

THE YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER PLAN



**YORKSHIRE
AND
HUMBER
ASSEMBLY**
Voice of the region

FOREWORD

The Yorkshire and Humber Region faces many challenges, which at the same time also present us with important opportunities to create a better quality of life across the whole Region. The Yorkshire and Humber Plan is a new approach to the long-term management of the Region's environment, transport, housing and economic development up to 2021 and beyond. Many organisations and individuals have contributed to the preparation of this Plan. We would like to thank them all and welcome responses to it.

The new Yorkshire and Humber Plan sets out our aspirations for the Region with a clear regional vision, but it is grounded in realism and focused on delivery. Its approach seeks to make the best use of the Region's assets and tackle a number of the difficult issues that face us. Many of the solutions involve effective working across local and regional administrative boundaries.

As a regional spatial strategy the new Yorkshire and Humber Plan will form part of the statutory development plan. It will be a key framework within which the Region's local authorities prepare local development frameworks, local transport plans and other strategies and plans for their areas. It will also be the framework within which many private and public organisations take investment decisions. Most importantly, the Plan aims to shape a more sustainable Region and bring about lasting improvements to people's quality of life.

There is a strong message of positive change in the Plan. This change will benefit all parts of the Region – transforming urban areas and creating vibrant rural and coastal areas. To achieve this, significant collective effort and investment will be needed from a wide range of agencies and organisations.

The Yorkshire and Humber Plan was submitted to Government in December 2005 and issued for public consultation between 16 January and 13 April 2006. Later in the year it will be publicly and independently tested. We look forward to your contribution in these vital final stages of producing this important blueprint for the Region's future. Your views, comments and ideas will help us finalise a Plan, which makes a real difference to the Yorkshire and Humber Region.



Peter Box

Chair of the Yorkshire
and Humber Assembly



Steve Galloway

Chair of the Assembly's Regional
Planning and Infrastructure Commission

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY








INTRODUCTION AND KEY DIAGRAM (FOLD OUT)

The Yorkshire and Humber Plan is a new type of plan. It springs from Government legislation that says each region of England should have its own plan – called a ‘Regional Spatial Strategy’ – setting out a framework for its future development. This Plan, currently in draft form, is the ‘Regional Spatial Strategy’ for the Yorkshire and Humber Region. The Plan sets out the scale, priorities and broad locations for change and development in the region over the period to 2021. It provides a framework for ‘where things go’ and ‘how much’ development should take place; it includes a regional transport strategy; and links all this with broader issues such as the environment, sustainable development and quality of life.

The Plan will work in a supportive way with other regional strategies (the Regional Economic, Housing and Cultural Strategies) to help shape and build a better region. When the document is eventually approved by the Government, the Yorkshire and Humber Plan will provide the statutory planning framework for the Region. This will guide the planning process at the local level, where a new system of local development frameworks is in preparation by local planning authorities. It should also be taken into account in local transport plans. For the Plan to be delivered support for its policies will be needed and action taken by a wide range people and bodies across the region. That is why it is so important that you make your views known on the Plan at this draft stage.

THE YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER PLAN_KEY DIAGRAM



DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

-  **Urban Focus – Regional Centre**
(YH5 & YH8)
-  **Urban Focus – Sub Regional Centre**
(YH5 & YH8)
-  **Better Towns – Principal Service Centre**
(YH6 & YH8)
-  **Improving Accessibility** (YH1E)
-  **Investment for Growth in the Leeds City Region** (LCR2)
-  **Vibrant Rural and Coastal Areas**
(YH7)

KEY SPATIAL PRIORITIES

-  **Transforming Older Industrial Areas**
(YH3i)
-  **Spreading the Benefits of the Leeds Economy** (YH3ii)
-  **Optimising the Humber Ports as a Trade Gateway** (YH3iii)
-  **Supporting Towns as Rural Hubs**
(YH3iv)
-  **Enhancing the Coast and Countryside** (YH3v)

WORKING TOGETHER

-  **Seven Sub Area Frameworks**
(Sections 6-12)
-  **Effective Collaboration With Adjoining Regions** (YH4b)



DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

The policies in the Plan require a more concentrated pattern of development in the Region compared to recent times and a pattern that relates well to transport infrastructure.

- **Regional and Sub Regional Centres** (the Region's cities and major towns) will be the prime focus for housing, jobs and services in the Region – the majority of new development will be concentrated here
- **Principal Service Centres** (the main towns) will be the main local focus for housing, jobs and services across the Region's rural areas – sufficient development will enable these places to fulfill their role as service centres
- **Rural and coastal areas** will be enhanced and protected as attractive and vibrant places and communities – more limited development here will focus on meeting local needs for affordable housing and economic diversification

KEY SPATIAL PRIORITIES

The Region needs over the longer term to capitalise on its existing strengths and unlock the potential of all parts of the Region, so as to improve the quality of life, prosperity and the health of current and future generations. Key priorities are to:

- Transform economic, environmental and social conditions in the older industrialised parts of South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and the Humber
- Manage and spread the benefits of continued growth of the Leeds economy as a European centre of financial and business services
- Optimise the opportunities provided by the Humber Ports as an international trade gateway for the Region and the Country
- Support towns as hubs for the rural economy and as service centres
- Enhance the environmental character and qualities of the Region's coast and countryside including for economic and social development

WORKING TOGETHER

The Plan recognises that different needs and opportunities arise in different parts of the Region. A series of seven distinct sub areas is identified and used in the Plan to set specific priorities tailored to meet the needs of those areas. The approach for each sub area is summarised below:

Leeds City Region – to realise the economic potential of the sub area and ensure that benefits are spread equitably throughout the city region and the wider region – planning for a high level of growth, supported by significant and targeted investment in transport, social and environmental infrastructure



South Yorkshire – to continue the transformation of the sub area’s economic, environmental and social conditions with a key emphasis on the main urban centres

Humber Estuary – to realise the potential of the estuary as a global gateway and protect its environmental integrity and to regenerate the sub area’s economy and urban areas

York – to support growth in the sub area in a way that strengthens the roles of main centres and protects the sub area’s historic and natural environment

Vales and Tees Links – to support the provision of housing and economic opportunities for local communities focused on the regeneration of its towns

Coast – to protect and enhance environmental quality and character, but also use this as a basis for boosting a strengthened and more diverse economy based on its high quality of place and environment

Remoter Rural – to safeguard and enhance the sub area’s outstanding environment through a conservation-led approach, but with support for the diversification of the local economy

Effective collaboration with adjoining regions will be vital to support urban regeneration, achieve better transport services and links across the North of England and to successfully manage environmental assets and natural processes.

For **HOUSING**, the Yorkshire and Humber Plan aims to:

- Take account of expected levels of economic growth, increased levels of migration, decreasing household sizes and increases in life expectancy
- Provide sufficient homes to house the additional households expected to form across the Region – with over 15,000 new homes being provided a year up to 2011, rising to over 16,000 a year from 2011 and over 19,000 a year from 2016 to 2021
- Ensure that new house building is managed in a way that supports the restructuring of housing markets in areas where there is low demand and that increases the amount of affordable housing across the Region, particularly in areas of high need
- Create a better mix of housing across the Region to reflect people’s different needs and make additional provision to meet the housing needs of gypsies and travellers

For the **ECONOMY** the Yorkshire and Humber Plan aims to:

- Secure more competitive economic conditions by planning in a way that promotes a modern and successful economy
- Strengthen the role of existing city and town centres as a key focus of commercial activity
- Review the supply of land for business so that we provide and safeguard sufficient land to meet the needs of a modern economy and support the growth of priority economic sectors and clusters

- Promote the role and development of tourism in the Region and support the diversification and strengthening of the rural economy

For the **ENVIRONMENT**, the Yorkshire and Humber Plan aims to:

- Avoid development in high flood risk areas, safeguard water resources and maintain high standards of water quality
- Increase energy efficiency and increase renewable energy capacity
- Protect and increase woodland areas, support the appropriate use of agricultural land and safeguard minerals deposits
- Safeguard and enhance biodiversity, geological heritage, the historic environment and distinctive landscapes
- Ensure adequate and accessible health care facilities and reduce waste production

Through its **REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY** the Yorkshire and Humber Plan aims to:

- Reduce travel by both positive interventions, such as improved public transport, or by demand restraint, and promote modal shift from the car
- Seek a consistent approach to parking strategies and improved public transport
- Promote the movement of goods by water and rail and support increased use of its ports and waterways and improve surface access to them
- Improve access to services in rural areas by improving transport provision
- Improve surface access to its airports by public transport

THE OVERALL VISION

Advancing Together – the Region’s framework vision document – sets the vision of regional partners to create a ‘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 Yorkshire and Humber Plan seeks to play its part on delivering that vision. It does this by promoting a long term, planned approach to development and investment that seeks to:

- Reverse the long term trend of population and investment dispersal away from the Region’s cities and major towns
- Transform cities and major towns to make them attractive places in which people want to live, work and invest
- Support market towns as the local development and service focus for meeting needs in rural areas
- Diversify urban and rural economies and help deliver a better performing and more competitive economy
- Focus development and investment in a way that better connects excluded communities to opportunity and supports areas requiring regeneration
- Improve accessibility to jobs and services and increase the use of public transport
- Raise environmental quality and respond to the challenge of climate change

USER GUIDE

DOCUMENT CONTENT

There are 16 sections which group together as four broad parts:

- Sections 1 and 2 provide background information on the Plan and the Region
- Sections 3 and 4 provide the overall vision and core approach – setting out the overall strategic direction of the Plan
- Section 5 provides a transition from the vision and core approach to spatial priorities identified for seven sub areas within the Region, set out in sections 6-12
- Sections 13-16 set out policies for housing, economy, environment and transport

GENERAL INTERPRETATION

The Plan needs to be read as a whole. Policies and their justification must to be considered in an integrated way, and not in any priority order. Development proposals and investment decisions will need to take into account different policies in different sections. This requires integration across topics (such as transport and environment) and between different spatial scales (region wide, sub area and local). A glossary of terms is included in Annex A to aid interpretation.

TYPES OF POLICIES

All policies are prefixed by a letter or letters, which relate to their section. All policies are highlighted throughout the document in shaded boxes. Three types of policies are included:

- High-level directional policies – as set out in section 4
- Spatial priority policies – as set out in sections 6-12
- Thematic/specific topic based policies – as set out in sections 13-16

These three types of policies are different in nature and reflect their linked roles in articulating the Plan's strategy and delivery. In terms of measuring performance the high level and spatial priority policies link most closely to the contextual monitoring framework, whilst specific indicators and targets are more relevant and attributable to the thematic policies.

The Plan has been prepared to take account of, rather than merely repeat, national policy. The policies aim to provide clear intent and sense of direction as to what is trying to be achieved for the region, followed by any spatial priorities of regional or sub-regional significance. This does not mean that there are not other locally important priorities or situations where this policy applies. The Plan policies focus on issues of regional or sub-regional significance.

DIAGRAMS

Maps and diagrams are used throughout the document to help describe characteristics and features of the Region and explain policy approaches. Environmental and context diagrams are included as illustrative figures for each sub area. These do not form part of the key diagram, neither do they represent inserts to the key diagram. The Key Diagram shows the main strategy dimensions of the Plan.

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