

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

8 JANUARY 2009: 1.00PM

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER ASSEMBLY, 18 KING STREET, WAKEFIELD

AGENDA

1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

BUSINESS ITEMS

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting – 6 November 2008 Attached
3. Matters Arising Verbal

DISCUSSION/DECISION ITEMS

4. Sub National Review and Transition Arrangements Attached
5. Report Back from the Boards Attached

6. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

- Regional Funding Advice 2008 – Info Note 3 Attached

7. Any Other Business

Date of Next Meeting: 5 March 2009

**MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:
6 NOVEMBER 2008**

ACTION

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were **noted**. A full attendance list is attached at **Annex A**.

A number of membership issues were **noted**:

- Helen Groves from the Regional Forum is the new substitute SEE Partner representative on the Regional Executive Board.
- Gary Topp, who has been a Regional Executive Board Member in the past, has now stepped down as an Assembly Member due to the closure of Yorkshire Culture.
- Penny Hemming, CBI representative on the Assembly, has announced that she will be retiring at the end of this year. Andrew Palmer will be replacing Penny as Regional Director Designate at the CBI. Future representation at the Assembly and Regional Executive Board will be confirmed later in the year. Penny and Gary were thanked for their contribution to the Regional Executive Board.

2. Minutes for Approval

The minutes of the Regional Executive Board meeting held on 4 September were **agreed** as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

**4. Sub National Review and Transition Arrangements –
Summary of Progress**

Members were updated on recent progress with the Government's Sub National Review of Economic Development and Regeneration (SNR). It was noted that the

publication of the Government's response to the SNR consultation was still awaited and that this was now expected in mid-November.

Members were also advised that a number of committees had recently been established to address the impact of the 'credit crunch' - the Regional Economic Council, the Council of Regional Ministers and the National Economic Council – all of which were tasked with easing the current financial crisis.

Members were also asked to note an additional report on transition arrangements for the Assembly's staff team. It was reported that Local Authority Leaders (at the meeting of the Local Government Yorkshire & Humber (LGYH) Leaders' Board on 30 October) had agreed to recommend to the Executive Board that from 1 April 2009 the LGYH Leaders' Board should take responsibility for directing the activities of the Assembly staff team. Members were also advised that the arrangements for this would be developed as part of the new Business Plan for 2009–2010 and that the Business Plan should be developed under the leadership of LGYH in consultation with Assembly staff.

Members **endorsed** the recommendations in the report.

Members were advised that these were transitional proposals for one year and would not prejudice any new permanent arrangements from 1 April 2010, that would need to be developed once the Government's position on taking forward SNR were clear.

Members **noted** these updates.

5. **RSS Update**

Members were advised of progress with the review of the RSS, the focus of which is on ensuring the Region has a long-term, sustainable strategy for the development of new homes up to 2026 and beyond. It will test a range of views to determine what the appropriate level of building should be to meet the Region's needs. The update provides an opportunity to better co-ordinate development with infrastructure investment and to link with work on longer-term development visions at city region and local level.

Over the last four months earlier consultation with local authorities and other organisations has brought forward

initial views on a range of proposed approaches to accommodating future growth. An 'evidence base' has also been prepared – drawing on evidence from local authorities and others - to identify more specific development opportunities and constraints.

The next stage is further 'informal' consultation with regional stakeholders to seek views on a range of 'options' for 'how much' and 'what ways' and 'where' development might be accommodated long-term. Consultation will run until 30 January and include a series of public consultation events.

The following queries and concerns were raised by Members:

- Is this update a statutory requirement and does the Assembly have to do this? It was noted that the Assembly had been asked by Government to look again at providing a long-term approach to meeting revised housing requirements and to test national advice.
- What can local authorities expect to gain from this update? Members were advised that the update will add value to the work that local authorities and sub regions are also doing in thinking about longer-term development and planning related infrastructure.
- Members would like more time to reflect on the issues raised. It was suggested that feedback from the consultation would be brought back for further consideration by the Board before moving to the next stage.

Members **agreed** the next steps in the Update, subject to a further report-back to the Board after the consultation stage.

6. Update on Economic Crisis and the National/Regional Response – Simon Foy, Yorkshire Forward

Members were given an update on the impact of the current economic crisis in our Region and also the measures that Yorkshire Forward is putting in place to deal with this alongside national Government.

Simon made the following points about the situation in Yorkshire and the Humber:

- There has been a clear deterioration in the region's economy since the summer and growth has decreased from 1.8% at the start of this year to practically zero

- now. Only 1% growth is expected, at best, for next year.
- It is important to realise that this is an ever-changing situation and just this afternoon the Bank of England has cut its base rate by 1.5% and it is hoped this will boost consumer confidence and have a positive effect on inter-bank lending rates.
 - Businesses are suffering due to the increase in the price of raw materials and commodities and are unable to pass on savings to customers. Many are also having to rely on backlogs of orders rather than generating any new business.
 - Until recently export markets were holding up, although this is now starting to erode.
 - Payment demands are becoming much tighter now, which is reducing access to working capital – this is having the biggest impact on small and medium businesses.
 - Employment rates have risen slightly in this region though they are not meeting the national average. The labour market is still bearing up well also.
 - There are still some mixed messages – businesses are reporting that they cannot afford to employ apprentice workers whilst the Learning and Skills Council maintains that apprenticeships remain popular.

In terms of the response by Yorkshire Forward Simon made the following points:

- Intelligence is being shared with partners and other agencies in the Region to ensure best practice is followed.
- A ten-day payment scheme has been introduced for small and medium businesses to improve their access to capital.
- Business support is being re-prioritised and small and medium enterprises are being given advice about how to respond to the situation.
- Business start-ups are being encouraged and supported as this is seen as viable alternative to those being made redundant due to this situation.
- Redundancy support packages are being worked up.
- Within YF work areas are being restructured to offer maximum capacity in business support.
- There is support for credit unions in the region to help cut down on the amount of doorstep lending.
- Grants have been expanded across the whole region and investment criteria have been reviewed to help speed up

- the process of distributing this money.
- Work is being done to help the property market, for instance offering assistance with planning permission etc.
 - Meetings are being held with regional banks and building societies to ensure continued investment and support.
 - A Financial Business Service Sector Taskforce has been established with the involvement of the Regional Minister, Rosie Winterton MP. This is helping to promote regional banks and support their business.

The following points were made about the national situation:

- The pre-budget report is due next week.
- A number of national and regional councils have recently been established, the National Economic Council, the Council of Regional Ministers and the Regional Economic Council. In addition to this regional ministers are setting up their own groups to coordinate action at a regional and local level with agencies in the region.

In summary Simon noted that the impact of the current economic downturn has not affected our region as much as some other parts of the UK and that Yorkshire and the Humber are still bearing up quite well. It was also noted that it was important to stay positive and have a 'credible optimism' about the situation.

Members raised the following points in discussion:

- What tangible outcomes can be expected from the councils and groups mentioned above? It was noted that these were tasked with developing and delivering new initiatives such as the ten-day payment scheme and driving forward new investment.
- There is some concern over the level of input that local councils will have into these groups and how much they will benefit from the proposed initiatives. It was noted that local councils are represented on these groups and will have chance to feed into the decision-making processes.
- There needs to be more involvement of the business sector to ensure their views and opinions are taken into account – they are best placed to come up with solutions to the problems they face. Members were advised that this was being taken into account.
- Concern was raised over the encouragement of start-up businesses in the current climate. It was noted that it

was important to think long-term and ensure enterprise is not overlooked. It was also important to note that many new businesses have been set up in times of economic uncertainty and have proved successful.

- It is important to note that initiatives are being developed and promoted within local councils – for example a recent scheme introduced by Wakefield MDC to help small businesses with mortgage rates.

This update was **noted** by Members. There was also a reminder about an Economic Development Conference being held on 5 December at which John Healey would be speaking.

7. Report Back from the Boards

The Report Back from the Assembly's Functional Boards was **noted** by Members.

8. Olympics 2012 Update – Presentation by Martin Havenhand, Yorkshire Committee for the 2012 Games

Members were given a brief update on the activities concerning the delivery of Yorkshire Gold, the strategy for driving forward the region's opportunities, involvement and legacy relating to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

A range of events/projects aimed at building up momentum for the games were mentioned including the Kirklees Youth Games (which attracted involvement from 20,000 youngsters), development of a swimming and diving centre in Leeds, the bid for the world mountain biking championships in North Yorkshire and a programme of sport for diverse groups in Bradford.

Further work was discussed around helping to attract national teams to training facilities in the Region, along with a review of progress post the 2008 Beijing Games to take forward lessons learned. Members were also advised that one of the other key areas of work was to build a legacy following the 2012 games to ensure the region benefits in years to come, as well as from the events themselves.

Members raised the following points in discussion:

- Will there be specific chaplaincy support to account for

the many different nationalities and faiths that will be represented at the games? It was noted that support would be available within local communities but that the Committee would welcome any further ideas on this outside of this meeting.

- It is important to note that there is interest in involvement in the games across the Region, not just in cities – this needs to be taken into consideration.
- It would be useful for local councils to receive direct communication from the Committee in future. This was noted.

This update was **noted** by Members.

9. Information Items

- Regional Funding Advice 2008 – Info Note 2

The Chair of the Regional Housing Board expressed concern about the future of the Regional Housing Forum, under the new arrangements and asked that an 'options' paper be brought to a future meeting.

- New Arrangements for Cultural Organisations in the Region

This was **noted**.

10. Any Other Business

Members asked that a letter of congratulation be written and forwarded to Barack Obama, following his victory in the US elections.

Date of Next Meeting: 8 January 2009

Emma King

Emma King

Emma King, Business Services Officer
November 2008

Attendees

Cllr Peter Box	Chair
Cllr Carl Minns	Hull and Humber Ports City Region Partnership
Cllr Stephen Parnaby	Humber Local Authority Partnership
Cllr Arthur Barker	North Yorkshire Local Authority Partnership and Chair LGYH
Cllr Kris Hopkins	Regional Housing Board
Cllr John Weighell	Rural Local Authorities
Bill Adams	SEE Partner Group
Naheed Arshad Mather	SEE Partner Group
Patricia Farrell	SEE Partner Group
Penny Hemming	SEE Partner Group
Cllr Terry Sharman	South Yorkshire Local Authority Partnership (Sub)
Cllr Robert Light	West Yorkshire Local Authority Partnership

Observers

Margaret Jackson	Government Office
Simon Foy	Yorkshire Forward

Visitors

Maureen Taylor	Government Office
Martin Havenhand	Yorkshire Committee for the 2012 Games

Staff

Sue Jeffrey
Chris Martin
Jenny Poxon
Rob Warm
Mark Shaw
Iain Lovell
Emma King

Apologies

Paul Jagger	Deputy Chair
Felicity Everiss	Government Office (Observer)
Cllr Andrew Carter	Leeds City Region Partnership
Paul Rogerson	Regional Chief Executives Group (Observer)
Cate Hammond	Regional Planning Board
Cllr Mark Kirk	Regional Transport Board
Michael Noble	SEE Partner Group
Cllr Paul Scriven	Sheffield City Region Partnership
Cllr Roger Stone	South Yorkshire Local Authority Partnership
Tom Riordan	Yorkshire Forward (Observer)

SUB NATIONAL REVIEW AND TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS

For Discussion/Decision

- To update Members on progress with the Government's Sub National Review of Economic Development and Regeneration (SNR); and
- To discuss and agree transition arrangements as set out.

Background

1. This report provides an update on SNR and transition activity under the following headings.
 - **Strategy and Policy** – progress being made nationally and in the region to implement SNR;
 - **People** – issues relating to Assembly staff;
 - **Process** – updating on business planning, budgets and transfer arrangements; and
 - **Communications** – messages to Members, staff, the wider region and beyond.

Strategy and Policy

2. National Developments:
 - The Government finally published the response to the SNR consultation on 25 November 2008 and confirmed that, amongst other things, it is to take forward proposals on:
 - Reformed Regional Governance Structures in particular, to establish a Local Authority Leaders Board in the region; and
 - To give Yorkshire Forward and the Local Authority Leaders' Board joint responsibility for drafting the Integrated Regional Strategy (IRS), preparing an implementation plan and monitoring delivery of the IRS.
 - In making these proposals Government has confirmed that;
 - The need for regional assemblies will end; and
 - There will be no requirement for the Leaders' Board to have a separate scrutiny function and that Regional Select Committees and Grand Committees will carry out the necessary scrutiny.

- Most of these proposals will be included in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill that had its second reading in the House of Lords on 17 December. It will be considered further in Committee between the 18 and 28 January 2009 and then move to the Commons. It is expected to receive Royal Assent in the autumn. However the Bill is already facing criticism because of the wide-range of topics it seeks to address.
- Draft Guidance on the content and process for the preparation of the IRS will be made available in the New Year.
- In relation to proposals for Regional Select Committees and Grand Committees, these were agreed by Parliament in November 2008. Regional Committees will be set up in January 2009, with the first inquiries possibly from as early as February. The primary focus of the Committee in the first instance is likely to be Yorkshire Forward.

3. In Region:

- The Joint Regional Board (LGYH/YF) met formally for the first time on 27 November and considered a range of issues including Chairing arrangements, a transition plan, the Regional Business Plan and progress to develop the new thematic boards.
- The Regional Officer Group met on 3 December to consider transition issues. A key concern continues to be the need for the new governance arrangements to be 'designated' by Government as the Regional Planning Body in the period until legislation introduces the Integrated Regional Strategy. Government Office is seeking advice from CLG on this matter.
- Consultants will be reporting their early findings on arrangements for the Independent Board in the New Year.
- Social, Economic and Environmental partners continue to develop their own arrangements and are actively promoting a 'prospectus for future development'. This sets out a range of objectives for the coming year including:
 - Making an active and valued contribution to the development of the IRS;
 - Providing support to non local authority members of the thematic boards; and
 - Securing resources, to support the group for the next three years

People

4. There has been a resignation from the Corporate Management Team in December. Rob Warm, Head of Housing and Communities has successfully secured a new position as Director of the Regional Migration Partnership, based in Leeds. His post will not be filled and temporary arrangements have been made until 31 March 2009. In total the Assembly now employs 38 staff of which eight are part-time and seven are temporary posts or secondees.
5. As part of the Business Planning process work is underway to determine arrangements for all staff post 31 March. This had become more urgent given that advice from CLG is that TUPE comes into effect when the Assembly is replaced by the new regional arrangements on 1 April 2009.
6. The priority now is to firm up the final destinations for transferring staff (staff will follow functions) and arrangements for other staff. These include secondees, those on temporary contracts and any potential redundancies that may arise given the need to achieve efficiency savings.
7. A Transfer Plan is currently being developed which will include a detailed timetable and arrangements for full consultation with staff and the Union. This work is being undertaken jointly by the Assembly, LGYH and Yorkshire Forward.

Processes

8. Regional Business Plan and Budget:

Content of the Business Plan

- The Regional Board considered and agreed the headline activities for the Regional Business Plan at their meeting on 27 November. These are set out at **Annex A** and cover the ongoing tasks of the Assembly to be delivered through the new regional governance arrangements.

Budget

- As previously noted the Business Plan is being developed to include efficiency savings of 10% on 2008/09 grant levels (approx £200,000). This means grant of around £1.97m will be available to support staff and activity. There will also be £240,000 of other funding including housing research grant, bank interest and a small amount of income. Local Authority subscriptions of £220,000 that supported regional work in 2008/09 will not be available in 2009/10.
- Additionally there will be a bid for transition funds to cover the costs of any legal fees, redundancy, pension and other costs associated with the

wind-up of the Assembly. Government Office has indicated that they will consider these costs on a case-by-case basis.

Timetable and Sign Off

- The deadline for submitting the Business Plan has been extended to 31 January 2009, and the following arrangements for sign off are proposed:

16 Jan	Draft circulated to Executive Board Members for comment
End Jan	Sign off by Yorkshire Forward Board, Local Authority Leaders Board and Regional Board (dates TBC)
12 Feb	Formal sign off by full Assembly

Other Transition Arrangements

- The final meeting of the Executive Board will be held on 5 March. At this meeting Members will be asked to approve the:
 - Distribution of assets;
 - Transfer of the leasehold interest in the King Street Offices to LGYH (currently held by Wakefield MDC on behalf of the Assembly);
 - Arrangements for any other outstanding contracts (as previously reported these are very limited);
 - Arrangements for staff; and
 - A statement on income, expenditure and reserves and how these will be applied.
- It is proposed that the final meeting of the Assembly be held on 26 March 2009. This meeting will pass the necessary resolutions to dissolve the Assembly.

Communications

9. Assembly Members, partners and stakeholders have continued to receive regular updates on SNR progress through the Assembly newsletters Essentials and mini Essentials.
10. Additionally, an Information Note setting out the Governments response to the SNR consultation was sent to all Members.

11. Past reports on this matter are available as follows:

Source Papers	Location
<p>Assembly Meeting: 2 October 2008 Review of Sub National Economic Development and Regeneration</p> <p>Regional Executive Board: 6 November 2008 Sub National Review and transition arrangements – summary of progress</p> <p>Info Note: To All Assembly Members: 25 November 2008 Prosperous Places: Taking Forward the Review of Sub National Economic Development And Regeneration - Summary of the Government response to consultation</p>	<p>All available from:</p> <p>Emma King Yorkshire and Humber Assembly 18 King Street Wakefield WF1 2SQ Tel: 01924 331590 E-mail: emma.king@yhassembly.gov.uk</p>

Sue Jeffrey, Executive Director
December 2008

**EXTRACT FROM 'DEVELOPING THE REGIONAL BUSINESS PLAN' REPORT
TO THE JOINT REGIONAL BOARD (LGYH/YF).
THURSDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2008, LEEDS**

Developing the Regional Business Plan

Proposed Priorities

The priorities link to the areas of work specified in the Government guidance but also take account of regional priorities.

1. Corporate Activity

To secure effective new arrangements and manage the transition from the closure of the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly to the new arrangements

To ensure effective support to the new arrangements is in place

To ensure effective communication and consultation during the transition

2. Planning and Transport

Planning Strategy

To continue the work on the RSS update the Yorkshire and Humber Plan, as set out in the review published project plan

To draw together the regions strategic evidence base in preparation for the new single regional Strategy and to support functional sub region and local authority work

Continue ongoing support for the regional technical advisory body (RTAB) on waste

Continue ongoing support for the Regional Aggregates Working party

Support within the new arrangements to the new spatial planning board

3. Planning Delivery and conformity

Working closely with local authorities on local development frameworks and strategic planning applications this will include implementation and monitoring

4. Transport

Transport input into the RSS update

Development of longer-term transport priorities

Regional funding advice for transport, playing a greater role in programme management

Development of regional evidence base

Support to regional transport and thematic board

5. Housing

Strategy

Prepare, consult on, publish and keep updated the regional Housing Strategy which will include

- feeding into Single Regional Strategy
- working with Functional Sub Regions to develop strategy and structures
- Working with HCA to support development and delivery of regional investment strategy
- Develop and update strategic investment allocation
- Produce, share and update local level data on markets

Advise ministers on regional housing pot allocation to targeted and priority groups to be helped into home ownership which will include

- Advice on allocations to LAs of non housing corporation elements of regional housing pot
- Develop regional investment strategy with HCA to ensure delivery of regional, sub regional and national priorities
- Enable local conversations with HCA to ensure maximum local flexibility in delivery
- Maintain evidence base to put case on split of Housing Corporation and LA money
- Advise HCA on investment for improving and creating provision for gypsies and travellers (annual bidding round)

Monitor delivery of outcomes on behalf of Government

1. Negotiate with sub regions on broad outputs/outcomes
2. Monitor delivery of housing outcomes through the Board
3. Use monitoring information to inform future funding allocations

6. Strategy Integration, Regional Resource Allocation and Policy Development

Ensure creation of effective new arrangements for strategy integration in relation to the new regional strategy

Ensure sustainable development work and principles are effectively embedded within the new arrangement and the strategy

Follow up work to regional funding advice 2 including potential activity in response to the economic downturn

Support to Regional Climate Change Partnership to progress revised plan and outcomes from adaptation/UKCIP studies

Support other sustainable development related initiatives, including energy bio diversity and waste

Support the work of Yorkshire Futures to ensure common regional evidence base

Support member participation in partnerships and boards as required.

7. Scrutiny

Ensure effective new regional arrangements for scrutiny in the light of the Government's proposals

Ensure continuity of scrutiny of Yorkshire Forwards delivery of the Regional Economic Strategy in the transition period

Support and influence the development and work of any new select committee arrangements to ensure that they add value

**REGIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:
8 JANUARY 2009**

REPORT BACK FROM THE BOARDS

For Information

Members are asked to note the decisions and activities of the Assembly's Functional Boards since the Regional Executive Board meeting held on 6 November.

Regional Housing Board

1. The Regional Housing Board met on 3rd October. The Board discussed the Sub-national review. The Chair informed members that he had written to Yorkshire Forward to raise a number of concerns about how work on housing would be taken forward after 1 April, but was able to confirm that a meeting took place in October to explore these concerns in more detail. In addition, Tony Reeves, Chief Executive of Bradford and nominated Chief Executive lead from LGYH on the development of the new Housing and Regeneration Board, attended the meeting to discuss the future structure of the Boards.
2. The Board also discussed Regional Funding Advice - the Regional Housing Board is leading on the Housing and Regeneration strand of this work. Members agreed to use the three broad themes of places, access and homes (as set out in *'Delivering Real Change' - 2007*) as a framework for the RFA submission.
3. Members agreed that the first funding block (2011-15) should be spatially and thematically specific, but later funding blocks should focus on identifying major projects. Since the meeting dialogue had taken place with sub-regional housing partnerships, and the Homes and Communities Agency to identify the key projects that need to be given certainty for future funding rounds. Given current economic uncertainties Members felt that there should be a balance between certainty and flexibility.
4. Members agreed a Regional Housing Board Action Plan (subject to some minor changes) - that seeks to address the current housing market conditions and the downturn in construction starts on site. The Board agreed specific pieces of work around - housing options; mortgage rescue; delivery of affordable housing; housing market intelligence; shared ownership and work to support partnerships between developers and Local Authorities to deliver affordable housing.
5. The Board also received a presentation from the Regional Housing Forum

on research they have carried out on behalf of the Board on Supporting People issues. The next Regional Housing Board meeting is 16 January in Bradford.

Regional Planning Board

6. The Regional Planning Board met on 21 October. The meeting provided an opportunity for the Board to be updated on the SNR and to discuss the new governance arrangements. Paul Rogerson, Chief Executive of Leeds City Council, attended the meeting in his capacity as the nominated Chief Executive lead from LGYH on the development of the new Planning Board. He was able to share his thoughts on the new Board with members and to take away members' views on how the new Board might develop and operate.
7. The main focus for the meeting was progress on the Update of the RSS 2009. The Board received presentations on the possible 'Strategic Options' for the overall scale and distribution of future housing growth in the region and for different approaches to accommodating growth in the different RSS sub areas. The Board agreed that there needs to be consultation on these challenging issues with as broad a range of stakeholders as possible over the coming months. Members agreed the broad principles of the content of a consultation document – subject to some amendments. A final draft of the consultation document was circulated to the Board for agreement, and this was used as the focus for the consultation events in November and December. Over 200 organisations/people have attended the events from a wide cross-section of interests. Consultation closes at the end of January 2009. The next Regional Planning Board meeting is 18 March.

Regional Transport Board

8. The Regional Transport Board met on 12 December. The main focus of the meeting was on Regional Funding Advice – the Board is leading on the transport strand of this work. In October Members agreed the overall timetable and key milestones for the work and also a number of matters around process and methods of assessment of competing priorities. The December meeting took this work a stage further forward.
9. The Board is having to consider advice on three elements of transport funding: the 'Integrated Transport Block' of funding for Local Transport Plans, the 'Highways Maintenance Block' that covers local roads maintenance, and funding for 'Major Schemes' that funds capital schemes over £5 million. The Board agreed a position on the Integrated Transport Block at its October meeting. The December meeting discussed and agreed a way forward for handling advice on the Maintenance block.
10. The key discussion and debate at the December meeting was on the Major Schemes block of funding and, in particular, the Board recognised the real challenges it will face in making final decisions on this in January. The key challenge is the limited amount of RFA allocation left (often referred to as

'headroom') once major schemes that are already in the existing RFA programme are taken in to account, compounded with the large number and level of bids that had been made for funding new schemes. Paradoxically another challenge is that in the early years of the programme there is risk that the Region will 'under-spend'. The Board asked for a further report on how to address this specific issue. The Regional Transport Board will next meet on 23 January to finalise its views on the transport strand of the RFA.

Sustainable Development Board

- 11.** The Sustainable Development Board last met on the 23 October. Members heard that funding to help Yorkshire and Humber consider how best to develop proposals to deliver a credible, effective and independent SD Champion Body has been won by a partnership led by the Assembly. After winning funding from DEFRA, consultants Ursus were selected to carry out the work, and deliver a number of key outputs up to 31 March 2009. Other partners involved in the work are Yorkshire Forward, Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber, the Environment Agency and Local Government Yorkshire and Humber.
- 12.** Since then, as part of this work, all interested organisations have been invited to complete a quick and easy online consultation questionnaire and/or attend an event in January 2009 to discuss and debate the emerging findings.

Regional Climate Change Adaptation Study

- 13.** The Regional Climate Change Adaptation Study is making good progress with Stage 1 (data collation and baseline review) and Stage 2 (climate and weather assessments) having been completed. Work is nearing completion on Stage 3 which comprises an assessment of the impacts on various sectors and the adaptation approaches required to minimise these.
- 14.** Initially these issues were addressed within five individual 'sectors': Infrastructure and utilities; Business and economy; Health and welfare; Public and voluntary services; Biodiversity. The results of these individual workshops will be brought together to assess how the work on adaptation measures in one sector might impact on another. A cross-sectoral workshop to investigate these issues will be held on 21 January 2009, with the final report due to be submitted to the Steering Group on 18 February 2009.

LSP Ecological Footprinting project

- 15.** The final report on the LSP Ecological Footprinting project has now been circulated. Two workshops, to rollout this work regionally, are to be held jointly with Yorkshire Forward in February 2009.

16. Work has progressed well on finalising the Regional Climate Change Plan. The word Action has dropped from the title so that it more accurately reflects the strategic nature and intent of the document. A high level workshop, hosted by Rosie Winterton, was held on 14 November 2008 to raise awareness and seek final comments. The revised Plan is to be launched jointly with the Regional Adaptation Study report on Friday 13 March 2009. The next Sustainable Development Board meeting will be on 29 January.

Scrutiny Board

Investment Planning Review:

17. Following the final on-line consultation with stakeholders in November, the Scrutiny Board have now finalised its findings and made seven recommendations for Yorkshire Forward. Yorkshire Forward will discuss its response action plan at its January meeting. The draft report also includes key messages for national government for partners. The recommendations are expected to play a part in shaping the transitional arrangements from Sub-regional Investment Planning to Geographic Programmes over the coming year. The final report will be published following the 12 February Assembly meeting.

Review of Regional Scrutiny

18. As part of the SNR proposals, regional scrutiny/accountability arrangements are to change. With the proposed establishment of Regional Select Committees, the abolition of assemblies and local authority-led new arrangements for scrutiny which may be developed, a new method of accountability will be introduced to the region which will seek to hold RDAs and other regional agencies to account.
19. To help identify the impact and value that regional scrutiny has had, and to inform future regional scrutiny/accountability arrangements, the Assembly, in conjunction with Yorkshire Forward, are undertaking research to evaluate the scrutiny processes used by the Assembly since 2002, and to make recommendations for how regional scrutiny/accountability might be undertaken in the future. The Centre for Public Scrutiny is undertaking this review. It is looking at what has worked, what lessons need to be learnt and what might be taken forward in the future. More than 50 of those who have had an interest in or participated in regional scrutiny over the past seven years have been asked for their views. The final report will be presented for consideration by the Scrutiny Board before being presented to the full Assembly in February 2009.

Emma King, Business Services Officer
December 2008

REGIONAL FUNDING ADVICE 2008

Background

1. The Regional Funding Advice guidance was published on 30 July 2008. It asked that regions provide advice to government on long term investment priorities for elements of transport, housing and regeneration and economic development for the period up to 2018/19 of around £10 billion.
2. Regional endorsement of the overall package of RFA advice will be agreed by, the LGYH, Yorkshire Forward Regional Board and the Assembly before being submitted to Government via Rosie Winterton MP, Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber, in February 2009.

Progress

3. The regional RFA Co-ordinating Group last met on 17 December and work to develop the Advice has moved forward according to the agreed timetable although the draft is still at an early stage. Each of the city/sub regions are considering their own proposals which are being fed into the thematic drafting groups.
4. The Chair of the Assembly, Yorkshire Forward and LGYH have a meeting to discuss progress with the Regional Minister immediately before this meeting.
5. Set out below is a brief summary of progress in each of the thematic drafting groups, with particular reference to some of the challenges being faced in relation to transport.

Transport

6. The Transport Board is having to consider advice on three elements of transport funding: the 'Integrated Transport Block' of funding for Local Transport Plans, the 'Highways Maintenance Block' that covers local roads maintenance, and funding for 'Major Schemes' that funds capital schemes over £5 million. The Board agreed a position on the Integrated Transport Block at its October meeting and on the Maintenance block at its December meeting.
7. The key remaining issue is the Major Schemes block of funding. The key challenge is the limited amount of RFA allocation left once major schemes that are already in the existing programme are taken in to account, compounded

with the large number (and cost) of bids for support for new schemes.

8. Taking account of the scope to 'over programme' it looks as though there is only about £353 million of transport RFA available for new major schemes up to 2018/19. Potential bids have been received which would over-subscribe this by several times. The January Board meeting will have to decide which new major schemes can be supported and there will be many more schemes 'rejected' than can be supported. Greater clarity from city/ sub-regional partners on city/sub-regional priorities would help with this difficult task. The Board will, however, be considering whether there is any merit in maintaining a 'reserve' list of schemes that can be brought into the Programme if existing schemes 'slip' their timetable.

Housing

9. The Regional Housing Board meets on 16 January to finalise the housing element of the Advice. This has been based around the three themes of the Regional Housing Strategy and builds from investment plans prepared by the Sub/City Region Housing Partnerships. Additional proposals relating to regeneration 'spend' that is now the responsibility of the Homes and Communities Agency are also being developed.

Economic

10. This element is being led by Yorkshire Forward and is being shaped by the discussions underway on geographic programmes, efforts are currently being made to provide a stronger spatial focus to the Advice and incorporate more in relation to the impact of the economic downturn.

Sustainable Development

11. An initial assessment of the draft Advice has shown that the balance of priorities is good from a sustainable development perspective.

Timetable and Next Steps

12. The final draft Advice will be available in at the beginning of February for endorsement by the Assembly, Yorkshire Forward and LGYH.

Source Papers	Location
<p>Yorkshire and Humber Assembly: 2 October 2008 Info Note 1: Regional Funding Advice 2008</p> <p>Sustainable Development Board: 23 October 2008 Building Sustainability into RFA2:</p> <p>RFA2 Seminar, GOYH, Lateral, Leeds 6 October 2008 Workshop Discussion: Key Feedback Points</p> <p>Regional Executive Board 6 November 2008 Info Note 2: Regional Funding Advice 2008</p>	<p>All available from:</p> <p>Emma King Yorkshire and Humber Assembly 18 King Street Wakefield WF1 2SQ Tel: 01924 331590 E-mail: Emma.King@yhassembly.gov.uk</p>

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