions. Retaining even more of the region's graduates is a key issue.
49. Retaining graduates from elsewhere is only part of the solution. A greater proportion of people from this region need to undertake higher education to achieve higher-level skills. This can be through increasing the numbers of young people that continue in post-18 education and training but also by developing the existing workforce and supporting employees to undertake higher education either for the first time or to update their skills.
50. The quality and quantity of skills is vitally important in determining how businesses innovate and how they respond to rapidly changing and global markets. Our aim is to create a higher added value economy by encouraging innovation in our businesses, educational institutions and public sector organisations. This requires investment in research and development, and the transfer of knowledge and technology.

51. The region's Higher Education Institutions have a strong reputation for their expertise in research and development. However, only 10% of the region's businesses have research and development links with higher education institutions, and business expenditure on research and development is well below the national average of 68% at just 44%. We need to persuade more employers of the need to and the benefits from using the expertise available in the region's universities to access advice, guidance and facilities on innovation. It is clear that if businesses are engaged in innovation, they will have a competitive edge over their competitors who do not innovate.

Question Fifteen

Is this a correct description of the issue? Where do you see this issue as most obvious in the region?

Ongoing Work

52. The members of the Regional Skills Partnership are fully committed to training individuals with the skills that the region's businesses need. The Learning and Skills Council are rolling out the Employer Training Pilot, Train to Gain, to address existing skills gaps in the workplace. Higher Education Institutions will also continue to work with Yorkshire Forward on the development of initiatives to reverse the 'brain-drain' of graduates, and retain the most mobile and skilled people in the region.
53. The Regional Innovation Strategy for Yorkshire and Humber was developed in 2006 and it provides a guide as to how innovation will be developed in the region. The region's Higher Education Institutions aim to handle innovation enquiries from businesses in a consistent way, and innovation support will be delivered in line with the principles of 'Better Deal for Business'.

Question Sixteen

Are you aware of any work being undertaken now or in the near future to address this issue? Where will this take place?

Violent crime

The Issue

54. Although levels of some crimes have reduced, statistics indicate that violent crime has risen and moved from being significantly below to above national average. This apparent increase in crime rates could be a consequence of how rates of violent crime are calculated or that victims are being encouraged to come forward.

Question Seventeen

Is this a correct description of the issue? Is the increase in the crime rates due to how the figures are reported? Where do you see this issue as most obvious in the region?

Ongoing Work

55. Reducing inequalities, improving people's health and skills should a positive impact on violent crime. Over and above these, how could the Framework add value to work that is already seeking to tackle this issue?

Question Eighteen

Are you aware of any work being undertaken now or in the near future to address this issue? Where will this take place?

56. Important context when tackling these landmark issues is the predicted changes in the region's population over the next 25 years. A study by the University of Leeds estimates that our population will grow by 9% over the next 25 years and that the age structure of the population will change quite radically as the large baby boom cohort move into the retirement ages. The headline findings are:
- Total population to grow by 9% by 2030
 - Over 60s growth of 67% - 530,000 more people
 - Under 60s decline by 2% - 80,000 fewer people
 - The potential support ration of people of working age to retired people will drop from over four to less than three
 - Ethnic groups are expected to grow collectively by 65%
57. There are enormous social, economic and environmental consequences of this change in our population structure that have implications for housing, planning, transport and health services. Sustaining economic growth will become a greater challenge with fewer people of working age. Encouraging younger people to the region and enabling more people in the region to become part of the workforce will be important to future economic success. This means tapping into the skills of the potential workforce in all of its diversity – older people, women and people of all ethnicities included.
58. These demographic changes are very significant issues for the region and all regional strategies need to consider these issues in a consistent way. The Assembly and Yorkshire Futures will explore the need for further research, including, for instance, finding out more about the aspirations of older people.

Question Nineteen

Are there any other comments you would like to make about what has been done so far and what else could be done in relation to these landmark issues?

Question Twenty

The landmark issues will be most effectively addressed if they have 'champions' that commit to engaging with other partners to drive them forward. Have you any suggestions about who might be the 'Champion' for each of the Landmark Issues?

Aligning Strategies and Funding

59. The Framework will include an appraisal system that will serve as both a sustainability appraisal and alignment tool. Its criteria will be based on the five sustainable development principles set out in Section Two with extra emphasis placed on landmark issues that apply in a given situation at a given time.
60. A working group made up of representatives from a range of regional partners has been considering this. A range of different appraisals is required of regional strategies, policies and programmes including strategic environmental assessment, rural proofing, and gender impact assessment. This appraisal system will integrate existing appraisals to achieve integrated outcomes but will not seek to merge existing appraisals into a single system. The outline of the proposed appraisal tool is set out in **Appendix A**.

Question Twenty-One

Do you agree with the approach to appraisal as described in **Appendix A**? How would you amend the proposed appraisal questions?

61. In 2004 there was about £32bn of public sector investment in Yorkshire and Humber. Some of this is influenced by regional strategies, such as the Regional Economic Strategy and the Regional Housing Strategy. Some is allocated through regional bodies, for example investment in flood defence that is managed through the Environment Agency. The majority of public sector funding is not influenced by regional strategies and there is significant potential to work with partners to get more out of this investment and to align public and private sector funding better.

Question Twenty-Two

What contribution do you think the Framework could play in supporting the alignment of resources within the region and in securing additional resources for the region?

Monitoring, Reporting Progress and Developing the Framework

62. Advancing Together currently includes a set of 32 high-level indicators, which are in reality are made up of nearly 60 separate measures. These provide useful data on progress against the key issues in the region. However, they are difficult to communicate (given the number of them), leave out some key gaps, and are due an update.
63. Yorkshire Futures have chaired a partnership-based group to review these indicators to propose a refined set that can be included within this consultation draft of the new Framework. Key principles applied in selecting indicators were:
- comparability – against previous years and other regions;
 - ability to drill down to local and sub/city-regional level where possible;
 - availability of data;
 - links to other key indicators, e.g. national sustainable development indicators;
 - cover the breadth of issues within the IRF where the region can have influence; and
 - ease of communication, with each indicator presentable as a single figure.
64. Based on work to date, it is proposed that three levels of indicators are used. First, a handful (three are proposed) *headline* indicators that communicate overall progress against the main areas of the regional vision. Secondly, a set of around 30 high level indicators that provide trend data against the main elements covered within the Principles of the Framework. Finally, a wide set of supporting indicators that will be monitored and reported on annually through Progress in the Region. This will ensure the indicator set suits the range of purposes it is intended to serve, including for both decision-makers and practitioners. The set of the proposed indicators are set out in **Appendix B**.

Question Twenty-Three

Do you agree with the proposal to have three levels of indicators? Overall do you think the indicators in **Appendix B** will do the job described?

65. Progress against the indicators in the Framework will be reported annually, each November in Progress in the Region. The Assembly, in partnership with Yorkshire Forward and Government Office for Yorkshire and Humber, from this year onwards will hold a policy conference to enable decision and policy makers in the region to discuss and debate the policy implications of the latest regional intelligence.

Question Twenty-Four

Do you have any comments about these proposals for reporting progress and the suggested annual conference to debate policy implications?

Responding to this Consultation

66. The twenty-four questions posed in this consultation are set out in **Appendix C**. Please ensure that your response is structured to answer the questions in the order set out and omit responses to questions that you do not wish to answer. Any further comments should then be added in a separate section at the end that clearly states the part of the document to which they refer. This will help us greatly in our assessment of the comments and will ensure that all views are given proper consideration. An electronic version of **Appendix C** can be downloaded from the 'Get Involved' section of our website or you can contact Helen Todd on Helen.todd@yhassembly.gov.uk to request a copy.

67. Responses to the questions and other comments should be sent by 24th August 2007 to:

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OUTLINE OF THE INTEGRATED REGIONAL FRAMEWORK APPRAISAL PROCESS

Introduction

This appendix sets out the proposed appraisal process for the Integrated Regional Framework.

The appraisal process is intended to be a tool to support the development of policies, strategies, plans and projects in the region. It should facilitate:

- a consistent approach to the delivery of sustainable development, and the
- alignment of policies and programmes so that they address the landmark issues more effectively

There are three main elements of the proposed appraisal process that are explored in this paper, these are; the principles for carrying out appraisals, an overview of the process and the appraisal questions.

These are explored in greater detail below.

Principles for Carrying Out Appraisals

The working group that has developed this appraisal process recommends that the following principles should be applied when appraisals are undertaken.

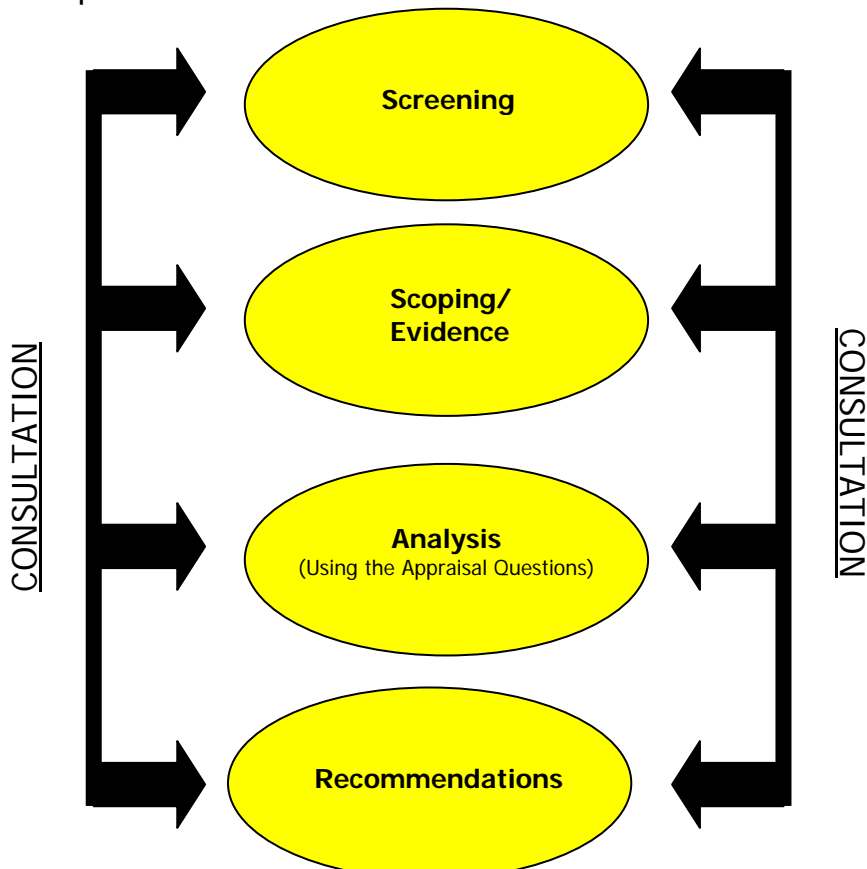
- The appraisal process should be cost effective and proportionate to the proposal being appraised. That is the nature and scale of the appraisal should reflect the nature and scale of the proposal.
- The appraisal process should be open and transparent. It should:
 - o Produce succinct, readable reports for dissemination to stakeholders.
 - o Be clear about methodology used in appraisal and the limitations of the process.
 - o Disseminate the evaluation of the appraisal process to stakeholders.
- The appraisal process should facilitate the involvement of stakeholders by:
 - o Encouraging stakeholder involvement at all stages of the appraisal process.
 - o Adopting a workshop approach to encourage full stakeholder involvement.

Process Overview

This appraisal is an integrated process rather than an integrated tool for assessment. There is a growing range of assessments that can be applied to proposals, including sustainability appraisal, strategic environmental assessment, gender impact assessment, rural proofing, health impact assessment. Different sorts of proposals require one or more of these. However, all forms of assessment have a similar process, which includes screening, scoping, assessment, and report and recommendation stages.

This process recommends integrating the processes so that these stages are carried out simultaneously. The benefits of this would be identifying at the start which assessments are necessary, sharing the evidence base and ensuring that stakeholders are involved in a co-ordinated way. In addition, this approach would enable the results to be analysed collectively so that only one set of recommendations is produced. The proposed process has four main stages with stakeholder involvement at each stage:

- **Screening**
Identifying and agreeing which assessments are required and appropriate for the proposal.
- **Scoping and Evidence**
Defining the scope of each assessment and gathering the evidence required for each.
- **Analysis**
Evaluating the proposal using the appraisal questions.
- **Recommendations**
Collating the results of all assessments to agree the final set of recommendations.



Appraisal Questions?

The proposed questions, or criteria, that will form the basis of this appraisal are based on the five sustainable development principles set out in Section Two of the draft **Framework** and the seven landmark issues.

The questions are:

1. How does the proposal support the principles of sustainable communities?
2. How does the proposal support cultural opportunities and activities?
3. How does the proposal impact on environmental limits?
4. How does the proposal help to create a low carbon economy?
5. How does the proposal ensure that the most excluded and disconnected groups are involved in decisions and delivery?
6. How does the proposal take account of strong scientific evidence and public views and expectations?
7. How does the proposal address disadvantage and inequalities?
8. How does the proposal reduce the need to travel, reduce congestion or support more sustainable modes of transport?
9. How does the proposal support the provision of affordable homes?
10. How does the proposal improve people's health, in particular how will it help to reduce obesity?
11. How does the proposal support the development of people's skills for employment?
12. How does the proposal support business innovation?
13. How does the proposal support community safety?

Considering question 3, there is uncertainty about how this could be evaluated. It is proposed that some work be undertaken to explore how we can measure them, understand the impacts we have on them and how we could enhance them.

PROPOSED INTEGRATED REGIONAL FRAMEWORK INDICATORS

	Proposed Indicator (U – unchanged, R – refined, N – new)	UK SD Priority Indicator?	Lowest Geography	Source	Time Series Available	Headline, High Level or Supporting Indicator?
Overarching Indicators						
	ISEW/GDP		Region	NEF/ONS	2004	Headline
	Quality of Life/Wellbeing Index – To be developed		TBC			Headline
	CO2 Emissions at End User		LAD	DEFRA	2004	Headline
Other Key Indicators						
Growth and Productivity	GVA per worker ®		LAD	ONS/Experian	1998-2005	High Level
Innovation	Business R&D expenditure ®		Region	ONS	1998-2005	High Level
Enterprise	Total VAT Business Stock per 1000 Population ®		LAD	SBS	1998-2005	High Level
Investment	Total investment from UK- and foreign-owned companies as a percentage of total regional Gross Value Added (GVA) ®		Region	DTI Regional Competitiveness Indicators	1998-2002	High Level
Employment	Employment Rate (u)	Y	LAD	ONS	1998-2005	High Level
Income	Average Wage Levels		LAD	ONS	1998-2005	High Level
	Gender Gap		LAD	ONS	1998-2005	Supporting
	Disposable Income Levels		LAD	ONS	1998-2005	Supporting
Transport	Travel to Work by Mode (u)		Y&H, South Yorks, West Yorks, Rest	ONS	1998-2005	High Level
	Motor Vehicle km per year (u)		Y&H, South Yorks, West Yorks, Rest	Regional Transport Statistics, DfT	1998-2005	High Level
	Investment in Transport (n)		Region	Public Expenditure Statistics, ONS	TBC	Supporting
Housing	Affordability Ratio (u)		LAD	Joseph Rowntree Foundation	2002-2004	High Level

	Proposed Indicator (U – unchanged, R – refined, N – new)	UK SD Priority Indicator?	Lowest Geography	Source	Time Series Available	Headline, High Level or Supporting Indicator?
	Housing Density (n)		Region			Supporting
	% of Dwellings below the decent homes standard (n)		Region (Local Authority – to confirm)	Government Office	TBC	Supporting
	Households living in fuel poverty (n)		Region	SAP Ratings	2001	Supporting
Planning and Land	Percentage of new homes built on previously developed land (mainly through conversions) (u)		LAD	Audit Commission LAD Reports	1998/9 – 2004/5	High Level
	Percentage of new homes built on previously developed land (mainly excluding conversions) (u)		LAD	Audit Commission LAD Reports	1998/9 – 2004/5	Supporting
	% of all development on previously developed land developments (to be confirmed)					
Biodiversity & Natural Environment	Percentage of Sites of Special Scientific Interest in favourable condition (u)		LAD	English Nature	2004-2006	High Level
	Woodland Birds Index (u)	Y	Region	Wild Bird Indicators for the English Regions – various	1994-2004	Supporting
Water Quality	River quality - % length good or fair biological ®	Y	LAD	Environment Agency	1998-2004	High Level
	River quality - % length good or fair chemical ®	Y	LAD	Environment Agency	1998-2004	Supporting
Air Quality	Days when air pollution is moderate or higher (u)		Selected Areas	DEFRA	1998-2005	High Level
	The above to be replaced by new Air Quality indicator – TBC					
	Detailed emissions levels – to be confirmed					Supporting
Waste and Resources	Waste that isn't recycled (kg) – combo of 2 waste measures ®		LAD	DEFRA	1998/9-2004/5	High Level
	Total HH waste in kgs per person per year		LAD	DEFRA	1998/9-2004/5	Supporting
	Total HH waste recycled in kgs per person per year		LAD	DEFRA	1998/9-2004/5	Supporting
Energy	Renewable electricity (capacity and/or actual – TBC?) (n)		Region	DTI Restats	TBC	High Level
	Total Energy Consumed by Sector (n)		Region	DTI Energy Trends	1999 (tbc) – 2005	Supporting
	Ecological Footprint		LAD	WWF/SEI/CURE	2001	High Level
	Area of Forestry/Woodland Cover – to be confirmed.					
Education	Percentage with 5 or more GCSEs at A* - C (u)		LAD	DfES	1998-2006	High Level
	Percentage with 5 or more GCSEs at A* - C (including English & Maths)		LAD	DfES	1998-2006	Supporting
	16-18 year-olds not in employment, education or training (NEET) (n)	Y	Region	Connexions	2002-2005	Supporting
Basic Skills	Percentage of working age population without qualifications (u)		LAD	DfES/ONS	1998-2005	High Level
Adult Skills: standard to higher level	% of economically active adults achieving NVQ – Level 2(u)		LAD	DfES	1998-2006	Supporting

	Proposed Indicator (U – unchanged, R – refined, N – new)	UK SD Priority Indicator?	Lowest Geography	Source	Time Series Available	Headline, High Level or Supporting Indicator?
	% of economically active adults achieving NVQ – Level 3 (u)		LAD	DfES	1998-2006	High Level
	% of economically active adults achieving NVQ – Level 4+ (u)		LAD	DfES	1998-2006	High Level
	Percentage of 19-21 year-olds with Level 2 qualifications or higher (n)	Y	LAD	DfES	1998-2006	Supporting
Workforce Skills	Percentage of economically active adults receiving job related training in the last 13 weeks ®		LAD	ONS	2001-2005	High Level
Health	Average Lifespan (average of male/female) ®		LAD	DoH	1991-2005	High Level
	Healthy Life Expectancy (n)	Y	Aggregated Region	DoH		Supporting
	Mortality Rates – Circulatory Disease (n)		LAD	NCHOD	2002-2004	Supporting
	Mortality Rates – Cancer (n)		LAD	NCHOD	2002-2004	Supporting
	Mortality Rates – Suicide (n)		LAD	NCHOD	2002-2004	Supporting
	Standardised Mortality Rate (n)		LAD	YHO	2003-2005	Supporting
	Prevalence of cigarette smoking (u)		Sub Regions	ONS/Axciom	1998-2005	Supporting
	Alcohol Consumption – binge drinking		Region	ONS	1998-2004	Supporting
	Prevalence of obesity in 2-10 year-olds (n)	Y	Region			High Level
Road accident casualty rates (per 1,000 population) (n)	Y	Region			Supporting	
Culture & Leisure	Participation in Cultural and Sporting Activity		Region	Active People Survey – DCMS	2006 (quarterly)	High Level
	Satisfaction with Cultural and Sporting Facilities		LAD	Best Value User Satisfaction Survey	2006	Supporting
	Number (%) of Grade I and II Listed Buildings and Structural Scheduled Monuments at Risk		LAD	English Heritage	1999-2006	Supporting
	Further indicators from AP – to be confirmed		LAD	Active People Survey – DCMS	2006 (quarterly)	Supporting
Crime & Safety	Total Recorded Crime (n)		Sub region	BCS, The Home Office	1990-2005	High Level
	Total Violent Crime (n)		Sub region	BCS, The Home Office	1990-2005	High Level
	Recorded Burglaries in a dwelling, per 100,000 population (u)	Y	Sub region	BCS, The Home Office	1990-2005	Supporting
	Recorded theft from a motor vehicle, per 100,000 population (n)	Y	Sub region	BCS, The Home Office	1990-2005	Supporting
	Recorded robberies, per 100,000 population (u)	Y	Sub region	BCS, The Home Office	1990-2005	Supporting
	% of people very worried about burglary (u)		Sub region	BCS, The Home Office	2002/3 – 2005/6	Supporting
	% of people very worried about car crime (u)		Sub region	BCS, The Home Office	2002/3 – 2005/6	Supporting

	Proposed Indicator (U – unchanged, R – refined, N – new)	UK SD Priority Indicator?	Lowest Geography	Source	Time Series Available	Headline, High Level or Supporting Indicator?
	% of people very worried about violent crime (u)		Sub region	BCS, The Home Office	2002/3 – 2005/6	Supporting
Deprivation & Inclusion	Number of Deprived SOAs in top 10% nationally (n)		SOA	DCLG	2001 & 2004	High Level
	% of Working age people living in Workless Households (u)	Y	LAD	ONS	1998-2005	High Level
	Percentage of people of working age who are economically inactive (n)		LAD	ONS	1998-2005	Supporting
	Children in relative low-income households (n)	Y	Region	DWP	1990-2005	Supporting
	Pensioners in relative low-income households (n)	Y	Region	DWP	1990-2005	Supporting
	Number of homeless households in priority need(n)		LAD	DCLG Quarterly Returns	1998-2006	Supporting
Quality of Place and Community Well being	Quality of place index (n) – Derived from YF Renaissance Town model.		LAD	YF CEU Team	2003-2006	High Level
Access to Services	Access to key services – an index/key set need to be established®		LAD	Countryside Agency Rural Services Survey	2004	Supporting (high level if repeated & indexed)
Governance/ Quality of Public Services	Service Satisfaction Index – to be developed		LAD	Axiom	2006	High Level
Civic Participation	Voter Turnout (n) – Local and National Elections		LAD	HOC Research Papers & University of Plymouth	1998 – 2006	Supporting
	Participation in Civic Affairs (u)		Region	The Home Office Citizenship Survey	2001, 2003, and 2005	High Level
	Formal and Informal Volunteering (n)	Y	Region	The Home Office Citizenship Survey	2001, 2003, and 2005	Supporting
	Influencing Local Decisions (n)		Region	The Home Office Citizenship Survey	2001, 2003, and 2005	Supporting

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

The consultation questions set out in the document are listed on the following pages. Please ensure that your response is structured to answer the questions in the order set out and omit responses to questions that you do not wish to answer. Any further comments should be added in section marked 'Any Additional Comments', ensuring that each additional comment clearly states the part of the document to which it refers.

An electronic version of this annex can be downloaded from the 'Get Involved' section of the Assembly website (www.YHAssembly.gov.uk) or you can contact Helen Todd on Helen.Todd@yhassembly.gov.uk to request a copy.

Responses to the questions and other comments should be sent by 24th August 2007 to:

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Question One

Do you agree with the role of the Integrated Regional Framework as described in this Section?

Question Two

Do you agree that the Framework should adopt the national principles for sustainable development?

Question Three

What do you think the new vision should include?

Question Four

Do these seem to be the right 'landmark' issues? Do you have specific examples where one or more of these issues are particularly significant?

Question Five

Is this a correct description of the issue? Where do you see this issue as most obvious in the region?

Question Six

Are you aware of work being undertaken now or in the near future to address this issue? Where will this take place?

Question Seven

Is this a correct description of the issue? Where do you see this issue as most obvious in the region?

Question Eight

Are you aware of any work being undertaken now or in the near future to address this issue? Where will this take place?

Question Nine

Is this a correct description of the issue? Where do you see this issue as most obvious in the region?

Question Ten

Are you aware of any work being undertaken now or in the near future to address this issue? Where will this take place?

Question Eleven

Is this a correct description of the issue? Where do you see this issue as most obvious in the region?

Question Twelve

Are you aware of any work being undertaken now or in the near future to address this issue? Where will this take place?

Question Thirteen

Is this a correct description of the issue? Where do you see this issue as most obvious in the region?

Question Fourteen

Are you aware of any work being undertaken now or in the near future to address this issue? Where will this take place?

Question Fifteen

Is this a correct description of the issue? Where do you see this issue as most obvious in the region?

Question Sixteen

Are you aware of any work being undertaken now or in the near future to address this issue? Where will this take place?

Question Seventeen

Is this a correct description of the issue? Is the increase in the crime rates due to how the figures are reported? Where do you see this issue as most obvious in the region?

Question Eighteen

Are you aware of any work being undertaken now or in the near future to address this issue? Where will this take place?

Question Nineteen

Are there any other comments you would like to make about what has been done so far and what else could be done in relation to these landmark issues?

Question Twenty

The landmark issues will be most effectively addressed if they have 'champions' that commit to engaging with other partners to drive them forward. Have you any suggestions about who might be the 'Champion' for each of the Landmark Issues?

Question Twenty-One

Do you agree with the approach to appraisal as described in **Appendix A**? How would you amend the proposed appraisal questions?

Question Twenty-Two

What contribution do you think the Framework could play in supporting the alignment of resources within the region and in securing additional resources for the region?

Question Twenty-Three

Do you agree with the proposal to have three levels of indicators? Overall do you think the indicators in **Appendix B** will do the job described?

Question Twenty-Four

Do you have any comments about these proposals for reporting progress and the suggested annual conference to debate policy implications?

Any Additional Comments