

**MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD: 21 OCTOBER 2008**

**1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

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

A full attendance list is attached as **Annex A**.

**2. Minutes of the Regional Planning Board Meeting – 29 July 2008**

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

**3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters other than the ones listed and these were **noted** by Members.

**4. Work Programme Update**

Members were given an update on key ongoing areas of work not specifically covered under other agenda items.

In the Discussion which followed the following points were raised:

- What are the timescales for the Sand and Gravel Study? It was noted that there have been concerns over the deliverability of production levels in West Yorkshire which the Assembly is trying to address. This will involve working with the British Geological Society to go through existing data and attempt to get agreement in the figures. There will be a report back to the Board at its next meeting.
- Is this data available to local authorities? It was noted that the data is still being checked for consistency but will be made available once this has been done.
- How many local authorities have completed an

**ACTION**

**Rob Murfin**

employment land review? It was noted that the Assembly has assisted several local authorities with their employment land reviews. The details of these will be circulated to Board members for information.

Cllr Bill Newman then offered an update from the Regional Housing Board meeting held on 3 October at which an action plan to address the current economic downturn was considered. It was noted that the items discussed included national Mortgage Rescue schemes, ways of working with the new Housing and Communities Agency to deliver housing provision and the provision for gypsies and travellers.

The Work Programme Update was **noted** by Members.

## **5. Sub National Review – General Update and Key Messages**

The Chair introduced this item and gave Members an update on the current position of the Sub National Review.

Members were advised that the Regional Executive Board had endorsed the Local Government Yorkshire and Humber (LGYH) decision to have a target date of 1 April 2009 for transition to new arrangements. The Chair also updated Members on a meeting he had attended along with the Deputy Chair, with Terry Hodgkinson (Chair of Yorkshire Forward), Cllr Arthur Barker (Chair of LGYH), Simon Foy (Yorkshire Forward), Clare Coates (LGYH) and Chris Martin, to discuss the future membership and functions of the Regional Planning Board. It was noted that this had been a successful meeting and it had been agreed that the Assembly and the existing boards would cease to exist on 1 April and the new thematic boards would begin in their place. In preparation for this representatives from Yorkshire Forward and LGYH are currently attending functional board meetings to consult with members on the best way forward. The main focus of this consultation is working together to create a structure in which the Single Regional Strategy can be developed and used. It was also noted that the message had been and would continue to be stressed that the new Planning Board should retain a mixed membership of local authority and non local authority members and its current executive powers.

Members were also advised that SEE Partners planned to continue meeting as a separate grouping for the foreseeable

future and that it was important that they had a role in the new structures.

Members noted that it would be useful to know the membership of the boards sooner rather than later. It was confirmed that LGYH would be organising a meeting to work this out shortly though it was likely there would be some interim arrangements before final membership is confirmed.

Members also made a plea that the work of the new boards remains as transparent and easy to follow as in the current structure.

Finally Members asked for clarity on whether the Regional Planning Forum would continue. It was noted that forums and groups below the boards would be considered as part of the ongoing discussions. It was **agreed** that an update be circulated to all Members once more information is available.

**Paul Rogerson**

This update was **noted** by Members.

## **6. RSS 2009 Update – Options Consultation Document**

Chris Martin introduced this item and explained the next stage in the partial review of the RSS, the Spatial Options consultation.

This was followed by two presentations one on housing pressures and provision under the Yorkshire and Humber Plan and one on the Sub Area Spatial Options.

In the discussion that followed Members raised a number of points:

- A key is needed in the maps for the Sub Area Spatial Options maps. This was noted.
- There is a need to acknowledge more explicitly the current economic climate.
- The Plan needs to make provisions for the poorer sectors of society as they will be worst hit by the current financial downturn. Factors such as the cost of travel and basic commodities need to be considered alongside housing provision.
- The consultation needs to include more basic information to help people that have not been involved in the process to date to respond.
- The consultation needs to be wider to allow more work to

be done on the impacts at local level, for instance the work being done on local development frameworks and strategic land assessments. It was noted that one of the purposes of the consultation was to enable local authorities and others to respond with this information.

- Some Members were uncomfortable with asking questions about whether we needed to move beyond the Core Approach of the current plan and felt that the Plan should stay within these agreed limits. It was noted that the question the consultation poses is whether the Core Approach is sufficient to accommodate new levels of growth – this is not a statement of what will happen. Again evidence on this was what was being sought.
- The tone and language used in the consultation needs to be more specific.
- The transport infrastructure to support this increased growth needs to be taken into consideration.
- It is important that elected leaders are involved in this consultation as well as planning officers.

Members **agreed** the commencement of the Spatial Options consultation on the basis that a final draft of the documents would be prepared to take into account the comments made by members and that these would be circulated for Board members to comment upon before being published for consultation.

**Richard  
Wood**

## **7. RSS 2009 Update – Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Process**

Chris Martin introduced this item and explained that sustainability appraisal is a statutory requirement for the preparation of the Regional Spatial Strategy 2009 Update.

Members asked if the Sustainability Appraisal of the current RSS was available to view on the Assembly's website. It was noted that it is available on Government Office's website [www.goyh.gov.uk](http://www.goyh.gov.uk).

Members **noted** this item.

## **8. RSS 2009 Update – Consultation and Engagement Programme**

Chris Martin gave Members an update on the proposed timetable and engagement programme for the Spatial Options consultation.

Members raised the following concerns:

- The consultation period will not be wide enough for a full response from city regions – what is the possibility of deferring it by one or two months?
- How will the Assembly ensure it is consulting fully with the general public and smaller bodies like town and parish councils?
- The consultation period clashes with the festive period which could cause problems.

In response to these queries Members were advised that this is an informal consultation so any late comments will be considered. The January deadline for this meeting is to allow feedback at the next meeting of the Planning Board. Members were also advised that engagement has already begun with town and parish councils, to ensure wider dissemination, as Assembly planning officers attended their recent AGM in Scarborough. In terms of engagement with the general public the Assembly will be asking local authorities to help with this by publicising the consultation on their websites and through their communication networks. Full information will also be available on the Assembly's website.

Members were also advised about the consultation events which begin in November. It was decided to hold these in each of the sub regions to allow as full engagement as possible. There will be four daytime events and additional evening drop in sessions to allow people to attend when it is convenient.

Members **agreed** that the deadline for this consultation be extended to the end of January 2009 to allow a fuller consultation. The next planned meeting of the Board in February would be moved to a later date as a consequence.

**Emma King**

## **9. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

Emma King, Business Services Officer  
November 2008

**Attendees**

Cllr Peter Box	Chair
Cate Hammond	Deputy Chair
Chris Marshall (Sub)	Environment Sector
Gill Stride	Environment Sector
Will Fieldhouse (Sub)	Government Office (Observer)
Cllr Mick Grant	Humber Local Authorities
Cllr Anne Hawkesworth	Leeds City Region
John Fletcher	North Yorkshire Local Authorities
Cllr Gerald Smith	Sheffield City Region
David Slater	Social Sector
Cllr Bill Newman	South Yorkshire Local Authorities
Cllr David Whiteley	Town and Parish Councils
Barry Anderson	West Yorkshire Local Authorities
Patrick Bowes (Sub)	Yorkshire Forward

**Visitors**

Chris Hughes	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
David Feeney	Leeds City Council
Paul Rogerson	Regional Chief Executives Group
Andy Duncan	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Jessica Lee	Yorkshire Forward
John Pilgrim	Yorkshire Forward

**Staff**

Stuart Clewlow  
Marta Dziudzi  
Martin Elliot  
Harriet Fisher  
Andy Haigh  
Ruth Hardingham  
Andy Horrocks  
Will Kemp  
Emma King  
Chris Martin  
Rob Murfin  
Jenny Poxon

## **Apologies**

Duncan Melville  
Andrew Palmer  
Richard Wilson  
Margaret Jackson  
Cllr John Fareham  
Peter Sowray

Business Sector  
Business Sector  
Environment Sector  
Government Office  
Hull and Humber Ports City Region  
Rural Local Authorities

DRAFT