



**MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP
THURSDAY 18 JUNE 2009,
CONFERENCE ROOM, 18 KING STREET, WAKEFIELD**

ACTION

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Martin Elliot welcomed the officers to the meeting. The full list of attendees can be found in **Annex A** of these minutes.

The Minutes of the last Technical Advisory Group meeting on 2 April 2009 were **agreed** as a correct record.

There were a few matters arising:

- The Affordable Housing Guide will be launched in July at the Northern Affordable Housing Group in Halifax. An e-mail will be sent to housing and planning chief officers. The guide is available at:
<http://www.lgyh.gov.uk/Our%20Work/Regional%20Planning/Implementation%20Action%20Plan/Priority-Activities/>
- The Renewable energy Toolkit is being placed on a website, but in the meantime is available to view at:
<http://www.lgyh.gov.uk/Our%20Work/Regional%20Planning/Implementation%20Action%20Plan/Priority-Activities/>
- Sharing the Regional Flood Risk Assessment information is pending awaiting resolution of licensing between the consultants and the Environment Agency.

2. Evidence Base for IRS

Will Kemp introduced the approach and timescale for strategic infrastructure work which will feed into the preparation of the Integrated Regional Strategy. The four types of infrastructure were presented by Stuart Clewlow (Transport), David Fanaroff (Green), Will Kemp (Physical) and Ruth Hardingham (Social). The slides informed about what was considered to be “strategic” infrastructure for the purposes of the IRS evidence base, the main partners involved and the next steps for the infrastructure evidence base process. It is hoped that all the strategic data will be mapped on GIS by the end of the year. The presentations are available to view at

<http://www.lgyh.gov.uk/Our%20Work/Regional%20Planning/Infrastructure/Meetings/>

The detailed evidence base based around Planning Advisory Service definitions and further work are available to view at
<http://www.lgyh.gov.uk/Our%20Work/Regional%20Planning/Infrastructure/Regional-Evidence-Base/>

3. **Joint working and implementation**

Martin Elliot presented some ideas on the scope, form and content of the Advice Note that members requested. He noted that the main features would be:

- A “live” resource that will be updated by LGYH and its users
- A hub for good practice and ways of working
- A source of templates to use
- A chance to identify what training would be useful to help prepare infrastructure plans and studies

The steering group will discuss the detail of the site and it will be up and running in July.

4. **Sub-regional discussions**

A summary is attached as **Annex B**.

5 **Conclusions and next steps**

Geoff Dibb was asked to report on any Government infrastructure planning guidance. He noted that while there was nothing as yet from CLG on infrastructure in particular the PINS “lessons learnt” document will come out in July.

GOYH

Geoff also agreed to explore ways in which PINS could be approached to help with the infrastructure delivery planning process.

GOYH

Martin informed the attendees that the next Infrastructure Steering Group meeting will take place on 8 July. Agendas and minutes of this meeting including attendees is available at <http://www.lgyh.gov.uk/Our%20Work/Regional%20Planning/Infrastructure/Meetings/>

6. **Regional Strategy**

Richard Wood updated the officers on the Integrated Regional Strategy (IRS) progress.

New Boards

He introduced the membership and the Agenda of the next Spatial Planning Board. He also set out the new Governance Arrangements. There have already been meetings of the new Transport, Work and Skills Thematic Boards and Joint Regional Board.

The Joint Regional Board (JRB) as the Regional Planning Body is now responsible for the IRS work. Richard talked through the JRB report which seeks to establish a position on the future of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) rolling over to IRS. The report also sets out the Regional Business Plan and timelines

for the project. It also emphasizes the importance of looking at the evidence base in shaping the RSS review and IRS.

Richard explained that a letter to RSS contacts came out in May. The document updated the stakeholders on the changes in the region and the future of the Regional Spatial Strategy.

IRS Evidence Base

The Evidence Request document to support IRS was sent out in May from Tim Frennaux at Yorkshire Forward. At the meeting Local Authorities were invited to discuss the elements of a spatial planning evidence base that they would like to be included in the LGYH report to JRB on 17 July.

Richard presented the draft paper which detailed a number of IRS Spatial Planning Challenges and Opportunities. The main points raised were:

- Scale distribution of housing employment – where it will be directed? Will the RSS approach to that issue be continued?
- How will the Green Belt be dealt with in IRS?
- Climate Change is mentioned as a one of the challenges and opportunities in the document. RW clarified that this was a crosscutting issues.
- What is a current status of the RSS? Will the RSS approach to LDFs be continued? JP clarified that the RSS remains part of the Development Plan and LDFs need to be in general conformity with it. Until the LDEDC Bill goes through parliament these arrangements remain in place.
- How will IRS integrate with Regional Economic Strategy given that they are two separate documents?

7. Any Other Businesses

Rob Murfin offered his support on Waste DPD preparation in light of some concerns he has already received from Local Authorities.

Harriet Fisher is leaving LGYH to work as a Growth Point Manager in Derby Council.

Sarah Evans has appointed as the new Research and Monitoring Officer at LGYH. She starts on 15th July.

The deadline for comments back to Infrastructure Planning Commission was 19 June. The officers were asked to contact Jenny Poxon if they have anything to feed in.

Jenny Poxon



**TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP
THURSDAY, 18 JUNE 2009**

Annex A

Attendees:

Dave Allenby	Harrogate Council
Graham Banks	Hambleton District Council
Clair Beech	City of York Council
Craig Boxshall	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Carl Bunnage	North Yorkshire County Council
Stuart Clewlow	Yorkshire Forward
Stephen Courcier	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
Geoff Dibb	Government Office for Yorkshire and Humber
Maria Duffy	Sheffield County Council
Andy Duncan	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Natasha Durham	Richmondshire District Council
Marta Dziudzi	Local Government Yorkshire and Humber
Martin Elliot	Local Government Yorkshire and Humber
David Fanaroff	Natural England
Harriet Fisher	Local Government Yorkshire and Humber
Andy Haigh	Local Government Yorkshire and Humber
Ruth Hardingham	Local Government Yorkshire and Humber
Terry Heselton	Selby District Council
Mike Hoult	Highways Agency
Sarah Housden	North York Moors National Park
John Houston	Calderdale Council
Kathryn Jukes	Government Office for Yorkshire and Humber
Will Kemp	Local Government Yorkshire and Humber
Sarah Lewis	Kirklees Council
Hannah Madajewski	Local Government Yorkshire and Humber
Chris Marshall	Natural England
Rob Murfin	Local Government Yorkshire and Humber
Jon Palmer	Yorkshire Forward
Mark Palmer	Hull City Council
Ruth Parker	Craven District Council
Lyla Peter	Leeds City Council
John Pilgrim	Yorkshire Forward
Jenny Poxon	Local Government Yorkshire and Humber
Toni Rios	Highways Agency
Malcolm Spittle	North Yorkshire County Council
David Walker	Scarborough Borough Council

Richard Wood

Local Government Yorkshire and Humber

Apologies:

Chris Holliday
Andrew Marshall
Mike Padgett

North East Lincolnshire Council
Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Yorkshire Forward

DRAFT



Annex B

Summary of the Workshop Discussions Technical Advisory Group 18 June 2009

Is the approach right? Are the definitions of what is strategic right?

- a. Mainly support for the overall approach
- b. Largely agreed the PAS guidance (with some anomalies covered in presentations)
- c. The definition of strategic will vary in different parts of the region, between the sub-regions and depending on the intended use of the data (e.g. is it for LDFs, or is it for IRS?)
- d. Similarly, the definitions of standards, deficiencies and capacity will vary across the region as service provision and expectations of service provision mean very different things in rural and urban areas
- e. Questioned the rationale behind defining “strategic” and “local” and argued whether this depended on the location, type of development, settlement size etc.
- f. The important thing isn’t the baseline data (and no point duplicating that data collection), it’s the information on capacity and the analysis and implications of that information that is important
- g. Requested more help on what difference infrastructure makes to policy preparation
- h. In many cases the categories seen as mixed strategic and local e.g. highway network - need to agree some criteria for this based on scale, crossing boundaries, catchment and degree of attraction (e.g. some parks such as Roundhay draw from a wide area whereas others are very much local facilities)
- i. The data and analysis needs to go across regional boundaries to ensure the whole of the national parks are covered
- j. Suggested that GIS would be useful but that overlaid data sets need interpreting and understanding the links between them
- k. LGYH need to have engagement with providers at a broad scale, but local authorities need to have the site specific discussions, the lines of communication with the relevant providers need to be kept open and ongoing
- l. The key information for the local authorities is utilities and transport
- m. Cycling and walking is strategic (not in terms of accessibility, but in terms of other functions – recreation, health – i.e. for other policy areas)
- n. Northumbrian water need to be considered too as they provide services for parts of Richmondshire and Hambleton

Notes on Physical Infrastructure

- Travel management not regarded as infrastructure

- Park and ride sites can be strategic infrastructure – HA rep referred to their plans for major close to motorway P&R sites
- HA also raised the issue of motorway service areas as strategic infrastructure.

Notes on Green infrastructure

- HA asked how motorway corridors, which in many rural parts of the region are important wildlife corridors are treated in GI analysis

Notes on Social and Community Infrastructure

- Affordable housing and G&T sites are not regarded as infrastructure
- Health centres and GP surgeries are local infrastructure

Notes on additional categories

- Support addition of stadia. Arenas also need adding.
- Some debate about whether retail 'destinations' e.g. Leeds City Centre and Meadow Hall are also social infrastructure

Is there potential for joined up working?

- General view that the 'spatial unit' for much of the work on understanding infrastructure capacity and provider plans is the city region.
- Expressed potential for joint working and that some authorities will be at different stages and wish to be involved in different ways
- However this raises issues for the 'non' city region areas who do not have joint working arrangements
- There are also limited circumstances where a whole region approach will be needed e.g. gas supply?
- However some exceptions for example where health trusts cross LA boundaries as in Kirklees and Calderdale joint working in smaller groups between the relevant authorities is seen as the most practical way forward
- Also cases of working with authorities in adjoining regions e.g. Calderdale is working with Greater Manchester authorities on renewable energy
- The benefits of joined up working is really in terms of sharing resource, workload (e.g. data collection) and information, rather than identifying shared messages or content. Infrastructure delivery plans need to be different for different districts as there are different issues, but the burden of producing those plans could be shared

Advice Note

- Needs to address the business planning of infrastructure investment explaining different approaches, time frames and decision making processes for investment cycles
 - role of regulator in gas water & electric
 - how public and private investment decisions interact in transport investment such as improving bus services.
- Need to help infrastructure providers understand the administrative geography of the region and help 'fit' their catchments and data to that geography.

- Regional level task to map the catchments of different providers
- Needs to be kept live and up to date on the website
- Advice on and help with engaging the LSPs (particularly on priorities for CIL) would be helpful
- Summaries of the providers' investment plans, their timescales and how to engage in their investment planning process, as well as links to the plans themselves, would be helpful
- Sharing of documents e.g. consultancy briefs and study methodologies would be helpful (like that done for SHLAAs)
- Would be helpful for advice to reflect how definitions and standards e.g. 'strategic' 'capacity' 'deficiency' vary across parts of the region

Other points

- Can LGYH help in raising awareness of infrastructure planning corporately in local authorities and in LSPs. Also concern about the capacity of LSPs to do what is expected of them
- Noted that it is not just LPAs that are doing infrastructure work e.g. Transform South Yorkshire work needs to be fed in