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Our ref: 40b – Planning Conformity/Final Responses/East Riding Erection of Biomass, Rawcliffe Road, Goole Feb 08

11 February 2008

Philip Parker  
Head of Planning and Development Control  
East Riding of Yorkshire Council  
County Hall  
Beverley  
East Riding of Yorkshire  
HU17 9EA

Dear Philip

**Planning Application Number: DC/08/00259/STPLF/STRAT/HCOLD**

**Erection of a biomass processing plant (B2) with ancillary facilities, parking and associated landscaping at Land North and East Of, Guardian Glass, Rawcliffe Road, Goole, East Riding of Yorkshire.**

Thank you for consulting the Assembly on the above. I am pleased to forward the following officer comments to you, based on the current and draft RSS.

The Assembly, as the Regional Planning Body, has been asked to comment on this development as its nature and location mean that it could have an effect on the implementation of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). The current RSS for Yorkshire and Humber (based on the Selective Review of RPG12) was issued by the Secretary of State in December 2004. The RSS has the status of a Development Plan Document and forms part of the framework for decisions taken under section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004), which means that decisions on all applications have to be taken in accordance with the Development Plan unless other material considerations indicate otherwise.

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) and Circular 08/2005 make it clear that a draft RSS submitted to the Secretary of State is a relevant regional policy against which strategic applications can be considered. This Assembly response therefore also highlights relevant issues that arise from the Yorkshire and

Humber Plan (draft RSS) December 2005 – the RSS submitted to the Secretary of State.

Please note that the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes to Draft RSS have now been published (September 2007). Government guidance (paragraph 4.19 in PPS12) states: "Where the regional spatial strategy...has been through an Examination in Public, and the proposed changes have been published, considerable weight may be attached to that strategy because of the strong possibility that it will be published in that form by the Secretary of State".

Assembly responses to consultations on strategic applications will therefore have to make it clear how the Proposed Changes impact on the policies quoted and to point out to local authorities that 'considerable weight' will need to be attached to them by the decision-making body and by Inspectors at Examinations of DPDs and application Inquiries. At the same time, it should be noted that the Assembly itself has made comments on the Proposed Changes and that the final version of the new RSS is expected in Spring 2008.

Both the existing and draft regional spatial strategies aim to achieve a more sustainable pattern and form of development, investment and activity across the region, putting a greater emphasis on matching needs across the region with opportunities and managing the environment as a key resource. Within the detailed policies of current and draft RSS, the value of developing renewable energy resources is recognised in policies S6 and R12 of current RSS and policies YH2A and ENV5 of draft RSS.

#### *Climate Change & Renewable Energy*

Policies S5 and S6 in current RSS and YH2 in draft RSS deal with the issue of climate change and resource use. In line with these policies, the proposed development will assist in reducing carbon dioxide emissions in the region.

Policy R12 of current RSS and ENV5 of draft RSS provide for improved energy efficiency and greater installed renewable energy capacity in the region. Outputs from the biomass processing plant will help to implement these policies.

The Humber Estuary sub-area has been identified in the current and draft RSS as having a major role to play in terms of the Region's renewable energy generation requirement. Current RSS, Policy R12 states that development plans should include measures that help secure a target installed renewable energy generation capacity of 674 MW for the Yorkshire and Humber region. It also sets the Humber sub-region a target of 146 MW of energy by 2010, equating to 22% of the total regional target and the draft RSS sets the East Riding local authority a target of 40.7 MW by 2010.

Policy ENV5 also seeks to maximise energy capacity through requiring that at least 10% of the energy to be used in sizeable new development is to come from on-site renewable energy sources. It should be noted that the Proposed Changes

recommends that the 10% target is removed from the RSS Policy but requires Development Plan Documents to set an appropriate local target for on-site renewable energy generation, bearing in mind the 10% standard and considering how they can expect far greater percentages where it is feasible and viable. (RSS Proposed Changes Paragraph 15.37A)

Current RSS (Policy R12c) states that development plans should include locational and environmental criteria to be applied in securing the sub-regional targets, maximising the use of renewable energy resources. The draft RSS builds on this and states that it is a local authority's role to identify the preferred type, scale and locations for renewable energy and to also provide supplementary locational and environmental criteria to be used in assessing such development as needed. The Landscape Character Assessment in the East Riding has started this process ahead of the preparation of a Core Strategy and clearly the local authority will take this assessment into account in reaching their decision.

#### *Economic Development*

Policy E1 of draft RSS covers the methods of creating a successful and competitive regional economy. Section I of this policy seeks to "*promote opportunities for business relating to...renewable energy...and the 'low carbon economy'.*" The proposed biomass processing plant will help fulfil this policy goal.

It should be noted that the Secretary of State's Proposed to draft RSS (2007) does not alter the policy context of Policy E1.

Policy E4 in both the current and draft RSS support the sustainable growth of particular regional priority clusters, which include environmental technologies, chemical and bioscience industries. The Humber has been identified as an important location for the development of these clusters in current RSS and this proposal will assist in their continued development.

It should be noted that the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes to draft RSS (2007) recommends changes to Policy E4 of draft RSS (2005) to provide for plans, strategies, investment decisions and programmes to support key sectors including Financial and Business Services; Tourism; Logistics; and Construction, and regional priority clusters including Advanced Engineering and Metals; Chemicals; Bio-Science; Digital; Food and Drink; Healthcare Technologies; and Environmental Technologies.

The Assembly would like to offer the following officer comments

- The Assembly SUPPORTs the application on the basis that it will assist in the implementation of both current and draft RSS, in terms of environmental and economic considerations.
- This development is supported in principle by the Assembly as helping to implement the RSS by providing renewable energy generation.

- Local landscape assessments will have to be taken into account by the local authority in reaching its decision.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andy Haigh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and 'H'.

Andy Haigh  
Head of Service  
Planning Delivery and Conformity