

Our Ref: JP/AJ/LDF/Final Responses, Wakefield Initial Sustainability Appraisal

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6 December 2007

Dear Ian

Waste DPD Early Engagement

The Yorkshire and Humber Assembly welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Waste DPD for Wakefield MDC and to continue its involvement in the development of a coherent spatial planning framework for the region. The comments offered in this letter are intended to be within the spirit of continued and productive joint working.

At this stage, the Assembly's response to the early engagement document is a set of general officer comments. When the Core Strategy is submitted to the Secretary of State a formal Assembly view on its general conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy will need to be given.

In developing the next stage of the DPD you should take account of the existing Regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire & the Humber (based on the selective review of RPG12 issued in December 2004), the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy – the Yorkshire and Humber Plan (submitted to the Secretary of State in December 2005) and The Secretary of States Proposed Changes to the Yorkshire and Humber Plan (September 2007).

Government guidance (paragraph 4.19 in PPS12) states: "Where the regional spatial strategy...has been through an Examination in Public, and the proposed changes have been published, considerable weight may be attached to that strategy because of the strong possibility that it will be published in that form by the Secretary of State".

As the Proposed Changes are now published, Assembly responses to consultations on DPDs need to make it clear how the Proposed Changes impact on the policies quoted and to point out to local authorities that 'considerable weight' will need to be attached to them by the decision-making body and by Inspectors at Examinations of DPDs. At the same time, it will be important to note that the Assembly itself will be making comments on the Proposed Changes and that the final version of the new RSS is expected early in 2008.

Key Points on the DPD: Early Engagement

As you know, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduced mechanisms to help ensure that Development Plan Documents (DPDs) drawn up by local authorities as part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) are in general conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). The intention is to ensure that DPDs are contributing to the delivery of the RSS and that the two strands of the Development Plan for an area (the RSS and DPDs) are mutually supportive and not in conflict.

We would therefore welcome reference to RSS within the overall context at the next stage of plan preparation. There is clearly a strong link between the waste development DPD and both the current and draft Regional Spatial Strategy. It will be important in the submitted DPD to highlight the need for there to be 'general conformity' between the RSS and the DPD, to ensure that the two strands of the development plan are mutually supportive. We therefore think it would be helpful if this need for general conformity were set out at the start of the process at issues and options as this demonstrates the need for a strong link between the LDF and the RSS and will help to clarify the significance of any references to the RSS that should be made throughout the document.

The Assembly encourages Wakefield MDC to specifically have regard to Policies ENV12, ENV13 and ENV14 as it develops its issues and options.

We hope that we can continue to contribute to the development of this DPD. If you have any questions of a technical nature please do not hesitate to contact Rob Murfin, Planning Policy Manager on 01924 331 555.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mart' - Elliot". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

Martin Elliot
Planning Policy Manager