

RSS 2009 Update

Out of the options listed in the consultation document it is proposed that continuing with the broad thrust of the recently completed Plan would be most appropriate for East Riding. There are a number of issues that however need to be considered in relation to this approach, namely;

- That in response to the Government's push for higher levels of housing development and to meet the increasing need for affordable housing, a higher housing requirement could be accommodated in East Riding. This could be accommodated in locations that support the existing development strategy.
- The logic of major urban extensions (as proposed in Option 2) could also apply to smaller settlements in East Riding. Sustainable urban extensions to the identified Principal Towns (Beverley, Bridlington, Goole and Driffield) and in other identified settlements could help to address the need for more housing in the future.
- Likewise, sustainable urban extensions around the edge of Hull for example the Haltemprice villages to the west of Hull could be supported (should a need arise) with the caveat that this should support wider regeneration priorities in the city and in the East Riding and have regard to issues of landscape and settlement character.
- Consideration should be given to the need for relatively small-scale urban extensions around a limited number of smaller settlements. These would need to be assessed in terms of their sustainability (e.g. public transport and employment opportunities). This could be a logical extension of the currently proposed approach in the LDF i.e. distributing different levels and types of development between a range of smaller settlements.

J Craig
24 July 2008

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25th July 2008

Dear Harriet,

JRF Submission to the Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Assembly's Call for Evidence regards the 2009 Update to the RSS

Many thanks for inviting the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to submit evidence to this update process. While the Foundation has no direct evidence on which of the approaches you have set out would be the most suitable for the region, there are a number of related pieces of research it may be useful for you to consider.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation is both one of the UK's largest funders of independent social research and an interested regional stakeholder. We deliver housing and community services across the region and have a historic link and continued commitment to it. For more details about the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust, please visit – www.jrf.org.uk and www.jrht.org.uk.

For many years, the Foundation's research has highlighted the UK's housing supply problem, as new supply has failed to keep pace with household growth (notably associated with an aging society, familial changes and net immigration) and an overall desire for higher space standards. This work is best highlighted by the JRF's Housing and Neighbourhoods Monitor - <http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/details.asp?pubID=825>. While much of this problem is focused in the southern regions of England, further work by Steve Wilcox (<http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/housing/1981.asp>) highlighted pockets of housing affordability problems in the Yorkshire and Humberside region. This lack of supply has also had wider effects on homelessness and overcrowding as noted in the Monitor. Finally, it is worth mentioning the National Housing Federation's recent small booklet on housing statistics for the region (http://www.housing.org.uk/Uploads/File/North%20regions/Timebomb/YH_Timebomb_booklet.pdf) which highlights these issues in greater detail. It is for these reasons that the JRF welcomes the reassessment of the RSS to take into account a need for even greater new supply.

The JRF was glad to note the consultation document's focus on ensuring that current and future plans take full account of the nature of local housing markets. A JRF programme specifically covering housing markets (the full programme summary of which is available here – <http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/housing/2064.asp>) highlighted that the sophisticated processes at work in housing markets demand an equally sophisticated policy response, combining financial, planning, housing and neighbourhood management measures. Further, the programme made it clear that strategies need to work across the market, rather than focusing on a particular tenure or policy sector. One of this programme's composite projects specifically covered the Yorkshire and Humberside region (see - <http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/housing/1989.asp>).

The JRF was also pleased to note the consideration the document gives to ensuring that transport is integrated into housing development plans. A JRF study on the value of transport in

deprived areas (see - <http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/2237.asp>) highlighted that integrated transport solutions were vital for area regeneration. It notes that commercial services, without public sector intervention, are not always sufficient for people's economic and social needs and that such intervention can be offset by the significant social value created.

The JRF has a long history of supporting the growth in mixed income communities through our research and practice in the region. Our work (summarised here – <http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/foundations/0176.asp>) draws on both domestic and US practice, to demonstrate that urban extensions and growth points offer a good chance to develop such mixed communities. The research notes that this is particularly the case when new developments build on areas of market strength with nearby employment, amenities and good transport links. However, wider work the JRF has commissioned on planning practice has warned that this can be hindered in growth point areas where the local authority has little experience of dealing with recent larger developments and the related negotiations with private developers on the provision of affordable housing (see <http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/responses/docs/housing-green-paper-planning.pdf>).

Finally, as you may be aware, the JRF is very much involved with this issue from a practice perspective as it begins a new urban extension development on the outskirts of York, called Derwenthorpe. As part of the monitoring and evaluation of this work, the Foundation has supported an external assessment of the process of its inception and planning consent. This work (to be published in the late Summer), notes that development projects should ensure they consult as widely as possible and at the earliest possible stage so that plans are informed by the needs and desires of wider society and not just those residing near to the proposed development. Working in this way avoids the risk that the costs and benefits of the development are only seen by one group in the area and wider societal views are not considered. The draft findings further conclude that while the RSS is useful, to ensure that it is truly put into action it needs to further consider the delivery mechanisms for its plans and how these link up with sub-regional and local structures and plans.

The JRF continues to have a strong interest in this area from both a research and practice perspective and would therefore be happy at any point to elaborate on the points made above or respond to further details of the update.

Yours sincerely

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Wakefield MDC

It is seen as important that the planned growth agenda in the Regional Spatial Strategy retains the core approach of the RSS which promotes growth primarily in Wakefield, Castleford and Pontefract. This being the case the Wakefield LDF Core Strategy (currently under-going the Examination in Public) will be flexible enough to accommodate the growth. For new growth over and above that concentrated in Wakefield, Castleford and Pontefract then smaller levels of growth would also be acceptable around the remaining larger settlements i.e. Normanton, Knottingley, Featherstone, Hemsworth, South Kirkby and South Elmsall.

We are aware that submissions have been made by parties outside of the Council to the RSS update, including a possible expansion to the eastern side of Wakefield. This would broadly fit with the core approach to the RSS and the LDF Core Strategy for longer-term growth.

Growth to the south side of Knottingley is also being promoted while the scale of growth does not sit easily with the LDF Core Strategy or the core approach of the current RSS, some growth could be accommodated here depending on the scale.

Both the above proposals would require alterations to the current green belt boundary.

The housing growth point agenda should also be set in the context of the RSS update which is most likely to indicate a strategic reassessment of the West Yorkshire green belt. Following this reassessment (which would involve public consultation and joint working approach across West Yorkshire), the Council could then bring forward elements of the growth point agenda in LDF documents to accommodate housing growth in the longer term, including changes to the green belt boundary.