

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING

20 MARCH 2008: 10.00AM – 12.00NOON (FOLLOWED BY LUNCH)

YHA, 18 KING STREET, WAKEFIELD

AGENDA

1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

BUSINESS ITEMS

10.05 – 10.15

2. Minutes of Last Meeting – 20 December 2007 Attached
3. Matters Arising Verbal

DISCUSSION ITEMS

10.15 – 12.00

4. Regional Climate Change Adaptation Study - Progress Attached
5. LSPs and Ecological Budgeting - Project Update Presentation
6. Review of Sub National Economic Development and Regeneration – Update Verbal
7. SD Board – Nominations and Future Arrangements Attached
8. Scrutiny Board – Climate Change Verbal
9. Carbon Action Yorkshire – Update Verbal
10. Integrated Regional Framework (IRF) – Progress Attached
11. Any Other Business

INFORMATION ITEM

- Provisional Sustainable Development Board Meeting Dates 2008/09 Attached

Date of Next Meeting: TBC

**MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING:
20 DECEMBER 2007**

Attendees

Cllr Arthur Barker	Chair
Naheed Arshad Mather	Deputy Chair
David Fraser	Government Office
David Gibbs	SD Expert
Jayne Ashley	UK SD Commission
Mike Smith	Yorkshire Forward
Les Newby	Yorkshire Futures
Chris Martin	YHA
Iain Lovell	YHA
Jatinder Singh-Mehmi	YHA
Nicola Baylis	YHA
Andy Horrocks	YHA

Visitors

Anthony Rae	Friends of the Earth/TAR
Paul Roberts	Government Office
Amy Denton	JMP
Martin Revill	JMP
Adrian Hilton	North East Assembly
Emma Bridge	Rotherham MBC
Carole Cozens	YHA
Harriet Fisher	YHA
Helen Todd	YHA
Martin Elliot	YHA
Rob Warm	YHA
Ruth Hardingham	YHA
Stuart Clewlow	YHA

Apologies

Cllr Geoffrey Lewis	Humber Local Authorities
Cllr Andrew Waller	North Yorkshire Local Authorities
Cllr Ken Wyatt	South Yorkshire Local Authorities
Cllr Ken Sims	West Yorkshire Local Authority Partnership
Martyn Roberts	YHA

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

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

The Chair also congratulated Jatinder on his appointment as Sustainable Development Policy Manager with the Assembly.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting – 20 September 2007

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

3. Matters Arising

It was confirmed that Mike Smith would update members on Carbon Action Yorkshire and other Yorkshire Forward carbon reduction programmes at the next meeting.

Mike Smith

4. Draft Integrated Regional Framework (IRF)

Members were updated on progress of the developing Integrated Regional Framework (IRF). It was confirmed that the draft version had now been submitted to Defra and the Sustainable Development Commission, with comments expected back by the end of January 2008. The draft document had also been submitted for a full sustainability appraisal.

It was emphasised that the document required further work to tighten up the key actions, develop the sustainability appraisal process and matrix, and establish the indicators and monitoring process.

Members were informed that the final IRF would become a starting point for the development of the Single Integrated Regional Strategy (SIRS), therefore it was important to identify the issues now.

Members were then invited comment on the draft document. In the discussion that followed, a number of key points were raised:

- The document is 'playing it safe' – needs to be more ambitious.
- What do we do if organisations don't deliver?
- The weighting of the ten challenges needs to be more

consistent.

- LAAs and MAAs are including this work – that demonstrates that local authorities are taking notice.
- Local authorities have a passion and depth of understanding for these issues.
- Sustainable growth needs to focus on more than just housing issues.
- Indicators will help to finalise the document.
- The IRF has a role is spatially mapping out the issues/challenges.

Members were asked to forward any further comments to Andy Horrocks (Andy.Horrocks@YHAssembly.gov.uk) by the end of January 2008.

It was **agreed** that a further update on progress would be provided at the next meeting.

Andy Horrocks

5. **Review of Sub National Economic Development and Regeneration**

Members received an update on progress of the Review of Sub National Economic Development and Regeneration (SNR).

It was confirmed that early indications suggested that the process would have a 'regional flavour' with arrangements differing between regions.

It was noted that there had been some slippage with the timetable for the process, with the Government consultation now expected in early spring 2008. It was **agreed** that, if available, the consultation document should be discussed at the next meeting.

Nicola Baylis

Despite the delays, a number of useful discussions had already taken place between the Assembly, Yorkshire Forward and Local Government Yorkshire and Humber on the key issues. It was confirmed that early signs were encouraging, with the importance of co-operation between regional agencies and stakeholders recognised.

Members were informed that the Assembly Business Plan and Budget for the coming year would reflect the transition process. It was stressed that further discussions would need to take place on this issue.

Members were informed that the Regional Minister, Caroline

Flint, had adopted a small number of priorities for the region – one of which is climate change. It was **agreed** that there were a number of regional events focussed on this issue that the Minister should be invited to attend.

The next steps in the SNR process were **noted**.

6. **Achieving Low Carbon and Sustainable Transport Systems in Yorkshire and Humber – What Can Be Made to Work?**

Members received a presentation from Martin Reville, JMP Consulting, on the main findings of the draft 'Achieving Low Carbon and Sustainable Transport Systems in Yorkshire and Humber' report (slides attached at **Annex A**).

In the discussion that followed, a number of points were raised:

- Need to be clear how the interventions are weighted.
- May be helpful to look at cost per mile.
- Fuel price predictions based on historical trends – is that realistic?
- Details of the impact of individual interventions should be in the final report.
- Will there be a breakdown of individual and business car use in the final report?
- Need to identify areas not included in the study that have a major impact (e.g. freight).
- Sustainable transport can be included as part of the Eco Town proposals.
- If we can't reduce emissions from transport, we need to look at other areas where reductions can be made.
- Need to show leadership – should the report, for example, be suggesting that people should only have one car?
- Should the report support a subsidised transport system?
- Can we run one or two pilots on the ideal scenario to see how it works?
- Radical change is needed – need to ensure the final report is circulated as widely as possible.
- This is an important study with challenging outcomes – the Board will need to ensure the Regional Transport Board faces up to these challenges.
- Could look at a joint Sustainable Development Board/Regional Transport Board meeting, possibly as part of the Regional Funding Allocations Process, to look at the issues raised.

It was confirmed that the final report would be completed early in the New Year and presented to the Regional Executive and Transport Boards for endorsement. The final report would also feed into the Integrated Regional Framework (IRF).

7. Update on Yorkshire and Humber LSP Ecological Footprinting Project

Members **noted** the update on the Yorkshire and Humber LSP Ecological Footprinting Project.

Members also asked that it be **noted** that the Board recognises and appreciates the good work that URSUS Consulting are doing in relation to this project.

8. Regional Adaptation Study

Members received a presentation from Adrian Hilton, North East Assembly, on the Regional Adaptation Study currently being undertaken in the North East region (slides attached at **Annex B**).

Adrian confirmed that the cost of the study (approximately £80k) had been funded, in the most part, by contributions from regional organisations with an interest in this work.

It was noted that the final report would be available early in the new year on the North East Assembly website (www.northeastassembly.gov.uk).

Members then discussed proposals to undertake a scoping study to inform the development of a full Regional Adaptation Study in the Yorkshire and Humber region.

Members **agreed** the proposals for the scoping study as set out in paragraph 9 of the report, and that an update on progress should be given at the next meeting.

Martyn
Roberts

It was also **agreed** that the brief for the North East Assembly study would be circulated to members for information.

Martyn
Roberts

9. The Regional Housing Board's Response to the Advice Note on Climate Change, Sustainable Design and Construction

Members **noted** the Regional Housing Board's response to

the Advice Note on Climate Change, Sustainable Design and Construction.

It was confirmed that the Advice Note had been well received and the Regional Housing Board were committed to progressing this work.

10. Secretary of State's Proposed Changes to the Draft Yorkshire and Humber Plan (RSS) and the Sustainability Appraisal of the Proposed Changes

Members **noted** the update on the Assembly's response to the Proposed Changes and the next steps in the process.

11. Any Other Business

Members were informed that the recruitment process for the two SD Expert vacancies on the Board would commence in the new year.

It was **noted** that sub regional local authority attendance at Board meetings was poor. It was agreed that the Chair would highlight this problem at the sub regional local authority meetings he would be attending as Chair of LGYH.

Members were informed that the Scrutiny Board were seeking a Board member to join the panel for the 'Meeting the Climate Change Challenge' scrutiny review that would be commencing shortly. It was suggested that Phil Webber may wish to take up this position on the Board's behalf and it was **agreed** that a member of the Assembly officer team would contact Phil to discuss. It was confirmed that the Board would receive regular updates on the progress of this review.

Iain Lovell

Information Items:

- **Regional Inequalities Report**
- **Draft Agenda – 20 March 2008**

The information items were **noted**.

Date of Next Meeting: 20 March 2008

REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STUDY - PROGRESS

For Information/Discussion

Members are asked to note progress on the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Study.

1. At the Board meeting on 20 December 2007, members agreed to the commissioning of a scoping study to inform the development of a full Regional Climate Change Adaptation Study in Yorkshire and Humber. However, given the subsequent level of interest and degree of commitment from regional partners to the Study, it was decided, in consultation with the Chair, that the best course of action would be to progress directly to a full Study comparable to that undertaken in the North-East region.
2. Consequently, a partnership of Yorkshire and Humber organisations has been formed to take this work forward. This partnership currently includes the Assembly, Yorkshire Forward, the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Futures, Natural England and Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber. UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP) have indicated that they would like to join the partnership. UKCIP is funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and based at the University of Oxford. They coordinate research on how climate change will have an impact at regional and national levels and are members of the regional Climate Change Executive Group.
3. A draft brief for the Study was produced and circulated to members of the partnership for comment. Detailed responses were received and a final brief for the work agreed. This is a lengthy document and copies are available on request. Funding for the Study was secured from Yorkshire Futures, the Assembly, Yorkshire Forward, the Environment Agency and Natural England. It is estimated that this will cost around £100,000. Given the scale and scope of the Study, Yorkshire Futures agreed to undertake tendering and contractual arrangements on behalf of the partnership. Tenders have been invited and the deadline for receipt of these is 4 April 2008.
4. This critical Study will enable the delivery of new local and regional adaptive actions by providing a coherent and consistent regional framework linked to national guidance (from DEFRA and UKCIP) by identifying key strategic vulnerabilities. It will form a major component of the regional Climate Change Action Plan, which is currently being reviewed and updated, as well as being a significant element of the Sustainable Development Board Work Programme

for 2008/9. The results of the Study will incorporate relevant current regional and local actions (for example adaptation-related studies currently being carried out regionally by the Forestry Commission) in a coordinated way that adds value to them.

5. In terms of next steps, a verbal update on progress will be given at the meeting.

Source Papers

6. Past reports/background papers on this subject are available as follows:

Report	Location
"Regional Strategies and Climate Change", May 2007. Report by Arup, Cambridge Econometrics and Stockholm Environment Institute	Available from: Nicola Baylis Yorkshire and Humber Assembly 18 King Street Wakefield WF1 2SQ Tel: 01924 331560 E-mail: Nicola.Baylis@yhassembly.gov.uk
Climate Change Adaptation - Update Sustainable Development Board: 20 September and 20 December 2007	

Martyn Roberts, Sustainable Development Policy Officer
7 March 2008

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT BOARD – NOMINATIONS AND FUTURE
ARRANGEMENTS**

For Information/Decision

Members are asked to note the information on nominations to the Board and future Board arrangements and agree a way forward to securing board members for 2008/09

Nominations

1. The Assembly will shortly be seeking nominations for membership of the Sustainable Development Board for the 2008/09 meeting year, which runs from the Assembly AGM (taking place on 26 June 2008) to the following AGM.

Chair and Deputy Chair

2. Nominations for the positions of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Sustainable Development Board will be sought from the full Assembly membership. Both the Chair and Deputy Chair (one to be a local authority member and one a SEE partner) will be appointed by the Assembly at the AGM.

SD Expert Members

3. SD Experts are recruited independently. When a SD Expert vacancy arises, applications are sought from interested parties within the region.
4. Applications were sought during February for the two vacant SD Expert positions on the Board, with 14 applications received by the deadline. A desk based evaluation of the applications was carried out, and the following candidates have been invited to join the Board:

- Andy Wilson
- Tom Knowland

Sub Regional Local Authority and Other Members

5. Sub Regional Local Authority representatives are sought from the four Sub Regional Local Authority Partnerships. Only elected members are eligible to be put forward for these positions. Each Sub Region may also nominate a

named deputy to attend meetings on behalf of their representative if their representative is unable to attend.

6. Representatives from other member organisations are sought directly from the organisation concerned and each organisation may also nominate a named deputy to attend meetings on behalf of their representative if their representative is unable to attend.

Member Attendance

7. The Board has suffered somewhat this year from poor attendance. The table below summarises attendance at meetings to date (excluding 20 March 2008) during 2007/08 by sector.

	Attendance
Chair	100%
Deputy Chair	100%
Yorkshire Forward	100%
Government Office	100%
SD Experts	50%
Yorkshire Futures	50%
UK SD Commission	50%
Local Authority Representatives	12.5%

Issues and Next Steps

8. In order for the Board to effectively debate issues and make decisions that ensure buy-in from key partners, it is important that those considering putting themselves forward for membership of the Board attend meetings and provide other input, as appropriate, between meetings.
9. It is therefore proposed that in seeking nominations this year additional emphasis is placed on securing members able to make this commitment. This will include providing additional information to nominating bodies about the role and function of the Board both now and, insofar as we know it, post Sub National Review.
10. Members are asked to discuss this approach, make additional proposal and agree a final way forward for approval.

Nicola Baylis, Business Services Officer/Sue Jeffrey, Executive Director
February 2008

INTEGRATED REGIONAL FRAMEWORK (IRF) - PROGRESS

For Information/Discussion

Members are asked to note further progress on the IRF (detailed in the appended Regional Executive Board paper), and consider ways the document can be promoted and used across the region.

Background

1. Following recommendations made by the UK Sustainable Development Commission, Defra, the North East Regional Assembly and independent consultants, a number of final amendments have been made to the IRF during the early part of 2008. These amendments are detailed in the Regional Executive Board report (attached at **Annex A**), and were put forward for agreement at the meeting on 13 March 2008.

Moving Forward

2. The Assembly's 2008/09 – 2010/11 Business Plan recognises that, because we are now in a period of transition, the Assembly needs to focus more acutely on its core business areas, and use its available resources to ensure successor arrangements are in place post-2010. Increasingly, this will mean that we have a much bigger role to play facilitating and enabling change, rather than delivering it.
3. The priority focus for the Assembly will be in implementing the IRF in those areas that relate to our core responsibilities (for example the RSS Review, and work on housing and transport), and on promoting use of the IRF as a strategy alignment tool for sustainable development.
4. Now that the IRF is nearing completion, the Sustainable Development Board has a pivotal role to play promoting uptake and use of the Framework across the region. Changes to regional working brought about by the SNR mean that the roles and responsibilities of bodies tasked with implementing sustainable development are as yet not fully clear. The Board must therefore be proactive in:
 - working with existing partners to identify ways of addressing key actions;
 - identifying new partners with the capacity to deliver for the region;
 - promoting the IRF as a platform from which to move to a Single Regional Strategy; and

- working with other Boards to mainstream and align sustainable development work in other key strategies.
5. The next few years will be critical in terms of laying the groundwork for a single regional strategy. The IRF has identified ten challenges that are important to the region now. Most, if not all, will be challenges for many years to come, and we must use the IRF as a vehicle for maintaining the high profile needed if we are to successfully address them. Regional partnership work will continue to be key in achieving this.

Andy Horrocks, Policy Manager SD & SI
March 2008

REPORT PRESENTED TO THE REGIONAL
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: 13 MARCH 2008



INTEGRATED REGIONAL FRAMEWORK (IRF)

For Decision

Members are asked to discuss and agree final changes to the IRF - in light of final development work, the North East Regional Assembly's Sustainability Appraisal and comments made by Defra, and the UK Sustainable Development Commission.

Background

1. The draft Integrated Regional Framework was agreed at the Assembly meeting on 6 December 2007. However, it was also agreed that further work/liason should take place as a final 'tightening up' exercise. This included:
 - seeking feedback from DEFRA, the UK Sustainable Development Commission and the Sustainable Development Board on the draft IRF;
 - undertaking a final sustainability appraisal and an assessment of how well the draft IRF addresses issues raised in earlier consultation;
 - working with Yorkshire Futures to finalise the monitoring sections; and
 - detailing how the framework will work as an appraisal tool.
2. This paper sets out the results/feedback received from the above and identifies the changes proposed as a result. Most of the proposed changes outlined in this report are not substantive. The major addition is the IRF Appraisal Tool (to be used in undertaking sustainability appraisals), and this is included at **Annex A** to this report. A final version of the IRF, including the proposed changes set out in this report, will be available at the meeting (subject to printing).

DEFRA Comments

3. Defra responded that they do not formally comment or approve draft regional documents. However, they have submitted a series of 'observations' designed to help the Assembly tighten up the IRF and achieve consistency with other regional documents. Defra did comment that they see such voluntary strategies as an excellent basis for progressing towards the new Single Regional Strategy and so have encouraged regions to continue this work.
Recommended Change: There are *no resulting changes* to the IRF in light of Defra's comments.

Sustainable Development Commission

4. The UK Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) was approached informally to comment on the draft IRF. Their main comments were that there was, as yet, no clear sense of integration between challenges in the document, and that a more thorough check of consistency and logic was needed. Visual aids were suggested as a mechanism for achieving both. They also suggested that the SNR and its implications for the IRF needed further discussion.
5. Recommended Changes: The proposed changes as a result of the SDC's comments are:
 - to include a matrix that show visually how the ten regional challenges integrate with each other;
 - to include the national sustainable development principles in the IRF Appraisal Tool so that broader sustainable development issues, such as living within environmental limits and promoting good governance are picked up alongside the ten regional challenges; and
 - to review the consistency and logic running through the regional challenges, strategic directions and key actions.

North East Regional Assembly Sustainability Appraisal

6. The North East Assembly was asked to conduct a full sustainability appraisal of the IRF during January 2008. Main points to come out of this process were that the regional vision needed reinstating into the document (as this would reinforce the strategic direction), and that an appraisal tool needed developing. The appraisal also noted that natural environment did not feature highly enough within the document, and that more detail on actions and indicators was required (see later section on monitoring).
7. Recommended Changes: It is proposed that the issues raised by the sustainability appraisal can be addressed by:
 - introducing the concept of environmental limits as a crosscutting issue within the appraisal tool.
 - not re-introducing the regional vision statement - the IRF challenges and their strategic directions already fulfil the forward looking 'vision' role of the IRF – however the challenges will already be shown together in one diagram.
 - Adding some further references to the natural environment - but many of the strategic directions and actions in the document do already directly relate to the natural environment.
 - Making it clearer that 'Progress in the Region' and the move to an 'Integrated Monitoring Framework' for the region provide the means to monitor the IRF (rather than the IRF having its own further monitoring framework).

- Developing the IRF Appraisal Matrix (**Annex A**) of this report

Independent Review of Consistency

8. The independent consultants who reviewed the original IRF consultation responses were asked to check the regional challenges, strategic directions and key actions within the IRF for consistency and scope of coverage. The consultants were also asked to consider how this addressed concerns raised by earlier consultation responses. This review looked at the supporting text for each challenge, and whether it was a fair expansion of the strategic directions and key actions included with each regional challenge.

Recommended Changes:

As part of this review the consultants recommended that all ten regional challenges be reworded to emphasise them as actions rather than simply statements. For example, *Improving Productivity and Increasing Innovation* will replace *Productivity and Innovation*. The consultant's views are supported and the full ten revised challenge titles are included in the Appraisal Tool in Annex A.

9. Other Recommended Changes: As a result of this review we have made amendments to the text supporting four of the regional challenges (detailed below). There are a number of limited additions/changes under all of the challenges that will help to ensure that they effectively address the issues.

- Supporting Sustainable Transport

We have strengthened the links with the climate change challenges and reinforced the benefits of improved accessibility.

- Meeting Housing Availability and Affordability Needs

We have developed this section to give a more rounded view of housing issues, particularly in relation to the type and quality of residential offer and climate change.

- Reducing Inequality and Embracing Diversity

This challenge was dominated by inequalities. More emphasis is now being placed on the Region's diversity as a strength, and how this will benefit the Region as a whole.

- Improving Public Health and Reducing Obesity

The text supporting this challenge has been dominated by obesity, and more emphasis has been placed on general public health issues. Picking up on the moves to ill health prevention, there are now more links between education and public health, and on the pressures on public health of an ageing population.

IRF Appraisal Tool

- 10.** One of the widely used features of the Regional Sustainable Development Framework (which this document is replacing) has been its sustainability appraisal tool. It has been an intention to develop this tool to accompany the IRF, and suggestions from reviewing bodies have supported this intent. The questions have been updated to reflect those issues in the IRF. **Annex A** contains the IRF Appraisal Tool that will form an integral part of the document.
- 11.** To give the IRF Appraisal Tool greater scope, and to ensure complete coverage, the national sustainable development principles have been included as crosscutting issues. A qualitative scoring system has also been introduced into the 'Impact' section to make the process more thorough.

Sustainable Development Board

- 12.** At the Sustainable Development Board meeting of 20 December 2007, a number of observations were made regarding progress with the IRF. Board members felt that the document still needed to be more ambitious. Further work on integration, and the addition of the visual tool around the regional challenges described above helps address these concerns by bringing out the interconnectedness of all ten challenges. Further work on the challenges, including revisions to the supporting text and a renaming of the titles, addresses concerns over the 'weighting' of each area, and reframes the priority areas as ones of action rather than statement.

Monitoring

- 13.** Work on bringing Progress in the Region and the Annual Monitoring Report together to form an Integrated Monitoring Framework is at an advanced stage, and it is the intention to use this as the monitoring basis for the IRF.

Next Steps

- 14.** Subject to Regional Executive Board agreeing the recommended changes, additional graphical material will be brought into the document to give greater clarity in appropriate places. Work is now ongoing to agree an appropriate publishing format for the IRF. The document will be supplemented with photographs agreed as part of a regional competition run last year.
- 15.** It is intended to take a summary of this paper to the next Sustainable Development Board with a focus on how the IRF is taken forward and how it is used.

Andy Horrocks, SD and SI Policy Manager/Richard Wood, Head of Planning Strategy - March 2008

IRF Appraisal Tool

Title of Activity & Status				
Objective / Activity				
	IMPACT		COMMENT ON IMPACT	POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS
REGIONAL CHALLENGE	Qualitative Measure ++/+/0/ -/--	Who / what / where will be impacted?		
<p>1. Supporting Sustainable Transport</p> <p>Will it improve connectivity to and between the Regions' cities and towns, particularly by public transport and for freight?</p> <p>Will it improve connectivity to other regions and to international gateways, particularly by public transport and for freight?</p> <p>Will it achieve a significant increase in the use of the public transport, cycling and walking?</p> <p>Will it reduce congestion and reliance of the private car?</p> <p>Will it improve people's accessibility to essential services, facilities and opportunities?</p>				
<p>2. Reducing the impact of Climate Change</p> <p>Will it facilitate a move to a low carbon economy through carbon reductions and the development of new low carbon technologies, products and services?</p> <p>Will it diversify the Region's energy production to include a greater proportion of renewable and clean coal energy?</p> <p>Will it improve the efficient use of energy?</p> <p>Will it facilitate turning waste from a disposal and emissions problem to an economic resource for the region?</p>				
<p>3. Increasing the Region's Resilience to Climate Change</p> <p>Will it improve the regions' resilience to climate change by maximising the contribution our natural environment makes through restoring and creating habitats, greenspaces and</p>				

Title of Activity & Status				
Objective / Activity				
REGIONAL CHALLENGE	IMPACT		COMMENT ON IMPACT	POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS
	Qualitative Measure ++/+ / 0 / -/--	Who / what / where will be impacted?		
wetlands? Will it assist the region to adapt to the impacts of climate change by minimising threats and maximising opportunities? Will it ensure that our infrastructure can cope with the demands of climate change? Will it encourage a proactive, joined up and region wide approach to flood risk management?				
4. Improving Productivity and Increasing Innovation Will it promote higher levels of research and development activity and investment in the region's private sector? Will it promote better collaboration between business, the public sector and higher education in delivering sustainable economic growth? Will it foster more business start ups and achieve higher business survival rates?				
5. Meeting Housing Availability and Affordability Needs Will it improve people's access to housing, by providing more affordable homes for the region and providing for disadvantaged groups? Will it improve the quality and energy efficiency of existing stock and make sure that new stock is of the highest standards in terms of design and construction? Will it ensure that the housing offer and mix supports the region's economy and meets the needs of all parts of the community?				
6. Improving Public Health and Reducing Obesity Will it improve the health and well being of the region's population? Will it reduce inequalities in healthcare provision and access and promote a coherent, regional approach to healthcare?				

Title of Activity & Status				
Objective / Activity				
REGIONAL CHALLENGE	IMPACT		COMMENT ON IMPACT	POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS
	Qualitative Measure ++/+ / 0 / -/--	Who / what / where will be impacted?		
Will it encourage individual and community engagement with public health and obesity issues?				
7. Improving Educational Attainment and Developing Skills Will it reverse long-term trends in low educational attainment across parts of the region? Will it enhance the employability of individuals in the region, by giving them skills to take up employment opportunities? Will it develop the higher-level skill needs of those already in employment to meet future economic opportunities?				
8. Reducing Violent Crime Will it deliver safe, stronger and more inclusive neighbourhoods and communities? Will it reduce the causes and incidences of violent crime in our region? Will it reduce the fear of crime?				
9. Reducing Inequality and Embracing Diversity Will it reduce inequalities and address the significant concentrations of deprivation in our urban areas and issues of isolation and peripherality on rural and coastal areas? Will it support more cohesive communities and improve our understanding of the structure of our communities and their inter-racial profile? Will it develop employment and training needs for all, and promote fair access to development opportunities				
10. Achieving Sustainable Growth Will it manage growth through maintaining a focus on the continued transformation of the Region's cities and towns?				

Title of Activity & Status				
Objective / Activity				
REGIONAL CHALLENGE	IMPACT		COMMENT ON IMPACT	POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS
	Qualitative Measure ++/+ / 0 / -/--	Who / what / where will be impacted?		
<p>Will it take an integrated approach to Infrastructure?</p> <p>Will it ensure that currently excluded communities and areas requiring regeneration benefit from sustainable growth and related investment?</p> <p>Will it positively manage and use the Region's natural, built and historic environment in creating distinct, high quality and vibrant places?</p>				
<p>a) Living within Environmental Limits</p> <p>Does the activity respect the limits of the planet's environment, resources and biodiversity?</p> <p>Does the activity seek to improve our environment and ensure that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations?</p>				
<p>b) Ensuring a Strong , Healthy and Just Society</p> <p>Does the activity take into account and seek to meet the diverse needs of all people in the region in existing and future communities?</p> <p>Does the activity promote personal wellbeing, social cohesion and inclusion, creating equal opportunity for all?</p>				
<p>c) Achieving a Sustainable Economy</p> <p>Does the activity contribute towards building a strong, stable and sustainable economy, which provides prosperity and opportunities for all?</p> <p>Does the environmental and social cost of the activity fall on to those who impose them?</p> <p>Does the activity incentives the efficient use of recourses?</p>				
<p>d) Using Sound Science Responsibly</p> <p>Does the activity ensure policy is developed and implemented on the basis of strong scientific evidence, whilst taking into account scientific uncertainty as well as public</p>				

Title of Activity & Status				
Objective / Activity				
REGIONAL CHALLENGE	IMPACT		COMMENT ON IMPACT	POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS
	Qualitative Measure ++/+ / 0 / -/--	Who / what / where will be impacted?		
attitudes and values?				
e) Promoting Good Governance Does the activity actively promote effective, participative systems of governance in all levels of society? Does the activity engage people's creativity, energy and diversity?				
COMMENT ON CUMULATIVE IMPACT				

**PROVISIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING DATES
2008/09**

1. Below are the provisional Sustainable Development Board Meeting dates for the 2008/09 meeting year.
 - 31 July 2008
 - 23 October 2008
 - 29 January 2009
 - 30 April 2009
2. Sustainable Development Meetings are scheduled to take place from 10.00am to 12.00noon, and the venue for these meetings will be the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly, 18 King Street, Wakefield.
3. These dates will be presented to the Assembly for formal approval at the Assembly AGM on 26 June 2008. Members will receive confirmation of the dates following that meeting.

Nicola Baylis, Business Services Officer
February 2008