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Our Ref: Our work\Planning Conformity\030- Wakefield\Local Development Frameworks\Final Responses\April 08 - March 09

10 July 2008

Martyn Clay  
Planning Services  
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Dear Martyn

## **Wakefield LDF Central Wakefield Area Action Plan Submission Document**

Further to your letter of 23 May 2008, I am pleased to confirm the Assembly's opinion that the Wakefield MDC Central Wakefield Area Action Plan Submission Document as submitted to the Secretary of State on 29 May 2008, is in general conformity with the Yorkshire and Humber Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy to 2026) which was published in May 2008.

There are no issues of conformity between the Central Wakefield Area Action Plan and the Yorkshire and Humber Plan (RSS). Detailed comments are provided below on the main areas of alignment.

### General

The RSS published in May 2008, has an important role in providing a strategic policy context for local policies. The Assembly is keen that local authorities highlight the need for there to be 'general conformity' between the RSS and DPDs, to ensure that the two strands of the development plan are mutually supportive. Chapter 2 of the Area Action Plan (AAP) deals with this and is welcomed by the Assembly. We also welcome references to the RSS throughout.

Wakefield is defined as a Sub-Regional City in the RSS and it is expected that it should be the prime focus for housing, employment, shopping, leisure, education, health and cultural facilities in line with Policy YH4A. The Spatial Vision and Objectives of the Central Wakefield AAP is in line with this intended role.

Policy YH4B of the RSS sets out how Sub-Regional Cities should be transformed into attractive, cohesive and safe places where people want to live, work and invest. The Assembly considers that the objectives within the Central Wakefield AAP support and are in line with this approach. Specifically the Assembly supports

the following objectives as being in line with Policy YH4 B: to reduce traffic levels and improve access by public transport, walking and cycling; to diversify the housing market of the City Centre; focussing high trip generating uses in the City Centre; to protect the distinctive historic character of the City; improve the public realm and enhance the natural environment and provide for a vibrant evening economy.

### Transport

The Assembly welcomes the transport section and can confirm that it is in line with RSS Policies T1 - Personal Travel Reduction and Modal Shift, Policy T2 – Parking Policy and Policy T3 – Public Transport through measures such as a reduction in the levels of long stay car parking, a commitment to improve pedestrian access, restrictions on traffic and public transport priority measures.

### Meeting Housing Needs

The Assembly welcomes the approach to housing and in particular the recognition of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment. The Assembly consider that the AAP aligns with RSS Policy H1 – Provision and Distribution of Housing and Policy H2 – Managing and Stepping Up the Supply and Delivery of Housing. The AAP details the deliverable sites during the plan period and also points to the broad locations within the City Centre where additional supply is likely to arise.

### Economy and Employment

The Assembly welcomes the approach to the delivery of office development which the AAP identifies will be mainly located within the Sub-Regional City. This is in line with RSS Policy E2 – Town Centres and Major Facilities. The Assembly also welcomes the commitment to protect and enhance existing employment land in line with RSS Policy E3 – Land and Premises for Economic Development.

### Shopping

The commitment to protect and maintain the retail offer of the sub-regional city through the promotion and identification of sites within the City Centre and through policies restricting retail developments elsewhere which would harm the City Centre is supported and in line with RSS Policy E2 – Town Centres and Major Facilities.

If you need any further clarification then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Box', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Cllr Peter Box  
Chair, Regional Planning Board