



PRE-DRAFT



**REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY
(RSS)**



TOPIC PAPER 13:

HEALTH



**Consultation
Winter 2004/05**



Foreword

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please note that these topic papers have not been endorsed by the Assembly, nor its advisory body the Regional Planning and Infrastructure Commission. They do not represent Assembly policy but give an important opportunity for a wide range of stakeholders to feed in to the further development of the new RSS for the Yorkshire and Humber region.

Your comments

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

We need to hear from you by **Friday 25 February 2005** so that your views and ideas can be taken into account as we prepare the new draft RSS to submit to Government.

Please send your comments to

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

Strategic Environmental Assessment/Sustainability Appraisal

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

Any queries

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

Topic Paper 13: Health

Introduction

1. The draft Regional Strategic Framework for Health, "Our Region Our Health" (2004), identifies that the people of Yorkshire and the Humber do not enjoy the best of health when compared with national averages. The region has some of the highest levels of preventable ill-health, long term illness and premature deaths in England. This represents a huge burden in terms of human and economic costs, holding the region back from realising its full potential.
2. This has implications for both public health (i.e. promoting and taking preventative steps to improve the health of people individually and collectively) and also health care (i.e. the provision of health care facilities and services to treat people with existing illnesses), which the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for Yorkshire and the Humber needs to take into account.

Background

3. Policy S3 of the existing RSS (Dec 2004) puts the issue of health in the context of urban and rural renaissance, whilst Policy SOC1 provides a framework to ensure that development in the region takes account of health issues and that health infrastructure is encouraged in locations so as to help reduce social exclusion. It provides for: -
 - local authorities to liaise with the strategic health authority and others and consider NHS local delivery plans when preparing development plans and local transport plans so as to have regard to the health impact on local communities of new development;
 - development plans and NHS local delivery plans to retain health care facilities in locations that are accessible by good public transport, and consider the need to secure the widespread provision of outreach facilities in areas not accessible by good public transport;
 - primary care trusts and other NHS organisations to work in partnership with local authorities and others to ensure that health facilities are accessible by means other than the private car.
4. The supporting text to Policy SOC1 also identifies the eight health action zones (HAZs) in the region (these cover all South Yorkshire, Hull/East Riding, Bradford, Leeds and Wakefield). These enable targeted support for deprived areas with poor health status and significant pressure on services. Multi-agency partnerships operate in these zones to tackle the root causes of ill-health and modernise services in the most deprived parts of the region.

Process

5. The Regional Health Executive Forum (RHEF) brings together representatives from both the National Health Service (NHS), which provides health care facilities and services for people with illnesses, and the public health sector, which is primarily concerned with analysing people's health and promoting steps to improve it.
6. In July 2004, a presentation was given to the Regional Health Executive Forum on the RSS and Health Issues (i.e. how the Regional Health Executive Forum could influence the RSS, and how the RSS could influence the development and delivery of the health strategies and plans in the region). This was followed up by a series of meetings with a representative from the Regional Health Executive Forum, at which it was decided to do the following: -
 - review existing RPG in terms of health;
 - identify and evaluate policy/text/issues in the light of emerging national policy guidance;
 - assess whether existing policies provide an appropriate/distinctive regional approach and whether there are any regionally-specific policies which should be included in the RSS;
 - suggest alternative regional/sub-regional policy options;
 - liaise with members of the Regional Health Executive Forum (and in particular representatives of the three strategic NHS health authorities) as appropriate;
 - make recommendations as appropriate.

Key Issues

7. The draft Regional Strategic Framework for Health, "Our Region Our Health" (2004) identifies that: -
 - the region has the second highest rate of tobacco use in England;
 - the region has the highest obesity rates in England: 24% of women and 26% of men; highest rates of adult obesity are found amongst the least affluent;
 - alcohol related harm costs the region up to £1.5 billion per year in terms of direct health service costs (£170m), crime and disorder (£730m) and work absenteeism (£640m);

- physical inactivity levels are amongst the highest in England, with particular concern about the low activity levels of children (and associated increase in the number of children now classified as overweight or obese); greatest rates of physical inactivity are amongst people living in deprived or socially disadvantaged backgrounds;
 - 6,000 road injuries and deaths occur in the region each year;
 - levels of educational attainment in the region lag behind most other regions;
 - the region has the worst figures for fuel poverty in the country, with almost 75% of single elderly households at risk;
 - concentration of crime in areas of social deprivation;
 - highest rates of deprivation in Hull, Bradford, NE Lincolnshire, Sheffield, Doncaster;
 - communities without access to good public transport links have difficulty in accessing essential services and amenities, thereby heightening social exclusion, but the rising volume of the road traffic severs many communities and reduces community interaction, thereby heightening social isolation
- 8.** It makes a number of recommendations. Those considered most relevant to the RSS include: -
- the need to improve cycling, walking and physical recreation
 - the need to reflect alcohol-related violence and anti-social behaviours in approaches to urban design and infrastructure provision, including public transport
 - the need to promote rapid increase in the development of school travel plans and walking buses
 - the need for local authorities to lower road speeds, particularly in residential areas, through wider adoption of "home zones", "school zones" and 20mph roads in line with Health Development Agency evidence
 - the need to assess the health impact of the Regional Transport Strategy
 - the need for the Regional Housing Strategy to improve housing standards and fairer access to quality housing for all groups
 - the need for well-designed public and green space

- the need to support the RSDF sustainability process, especially in relation to social inclusion and health impact assessment
9. The draft Regional Strategic Framework for Health does not prescribe the need to safeguard and enhance existing sports pitches and facilities, however this is considered an area where the RSS can make a difference in terms of health.
10. The consideration of the above issues by the task and finish group concerned led it to recommend the RSS consultation process considers the following: -
- an outline of the main public health issues in the region (transport, settlement strategy, economic development, sport and recreation etc.).
 - an outline of the main health institution issues (new development, services in smaller towns and villages etc.).
 - policy to encourage health impact assessment (HIA) and health-proofing (i.e. need for local planning authorities to: conduct HIAs of road/other developments; involve local people more in HIAs, check development plans in terms of health).
 - policy to contain links to health strategies/others (i.e. identify regional/local disparities, relate low life expectancy levels to low employment; maximise planning gain opportunities on major infrastructure proposals for social issues; increase urban density; increase use of public transport, walking and cycling; increase safety and reduce road accidents; ensure hospitals/ health facilities located in town centres; improve access to health facilities in rural areas; ensure size of hospitals/ health facilities corresponds to need, especially in areas of ageing population; minimise air/other pollution).
 - policy to contribute to health strategies/others (i.e. NHS to: ensure hospitals/health facilities located in town centres; improve access to health facilities, especially outreach facilities in rural areas; ensure size of hospitals/health facilities corresponds to need, especially in areas of ageing population).
11. It is also considered that the Regional Strategic Framework for Health will stand as a regional strategy in its own right, and that the RSS will acknowledge this, making reference to key issues as necessary.
12. Of the issues identified above, it is considered that the sustainability appraisal of the RSS will take into account the health impact of the Regional Transport Strategy, part of the RSS, and that the Regional Housing Strategy will cover housing standards, and that the RSS itself will cover most of the other issues raised by the Regional Strategic Framework for Health (e.g. need to improve walking, cycling and physical recreation facilities, need to promote school travel plans, need

to provide good design, need to safeguard and enhance existing sports pitches and facilities).

Questions for Consultation

The key questions for consultation are therefore: -

- 1. Should RSS encourage wider adoption of lower road speeds in residential areas and the adoption of "home zones", "school zones" and 20 mph roads in line with advice of the Health Development Agency?*
- 2. Should RSS encourage: the preparation of health impact assessments for road/other developments and separate health-proofing of development plans/other OR the preparation of health impact assessments as part of environmental impact assessments and the sustainability appraisal of development plans/ others (taking health considerations into account)?*
- 3. Should RSS seek to ensure hospitals/health facilities locate in town centres, improve access to health facilities in rural areas, and prescribe and/or ensure the size of hospitals/health facilities corresponds to need, especially in catchment areas of predominantly ageing populations?*

Views on other health-related issues would be welcome.

References

It is considered the main references for health include: -

Planning Policy Statement 11 (PPS11): Regional Spatial Strategies,
www.odpm.gov.uk

"Health Inequalities – a programme of action" (DoH, 2003), www.dh.gov.uk

"*Our Region Our Health*" A Regional Strategic Framework for Public Health in Yorkshire and the Humber by the Regional Director of Public Health 2004,
[www.goyh.gov.uk/key business/public health](http://www.goyh.gov.uk/key_business/public_health)

National Health Service Plan (DoH, 2001), www.dh.gov.uk