

**MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING:  
7 AUGUST 2008**

**Attendees**

Cllr Arthur Barker	Chair
Naheed Arshad Mather	Deputy Chair
Tim Godson	Government Office (Deputy for David Fraser)
Cllr Ken Wyatt (from 11am)	South Yorkshire Local Authorities
Jayne Ashley	UK SD Commission
Cllr Adrian Naylor	West Yorkshire Local Authority Partnership (Deputy for Cllr Sims)
Debbie Rosen	Yorkshire Forward (Deputy for Mike Smith)
Stuart Kielty	Yorkshire Futures (Deputy for Les Newby)
Iain Lovell	YHA
Jatinder Singh Mehmi	YHA
Nicola Baylis	YHA
Sue Jeffrey	YHA

**Visitors**

Penny Coles	Environment Agency
Peter Foulston	Environment Agency
Emma Bridge	Rotherham MBC
Lyndsey Bunn	YHA
Martyn Roberts	YHA
Rob Murfin	YHA

**Apologies**

David Fraser	Government Office
Cllr Bernard Regan	Humber Local Authority Partnership
Cllr Andrew Waller	North Yorkshire Local Authorities
Andy Wilson	SD Expert
David Gibbs	SD Expert
Phil Webber	SD Expert
Tom Knowland	SD Expert
Cllr Ken Sims	West Yorkshire Local Authority Partnership
Mike Smith	Yorkshire Forward
Les Newby	Yorkshire Futures

## 1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and the apologies were **noted**.

It was confirmed that Mike Smith would shortly be leaving Yorkshire Forward and would therefore be stepping down from the Board. Members asked that the Board's thanks be passed Mike for his valuable contribution.

## 2. Minutes of the Last Meeting – 20 March 2008

The minutes of the last meeting were **agreed** as an accurate record.

## 3. Matters Arising

The matters arising from the previous meeting were **noted**.

## 4. Review of Sub National Economic Development and Regeneration

Members **noted** the consultation response submitted by Local Authority leaders and Yorkshire Forward – in particular the proposal for an Independent Board to ensure the principles of sustainable development and economic opportunity are fully ingrained in the Integrated Regional Strategy (paragraph 6.5). It was confirmed that the Board would be chaired by an independent/expert although, at this time it was unclear as to how the Chair would be appointed.

It was confirmed that the national consultation on SNR closed on 20 June 2008. 491 responses were received and are currently being analysed by Government but early results indicate:

- Strong support for a single regional strategy;
- Support for a duty on local authorities to undertake economic assessments;
- Concern over a perceived democratic deficit in RDAs taking on planning functions; and
- Concerns from business over a perceived watering down of SNR economic focus and the proposed wider role for local authorities.

Members were informed that Government is expected to

publish its response to the consultation in late September.

Members were also informed that the UK SD Commission were currently undertaking some work with RDA Strategy Teams on Single Integrated Regional Strategies which is due to be completed in mid September. It was confirmed that an update on this would be provided at a future meeting.

Jayne Ashley

## **5. Defra Sustainable Development Transition and Transformation Fund**

Members **noted** progress on the Defra funding proposal. It was stated that the initial feedback received from Defra on the region's proposal was very positive, with formal approval anticipated shortly.

Members were informed that the Defra grant would cover 60% of the cost of activities put forward in the proposal. The remaining 40% was to be provided by Yorkshire Forward – and the Chair expressed his thanks to Yorkshire Forward, on behalf of the Board, for their contribution.

In the report presented to the Board (paragraph 8), it stated that Government Office would oversee the implementation of the work programme. Government Office felt that this would be best undertaken by the Board and this proposal was **agreed** by members.

Members were informed that the final version of the proposal submitted to Defra was available on request.

## **6. Regional Climate Change Adaptation Study**

Members **noted** progress on the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Study.

It was confirmed that dates had now been set for the sectoral workshops:

- 14 October 2008 - Infrastructure and Utilities
- 16 October 2008 - Business and Economy
- 21 October 2008 - Health and Welfare
- 22 October 2008 - Public and Voluntary Services
- 30 October 2008 - Biodiversity

It was stated that further details would be circulated to members shortly.

Members emphasised the importance of ensuring that the findings from this Study were widely disseminated as they occur. Although it was stated that the findings would be made available on a specially designed website, members felt that more needed to be done to ensure the findings reached the local level.

## **7. The Sustainability Appraisal of the RSS Update 2009**

Members were updated on the RSS Update 2009 – the main driver for which is the Government’s Green Paper on housing. In the discussion that followed, a number of key points were raised:

- Weighting of flood risk, social/demographic issues etc will be crucial to this work.
- Issues around infrastructure, employment, transport etc are also key.
- Uncertainty in the economic climate needs to be taken into account.
- It will be a challenging piece of work to test and evaluate the criteria.
- If the region analyses the housing figures effectively, it need to be prepared for the fact that the figures could go up as well as down.
- Government figures are focussing on the long term, not on short term fluctuations in the market.

It was then explained that the Board had an important role to play in the Sustainability Appraisal of the Update.

Volunteers were sought from the Board membership to act as ongoing consultees for this process, and Cllr Adrian Naylor and Debbie Rosen both expressed an interest in being involved in this work. It was **agreed** that an e-mail should be sent to those members not present at the meeting giving them the opportunity to participate.

It was confirmed that an update on this work would be provided at the next meeting.

## **8. Work Programme for 2008/09**

Members **agreed** the Board’s work programme subject to the addition of work to input into the Regional Climate Change Action Plan.

Nicola Baylis

Jatinder Singh  
Mehmi

## ACTION

It was confirmed that an update of the LSP Ecological Footprinting Project, and the proposed workshop, would be given at the next meeting.

Jatinder Singh  
Mehmi

Members then discussed the upcoming Regional Funding Allocations (RFA) process, which must be submitted to Government by the end of February 2009. It was confirmed that RFA2 would cover the period to 2019 and allocate approximately £900m to the region.

Although the RFA2 process was still being developed, it was confirmed that it would be helpful if the Board could undertake some form of 'challenge' work as part of the process. It was stated that more details would be given at the October meeting.

Sue Jeffrey

### 9. Regional Inequalities Work

Stuart Kielty gave a presentation on the *Equalities in Yorkshire and Humber: An Assessment of Current Position and Trends* report (slides attached at **Annex A**).

In the discussion that followed, a number of points were raised:

- This is an interesting, yet worrying study.
- The report does not give an accurate picture of rural areas as the deprivation in some localities is masked by the considerable wealth of those who live within a relatively close proximity.
- The migration data is not particularly accurate as there are records relating to those entering the region, but none for those leaving.
- Concern that some of the data in the report is out of date. It was stated that this was an issue but that the data used within the report was the most up to date that was available at the time.
- The report contains little information on the region's ageing population. It was confirmed that this was covered in a separate report *Population Projections: Age and Ethnicity*.

The Chair thanked Stuart for the presentation.

It was **agreed** that links to both publications mentioned under this agenda item would be circulated to members for

Nicola Baylis

## ACTION

information.

### 10. Yorkshire Futures Research

As Les Newby was unable to attend the meeting in person, it was **agreed** that he should be invited to do an interactive session on the research at a future meeting of the Board.

Jatinder Singh  
Mehmi

### 11. Scrutiny of Investment Planning

Members noted the content of the Scrutiny Board's impending review on Investment Planning. It was confirmed that, although there was a new geographical investment planning programme about to be implemented, the review would be focussing on the existing process and looking at what lessons could be learnt for the future.

Members were then asked to nominate a representative to take up the Sustainable Development Board's seat on the Scrutiny Board for the duration of the Investment Planning Review.

It was **agreed** that, as a number of members were not in attendance at the meeting, that an e-mail should be circulated to all Sustainable Development Board members seeking expressions of interest.

Nicola Baylis

**Date of Next Meeting: 23 October 2009**

Nicola Baylis, Business Services Officer  
18 August 2008