

Our Ref: General 40b – Planning Conformity/final responses/local development frameworks/Barnsley, Core Strategy, Publication, Mar 10

9 April 2010

Alice Hetherington
Policy Development Manager
Planning and Transportation Service
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
PO Box 604
Barnsley
S70 9FE

Dear Alice

Barnsley Local Development Framework– Core Strategy Publication

Thank you for consulting LGYH (who is now acting on behalf of the Leaders' Board as the Responsible Regional Authority). Previously under Regulation 29 (2008), an opinion of general conformity was issued by the RPB when the local authority published the DPD for comment prior to submission to the Secretary of State. There is no longer a Regional Planning Body (RPB). Now the RRA should be consulted as a statutory consultee. Annex A explains the roles of the Leaders' Board (supported by LGYH) and the Regional Development Agency following changes brought in by the Local Democracy Act as of April 1st 2010.

LGYH welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Barnsley Core Strategy – Publication Consultation document and to continue its involvement in the development of a coherent spatial planning framework for the region. The comments offered in this letter are intended to be within the spirit of continued and productive joint working.

The following comments are made in relation to the current RSS – The Yorkshire and Humber Plan, which was issued by the Secretary of State in May 2008. The

Yorkshire and Humber Plan aims to achieve a more sustainable pattern and form of development, investment and activity across the region, putting a greater emphasis on matching needs across the region with opportunities and managing the environment as a key resource. There is a particular emphasis on achieving the regeneration and renaissance of the region's city and town centres by making them the focus for housing, employment, shopping, leisure, education, health and cultural activities and facilities in the region.

LGYH provided a number of officer comments in response to the Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options document on 12 August 2010. It is clear that significant work has been carried out to address those concerns and further work has been done to address concerns which were raised on the evidence-base. Therefore LGYH has no further substantial issues to make on this occasion.

If you have any queries about these points, please do not hesitate to contact Martin Elliot on 01924 331 555.

Yours sincerely

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

Martin Elliot
Acting Head of Planning Delivery and Conformity

Annex A

Consultation arrangements and changes arising from the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act

Purpose of the Note

To explain the changes that have occurred to Local Government Yorkshire and Humber and Yorkshire Forward in their statutory roles in commenting on Local Development Frameworks and Strategic Planning Applications in light of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Changes to the Regional Planning Body

On 1st April 2010 two significant changes occurred:-

- The Leaders' Board and the Regional Development Agency became the Responsible Regional Authority for Yorkshire and the Humber. There is no longer a Regional Planning Body (RPB).
- The current Yorkshire and Humber Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy to 2026) will continue to be the regional strategy, sitting alongside the Regional Economic Strategy, until both documents are replaced by a new regional strategy (around 2012).

What does this mean in practice?

Local authorities should continue to consult both the Regional Development Agency and the Leaders' Board on regionally significant planning applications and LDFs.

While there is an integrated regional strategy in place from 1st April (made up of the Yorkshire and Humber Plan and the Regional Economic Strategy), only the RSS will form part of the statutory development plan for an area.

What does this mean for Local Development Frameworks?

Previously, the RPB gave an opinion on the "general conformity" of a Development Plan Document with the RSS at publication stage. In implementing this role LGYH, acting on behalf of the Leaders' Board, engaged with the DPD preparation from the outset and highlighted potential issues that may emerge at examination, ensured that the evidence base was robust and shared best practice from across the region and beyond. This was seen as a capacity building rather than a "policing" role and it was always the opinion of the Leaders' Board that DPDs were in "general conformity".

From 1st April there is no longer a need to seek a formal opinion of “general conformity” from the Leaders Board. However, the need to align with the RSS remains a test of soundness and it will be for Inspectors to provide the opinion on this fit.

To that end, the Leaders' Board and the Regional Development Agency are statutory consultees and should still be consulted on DPDs.

Planning Applications

From 1st April the Leaders' Board and the Regional Development Agency will be statutory consultees on planning applications that have a regional significance. Local planning authorities should continue to consult both bodies separately on regionally-significant planning applications.

The existing criteria used by the Leaders' Board and the Regional Development Agency to determine whether an application is regionally significant is attached to this note and will remain in place for the time being.

Conclusions

You should continue to consult with LGYH and Yorkshire Forward in much the same way as before 1st April. However, you will not receive an opinion on the general conformity of your DPD with the RSS.

You will continue to receive separate responses from LGYH and Yorkshire Forward until such a time as future joint arrangements may be formalised more fully.

I hope that this note clearly sets out the changes arising from the LDEDC Act in relation to commenting on DPDs and planning applications. If you have any further questions do not hesitate to contact us.

Martin Elliot
Acting Head of Planning Delivery
Local Government Yorkshire and
Humber
18 King Street
Wakefield
WF1 2SQ

Tel: 01924 331 594
martin.elliott@lgyh.gov.uk

John Pilgrim
Senior Planning Executive
Yorkshire Forward
Victoria House
2 Victoria Place
Leeds LS11 5AE

Tel: 0113 39 45793
John.Pilgrim@Yorkshire-Forward.com

