

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT NORTH YORKSHIRE AND YORK

16 APRIL 2010

### LGYH SPATIAL PLANNING BOARD

#### REPORT OF COUNCILLOR ANN REID

The Spatial Planning Board met on 4 March 2010 when the following issues were considered:-

#### **Sub Regional Planning Assessments – update on progress**

This report outlined progress of the four functional sub-regions on their assessments against the 8 Spatial Lines of Enquiry and the emerging content of the Sub Regional Assessments. With regards the emerging content it was generally agreed that:-

- “Roles of Places” need to be the basis that the lines of enquiry built upon and therefore should be at the beginning.
- “Infrastructure” needs to explicitly mention Green Infrastructure and local infrastructure between smaller communities is just as important – the East/west links as well as the major North/South ones.
- “Employment Land” needs to link in with the Economic Assessments and Retail capacity/changing patterns needs to be included.
- “Housing” – the role of the SHLAAs is as a fundamental building block.

It was recognised that the understanding of Spatial Planning issues sits alongside Economic regeneration in its widest sense.

Although the timescales in the report seem tight (end of March) this is to bring together the evidence that is available now so that the gaps can be identified. No policy decisions are needed at this stage.

#### **Climate Change – Spatial Planning Work**

This was an update report on the work being carried out. Points raised covered ensuring that work on Green Infrastructure and the Eco Community work in the LCR didn't conflict in timescale terms; does the FoE work on encouraging Councils to sign up to 40% carbon reduction fit into Regional policy; reports like this need to be understandable by the public; the bad winter has made more people sceptical about climate change therefore there is a need to also include the fact that the earth is running out of resources and that cutting emissions saves money; work on retrofitting existing housing stock needs more emphasis.

#### **Scale and Distribution of Housing – Developing the new approach**

A lively discussion that raised the following points (in no particular order):-

- We need to identify the broad trends across the region and understand local differences. For example there are real delivery issues in rural areas.
- More work needs to be done on migration, both in and out.
- There is a tension between housing provision and spatial planning.
- None of scenarios are mutually exclusive. In all of them green infrastructure/ low carbon is important

- The need for “Elastic boundaries” was recognised. Officers now have a good understanding of housing market boundaries (rather than LA boundaries) and it will be important to understand the implications.
- Government wants an evidence based strategy but it is difficult to take the Regional Econometric modelling seriously when the latest figures are so wildly different to the previous ones.
- More work needs to be done on demographic change.

### **Delivery priorities and findings of the annual monitoring report**

This report was self explanatory and was noted.

**ANN REID**  
(City of York Council)