

## MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD: 29 JULY 2008

### ACTION

#### 1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Cllr Box introduced himself as the new Chair and Cate Hammond as the new Deputy Chair of the Regional Planning Board. New members were welcomed and apologies noted.

A full attendance list is attached as **Annex A**.

#### 2. Introduction for New Members – The Role of the Board and Key Work Areas for the Year

Chris Martin introduced this item and explained to Members that the Board would be focusing on core business this year in line with the Assembly's Business Plan 2008/09. This will include the RSS Update 2009, work around Eco Towns/housing and planning applications/local development frameworks and whether these are in line with current RSS.

Members were also reminded of the electronic system regarding consultation on planning applications that the Assembly is asked to comment on. It was noted that this was necessary to deal with applications in between meetings of the Board.

Members **noted** this introduction.

#### 3. Minutes of the Regional Planning Board Meeting – 8 April 2007

The minutes of the last meeting were **agreed** as a correct record.

#### 4. Matters Arising

Members asked for clarification on the following points:

- Capacity issues surrounding delivering priorities for Local Development Frameworks and ensuring regional work is

coordinated with these.

- Whether the Community Infrastructure Fund was still being developed.
- The role of the Assembly in delivering renewable energy targets
- That there were other 'red areas' highlighted by the last sustainability appraisal (not just aviation)
- Whether it was possible to circulate the revised list of potential stakeholders for the RSS Update 2009.

The Chair suggested that a written response to these queries be drafted after the meeting and circulated to all Members.

Richard Wood

Members **agreed** this action and **noted** the matters arising.

## **5. The Yorkshire and Humber Plan May 2008**

Richard Wood introduced this item and advised Members that the final Yorkshire and Humber Plan was published in May of this year.

It was noted that the work done by the Planning Board as well as the other Boards and Groups of the Assembly at the Proposed Changes stages had significantly influenced the final policy content of the Plan. The final housing numbers were at the level set out by the Secretary of State's proposed changes.

Members raised the following points:

- What happens with the development of Greenfield land over Brownfield land in parts of the Region that do not have an adopted Local Development Framework in light of the changes to Policy YH7.
- There are contradictions between Policy YH7 and the new policy approach to managing and stepping up the supply and delivery of housing .
- The need for related infrastructure in large developments.

The Chair **noted** these comments and suggested that the language of Board reports on these issues be more carefully considered in the future.

**Richard  
Wood/Andy  
Haigh**

Members **noted** the update on the Yorkshire and Humber Plan 2008.

## 6. Work Programme Update

Richard Wood introduced this item and asked Members to note the update on the work programme for the Board.

It was noted that the Regional Housing Board was planning to develop further work on how its investment could be redirected to help deal with the downturn in the housing market and that Planning Board Members were invited to be involved with this work. Members were asked to express their interest in representing the Planning Board in this work by the Housing Board.

Members asked if the Technical Advisory Group would be involved in the next stages of the sand and gravel study before the Board. This was confirmed and a report would be brought to the Board to enable Members to discuss the study before it is finalised. It was noted that this report was still being formulated and significant consultation was being undertaken with all parts of the Region.

Members also asked for clarification over how development in smaller settlements in none rural areas is handled to ensure the best use of the land, in light of the Askham Mills planning application which the Assembly had responded to. It was noted that each proposal is considered separately to ensure development is appropriate to that site. The roles of settlements will be looked at again through the RSS Update 2009.

Members **noted** the update.

## 7. Review of Sub National Economic Development and Regeneration (SNR)

The Chair gave an update on the SNR process to date and explained that the Leaders Board and Yorkshire Forward had recently agreed a joint way of working under the new arrangements. It was also noted that there was increasing support for a Single Regional Strategy in the Region.

The following issues were noted as being outstanding:

- Whether planning responsibilities should be the remit of Local Authorities or Yorkshire Forward. This debate is still taking place nationally.
- Whether Assemblies will continue until 2010 or if there is

- a willingness to develop new structures before then.
- What Board structures will look like in the new arrangements. It is thought that most Boards will continue in their current form, though two will be chaired by Yorkshire Forward and two by Local Government (one to be Planning). The Sustainable Development Board will change slightly under the new arrangements.
- There is debate over the role of Boards under new structures, whether they will have simply an advisory role or full executive powers.

The Chair noted that this Region has so far managed the SNR process very well and was that he was confident that these issues can be resolved.

During discussion Members **agreed** the following points:

- The Board structure that currently exists works because it allows input at every level and from a wide range of stakeholders, regardless of political persuasion. This approach should not be lost.
- There is an economic/employment bias in the process at present and it is important that elected members still have input into areas such as planning.
- The Planning Board should have executive powers
- New Board structures should involve SEE Partners in their make up as their involvement enriches debate and decision making.

The Chair advised Members that the Chair of the Regional Housing Board had recently written to Terry Hodgkinson, Chair of Yorkshire Forward, with views on how a new Housing Board should operate and expressing that it should continue to have executive powers. It was also noted that Yorkshire Forward have encouraged the input of existing Board Members into the formulation of new structures. It was suggested that the Planning Board also write to Yorkshire Forward to arrange a meeting for the Chair and Deputy Chair to meet with Terry Hodgkinson and discuss the issues above.

Members **agreed** that a letter should be sent to Yorkshire Forward as soon as possible to arrange a meeting and that Members should be advised of the outcomes after the meeting has taken place.

Richard  
Wood/Nicola  
Baylis

## 8. 2009 Update - Project Plan for the Review of the Yorkshire and Humber Plan

Harriet Fisher introduced this item and explained that the consultation on the draft Project Plan had closed on 11 July. It was noted that the majority of comments received had been positive and that most changes had been minor. The only major change was that there would now be the inclusion of sub-regional and local work on meeting the housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers.

Members raised the following points:

- There are concerns over whether the project plan has conformity with PPS12. It was noted that PPS11 has been the main reference in the preparation of the project plan and comments had been provided by Government Office
- Clarification was sought over the paragraph "Remove references to work on town centre capacity from the 'Infrastructure' work stream, as this work is no longer planned." Members were advised that this was simply to remove this from the Project Plan to avoid duplication as a lot of this work had been picked up under settlement work in the last RSS and by Local Authorities. It was agreed however to revise the language used.
- Members noted the extensive work done in South Yorkshire around Gypsy and Traveller provision and agreed that it was important for all authorities to get a handle on this important work.

Members **noted** the report and **agreed** the proposed changes to the Project Plan.

## 9. 2009 Update - Call for Evidence Results

Harriet Fisher introduced this item and gave a presentation to Members on the findings of the Call for Evidence. This included information on the process, the consultation, responses and initial findings specific to the four sub regions of the Region.

In discussion the following points were raised:

- Whether all local authorities have responded to the Call for Evidence and if individual authorities are aware if they have sites being flagged for development. It was noted

that 17 of the 22 local authorities have responded and that the responses are all available on the Assembly website.

- There is frustration over limits that the Environment Agency is putting on potential new development. It was suggested that this issue be picked up under the regional flood risk appraisal that is being undertaken.

Members **noted** this report.

## **10. 2009 Update – Testing the NHPAU Advice to Ministers**

Andy Haigh introduced this item and asked Members to agree the overall approach to testing the advice of the National Housing and Planning Authority Unit to Ministers on housing provision and affordability issues. It was noted that the RSS Update 2009 needs to consider housing issues over at least the next 10 years in which time the housing market could change as dramatically again, as it has done in the last few years.

Members suggested that it may be helpful to use the local authority Market Housing Assessments (MHA's) to address some of the possible issues with testing this advice and to identify any further matters to be included in the test. This was agreed.

Members **agreed** the approach.

## **11. 2009 Update – Next Steps**

Richard Wood introduced this item which drew together the previous three agenda items. Members were assured that the major issues highlighted by the Board today, such as infrastructure and flood risk are being picked up in the work being undertaken in the run up to the strategic options stage. Discussions will continue to be held with the Board as well as the Regional Planning Forum and the Technical Advisory Group.

Members asked if it was possible to include related infrastructure issues within the options document. It was agreed to flag this up.

Members also raised concerns over the timetable for consultation though it was noted that there was no flexibility on this given that the review is being completed in such a

short period of time.

Members also asked for consideration of the environmental and social aspects of development in the Region alongside the economic. It was agreed all these issues needed to be covered in the options stage.

Members **noted** progress and next steps for the RSS 2009 Update and **agreed** the proposed approach to the strategic options stage.

## **12. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

Emma King, Business Services Officer  
30 July 2008

DRAFT

DRAFT

**Attendees**

Andrew Palmer	Business Sector
Cllr Peter Box	Chair
Cate Hammond	Deputy Chair
Lucy Bjorck	Environment Sector
Margaret Jackson	Government Office
Cllr John Fareham	Hull and Humber Ports City Region
Cllr Mick Grant	Humber Local Authorities
Cllr Anne Hawkesworth	Leeds City Region Partnership
Cllr Peter Sowray	Rural Local Authorities
Cllr Gerald Smith	Sheffield City Region Partnership
David Slater	Social Sector
Cllr Bill Newman	South Yorkshire Local Authority Partnership
Cllr David Whiteley	Town and Parish Councils
Cllr Barry Anderson	West Yorkshire Local Authority Partnership
Patrick Bowes	Yorkshire Forward (Deputy for Simon Foy)
Andy Haigh	YHA
Chris Martin	YHA
Emma King	YHA
Richard Wood	YHA

**Visitors**

Andy Duncan	Rotherham MBC
Michelle Lindsay	RSPB
Kevin Swift	Barnsley MBC
Alan Taylor	Leeds CC
Harriet Fisher	YHA
Lyla Peter	YHA
Martin Elliot	YHA

**Apologies**

Cllr John Fletcher	North Yorkshire Local Authority Partnership
Simon Foy	Yorkshire Forward