

Foreword

“Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.”

When John F. Kennedy made those comments during his address in the Assembly Hall at Paulskirche, Frankfurt in 1963, he went on to talk about how time and the world do not stand still and the dangers of resisting progress.

Over the last eight years the Assembly has certainly never been guilty of resisting progress. It has been at the forefront of shaping regional working and has been a key driver of the enormous change that has characterised our region. As a hybrid organisation, part statutory and part voluntary, we have been free to design new and different ways of doing business.

And looking back over our albeit brief history, there's no doubt that those who have been part of the Assembly - local government leaders, members and officers, stakeholders, other partners and the staff team - have made the best of this opportunity. There's also no doubt that our region has benefited as a result.

Be it through the development of the Regional Spatial Strategy, delivery of the Regional Transport Strategy, the work of the Regional Housing Board, our scrutiny work or the recently-launched Regional Adaptation Study, the Assembly has often challenged traditional ways of thinking and brought innovative approaches and solutions to a host of cross boundary, cross-sectoral and cross party issues.

This has required real leadership from us all and real partnership working, sometimes across hitherto unlikely alliances. While things haven't always been smooth - and if difficult decisions are to be taken, we can't always take the path of least resistance - we have succeeded through discussion, negotiation and a collective desire to do what's best for the communities we all serve.

Details of some of our successes are contained in the following pages- but we hope this document serves more than being an opportunity to merely reflect on our achievements.

We believe it not only shows how far the Yorkshire and Humber region has come since the Assembly was launched in 2001, but also that the legacy left by our organisation will need be taken up and acted upon by successor bodies. We cannot afford to stand still.

And as we look to the future we must also remember some of the things that we have learnt. We must build on the work of the Assembly, improve it and adapt it to suit the new era, keeping firmly focused on our goal to continue working together to develop our region and to tackle the new and difficult challenges we now face.

It's been a pleasure to serve the Assembly during its lifetime and a pleasure working with you all.



Peter Box
Chair



Paul Jagger
Deputy Chair

Rt. Hon. John Prescott, MP,
former Deputy Prime Minister

“The Yorkshire and Humber Assembly, along with the RDA, has played an important part in developing the region’s economic priorities.”



Cultivating and Propagating

Rosie Winterton
Regional Minister for Yorkshire
and the Humber

“The Yorkshire and Humber Assembly has achieved a great deal in promoting the interests of the people and businesses of our region. I would like to thank all members of the Assembly and the staff for their valuable contribution and particularly their positive approach to improving partnership working across the region - resulting in work of real value to everyone.”

Partnership

Councils in Yorkshire and Humber were working together long before there were any Government-designed models for regional co-operation. It was nearly 15 years ago when local government created the Regional Assembly for Yorkshire and Humber. Although originally a membership body for councils, members recognised right from the outset that they could not to do business alone.

In their first year, new partnerships were forged with regional agencies, business, the voluntary sector and environmental interest groups. The result of this ‘joined-up’ approach was the very first regional strategic framework, Advancing Together into the Millennium, the forerunner of the later Advancing Together, and the starting point for the Regional Economic Strategy (RES).

It was Yorkshire Forward, our Regional Development Agency, which was charged with developing the RES.



Set up in 1999, the Government made it clear that the RDAs had to work closely with their regions and that to do this new bodies called Regional Chambers should be established. Yorkshire and Humber's experience of partnership working meant it was able to move quickly and ours was the first local authority led Chamber in England to start work.

But it didn't stop at the Regional Chamber. Councils soon recognised that the single sector, local authority assembly was being left behind by its sister partnership body. The Chamber was renamed the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly and a new constitution enshrined the principle of democratic elected councils working with stakeholder partners in a new regional strategic partnership.

This formal recognition for partners had important spin-offs. Some were better organised than others - the statutory agencies, health, skills, transport etc coped well. Business, too, traditionally had robust arrangements. However, other groups including faiths, the environment sector, rural communities, housing and BME groups each struggled to provide sector voices to engage in the new regional

arrangements. The Assembly devoted significant resources to building capacity in these areas.

And the partnership approach has achieved much - the ability to broker difficult regional deals, the delivery of robust regional scrutiny, the engagement of the full community of Yorkshire and Humber in important decisions, improving the depth and quality of regional decision-making and supporting the region in Europe - all have been crucial to the success of the Assembly.

In particular, vital work such as the Regional Spatial Strategy, development of housing and transport policy and improvements to the region's environment have been forged on the back of this collective approach.

Today Yorkshire and Humber has a much stronger sector and partnership infrastructure than it did ten years ago. This will go forward into the new regional arrangements, where it will continue to have a positive impact on regional decision-making and help ensure that regional policies are shaped by the needs and interests of all the people of Yorkshire and Humber.

Rt. Hon. John Prescott, MP,
former Deputy Prime Minister

“The Yorkshire and Humber Assembly, along with the RDA, has played an important part in developing the region's economic priorities.

“I have no doubt regional political accountability will be back; as it was with the Welsh Assembly and the Scottish Parliament - originally rejected and eventually established - so it will be for English Regions.”

Preparing the ground

Terry Hodgkinson
Chair of Yorkshire Forward

“There is no doubting that the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly has made its mark on the region and its people. Since the RDA’s inception, the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly has been a crucial partner and a critical friend. The interest of the region has been at the heart of all we’ve done together, and what we’ll continue to do in the future. Whether you think of this as the end of an era or the start of a new one, the fact remains that Yorkshire and Humber is in my view a much better place than it was ten years ago.”

Strategic Planning

Planning the future of Yorkshire and Humber, in terms of where things take place and relative scales and priorities for development and investment, has been a vital part of the Assembly’s work.

Key to this has been preparing, implementing and monitoring the Regional Spatial Strategy (the RSS). The Assembly has been responsible for the selective review of Regional Planning Guidance for Yorkshire and the Humber and for the preparation of the Yorkshire and Humber Plan (the current RSS).

Novel communication and engagement practices, such as the ‘PLANet’ Yorkshire and Humber branding, have ensured the involvement of a wider range of people and organisations beyond the traditional focus of planning.

Regions have been at the forefront of the development of the new spatial approach to planning - and none more

so than Yorkshire and Humber. The Yorkshire and Humber Plan provides the statutory long term framework for development and investment in our region.

It sets out an overall approach but also responds to the functional needs, characteristics and conditions facing different places. In doing so the preparation process achieved a “seismic shift in the way local authorities work together” (a view captured by the independent evaluation undertaken of the Plan’s preparation process). Co-operation between local authorities, sub-regions, national and regional agencies and many social, economic and environmental partners has been vital in producing a much more spatially specific and outcome focused Plan.

Innovative and joined up and inclusive approaches have been used which were critical to the development of ground - breaking and ‘national first’ policies on issues such as climate change, flooding and biodiversity. Good practice guides and studies, on issues such as urban



Peter Box
Chair, Yorkshire and Humber Assembly

“The Assembly has provided a unique focal point for the region leaders to come together, discuss the challenges we face and take collective decisions to benefit the communities we all serve. They have done that by coming to the table without an area or sector bias, but with a common aim of making Yorkshire and Humber a better place to live, work and play.”

capacity, renewable energy, employment and housing land, have helped to shape consistent and co-ordinated practices across Yorkshire and Humber.

Key links have been made between different areas of policy - for example, the relationship between the region's economic performance and the need and demand for housing.

Much evidence base work has been completed and shared - to the benefit of regional, sub-regional and local level

working. From settlement studies, to minerals and waste, through to Gypsies and Travellers - the Assembly's planning work has embraced and integrated a wide range of concerns and issues.

Annual Monitoring Reports have provided intelligence on what is, and what is not, happening and working in the region. Increasing attention has been given to making strategies and policies happen and to responding to monitoring findings. An annual Implementation Action Plan has

galvanised, co-ordinated and prioritised our planning and wider delivery activities.

Responding to major planning applications and Local Development Framework documents has become a core area of Assembly business with local authorities and partner members of the Assembly jointly undertaking this important work. As a result the Yorkshire and Humber Plan is providing a robust policy framework supporting and facilitating the delivery of local plans and action right across our region.

Transplanting

Councillor Arthur Barker
Chair of Local Government Yorkshire
and Humber

“Council leaders and local authorities have been central to the work of the Assembly and I should like to thank colleagues from across the region for their valuable contribution over the years. We will continue to work closely with Yorkshire Forward, making sure that as a region we take forward the legacy left by the Assembly and keep our focus on delivering excellence and ensuring that the priorities of our communities are being met.”

Transport and Infrastructure

One of the biggest issues facing the region during the life of the Assembly has been tackling transport and infrastructure challenges and their effects on communities, businesses and the environment in Yorkshire and Humber.

Developing the Regional Transport Strategy and the delivery of its priorities through the ‘transport strand’ of Regional Funding Allocations has helped to secure much needed focus and investment in the Yorkshire and Humber’s transport infrastructure.

Whilst many challenges remain, transport improvements to the tune of £1.3bn have been secured.

Many strategically important schemes have been backed - such as improved access to the Humber Ports - that also bring wider national benefits. Major public transport schemes have been supported in our cities (including bus rapid transit schemes in Leeds and

Sheffield). Towns such as Bridlington and Beverley have also benefited from the support for integrated transport improvement packages.

The Assembly has been continuously involved with the Northern Way and, along with Yorkshire Forward, has made sure that the region’s transport and infrastructure needs are widely understood by Government, national agencies and operators.

Responses to the Rail White Paper, Regional Rail Planning Assessments and to the development of National Ports Policies have all featured as part of the approach to making the region’s transport needs well known. Events at the House of Commons have been used to raise the profile of the region’s case to Parliamentarians.

Working with businesses and operators, the Assembly also led the development of one of the first Regional Freight Strategies, looking at all aspects of planning and delivery.

As well as piloting the approach to Regional Funding Allocations for transport, the region has developed a flexible approach to the use of resources. This will secure earlier funding for local improvement and maintenance projects across the region as part of our response to the economic downturn. Research on the carbon impact of different transport measures has also attracted national interest.

Working closely with Yorkshire Forward, utility companies and many agencies and organisations, the Assembly has more recently broadened the focus of its infrastructure work. Green, social and critical infrastructure are now a clear focus of attention as the Assembly has sought to support better linkages between development and infrastructure provision and achieve greater strategic alignment across different sectors and activities.



Tom Riordan
Chief Executive of Yorkshire Forward

“Yorkshire Forward and the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly have had a strong working partnership over the last eight years. The Assembly’s commitment to the development of a sound transport, planning and housing infrastructure framework for the region that will support economic growth has proved invaluable to the region.”

Tending

Cate Hammond
Regional Environment Forum

“The Assembly has opened opportunities to bring an environmental voice into regional policy making and to build relationships between the different sectors contributing to achieving sustainable development in the region. It has also brought a much more human face to regionalism.”

Scrutiny

Creating and encouraging better economic performance and prosperity is a key tool in building a brighter future for Yorkshire and Humber.

As part of that drive, regional scrutiny has been not only a statutory responsibility, but fundamental role of the Assembly since its inception.

Members of the Assembly and its partners have scrutinised in detail the work of Yorkshire Forward and its delivery of the Regional Economic Strategy (RES). All of the key issues affecting Yorkshire and Humber’s economy have been analysed, from skills to climate change, to start up businesses, to social inclusion.

Scrutiny has been about ensuring that Yorkshire Forward (and to a lesser extent other regional bodies) is accountable to the region for the delivery of the RES. Because scrutiny has been carried out by local authorities acting with partners, the resulting recommendations and actions

have been grounded in real experience in the region.

The scrutiny panels have made a series of key recommendations focusing on the way that Yorkshire Forward does business. These include encouraging better communication, ensuring inclusive decision-making and securing improvements in joint working with councils and others. Specific recommendations from each review have focused on proposals to improve the way that business areas are addressed and delivered. This has enabled a positive relationship to build between Yorkshire Forward and the Assembly, resulting in real action following each review, action that has improved and developed the way that Yorkshire Forward works and invests in the region.

In total, fourteen reviews have been carried out by the Assembly, looking at New Business Start-ups; Help for poorer communities; Public sector funding; the role of cities in the region’s economy; Market towns; Business Clusters; Regional Marketing

and Inward investment; Skills; The Northern Way; Innovation; Employment; the Rural Economy; Meeting the Climate Change Challenge and Investment Planning, with the most recent report being published in Spring 2009.

Each review has been a time-limited, member-led, in-depth inquiry, with evidence taken from the business community and a range of other partners. In total, more than 100 local authority and stakeholder experts have been formal Scrutiny Board members during the lifetime of the Assembly, with hundreds more contributing

either evidence or comment on the reviews themselves.

Innovative approaches, such as panel public hearings and on-line consultation have also been developed to ensure the process has evolved and adapted to changes in the regional landscape.

A report, with recommendations and an action plan developed by Yorkshire Forward in response to the review's findings, has been produced after each inquiry, with the Assembly and partners then monitoring progress to

ensure improvements result from the work.

The Assembly has been the only organisation able to combine democratic oversight of regional policy making with the input and expertise of senior regional stakeholders. This successful collaboration has meant Yorkshire Forward and other agencies responsible for delivering the RES have been consistently and effectively challenged, ensuring they explain how they are helping develop the region's economy and bring real change on the ground.



Paul Jagger
Deputy Chair, Yorkshire and Humber
Assembly

“The Assembly has a lot to celebrate in its achievements in pulling so many partners together over its life. I have been proud to be part of that. I look forward to working with colleagues in the new regional institutions.”

Bedding in and Nurturing

Clive Leach
former Deputy Chair of the Assembly.

“The Assembly has given both stakeholders and local authorities a unique opportunity to come together under one body to share views, experience and steer decisions which have had a real impact on people living and working in Yorkshire and Humber. We should not lose sight of this as the region moves forward to tackle new challenges.”

Housing and Communities

Whether it is advising government on the allocation of millions of pounds of funding for housing in Yorkshire and Humber, tackling issues such as affordable warmth and the provision of rural housing or working with communities of Gypsies and Travellers, the Assembly has brought a new urgency to the way that housing issues are tackled in the region.

Priority has been given to providing advice to Ministers on the distribution of housing funds, particularly funds for regeneration and affordable housing. Regional housing priorities have been built up from strategic investment plans developed by the sub regional housing partnerships. This ensures they are grounded in the real issues faced by communities across the region.

Our agreed investment plans were originally set out in a document called ‘Delivering Real Change’. This described the case for investment so convincingly that the region was awarded an additional £79m of funding. The document was extremely

well received both inside and outside the region and has recently been updated as part of the Regional Funding Advice process. This means we now have a clear and robust set of up-to-date priorities to take forward, that balance the long-term challenges the region faces with the short-term difficulties in the housing market.

These short-term housing market issues have also been addressed, through the implementation of a Regional Action Plan, which is working to support Mortgage Rescue schemes and prevent rising homelessness.

But our work has not just been about writing strategies and funding plans. We have engaged with delivery agencies and organisations including English Partnerships and the Housing Corporation (now the Homes and Communities Agency), Housing Associations, and the private sector developers to secure better delivery and monitor outcomes. This has also led to a much better understanding of how the region is performing, particularly in relation to major regeneration schemes and has led to improved delivery.



Martin S Havenhand

Chief Executive, Yorkshire Forward 1999-2006

“The Yorkshire and Humber Assembly, through its Strategic Framework - Advancing Together Towards a World Class Region helped pave the way for the creation of Regional Development Agencies and supported Yorkshire Forward in the production of the Region’s Regional Economic Strategy (RES). The Strategic Partnership working between the Regional Assembly, Yorkshire Forward and the Government Office - Yorkshire and Humber (GOYH) has been envied throughout the English Regions.”

Specific projects have included a programme of work to secure more affordable housing, holding events and publishing a guide aimed at supporting the delivery of affordable housing in rural areas. We have also launched a web-based guide to affordable housing aimed directly at housing and planning professionals.

We have worked with Gypsies and Travellers to produce and launch a guide to the planning system and have successfully secured investment in new and improved site provision.

We have made excellent progress on affordable warmth issues - particularly around lobbying and establishing a

common evidence base. In December 2007 we launched ‘Cold Hard Facts’ - a report into the scale and nature of fuel poverty.

Working with partners, we have established the Quality Places Forum which brings together private sector developers and housing associations to look at issues of common concern with an emphasis on developing practical initiatives that will increase the supply of much needed new homes

Beyond housing we have been working to build the capacity of voluntary sector and community groups at sub regional and regional level with some notable success. The Black and

Minority Ethnic Community Panel and the Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum both received substantial support from the Assembly in their set-up phases. A range of projects have also been delivered with older people, children and young people, and refugees and asylum seekers.

Major pieces of work included that completion and launch of ‘Yorkshire Promise’ - the region’s statement on inclusion and the publication of Part of the Picture showcasing the work of community based projects that are being delivered across the Yorkshire and Humber region.

Growing on

Jeremy Walker

Chair, Yorkshire Flood Defence Committee, and formerly Regional Director GOYH 1994-99 and Chief Executive North Yorkshire County Council 1999-2005

“The establishment of the Assembly was a real milestone in regional policy thinking nationally, showing much vision on the part of the region’s local authorities. The Assembly’s most striking characteristics have been its sustained commitment to partnership across all sectors, and its ability to find regional approaches to virtually all issues in a region of cities and towns with very strong - and different - local identities.”

Sustainable Development

The Assembly has pioneered sustainable development in the region. It has been at the forefront of raising awareness about sustainable development and applying sustainable development principles to strategies plans and delivery. Together, Assembly members have challenged the region to make the best use of resources to build a sustainable future for everyone and every place in Yorkshire and Humber.

Delivering sustainable development was the overarching goal of Advancing Together and the Regional Spatial Strategy and the reason for developing and publishing the Integrated Regional Framework (IRF) - Growing Together - in 2008. Through a process of influence and cajoling, the Assembly has succeeded in making sustainable development the golden thread that runs through all our region’s strategies and plans.

The result is a host of major practical benefits. As early in the Assembly’s life

as 2003 saw the launch of the first Regional Waste Strategy - this has helped attract many millions of pounds of investments to develop markets for recycled material, improved planning guidance on waste facilities and led to an increase in region’s re-cycling rate. Working with the Environment Agency, we have led the development of money-saving waste practices and have helped secure research funding for a national pilot project to look at the movement of waste materials in the region.

Local Authority members of the Assembly have worked together to secure millions of pounds of extra flood protection for homes and business in Yorkshire and Humber, while other notable Assembly successes have included the delivery of Vision for Biomass and Status of Biofuels reports, and, along with other agencies in the region, the organisation of the first Yorkshire and Microgeneration awards, recognising achievements in renewable energy.



More recently the Assembly consulted on the ten key sustainable development challenges facing the Yorkshire and Humber region. Tackling these challenges will remain a priority for some time to come.

Other projects include developing a Regional Flood Risk Appraisal and a pioneering regional study into how communities and businesses in Yorkshire and Humber can adapt to the effects of climate change. The study sets out likely climate impacts to 2050, and suggests how our infrastructure and services could best adapt to deal with these impacts at regional, sub regional and local level.

Providing expert guidance on sustainable development issues has also been a key part of our work. The sustainable development appraisal process developed in this region has provided a template for many others developed elsewhere. Our expertise has also been used to challenge major policy decisions in areas including transport and housing. As a result strategies and plans have been reviewed and amended to ensure that sustainable development outcomes are maximised.

Tony Cherry
Yorkshire and Humber Policy Chairman

Chris Glen
FSB National Transport Chairman

“The Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) has worked in partnership with the Assembly since its inception. Our members have been heavily involved in many of the issues appertaining to the business sector and have taken lead roles on Education and Skills, Scrutiny and Transport.

“The Assembly has played a pivotal role in the region implementing, monitoring and affecting change through the Regional Spatial Strategy. The FSB is proud to have been a partner with such a dynamic and successful organisation.”

Perennial Flowering

Key Assembly Achievements

2001-02

October 2001 - Yorkshire and Humber Assembly launched. The introduction of the Regional Chambers Fund gives the organisation core Government Funding for the first time.

Lobbying for the region as a whole, we achieved a major increase in flood protection spending from the Environment Agency, who increased the spend in their ten year programme for Yorkshire and Humber from £93m to £208m.

Through the region's Brussels office, members consider the future of the region in Europe, including the implications of CAP reform and enlargement.

The Assembly commissions a scoping study for the development of a sub-regional spatial strategy for Leeds and its environs - this feeds into the development of a strategy for the Leeds City region

2002-03

A major transport study secures more than £1.2bn to help tackle motorway congestion in South and West Yorkshire. This study looks at the future complementary development of road and rail transport in an attempt to relieve congestion on the motorways and trunk roads in South and West Yorkshire.

First scrutiny pilot on Business Birthrate Strategy - this aimed to "give us a chance to find out from Yorkshire Forward directly how they are addressing this important issue, what has been achieved and if the approach could be improved for the benefit of the region."

An additional £36m of extra flood defence investment is secured to protect local communities against future damage via the Assembly-supported Regional Flood Defence Committee.

Assembly support for and involvement with the sectors not traditionally engaged in regional and national bodies grows. In particular, work with the BME and Faith communities has been recognised nationally.

Following publication of the Regional Government White Paper, the Assembly takes "soundings" and agrees by 19 votes to seven to support a referendum to decide if the region wants a directly elected Assembly.

Inderjit Bhogal Singh
Director Yorkshire and Humber
Faiths' Forum

"The best feature of the Assembly for me is that it has brought key leaders and organisations in the region to sit around the table for discussion around policy, strategy and action. This was an excellent example of aiming at joined up thinking. This is good practice that I trust will continue in the new structures. I want to express gratitude, on behalf of Faith Communities, for providing a process to ensure that there was a Faith Seat Holder on the Assembly."

2003-4

Advancing Together drawn up, with input from more than 200 partners, to provide the framework to help regional organisations plan their work in a more joined up way. It sets out six clear objectives for the region. Alongside that, the Regional Sustainable Development Framework is launched to help ensure sustainable development is an integral part of policy and decision making at regional, sub-regional and local level.

Regional Waste strategy launched - this has helped attract £1.8m to develop markets for recycled material, improved planning guidance on waste facilities and led to an increase in region's re-cycling rate.

Transport - we helped bring in more than £1.4bn of investment to improve roads, trains and public transport, including over £1bn focussed the SWYMMS and HUMMS studies initially developed through previous work.

The Assembly approves the draft revised Regional Planning Guidance in June and begins the work on the transition from RPG to a Regional Spatial Strategy, using the "PLANet" approach to increase participation.

For the first time, the Assembly is asked to provide advice to Government about the distribution of resources for housing, transport and economic development.

In the aftermath of foot and mouth, along with support from Yorkshire Forward, we produce an innovative guide "Making the Most of Your Farm" for farmers on giving them practical tips on developing new ways of using their land and buildings. This is supported by a series of seminars bringing together farmers, planners, business support officer and environmental interests.

Based in part on the Assembly "soundings", Government chooses the three Northern regions (including Yorkshire and Humber) to hold a referendum on directly elected regional government.

2004-05

In March, the Assembly helps develop the region's first Freight Strategy - designed to find ways of moving freight more cheaply and sustainably, while making sure the region also makes the most of its cargo industry.

Additional funding for flood defence investment for 2005/06 was secured, and we produced a step by step guide to help local authorities and other organisations assess flood risk and improve planning to tackle the issue.

Scrutiny reviews held into the Five Key Cities, Market Towns and the Cluster policies developed by Yorkshire Forward.

Through the Regional Housing Board, we helped steer the Yorkshire and Humber's £285m housing resources into new schemes to replace or improve over 4000 homes.

A major report into social inclusion, Part of the Picture, is published, which highlights best practice in successful projects across the region.

Plans for a referendum in Yorkshire and Humber and the North West are abandoned following a resounding "No" vote in the North East.

The Assembly takes on new roles to help develop local authority LDFs in line with the RSS and in commenting on major planning applications.

2005-06

A regional governance symposium sets the agenda for the renewal of the Assembly and the re-launch of the regional local government association as Local Government Yorkshire and Humber.

Following evidence-based research and extensive consultation across Yorkshire and Humber, we submit the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy to Government in December 2005.

The Yorkshire and Humber Rural Framework is published, setting out the region's rural priorities and looking at how these need to be addressed through more simplified and customer focused delivery structures.

The Regional Energy Forum is launched to oversee the development of a regional energy strategy.

The Assembly supports the set up of the Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum (Dec 05) and the BME Regional Panel.

The Assembly helps organise Transport for Young People events, which include a series of workshops where young people get to quiz transport bosses.

The Vision for Coal report is launched, which helps identify what needed to be done create a sustainable low carbon energy future for the region

2006-07

The Assembly is re-launched with a renewed focus on core business and a better involvement of local authorities, sub-regions and city regions.

Work on the RSS continues and we support local authorities in developing Local Development Frameworks and continue to comment on major planning applications. The Examination in Public of the RSS is held in York in Autumn 2006.

Responsibility for the Regional Housing Board is transferred to the Assembly - the Board submits advice to Ministers on millions of pounds of housing investment.

Scrutiny inquiries are held on the Northern Way and how Yorkshire Forward and other organisations tackled Innovation issues facing businesses and the economy.

The Assembly adopts a plan setting out energy issues facing the region.

Work begins on affordable warmth, rural housing and developing a regional action plan on future Gypsy and Traveller provision.

The Assembly oversees the first Yorkshire and Humber Microgeneration awards, recognising achievements in renewable energy.

Development of a Geographic Information System (GIS) helps improve spatial monitoring at a regional level.

The new Yorkshireoffice office is launched, funded by Yorkshire Forward.

2007-08

The Assembly considers the EIP panel report and the Secretary of State's proposed changes for the RSS. The Assembly runs a series of information sessions with Natural England for local authorities to help develop the relationship between regional and local planning.

Biomass and Biofuels reports, commissioned by the Regional Energy Forum, are launched by Ministers.

We produce a guide to the planning system for Gypsies and Travellers and a fuel poverty report which highlights continuing housing problems for many families and older people in the region.

Assembly members oversee Regional Funding Advice to Government, which helps decide how £10bn of public funding is spent in Yorkshire and Humber.

The Sub-National Review is announced by Government, aimed at maximising prosperity and tackling deprivation and inequality. It includes proposals to integrate the RSS and RES and "de-clutter" regions by winding up assemblies.

2008-9

The Assembly oversees development of the Integrated Regional Framework, a key policy building block looking at the major sustainable development challenges facing Yorkshire and Humber.

A pioneering regional study into how communities in Yorkshire and Humber need to tackle issues caused by Climate Change is commissioned and launched by the Assembly.

The RSS is finally published by the Secretary of State in May 2008. Almost immediately, a mini-review of the Regional Spatial Strategy begins - looking in particular at housing growth and associated issues.

Scrutiny reviews take place into the Rural Economy, Climate Change and Investment Planning in the region's economy.

The Assembly works with local authorities and partners to produce guides to help deliver affordable housing and renewable energy across the region.

The Assembly closes for business on 31 March 2009, its functions being split between Local Government Yorkshire and Humber and Yorkshire Forward.

Sir John Harman

Former leader of the Regional Assembly for Yorkshire and Humberside 1999-2000 and former leader of Kirklees Metropolitan Council

“The Yorkshire and Humber Assembly's creation gave real voice for the first time to the common interests of Councils and their partners in our region. That remains as important now as it was in 1999. Even though the wider regional powers that then looked possible did not materialise, the Yorkshire region still matters.”

Members

Barnsley MBC
Bradford MDC
Calderdale MBC
City of York Council
Craven DC
Doncaster MBC
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Hambleton DC
Harrogate BC
Kingston upon Hull City Council
Kirklees MC
Leeds City Council
North East Lincolnshire Council
North Lincolnshire Council
North Yorkshire County Council
Richmondshire DC
Rotherham MBC
Ryedale DC
Scarborough BC
Selby DC
Sheffield City Council
Wakefield MDC
North York Moors NPA
Yorkshire Dales NPA
Association of Colleges
BME Regional Panel

CBI
Chambers of Commerce
Faiths Forum
Federation of Small Businesses
Health
Learning and Skills Councils
Regional Environment Forum
Regional Forum
Rural Action Yorkshire
Town and Parish Councils
TUC
Yorkshire Universities

Observer members

Environment Agency
Government Office
Highways Agency
Local Authority Chief Executives
Natural England
Police
Yorkshire Forward

**YORKSHIRE
AND
HUMBER
ASSEMBLY**
The Regional Strategic Partnership



Not in photograph: Lyndsey Bunn, Jenny Poxon, Stuart Clewlow, Carole Cozens, Harriet Fisher, Fay McCulloch, Kelly Jevons, Sue Malik, Nicola Baylis, Julie Johnson.

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Designed & produced by Greenfields 01226 745525