

REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD MEETING

21 OCTOBER 2008: 10.00AM – 12.00NOON

YHA, 18 KING STREET, WAKEFIELD

AGENDA

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

BUSINESS ITEMS

10.15 – 10.20

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

Attached

3. Matters Arising

Attached

DISCUSSION ITEMS

10.20 – 10:45

4. Work Programme Update

Attached

5. Sub National Review - General Update and Key Messages

Attached

DECISION ITEMS

10.45 – 12.00

6. RSS 2009 Update – Options Consultation Document

Attached

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

Attached

8. RSS 2009 Update – Consultation and Engagement Programme

Attached

9. Any Other Business

Date of Next Meeting: 3 February 2009

MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD: 29 JULY 2008

ACTION

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Cllr Box introduced himself as the new Chair and Cate Hammond as the new Deputy Chair of the Regional Planning Board. New members were welcomed and apologies noted.

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

2. Introduction for New Members – The Role of the Board and Key Work Areas for the Year

Chris Martin introduced this item and explained to Members that the Board would be focusing on core business this year in line with the Assembly's Business Plan 2008/09. This will include the RSS Update 2009, work around Eco Towns/housing and planning applications/local development frameworks and whether these are in line with current RSS.

Members were also reminded of the electronic system regarding consultation on planning applications that the Assembly is asked to comment on. It was noted that this was necessary to deal with applications in between meetings of the Board.

Members **noted** this introduction.

3. Minutes of the Regional Planning Board Meeting – 8 April 2007

The minutes of the last meeting were **agreed** as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising

Members asked for clarification on the following points:

- Capacity issues surrounding delivering priorities for Local Development Frameworks and ensuring regional work is

coordinated with these.

- Whether the Community Infrastructure Fund was still being developed.
- The role of the Assembly in delivering renewable energy targets
- That there were other 'red areas' highlighted by the last sustainability appraisal (not just aviation)
- Whether it was possible to circulate the revised list of potential stakeholders for the RSS Update 2009.

The Chair suggested that a written response to these queries be drafted after the meeting and circulated to all Members.

Richard Wood

Members **agreed** this action and **noted** the matters arising.

5. The Yorkshire and Humber Plan May 2008

Richard Wood introduced this item and advised Members that the final Yorkshire and Humber Plan was published in May of this year.

It was noted that the work done by the Planning Board as well as the other Boards and Groups of the Assembly at the Proposed Changes stages had significantly influenced the final policy content of the Plan. The final housing numbers were at the level set out by the Secretary of State's proposed changes.

Members raised the following points:

- What happens with the development of Greenfield land over Brownfield land in parts of the Region that do not have an adopted Local Development Framework in light of the changes to Policy YH7.
- There are contradictions between Policy YH7 and the new policy approach to managing and stepping up the supply and delivery of housing .
- The need for related infrastructure in large developments.

The Chair **noted** these comments and suggested that the language of Board reports on these issues be more carefully considered in the future.

Richard Wood/Andy Haigh

Members **noted** the update on the Yorkshire and Humber Plan 2008.

6. Work Programme Update

Richard Wood introduced this item and asked Members to note the update on the work programme for the Board.

It was noted that the Regional Housing Board was planning to develop further work on how its investment could be redirected to help deal with the downturn in the housing market and that Planning Board Members were invited to be involved with this work. Members were asked to express their interest in representing the Planning Board in this work by the Housing Board.

Members asked if the Technical Advisory Group would be involved in the next stages of the sand and gravel study before the Board. This was confirmed and a report would be brought to the Board to enable Members to discuss the study before it is finalised. It was noted that this report was still being formulated and significant consultation was being undertaken with all parts of the Region.

Members also asked for clarification over how development in smaller settlements in non - rural areas is handled to ensure the best use of the land, in light of the Askham Mills planning application which the Assembly had responded to. It was noted that each proposal is considered separately on its merits, to ensure development is appropriate to that site. The roles of settlements will be looked at again through the RSS Update 2009.

Members **noted** the update.

7. Review of Sub National Economic Development and Regeneration (SNR)

The Chair gave an update on the SNR process to date and explained that the Leaders Board and Yorkshire Forward had recently agreed a joint way of working under the new arrangements. It was also noted that there was increasing support for a Single Regional Strategy in the Region.

The following issues were noted as being outstanding:

- Whether planning responsibilities should be the remit of Local Authorities or Yorkshire Forward. This debate is still taking place nationally.
- Whether Assemblies will continue until 2010 or if there is

- a willingness to develop new structures before then.
- What Board structures will look like in the new arrangements. It is thought that most Boards will continue in their current form, though two will be chaired by Yorkshire Forward and two by Local Government (one to be Planning). The Sustainable Development Board will change slightly under the new arrangements.
- There is debate over the role of Boards under new structures, whether they will have simply an advisory role or full executive powers.

The Chair noted that this Region has so far managed the SNR process very well and was that he was confident that these issues can be resolved.

During discussion Members **agreed** the following points:

- The Board structure that currently exists works because it allows input at every level and from a wide range of stakeholders, regardless of political persuasion. This approach should not be lost.
- There is an economic/employment bias in the process at present and it is important that elected members still have input into areas such as planning.
- The Planning Board should have executive powers
- New Board structures should involve SEE Partners in their make up as their involvement enriches debate and decision making.

The Chair advised Members that the Chair of the Regional Housing Board had recently written to Terry Hodgkinson, Chair of Yorkshire Forward, with views on how a new Housing Board should operate and expressing that it should continue to have executive powers. It was also noted that Yorkshire Forward have encouraged the input of existing Board Members into the formulation of new structures. It was suggested that the Planning Board also write to Yorkshire Forward to arrange a meeting for the Chair and Deputy Chair to meet with Terry Hodgkinson and discuss the issues above.

Members **agreed** that a letter should be sent to Yorkshire Forward as soon as possible to arrange a meeting and that Members should be advised of the outcomes after the meeting has taken place.

Richard
Wood/Emma
King

8. 2009 Update - Project Plan for the Review of the Yorkshire and Humber Plan

Harriet Fisher introduced this item and explained that the consultation on the draft Project Plan had closed on 11 July. It was noted that the majority of comments received had been positive and that most changes had been minor. The only major change was that there would now be the inclusion of sub-regional and local work on meeting the housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers.

Members raised the following points:

- There are concerns over whether the project plan has conformity with CLG Planning Policy Statement, PPS12. It was noted that PPS11 has been the main reference in the preparation of the project plan and comments had been provided by Government Office
- Clarification was sought over the paragraph "Remove references to work on town centre capacity from the 'Infrastructure' work stream, as this work is no longer planned." Members were advised that this was simply to remove this from the Project Plan to avoid duplication as a lot of this work had been picked up under settlement work in the last RSS and by Local Authorities. It was agreed however to revise the language used.
- Members noted the extensive work done in South Yorkshire around Gypsy and Traveller provision and agreed that it was important for all authorities to get a handle on this important work.

Members **noted** the report and **agreed** the proposed changes to the Project Plan.

9. 2009 Update - Call for Evidence Results

Harriet Fisher introduced this item and gave a presentation to Members on the findings of the Call for Evidence. This included information on the process, the consultation, responses and initial findings specific to the four sub regions of the Region.

In discussion the following points were raised:

- Whether all local authorities have responded to the Call for Evidence and if individual authorities are aware if they have sites being flagged for development. It was noted

that 17 of the 22 local authorities have responded and that the responses are all available on the Assembly website.

- There is frustration over limits that the Environment Agency is putting on potential new development. It was suggested that this issue be picked up under the regional flood risk appraisal that is being undertaken.

Members **noted** this report.

10. 2009 Update – Testing the NHPAU Advice to Ministers

Andy Haigh introduced this item and asked Members to agree the overall approach to testing the advice of the National Housing and Planning Authority Unit to Ministers on housing provision and affordability issues. It was noted that the RSS Update 2009 needs to consider housing issues over at least the next 10 years in which time the housing market could change as dramatically again, as it has done in the last few years.

Members suggested that it may be helpful to use the local authority Market Housing Assessments (MHA's) to address some of the possible issues with testing this advice and to identify any further matters to be included in the test. This was agreed.

Members **agreed** the approach.

11. 2009 Update – Next Steps

Richard Wood introduced this item which drew together the previous three agenda items. Members were assured that the major issues highlighted by the Board today, such as infrastructure and flood risk are being picked up in the work being undertaken in the run up to the strategic options stage. Discussions will continue to be held with the Board as well as the Regional Planning Forum and the Technical Advisory Group.

Members asked if it was possible to include related infrastructure issues within the options document. It was agreed to flag this up.

Members also raised concerns over the timetable for consultation though it was noted that there was no flexibility on this given that the review is being completed in such a

short period of time.

Members also asked for consideration of the environmental and social aspects of development in the Region alongside the economic. It was agreed all these issues needed to be covered in the options stage.

Members **noted** progress and next steps for the RSS 2009 Update and **agreed** the proposed approach to the strategic options stage.

12. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

Emma King, Business Services Officer
30 July 2008

DRAFT

Attendees

Andrew Palmer	Business Sector
Cllr Peter Box	Chair
Cate Hammond	Deputy Chair
Lucy Bjorck	Environment Sector
Margaret Jackson	Government Office
Cllr John Fareham	Hull and Humber Ports City Region
Cllr Mick Grant	Humber Local Authorities
Cllr Anne Hawkesworth	Leeds City Region Partnership
Cllr Peter Sowray	Rural Local Authorities
Cllr Gerald Smith	Sheffield City Region Partnership
David Slater	Social Sector
Cllr Bill Newman	South Yorkshire Local Authority Partnership
Cllr David Whiteley	Town and Parish Councils
Cllr Barry Anderson	West Yorkshire Local Authority Partnership
Patrick Bowes	Yorkshire Forward (Deputy for Simon Foy)
Andy Haigh	YHA
Chris Martin	YHA
Emma King	YHA
Richard Wood	YHA

Visitors

Andy Duncan	Rotherham MBC
Michelle Lindsay	RSPB
Kevin Swift	Barnsley MBC
Alan Taylor	Leeds CC
Harriet Fisher	YHA
Lyla Peter	YHA
Martin Elliot	YHA

Apologies

Cllr John Fletcher	North Yorkshire Local Authority Partnership
Simon Foy	Yorkshire Forward

AGENDA ITEM: 3

**REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD MEETING:
21 OCTOBER 2008**

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD MEETING HELD ON 29 JULY 2008 – FOR NOTING

1. This note provides an update on those matters not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Item 4 – Matters Arising

2. A full response to the issues raised under Item 4 of the meeting was circulated to Members on 6 August.

Item 7 – Review of Sub National Economic Development and Regeneration (SNR)

3. On 26 September the Chair and Deputy Chair met with Terry Hodgkinson, Chair of Yorkshire Forward and Cllr Arthur Barker, Chair of LGYH. Also present at the meeting were Simon Foy (Yorkshire Forward), Clare Coates (LGYH) and Chris Martin from the Assembly. A full update will be given under Item 5.

Emma King, Business Services Officer
October 2008

WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

For Information/ Discussion

The purpose of this report is to update members of the Board on key ongoing areas of work not specifically covered under other agenda items and provides the opportunity for any discussion/questions arising.

Regional Spatial Strategy Work

1. Work on the update to the Yorkshire and Humber Plan is covered under agenda items 6, 7 and 8.

Other work of the Planning Board

2. This section updates Board members on the areas of activity, other than the RSS 2009 Update, in which the Planning teams are engaged.

Sand and Gravel Study

3. Further discussions with the minerals industry are taking place with a view to gaining agreement and 'reality checking' the recommendations of the study. The main concerns of the industry relate to the potential implications of raising production levels in West Yorkshire. A preferred spatial approach will be recommended to the Board in due course. This approach will seek to establish a more sustainable approach to the sourcing of sand and gravels for use by the construction industry.

Waste Planning Work

4. Work on the 2008 Regional Technical Advisory Body (RTAB) Data Digest has begun, with a particular focus on providing material to support Local Authorities on the current round of their Local Development Framework (LDF) work. The Assembly continues to assist local authorities in developing waste management strategy, including providing specific support and evidence at their Examinations.
5. Detailed negotiations have progressed well nationally with Defra, the Environment Agency and CLG to resolve waste planning issues facing all of the regions and to agree joint working arrangements. A report summarising an agreed way forward will be presented to the Board later in the year. A number of projects to support Local Authority LDF work have now commenced as a result of these discussions and lobbying.

Employment Land Reviews

6. The Yorkshire and Humber Plan's policies place a key emphasis on local authorities undertaking employment land reviews. The Assembly has been assisting many authorities in carrying out major employment land reviews. A practice note will be reported to a future meeting of the Board.

Delivery and Conformity Update

7. The Regional Executive Board agreed the annual implementation priorities from the RSS Implementation Action Plan at their meeting on 4 September. The Board wished to see more emphasis placed on work to deliver affordable housing, especially given the current economic situation. This priority is reflected in the work underway for the on-line guide to increase the delivery of affordable housing. Drafting of this guide will continue in partnership with delivery agencies and local authorities. Work with the Housing Board on an action plan to address the implications of the current economic situation is reported in paragraph 12 below.
8. Between July and September 2008 we have received 14 planning applications for comment. We have also received two requests for pre-application advice, relating to a mixed-use development in Doncaster and the Waverley development in South Yorkshire. Since July 2008, the Assembly has been asked to comment on 8 Development Plan Documents at pre-submission stages. We have also held discussions with Hull City Council to assist with the ongoing preparation of their Core Strategy. **Annex A** provides a schedule of planning applications and Development Plan Documents that we have commented on since the Board last met.
9. More Core Strategies in the region have reached their Examination Stage over the last few months. We attended pre-examination meetings and exploratory meetings in Harrogate, Wakefield and Sheffield to clarify the relationship between regional and local policy and we were asked to provide further statements for the Examination on employment land issues in Wakefield. We will be able to use these experiences to help other local authorities prepare for their Examinations.
10. Preparation of this year's RSS Annual Monitoring Report is now underway. This will report on progress in implementing the RSS and its Implementation Action Plan priorities. We are working with local authorities to facilitate the collection of data across the region. Further discussions with Yorkshire Futures will help to clarify how the RSS Monitoring Report and Progress in the Region will be 'joined up' for their launch and publication in February 2009.

Regional Housing Board

11. In July, the Housing Board agreed to prepare an action plan to address the

implications of the current downturn in the market for the investment priorities in the region. Assembly officers met with a small working group of Housing Board members to develop the action plan. The Housing Board considered the final action plan at their last meeting on 3 October 2008. The action plan will inform investment decisions and the current round of Regional Funding Advice and will be used to influence government and the Homes and Communities Agency. Other discussion items at the last Board meeting included the Sub National Review, Regional Funding Advice, Gypsies and Travellers, Monitoring and Supporting People. As a standing item on the Housing Board agenda, members also received an information note on progress with the RSS 2009 Update.

Regional Transport Board

- 12.** The Board met on 10 October. There was an update of progress on the RSS Review and the Board supported the general approach being taken on the transport input to the RSS Update, but the agenda was mainly built up of items relating to Regional Funding Advice for Transport. In particular, the Board received a report on progress with this work. The Board agreed the general principles of the methodology proposed for prioritising bids put forward for RFA support, and the principle of an approach to revising the distribution of RFA funding among major schemes, minor schemes and highways maintenance. The Board noted ongoing work to develop a Strategic Prioritisation Framework to identify transport interventions that will support wider regional objectives.

- 13.** Maintaining a close link between RFA2 and the update of the Yorkshire and Humber Plan will continue to be an important focus for joint working between the Regional Planning and Transport Boards over the coming months.

Richard Wood, Head of Planning Strategy/Jenny Poxon, Head of Planning
Conformity and Delivery
October 2008

TABLE 1: CONSULTATIONS ON DPDs

Local Authority	DPD	Stage	Date Responded	Nature of Comments
Hull City Council	Holderness Road Corridor AAP	Issues and Options	29/08/2008	Not wish to comment
Harrogate Borough Council	Consultation on growth around Harrogate & Knaresborough	Further Work	22/08/2008	Support
Wakefield MDC	Site Specific Proposals Development Plan	Preferred Options	14/08/2008	Support but demonstrate additional sites within SHCAA and address accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers
Scarborough Borough Council	Housing Methodology	Methodology Consultation	07/08/2008	Support
Hull City Council	Core Strategy	Issues and Options	05/09/2008	Encouraged by inclusion of key issues; need to set Core Strategy within its regional and sub-regional context and reflect RSS e.g. in housing contribution
York Council	City Centre AAP	Issues and Options	22/09/2008	Addresses critical RSS issues; need to see clear link to Strategic Housing Market Assessment work
Wakefield MDC	Waste DPD	Preferred Options	Pending	Pending
North Lincolnshire Council	Housing and Employment Land Allocations DPD (For Gypsies and Travellers site)	Issues and Options (Additional)	19/09/2008	Support but demonstrate the evidence base why the location of G&T development requires different criteria

TABLE 2: STRATEGIC APPLICATIONS – ASSEMBLY CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Local Authority	Application	Location	Date Completed	Response Sent
North East Lincolnshire	Erection of 60 dwellings	Yarborough Estate, Grimsby	04/07/2008	Not wish to comment
North Lincolnshire	Erection of 13 dwellings	Station Road, Keadby	04/07/2008	Not wish to comment
North East Lincolnshire	Development of 117 dwellings	Scartho Road, Grimsby	15/07/2008	Not wish to comment
North East Lincolnshire	Erection of a 132 guest room hotel	Birchin Way, Grimsby	15/07/2008	Not wish to comment
North East Lincolnshire	Erection of 2 wind turbines	Nun Corner, Grimsby	28/07/2008	Not wish to comment
East Riding	Full Planning with EIA	Land north and east of Guardian Glass Capitol Park Rawcliffe Road, Goole	21/07/2008	Not wish to comment
North Lincolnshire	Glass wool insulation manufacturing plant	Chase Hill Road, North Killingholme	04/08/2008	Support in principle
Leeds	Erection of 3 storey office block	Unit 8 Temple Point, Finch Drive, Austhorpe, Leeds	27/08/2008	Comments made regarding location and accessibility
Leeds	Erection of 1 wind turbine	Pontefract Lane Cross Green	04/08/2008	Not wish to comment
Doncaster	Employment Park	Holme Wood Lane, Armthorpe	27/08/2008	Support
Harrogate	Erection of Exhibition Hall	Springfield Avenue	14/08/2008	Not wish to comment
Hambleton	Erection of 2 wind turbines	Hilton Road, Seamer Stokesley	26/08/2008	Not wish to comment
Wakefield	Redevelopment for strategic waste facility	South Kirkby Colliery	11/09/2008	Support
Leeds	Reconfiguration of previously approved shops units	Boar Lane, Briggate, Commercial, Albion Street, Leeds	17/09/2008	Not wish to comment

SUB NATIONAL REVIEW – GENERAL UPDATE AND KEY MESSAGES

For Discussion

Members are asked:

- To note the latest national and regional developments around the Sub National Review,
- To consider how the Board can help inform the development of the new Planning Board.
- To shape emerging LGYH/YF thinking on the operation of the new structures.

Background

1. At its last meeting the Board discussed the Sub National Review and identified several issues which they wished the Chair to discuss with Yorkshire Forward regarding the way in which planning may be dealt with under future arrangements. In particular, the Board agreed that:
 - The Board structure that currently exists works because it allows input at every level and from a wide range of stakeholders, regardless of political persuasion. This approach should not be lost.
 - There is an economic/employment bias in the process at present and it is important that elected members still have input into areas such as planning.
 - The Planning Board should have executive powers.
 - New Board structures should involve SEE Partners in their make up as their involvement enriches debate and decision-making.
2. As agreed, a meeting was arranged for the Chair and Deputy Chair to discuss these matters with Terry Hodgkinson. This meeting took place on 26 September 2008 and was also attended by Arthur Barker and Clare Coates (LGYH), Simon Foy (YF) and Chris Martin (YHA). The Chair and Deputy Chair will be able to report the outcomes of their discussions at today's meeting.
3. Since the last Board meeting, there have been a number of developments. Most significantly LGYH and the Assembly have agreed that 1 April 2009 should be the start date for the new regional governance arrangements. The Assembly paper that went to its meeting on 2 October is attached as **Annex A** as it sets out the background to these decisions.

Moving to New Structures

4. Effectively, these decisions mean that the Assembly and its associated structures, including the Planning Board, will not exist after 1 April 2009. Detailed thinking about the way in which transition to new arrangements will work is now taking place, and the Board meeting is an opportunity for members to inform that thinking.
5. Paul Rogerson, Chief Executive of Leeds, has been identified as the Chief Executive lead by LGYH on developing the new Planning Board. He will be working closely with Cllr Steve Houghton, Leader of Barnsley MBC, who has been identified as the member lead on the development of the new Board, and Yorkshire Forward. Paul is attending the Planning Board meeting to discuss emerging thinking with members and to listen to members' views on how we can help ensure the new arrangements are as effective as possible (see **Annex B**).

Next Steps

6. The Government has stated that its response to the SNR consultation will be issued after 6 October 2008. If their response has been published before the Board meeting on 21 October, an update will be given to members. The clear timescale for a shift to new structures that have now been agreed means that detailed thinking on new arrangements will happen quickly. Part of the Board's discussion may therefore cover the process by which members believe they can best engage with this fast moving agenda.
7. Members are asked to consider this report and identify any key messages that they wish to see LGYH/YF building into the new regional arrangements.

Jenny Poxon, Head of Planning Delivery and Conformity
October 2008

**REPORT TO THE YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER
ASSEMBLY: 2 OCTOBER 2008**



**REVIEW OF SUB-NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
REGENERATION (SNR) PROGRESS AND TRANSITION ISSUES**

For Decision:

Members are asked to consider activity relating to the SNR set out in this paper and agree the recommendations set out at Para 15.

Background

1. At the AGM Members considered progress to date developing regional responses to the SNR and next steps in relation to the future work of the Assembly and its transition arrangements. This report sets out the most recent position.

Government Response to the SNR consultation paper 'Prosperous Places'

2. The national consultation on SNR closed on 20 June 2008. 491 responses were received and they show:
 - Strong support for a single regional strategy;
 - Support for a duty on local authorities to undertake economic assessments;
 - Concern over a perceived democratic deficit in RDAs taking on planning functions; and
 - Concerns from business over a perceived watering down of SNR economic focus and the proposed wider role for local authorities.
3. Government was expected to give its response to the consultation in late September but had not done so at the time of writing (22 September). When published we anticipate it will:
 - Restate the key principles of SNR;
 - Set out the legislative requirements to deliver Government's agenda and an anticipated time-table; and
 - Clarify what elements will be nationally prescribed and what will be left for regional discretion.
4. We still expect that the Bill will be published later this year along with draft guidance on production of the Single Regional Strategy.

5. If the Government's response is published before this meeting an update will be tabled.

Progressing to New Regional Arrangements

6. At the last meeting of the Executive Board Members considered the latest position in relation to the transition to the new regional governance arrangements set out in the LGYH/Yorkshire Forward response to the Sub National Review (This paper was circulated at the AGM, further copies are available on the Assembly web site www.yhassembly.gov.uk).

7. At the inaugural meeting of the LGYH Strategic Leaders' Board held on 4 September the following resolution was agreed;

'The LGYH Leaders' Board is recommending to the full membership of LGYH, at its meeting to be held on 25 September 2008, that April 2009 be set as a deadline to move to the new arrangements.'

8. The Assembly Executive Board also considered this proposition and agreed to make the same recommendation to today's meeting.

Ongoing Work

Functional Boards

9. The new regional governance arrangements proposed by LGYH and Yorkshire Forward include four thematic boards – housing and regeneration, planning, transport and employment and skills.
10. It has been recognised that the Assembly Boards are key components of existing regional strategic capacity and the experience and expertise of members will be invaluable in shaping the new arrangements. Representatives from LGYH and Yorkshire Forward will be attending meetings of all three Boards in October for discussions to help inform the development of the successor bodies.

Sustainable Development Board

11. In addition to the four thematic boards Yorkshire Forward and LGYH are proposing an Independent Board to 'ensure the principles of sustainable development and economic opportunity for all are fully ingrained in the development and delivery of the Integrated Regional Strategy'.
12. To this end, the Sustainable Development Board, with input from LGYH and Yorkshire Forward are steering a small project funded by DEFRA to ensure there is an independent and effective process for challenge on sustainable development issues going forward.

Scrutiny Board

- 13.** We are waiting for further announcements on when Regional Committees will start work, and how this will be linked to regional scrutiny. Messages from Government have confirmed the importance of regional scrutiny during the transition period. The 2008/09 scrutiny programme includes a piece of 'what's worked' research to inform new arrangements.

Social Economic and Environmental Partners

- 14.** The SEE Partner Group responded independently to Government on SNR. Since then they have been working with a consultant funded by Yorkshire Forward to develop a way forward. Following a workshop held in September they have committed to continue meeting as an independent body. This new group will have a broader membership base, and would see its role to input to regional strategy development through strong linkages with the new structures via individual partners and organisation. They also anticipate a role supporting delivery and transacting business within and between the membership. Discussions are continuing about how this model may be resourced.

Recommendations

- 15.** The next key milestone will be the publication of the Government's response to the consultation. In the meantime members are asked to:
- Approve proposals to move to new arrangements from 1 April 2009;
 - Note progress to date with regarding the development of successor arrangements for the functional boards, the sustainable development board and regional scrutiny; and
 - Note the proposals of the SEE Partners regarding their future engagement.

Source Papers

Report	Location
Regional Executive Board: 10 April 2008 Sub National Review Consultation Paper – <i>Prosperous Places</i> Annual General Meeting: 26 June 2008 Review of Sub National Economic Development and Regeneration	All available from: Emma King Yorkshire and Humber Assembly 18 King Street Wakefield WF1 2SQ Tel: 01924 331590 E-mail: emma.king@yhassembly.gov.uk

Report	Location
Regional Executive Board: 4 September 2008 Assembly Transition Arrangements Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration	As previous.

Sue Jeffrey, Executive Director
September 2008

**REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD MEETING:
21 OCTOBER 2008**



SUB NATIONAL REVIEW – DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL BOARDS

Purpose

To consult with Board members on the development of new regional boards and to provide information on the approach and timescales adopted.

1. The Joint LGYH and Yorkshire Forward response to the SNR consultation included the proposed establishment of a number thematic regional boards, which would be commissioned by the Strategic Leaders Board (SLB) and the Yorkshire Forward Board (YFB), to input into the development of the Integrated Regional Strategy (IRS) and ensure effective delivery by monitoring and reviewing the IRS.
2. The four thematic regional boards proposed are:
 - a. **Spatial Planning** - Chaired by Local Government, Deputy Chair nominated by YFB.
 - b. **Regeneration and Housing** - Chaired by Local Government, Deputy Chair nominated by YFB.
 - c. **Work and Skills** - Chair nominated by YFB, Deputy Chair from Local Government.
 - d. **Transport** - Chair nominated by YFB, Deputy Chair from Local Government.
3. In addition to these boards, it is proposed that an Independent Board be established to ensure the principles of sustainable development and economic opportunity for all are fully ingrained in the development and delivery of the IRS. This Board would be Chaired by an independent/expert Chair to work with SLB/YFB and the thematic advisory boards and would provide expert input, and test IRS development and delivery against the principles of sustainable development, diversity and leadership, and ambition.

Development of Future Regional Boards

4. In order to develop these proposals further, leaders, chief executives, Yorkshire Forward Board members and officers have volunteered to progress this work, and a development group for each board has been established - details of which are set out overleaf (local authority leaders and chief executives will be supported by officers from LGYH and Yorkshire Cities).

Thematic Board	Leader	Chief Executive	YF Board Member	YF Officer
Work & Skills	Andrew Carter (Leeds)	Phil Coppard (Barnsley)	Laura Moynahan	Thea Stein
Transport	Carl Minns (Hull)	John Marsden (North Yorkshire)	Mark Kirk	John Jarvis
Spatial Planning	Steve Houghton (Barnsley)	Paul Rogerson (Leeds)	John Weighell	Simon Foy
Regeneration & Housing	Roger Stone (Rotherham)	Tony Reeves (Bradford)	Kath Pinnock	Jan Anderson

5. The development groups will consider the role, purpose and membership of the future thematic boards and the outcomes of these discussions and developments will be submitted to the new Regional Board for consideration.
6. In order to ensure the experience and learning from the existing regional boards is taken into account in the development of the new arrangements, both the boards and individual Chairs and Deputy Chairs are to be consulted. The regional board Chairs and Deputy Chairs have an important role to play in these discussions and developments and individual meetings will be held with them.
7. At the meeting key representatives from the development groups will be in attendance at the meeting to seek the views of members.

Clare Coates, Deputy Chief Executive – LGYH
September 2008

RSS 2009 UPDATE: OPTIONS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

For Decision

Members are asked

- To receive a presentation on the proposed Spatial Options consultation.
- To comment/advise on the proposed focus (paragraph 8) and suggested format (paragraphs 15-20) of the consultation document.
- To agree the commencement of this important informal consultation stage, based on a finalized version of the consultation document.

Introduction

1. This report deals with the 'Spatial Options' consultation stage of the RSS 2009 Update - a key milestone in the process of preparing the Update to the Yorkshire and Humber Plan. Stakeholders have previously highlighted the 'Options' stage as a key focus for consultation (Agenda item 8 explains the November to January programme). Alongside further development work the responses to this consultation will help to shape potential policy changes to the Yorkshire and Humber Plan - which will be developed and published for formal consultation in summer 2009.

Purpose of the 2009 Update

2. The Secretary of State published the final version of the Yorkshire and Humber Plan (RSS) in May. The Plan's strategy (as finally published) remains focussed on the continued transformation of the Region's towns and cities. However, key changes made by the Secretary of State to the final Plan were an increase to the housing requirements, reflecting more recent household projections, and the lengthening of the Plan period from 2021 to 2026.
3. The Plan's policies require that a partial review of the Plan should be undertaken by 2011 to *"ensure that longer term housing growth is planned and accommodated in the most sustainable way by identifying broad locations to meet longer term development needs, considering proposals for New Growth Points and Eco-Towns and other evidence"*.
4. The 2009 Update is intended to meet that requirement - managing future housing growth in the context of issues such as infrastructure, flood risk and transport. The aim is to refine the Plan's approach and work with partners to further develop the Plan's sub area strategies. This will help the Region to be

more effective in co-ordinating development and investment over the longer term, in dealing with the challenges presented by current RSS housing numbers in parts of the Region and in responding to challenges such as climate change. It is intended to support and add value to work underway (or requiring further development) at sub-regional and local authority level. It will also be able to be taken forward as a foundation for work on the new Single Regional Strategy in due course, when post-SNR arrangements are in place.

5. The Minister for Housing and Planning has also confirmed the need for a review to test the future housing supply ranges put forward for the Region by the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit (NHPAU) earlier this year. Assembly Members have already said that it is important that the NHPAU's assessment is rigorously tested, in light of both the short term impact of the 'credit crunch, but also the longer-term economic and social needs of Yorkshire and the Humber and more recent national trend-based projections of the rate of household growth in the Region. The RSS Update process allows us to do that.

Next Steps – The Spatial Options

6. Over the last four months, consultation has been undertaken across the Region on the draft Project Plan for the RSS Update and a final version of this has been submitted to Government. A 'Call for Evidence' consultation has also been completed. This brought forward views from Regional stakeholders on a range of proposed approaches to accommodating future growth in the Region and these views have fed into the ideas that have been developed as basis for this 'Options' consultation. The 'Call for Evidence' also gauged market ('developer') interest in development in particular locations.
7. The Assembly team has also drawn together 'evidence base' work to identify more specific development opportunities and constraints within each sub-area – drawing on evidence from a range of organisations. We have used these, alongside the approaches discussed in the 'Call for Evidence' document to begin to develop a range of spatial options for each sub-area. During September this work has been discussed and tested with the Regional Planning and Transport Forums and the Planning Board's Technical Advisory Group.
8. These Groups endorsed the general approach and methodology that the Assembly team is using. However, key questions were inevitably asked about why there is a need to progress this work in current market conditions and also the relationship/timing of this regional work with work by local authorities on current Local Development Frameworks (LDFs). These are legitimate concerns. We believe that reassurance can be provided on these points if we ensure that the **proposed focus** of the Update is explained clearly in the Options document. It is about:

- Addressing the needs of the Region beyond current 'credit crunch' conditions – looking at longer-term development choices for the next 15 years and beyond (and how growth and development can be accommodated);
 - Providing a context to help local authorities prepare Local Development Frameworks - so that they are able to deliver the current RSS 'step-up' in growth which is already challenging in parts of the Region;
 - Testing the NHPAU's advice to Government on further increasing the overall supply of housing in the Region – and confirming what the real housing supply needs of the Region are;
 - Providing a regional evidence base to determine whether there is a need for a strategic review of the Region's Green Belt;
 - Refining the Plan's approach with regard to the outcomes of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (showing how development can be accommodated that takes account of flood risk);
 - Responding to the ten challenges for sustainable growth set out in the Region's Integrated Regional Framework (launched at the Assembly AGM in June) – showing how we can accommodate growth in a sustainable way;
 - Considering the implications of trend-based projections of the rates of household and economic growth, and recent local assessments of housing needs of the communities of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Show people; and...
 - In addition, the status of the document itself needs to be made clear – emphasising that this is a consultation on options, not definitive proposals, and that it is intended to stimulate discussion and draw in views and suggestions.
- 9.** Clearly, current market conditions make short-term delivery of housing – and any talk of growth - challenging. These short-term challenges are being considered by the Regional Housing Board, which is developing an 'Action Plan' to address the implications of the 'credit crunch' on the Region's objectives and investment priorities. Similarly, Yorkshire Forward has already published a report on dealing with the implication of the 'credit crunch' for the Region's economy and will be undertaking further work.
- 10.** However, partners in the Region have continued long-term aspirations for improving regional economic performance, for regeneration and for meeting housing needs. It is more important than ever that we have a long-term and responsive strategy that ensures the Region can achieve its long-term goals once market conditions become more favourable again. Long-term planning is also essential if we want to link provision of infrastructure (which often has a very long lead-in time) with where development needs to take place.
- 11.** As part of this, however, it is also important to use the RSS Update to continue a dialogue with Government as to the reality of its long-term housing growth targets. The RSS Update provides an opportunity to voice any concerns over higher growth and seek and make sure investment and infrastructure will be in place to support appropriate growth for the Region.

Possible Changes to the Plan's Current Approach

12. The current Yorkshire and Humber Plan aims to achieve a more sustainable pattern and form of development, investment and activity across the region, putting a greater emphasis on matching 'needs' with 'opportunities' across the Region, all within the context of managing the environment as a key resource and making best use of infrastructure. The Plan places a particular emphasis on achieving the regeneration and renaissance of the Region's cities and towns by making them the focus for additional housing.
13. This spatial focus of development is achieved through the 'core approach' policies in the Yorkshire and Humber Plan, particularly through the definition of a clear settlement network and sequential approach to location of development. However, we need to consider whether these two key parts of the Plan strategy need to change in the future or whether they can last for the whole Plan period (to 2026) given possible growth scenarios (including the higher housing figures already inserted by the Secretary of State in current RSS). If not in what areas/places in the Region should focus be placed to allow scope for additional growth?
14. On a more specific issue the Update also needs to look again at targets for the accommodation needs of gypsies, travellers and travelling show people. At present the Plan provides sub-regional targets, but in order to bring the Region into line with Government requirements district-based targets will be required - based on local evidence.

Format of the Options Consultation Document

15. Taking account of all the above, it is proposed that the RSS Update options consultation should be structured in five main parts. The **suggested format** focuses on:
 - What are the most important factors in driving the need for more housing in the Region – and what emphasis/ weight should we give to these?
 - How much housing should we be planning to provide in the future?
 - Should any increases in rates of house-building be 'phased in' over time?
 - Where should we accommodate growth in the sub-areas?
 - How do we update our approach to the Gypsy and Travellers community?
16. Attached at **Annex A** is an outline of the content of the proposed options consultation document. This is not fully drafted text, although it does include the Assembly team's suggestions for the questions that will be asked. **Members' comments and suggestions on the suggested questions and proposed content are invited.** The text of the document will be finalised and put into 'Plain English' on the basis of comments made by the Board.
17. A key part of the RSS Update document is 'where' we might accommodate

future growth – in particular ‘where’ development might be located if the current settlement network and plan policies are not capable of accommodating development the Region needs up to 2026. The Update needs to consider the scope for ‘opportunity areas’ for further growth within each of the Plan’s seven sub areas, although the position is likely to be different in each case.

18. The Assembly team has had discussions with the Board’s Technical Advisory Group and the Regional Planning Forum about potential ‘opportunity areas’. These have been identified by taking account of and drawing together information on:
- High frequency bus and rail transport corridors;
 - Key high level environmental considerations (including National Parks, AONBs, International and National Nature Conservation Areas, Ground Water Protection Zones); and
 - The Regional Flood Risk Appraisal (initially looking at functional floodplain but taking this forward to look at the community risks, probability and depth of flooding).
19. In addition, the context for these ‘opportunity areas’ will also reflect on key findings from the work undertaken on integrated infrastructure, green infrastructure and habitat mapping. They will also link across to Yorkshire Forward’s Regeneration priorities, the Strategic Housing Market Area Assessments and Catchment Flood Management Plans. The aim is to be able to include maps in the Options consultation to prompt debate.
20. A presentation on the working draft maps of the opportunity areas for all seven sub areas will be made at the Board meeting. **Members’ views on these and how they might be used in the Options consultation document will be invited.** The format and use of the maps will be finalised on the basis of comments made by the Board.

Conclusion

21. This report has set out the proposed focus and format of the Spatial Options consultation and the content of the proposed consultation document. This is a key stage in taking forward work on the RSS Update and it is vital that the Board understands and supports the approach that is being taken at this stage. On the current timetable the document would be launched for public consultation in November. It is proposed that text and maps would be finalised on the basis of the comments and views expressed at the meeting.

Martin Elliot, Planning Policy Manager,
Richard Wood, Head of Planning Strategy
October 2008

OUTLINE CONTENT OF THE PROPOSED OPTIONS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

[Text to cover the following issues: Why the need for the review? What is it considering – the need for long-term planning. How it adds value and relates to work at sub-regional and local level etc.]

PART A

What is most important factor in why there is a need for more housing in the Region?

[Text to cover the following issues: In order to test the ability of the Region to accommodate additional growth in the long-term we need to look at the national and regional factors behind the higher housing numbers and consult on the weight to be attached to these. These factors reflect a combination of trends in wider household formation and the Region's economic success. They also reveal that housing has become less affordable – a result not only of rising house prices and supply issues, but also of stagnant incomes in some parts of the region.

The existing distribution approach in the Plan will be explained first and Question 1 asks whether it is appropriate to roll this approach forward.

Question 2 then examines different factors that could result in a different distribution of any additional growth. Experian and Yorkshire Forward have provided data that sets out the potential implications of patterns of employment and household growth across the Region.]

Question 1:

In determining the overall amount and distribution of additional housing growth in the Region should we continue to use the existing RSS distribution? If yes, please summarise your reasons below.

Question 2:

If no, please tell us how much emphasis you would place on the following factors in shaping the distribution of additional homes. Please rate each factor on a scale of 1-5 (where 1 is the least important and 5 is the most important).

- matching housing growth with forecast economic change*
- addressing affordability*
- meeting new household growth trends*
- reflecting market demand*
- other (please specify)*
- don't know*

PART B

How much housing should we be planning to provide in the future?

[Text to cover the following issues: The Plan already sets out challenging levels of housing growth for the Region that reflect the changes in household and job growth and the make up of households. These levels of growth were included in the current RSS at a late stage of its preparation. This section of the options document seeks views on the potential for the Region to deliver higher levels of housing and the reasons why this would or would not be appropriate.

It is proposed that this section will highlight various issues including the 'credit crunch' and concerns around the ability of the market to deliver now and in the long term, alongside wider concerns around regional investment. Recent performance levels in terms of housing completions will be set out. For example in 2007/8 the Region delivered approximately 21,000 additional homes. Question 3 seeks to test the National Housing and Planning Advisory Unit's assessment and the likely implications of forthcoming Household Projections.]

Question 3:

Which of the following levels of annual housing provision should the region be planning for?

<i>Level of Growth</i>			<i>Tick</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>Current RSS</i>	<i>22,260</i>	
<i>2</i>	<i>NHPAU Lower</i>	<i>25,100</i>	
<i>3</i>	<i>NHPAU Upper</i>	<i>28,300</i>	
<i>4</i>	<i>Trend Based Household Projections</i>	<i>30,000</i>	
<i>5</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Please specify</i>	
<i>6</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>		

Please summarise the reasons for your choice below.

PART C

Should any increases in housing provision be 'phased in'?

[Text to cover the following issues: As well as land supply and infrastructure concerns there are critical issues now arising about the capacity of the house-building industry to increase provision in the future. Question 4 seeks to assess when any 'step up' might be possible?]

Question 4:

If the Region were to increase housing provision to Levels 2, 3, 4 or 5 (Question 3) when do you think this could take place? Please summarise your reasons below.

PART D

Where should we accommodate growth in the sub-areas?

[Text to cover the following issues: This section of the spatial options document would set out the suggested opportunity areas – showing how we have used the outputs from our evidence gathering to identify and review strategic opportunity areas for each sub-area. Maps and tables will present 4 options for each sub area to seek views on:

- How long the current approach can last for in different parts of the region;
- Whether/how the approach needs to be evolved as a consequence;
- Whether the suggested locations are appropriate as broad areas for Local Authorities to refine; and
- How soon these locations will need to be brought forward in Local Development Frameworks.

Questions 5, 6 and 7 reflect the above [appropriate maps would need to included in the document]. A critical area of concern in developing our evidence base for the distribution of additional housing provision is the local and sub-regional evidence of the availability of suitable housing land. Local Authorities are required by Government to carry out Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments (SHLAAs) – which will form the main block of evidence on suitable housing land. Progress has been mixed across the Region.

It is vital that these Assessments are in place as soon as possible to inform the RSS Review and help answer a critical question for the Review. How long can the current RSS strategy for accommodating housing development can be sustained in different parts of the Region and where the phasing of the release of sites can help ensure the delivery of the strategy?

We have asked Local Authorities to provide us with up-to-date housing monitoring data in the absence of SHLAAs so that they might inform the Spatial Options document. The consultation document will continue to seek to get as much of an up-to-date picture of housing supply as possible and ask what the continuing role

of 'windfall' development sites could be in seeking answers to questions 5,6 and 7.]

Question 5:

Is the Plan's existing settlement network and current approach to location of development sufficient to deliver the current RSS housing requirements (Question 3 Level 1) through to 2026?

- *If yes, please summarise your reasons.*
- *If no, please use the table below to tell us which approach or approaches we should add to the Plan's current strategy in order to deliver the RSS housing requirements.*

Question 6:

Could the Plan's existing settlement network and current approach to location of development deliver higher housing requirements (Question 3 Levels 2 – 4) through to 2026?

- *If yes, which level(s) of growth could be accommodated?*
- *If no, please use the table below to tell us which approach or approaches we should add to the Plan's current strategy in order to deliver higher housing requirements.*

<i>Approach</i>		<i>Q5</i>	<i>Q6</i>
1	<i>Maintain current approach</i>		
2	<i>Place a stronger focus on higher order cities and towns (please specify which cities and towns by answering Question 7 below)</i>		
3	<i>Require Local Development Frameworks to identify additional places within corridors (please specify which corridors by answering Question 7 below)</i>		
4	<i>Require Local Development Frameworks to identify additional places within broad areas (please specify which broad areas by answering Question 7 below)</i>		
5	<i>Other (Please specify)</i>		

Question 7:

If you have told us that approaches 2, 3 or 4 should be added to the Plan's current strategy, please specify below which higher order settlements, corridors or broad areas would be your preferred broad location for accommodating additional growth.

Are there any other broad locations that we have not identified which could accommodate additional growth?

PART E

How do we update our approach to meeting the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople?

[Text to cover the following issues: We are also consulting on the need for the RSS to provide District-based pitch provision targets for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. The current RSS was prepared in advance of Government guidance that set out a need for such targets. In addition we now have the results of local assessments of need that will provide important evidence that we can use to devise targets for local authorities. Question 8 asks about taking this forward.]

Question 8:

The Assembly is commissioning work to develop District-based pitch requirements for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople up to 2015. Your views would be welcomed in feeding into that work on the following issues:

- Is there a need for a regional approach to transit sites? If so, what might this approach do i.e. identify strategic areas of search for transit sites?*
- Should the RSS set targets for after 2015? How might these be developed?*
- Should the needs of Travelling Showpeople be reflected as a distinct target?*

GENERAL/ CONCLUSIONS

Question 9:

Are there any further issues that need to be considered?

[Text also to cover the following issues: Next steps. How the work would be taken forward beyond RSS – local authorities/ sub-regions. Move to Single Regional Strategy in future, etc.]

**SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF THE YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER PLAN
2009 UPDATE**

For Decision

Members are asked to note the approach to the sustainability appraisal of the Regional Spatial Strategy 2009 Update and the opportunities for engagement.

Context

1. There is a statutory requirement for the preparation of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) Update to be subject to formal appraisal. Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is required under the Planning Act 2004 for all Local Authority Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and RSSs. The EU Strategic Development Directive requires Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for plans with significant environmental effects. Finally, the Habitats Directive requires that, where proposals could have an impact on a site covered by the Directive (a 'Natura 2000 site'), there needs to be Assessment under the Habitats Regulations (HRA). For ease of reference these appraisals will collectively be referred to as "SA".
2. While these requirements are procedurally onerous, they will enable the consistent evaluation of impacts across the region. This will be at a level of spatial detail that will make a significant and positive contribution to the reflection of sustainability issues in the process of preparing the RSS Update.

Sustainability Appraisal of the Existing RSS – Lessons Learned

3. During the preparation of the current Plan a steering group, advised by consultants, initially guided the sustainability appraisal. While this was intended to allow independent appraisal, problems were encountered which necessitated amendments to the approach.
4. Stakeholders were generally positive about the comprehensive nature of the appraisal and the results of process were considered formally "sound" at the Examination in Public. However, there were several specific problems:
 - The process went into excessive detail very quickly, resulting in a lack of clarity about the significant impacts of the strategy;
 - There were difficulties around relating the appraisal back to the spatial focus of Plan;

- There were problems integrating the outcomes of the appraisal with the development of draft RSS policy, and
 - The unfamiliar nature of the (then) new SA requirements led to uncertainty over the remit of the SA Steering Group to influence decision making on the draft RSS.
5. Because of these problems it was found to be necessary to fundamentally change the approach part way through the RSS development process. Firstly, the SA consultants were put in a more central role, taking advice from the Steering Group. Secondly, additional consultancy support was introduced to add spatial planning capacity.
 6. During the subsequent independent evaluation of the draft plan preparation process (May 2007), recommendations were made in relation to the SA. Firstly, it was suggested linking the management of the SA and RSS process using an officer central to the RSS to ensure greater joint working with policy makers, with consultants managed so that they work with the regional planning team throughout the iterative process of preparing the RSS. Secondly, the brief for SA should be regarded as an integral part of the RSS work programme so as to embed the SA in the preparation of the RSS.

Results of the SA of Published RSS – key sustainability issues

7. It is important to note that the existing SA report of the current RSS, whilst not exploring the implications of different detailed spatial options for housing development, highlighted a number of issues associated with the RSS housing policies.
8. The housing distribution policy was identified as one of the few policies within RSS for which the SA recorded the potential for major negative effects. How the policy of accommodating significantly increased housing numbers related to the RSS's climate change objective was highlighted as one of the key tensions within the plan.
9. The SA also raised important questions about the ability to accommodate the housing growth given flood risk and the need to minimise green-field releases. However, the SA did note the benefits of more closely targeting housing growth with areas of predicted employment growth.

SA of the 2009 RSS Update

10. The approach that is now proposed to be adopted for the 2009 Update is intended to address both the process issues and substantive difficulties previously encountered and described above. The appraisal of the published RSS defines a number of issues and challenges which have the potential to become even more significant as a result of the increase in housing numbers. However, the inclusion of a spatial dimension within the development and assessment of options offers the potential for some of the potential

sustainability effects identified in the previous SA to be examined in greater detail and, hopefully, to be more fully resolved.

- 11.** The SA of the RSS Update will draw heavily from the SA of published RSS. However, it is acknowledged that the approach to the previous Sustainability Appraisal will need to be improved and enhanced so as to provide a more spatially focussed output which will enable more informed choices to be made between different spatial options.
- 12.** On this basis, a new approach to SA is being pursued. Consultants have been appointed who will appraise and challenge the process of the RSS Update. The main steps of the SA can be summarised as:
 - Undertaking a Sustainability Appraisal (including SA and SEA) and Assessment under the Habitats Regulations which fully meets the requirements of European and National Guidance;
 - Developing an assessment framework as part of the SA. This enables the production of distinct, demonstrable and consistent spatial implications of the housing options so as to assist the Assembly in the formulation of updated policy guidance and revised sub-area statements.
- 13.** While the SA is being managed by the Regional Planning Team (in reflection of the key recommendation of the independent evaluation of the last SA), opportunities for challenge and stakeholder input have been built in. These are set out below:
 - The SA Consultants will challenge and appraise each step of the process. They will prepare a Sustainability Appraisal Framework which will comprise of a series of objectives and sub-questions against which policies and proposals of the RSS Update will be tested. It will be based on that used to appraise the adopted RSS, updated where appropriate to reflect the recently published plans, policies and programmes such as the Integrated Regional Framework;
 - The SA Consultants will oversee stakeholder workshops where the assumptions and approach within the more detailed Spatial Options Appraisal Framework (SOAF) will be tested before being applied to the appraisal of the spatial options;
 - Statutory consultees will be involved in the scoping and development of the Habitats Regs Assessment (Environment Agency, English Nature, the Countryside Agency and English Heritage) in order to evaluate both process and content, and
 - The Regional Sustainable Development Board will be part of the process, and will specifically use a sub group to challenge the SA approach and spatial options.
- 14.** In addition to ongoing dialogue with this Board, the Regional Planning Forum, the Technical Advisory Group and the Sustainable Development Board, there will be several stages of more formalised involvement of partners. These are:

- The SA Scoping Report (including the Sustainability Appraisal Framework) will be published for a 5 week consultation alongside the main RSS Issues and Options Paper on 3 November 2008 and responses received will inform the final version;
- The appraisal of spatial options will take place from November 2008 to April 2009 using the Spatial Options Appraisal Framework (SOAF) which is to be developed with stakeholders as part of the SA process, and
- Preferred Options and accompanying policies will be appraised and the results published in an SA Report at the same time as formal consultation on the draft RSS Update later in 2009.

Initial SA Findings

15. The SA will test each stage of the review process to determine whether it is likely to deliver transparent and consistent sustainability advantages. The recommendations of the consultants will feed into the iterative process of preparing the RSS. While the approach to options is still being finalised, the SA consultants have already offered an initial view as to the approach the Assembly intends to take. A summary of the issues they raise is set out in **Annex A** to this paper. Some of the headlines are that:

- Prioritising public transport nodes and corridors in defining strategic opportunities is a welcome and positive element of YHA's approach to developing spatial options. To make this assessment more robust, there is also a need for YHA to incorporate information on the capacity of public transport networks;
- Using spatial planning to reduce the need to travel is a complex issue, and there will be a need to study current commuting/employment patterns more closely to ensure the needs of local businesses can also be met; and
- There is a need for evidence on housing supply issues to be made explicit alongside the spatial options, such as how vacant and underused buildings are likely to affect the scale and distribution of housing.

16. Close working arrangements with the consultants have been established so that their input can quickly inform the options and policy development. As the process moves on to the evaluation and refinement of spatial options, this process will need to become more formalised. A record of all the feedback from the consultant will be made publicly available on the Assembly RSS Update website.

Conclusions

17. While the formal appraisal requirements are procedurally onerous, they will enable the consistent evaluation of impacts and constraints across the region at a level of spatial detail that will make a major positive contribution to the process of preparing the RSS Update. On this basis, the SA requirements and the approach taken to SA by the Assembly should be seen as significant

opportunity to incorporate sustainability principles in the RSS Update in a structured and challenging manner.

Recommendations

- 18.** Members are requested to note the SA approach set out this paper and the future opportunities for involvement.

Rob Murfin, Planning Manager
10 October 2008

CONCLUSIONS FROM CRITICAL REVIEW OF YHA APPROACH TO DEVELOPING SPATIAL OPTIONS

Introduction

1. A critical review of the Assembly's approach to developing spatial options was carried out by testing the three elements of the approach – the scale of housing, the distribution of housing and sub-area options – against sub-questions and objectives of the SA framework. The review focussed on the most relevant sub-questions and objectives i.e. those that have spatial implications, given the scope of the RSS Update. It also had regard to sub-questions that are dependent on policy wording (e.g. reducing crime through design-measures). Although the RSS Update applies to housing numbers only, part of the role of the SA is to assess whether policies of the adopted RSS will need to be updated or refined as a result (e.g. public transport infrastructure provision).

Housing demand and supply

2. The focus of YHA's approach to developing spatial options is a range of evidence on housing demand. This seems appropriate given that the purpose of the update to RSS is to address the need for increased housing in the region as a result of growing demand and long term affordability issues. YHA's approach to reviewing the evidence base from NHPAU and CLG trend based population and household projections seems thorough and should ensure that options take into account the most appropriate levels of housing demand, including affordable housing needs. It will be helpful if the underlying assumptions about the factors driving housing demand are made explicit e.g. migration, age structure, occupancy levels, housing affordability.
3. There is also a need for evidence on housing supply issues to be made explicit alongside the spatial options, such as how vacant and underused buildings are likely to affect the scale and distribution of housing. Beyond the options stage there is a need to ensure that accompanying policies require housing of the right type and tenure will be provided to meet local needs.

Relationship between housing and employment

4. The approach to the scale and distribution of housing also looks at the implications of future levels of employment growth. As a result, consideration will be given to how closely the scale and distribution of housing will be aligned with employment. This will endeavour to ensure that employment opportunities are available near where people will live, thus going some way towards reducing the need to travel. Reducing the need to travel is a complex issue, however, and there will be a need to study current commuting patterns and types of employment more closely to ensure the needs of local businesses can also be met.

Supply of housing land

5. YHA recognise that the supply of housing land is critical to determining the most appropriate distribution of new housing across the region and how long the current spatial strategy should be sustained given the projected scale of housing growth. Fundamentally, it is a crucial component of the evidence base when considering certainty of delivery. There is a need to understand the land requirements of the existing RSS and the distribution of the residual land supply available for further increases in housing as a result of the RSS Update.

6. Where data from Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments and Annual Monitoring Reports is unavailable we recommend that assumptions are made about the likely capacity of urban areas in the settlement network to accommodate housing development. Linked to this, a range of development densities should be applied to the spatial options. This evidence will help to determine the likely greenfield/brownfield split which in turn will add certainty to a range of judgements to be made in the SA e.g. the degree to which land and natural resources will be used efficiently, the extent to which the built and natural environment will be protected.

Prioritising public transport

7. Prioritising public transport nodes and corridors in defining strategic opportunities is a welcome and positive element of YHA's approach to developing spatial options. This should go some way towards reducing reliance on use of the car and the unsustainable trends that result (e.g. increased congestion, increased greenhouse gas emissions, increasingly disparate communities). To make this assessment more robust, there is also a need for YHA to incorporate information on the capacity of public transport networks to accommodate increased numbers of passengers to ensure that best use of existing infrastructure is made in the first instance and a clear case for further investment can be made where it is needed. Incorporating this evidence should be part of the process of refining and testing the spatial options.
8. Prioritising public transport needs to be accompanied by a range of other measures through bold policies in the RSS on reducing car use and encouraging walking and cycling. At the preferred options stage, the SA will consider the extent to which policies of the current RSS are likely to meet this objective.

Prioritising opportunities and constraints

9. The "bottom up" approach to developing sub-area options also prioritises some key environmental constraints, such as international and national nature conservation designations and flood risk. Most of these would be expected to feature as high level constraints given the legislation and policy that underpins their protection.
10. YHA's further review of strategic opportunity areas will look at a range of other opportunities and constraints. In order to ensure a complete range of sustainability issues are addressed through the options development process there is a need to clarify the definition of "other strategic environmental considerations" and "regeneration priorities" and include some additional layers of information where available such as historic assets and access to community services and facilities.
11. Moreover, there is a need to have a clear rationale for which factors are most appropriate for inclusion in this type of exercise at the regional scale (as opposed to the local level through the LDF process) and how their relative importance will be weighted in finalising strategic opportunity areas. Through the SA process, the aim should be to optimise the integration of economic, social and environmental objectives in the first instance. In reality, where there are competing priorities, this will not always be possible. Where certain objectives need to be prioritised and trade-offs need to be made, this should be made explicit and mitigation should be provided. The Spatial Options Appraisal Framework (SOAF) to be developed as part of the SA will help to make this process open and transparent.

RSS 2009 UPDATE: CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

For Decision

To update Members on the proposed timetable and engagement programme for the Spatial Options consultation. Members are asked to consider whether there are additional opportunities for engagement.

Timetable for Spatial Options

1. The key dates for work on the Spatial Options for the RSS Update are as follows:
 - 21 October – Regional Planning Board approves Spatial Options
 - 3 November – Consultation on Spatial Options begins
 - 2 January – Consultation ends
 - 3 February – Regional Planning Board considers initial analysis of responses

Engagement and Consultation

2. The Project Plan sets out a Statement of Public Participation for the RSS 2009 Update. The programme of consultation and engagement for the Spatial Options will be carried out in accordance with the Project Plan.

Meetings and Events

3. Four events are being held to explain and discuss the Spatial Options. They are open to everyone, including elected members and the public. The events will consist of presentations, discussions and hands-on workshops during the day. For those that cannot attend during the day, there will be an open drop-in information session in the evening. Members should already have received an invitation to the events, which are as follows:
 - 11 November – York, National Centre for Early Music
 - 13 November – Hull, Octagon Centre
 - 18 November – Sheffield, Megacentre
 - 20 November – Leeds, Marriott Hotel
4. There will be a regional housing and planning event on the 27 November 2008 at the Park Inn Hotel, York to discuss the short-term impacts of the credit crunch and planning for housing in the long-term. The regional event is targeted at Assembly board members and is an opportunity for discussion on

the Spatial Options with the other boards. There will also be a regional SEE Partner's event on 25 November in Leeds.

5. Assembly officers will also be attending a number of existing meetings such as the Assembly's Boards, Forums and Officer Groups; sub-region and city region meetings; and meetings with the private sector and utility providers. Officers will also be facilitating discussions with specific stakeholders including focus groups with Gypsy and Traveller communities and a workshop with undergraduate planning students to present and discuss the Options.
6. A schedule of these meetings is given for information at **Annex A**. Board members are asked to consider whether there are any meetings, events or other opportunities during the Options consultation that the Assembly could use to promote the 2009 Update and discuss the Options with stakeholders.

Communications

7. The website will continue to play a pivotal role in providing up-to-date information. All of the findings of the evidence base studies are available on the website. The consultation documents will be available in hard copy and in electronic format as a download from the website. The email address (rssupdate@yhassembly.gov.uk) will be used to provide a single point of contact for enquiries and consultation responses. The Assembly is also asking local authorities and other organisations to provide information on and links to the Assembly's RSS 2009 Update webpage on their own websites.
8. The Assembly's newsletters and publications will be used to give information on the 2009 Update including briefing notes for members, the quarterly newsletter 'essentials' and the monthly email newsletter 'mini essentials'. The Assembly will make use of the regional and local press to publicise the 2009 Update. The Assembly is asking local authorities and other organisations to provide information to local residents through their own publications and newsletters.

Harriet Fisher, Policy Officer
10 October 2008

Date	Meeting/Event	Venue
24 September	Regional Planning Forum	Wakefield Town Hall
24 September	Social, Environmental and Economic Partners	Arndale House, Leeds
24 September	Climate Change Adaptation Steering Group	YHA
26 September	South Yorkshire Planning Officers Group	SCC, Sheffield
3 October	Regional Housing Board	YHA
7 October	Regional Transport Officers Group	YHA
10 October	Regional Transport Board	YHA
14 October	Climate Change Adaptation Workshop	Orangery, Wakefield
16 October	Climate Change Adaptation Workshop	Orangery, Wakefield
21 October	Climate Change Adaptation Workshop	Wakefield Cathedral
21 October	Regional Planning Board	YHA
22 October	Climate Change Adaptation Workshop	Wakefield Cathedral
23 October	Sustainable Development Board	YHA
31 October	South Yorkshire Planning Officers Group	SCC, Sheffield
3 November	<i>Options Consultation Starts</i>	
5 November	Leeds City Region Policy Advisors Group	Wakefield
6 November	Regional Executive Board	YHA
10 November	University of Sheffield Planning Students	TRP Building, Sheffield
11 November	North Yorkshire sub region consultation event	National Centre for Early Music, York
13 November	Humber sub region consultation event	Octagon Centre, Hull
18 November	South Yorkshire sub region consultation event	Megacentre, Sheffield
20 November	West Yorkshire sub region consultation event	Marriott Hotel, Leeds
21 November	North Yorkshire County Council Members and Officers	County Hall, Northallerton
27 November	YHA Policy Conference	Park Inn, York
28 November	South Yorkshire Planning Officers Group	SCC, Sheffield
3 December	Regional Transport Officers Group	YHA
4 December	Regional Executive Board	YHA
12 December	Regional Transport Board	YHA
2 Jan	<i>Consultation Closes</i>	