

Annual Monitoring Report 2009

Regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire and Humber

February 2010



yorkshirefutures

Local Government
Yorkshire and
Humber





Executive Summary

This is the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Spatial Strategy Annual Monitoring Report for 2008/09 (AMR2009). It monitors change in the region to see whether or not the region is developing in the ways set out in The Yorkshire and Humber Plan – the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). Over time, this monitoring needs to establish whether more needs to be done to make change happen in the way envisaged by the RSS and/or whether the policies need to be revised.

AMR2009 is the second year that the specific outcomes of the Yorkshire and Humber Plan, the RSS issued in May 2008, have been monitored and uses the same monitoring framework as AMR 2008. The structure of AMR2009 is the same as AMR 2008 based around the Headline Outcomes of the RSS. This gives themes to the different chapters and a focus to the monitoring messages. Within the chapters a range of indicators are reported on to demonstrate the extent to which the outcomes of specific policies are being achieved. Progress against achieving specific targets is also drawn out.

AMR2009 will play an important role in setting the scene for wider implementation and delivery activities and will help in identifying specific annual implementation priorities for the RSS Implementation Action Plan (IAP) and the development of the new Integrated Regional Strategy (known as the Yorkshire and Humber Strategy).

Chapter 1 – Introduction - sets the scene for AMR2009 by providing background on the profound policy changes that have taken place during the previous year and some commentary on the effects of the recession. It explains the relationship between the AMR, Progress

in the Region and the Implementation Action Plan and looks forward to the preparation of the Yorkshire and Humber Strategy and the emergence of the functional sub regions.

The introduction highlights that AMR2009 is based on information collated for the monitoring cycle 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009. It therefore includes some statistics available at the time of writing the report (January 2010) that reflect the changes in economic circumstances that have occurred since mid 2009.

Chapters 2 to 5 then report on the ways in which the outcomes of the Yorkshire and Humber Plan are being achieved. Chapter 2 assesses the extent to which there is development in the right locations and how better places are being created. It suggests that the spatial pattern of development emerging from information collected for AMR2009 shows that it is focused on the RSS settlement network as that in AMR2008. Overall housing completions were half the target set out in the RSS (as predicted in AMR 2008) and the trajectory plotted against RSS housing targets for 2009/10 onwards suggested that there would be under delivery of housing throughout the Region with only West Yorkshire showing a recovery in years 10-15. Chapter 2 also considers the findings of the Housing Enquiry into the effects of the down turn in the economy in relation to housing and the outlook is bleak.

Chapter 3 looks at growing a stronger economy and reducing inequalities. It reports that the Region's economy suffered badly during the 2008/09 monitoring year and that GVA had fallen to 3%. The Index of Sustainable Economic Well Being had risen above the

English average but health inequalities in the region were not being addressed. Health inequalities were not narrowing and opportunities to improve health and well-being were still varied across different parts of the Region. Provision of accommodation for Gypsy and Traveller communities was not making inroads into the deficit identified in the RSS.

Chapter 4 asks whether transport and accessibility is improving across the region. It finds that the information available shows a slight decrease in overall traffic volume and kilometres travelled. However, the key message is that there is no real progress in achieving 'modal shift'. Measuring accessibility of new developments was once more difficult for local authorities so no real conclusions could be drawn from the data available. However, the region saw a welcome decrease in the number of long stay parking spaces (8,000 spaces less) – an objective in the RSS to help with congestion in town centres.

Chapter 5 examines the ways in which the environment is being enhanced and resources are being used more effectively. It reports that whilst the Region is seeking to mitigate the effects of climate change, in relation to one related target – reducing emissions of carbon dioxide – the Region is making slow progress. Measuring the overall environmental quality of the Region draws on the concept of the 'ecological footprint' as well as specific indicators of quality such as the condition of SSSIs, levels of bird populations, numbers of listed buildings 'at risk' and monitoring of river and bathing water quality. These measures suggested a mixed picture of quality across the Region, but with more of an improvement overall than a decline in quality.

Chapter 5 also finds that the Region has made great strides in its installed capacity for Renewable Energy. Figures suggest that the Region has surpassed its minimum target to be met by 2010 for the Region as a whole – but this masks variation across different parts of the Region due to installations at Drax and Eggborough and a biomass plant in York.

In addition, Chapter 5 reports that in relation to waste management, the Region also demonstrated improved performance against RSS targets for levels of recycling, again with sub-regional variation. The appropriate scale

and location of new waste management facilities is a corner stone of RSS waste policy but how this can be effectively monitored is yet to be established. Data from the Regional Technical Advisory Board suggests that the Region is lacking sufficient capacity for treatment of waste that was previously sent to landfill.

The Region is also performing well in relation to building on previously developed land (PDL). 69% of new floor space for employment purposes was on PDL and 88% of new dwellings were on PDL.

Chapter 6 uses these key conclusions to recommend monitoring and implementation priorities for the coming year. It suggests that it is no surprise that many of the implementation priorities from last year's AMR remain relevant as there are complex issues to be addressed for which there are no easy solutions. AMR2009 suggests the following implementation priorities:

- Continue working towards delivering the current house completion targets in the RSS despite the testing economic circumstances
- Increasing the provision of affordable housing. The RSL sector should take advantage of this time as affordable housing schemes may prove attractive to developers
- Providing accommodation for Gypsy and Traveller communities
- Improving understanding of and provision of Green Infrastructure
- Achieving modal shift including improving accessibility of new developments by non-car modes
- Increasing the number of local authorities that measure accessibility of new developments. This is crucial for forward planning and the authorities that do carry out this monitoring are producing good quality data. There is the possibility of making this a sub regional priority to allow for sharing of resources.

- Increasing Renewable Energy installed capacity but the focus must be on improving the sub regions that aren't making much progress. The results of the Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Potential Study will be crucial in determining the approach to renewable energy in the Region and monitoring progress.
- Improving recycling rates across the whole Region. The Region needs to recycle another 7% during the next monitoring year if it is to meet the 2010 target. On past performance this is achievable but there are some authorities who are making very little progress – as with renewable energy the focus must be on those local authorities who are making very little progress with recycling, and seeking to unlock any barriers to delivery.

AMR2009 has also identified a number of areas where the evidence base across the Region and current monitoring techniques need some attention, including:

- The degree of spatial specificity currently possible in monitoring location of development; whilst monitoring at settlement network level is improving there are still issues with information related to housing, employment, retail and leisure completions at different spatial scales
- The number of concurrent studies and reviews. There is much data in the Region that is being gathered for local authority Development Plan Documents e.g. Strategic Housing Land Availability Studies, Strategic Housing Market Assessments and Employment Land Reviews. Ensuring that these messages are consistent and fed into sub-regional and regional planning is important.
- The availability of transport statistics (at national and regional level), the use of Accession

modelling, monitoring the implementation of transport priorities and freight movement are still problematic and focused on process indicators. The regional work to be undertaken by Yorkshire Forward on developing an accessibility toolkit will provide a useful beginning but more work needs to be done on developing quantitative measures of transport priorities.

- Monitoring of the scale and location of waste facilities.

AMR2009 concludes that overall, there has been progress made in capturing data but the changing policy regarding the emerging functional sub regions and their strategies and the development of the Yorkshire and Humber Strategy mean that monitoring progress with implementation of the RSS will change. This year has seen closer working with Yorkshire Futures and much of the contextual information in the RSS has been reported in Progress in the Region and this co-production is likely to be more evident in AMR 2010.

To that end, AMR2009 is a more concise document than AMR2008 and should be read alongside Progress in the Region 2009.

There is a comprehensive set of annexes to AMR2009: Annex 1 sets out a full record of all indicators in The Plan; Annex 2 summarises monitoring in relation to CLG's 'core indicators' for regional planning; Annex 3 records monitoring against the 'significant effects' identified in the Sustainability Appraisal of the RSS; Annex 4 reports how the implementation priorities identified as a result of AMR2008 have been tackled in 2009 and what further actions are needed to address them; Annex 5 summarises the key findings of the AMR in relation to the Headline Outcomes and Headline Indicators of The Plan; Annex 6 pulls out progress in relation to all the targets set out in the RSS.



JJB SPORTS
SUPERSTORE

LEEDS SHOPPING CENTRE

celebrateat07.com
CELEBRATE LEEDS

Specsavers
Opticians
Opticians & Hearing Centre

Contents

1 Introduction	9
2 Building in the Right Locations and Creating Better Places	13
3 Growing a Stronger Economy and Reducing Inequalities	25
4 Improving Transport and Accessibility	35
5 Enhanced Environmental Quality and Reduced Resource Use	45
6 Conclusions	61
Annexes	64
Glossary and Definitions	95

