

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

PLANNING COMMITTEE

**YORKSHIRE & HUMBER PLAN – REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY TO 2026:
REVOCATION**

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To inform members about the revocation of the Yorkshire & Humber Plan – Regional Spatial Strategy to 2026.
- 1.2 The Yorkshire & Humber Plan – Regional Spatial Strategy to 2026 as well as the Regional Economic Strategy for Yorkshire & Humber 2006 to 2015 will be formally abolished on 22 February 2013.
- 1.3 It will no longer be part of the development plan for North Lincolnshire.
- 1.4 It will no longer be used in determining planning applications. There will be no material effect on the status of the Local Development Framework Core Strategy DPD.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 As part of the Government's reforms to the planning system in England, there was a commitment to abolish Regional Spatial Strategies and the regional planning tier. The overall aim was to return decision making over housing and planning to local councils and communities.
- 2.2 A rolling programme to abolish these strategies is now underway. The first strategy to be abolished was that for the East of England region. The Yorkshire & Humber Plan is second to be abolished. This follows the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the likely significant effects of revoking the plan on the environment and determining how any adverse effects of doing so may be mitigated or where any beneficial effects may be enhanced.
- 2.3 Following consultation on the SEA, the Government now consider it appropriate to abolish the Yorkshire & Humber Plan – Regional Spatial Strategy to 2026, with the exception of those policies relating to the York Green Belt. This is because there is no up to date plan in place

for the City of York. The abolition also covers the Regional Economic Strategy for Yorkshire & Humber 2006 to 2015 that was produced by the former regional development agency, Yorkshire Forward.

- 2.4 An order for the abolition for the strategies will be laid before parliament and will come into effect on 22 February 2013. After this date, the Regional Spatial Strategy will no longer form part of the development plan for North Lincolnshire.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 There are no options for consideration as the abolition of the Regional Spatial Strategy will take place.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 The principal implication for North Lincolnshire of the abolition of the Regional Spatial Strategy is that it no longer forms part of the development plan for the area. This currently comprises the Regional Spatial Strategy (May 2008), the Local Development Framework Core Strategy DPD (June 2011) and the saved policies of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan (May 2003). In future, it will comprise the latter documents, as well as any future policies set out in other Local Development Framework documents.
- 4.2 The abolition means that the Regional Spatial Strategy will no longer be used in making decisions of planning applications, and as such will not be referred to in committee reports and used by officers in making delegated decisions.
- 4.3 With regard to planning policy, there will be no material impact on the adopted Core Strategy DPD and its policies. Although the Core Strategy was originally drawn up to be in general conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy, it is considered that it remains a sound strategy and a robust base against which decisions on planning applications can be made. This was noted by the Inspector examining the Core Strategy in January 2011, when the issue was raised. She stated that the *"...abolition [of the RSS] is unlikely to affect the plan's soundness because whilst the CS is in conformity with the RS it is not dependent on it and is supported by its own locally derived evidence base"*.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 5.1 Financial – there are no financial implications.
- 5.2 Staffing – there are no staffing implications
- 5.3 Property – there are no property implications.

5.4 IT – there are no IT implications.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

6.1 Statutory – the abolition of the Regional Spatial Strategy means that it will no longer form part of the development plan for North Lincolnshire. As such it will no longer be used in making decisions on planning applications. There will be no material impact on the Core Strategy DPD, due to the reasons set out above.

6.2 Environmental – there are no environmental impacts.

6.3 Diversity – an Integrated Impact Assessment of the RSS revocation and its implications has been undertaken as part of producing this report.

6.4 Section 17 – Crime & Disorder – there are no section 17 implications.

6.5 Risk – there are no risk implications.

6.6 Other – there are no other implications

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

7.1 The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on the abolition of the Regional Spatial Strategy was subject to a period of public consultation. Comments can be viewed on the Department for Communities & Local Government website.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Members note the information contained this report.

HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report

Written Ministerial Statement by Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP – Abolition of Regional Planning: Yorkshire & Humber