

Yorkshire and Humber
Assembly

**Analysis of the
Consultation
Responses on the
Integrated Regional
Framework
Consultation Draft and
Advice on the Way
Forward**

Final Report

ARUP

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Final Report

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Contents

	Page
1 Introduction	1
2 Summary of main findings from analysis of consultation responses	1
2.1 Main points	1
2.2 Comments on specific landmark issues	1
3 Moving Forward	4
3.1 Wider context and the Sub-National Review	4
3.2 Next steps	4
3.3 Options for the way forward	5

1 Introduction

The Yorkshire and Humber Assembly commissioned Arup to analyse the responses to the consultation on the Integrated Regional Framework (IRF) and advise on next steps. The IRF was subject to public consultation between June and August 2007.

The Assembly, as part of its commitment to fulfilling the recommendations of *Securing the Regions' Future* (the Government guidance document on IRFs) intend to finalise the IRF by the end of December 2007.

A detailed analysis of the consultation responses has been undertaken and the findings were set out in a report Arup produced for the Assembly. This note summarised briefly the main overall findings from the consultation and outlines options for taking forward the development of the IRF.

2 Summary of main findings from analysis of consultation responses

2.1 Main points

In general there has been support for and interest in the development of the IRF, with over 60 consultation responses received. The following outlines the main messages and themes which have emerged from the analysis of consultation responses.

Overall, there is consensus and support for the proposed approach, structure, vision, objectives and landmark issues. However, there are a number of differing starting-points in consultees' views on sustainable development. Some consultees emphasise an environmental perspective, stressing the concept of environmental limits to economic growth and development. Other consultees adopt an approach that gives greater emphasis to economic and social issues, within a framework of environmental challenges.

There have been substantial comments on the nature of the *landmark issues*, and there was a widespread view that greater clarity and specificity is needed around and within the IRF. Responses stressed the need to consider a longitudinal approach to the landmark issues and ensure that they can be reviewed over time. This has implications for the long term goals of the region and the validity of the monitoring framework. It was highlighted that the landmark issues need to consider the distinctive regional and sub-regional issues and implications which stem from them; and as such become more regionally specific.

A general theme in the comments made by several consultees was the need for greater clarity on the IRF's role and remit and greater specificity within the IRF. Consultees stressed the need for greater clarity on:

- the role of IRF;
- direct linkages and relationships to specific regional strategies;
- role of specific organisations in taking forward specific aspects of the IRF;
- in terms of making the IRF more specific and timebound; and
- spatial dimension (local / sub/city-region / regional / national / global) of different issues and priorities in the IRF.

2.2 Comments on specific landmark issues

The table overleaf summarises the comments received on each landmark issues.

Table 1: Summary of comments from consultees in relation to the land mark issues set out in the IRF consultation draft

Landmark issue	Correct description of the issue?	Where do you see the issue as most obvious in the region	Are you aware of work being undertaken now or in the future to address the issue? Where will this take place?
Widening gaps and inequalities	<p>Generally yes, but:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landmark issue needs to focus on cohesion • Consider difference between urban and rural communities • Accessibility to variety of services is a key component • Recognise issues of worklessness • Need to consider the linkages to environmental and economic issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concentrations of deprivation throughout the region • Awareness of increased divisions on ethnic or religious lines • Rural Communities & Upland farmers • Former industrial areas and coalfield communities • South Yorkshire, Hull, West Yorkshire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission for Integration and Cohesion, and Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund in West Yorkshire • South Yorkshire Accessibility Strategy • University of Hull – Centre for Research in Social Inclusion and Social Justice • Health inequality work through Wakefield District Primary Care Trust • Fair Cities pilot project in Bradford • Reference the Regional Inclusion Framework
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally yes – but... • Suggest a wider focus, include traffic growth, congestion and pollution • Recognise spatial dimension, locating development close to public transport links • Consider relationship between accessibility, economic competitiveness and social cohesion • Reference inter-regional connectivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem areas – M62 west of A1; A1 south of M62; M18; M1 corridors during peak time • Leeds City Region • Approaches to city centres • Global gateways – North Lincolnshire – Hull and Humber Ports currently bottlenecked • Former coalfield areas – South Yorkshire • Rural-urban connectivity issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leeds City Region Transport Vision • Northern Way Transport Compact – strategic working • Comprehensive Area Assessments by Local Authorities to demonstrate contribution to reducing CO2 emissions • South Yorkshire – formalising relationship between developer contributions and accessibility • Key projects via Northern Way Growth Strategy are underway at Hull and Humber Ports • Reducing the need to travel through innovative ways of working – Broadband / ICT
Climate change, energy and resource use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally yes, but... • Stronger emphasis on reducing consumption – clarify a greenhouse gas emission target – Arup recommendations • Environmental limits should be included • Recognise as a cross cutting themes and link to transport and sustainable communities • Consider other resources, including water, materials, aggregates, waste and their management • Discuss business imperative – see reducing emissions as an economic opportunity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood risk hotspots – Hull, Goole, Leeds city centre, Sheffield city centre • Coastal erosion – East Coast, Humber Estuary • Concentration of power stations at Ferrybridge / Eggborough / Drax 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Lincolnshire / North East Lincolnshire SFRA • Green infrastructure policy – link to RSS • Regional Biodiversity Strategy • National Industrial Symbiosis Programme (NISP) waste, energy and innovation synergies • Catchment Flood Management, Shoreline Management Plans • Forestry Commission & EA to identify sites for floodplain woodland areas • Public Transport – BRT and Critical Corridors ITP • Work undertaken by Carbon Action Yorkshire, Future Energy Yorkshire, Recycling Action Yorkshire, Business Resource Efficiency and Waste Programme

Landmark issue	Correct description of the issue?	Where do you see the issue as most obvious in the region	Are you aware of work being undertaken now or in the future to address the issue? Where will this take place?
Housing markets and affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally yes, but... • Need to consider full Residential Offer. Getting the right, type, size and quality of housing in the right locations • Recognise wider spatial dimension. Building in sustainable locations with housing near to employment • Must look to develop sustainable, mixed communities and create effective housing ladders • Reference the use of sustainable construction techniques – BREEAM / Code for Sustainable Homes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leeds City Region • Rural Areas • North vs. South of Leeds City Region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing a Leeds City Region Housing and Sustainable Communities Panel • New Growth Points and eco-towns – Leeds City Regional level • Establishing special purpose vehicles in Leeds to deliver Local Authority land and assets as part of developing schemes • Sub regional working in the Humber area • Northern Way Sustainable Communities work • Sheffield Economic Masterplan • Renaissance Market Towns Programme
Public health and obesity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue needs more clarity and a wider focus • Greater focus on role of environment and health and well-being • Avoid single focus on obesity and recognise need to tackle ill-health, mental health issues • Accessibility to key health services identified as key consideration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Market Renewal Areas • Disadvantaged communities • Rural Areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Fit and Natural Thinking – link natural environment to health and well-being (RSPB) • Sport and Active Lifestyle Strategy – Wakefield • Support and strengthen Local Area Agreements - 'Altogether Better' • South Yorkshire Accessibility Strategy
Higher level skills and business innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally yes, but... • Too focused on higher education institutes and low level skills • Needs to recognise full range of skills and ladders for progression • Need to encourage entrepreneurs and increase number of business start ups • Must raise aspirations of young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas dominated by traditional industries • R&D sector – lack of incentives to invest • SMEs – lack of innovation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Innovation Fund • HE Institutions should work together through Business Link • City Region Skills Panel – Leeds City Region • York Science City / Centres of Industrial Collaboration
Violent crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification needed on... • Need to include fear and perception of crime – linked to planning out crime • Must reference progress which has been made • Recognise links to other issues – low skills, unemployment, inequality, social cohesion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leeds and other regional city centres • Larger urban areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leeds - Home Office Tackling Violent Crime area – linked to violent crime in the city centre, • Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference schemes to reduce domestic violence

Specific themes discussed in responses that were considered to be missing from the list of landmark issues included: Flood-risk, Waste, Biodiversity and Global Impacts. These were identified as issues that need to be covered, perhaps indicating a lack of clarity around the *Climate Change, Energy and Resource Use* Landmark Issue.

Some consultees stressed the need for a robust monitoring framework to ensure the right landmark issues are captured in the future.

The focus on the issues where the region faced the most significant problems or where progress lagged behind the national average was questioned. Concern was raised that this was an overly negative approach and it was important to outline issues where the region was making, and needs to sustain, good progress.

3 Moving Forward

3.1 Wider context and the Sub-National Review

The *Review of Sub-national Economic Development and Regeneration* - known as the Sub-National Review (SNR) – was published in July 2007 by Government.

The SNR sets out how Government intends to reform governance and the strategic framework at regional level. The strategic roles of Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) are to be strengthened, with RDAs becoming responsible for production of a Single Regional Strategy (SRS) which will bring together what is currently covered in the Regional Spatial, Housing, and Economic Strategies. The delivery roles of local authorities and partnerships at sub/city-region will be strengthened, meaning that whilst RDAs' strategic roles will be enhanced, they will be increasingly required to devolve delivery by working with and through others. New scrutiny arrangements for RDAs will be put in place. Regional Assemblies in their current form and function will not continue. The SNR emphasises the importance of economic growth (as measured by per capita GVA), and places the onus on RDAs to work with and through others to deliver growth.

Guidance on producing an Integrated Regional Framework is set out currently by Government in the document, *Securing the Regions' Future*. The Guidance outlines the eight 'essential ingredients' which need to be incorporated within an IRF to help achieve sustainable development.

There is no clear consideration in the SNR of the future of IRFs. Current thinking is that proposals for a Single Regional Strategy (SRS) will fulfil the function of the IRF.

There is however the question of the transitional period until the new arrangements are put in place, which will be from 2010 at the earliest, requiring primary legislation. Many of the specific details of the new arrangements are yet to be resolved.

3.2 Next steps

The IRF role and process, as envisaged originally by the Assembly, and as set out in *Securing the Regions' Future*, has been somewhat overtaken by events: the publication of the Sub National Review.

Yorkshire Forward's role and buy-in to the IRF was always essential, and in light of the SNR is a particularly important consideration in relation to the next steps for the IRF. With significant uncertainty surrounding the SNR and the role of the IRF, the future relationship between Yorkshire Forward and partners is also crucial.

Given the lengthy transitional period, it is important the region continues to undertake important work to inform, debate and develop policy and strategy. It is vital that the period of transition to the new regional arrangements does not become one of hiatus.

The December 2007 deadline for completing the IRF is challenging, but achievable, and there would be disadvantages in any slippage.

3.3 Options for the way forward

Having regard to the above issues, stemming from consultation responses, and recent Treasury-led announcements, it is important to outline some approaches for the way forward.

A range of options were identified:

1. Traditional approach to IRF, meeting the requirements set out in *Securing the Regions' Futures*;
2. Chapter 1 of the forthcoming Single Regional Strategy, setting out the main principals and objectives for the region's development;
3. Towards the Single Regional Strategy, identifying the main landmark issues and questions that the region will need to address through the SRS;
4. Short shelf-life document – and agenda for work in the region over the next 3 years;
5. Challenge document, setting out the challenges from an environmental and social perspective to an over-riding focus on economic growth; and
6. Hybrid – combination(s) of the above