

**YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER ASSEMBLY MEETING & MEMBERS SEMINAR
THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER 2006: 2.00PM – 4.00PM**

VENUE: COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COUNTY HALL, WAKEFIELD

TIMINGS

1.00pm – 1.50pm	Registration & Lunch
1.50pm – 2.00pm	Regional Faiths Forum Presentation
2.00pm – 3.00pm	YHA Business Meeting
3.00pm – 4.00pm	Members Seminar

AGENDA

1. Welcome, Introductions Apologies
2. Minutes of the last meeting (AGM) – 20 July 2006 Attached
3. Matters Arising from Business Meeting (not covered elsewhere on the agenda) Attached
4. Approval of Deputy Chair of Regional Planning Board, Scrutiny Board Members and Notification of Changes to SEE Partner Representation on the Regional Executive Board Attached
5. Update on Statement of Accounts 2005/2006 Attached
6. Business Plan 2007/08 – Emerging Priorities Attached
7. Regional Executive Board Report Attached
8. Scrutiny Update Attached
9. Information Notes
 - Regional Spatial Strategy Update Attached
10. Any Other Business
11. Date of Next Meeting:

Thursday 15 February 2007 (2.00 pm – 4pm)

**MINUTES OF THE YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER ASSEMBLY ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING: 20 JULY 2006**

**SPEAKER – TOM RIORDAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, YORKSHIRE
FORWARD**

Action

Welcome and Introductions

Paul Jagger explained he would be Chairing the meeting in the absence of the Chair Cllr Peter Box. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Tom Riordan, Chief Executive of Yorkshire Forward to talk about the developing role of the Regional Development Agency

Tom spoke on a range of issues and highlighted the following points:

- Yorkshire Forwards work would continue to be focused on growing the regions economy.
- The 3 key elements of this work were; to offer grants and advice to regional businesses through franchises such as Business Link, to develop (buy and sell) property for business use and to help people gain employment.
- The Comprehensive Spending Review, would probably result in Yorkshire Forward having fewer funds to meet their objectives,
- In terms of culture, the Agency was striving to be an excellent employer
- The Region is well placed to work together as 'Team Yorkshire' the small number of local authorities helped make this possible
- The priorities in the new Regional Economic Strategy included transport, skills, business support, rural and urban renaissance, secondary education, energy and climate change.
- The role of City Regions/Sub Regions in delivering future economic growth was crucial but this does not mean the importance of rural and market towns was not recognised

Questions from Members addressed the following subjects:

- The capacity to effectively manage funding regimes especially for rural areas.
- Timescale for the review of Business Links.
- Energy Efficiency.
- Regional priorities to lobby Government.

- Worklessness and planning for demographic trends.
- Further Education and links to employment needs.
- Yorkshire Forward's agenda on diversity issues.

The Chair thanked Tom for attending and said he looked forward to Assembly and Yorkshire Forward working closely together in the coming year.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1. Apologies

These were **noted**. It was also **noted** that Colin Cramphorn was unable to attend through ill health and **agreed** that the Assembly write to wish him a speedy recovery.

A full list of attendees and apologies is attached at **Annex A**.

2. Minutes of the last AGM – 21 July 2005

These were presented for information only and were **noted**.

3. Governance Arrangements;

a) Amendments to the YHA Constitution

A paper setting out amendments to the constitution in the following areas was considered by members; Title, membership, objectives, representation at meetings, voting at meeting (including a revised Annex D setting out SEE partners voting split tabled at the meeting), election of office holders, the Regional Executive Board, boards and groups, conduct of business, corporate responsibilities, advisors, appointment of support staff and finance and administration.

It was **noted** that under the heading 'advisors' the role of Honorary Secretary was deleted but that Paul Rogerson would continue to attend Assembly meetings as representative of the Region's Chief Executives.

Members sought confirmation that under the heading 'the Regional Executive Board' an increase in local authority representation would result in extra balancing representation from the SEE Partners group. This was **agreed**.

Under the heading 'representation at meetings' it was **noted** that named substitutes would probably be required to complete a

declaration of interest. This point to be clarified after the meeting and members advised.

Members unanimously **approved** the amendments to the constitution (note this meets the requirement for three quarters of those in membership to approve changes to the constitution) and **agreed** that the provisions of the revised constitution came into force from this point.

b) Adoption of Governance Arrangements

The new Governance Arrangements were introduced and amendments relating to background and rationale, the Full Assembly, the Regional Transport Board, the Sustainable Development Board and Executive Co-ordination and management were discussed.

Members unanimously **agreed** the new governance arrangements as recommended by the Regional Executive Board.

4. Appointments

a) Appointment of Chair and Deputy Chair

Cllr Peter Box and Paul Jagger were confirmed as the Chair and Deputy Chair (respectively) of the Assembly for the second year of their two year term 2005/07

b) Election of Chairs and Deputy Chairs of Boards; Housing, Planning, Transport, Sustainable Development

Details of nominations for the positions of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the housing, transport, planning, and sustainable development Boards were considered and the following members **elected**:

Chair of Housing Board – Cllr Kris Hopkins
Deputy Chair of Housing Board – Patricia Farrell
Chair of Planning Board – Cllr Steve Galloway
Deputy Chair of Planning Board – no valid nomination
Chair of Transport Board – Chris Glen
Deputy Chair of Transport Board – Cllr Liz Redfern
Chair of Sustainable Development Board – Cllr Arthur Barker
Deputy Chair of Sustainable Development Board – Shelagh Marshall

It was **agreed** that further nomination be sought for position of

Deputy Chair of the Planning Board.

c) Appointment of Regional Executive Board

A full list of Regional Executive Board nominations was circulated and **agreed**.

d) Approval of Scrutiny Board Members

A revised paper on Scrutiny Board Membership was tabled. Members **agreed** the list of existing scrutiny panel members plus two nominations Cllr John Harris and Gary Topp as members of the Scrutiny Board. It was also **agreed** that two further nominations be sought to fill the remaining vacancies.

It was noted one application had not been considered because the Member had also been nominated for a position on the functional Boards. Now these results were known it was **agreed** the application be considered alongside any others received for the remaining vacancies.

e) Appointment of Honorary Treasurer

Members **agreed** that Judith Badger of Wakefield MDC be appointed as Honorary Treasurer for the coming year. Andrew Hughes was thanked for his contribution as past Honorary Treasurer

5. Draft Annual Report 2005/2006

Members considered and **agreed** the draft Annual Report 2005 – 2006 *Moving Forward* as recommended by the Regional Executive Board for publication.

Members also **noted** that the Foreword, Annual Accounts and Information on members and staff would be added before publication in August.

6. Draft Statement of Accounts 2005/2006 and appointment of Honorary Treasurer

Members considered and **approved** the consolidated Accounts 2005/06 for the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly and the Yorkshire and Humber Association of Local Authorities as recommended by the Regional Executive Board.

Members **noted**:

- the appointment of the Honorary Treasurer agreed at item 4(e) above; and
- progress on the 2004/05 Audit Action Plan

7. Schedule of Meetings 2006/2007

The schedule of meetings for the coming year was **noted**.

8. Members Allowances

Members considered a revised Members Allowance scheme prepared by Dr Declan Hall from University of Birmingham.

In discussion further clarification was sought on the Dependent Carers Allowance arrangements and it was **agreed** that Officers consider this further.

It was also proposed and **agreed** to delete the reference to a maximum of 19 allowances given the variable number of members on the Regional Executive Board able to claim.

The Members Allowances Scheme was **agreed** with this amendment.

BUSINESS MEETING

9. Minutes of the Last Meeting – 25 May 2006

The minutes were **agreed**.

10. Matters Arising

Members noted that:

- The rural framework document is now available on the Government Office web site
- Details of RSS Appropriate Assessment regulations have been provided.

11. Executive Board Report

The Executive Board Report was considered covering work including the Integrated Regional Framework, the Draft Regional Spatial and Scrutiny of Yorkshire Forward. Members **endorsed** the activities and decisions set out in the report.

12. Scrutiny

Members considered a report setting out arrangements for the next 'pilot' scrutiny review and a timetable and draft programme of scrutiny topics for the coming year. It was **agreed** that:

- Innovation replace Sub Regional Investment Planning as the topic for the next pilot review; and
- The provisional timetable of activity for the coming year be passed to the new standing Scrutiny Board to take forward.

13. Regional Spatial Strategy

Members considered a presentation and report that:

- Summarised the strategic issues arising from the draft RSS public consultation;
- Identified key policy issues arising; and
- Outlined further work and arrangements for the Examination in Public.

In the presentation and discussion it was noted that:

- the Plan and process had now entered an independent stage and that the Examination in Public would be commencing on 12 September;
- that housing numbers were still very much an issue and that different local authorities will be putting different cases to the EiP depending on their local circumstances

In addition a number of issues for the handling of the Assembly's position at the EiP were **agreed** in the following areas as set out in the paper:

- Housing requirements/new household projections (para 19)
- Sub regional housing market areas (para 22 and 23)
- Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation needs (para 25 and 26); and
- Leeds City Region and Growth Areas Policy (para 28)

Members also noted the outline programme of work as set out and **agreed** the handling arrangements.

14. Information Items

The following information items were tabled and **noted**:

- CSR 2007
- Regional Funding Allocations
- Northern Way

15. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

16. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday, 19 October at 2.00 pm

Emma King, Business Services Officer
26 July 2006

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER ASSEMBLY MEETING - AGM 20 JULY 2006 - ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendees

Members

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	Cllr Mike Stokes
BME Regional Panel	Naheed Arshad-Mather
Bradford Metropolitan District Council	Cllr Kris Hopkins
Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council	Cllr Ann McAllister
CBI	Penny Hemming
City of York Council	Cllr Andrew Waller
Craven District Council	Cllr Carl Lis
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	Cllr Bill Mordue
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	Cllr Stephen Parnaby
Federation of Small Businesses	Denise Wilson/Dick Herzberg
Hambleton District Council	Cllr Brian Phillips
Kirklees Metropolitan Council	Cllr Robert Light
Learning and Skills Councils	Paul Jagger (Chairing)
North York Moors National Park Authority	Cllr John Fletcher
North Yorkshire County Council	Cllr John Weighell
Public Health	Shelagh Marshall
Regional Environment Forum	Andrew Wood
Richmondshire District Council	Cllr John Harris
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Cllr Terry Sharman
Ryedale District Council	Cllr Robert Wainwright
Sheffield City Council	Cllr Jan Wilson
TUC	Bill Adams
Wakefield Metropolitan District Council	Cllr Phil Dobson
Yorkshire and Humber Chambers of Commerce	Nick Pontone
Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum	Patricia Farrell
Yorkshire and Humber Regional Forum	Neil Irving
Yorkshire Culture	Gary Topp
Yorkshire Local Councils Associations/the East Riding and Northern Lincolnshire Local Councils Association	Gill Stillwell
Yorkshire Universities	Michael Noble

Chief Executives Group (Non-voting)

Leeds City Council	Paul Rogerson
Wakefield Metropolitan District Council	John Foster

Observers

Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber	Maureen Taylor/Delia Knowles
Highways Agency	Terry Rogers
The Environment Agency	Andrew Wood/Jake Scott
Yorkshire Forward	Tom Riordan/Andrew Enston

Visitors

Bradford Metropolitan District Council	Peter Redfern
Humber Economic Partnership	Mick King
Leeds City Council	Martin Gray
Local Government Yorkshire and Humber	Steve Walmsley
TUC	John Lewis/Gabrielle Lawrence
Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum	Inderjit Singh Bhogal
Yorkshire and Humber Regional Forum	Judy Robinson

YHA Staff

Amanda Johnson
Andy Haigh
Cath Cook
Chris Martin
Chris Pilkington
Emma King
Helen Todd
Iain Lovell
Jenny Poxon
Jodie Weston
Kelly Jevons
Liz Drexler
Natalie Fudge
Nicola Plumstead
Richard Wood
Rob Warm
Sian Ferguson
Sue Jeffrey

Apologies

Members

Association of Colleges Yorkshire & Humberside	Caroline Rowley
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	Cllr Steve Houghton
BME Regional Network	Peter Singh
City of York Council	Cllr Steve Galloway
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	Mayor Martin Winter
Harrogate Borough Council	Cllr Mike Gardner

Kingston upon Hull City Council
Leeds City Council
North East Lincolnshire Council
North Lincolnshire Council
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Scarborough Borough Council
Selby District Council
Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
Yorkshire and Humber Chambers of Commerce
Yorkshire Dales National Park
Yorkshire Rural Community Council

Cllr Carl Minns
Cllr Mark Harris
Cllr Andrew De Freitas
Cllr Liz Redfern
Cllr Roger Stone
Cllr Eileen Bosomworth
Cllr Mark Crane
Cllr Peter Box (Chair)
Frank Carter
Jerry Pearlman
Wendy Bundy/Mary Cornwell

Associate Member

West Yorkshire Police

Coiln Cramphorn

Observers

Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber
Yorkshire Forward

Felicity Everiss
Terry Hodgkinson

Chief Executives

East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Harrogate Borough Council
Kirklees Council
North Yorkshire County Council
Scarborough Borough Council

Nigel Pearson
Michael Walsh
Rob Vincent
John Marsden
Jim Dillon

Visitors

Eastern Wakefield PCT
IDeA
Jobcentre Plus Yorkshire and Humber
Regional Directorate for Public Health Y&H
Yorkshire Housing

Mike Grady
Jo Webb
Andy Wilson
Paul Johnstone
Sandra Nundy

AGENDA ITEM: 3

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER ASSEMBLY MEETING: 19 OCTOBER 2006

MATTERS ARISING FROM AGM – FOR NOTING

Item 1 - Apologies

1. The Assembly has written to Colin Cramphorn sending him best wishes in his time of illness.

Item 3 – Governance Arrangements

2. Named substitutes for the Assembly, Regional Executive Board and Functional Boards have received a Register of Interests/Code of Conduct form to complete and return to the Assembly.

Item 5 – Draft Annual Report 2005/2006

3. The Foreword, Annual Accounts and Information on Members and staff were added to the Annual Report and this was circulated to Members and wider stakeholders as part of the Assembly Welcome Pack in August. The response to this has been extremely positive.

Item 8 – Members Allowances

4. a) The reference to a maximum of 19 allowances was deleted following the Assembly AGM, given Members concerns over the variable number of Regional Executive Board Members able to claim.

b) Dependent Carers Allowance – this element of the scheme has been subject to further consideration and we will be writing to all Assembly Members shortly with details of the Allowance, with an implementation date of 1 January 2007.

APPROVAL OF DEPUTY CHAIR OF PLANNING BOARD, SCRUTINY BOARD MEMBERS AND NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES TO SEE PARTNER REPRESENTATION ON THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

For Decision

Members are asked to:

- Approve the appointment of Wendy Bundy as Deputy Chair of the Regional Planning Board.
- Approve the appointment of Naheed Arshad-Mather and Bill Adams as members of the Scrutiny Board.

For Information

Members are asked to note the changes to SEE Partner representation on the Regional Executive Board.

Deputy Chair of the Regional Planning Board

1. At the YHA AGM in July, elections took place for the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of the Functional, Sustainable Development and Scrutiny Boards.
2. Cllr Steve Galloway was appointed as Chair of the Regional Planning Board but, as no application was received for the position of Deputy Chair, the post remained vacant. As a local authority member took up the position of Chair, the Deputy Chair vacancy needed to be filled by a SEE Partner representative.
3. Following the YHA AGM, applications were sought from the SEE Partner group to fill this vacancy. One application was received from Wendy Bundy, Rural Community Council representative on the Assembly.
4. As only one application was received, members are asked to endorse the appointment of Wendy as Deputy chair of the Regional Planning Board.

Scrutiny Board Membership

5. At the YHA AGM, a new Scrutiny Board, chaired by the Assembly's Deputy Chair Paul Jagger, was elected.
6. At the time, two vacancies remained and following the meeting, members were circulated with a note calling for further expressions of interest from within the Assembly membership.

7. Membership of the Board is open to full Assembly members, who are not members of the Regional Executive Board, and Board members are asked to commit to a minimum of two reviews.
8. Two Assembly members - Bill Adams, TUC and Naheed Arshad-Mather, BME Regional Panel - have expressed an interest in becoming members. This was discussed and approved by the Scrutiny Board at its inaugural meeting on 6 September 2006, subject to approval by the full Assembly.
9. Members are asked to approve the appointment of Bill Adams and Naheed Arshad-Mather as members of the Scrutiny Board.

Notification of Changes to SEE Partner Representation on the Regional Executive Board

10. Following changes to the YHA Constitution at the YHA AGM in July, the number of SEE Partner representatives on the Regional Executive Board increased from four to five to maintain the 60:40 split of local authority/SEE partner representatives on the Board.
11. Nominations were sought from the SEE Partner group to fill the vacancy and three nominations were received. A vote took place at the Special SEE Partner meeting on 22 September 2006 and Wendy Bundy, Rural Community Council representative on the Assembly was elected to take up the vacant seat on the Regional Executive Board.
12. The Association of Colleges (AoC) has now confirmed their representative on the Assembly as Michele Sutton, Principle of Bradford College. Michele will also be representing the SEE Partners on the Regional Executive Board.

Nicola Plumstead, Business Services Support Officer
4 October 2006

UPDATE ON STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS 2005/2006

For Approval

To approve the revised Statement of Accounts 2005/06 as recommended by the Regional Executive Board.

Background

1. The draft consolidated Statement of Accounts for 2005/06 was presented to the Assembly AGM in July. The audit was then in progress and has now been completed.

Amendments

2. The amended Statement of Accounts is presented was presented to the Regional Executive Board on 29 June and also to the Assembly AGM on 20 July. The following amendments have been made to the draft Statement of Accounts presented in July:
 - Depreciation costs reduced by £20,450. The effect of this amendment is to:
 - o Reduce expenditure (Accommodation and Equipment) by £20,450 with a consequential reduction of the deficit for the year.
 - o Increase the net book value of fixed assets by £20,450.
 - o Increase general reserves by £20,450.
 - Minor changes to wording on the guidance of the Audit Commission and correction of typographical errors.
 - Insertion of the Audit Report and 'Value for Money' Report (pages 12 & 13).
3. The full document is available on the Assembly website.

Audit Report

4. The Audit Commission has concluded that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Assembly/ALA as at 31 March 2006 and of its income and expenditure for the year.
5. A new report has been required from 2005/06 on "arrangements for economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources. The Audit has

concluded that, in all significant respects, the Assembly/ALA has made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ending 31 March 2006.

Audit Action Plan

6. The draft Annual Governance Report has been issued. When finalised, this will be presented to the Executive Co-ordination Team together with an agreed Action Plan to address the issues raised.

Source Papers

7. Past reports on this subject are available as follows:

Report	Location
Yorkshire and Humber Assembly AGM: 20 July 2006 Draft Statement of Accounts and Appointment of Honorary Treasurer.	All available from: Emma King Yorkshire and Humber Assembly 18 King Street Wakefield WF1 2SQ Tel: E-mail: Emma.King@yhassembly.gov.uk

Catherine Cook, Resources Manager
September 2006

BUSINESS PLAN 2007/08 – EMERGING PRIORITIES

For Discussion

Members are asked:

- To consider the Assembly's emerging work priorities for the next financial year 2007-08.
- To note the timetable and next steps for preparation of a business plan and budget for the Assembly for 2007-08.

Background

1. At the Assembly meeting held on 24 January 2006 Members agreed the Business Plan 2006/07 – 2008/09, the consolidated budget 2006/7 and the three year budget 2006/7 – 2008/9.
2. The business plan set out the headline outcomes for this three-year period but now needs to be revisited to provide the detail that will make it an effective tool for managing the Assembly's activities during 2007/08.
3. An information note will be available at the meeting that sets out a summary of progress against the current Business Plan and Budget for 2006/07. A more detailed report on progress at the half-year is to be reported to the Regional Executive Board that also meets on 19 October.

Taking Forward our Business Plan

Vision and Objectives

4. The basis for our work next year is already set out in our Business Plan for 2006/07-2008/9, which was agreed by Assembly Members in January 2006. It has also been approved by Government Office for the purposes of Government funding to the Assembly through the Regional Chambers' Fund. This business plan set out the revised vision and objectives for the Assembly that reflected the outcome of our recent review of activity and operation and the new focus our work. The vision and objectives are set out in **Annex A**.

Financial Resources

5. Headline budget figures for 2007/08 were agreed in January 2006. To date we have not received 2007/08 Business Planning Guidance from Government,

but we have been told to assume that income from the Regional Chambers fund will be as set out in our approved Business Plan and will be £2.28m in 2007/08.

6. Local authority subscriptions have been agreed at the 2006/07 level of £222,000. This funding will be used to provide additional value to the Assembly's work around key areas of activity, including strategy integration, sustainable development, measuring regional progress, and regional resource prioritisation (including follow up to the Comprehensive Spending Review and any future work on Regional Funding Allocations).
7. In addition we will receive £80,000 of grant funding to deliver Regional Housing Board activity and £225,000 continuation funding from the Single Housing Pot to fund housing research to support the work of Board.
8. Other externally funded activity includes the work of the Yorkshire and Humber European Office, which is now funded for three years from Yorkshire Forward (£340,000 in 2007/08) and other activity hosted by the Assembly on energy, biodiversity and the Regional Housing Forum

Emerging Priorities for the Assembly for 2007/08

Potential Headline 'Themes' for the Year

9. The headline 'theme'/ title for the 2006/07 business plan was '**Working for our Region**'. In line with our core objective to secure a better long-term future for the region, it is proposed that the headline 'theme' for next year should be '**Driving Change**'. This reflects the emphasis of our work, which will continue to be focused on our facilitating role as the regional strategic partnership, working with others to provide the strategic framework that helps secure sustainable change.
10. Developing this further would suggest a number of subsidiary key 'themes' for next year:
 - **Shifting the emphasis to implementation and delivery** - of key regional strategies such as the Regional Spatial Strategy (including Regional Transport Strategy) and Regional Housing Strategy. And working with local authorities and agencies to get delivery.
 - **Alignment** – working through the development of the Integrated Regional Framework and other means to ensure that strategies at all levels align.
 - **Measuring Progress and Identifying Challenges** – i.e. understanding what is going on in the region, looking at challenging 'landmark' issues and working with partners to make a difference.
 - **Speaking up for the region** – developing on work for the CSR to identify issues on which a regional partnership voice is needed.
 - **Communications and Engagement** – shaping our interventions so that regional partners' views are reflected and we reflect the diversity of the

region.

11. In developing these themes key principles that could figure include:

- **Working in partnership with others** –for the benefit of the region (Local Government Yorkshire and Humber, Yorkshire Forward, Government Office, Local authorities and social, economic and environmental partners).
- **Adding value** – by acting where it does not duplicate the work of other partners, where the regional level is the appropriate level to act, and where it achieves a result that is 'better than the sum of the parts'.

Emerging Work Priorities

12. Taking these 'themes' as a basis, potential emerging work priorities for 2007/08 for discussion today are:

Corporate Activity

- **Keeping the new Governance Arrangements under review** – acting on recommendations arising from the evaluation research running throughout 2006/07
- **Strengthening the Assembly as a Partnership** (improving communication – including the web-site; developing better ways of developing regional responses on key issues; seeking to impact on national debates).
- **'Is the Region a better place to live and work?'** (improving our monitoring role, developing 'Progress in the Region'; supporting other regional organisations to be accountable and to deliver for the region).

Planning Strategy/Planning Delivery and Conformity

- **Finalising the RSS** (responding to the 'proposed changes' that will come from the current Examination-in-Public of the Plan).
- **Implementing and delivering RSS** (including an action plan and guides that help local authorities and others deliver; acting as a 'facilitator' or 'catalyst' to help collaborative working across boundaries; and joining up with work to deliver the Regional Housing Strategy).
- **Measuring Progress** ('monitor and manage' the delivery of the RSS to ensure timely release of land for development; and assessing progress and the need for review of the RSS).
- **Alignment** (including working with partners on the Northern Way, City Region Development Plans and local authority development plans to ensure 'vertical' and 'horizontal' alignment of spatial strategies).
- **Understanding new issues** (scoping work where regional action or guidance may need to be developed – e.g. retailing, flood risk assessment).

Transport and Infrastructure

- **Delivering transport priorities** (getting agencies to deliver; arguing the case and working with partners to get greater resources for transport delivery).
- **Developing the capacity of the new Regional Transport Board** (to be the authoritative voice on transport; to monitor delivery and to keep transport priorities under review).
- **Increasing our Influence on Government** (working to develop better and more effective ways to get advice to Ministers on the region's transport needs and how to spend £1 billion on transport over the next decade).

Strategy Integration and Sustainable Development

- **Addressing the Sustainable Development Challenge** (advising the functional boards and supporting LSP's develop Community Strategies).
- **Regional Resources** (measuring the resource impacts and 'ecological footprints' of regional strategies; reviewing the regional approach to addressing the challenge of waste management).
- **Facing up to Climate Change and Energy Issues** (clarify where progress is needed on the 'vision for biomass' and biofuels; working with Yorkshire Forward to monitor greenhouse gases; developing a framework for low-carbon homes – that supports the development of an EST-funded network to bring £1.6m of home energy efficiency and micro-generation investment).
- **Integrated Regional Framework** (develop the framework as a means of helping the region make progress against its key challenges – using resources efficiently to enable action at the local level; use the Framework to help align public and private funding in the region to address agreed priorities; clarify the relationship to other strategies and plans at all levels).

Scrutiny

- **Further Developing Scrutiny Work** (embedding the work within the Assembly membership and the wider region; improving evidence-gathering methods to ensure a robust evidence base).

Housing and Communities

- **'Joining-up' Housing, Planning and Transport** (integrating the work of the three Boards).
- **Housing Investment and Delivery** (consulting on and constructing the Regional Investment Strategy and how the approximately £480m over 2008-11 will be spent; working on a delivery plan for the Regional Housing Strategy).
- **Action on Gypsies and Travellers** (agreeing an action plan in detailed consultation with local authorities and interest groups).
- **Research and Best Practice** (from the Housing Board's priorities

develop a research programme for the year covering issues such as delivering affordable housing, the economy and housing; monitor the Housing Strategy; share best practice).

- **Implementation of the Affordable Warmth Action Plan** and reporting to Regional Housing Board
- **Supporting the work of the Rural Board** to ensure the Regional Rural Framework is delivered
- **Inclusion framework** - Continued support to regional partners developing and delivering work at a regional level, linking in with the Inclusion Framework but also ensuring different sectors are engaged.

Next Steps

- 13.** The views of Members on these work priorities today will be used to developing a detailed business plan and budget for 2007/08. Further discussion of these priorities will also take place at the Executive Board away-day on 6 November.
- 14.** A final draft of the Business Plan will be presented to the Executive Board on 18 January 2007 for agreement and then presented for endorsement at the Assembly meeting on 15 February, at which meeting Members will also be asked to approve the Assembly's budget for 2007/08. The Business Plan will include clear, defined outcomes and targets to enable monitoring of performance to take place. (It should be noted that this timetable may change if DCLG require Business Plans to be submitted in advance of the January Executive Board meeting).

Source Papers

- 15.** Past reports on this subject are available as follows:

Report	Location
<p>YHA Meeting 24 January 2006 'Working for our Region': The Yorkshire & Humber Assembly Business Plan 2006/07 - 2008/09 and Budget 2006/07 – 2008/09</p> <p>'Working for our Region' – The Yorkshire & Humber Assembly Business Plan 2006/07 – 2008/09 (January 2006)</p>	<p>All available from:</p> <p>Nicola Plumstead Yorkshire and Humber Assembly 18 King Street Wakefield WF1 2SQ Tel: 01924 331560 E-mail: Nicola.plumstead@yhassembly.gov.uk</p>

Chris Martin, Executive Director
 2 October 2006

The Assembly's Vision and Objectives

The Assembly is the custodian of Advancing Together, the Region's Strategic Framework. All our work is focused on the delivery of the vision and objectives for the region. The vision is:

'Yorkshire and Humber will be a recognisably world class and international region where the economic, environmental and social well being of all our region and its people advances rapidly and sustainably.'

The objectives are:

- To have a world class, prosperous and sustainable economy;
- To have a physical infrastructure and communications which meet the needs of people, businesses, places and the environment;
- To have high quality natural and man-made environments;
- To have exceptional education and training, widespread learning and skills and a healthy labour market without skills gaps or shortages;
- To be a socially cohesive and inclusive region, with people who have the capacity, resources and equitable access to quality services needed to live well;
- To possess and portray the highest levels of governance in all sectors and at all levels, and the highest levels of civic participation in decision-making and community life.

Our specific ***strategic*** objectives are set out below.

This is a new set of strategic objectives that reflect our renewed role in the region and describe what we will achieve during the next three years. They are all of equal importance and will be delivered through partnership with a wide range of organisations and bodies including LGYH, Yorkshire Forward and GOYH.

- Through scrutiny, we will improve regional performance and ensure Yorkshire Forward is accountable back to the region;
- Through developing and implementing the Regional Spatial Strategy, we will ensure that there are robust, effective and sustainable transport and planning policies that best benefit the development of the region;
- Through strategy integration, we will develop and co-ordinate the implementation of regional strategies to create a more sustainable region.
- Through our housing and communities activity we will help deliver measurable benefits and better services to all local communities in our region;
- Through all of our activity, including corporate activity, we will influence the Government and European, national and regional agencies so that their strategies, policies and spending plans better meet the needs of the region.

In addition the Assembly has an overarching ***operational*** objective:

- To operate as an open, transparent, efficient and effective organisation that is fully accountable to the region.

The vision and objectives of Advancing Together and our strategic and operational objectives together set the context within which we work.

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

For Information

Members are asked to note the activities and decisions undertaken by the Regional Executive Board at their meeting on 28 September 2006.

Comprehensive Spending Review

1. Regional leaders on the Assembly have agreed eight key issues to press Yorkshire and Humber's case for future Government spending. For the first time the Government has asked the region to work together to submit evidence and advice for its Comprehensive Spending Review, which will set out where billions of pounds of public spending will go up until 2011.
2. Working with Yorkshire Forward and the region's Government Office, the Assembly has helped develop evidence and advice, setting out how public funding could be better used to achieve the Government's regional economic performance and regeneration targets. Eight major issues have been identified and have formed the basis of a regional submission which has now been sent to Government. These are: Transport, Enterprise, Innovation and Science, Inclusion and Employment, Skills, Investment, Housing and Quality of Place.
3. Following lengthy discussions, members approved the submission, subject to reflecting a number of specific comments at the meeting, particularly in relation to transport, housing and rural issues.
4. Work on the submission followed the success of partners in Yorkshire and Humber working together on the Regional Funding Allocations process.
5. The CSR submission will now be considered by the Treasury before being passed to specific funding Departments to comment on the detailed proposals. There will be further opportunities for both the Assembly and individual organisations across the region to submit further views before final announcements on regional funding are made.
6. Copies of the regional submission are available from Nicola Plumstead (Nicola.Plumstead@YHAssembly.gov.uk).

Integrated Regional Framework

7. The Assembly is leading work on developing a blueprint for making Yorkshire and Humber a more sustainable region. In line with recent Government guidance on strengthening delivery of sustainable development in the English regions, the Assembly is taking forward work on a new Integrated Regional Framework- to ensure regional strategies and investment work collectively to improve delivery of regional priorities.
8. The new Framework, which will merge the existing Advancing Together and Regional Sustainable Development Frameworks , will also resolve gaps and conflicts in current strategies and lead to better policy and decision making.
9. Preliminary work using regional statistics has identified a number of key issues where the region has persistent and problematic trends. These are: Widening Gaps in Income and Inequalities, Transport, Climate Change/Energy, Housing Affordability and Obesity.
10. Following discussions between the Assembly, Yorkshire Forward and Government Office to draw up the most efficient and effective approach, members agreed a report setting out the basis for approaching the work. This includes a working group of officers from partners to lead the framework's development work, and setting up a system of key leads in organisations across the region to ensure wide input into the work.

Regional Governance Arrangements

11. Following the first round of functional and other board meetings since the re-structure of the Assembly's work, members discussed details of the new governance arrangements. It was agreed to evaluate the work through an external study, to report to the AGM in July 2007. Members also agreed to an away half day to discuss the work of the Board and develop a forward programme.

Investment Planning Review

12. Details of Yorkshire Forward's review of its Sub-Regional Investment Planning process were presented. The review is focusing on three issues - joining up delivery, developing better quality projects and building stronger partners.
13. Following discussions, it was agreed Yorkshire Forward would take back comments from members about the planning of investment on a geographical basis and whether consideration should be given about planning investment using city regions where appropriate or sub regions where more suitable.

European Structural Funds

14. Details of how organisations from across the region are being invited to comment on an early draft of the European Structural Funds Operational Programme 2007 – 2013 for Yorkshire and Humber were discussed.
15. Each region must produce and submit an Operational Programme to the European Commission by 30 April 2007 to outline how their funding allocation will be spent. The formal consultation will begin on 18 December 2006. However, initial views are now being sought so they can be incorporated into the consultation document.
16. Members were invited to forward comments and views directly to Government Office, via Patrick Heffron at patrick.heffron@goyh.gsi.gov.uk, by Friday 27 October 2006.

Iain Lovell, Head of Scrutiny
September 2006

SCRUTINY UPDATE

For Information

- To inform members of the National Audit Office's Independent Performance Assessment (IPA) of Yorkshire Forward and how the Scrutiny Board will be involved.
- To encourage members to get involved in the IPA.
- To inform members of the lines of inquiry for the next Scrutiny Review into Innovation, the date of the review public hearing and details of the on-line consultation panel being piloted for the review.
- To update members on the Scrutiny Board's monitoring of the Yorkshire Forward Action Plans.

Independent Performance Assessment of Yorkshire Forward

1. The National Audit Office is carrying out a programme of Independent Performance Assessments (IPAs) of each of the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs), including a review of the work of Yorkshire Forward. This work will be taking place over the Autumn and Winter, with a final report and Improvement Plan due to be published in March 2007.
2. The aim of the IPA is to assess the effectiveness of each RDA and promote learning and continuous improvement, with the potential of awarding more freedom and flexibility to better performing RDAs.
3. Yorkshire Forward will compile a Self-Assessment Report and a Draft Improvement Plan by 3 November 2006. The National Audit Office will review these two documents alongside additional evidence that they gather from the region.
4. A key piece of the evidence work is gathering the views of regional stakeholders, including the Assembly as a body, as well as individual members - work which involves external visits to the region by the IPA assessors, and a series of Focus Group meetings, in December 2006.
5. Raymond Fawcett, from the National Audit Office, gave a presentation to the 6 September meeting of the Scrutiny Board, on the work involved and how both the Board and individual Assembly members might assist in the IPA.
6. The Scrutiny Board will assist the National Audit Office by providing documentation and other evidence including copies of previous scrutiny reports. The Scrutiny Board will have an ongoing role on IPA as they will be

involved in monitoring the Improvement Plan with Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber.

7. Assembly members will be invited to attend Focus Group meetings with the National Audit Office to share their views and comments on Yorkshire Forward.

Scrutiny Review: Innovation

13. Following agreement at the AGM that Innovation should be the focus of the Assembly's next Scrutiny review, members of the Scrutiny Board met on 6 September to agree the lines of inquiry for the work.
14. Presentations were given by Yorkshire Futures, which has carried out the baseline research to support the review, and MTL, the consultants who will be interviewing partners and stakeholders and advising the Scrutiny Board.
15. Following lengthy discussions, The Scrutiny Board agreed the review should focus on three specific lines of inquiry:
 - **An assessment of existing innovation activity** – to assess how much has been achieved already, and identify exemplars of good practice
 - **Hidden innovation** – to identify innovation activities in communities and businesses that are not connected to science and technology but which could provide added value for the region
 - **Barriers to innovation** – to explore the words and definitions used to describe innovation and the reasons why people do not engage in the region's innovation initiatives
16. It was also confirmed that the review's Public Discussion, involving the Scrutiny Board, Yorkshire Forward Board representatives and regional stakeholders, would take place at the Cathedral Hall in Leeds on 10 October 2006. Members are encouraged to either attend personally, or send a representative from their organisation.
17. This review will also be the pilot for testing on-line consultation for scrutiny, giving Assembly members not on the Scrutiny Board an opportunity of becoming involved. A tender for this work has recently been sent out and more details will be sent to members shortly.

Monitoring

18. The Scrutiny Board are responsible for monitoring the implementation of the agreed actions by Yorkshire Forward, detailed in the scrutiny reports.
19. Christine Hawkins, from Yorkshire Forward, presented the progress made on the Skills Policy and Northern Way Opportunities actions, to the 6 September Scrutiny Board meeting.

- 20.** Significant progress has been made on all of the actions detailed in the Skills Policy Action Plan. This included the setting up of a Regional Skills Partnership Board, which had agreed a future work programme and a pilot enterprise programme to ensure adequate opportunities for 11-19 year olds. A further update will be presented to the Scrutiny Board in six months time.
- 21.** As the scrutiny review on the Northern Way Opportunities had only recently concluded, activity against the actions in the review's Action Plan had just begun. It was noted however, that Yorkshire Forward were progressing the development of a Communications Strategy and that this would be presented to the Scrutiny Board and the Assembly.

Iain Lovell, Head of Scrutiny
4 October 2006

REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY (*'THE YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER PLAN'*): UPDATE

Background to the RSS and the Examination-in-Public

1. Members will be aware that the preparation of the new Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) – The *'Yorkshire and Humber Plan'* - has been a significant focus of work over the last two years. Extensive consultation and participation took place before the Plan was submitted to Government in December 2005. It was then subject to a further three months' public consultation.
2. Responses to the consultation on the Draft Plan were submitted to the independent Panel appointed by Government to test and scrutinise the document through an 'Examination in Public' (EiP). The EiP is now in progress at the Metropole Hotel, Leeds – it started on 12 September and will run until 27 October (with a break from 16-20 October).
3. The EiP involves a series of 'round-the-table' discussions on matters chosen by the Panel on the basis of the issues raised by those who responded to consultation on the draft Plan. Participation in the debates is at the invitation of the Panel, but the sessions are open to interested parties to attend and listen. The purpose of the EiP process is to explore and test the Plan and to debate whether it needs to be changed. It allows the Panel to hear various points of view before reaching its conclusions. All the statements and background papers are available on the EiP Panel's website:
www.gos.gov.uk/goyh/plan/regplan/376422.

Next Steps

4. Following the EiP the Panel is expected to make its report to the Secretary of State by Christmas (i.e. two to three months after the end of the EiP). Thereafter the Secretary of State (through the Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber) will consider the Panel's report and publish proposed changes to the Plan. This is expected two to three months after the Panel report – early in 2007 – and there will be an eight-week period of consultation on these proposed changes.
5. Following the consultation period, the Government will approve and publish the final Yorkshire and Humber Plan. This is expected in the Autumn 2007.