

REGIONAL HOUSING BOARD MEETING

20 SEPTEMBER 2006: 10.00 – 13.00 (FOLLOWED BY LUNCH)

YHA, 18 KING STREET, WAKEFIELD

AGENDA

1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies
Chair

INTRODUCTION

10.05 – 11.30

2. Board Member Introduction:
• How the Assembly Works
• How the Regional Housing Board fits in and Future Priorities and Ways of Working
Sue Jeffrey/Rob Warm Attached

BREAK

11.30 – 11.45

BUSINESS ITEMS

11.45 – 13.00

3. Minutes of Last Meeting – 6 July 2006
All Attached
4. Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) 2007
Rob Warm Attached
5. Regional Investment Strategy
Isobel Mills/Rob Warm Attached
6. Regional Housing Research Programme
Rob Warm Attached
7. Developing a Gypsy and Travellers Action Plan
Rob Warm Attached
8. Planning and Housing Delivery Grant Consultation
Rob Warm Attached
9. Any Other Business

INFORMATION ITEMS

- Terms of Reference for the Housing Advisory Group
- Integrated Regional Framework (IRF)
- Rural Housing

Attached
Attached
Attached

Date of Next Meeting: 10 January 2007

AGENDA ITEM: 2

REGIONAL HOUSING BOARD MEETING:
20 SEPTEMBER 2006



REGIONAL HOUSING BOARD – FUTURE PRIORITIES AND WAYS OF WORKING

For Information/Decision

To identify future work practices and priority areas where the Board wishes to focus its future work.

Background

1. The RHB is now part of the Assembly's structures. Sitting alongside the planning and transport Boards, it is the key regional forum to set the strategic direction for housing in our region. The functions and membership of the Board were set out in the Welcome Pack circulated ahead of the meeting (a copy of RHB information is attached as **Annex A**).
2. This paper gives an early opportunity to the Board to consider how it wishes to work in the future, how it will build on its impressive track record and to identify what it may wish to focus on.

Building on Success

3. In preparation for transfer extensive discussion have taken place with existing and potential new Board members. In particular, there have been discussions with SRHPs and other partners about their perceptions of the strengths of the Board. Partners have also identified areas where it could develop a stronger role in future. It may be useful to share the 'headlines' from these discussions with Board members in order to help them identify how they wish to work in future.
4. The consensus is that the Board has been effective and focused in its work. It has produced good quality documents on time, and these have reflected the needs and interests of the region. It has put into place effective mechanisms for the commissioning of spend. It has consulted and engaged housing stakeholders and has provided a high profile for housing issues in the region.
5. Stakeholders also identified areas where the Board could develop a stronger role, becoming more challenging on certain issues (accepting that GOYH leadership precluded a very active lobbying role). It was also frequently commented that the link to delivery at sub-regional and local level could be strengthened in the future, with the Board exerting greater leverage through

the spend that it commissions. The connection with non-capital spend was also seen as an area which could be strengthened – both around programmes such as Supporting People and better use of and links to the planning system.

6. In summary, the view of stakeholders was that the Board could become more challenging, and forward focused. It should increasingly focus on delivery and change in the region setting a much stronger strategic direction, and being much more vocal with policy makers in identifying regionally tailored solutions to regional problems. It should also use the resource available to drive that change.

Q - What does the Board itself think are the things that it has done particularly well?

Q - What are the areas where the Board feels it could build upon its successes and develop its working practices?

Areas for the Future: From Strategy to Delivery

7. A key area that needs to be strengthened as the RHB moves forward is strengthening and deepening the relationship between regional strategy and local delivery. In part having SRHPs directly represented at the Board table will help this. It could also be helped by:

- The Board having a more robust 'hard edged' approach to monitoring RHS outcomes, e.g. in terms of considering past delivery record into allocation decisions.
- The Board identifying clearer outcomes or standards in relation to Board funded activity where there is clear regional reason for doing so (e.g. around energy or design standards).
- The Board maximising the benefit of direct links to Assembly members involved in delivery and the links to planning and transport policy.

Q - How do Board members believe the link between strategy and delivery can be improved?

Supporting the Board

8. The resource available to the Assembly to manage and co-ordinate the work of the Board is limited. However, there is a range of organisations that continue to be involved in the housing agenda at a regional level and their input will be critical to our future success.
9. Clarifying and understanding the functions of, and relationships between these different organisations is essential. It is intended to agree a protocol between the various organisations involved in delivering the housing agenda to clarify respective roles. This will include the roles of the Assembly, GOYH, Housing Corporation, the Regional Housing Forum and the Sub-Regional

Housing Partnerships. In particular, the roles of constituent organisations in supporting individual Board members will be key to the RHB's future effectiveness.

10. There will be a new RHB Advisory Group established to help the Board deliver its work. This Advisory Group will involve officers from key organisations meeting to help shape Board agendas, produce Board papers etc. The RHB may also wish to delegate certain functions down to the Advisory Group (e.g. to commission research up to an agreed value).

Future Work Plan

11. The Assembly is also committed to producing a detailed forward workplan for all of its Boards. This will help ensure that decision making takes place in the right place at the right time.
12. A workplan will be produced in autumn 2006 and brought back to the Board for its January meeting. This workplan will set out what needs to happen at each RHB meeting also try and identify the key policy issues that the Board will need to take a view on in order to refresh the strategy and to fulfil its role of advising the new Regional Executive on issues relating to housing. This will reflect the desire to see the Board as a key policy shaping body. The draft workplan will add detail to the following list, but 'big issues' identified for the period may include:
 - CSR 2007 – including how we get the best deal for the region as well as any issues arising from the possible 'absorption' of Pathfinder money into the Single Pot.
 - City regions and implications for housing strategy – including getting a better match between the economic and housing offer in any given locality.
 - Move to more flexible boundaries – for policy making (market areas, city regions etc).
 - Changes to national delivery vehicles – i.e. implications of merger of EP and HC.
 - Better links to and understanding of LAA's.
 - Understanding and responding to demographic change, including the impact of migration into the region.
 - Revision of the strategy and RIF.
 - Gypsy and Traveller provision.

Q - Are these the 'right' issues for the Board to discuss?

Q - What are the other key policy issues likely to arise over the next two years that need to be built into the Board's workplan?

Rob Warm, Head of Housing and Communities
June 2006

Assembly essentials

What you need to know about...

The Regional Housing Board

What is it?

The Regional Housing Board was established by Government in February 2003 to contribute to successful, thriving and inclusive communities, urban and rural, across Yorkshire and the Humber. Originally it was organised and run by Government Office. In September 2006 it will formally move to the Assembly as part of the new governance arrangements.

The Regional Housing Board is the key forum for discussing and deciding housing policy in the region. It exists to:

- Provide regional leadership for housing and ensures delivery of the regional housing strategy;
- Undertake a co-ordinating role, providing leadership for other organisations involved in delivery of housing; and
- Ensure effective linkages with streams of work that remain the responsibility of organisations which are Regional Housing Board members - for example, decent homes, homelessness and supporting people.

What does it do?

The Board is **responsible for producing, updating and monitoring** the **Regional Housing Strategy** and its associated **investment plan**. This investment plan is used to advise Government how best to spend around £150m in the region each year building new affordable homes and regenerating and renewing existing housing and communities.

The Board also plays a key role **influencing and lobbying** Government and other national and regional agencies. The aim is to ensure that **national housing policy fully reflects the needs of the region** and provides the tools and resources to help us deliver the vision and priorities set out in the Regional Housing Strategy.

In the region, the Board also works closely with the Regional Planning Board and the Regional Transport Board to **join up the transport, planning and housing agendas**, and with Yorkshire Forward to ensure **integration of economic development activity**.

How does it work?

The Regional Housing Board is accountable to the Regional Executive Board for delivery of the Regional Housing Strategy. It is responsible for building and maintaining good and productive relationships with bodies and organisations in the region responsible for providing housing and related services, in particular by working with and through the Regional Housing Forum.

What are the priorities for this year?

Between now and April 2007, the Regional Housing Board has these key priorities:

- To feed a housing view into the region's response to the Comprehensive Spending Review;
- To produce a revised Regional Investment Plan to cover the period 2008-11;
- To commission research to improve our understanding of regional housing priorities and to help improve delivery;
- To put in place robust monitoring arrangements for the Regional Housing Strategy; and
- To work with partners to improve delivery of housing in the region.

Assembly essentials

What you need to know about...

The Regional Housing Board

How often does it meet?

The Regional Housing Board meets a minimum of four times each year. All meeting agendas, papers and minutes are available from the Assembly's website.

Who are the members?

The Chair and Deputy Chair are members of the Assembly, one is a Local Authority Member and the other is a Social, Economic and Environmental Partner member. The other members of the Board are not necessarily Assembly members and represent a range of organisations responsible for planning, funding, developing, delivering and managing housing and housing services in the region. These include local authority representatives from the four sub regional housing partnerships.

The current members of the Regional Housing Board are:

Name	Nominating Body
Cllr Kris Hopkins (Chair)	Yorkshire and Humber Assembly
Patricia Farrell (Deputy)	Yorkshire and Humber Assembly
Rob Pearson	English Partnerships
Stuart Whyte	Gateway (Humber Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder)
Julie Gamble	Housing Associations
Ged Walsh	Housing Corporation
Cllr John Briggs	Humber Housing Partnership
Cllr Jean Butterfield	North Yorkshire Housing Partnership
John Kirkham	Private Sector Housing Interests
Cllr Jane Evison	Regional Housing Forum
TBC	Rural Housing Interests
Cllr Sue Ellis	South Yorkshire Housing Partnership
Michael Gahagan	Transform (South Yorkshire Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder)
Cllr Amanda Carter	West Yorkshire Housing Partnership
Michael Hall	Y&H Tenants and Residents
Jan Anderson	Yorkshire Forward
Isobel Mills TBC (Observer)	Government Office

Who supports the Regional Housing Board?

The Regional Housing Board is supported by the Assembly Housing and Communities Team, led by Head of Service, Rob Warm. The key work of the Board is also supported by an Advisory Group. This is made up of officers from the bodies involved in the Regional Housing Board and its role is primarily to provide technical support to the Board.

Current at 29/08/06

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REGIONAL HOUSING BOARD MEETING:
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COMPREHENSIVE SPENDING REVIEW 2007 - REPORT TO THE REGIONAL HOUSING, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT BOARDS

For Discussion

To consider and comment on the regional response to the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007

Background

1. The Comprehensive Spending Review will report in 2007 and will cover spending for the period 2008/9, 2009/10 and 2010/11.
2. CSR2007 is going to be tough. In the context of a tight fiscal climate and growing global challenges CSR2007 will be very much focussed on how to make better use of existing levels of funding in order to achieve Government targets and priorities. The prospect of additional funding being made available at the regional level is slim.
3. Building on the Regional Funding Allocations process the Assembly and Yorkshire Forward have been invited to submit evidence and advice setting out how existing levels of public funding could be better used to achieve the Government's regional economic performance and regeneration targets. The regional submission is to be framed in terms of the five drivers of productivity and employment – enterprise, skills, innovation, investment and competition.

General Content

4. Over the Summer the Assembly has been working closely with Yorkshire Forward and Government Office to develop the draft submission, additionally comments have been sought from the Regional Executive Board Advisory Group.
5. The report is still in draft form but it contains the proposals set out at **Annex A**. A full copy of the draft report (20 pages) is available from Nicola.Plumstead@yhassembly.gov.uk
6. In addition to the specific proposals the response sets out the evidence base against which these proposals have been developed. Where appropriate it includes examples of relevant, successful activity. It will also describe the

regional arrangements for working in partnership. This will describe how we work at regional level including our new governance arrangements. It will reflect governance proposals made by the city regions in their business cases and will emphasise how we effectively link regional strategic decisions with local delivery, particularly by local authorities.

Housing Propositions

7. The broader regional response includes a section on housing in the region. This argues that the message sent to Government as part of CSR2003, that we had two contrasting markets at work in the region, remains highly relevant. In order to 'close the gap' between these markets, Government is asked to continue support for housing market renewal and to give the region the resources and flexibilities needed to improve the region's delivery on affordable housing.
8. The housing element of the general regional response echoes the arguments set out in the draft regional housing response that is being produced by the Regional Housing Forum. The Forum's paper is still developing but sets out three basic proposals asking Government:
 - To remain committed to providing the region with the resources to tackle housing market renewal, in order to deliver on the plans that we have made with the communities living in our most problematic areas
 - To give the region the resources, and the flexibility, to focus our attention on the growing affordability problem that the region faces in order to deliver more affordable homes
 - To safeguard Supporting People resources to ensure that the most vulnerable people in our region get the support they need to live independent lives
9. The Regional Housing Forum has asked that the Board endorse these proposals to lend more weight to its submission. A final copy of the Forum's CSR submission will be circulated to the Board before it is submitted to Government. A full copy of the latest draft is available on request from Nicola.Plumstead@yhassembly.gov.uk

Timetable

10. The draft response is being considered by the Housing, Planning and Transport Boards at meetings in September.
11. Comments from the Boards will be taken into account by the Regional Executive Board before they sign off the response on 28 September. The response will then be submitted to Government by the deadline of 30 September. Yorkshire Forward Board will also sign off the response at its meeting in September.

Pan Northern Activity

- 12.** The Northern Way is also producing a response to CSR2007 and the three Northern Regions and the Northern Way secretariat have now met to 'reinforce common themes and avoid contradictions' in our respective responses. The final Northern Way response will be signed off by the Chair and Management Group on 26 September. The draft Northern Way response is available from Nicola.Plumstead@yhassembly.gov.uk.

Sue Jeffrey, Executive Director
September 2006



COMPREHENSIVE SPENDING REVIEW – PROPOSITIONS FROM THE YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER REGION AT 5 SEPTEMBER 2006

Enterprise

1. *Business Links* – Government to identify Business Links as the primary access channel and brand for all public funded business support.
2. *Enterprise Education* – Government to commission a review into how educational programmes and teaching methods can develop knowledge, self-confidence, initiative, creativity and problem-solving skills in school leavers.
3. *Capital and Revenue Funding Balance* – Government to recognise delivering enterprise requires revenue rather than capital resources and address this balance in the funding of economic agencies.

Innovation and Science

4. *Redistribution of Research and Development Funds* – Government to increase the amount of public research and development funds available to the North of England by redistributing part of the monies invested in the South of England.
5. *Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF)* – Government to align HEIF activity on research and development with the economic needs of Yorkshire and Humber.

Employment

6. *Alignment of National Policy and PSA Targets* – Government to align national policies and ensure that Government departments take a joined-up approach for addressing employment issues eg. aligning skills policy with policies on productivity and worklessness. It is also proposed that there should be a single PSA target for local, regional and national bodies.
7. *Worklessness* – support for regional pilot programmes on worklessness to be maintained, and that Government to make a firm commitment to driving these programmes forward.
8. *Diversity* – Government to undertake a review of how employers can be encouraged to employ more part-time workers at all levels (particularly older workers and women).

Skills

9. *Train to Gain* - Government to consider routing the 'Train to Gain' programme through Business Links to align the programme with other business support services.
10. *Regional Workforce Development Plan* – Learning and Skills Council and Jobcentre Plus to produce a joint Regional Plan for Workforce Development and Worklessness in agreement with the Regional Skills Partnership, to ensure that funding for both organisations follows regionally set priorities.

Overall Public Sector Investment

11. *Level of public sector investment* – Government to maintain a fair and healthy share of overall public sector investment in Yorkshire and Humber.
12. *Recycling Benefit Savings* - Government to consider the potential for recycling benefit savings within the region either into training at NVQ Level 4 and above or in product development schemes with the region's universities.

Transport

13. *Increased Investment* – Government to approve all of the short-term projects identified in the Regional Funding Allocations advice, and longer-term projects in Hull, York and Wakefield.
14. *Transport Innovation Fund* – Government to carefully consider the transport proposals from the region and the wider North under the Transport Innovation Fund, particularly those schemes for key urban centres and those that address congestion.
15. *Northern Way Submission* – Government to carefully consider the Northern Way's submission on transport and the transport priorities for the North.

Private Sector Investment

16. *Regional Private Sector Investors* - it is recommended that the Government maintains the stable macro economic environment and considers the long term impact of national decisions at a departmental level in influencing regional private sector investors.

Housing

17. *Low Demand* - Government to remain committed to providing the region with resources to tackle low housing demand in problematic areas.
18. *Affordability* –Government to provide the region with the resources and flexibility to address the growing problem of unaffordable housing in the region.

Note the housing propositions may be strengthened by proposals currently under development by the Regional Housing Forum and the Regional Housing Board

Quality of Place

- 19.** *Delivery Vehicles for Regeneration* –Government to empower delivery vehicles such as Urban Regeneration Companies with the appropriate powers, resources, remit and time to deliver large-scale transformation projects. This would pool the funds of multiple agencies and partners under one delivery organisation.
- 20.** *Public-Private Joint Ventures* –Government to consider the increased leverage of funds through innovative public-private joint ventures. This would enable more effective engagement with the private sector and create greater returns.
- 21.** *Recycling of Public Expenditure* – Government to consider giving Local Authorities the ability to recycle planning gain supplements and business rates back into local activity. It is also proposed that Regional Development Agencies and other public bodies should be able to reinvest money gained from asset sales and monies gained from capital receipts.

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REGIONAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2008 – 11

For Information

- To note the timetable for advising Ministers on regional investment priorities 2008 –11.

For Decision

- To agree on the process for developing the 2008-11 Regional Investment Strategy.

Background

1. One of the key roles of the RHB is to make recommendations to Government on allocation of capital funding for housing in the region. The expectations of Government regarding the provision of this advice were set out in a letter from DCLG to Assemblies sent in July 2006. This is summarised in **Annex A**.
2. DCLG has now clarified the timescales for submitting advice on priorities to cover the period 2008-11. DCLG will send out their request for this advice in early 2007, and it should be provided by June 2007.
3. As the results of CSR07 will not be available by June, RHBs will not know what resources are available to them, and should therefore express priorities in % terms. The Board may also wish to base their thinking around the planning assumptions included in the Regional Funding Allocation process (Jan 06), which would give a total of £480 million over the three year period. Once the full amount available is known DCLG will invite RHBs to consider whether they wish to revisit the advice already provided before DCLG confirms final allocations for our region.
4. A key factor in determining the total amount of resource available for the region will be the new formula for dividing up resources amongst the nine regions. DCLG will be holding a three month consultation on what elements should constitute the formula and this will start in Autumn 2006. DCLG will not be seeking views on the weightings in the formula, as this would prejudice CSR07. The region will need to respond to this consultation to ensure that the elements included in the formula are those which will potentially lead to higher levels of investment in the region. Details will be circulated to Board members as soon as they are available.

Previous Approaches to Investment

5. Prior to the establishment of RHBs in 2003 and the creation of the SRHP, GOs and Housing Corporation (separately) made recommendations to Ministers on the resource allocations to local authorities (primarily for public and private sector stock condition) and to housing associations for new provision, using needs indicator formulae, performance (LAs) and regional priorities (RSLs). The merging of these funding streams into the SRHP gave RHBs the responsibility for developing a Regional Investment Strategy to provide advice to Ministers on the split of resources to meet regional priorities as well as their geographical distribution within the region.
6. This will be the third time that housing resource allocations have been made based on the recommendations of Regional Housing Boards, the previous allocation periods being 2004/05-2005/06 and 2006/07-2007/08. The investment approach has evolved as follows:

2004/05-2005/06

7. The RHB recognised that the investment period 2004-2006 was very much a transitional one. It recognised the need to “finish off” old business by providing LAs with a minimum 70% formulaic based allocation and meeting existing Housing Corporation commitments and pre-allocations. Equally, it saw it as an opportunity to prepare for the new agenda by commissioning projects to meet RHS priorities. These included kick-starting the West Yorkshire Low Demand Project, the Green Corridor and the Golden Triangle.

2006/07-2007/08

8. For the period 2006-2008, the Board introduced new, longer term strategic investment planning for the period 2006-2008, with sub regional housing partnerships being required to develop new investment programmes. Once commitments (including agreed funding for decency in the council housing sector) had been factored in, ‘new investment’ was targeted on interventions to deliver RHS priorities:
 - **Low Demand** (tackling markets facing low demand/market failure)
 - **Affordability and Fair Access** (tackling difficulties or disadvantages in accessing housing markets)
 - **Private Sector Decency** (delivering decent private sector homes in sustainable housing markets).
9. For the investment period 2006-08, the Board agreed to allocate funding to these themes a weighting of:

Low Demand:	40%
Affordability/Fair Access:	40%
Private Sector Renewal:	20%.

10. Annex B sets out the detail of how sub-regional programmes were built up.

Regional Funding Allocations Exercise

- 11.** Earlier this year, as part of the Regional Funding Allocations exercise, the Board was asked to set out its long term priorities for housing investment in the region. This advice was submitted to Government alongside similar advice relating to transport and the economy and includes recommendations for the period 2008-11. The Board was given a planning assumption of £480m for this period.
- 12.** In submitting this advice, the Board made a commitment to continue with the sub-regional investment planning approach. It also decided to build upon the 3 priority investment themes of Low Demand, Affordability/Fair Access and Private Sector Renewal, by setting out a refined framework for public sector housing investment based around Places, Access and Homes. The RFA advice provides a clear starting point for Board discussions. It is unlikely that the Board will want to revisit decisions that it made so recently. More detail on this investment framework is included as **Annex C**.

The Way Ahead

- 13.** At today's meeting the Board needs to agree the process by which it will develop advice for Ministers by June 2007. This process will need to involve consultation with housing stakeholders and deliverers to ensure the plans are deliverable and have real regional consensus. The key decisions that the Board will ultimately need to make will relate to the split of resources across themes and the way in which this regional split is translated into sub-regional planning assumptions.
- 14.** Much of the work between now and January will be carried out by the RHB Advisory Group. Without prejudging broader consultation with the region, it would be helpful to get an early steer from the Board on the key strategic outcomes it will wish to see from its investment. In particular, it would be helpful to have some discussion on:
- How the Board wishes to encourage better delivery (e.g. by factoring in past delivery record in making future allocations).
 - How the Board will want to encourage a better strategic fit between sub-regional programmes and the regional strategy.
- 15.** The Board is asked to feed in early thoughts on these issues.

For Decision

- 16.** Members are asked:

- To note the timetable for submitting the Regional Investment Strategy to Ministers **Annex A**);
- To reconfirm the decisions taken as part of the RFA exercise – namely that the Board wishes to continue an approach based on sub-regional investment and around the three broad themes of places, access and homes;
- To agree to a process of consultation, with the region, on the intended 'split' between these three priority themes, with a view to the Board making a decision on this split at its January meeting.
- To agree to a process of consultation with the Regional Housing Forum and sub-regional partners on the most accurate and appropriate methodology for translating the thematic split (above) into a sub-regional split.

Rob Warm, Head of Housing & Communities/Carole Cozens, Housing Policy Manager
Yorkshire and Humber Assembly

Regional Housing Board Advice to Ministers

By June 2007, the RHB needs to provide advice to Ministers which will:

- Advise them what the split of funding between local authorities, registered social landlords (and other providers of new affordable housing) and those wishing to provide new or refurbished sites for Gypsies and Travellers should be for their region.
- Provide an explanation of the basis for allocation of funding to local authorities. This needs to set out: any formula based sums (and why a formula based approach has been adopted), amounts to support delivery of decent housing, and the approach to allocating any remaining funding and priorities to be addressed.
- Submit information on the broad outputs/outcomes their recommendations are intended to meet, including the estimated impact on DCLG's PSA targets.
- Provide a matrix setting out the broad pattern of allocation of funding for the National Affordable Housing Programme by type (i.e. rented, low cost home ownership products, schemes to help key workers) and spatial distribution (eg sub-regions and / or strategic schemes).
- Advise Ministers of groups of people for assistance under the Government funded HomeBuy scheme (in addition to social tenants, those on the housing register, and key public sector workers in London, the South East and East of England).

2006/08 Regional Investment Strategy Sub-Regional Programming

1. Implementation of the 2006/08 Regional Investment Strategy had the following key stages:

- Stage 1 Provision to sub regional partnerships of planning assumption ranges built up by meeting commitments in the system (as described in paragraph 6 of the paper) and modelling sub regions' share of the available new investment (as described below) for partnerships to use in developing their investment plans. This use of ranges allowed the Board to respond to the quality and deliverability of emerging programmes
- Stage 2 Consideration of programmes by the Board and the recommendation to Ministers of final sub-regional allocations and the sub-regional split between LA and HC programmes and the balance of funding across investment priorities;
- Stage 3 Based on final sub-regional allocations (as endorsed by Ministers), partnerships to development of final programmes including SRHP allocations to each local authority and the Housing Corporation's development of its regional programme, both for consideration by the Board and recommendation to Ministers.

2. There were two stages to the calculation of 'new money' in the planning assumption ranges for stage 1 above:

- The allocation of 'new money' to RHS priorities, which was made on the following balance of funding:

Low Demand:	40%
Affordability/Fair Access:	40%
Private Sector Renewal:	20%.

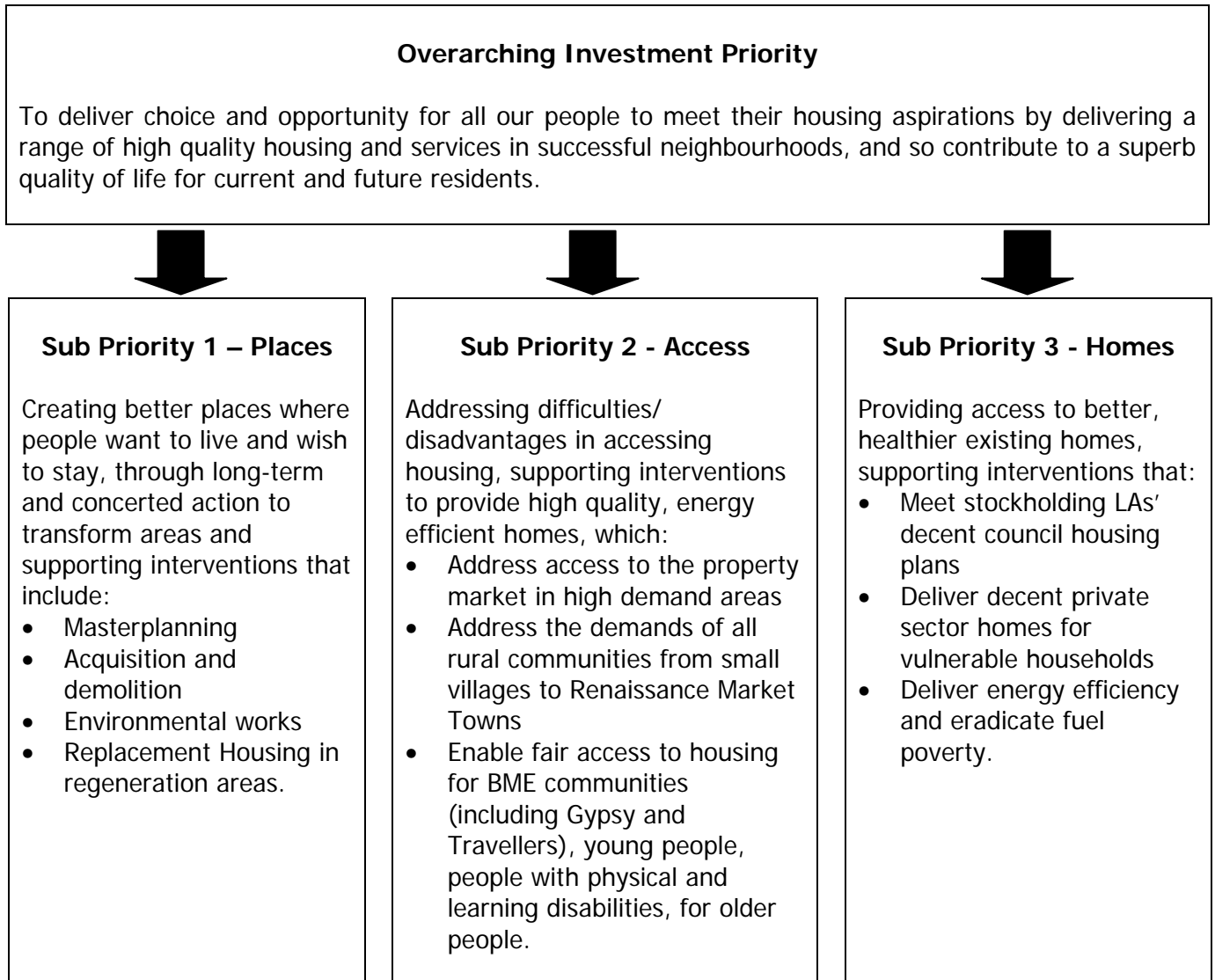
- The generation of sub-regional shares of the resources for each of the priorities (and therefore the sub-regional totals) using the following indicators:

Low Demand	CURS data on % of properties at risk of low demand modified by the Housing Corporation's forecast 2006-2008 balance for its regeneration programme.
Affordability/ Fair Access	% share of the number of households in temporary accommodation from LA homelessness returns (Quarter 3, 2004) combined with the Housing Corporation's proposed programme balance based on past experience, adjusted to reflect the new strategic direction.
Private Sector Renewal	HIP 2004 data on private sector unfitnes combined with ODPM data on the share of vulnerable households in the private sector in non-decent homes.

The process generated the following sub-regional shares for new investment:

	Low Demand	Affordability	Private Sector Renewal
Humber	17%	7%	17.5%
North Yorkshire	0%	40%	11%
South Yorkshire	30%	13%	22%
West Yorkshire	44%	40%	49.5%

Figure 1: Public Sector Housing Investment Framework



REGIONAL HOUSING RESEARCH PROGRAMME

For information

- To update the RHB on delivery of the research programme

For Decision

- To ask the Advisory Group to oversee production of a detailed forward workplan for research (Paragraph 10);
- To confirm the identified priorities for future research (Paragraph 11);
- To agree to the principle of using this resource to support regional and sub-regional activity designed to improve on the ground delivery (Paragraph 15);
- To delegate to the Advisory Group all decisions on spending for the Regional Housing Research Programme where expenditure is less than £25k (Paragraph 17).

Background

1. At its meeting of 4 November 2005, the RHB agreed to ask Ministers to release funding from the single housing capital pot to support a programme of research.
2. Initially there was £720k identified. The Board took the decision to allocate £220k to sub-regions and Government earmarked a further £50k for work outside of the RHB's immediate remit. This left £450k for regionally co-ordinated research to increase our understanding the operation of the region's housing markets. The aim was that this research would help shape thinking for a revised RHS and associated investment plan based upon a more comprehensive understanding of the extent and character of our region's housing markets. This approach was endorsed by the Board.
3. It was also agreed by the Board that without proper and robust co-ordination and management arrangements, the region would not get best value from this research. It was agreed, by the Board and by GOYH that it would be appropriate to use a proportion of this resource to support management arrangements for this resource at the Assembly.

Projects Undertaken

4. The Regional Housing Research Programme has supported two substantial pieces of research:

- Identifying and mapping the region's sub-regional housing markets (completed July 2006).
- Assessing the housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers (completed July 2006).

5. The resource has also been used to purchase a licence for Hometrack Real Demand, a tool to analyse and track housing market trends. This will be used to provide the Board with relevant and timely data to help it monitor delivery of the housing strategy.

Spend

6. The level of spend and committed spend up until April 2008 is:

2006-07	2007-08	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>Income</u> 225,000	<u>Income</u> 225,000	£450,000
<u>Outgoings</u> 29,225 (housing markets) 28,218 (Gypsy and Traveller needs) 8,500 (Hometrack) 14,800 (management/salaries)	<u>Outgoings</u> 27,000 (management/salaries) 15,000 (Hometrack)	(Total spend) £122,743
<u>Available</u> 144,257	<u>Available</u> 183,000	£327,257

7. There is around £327257 to be spent until April 2008, although as this resource comes as grant we do have the ability to carry forward some of this spend into 2008-09.
8. This is a significant level of resource. The original intention, as agreed by the Board in November 05, was to use it to help shape a revised RHS which in turn would shape a revised Investment Plan. However, the timescales from Government mean that a revised Investment Plan will now need to be produced by June 2007 – which would not allow a great deal of time to commission research to review the strategy.

Future Research Priorities

9. There are several pieces of research that are already planned to take place in the short/medium term as well as a number of gaps which partners have identified through the research commissioned so far.

10. It is proposed that the Advisory Group takes on responsibility for drawing together a workplan for future research to be agreed at the next RHB meeting in January. The starting point for this will be a 'stock-take' of existing research to identify any gaps in our understanding that need to be filled.
11. Consultation with key partners, and previously agreed Board objectives have helped identify a number of issues of immediate concern that the Board may wish to address. These relate to:
 - The ability of the region to deliver more affordable housing for less public subsidy. This will build on the work that the Regional Housing Forum has supported to identify key flexibilities that the region is requesting as part of its response to CSR 2007. This work will feed into the new investment plan.
 - Further work to understand characteristics of rural housing markets to better support delivery.
 - Work building upon that undertaken by CURS in Sheffield and Leeds City Regions to increase our understanding of the type and location of jobs and their relationship to housing (effectively this might entail expanding this work to cover the whole of the region).
 - Work to increase our understanding of particular aspects of the housing market – for instance BME housing markets (including the impact on cohesion issues), the 'Buy to Let' market, the impact of Higher Education on housing markets etc.
 - Work to support sub-regional housing market assessments,
 - BRE data to fill an information gap on private sector non-decency and vulnerable groups (BRE data is technical data on the condition of housing stock)
12. The Board is asked to confirm that it continues to believe that these are the key priorities for future research, and to identify any other areas where more research is needed.

Improving Delivery

13. Although this is a substantial and important body of research, it is unlikely that it will require the entirety of the available resource. Given that the amount of research possible ahead of the production of the revised investment strategy is limited, there is the potential for the Board to use this resource differently.
14. One area where partners have consistently identified the potential for the Board to play a stronger role is in directly supporting delivery of the RHS. This would include co-ordinating and commissioning work to provide direct support and advice to sub-regional and local partners in delivering the RHS. The sorts of areas identified in consultation with partners include:
 - Section 106s – supporting better use of existing planning policy at a local level, providing masterclasses, producing best practice information etc

- Gypsies and Travellers – working with Gypsy and Traveller communities to improve their understanding and use of the planning system and working with elected members in overcoming some of the barriers to additional provision.
- Rural housing – working with regional, sub-regional and local partners to identify best practice in provision of rural housing – both directly and through the planning system.

15. Members are asked to agree to the principle that a proportion of the Housing Research money be used to support a programme of regional and sub-regional activity designed to improve on the ground delivery. This will form part of the forward research workplan (e.g. it may be used to support work on providing best practice user guides for better use of Section 106 agreements, or to support regional events which are designed to drive better delivery).

Management Arrangements

16. Clearly, the Board will not want to approve every piece of research that it commissions. In particular, there may be smaller scale pieces of research that require quick turn around of decisions which meet the broader objectives set out in this paper.

17. It is suggested that members delegate to the RHB Advisory Group decisions on spending to deliver the Regional Housing Research Programme where expenditure is less than £25k. For any amounts above this level, agreement will be sought from the full Board, or if timescales do not allow this from the Chair and Deputy Chair

For Decision

18. Members are asked:

- To ask the Advisory Group to produce a detailed forward workplan for research and work to support delivery. This will be brought back to the Board for discussion and endorsement at its January meeting (Paragraph 10);
- To confirm the identified priorities for future research (Paragraph 11);
- To agree to the principle of using this resource to support regional and sub-regional activity designed to improve on the ground delivery (Paragraph 15); and
- To delegate to the Advisory Group all decisions on spending for the Regional Housing Research Programme where expenditure is less than £25k (Paragraph 17).

Rob Warm, Head of Housing and Communities
August 2006

DEVELOPING A GYPSY AND TRAVELLER ACTION PLAN

For Information/For Decision

Updating members about the current regional position in terms of Gypsies and Travellers and asking the Board to agree the most appropriate way forward on this issue.

Background

1. Gypsies and Travellers are one of the most socially excluded, deprived and isolated ethnic minority communities in the UK. The RHB, and the Regional Planning Board, have a responsibility to ensure that there is adequate and appropriate provision for Gypsies and Travellers in Yorkshire and Humber. RHB responsibilities include:
 - Ensuring that the Regional Housing Strategy sets out the level and nature of Gypsies' and Travellers' accommodation needs and identifies regional priorities for addressing identified needs.
 - Ensuring that RHB investment priorities take account of G & T needs.
 - Making recommendations to ministers on the allocation of Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant programme resources.
 - Encouraging a strategic approach to addressing G&T needs which involves a range of partners,
 - Providing political leadership for this agenda.
2. Recent research commissioned by the RHB gives a better picture of current and future accommodation needs for Gypsies and Travellers across the region. This research was designed to provide more clarity in RSS as well as directing RHB investment into those areas with the clearest strategic need.
3. The work based on the caravan count suggests that there are around 1100-1200 Gypsy and Travellers on authorised sites and between 200-500 on unauthorised sites. There are also an unknown number of Gypsies and Travellers living in 'bricks and mortar' housing some of whom would prefer to live in a caravan. There are 554 RSL/LA pitches (accommodating 934 caravans) of which only 33 are transit sites. In addition there are private authorised sites that can accommodate 311 caravans, these are predominantly in Doncaster, North Lincolnshire and Hambleton.

4. The research represents the first stage in developing an up to date understanding of the requirements for Gypsies and Travellers in the region. It has shown that there is an overall shortfall of at least 257 pitches in the region to meet current unmet needs and projected needs to 2010.
5. This unmet need can be broken down at the sub regional level (sampling techniques do not enable this to be further broken down, although the report does conclude that there is a shortfall in every local authority area in the region). The shortfalls in the 4 sub regions are:
 - Humber 34
 - N Yorkshire 57
 - S Yorkshire 78
 - W Yorkshire 86
6. The report also highlights the poor quality of some of the existing provision and the difficulties encountered by Gypsies & Travellers and others who have sought to promote new provision. Accepting that this is a difficult political issue, tensions with the settled community are potentially increased by a lack of sites. Under-provision leads to a vicious circle of unmet need and increasing incidences of unauthorized encampments.

Draft Regional Spatial Strategy

7. Part of the regional response to these issues will be contained in the Regional Spatial Strategy. The Government's recently issued circular on this matter was not issued in time to influence the draft Plan. Therefore, the Assembly is proposing to use the outcome of the research for discussion at the EiP about the priorities for additional provision across the region, in particular identifying significant gaps in meeting identified needs.
8. This debate will lead to recommendations from the Chair of the EiP to the Secretary of State on changes to the draft RSS to ensure it provides more and clearer guidance on levels of provision.
9. The Assembly, in its role as Regional Planning Body has provided some advice to the Panel undertaking the Examination in Public. This advice is that the relevant policy in final RSS should:
 - Include reference to the overall shortfall in provision across the region as set out in the Housing Board's research - providing a benchmark against which to monitor future levels of provision
 - Set out priorities for the completion of local needs studies in areas identified in the research as providing inadequate provision. All areas should be able to produce local needs assessments within 2 years. However local authorities that currently have no provision need to progress more quickly, these are identified as being:

- o North & North East Lincolnshire (study currently underway)
- o Craven
- o Rotherham
- o Calderdale & Kirklees

10. It will be some time before all the detailed work envisaged in the planning circular can be completed. The final RSS should however give a strong lead to planning authorities to take a positive approach in increasing the scale of provision. There will also need to be some support from regional bodies to local authorities to help them deliver this increase in provision.

Housing Board Implications

11. The research also has implications for this Board. The Housing Board has responsibility for making recommendations to Ministers on the allocation of £2.632m of funding to develop and improve Gypsy and Traveller sites in the region over the period 2006/07 -2007/08. Whilst it is not clear if there will be dedicated resources for supporting G&T provision post-2008, there is clearly an expectation from DCLG that the Board will have an important ongoing role in supporting work in this policy area.

12. Taking existing commitments from the earlier bidding round into account there remains around £1.1m to allocate for 2007/08. Following the previous bidding round (where the Board and Ministers were disappointed that applications were almost wholly for refurbishment rather than additional provision), it will be important to take all opportunities to encourage bids for new provision for the available resources.

13. A second bidding round for remaining funding for 2006/07 and outline bids for 2007/08 was launched on 25 July, with submissions due by 30 September and full bids for next year by the end of February. For this region, further allocations for 2006/07 would depend on slippage, but expressions of interest will give helpful early indications about what is likely to come in for next year, and the need for targeted work in encouraging bids.

14. Early indications are that the full allocation for 2007-08 may not be fully taken up, although this will not be clear until outline bids are received at the end of the month. Once expressions of interest have been agreed a summary list will be circulated the Board and, if necessary, discussed by the Advisory Group. In light of outline applications, the Board will need to take a view whether it wishes to be more active in stimulating more interest from local authorities – particularly in those areas with the most pressing levels of identified need.

Towards an Action Plan

15. Driving up the quality, availability and appropriateness of site provision is something that the region needs to do in order to meet the housing needs of

Gypsies and Travellers and to comply with legislation. The Board will need to decide how best to do this.

- 16.** There are a number of strands of work that the region will need to support to deliver better provision in this area. These may include:
- Providing targeted RHB funding to support additional sites in priority areas.
 - Providing targeted RHB funding to improve existing sites.
 - Work with groups of local authorities to help them carry out sub-regional assessments, and provide practical support to other local authorities to help them carry out consistent needs assessments.
 - Work with Gypsy and Traveller communities to help them make better use of the planning system.
 - Work with elected members to encourage positive political engagement (this is clearly a priority for Government and DCLG is planning a meeting with West Yorkshire leaders in October to discuss this issue).
 - Providing examples of enforcement activities that work.
- 17.** One way to deliver on this agenda would be through the RHS workplan, which will be developed in Autumn 2006 (see paper A12 – Ways of Working, paragraph 11). This could include a dedicated strand of work to deliver more and better provision for Gypsies and Travellers. The other alternative would be to have a dedicated Gypsy and Traveller action plan which pulls together and co-ordinates regional housing, planning and economic strategy on this issue.
- 18.** The Board is asked whether it sees value in developing a separate Gypsy and Traveller Action Plan for the region, or whether it wishes to see this work as part of the broader RHS workplan.
- 19.** This is clearly a high-profile and politically contentious piece of work. Getting engagement from local authorities and the Gypsy and Traveller communities alike may be difficult. The Board is asked whether it believes there would be any value in the Assembly and Government Office convening a small regional group to identify potential ways forward on this agenda. Such a group would probably comprise local authority representatives, representatives from the Gypsy and Traveller communities and regional agencies, and could be based on an existing group. If the Board chose to develop an action plan, this group could effectively become the drafting group for the plan.

For Decision

- 20.** Members are asked:
- (a) To note the research and the advice given to the Panel for the Examination of the Regional Spatial Strategy.

- (b) To determine if there is value in a separate Gypsy and Traveller action plan, or would it make more sense to integrate this into the broader RHS workplan?
- (c) To agree to the Assembly and GOYH pulling together a regional group to take a regional lead role on this issue.

Rob Warm, Head of Housing and Communities
September 2006

AGENDA ITEM: 8

REGIONAL HOUSING BOARD MEETING:
20 SEPTEMBER 2006



HOUSING AND PLANNING DELIVERY GRANT CONSULTATION – JOINT PAPER TO THE REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD AND THE REGIONAL HOUSING BOARD.

For Decision

The Board is asked to agree the approach to an Assembly response set out in paragraphs 9 and 10.

Introduction

1. As part of the Government's response to the Barker Review of Housing Supply, the Government announced that it would reform the Planning Delivery Grant and consult on planning and housing incentives.
2. The Government is currently seeking views on two related consultation papers: one on the principles and potential options for a new housing and planning delivery grant and one on the proposed allocations criteria for the planning delivery grant in 2007/08.
3. Both of these consultation papers include proposals that will affect the funding available for the Assembly and the local authorities in the region. Some of the proposals have already attracted regional press attention as they relate to financial incentives being linked to housing completions.

Summary of Proposals

Housing and Planning Delivery Grant

4. A new Housing and Planning Delivery Grant is proposed. This is based on the principle that there need to be incentives to encourage local authorities to actively deliver housing. The principles of the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant are proposed as follows:
 - Strengthen the incentive for local authorities to respond to local housing pressures
 - Support increased housing delivery to meet local needs
 - Encourage local authorities to become proactively involved in the delivery of new housing and unlock blockages in the delivery chain
 - Return the benefits of growth to the community through new funding streams
 - Incentivise efficient and effective planning procedures

5. The consultation paper sets out who would be the beneficiaries of the grant (it proposes local planning authorities, urban development corporations, regional planning bodies and planning advisory and support services). It goes on to detail how the grants would be calculated against housing delivery and how plan making could be incentivised. It asks for comments on the proposals or for alternatives to be put forward.

Planning Delivery Grant Allocations 2007/08

6. The Government is proposing that a significantly higher proportion of the Planning Delivery Grant allocations for 2007/08 will be related to housing delivery than has been the case in previous rounds.
7. The consultation paper sets out the proposed funding to be split across performance related to: housing delivery, enterprise areas, processing planning applications, plan making, e-planning and delivery of sustainable development. It proposes top slicing grants for regional planning bodies, the Inspectorate and national initiatives. Comments are invited on all the proposals.

Assembly Response

8. The consultation deadline for both these papers is 17 October 2006.
9. It is proposed that the Assembly responds to both consultation papers, focusing on how the incentives and proposed allocations criteria will:
 - help to deliver regional policy and regional housing targets
 - be relevant for local authorities across the region, recognising the complexity of the issues to which local authorities need to respond
 - affect the Assembly's ability to deliver its business plan targets
10. It is proposed that a response to these consultations is prepared by a joint officer group drawn from the Housing and Planning Boards, so that a response can be circulated to the Boards for comment and signed off by the Chairs of the Boards.

Jenny Poxon, Head of Planning Delivery & Conformity/Rob Warm, Head of Housing and Communities
September 2006

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE HOUSING ADVISORY GROUP

Aim

1. The Regional Housing Board in Yorkshire and Humber was established in February 2003 in order to contribute to successful, thriving and inclusive communities, urban and rural, across Yorkshire and the Humber. In September of this year it will move to the Assembly.
2. The aim of the Housing Advisory Group is to provide technical support and advice to the Board in its new role.
3. The Group will be chaired by the Assembly, who will also act as Secretariat.

Key Tasks for the Group

4. The key tasks for the Housing Advisory Group are to:
 - Debate and contribute to papers for the RHB meetings;
 - Provide technical expertise of housing related issues;
 - Provide the RHB with the information it needs in order for it to make informed decisions;
 - Advise the RHB on regional housing issues, including research priorities; and
 - Deliver in areas where the Board chooses to delegate responsibility to the Housing Advisory Group (e.g. commissioning research up to a certain value).

Decision Making

5. Decisions will be arrived at by consensus.

Frequency of Meetings

6. Meetings frequency will be not less than that of the RHB, and may be more frequent depending on the workload. The Group will meet before each RHB meeting to discuss the agenda and the proposed papers.

Membership

7. The membership will be officer/professional based, and will broadly reflect the membership of the RHB. Initially, membership will be:

- The four Sub-regional Housing Partnerships
- Government Office
- Housing Corporation
- YHA
- Housing Association representative
- Regional Housing Forum

Other organisations may be invited for specific items.

Housing Advisory Group
August 2006

SCOPING REPORT FOR THE INTEGRATED REGIONAL FRAMEWORK

Purpose of this Report

1. Earlier this year, in *Securing the Regions' Futures*, Government set out guidance on strengthening delivery of sustainable development in the English regions. The guidance states that each region should rationalise current arrangements to produce a single high-level strategic framework that is fully in line with the UK Sustainable Development Strategy and incorporates a set of 'essential ingredients' by December 2007.
2. The Government has invited regions to report by the end of September 2006 on how their own regions' high-level strategy arrangements are taking account of these "essential ingredients". This Scoping Reports sets out the approach that is being taken in Yorkshire and Humber to develop a new Integrated Regional Framework. It explains the process that will be followed, who will be involved and how the essential ingredients will be incorporated. **Annex 1** of the report includes a table that summarises this.

Introduction

3. The region has a fully supported vision for a sustainable future that is set out in *Advancing Together* and a set of aims for sustainable development in the Regional Sustainable Development Framework. Despite effective regional strategies that are bringing about economic, social and environmental improvements and are raising average standards of living in Yorkshire and Humber, we are not bringing about sustainable development and are not delivering a better quality of life for everyone.
4. The Integrated Regional Framework is an opportunity to deal with this, tackle difficult issues that stand in the way of sustainable development as well as help to align further and integrate regional policies and funding so that they work collectively to deliver a sustainable future.

Developing the Framework

5. The new framework will bring together and merge the existing *Advancing Together* and Regional Sustainable Development Framework.
6. The vision for the sustainable future set out in *Advancing Together* is likely to be retained as this has widespread support. The six objectives in *Advancing Together* and the 15 aims and cross-cutting themes in the Regional

Sustainable Development Framework can be rationalised and simplified. Inconsistencies between these can also be resolved.

7. The full Assembly has agreed to direct the development of the Framework and has delegated responsibility to the Regional Executive Board to oversee its development, implementation and monitoring and to use the Framework to secure alignment of regional activity.

Review Opportunity

8. The development of the new Integrated Regional Framework is an opportunity to reinforce regional priorities and acknowledge and resolve gaps and conflicts in regional strategies. This will lead to better policy-making; more consistent and aligned decision-making; the effective implementation of regional strategies and better targeting of investment.
9. Adopting this approach is clearly challenging, as it requires dealing with complex and controversial issues. But the region is committed to rising to this challenge, identifying the long term of current activity and setting the framework for taking the difficult decisions that will inevitably emerge.

Key Policy Issues for the IRF

10. A key element of the Framework is using regional intelligence (provided in Progress in the Region) to identify and explore where there are problems achieving regional goals. Dealing with long term problematic trends that cut across regional strategies should be the principle focus of the Framework.
11. Further work will take in the Autumn of 2006 to look at the more up to date information available to examine progress against targets. Yorkshire Futures, the Regional Observatory, will lead on this work.
12. Preliminary examination of the data and existing regional strategies has flagged up that the following issues are where there are persistent and problematic trends that need to be addressed to deliver sustainability in the region.
 - ***Widening Gaps in Income and Inequalities***
How can economic growth, particularly in the city regions, also benefit the most deprived sections of our communities?
 - ***Transport***
How can the promotion and enhancement of the city regions be achieved without increasing the impact of travel within them, particularly from commuting? How can economic growth be achieved in North Yorkshire in the context of general housing restraint, without leading to increasing commuting?

- ***Climate Change/Energy***
How are Regional Strategies each contributing to the attainment of regional targets for reducing greenhouse gas targets? What further policy changes and actions are needed to address shortfalls?
- ***Housing Affordability***
How can housing needs be addressed taking account of the split in the housing market in the region with parts of the region suffering market failure and parts with very high house prices?
- ***Obesity***
How can regional policies and investment turn around the trend towards increasing levels of obesity in region?

Development Process

13. The Regional Executive Board has established an Advisory Group that will manage the development of the Integrated Regional Framework alongside other initiatives being overseen by the Regional Executive Board, including the regional response to CSR2007. The Advisory Group includes representatives from sub-regions, city-regions, local authorities and SEE partners to ensure that clear connections are made between the regional priorities, aims and objectives in the Integrated Regional Framework and the work of delivery agencies.
14. The responsibilities and key tasks of the Advisory Group have been agreed and are set out below.

Responsibilities:

- to prepare the draft and final versions of the Integrated Regional Framework;
- to base the development of the Framework on robust evidence;
- to involve and consult relevant stakeholders;
- to ensure that the Framework is prepared in accordance with the expectations of the Regional Executive Board and in line with Government guidance*; and
- to oversee the work of two sub groups responsible for developing the indicators and monitoring framework and a sustainability/ integration appraisal system for the Integrated Regional Framework.

(* In particular, to ensure that the draft and final versions of the Integrated Regional Framework set out regional priorities, objectives and associated actions, ensures the effective implementation of the framework through other regional and local plans and includes monitoring framework with appropriate indicators.)

Key tasks:

- By mid-September complete the scope and project plan for the Integrated Regional Framework;
- Prepare the consultation draft of the Integrated Regional Framework by end March 2007;
- Manage the consultation on the Draft Integrated Regional Framework over a 12-week between March – June 2007; and
- Review the results of the consultation process and prepare the final version of the Integrated Regional Framework by September 2007.

15. The Advisory Group is accountable to the Regional Executive Board. The Advisory Group will report to meetings of the Board as follows:

- 28 September 2006: Scope and project plan, and September draft response to Government.
- 16 November 2006: Progress report, including proposals for the key significant issues that the Framework will address.
- 18 January 2007: Consultation draft of the Integrated Regional Framework and consultation plan.
- 21 June: Results of the consultation process.
- September 2007: Proposed final draft of the Integrated Regional Framework.

16. It is anticipated that the Regional Executive Board will refer the consultation and final drafts of the Integrated Regional Framework to meetings of the full Assembly. It is expected that the consultation version will be presented to the meeting of the Full Assembly to be held on 15 February 2007.

Sian Ferguson, Head of Strategy Integration and Sustainable Development
September 2006

How the Yorkshire and Humber Integrated Regional Framework will address the 'Essential Ingredients' on Sustainable Development for Regional High-Level Strategy/Strategies

Evidence Base	Existing intelligence will be used to inform the development of the framework. Additional research needs have been identified and will be progressed during 2006. These are: The Regional Observatory, Yorkshire Futures, is a key partner.
Stakeholder Involvement	Assembly members, including local authorities and SEE partners and stakeholders will be involved in the working groups responsible for drafting the framework. The consultation on the draft version will actively involve other regional partners and local organizations, such as local strategic partnerships, primary care trusts and businesses.
Integrated Vision	The IRF will set out the region's vision for a sustainable future and relate this in a straightforward and clear way to the region's priorities included in the main regional strategies
Aims and Objectives	The aims and objectives in the framework will address issues that impede progress on regional priorities that are not covered by existing regional strategies and how to achieve better integration between regional policy and resource allocation.
Indicators, Actions and Targets	The regional observatory, Yorkshire Futures, produces the region's annual monitoring report, Progress in the Region. This report will, in the future, be the reporting system for the framework. A working group, chaired by the Director of Yorkshire Futures, will develop proposals for the indicators that will be adopted. These will take into account the national sustainable development indicators as well as regional priorities. The framework will include an action plan with targets to deliver the objectives.
Monitoring and Reporting	As mentioned above the monitoring and reporting on the framework will be undertaken by Yorkshire Futures and published as Progress in the Region.

Sub Regional and Local Levels	The framework will ensure the mechanisms are in place with partners at regional, sub-regional and local levels to deliver the objectives. This is considered as a crucial part of the development of the framework.
Sustainability Appraisal	A sustainability appraisal of the draft framework as well as a REAP analysis will be undertaken during the consultation period.

RURAL HOUSING - UNDERSTANDING THE ISSUES AND DRIVING FORWARD THE SOLUTIONS IN AN INTEGRATED WAY.

Background

1. Most people will be aware of the critical housing issues currently affecting rural communities. Issues are deep rooted and are not new but have been exacerbated by continuing increases in house prices and changes to economic and social structures.
2. Over the last decade the average rural house price in the UK has risen 171% compared with 166% in urban areas. In Selby (the fastest rising Y&H district) average prices have risen by 219%, with prices rising from £55,891 in 1994 to £178,058 in 2004 (Halifax Rural Housing Index 2005). This has resulted in people moving out of rural areas, especially the young, and wealthier people moving in, especially people at retirement age, all of which affect the affordability of housing for local people and ultimately the long term sustainability of rural communities.
3. At a regional level work carried out as part of the development of the Y&H Rural Framework identified that delivery of rural housing in the region is over complicated. It involves numerous organisations, partnerships, delivery programmes and funding streams. The region also has fundamental issues around land availability and, consequently, the value of land in rural areas as well as issues around rural programmes being often overshadowed by urban agendas. Other problems relate to the need for more investment to be allocated to rural housing as well as the need to overcome barriers to delivery. There is also a call to provide Rural Housing Enablers with better long term security and the need to develop more 'district' needs surveys bringing together planning, housing and economic activity better.
4. Over the last couple of years there have been many research studies and initiatives carried out at a national and regional level looking to identify and tackle the housing problem. However, it could be argued that the volume of activity has somewhat produced a confusing picture.
5. In Yorkshire and Humber there is a lot of activity tackling rural housing issues. There are many successful schemes being carried out by Rural Housing Enablers, the National Parks and the Local Authorities and there have also been a variety of regional research studies.

6. This paper identifies some of the national and regional research into rural housing, in particular the Affordable Rural Housing Commission report and Government's anticipated response (Sept/Oct06) and other key reports carried out by the Commission for Rural Communities. There is a need to look at this in respect of the activity already being carried out in region and learn lessons from successful rural housing schemes. Future activity does however, needs to be better coordinated, ensuring maximum impact and that it influences and delivers regional strategies and directs investment decisions.

Existing Research

7. Recent research has looked at the needs and issues affecting rural housing, in particular with respect to affordability issues. The list below is not exhaustive but provides some of the key pieces of work.

Research/ Initiative	Key Points
The Affordable Rural Housing Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up by DEFRA in July 05. It inquired into the scale, nature and implications of the shortage of affordable rural housing for rural communities. Reported to Government in May 06 and response expected in Autumn 06. • Recommends: 11,000 units of affordable housing per year in settlements below 10,000 population • Delivery of rural housing must be part of mainstream planning system • Government reviews the sustainability criteria to determine policies for rural areas – ensuring social issues and the local economy needs are given attention when assessing RSS's and LDFs. • Local Authorities work with private companies which can deliver affordable housing, where appropriate to maximise opportunities without using public subsidies
Various reports: The Commission for Rural Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have produced a variety of reports relating to rural housing • <i>The provision of affordable and supported housing in National Parks</i> – highlights the need for regions to recognise particular NP issues and raise the value of Rural Housing Enablers at delivering affordable housing schemes in NP's • <i>The housing and support needs of older people in rural areas</i> – highlights the need to enable choice around meeting housing needs not just about housing but about other key feature of rural living such as transport and range of services • <i>Calculating the Housing Needs in Rural Areas</i> – provides a 'needs' table looking at small villages and market towns and calculates that there is a need for 30000 homes to meet current backlog and provide additional homes.
The HRH Prince of Wales Affordable Rural Housing Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Started in 2003, has spent a great deal of time talking to different people and communities throughout the country • Focuses on design and actual building of affordable housing - has found that one of the biggest problems which schemes face is the resistance from local communities • One of the Initiative's outcomes has been to provide a guide that shows that design does not have to suffer because it is affordable.
Rural Housing in Yorkshire and Humber 2004 Housing Corporation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed a rural housing needs index, which drew together a range of key dimensions, greatest weight was given to house purchase affordability, and the lack of social rented housing • The indicator showed that the rural wards with the greatest needs in the region were located in a range of local authority districts, including areas in Hambleton, Harrogate, Scarborough, Richmondshire, Ryedale and Craven. • Households in Richmondshire and Craven stand out experiencing particular difficulties in being able to meet their housing needs.

Research/ Initiative	Key Points
Rural Housing in Yorkshire and Humberside 2005 National Federation and Chartered Institute of Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggests various recommendations: • Adopt a rural section 106 protocol • Designate and register sites for rural development • Retain affordable homes in perpetuity • English Partnerships to adopt specific priority for delivering affordable housing on brown field sites in rural areas • Review funding and monitoring procedures for rural housing • Housing Corporation to ring fence NAHG to rural areas where savings are made through other public funding contributions • Apply S17 of the Housing Act 1996 to rural areas • Ringfence council tax on second homes to fund LA housing development programme

The Region's Approach

8. At a regional level there needs to be a clear understanding of the issues and opportunities and strong strategic direction for what needs to be done. Government's response to the ARHC report may provide some guidance but there is still work to do to develop a coordinated regional vision for rural housing. The table below indicates *briefly* what regional strategy is currently saying about rural housing.

Regional Strategy	Key Points
Regional Housing Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicates the need to identify market towns or other areas, which demonstrate a need for affordable housing, to improve the accessibility to housing in high demand areas; • Supports the needs for sufficient key worker housing in rural areas; • Considers affordable housing essential to a sustainable rural community • Highlights fuel poverty being a particular issue in rural areas due to housing structure
Draft Regional Spatial Strategy (The Yorkshire and Humber Plan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong focus on local communities and on addressing issues around service provision, housing, social inclusion and transport as well as protecting and enhancing environmental quality and promoting greater self-sufficiency (eg. Policy YH7) • Recognises the need to allow 'appropriate' development in principal and local service centres to tackle local need issues in particular addressing economic and housing need in rural areas (YH7) • Provides provision rates to help deliver affordable housing (H1) • Policies to: negotiate housing to meet local needs, to promote a mix of housing to address local needs, to encourage the use of exceptions sites (H3&H4) • Emphasis on Local Planning Authorities to identify areas of need and potential sites (H3) • Sub-area approach enables greater specificity in policy approach to address rural policy issues
Regional Economic Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognises the need for affordable housing in rural areas, and supports this as a priority in Objective 6, c: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii) Tackle access to transport, services and affordable housing

Regional Strategy	Key Points
<p style="text-align: center;">Yorkshire and Humber Rural Framework</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognises the need to develop a clear understanding of rural housing issues in the region and one of its 10 key priorities reflects this. • Highlights the complex nature of rural housing delivery in the region and states that one of its key actions is to identify and address the barriers and interventions required to facilitate delivery of RHS targets for new affordable housing.

Gaps

9. In light of recent research and current regional strategic direction, several areas where there might need to be more work done in the region are:
- Ensure regional activity is taken forward in a more integrated and co-ordinated way
 - Ensure there is a clear understanding of regional governance structures and how rural housing initiatives can influence these structures (taking into account both housing and rural structures)
 - Ensure future investment decisions take on board the extent of the rural housing issues and the opportunities there are in tackling them
 - Ensure issues are fully debated at sub-regional level
 - Ensure delivery is improved and supported
 - Identify national and regional examples of good practice
 - Ensure specific financial pressures, in particular around the future of the currently successful Rural Housing Enabler schemes in the region are taken into account
 - Investigate possible areas of further research needed eg. rural housing markets
 - Group/ forum of rural experts to be engaged, through rural representative on the Board.
10. The Regional Housing Strategy needs to be fully representative of rural housing needs and that regional housing structures invest and steer effective delivery.

Next Steps

11. There is a seat on the Board for rural housing interests that has yet to be filled. There is also commitment to produce a detailed action plan for the Regional Housing Strategy and it is suggested that there is a specific strand focusing on rural housing.
12. The Regional Housing Forum have recently established a Rural Housing sub-group that met for the first time in July and is due to meet in October. This group represents some of the key organisations delivering rural housing initiatives in the region, including Sub-regional Partnerships, Pathfinder project (Golden Triangle), National Housing Federation, North Yorkshire National Park

and Yorkshire and Humber Rural Community Council (representing Rural Housing Enablers).

- 13.** The group's remit will be on improving local delivery of rural housing, identifying and addressing the barriers to this. Their first meeting highlighted that there are still fundamental links needed between planning and rural housing and there is a requirement to look into what Local Authorities need to have in place in order to delivery more effectively in rural areas, using more 'rural friendly' criteria.
- 14.** The group will develop strands of activity and look to influence the Board, through the rural representative (once appointed), in future housing board and investment decisions. It aims to provide a forum to encourage;
- Better local delivery through sharing good practice
 - More regional coordinated activity
 - Lobbying at a regional and national level
 - Potential future joint regional initiatives

Source Papers

- 15.** Past reports on this subject are available as follows:

References	Location
Affordable Rural Housing Commission Report	http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/housing/commission/default.htm
Commission for Rural Communities - Various report	http://www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk/page.asp?pID=6
Regional Housing Strategy, 2005 - 21	http://www.gos.gov.uk/goyh/mpcs/housing/301652/301762
The Yorkshire and Humber Plan Draft (Regional Spatial Strategy)	www.yhassembly.gov.uk
The Yorkshire and Humber Rural Framework	www.goyh.gov.uk/goyh/menvrur/rrp/rurstat
Regional Economic Strategy	www.yorkshire-forward.com

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