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Our ref: Yorkshire Dales/40b – Planning Conformity/Final responses/Yorkshire Dales Minerals and Waste DPD I&O August 07

17 August 2007

Peter Stockton
Strategic Planning Officer
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Dear Peter

**Yorkshire Dales Development Framework
Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document: Issues and Options**

The Yorkshire and Humber Assembly welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Yorkshire Dales Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document (DPD) 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.

At this stage, the Assembly's response to the consultation document is a set of officer comments. The aim is to highlight where issues related to general conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy might arise. When the Minerals and Waste DPD is submitted to the Secretary of State a formal Assembly view on its general conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy will need to be given.

The following officer comments are made in relation to the existing Regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire & the Humber (based on the selective review of RPG12 issued in December 2004) and the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy – the

Yorkshire and Humber Plan (submitted to the Secretary of State in December 2005).

The comments place emphasis on the draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), which reinforces and develops the general thrust of existing RSS. It is also more up to date and is gathering 'weight' as it passes through the preparation process. The Panel Report of the Examination in Public of the Yorkshire and Humber Plan has now been published (May 2007). This contains recommendations to Government that may or may not be reflected in the Proposed Changes to the Plan that are due to be published for consultation in the autumn. The Panel Report backs the Plan's overall approach and strategy. It also includes recommendations for changes or additions to policies. Any points from the Panel Report that are particularly relevant to this response are noted within the following paragraphs.

General Conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy

As you know, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduced mechanisms to help ensure that Development Plan Documents (DPDs) drawn up by local authorities as part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) are in general conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). The intention is to ensure that DPDs are contributing to the delivery of the RSS and that the two strands of the Development Plan for an area (the RSS and DPDs) are mutually supportive and not in conflict.

It will be important in the submitted DPD to highlight the need for there to be 'general conformity' between the RSS and the Local Development Framework to ensure that the two strands of the development plan are mutually supportive. We therefore think it would be helpful if this need for general conformity were expanded upon at the start of the document as this demonstrates the need for a strong link between the LDF and the RSS. It will also help to clarify the significance of the helpful references to the RSS that are made throughout the document.

In addition, it would be helpful if the dates and status of the current and draft RSS were explained in the introduction of the DPD. For clarification current RSS was published in December 2004 and draft RSS was published in December 2005. Throughout the document references made to the current and draft RSS should be clarified accordingly.

It will also be helpful to note that the Panel Report of the Examination in Public of the Yorkshire and Humber Plan has now been published (May 2007). The Yorkshire and Humber Plan should be published in early 2008.

General Comments

Overall, the Assembly is encouraged by the Yorkshire Dales Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document, as it is a sound and factual document, which provides a clear evidence base.

The Assembly welcomes the approach taken to aggregate uses. The advice that is presented in relation to the draft RSS (2005) is presented in a clear and upfront manner.

It should be noted in relation to "Building and Roofing Stone" on page 10 that the Assembly intends to commission a regional building study in 2008.

I trust that these comments are helpful to you as you prepare the Minerals and Waste DPD for submission to the Secretary of State. If you wish to discuss any of the points made here please do not hesitate to get in touch. We look forward to continuing to work with you on your Local Development Framework.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Poxon', written in a cursive style.

Jenny Poxon
Head of Planning Delivery and Conformity