

## **RSS 2009 UPDATE – PROJECT PLAN**

### **SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION**

- 1.** In May 2008 the Department for Communities and Local Government published the Yorkshire and Humber Plan: Regional Spatial Strategy to 2026. The Yorkshire and Humber Assembly has now been asked by Government to review this Plan.
- 2.** The requirement to review the Regional Spatial Strategy – The Yorkshire and Humber Plan – stems from the Housing Green Paper 'Homes for the Future: More Affordable, More Sustainable' which was published in July 2007. The Green Paper sets out that by 2011 Assemblies' will review Regional Spatial Strategies to reflect the Government's plans for increased rates and levels of house building.
- 3.** Planning Policy Statement 11 – Regional Spatial Strategies (PPS11) requires the Project Plan to outline the context for the review; process and timetable; the topics/issues to be covered; the resources that will be required to carry out the review; responsibilities and a Statement of Public Participation.
- 4.** The review of the Regional Spatial Strategy follows the publication of the Integrated Regional Framework (the IRF), which provides an overarching context for all plans and strategies in the Region and sets 10 key regional challenges that the Regional Spatial Strategy will need to address.
- 5.** The Sub-National Review of Economic Development and Regeneration announced in July 2007 introduced proposals for a Single Regional Strategy. Consultation has taken place and an announcement from Government on how to take forward the recommendations of the Sub National Review is pending. The review of the Regional Spatial Strategy presents a good opportunity to inform the development of a Single Regional Strategy and we are working closely with Yorkshire Forward on this.
- 6.** The Yorkshire and Humber Regional Planning Board considered and agreed a broad approach to the RSS Update in December 2007, which is reflected throughout this Project Plan. The Board stressed the need for the 2009 Update to be seen as a continuous development of the Yorkshire and Humber Plan, rather than a wholesale review. The updated Plan will continue to run to 2026. The Regional Planning Board agreed that the focus of the RSS 2009 Update would be on three overall themes:

- Levels of growth
  - Locations for growth
  - Infrastructure for growth
- 7.** As a result of this approach it was agreed that the 2009 Update should firstly focus on the sub area sections of the Plan – as this is an appropriate spatial scale to examine the three themes and tie into work in the City Regions, Sub Regions and Local Authorities. The starting point will be to maintain the Core Approach and to not start with the topic chapters. Starting with the sub area approaches gives an immediate focus to the Update. Whilst the Update will centre on housing, this clearly links to many other parts of the Plan. Implications and effects on other parts of the Plan can still be examined and addressed in due course.
- 8.** Following agreement from the Regional Planning Board in December 2007, the Assembly started a number of pieces of work on the Update including the drafting of this Project Plan. Consultation on the draft Project Plan took place during from May – July 2008 and ran consecutively to work on the evidence base and the Call for Evidence (see Section 4 Work Streams). The comments made in response to the Project Plan consultation are available to download from the Assembly’s website. This final Project Plan reflects the position of work on the RSS 2009 Update as of August 2008.

## **SECTION 2: LEARNING LESSONS FROM THE LAST RSS REVIEW**

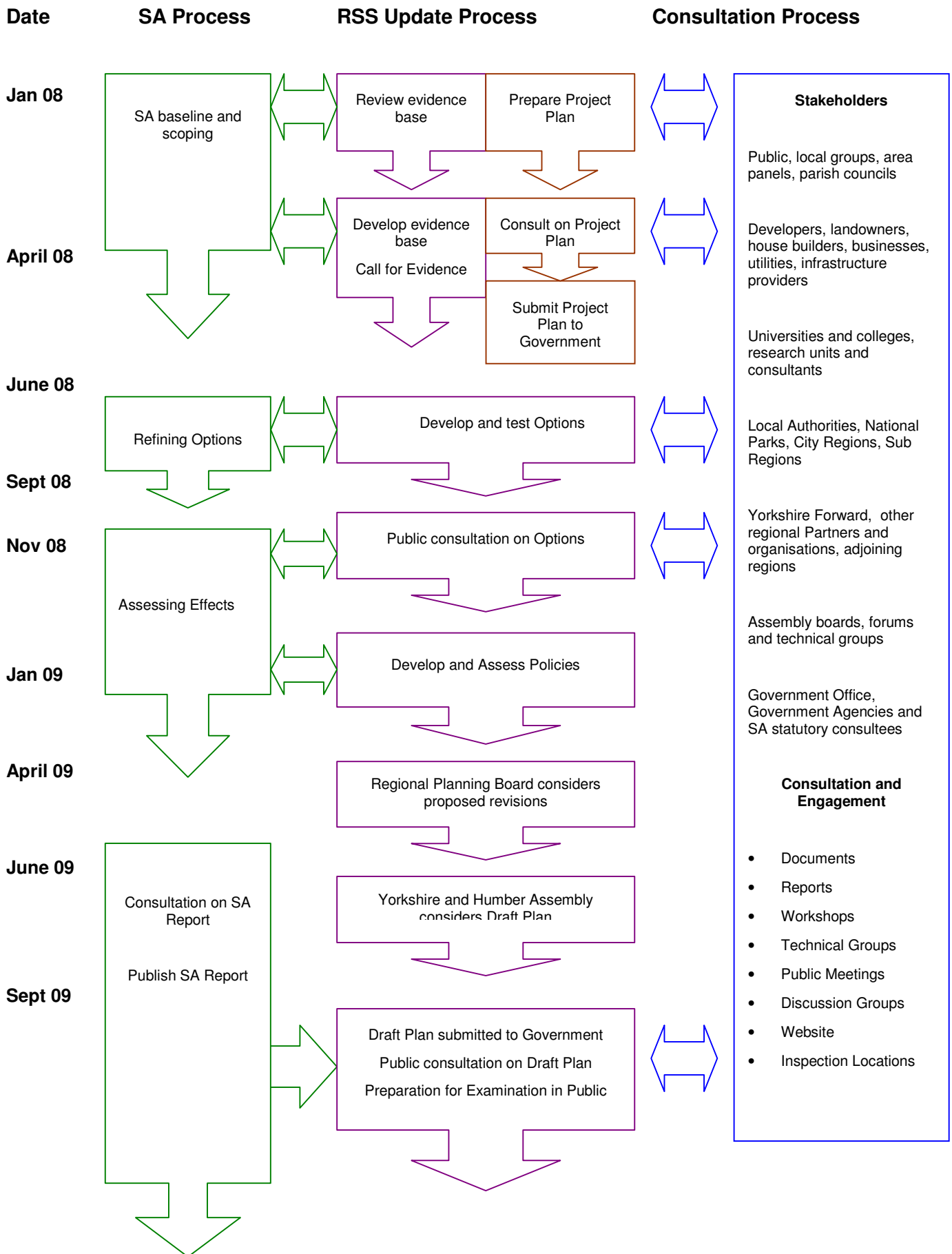
- 9.** It is important that ‘lessons learned’ from the preparation of the Yorkshire and Humber Plan help shape this Project Plan for the 2009 Update. An **evaluation study** was completed in May 2007 by independent consultants Arup. This study included stakeholder interviews. The main findings of the study were:
- The Assembly adopted an innovative approach to produce a different type of strategy in a different way, broader in scope, and wider range of stakeholders involved
  - It was challenging for the Assembly to engage politically elected members in the regional planning process
  - Difficult issues did not surface until too late in the process, partly as a result of issues in relation to the evidence base
  - There were limitations around interpreting the evidence and establishing interrelationships between technical work
  - The sub-area approach achieved a seismic shift in the way in which stakeholders cooperated across boundaries
  - The draft RSS was prepared in the context of significant change, and this posed management challenges and delays to the timetable
  - A great deal was achieved in what were at times difficult circumstances

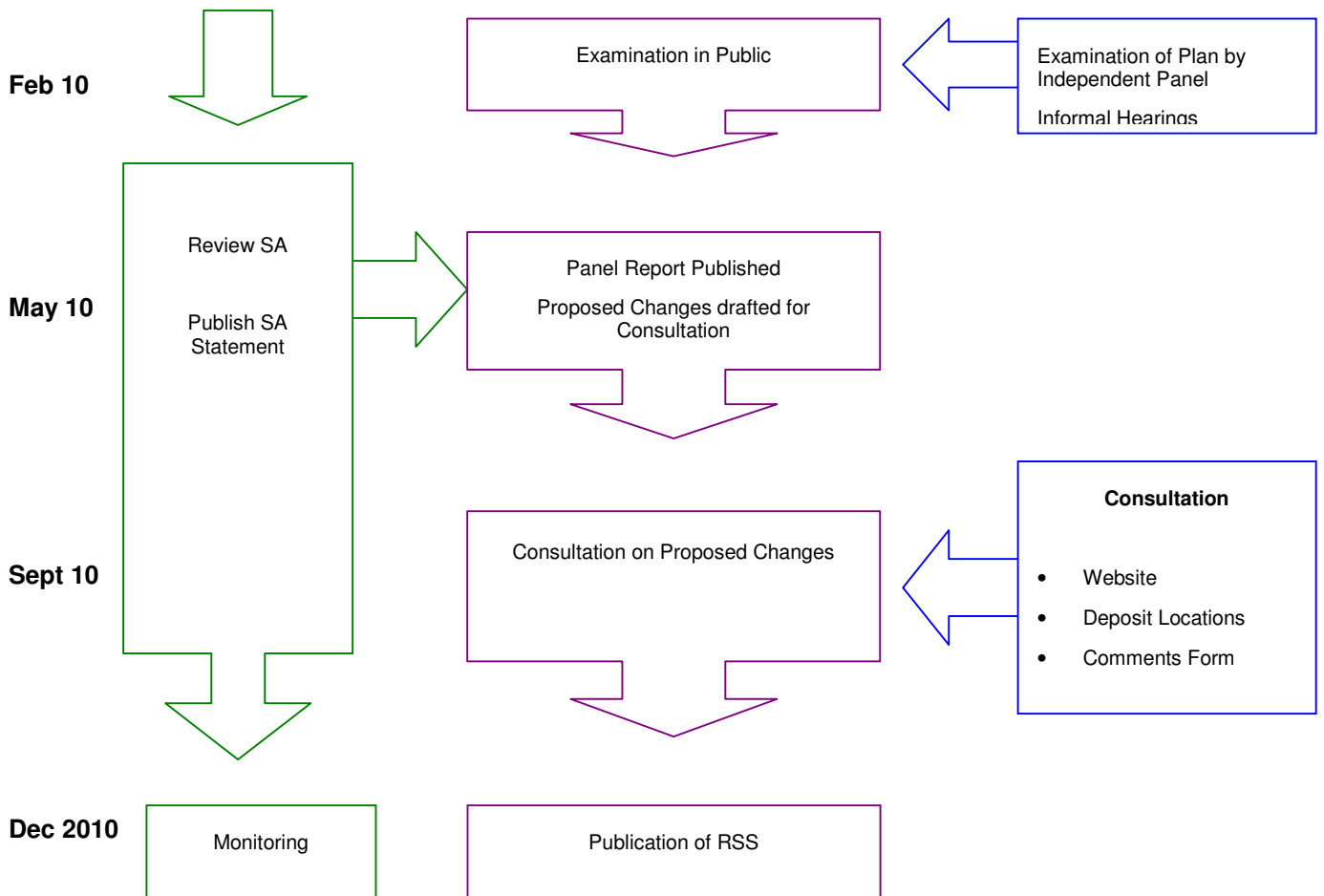
- 10.** Arup made recommendations for future practice in their evaluation report. These are set out in Annex A at the end of this Report. Annex A also sets out how the evaluation's recommendations are being implemented through the Project Plan and work on the Update.

### **SECTION 3: PROCESS AND TIMETABLE**

- 11.** The Housing Green Paper and latest CLG advice to Assemblies requires the RSS 2009 Update to be completed by the end of 2010. Completing a review by the end of 2010 is challenging. However, in producing the current RSS a 'new style' Plan has been developed for the Region. The timescale reinforces the need to evolve rather than replace what we have already done and progress made so far. A revised Plan will need to be submitted to Government in early summer 2009 to allow for public consultation, an examination in public, a panel report and proposed changes consultation before the end of 2010.
- 12.** It is programmed that the Regional Planning Board will consider proposed revisions to The Yorkshire and Humber Plan at its April 2009 meeting. The Assembly would then consider a submission draft in June 2009. The document would be submitted in July 2009 and then launched by the Assembly for a period of formal public consultation. The Examination in Public would take place around February 2010 with a tight programme in the rest of 2010 for the publication of the Panel Report and the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes. The proposed process and timetable for the 2009 Update is shown below.

*RSS 2009 Update and Sustainability Appraisal Process*





*RSS 2009 Update Process and Timetable*

Yorkshire and Humber Plan 2009 Update	2008												2009												2010											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Reviewing the evidence base	■	■	■	■																																
Developing the evidence base				■	■	■	■	■	■	■																										
Developing and analysing options								■	■	■	■																									
Developing and assessing policies										■	■	■	■	■	■																					
Proposed revisions to Regional Planning Board															■																					
Assembly considers draft Plan																	■																			
Submission of draft Plan to Government Office																		■																		
Public consultation on draft Plan																	■	■	■																	
Examination in Public																								■	■	■										
Publication of Panel Report																												■								
Consultation on Proposed Changes																																■	■			
Publication of RSS																																			■	
SA/SEA and Appropriate Assessment	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	

- 13.** Within the broad approach agreed by the Regional Planning Board work has already begun on reviewing the evidence base for many of the work streams. The aim of the evidence base review is to ensure that work being undertaken in the Region such as housing land assessments and infrastructure studies will cover the whole of the Region in a consistent way. The evidence base review is also seeking to ensure that we make the best use of existing work, for example the options already identified and examined by Local Development Frameworks and the evidence bases developed by City Regions (particularly on transport). This evidence base review is making the best use of time available and will ensure that the further evidence base work to fill gaps is targeted, given the Update timescales.
- 14.** Following the review of the evidence base, work in the first half of the financial year (April to September 2008) will focus on developing the evidence base and filling any gaps that have been identified. Work in the second half of the financial year (September 2008 to April 2009) will concentrate on developing and analysing strategic options followed by policy development work (focusing largely on the sub area and housing policies). Throughout these stages there will be a need to ensure we meet the requirements for Sustainability Appraisal (SA), Appropriate Assessment (AA), and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). A key emphasis will be placed on a GIS based approach.
- 15.** The Regional Planning Board (supported by the Housing, Transport and Sustainable Development Boards and Forums and Technical Advisory Groups) will steer the RSS throughout its preparation process. The full Assembly (as the Regional Planning Body) will be responsible for agreeing the final draft to be submitted to Government. Key regional partners, local authorities and other stakeholders will have an important role in helping to implement the engagement programme and ensuring that the relationship between the RSS and other regional, sub-regional and local strategies is strengthened.

#### **SECTION 4: WORK STREAMS**

- 16.** In line with the broad approach agreed by the Regional Planning Board, the RSS 2009 Update will consist of the following work streams. Clearly the work streams overlap in places and link together but identifying these work streams helps to organise and articulate the RSS 2009 Update work programme, including the review and development of the evidence base, strategic options analysis, development of policies and preparing materials and information. The Assembly's website will provide up-to-date information on progress with each of the work streams throughout the 2009 Update.

## *Work stream 1 Sustainability Assessments*

- 17.** Throughout the 2009 Update there will be a need to ensure we meet the requirements for Sustainability Appraisal (SA), Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Early engagement with stakeholders in preparing this Plan has highlighted the importance of a robust Sustainability Appraisal that informs and shapes the spatial options and policy revisions. Discussions during the preparation of the Project Plan also re-enforced that the Sustainability Appraisal needs to carry 'weight' in the process and must not be treated as a tick box exercise.
- 18.** Work on the SA, AA and SEA will use the assessment work recently undertaken for the Yorkshire and Humber Plan as a starting point and key source of information. The appraisal tool included in the Integrated Regional Framework (IRF) will be used which help to ensure that the RSS is assessed as to how well it addresses the 10 regional challenges identified in the IRF.
- 19.** The Sustainability Assessments work stream will be fully integrated with the rest of the work on the 2009 Update. Work on the baseline and scoping of the Sustainability Appraisal will take place alongside the review and development of the RSS evidence base. The strategic options (October – December) will include an initial Sustainability Appraisal. A full Sustainability Appraisal report will accompany the draft Plan when it is submitted to Government in Summer 2008 and will form part of the public consultation on the Plan. Government Office will also be required to produce a Sustainability Appraisal of their Proposed Changes to the Plan and this will also be subject to public consultation. Once the final RSS is published, the SA, SEA and AA will feed into the monitoring of the Plan.
- 20.** Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change – Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1 states that climate change should be a key and integrating theme of the RSS and be addressed in conjunction with the economic, social and environmental concerns that inform the overall spatial strategy and its components.
- 21.** The PPS1 supplement states that the Sustainability Appraisal will need to consider the likely performance of the RSS in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation, including identifying and evaluating possible tensions or inconsistencies between current or likely future conditions. In line with the PPS1 supplement we will need to:

- Consider how the region's activities contribute to climate change
- Consider how the spatial strategy will support regional targets on climate change
- Consider the Region's vulnerability to climate change, and specifically the implications for built development, infrastructure and services and biodiversity
- Work with neighbouring regions to address joint concerns and encourage cross-boundary working to secure effective local approaches

**22.** In updating the RSS, the Assembly will need to consider how progress and trends can be measured. Targets and/or trajectories can be used to identify trends in performance and form part of the planning decision making framework and there is potential to use models that assess environmental impact (such as REAP - Resource and Energy Analysis Programme and REEIO - Regional Economy-Environment Input-Output Model) to understand the implications of the RSS Update. Where targets or trajectories are included in the RSS, they will be used in relation to the sub area and housing chapters as a tool for shaping policies and contributing to the annual monitoring of the Assembly and the RSS. A robust evidence base including appropriate data and information must support the inclusion of any targets.

*Work stream 2 Scale and Type of Housing Growth*

- 23.** The requirement for this Update stems from the Housing Green Paper, which seeks to increase the rate and level of house building nationally. In considering the scale and type of housing growth in the region we will continue to liaise with and test the advice of the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit and will use our recent research into migration trends to understand ONS population and household projections.
- 24.** Feedback from early consultation on the Project Plan highlighted the need to understand and recognise the links between housing and economic growth more clearly and we will work closely with Yorkshire Forward in order to do so. In addition, stakeholders emphasized the importance of creating sustainable communities and ensuring that delivering the Government's aspirations for growth does not jeopardise investment and regeneration programmes in existing towns and cities in our Region.
- 25.** Stakeholders also stressed the importance of understanding housing markets, including patterns of need and demand, and the impacts of growth on housing markets within the region. Work on Strategic Housing Market Assessments will be crucial to this issue.
- 26.** Responses to the consultation on the draft Project Plan highlighted the need to carry out a piece of work on Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. Related to our work on housing markets, this work will involve reviewing the methodologies and robustness of the sub-regional assessments that

have been undertaken, with a view to including district-level targets for the provision of accommodation to meet the housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers.

#### *Work stream 3 Possible Locations of Growth*

- 27.** In March 2008 the Regional Executive Board agreed that the Assembly should issue a 'Call for Evidence' on strategic approaches and ideas for how best to accommodate future growth in the Region. The Call for Evidence ran alongside the consultation on this Project Plan (May – July 2008). The Call for Evidence provided an opportunity for early input into the RSS Update and a formal route to 'surface' proposals up-front and enable information to be used in the identification and testing of different development options for the Region. The responses to the Call for Evidence are available to download from the Assembly's website.
- 28.** Following on from the Call for Evidence, the RSS 2009 Update will then test the bids for Eco Towns alongside other options for growth including further evidence, analysis and proposals for managing growth developed and put forward by City Regions and other potential locations for Eco Towns as part of an overall spatial strategy for the Region.

#### *Work stream 4 Infrastructure*

- 29.** This work stream will consist of work on integrated infrastructure, green infrastructure, transport constraints and opportunities. Early engagement with stakeholders and the consultation on the draft Project Plan has reinforced the importance of infrastructure, particularly transport, for this region. The evidence gathered through this work stream will feed into the work streams on the scale and location of growth.

#### *Work stream 5 Adaptation*

- 30.** This work stream will consist of the Regional Flood Risk Assessment and drawing in the implications of the Regional Biodiversity Strategy and Regional Adaptation Study. It will be important to ensure that the Regional Flood Risk Assessment adds value to and is compatible with the Strategic Flood Risk Assessments that have already been completed in the Region.
- 31.** Feedback from consultation on the work streams shows that adaptation is considered to be key for the RSS Update and covers a wide range of issues including environmental stewardship; drainage; flood risk; renewable energy; transport and coastal issues.

#### *Work stream 6 Consultation and Engagement*

- 32.** This work stream involves ensuring that stakeholders are effectively engaged in the Update. The Statement of Public Participation set out in Section 5 of this Project Plan provides more detail on this.

- 33.** Feedback from early consultation on this Project Plan pointed to the strategic options stage of the Update as the most appropriate for engaging stakeholders. The Assembly will therefore focus the time and resources available for consultation on engaging stakeholders during the analysis of strategic options stage (October – December 2008).
- 34.** A key part of this work stream is the need to draw together and communicate findings and analysis from the other work streams and ensure that the evidence is kept visible. The website will be a key source of information and will be kept-up-to date. Electronic copies of key documents including project summaries, research reports and consultation material will be made available on the website.

#### *Work stream 7 Options Analysis*

- 35.** Work between October and December 2008 will draw on the evidence base review and development work to generate, analyse and test strategic options for growth. The identification of strategic spatial options will also draw on work to map and consider Local Development Framework options. As identified in the Statement of Public Participation set out in Section 6, engagement and consultation on the Update will be focused on the strategic options stage.

#### *Work stream 8 Policy Revisions*

- 36.** As set out in the timetable for the Update, work between January and April 2009 will focus on reviewing the sub area and housing policies. This will involve looking at the scale and broad locations for growth and being more specific about investment and management priorities for each of the sub areas. Work on the policy revisions will link closely to work on the scale and location of growth, including the testing of proposals for growth.

### **SECTION 5: RESOURCES**

- 37.** The Assembly's Business Plan for 2008/9 recognises the RSS 2009 Update as a priority work area for the Planning Strategy and Transport and Planning Conformity teams. Resources at the Assembly are being prioritised to deliver the RSS 2009 Update. The Planning Strategy, Planning Conformity and Transport teams consist of 13 officers and 2 administrators and will be the main staff resource the Update. In addition, we will draw in staff resource from other teams at the Assembly including Housing and Communities, Sustainable Development and the corporate support functions (e.g. Events and Communications).
- 38.** Where extra resource or specialist expertise is required, we will make use of private consultants, following a competitive tender procedure to ensure value for money. For example, in November 2007 we commissioned the Leeds University School of Geography to carry out a piece of technical work analysing current and future migration trends in the region.

Currently, we are working with Arup on two evidence base studies looking at transport constraints and opportunities, and integrated infrastructure. Where consultants are used, a lead Assembly officer will manage the work with support from a representative steering group drawing in specialist technical and geographical knowledge. The 2009 Update is the focus for the use of the Planning Strategy consultancy budget.

39. The Assembly's partnership based structure enables the drawing in of time and resources from partner bodies. This is being done through the collaborative approach to evidence base development and through the technical groups and forums that support the Assembly's Boards.

## **SECTION 6: CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

40. PPS11 states that the RSS Update should be carried out on the basis of partnership working with regional stakeholders and community involvement. The Regional Planning Body is required to prepare a Statement of Public Participation setting out how this will be achieved, who the main partners will be in the Update and how they will be involved. The Assembly's Statement of Public Participation is set out in this section of the Project Plan.
41. Arup's evaluation report of the last RSS Update found that time and effort invested in consultation had raised the profile of the draft RSS significantly. It found that the Assembly had achieved a step-change in the quality of stakeholder engagement and was successful in building widespread consensus and commitment to the strategy's delivery. However, the report also states that the quality of engagement was somewhat impaired by timetable challenges and the emergence of difficult issues late in the process.
42. The RSS Update presents an opportunity to build on and further strengthen the partnership working and relationships established during the preparation of the current draft RSS. The partnership basis of the Assembly and its structure of Boards, Forums and Advisory Groups will continue to provide a strong foundation for partnership working and engagement. The Update timetable is tight but it is important that continued recognition is given to the important contribution that many partners in the Region will make to the Update.
43. Collaborative evidence base and analysis working will provide a key means by which partnership working can be further strengthened. Combined evidence base work, particularly around areas such as transport, infrastructure, eco-towns and growth points provides the opportunity to improve and update the evidence base shaping the RSS Update. The involvement of City Region Boards and Panels will also contribute to this.
44. The 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act contains a statutory requirement for the Assembly to formally seek the advice of bodies with

strategic planning expertise when preparing or revising the RSS. These bodies are defined as a County Council, Metropolitan District or Borough Council, National Park Authority or District Council in an area for which there is no County Council (a Unitary Authority).

- 45.** As set out in the Statement of Public Participation (Section 6), we will encourage an informal and open dialogue and provide formal consultation opportunities. In addition to this, the Assembly has written to the 17 Strategic Planning Authorities to ask whether they wish to make first detailed proposals relating to their sub-area within the scope of the Update.
- 46.** So far, none of the Strategic Planning Authorities have expressed an interest in making first detailed proposals, preferring instead to engage in the Update through the collaborative partnership working approach and formal public consultations. If an authority did wish to make first detailed proposals, the Assembly would provide a brief for the work and allow the authority 12 weeks to prepare their proposals during the strategic options stage (October – December 2008).
- 47.** Effective engagement will add value to the Update process and will help to ensure that the draft RSS reflects the needs and aspirations of the Region; is technically robust and based on sound evidence; is widely supported by stakeholders and partners and has regional commitment to its implementation. Effective engagement is about involving the right people at the right time in the process. Engagement during the RSS Update will be founded on a set of guiding principles:
  - Learn from our previous experiences and encourage and act upon feedback in a process of continuous improvement
  - Engage with as wide a range of stakeholders as possible across the Region and encourage open dialogue, discussion and feedback
  - Involve people early on in the process and get their buy-in at the beginning
  - Employ a mixture of appropriate methods tailored to different audiences
  - Encourage collaboration and partnership and work to build new contacts
  - Utilise existing groups and forums at the regional and sub-regional level
- 48.** For the purposes of regional planning, PPS11 defines 'community' as all those who have an interest in and a contribution to make to the content of the revised RSS. Many of those stakeholders who were involved in the last review will wish to maintain their involvement. Others may be new to the process and facilitating their involvement may require a slightly different approach.
- 49.** The Assembly will seek to engage with as wide a range of interests in the

region as possible in updating the Plan. A list of stakeholders who are likely to have an interest in the RSS Update is set out below:

- Individuals and local communities
- Landowners, homebuilders, construction companies, developers and agents, HBF
- Chambers of commerce, CBI and private sector businesses including SMEs
- Trade Unions and professional bodies e.g. RTPI, TICS, RIBA
- Passenger Transport Executives
- Voluntary and community sector groups and organisations
- Town and Parish Councils
- Local Authorities including the two National Parks
- Local Strategic Partnerships
- Local Transport Partnerships
- Police Authorities
- NHS Trusts
- Gypsy and Traveller interest groups
- Housing market renewal pathfinders
- Other local agencies e.g. urban regeneration companies
- Registered social landlords and housing associations
- Hull and Humber Ports City Region Partnership
- Leeds City Region Partnership
- Sheffield City Region Partnership
- North Yorkshire County Council
- Sub regional housing partnerships
- Technical groups e.g. Housing Advisory Group, Regional Utilities Group
- Steering groups overseeing specific projects and tasks
- Regional forums e.g. Regional Transport Forum
- Regional boards e.g. Regional Planning Board, Regional Executive Board
- Yorkshire Forward (Regional Development Agency)
- Local Government Yorkshire and Humber
- Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber
- Universities and colleges
- Regional Assemblies for the North East, North West and East Midlands regions
- Government departments e.g. Communities and Local Government
- Non-departmental government organisations e.g. Homes and Communities Agency
- Government agencies (English Heritage, Natural England and the Environment Agency) as statutory consultees on the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment
- Utilities and infrastructure providers e.g. Yorkshire Water
- Press and media

**50.** It is important to remember that it is the quality of engagement that matters. Because of the relatively short period that the Assembly has to carry out this review, engagement opportunities will be constrained. We will therefore seek to focus on engaging existing representative networks and partnership organisations at the regional and sub/city regional levels. Achieving engagement with members of the public, local groups and interest groups will rely on strong partnerships with local authorities. We will encourage an open and informal dialogue with our stakeholders and partners, enabling discussion and feedback throughout the process.

- 51.** The 2009 Update timetable does not allow for major stages of informal consultation – with the preparation of the Yorkshire and Humber Plan there were two rounds of informal consultation. Each of these consultation exercises took up about 3 months in the process. We need to do things differently and quicker. It is important that we build on progress with raising awareness of regional planning made during the last review and maintain interest throughout the 2009 Update.
- 52.** During the Update, information will be made available via regional newspapers and radio and the Assembly's newsletters and website. The Assembly's website will be kept up to date making sure that the evidence base is visible and that key documents are widely available in both hard copy and electronic formats. Wherever possible, we will seek to go beyond these general principles, looking for additional opportunities for engagement and building on our existing partnerships to strengthen participation at the regional level.
- 53.** There are potential risks that may impact on our ability to engage with stakeholders effectively that will need to be carefully managed. It is crucial that interest and momentum is maintained throughout the process. A loss of momentum may occur later on in the process, as stakeholders perceive fewer opportunities to influence the Plan.

## Statement of Public Participation

Stakeholder	Participation and Engagement	Methods We Will Use	Additional Methods We May Use
Members of public, local groups, area panels, parish councils	Engagement with members of the public will focus on ensuring adequate information is provided through the use of the press and media, websites and newsletters. We will rely on others, such as local elected members, to disseminate information and key messages through their partnerships, networks and contacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide information using regional newspapers and radio and the Assembly's newsletters, leaflets and website</li> <li>• Ask elected members, Local Strategic Partnerships, Local Authorities and City/Sub Regional Partnerships to provide information to the public, local communities and interest groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold facilitated workshops at the spatial options stage (probably targeted at 'hard to reach' communities such as BME communities; elderly, young and disabled people; and small businesses)</li> <li>• Run planning-for-real type exercises based on GIS maps and diagrams at the spatial options stage</li> </ul>
Developers, house builders, land owners, businesses, utilities and infrastructure providers	Developers, utility companies, infrastructure providers and the wider private sector have a key role in the implementation of the RSS. It is important to engage them during the Update to gain their views both on opportunities and constraints and deliverability of the strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide information using regional newspapers and radio and the Assembly's newsletters, leaflets and website</li> <li>• Issue a call for evidence on strategic proposals for accommodating future growth and hold technical workshops on the evidence base</li> <li>• Use existing organisations and networks such as the House Builders Federation, Regional Utilities Group and Quality Places Forum to engage with private sector interests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold facilitated workshops at the spatial options stage</li> <li>• Run planning-for-real type exercises based on GIS maps and diagrams at the spatial options stage</li> <li>• Attend meetings to give presentations and facilitate discussion</li> </ul>
Universities and colleges, research units and consultants	Universities and colleges will have an interest in the Plan and have an important role to play within the region. Engaging educational institutions also provides opportunities to engage students and young people in the Update process. The Assembly is likely to commission work from research units, perhaps based within the universities, and consultancies in developing the evidence base for the Update.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide information using regional newspapers and radio and the Assembly's newsletters, leaflets and website</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Run planning-for-real type exercises based on GIS maps and diagrams at the spatial options stage (potential to link the Update with work of students in the Region's planning schools)</li> <li>• Use the institutions' own websites and publications to provide information to staff and students</li> </ul>

<p>Local Authorities, National Parks, City Regions, Sub Regions</p>	<p>Local Authorities, the two National Parks and the City/Sub Regions are key partners for the RSS. These stakeholders will be engaged early on in the process through a collaborative approach to evidence base review and analysis. They will need direct involvement and active participation throughout the RSS Update. Local Authorities will play a key role in publicising the Plan to their contacts and stakeholders, particularly at the local and neighbourhood/community scale.</p> <p>The City Regions and Sub Regions' boards, panels and advisory groups provide a useful bridge between the regional and the local and represent effective partnerships consisting of a range of political interests and technical expertise. Engaging these groups will also provide links to social housing providers, the sub regional housing partnerships and the housing market renewal pathfinders.</p> <p>These stakeholders will form an integral part of the strengthened partnership approach that will underpin the RSS Update.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide information using regional newspapers and radio and the Assembly's newsletters, leaflets and website</li> <li>• Issue a call for evidence on strategic proposals for accommodating future growth and hold technical workshops on the evidence base</li> <li>• Ask elected members, Local Strategic Partnerships, Local Authorities and City/Sub Regional Partnerships to provide information to the public, local communities and interest groups</li> <li>• Write papers and reports for forums, panels and boards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold facilitated workshops at the spatial options stage (most probably for elected members)</li> <li>• Run planning-for-real type exercises based on GIS maps and diagrams at the spatial options stage</li> <li>• Use the organisations' own websites and publications to provide information to the public, local communities, interest groups and other stakeholders</li> <li>• Attend meetings to give presentations and facilitate discussion</li> </ul>
<p>Regional partnerships and organisations and adjoining Regions</p>	<p>There are a wide range of regional organisations, partnerships and forums that already have close links with the Assembly. These include, for example, Government Office, Yorkshire Forward, Local Government Yorkshire and Humber, a range of Social Economic and Environment (SEE) Partners and groups such as the Regional Utilities Forum and the Regional Energy Forum. Often, the partnerships and forums consist of a range of stakeholders who themselves have a wide-ranging membership. We will continue to seek to build on existing relationships and strengthen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide information using regional newspapers and radio and the Assembly's newsletters, leaflets and website</li> <li>• Ask members to provide information to their respective partners and stakeholders</li> <li>• Use a 'resource-coordinating group' set up to provide specific advice on resource, sectors and partners at key points in the process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Run planning-for-real type exercises based on GIS maps and diagrams at the spatial options stage</li> <li>• Use the organisations' own websites and publications to provide information to the public, local communities, interest groups and other stakeholders</li> <li>• Attend meetings to give presentations and facilitate discussion</li> </ul>

	<p>partnership working.</p> <p>Representatives from Yorkshire Forward, Government Office, the Assembly, Local Government Yorkshire and the SEE partners are being brought together as a small resource-coordinating group. The Regional Planning Board has the overall responsibility for steering the RSS Update. This smaller group will have the specific function of providing advice and facilitating engagement of stakeholders and will meet at key points of the process.</p>		
Assembly boards, forums and technical groups	<p>The Assembly's technical groups, forums and boards represent a wide range of interests in the region, consisting of local authorities and a variety of social, economic and environmental partners. They present opportunities for engaging both officers and members in the Update and will need to be directly involved throughout the process. The Regional Planning Board will consider the proposed revisions to the Plan in April 2009 and the full Assembly will consider a submission draft in June 2009.</p> <p>The technical advisory groups will play a key role throughout the process in feeding into the evidence base and helping to test and analyse the spatial options and draft policies. In addition, smaller groups consisting of technical officers will be brought together to steer specific projects or research studies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide information using regional newspapers and radio and the Assembly's newsletters, leaflets and website</li> <li>• Issue a call for evidence on strategic proposals for accommodating future growth and hold technical workshops on the evidence base</li> <li>• Ask members to provide information to their respective partners and stakeholders</li> <li>• Write papers and reports for forums, panels and boards</li> <li>• Attend meetings to give presentations and facilitate discussion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold facilitated workshops at the spatial options stage (most probably for forum and board members)</li> <li>• Run planning-for-real type exercises based on GIS maps and diagrams at the spatial options stage (most probably for technical groups and forum members)</li> </ul>
Government Office and Government agencies	<p>Non-departmental government bodies and statutory agencies such as the Environment Agency, Highways Agency and English Heritage have an important role to play in representing Government's position on certain issues. It will be crucial to engage these stakeholders,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide information using regional newspapers and radio and the Assembly's newsletters, leaflets and website</li> <li>• Issue a call for evidence on strategic proposals for accommodating future growth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend meetings to give presentations and facilitate discussion</li> <li>• Write papers and reports for specific meetings</li> </ul>

	<p>not least because there is a statutory duty to do so.</p> <p>Government Office represents Central Government in the region and will receive the draft Plan when it is submitted in 2009. Government Office will be responsible for managing the formal public consultation on the Plan, running the Examination in Public and publishing the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes.</p> <p>In addition to this procedural role, Government Office plays a key role in developing and strengthening partnerships in the region and provides technical knowledge and expertise. Government Office may attend technical workshops, boards and forums, but only as an observer during parts of the process e.g. when they are considering representations following the public consultation.</p>	<p>and hold technical workshops on the evidence base</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask organisations to provide information to their partners and stakeholders</li> </ul>	
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## Agenda Item 8 - ANNEX A

### EVALUATION STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSED ACTIONS

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Proposed Actions</b>
Put a plan in place to develop the evidence base, focusing on working with partners, particularly Yorkshire Forward (YF) and Yorkshire Futures, to develop a clearer evidence base, especially in relation to economic and population growth in the Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closer joint working with YF is already established, including YF 'leads' identified for each work stream</li> <li>• Joint officer work is focussing on providing a co-ordinated regional view on the work of the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit</li> <li>• The work of the National Advice Unit will provide a clear focus at the start of the Update on economic and population growth</li> </ul>
Consider the optimal management approach to ensure the SA work is integrated fully with and maximises the extent to which the assessment informs development of RSS policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project plan timetable reflects this need for integration.</li> <li>• The project management of the SA work will be more closely co-ordinated within the management of the Update.</li> <li>• A clearer focus to the SA work will be provided to focus effort effectively.</li> <li>• The SA/SEA/AA work will start early in the Update and this will help to ensure the assessments informs the development and analysis of options and policies.</li> </ul>
Use the strengthened evidence base to engage stakeholders and key decision makers in debate on the 'big issues' facing the Region, including how to deliver and accommodate growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project plan timetable schedules a clear early period of evidence base development in the Update process.</li> <li>• The evidence base, including study reports, will be kept 'visible' and 'up-to-date' on the website and reported to Boards and Forums.</li> <li>• The identification and subsequent assessment of options will require the integration of evidence</li> <li>• A call for evidence on growth proposals early in the process will seek to surface the 'big issues' from day 1.</li> </ul>
Build on previous success and strengthen the Assembly's approach to developing sub area policy, including consideration of more formal and / or collaborative working arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 2009 Update will focus on the sub area sections and policies.</li> <li>• The Assembly is involved in a number of sub regional and City Region officer groups.</li> <li>• Strengthened partnership working with City Regions will take place, including the use of City Region evidence bases, boards and panels.</li> </ul>
Clarify the relative roles and remit of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Assembly Board structure is now in</li> </ul>

<p>Assembly decision making boards for RSS preparation, and communicate this to a wider audience</p>	<p>place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Regional Planning Board will steer the RSS throughout its preparation and will be supported in doing so by the other Boards, Forums and Advisory Groups.</li> <li>• The full Assembly will be responsible for agreeing the final draft to be submitted to Government.</li> </ul>
<p>Consider the optimal role of forums and groups to enable technical input from officers and stakeholders across the Region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Regional Planning Forum and Technical Advisory Group will be important arenas for debating key pieces of evidence and policy options.</li> <li>• As part of the final project plan, the engagement plan will outline how forums and other groups in the Region will be engaged in the Update, including City Region Boards and Panels.</li> </ul>
<p>Manage the process and timetable to take account of time needed to debate issues, integrate evidence and policy across core topics and sub areas, and to build-in the time required by stakeholders to respond to issues and policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The timetable is very tight.</li> <li>• The project plan timetable will be carefully managed.</li> <li>• A 'resource co-ordinating group' will be established to ensure the effective focussing of YF, Local Government and Partner input.</li> <li>• Debate will be sought at each key stage.</li> </ul>
<p>Consider assigning specific roles relating to the preparation process, in addition to the allocation of resources responsible for developing RSS policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific lead roles have been assigned to officers at the Assembly and appropriate steering/working groups will be established for work streams.</li> <li>• The Assembly's business plan sets out the resources available for undertaking the RSS Update (these are more limited than in the past).</li> </ul>
<p>Maintain momentum in relation to the engagement of stakeholders in regional planning work, including through activity associated with implementation of the RSS, and work to develop the evidence base and debate policy issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Update is an early review</li> <li>• Managing 'RSS fatigue' may be more challenging now as the momentum will be naturally maintained</li> <li>• As part of the final project plan, the engagement plan will seek to ensure effective engagement with stakeholders.</li> <li>• Particular attention will be paid to maintaining stakeholder interest and engagement in the later stages of the Update.</li> </ul>