

# Local Government North Yorkshire and York

5 December 2014

## General Updates

### Report of the Honorary Secretary

<b>1.0 Purpose of the Report</b>
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1.1 To provide a brief update on issues which do not require a full paper.
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#### **2.0 Sub-Regional Housing Board – Report of Mary Weastell (Chief Executive, Selby District Council)**

Progress report as at 20 November 2014

Enhanced two tier project title: Affordable Housing

Project Description: Project Description: Working Together to Increase the Number of Affordable Housing Units

Project Lead: Colin Dales, Richmondshire District Council  
Tel: 01748 901002 Email: colin.dales@richmondshire.gov.uk

#### 2.1 Progress to date/update:

- (a) The Local Government York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Housing Board has revised its terms of reference and welcomed new Board members to meet the challenges set by the Growth Deal. Housing Associations, private sector house builders and the East Riding of Yorkshire Council now have full representation on the Board.
- (b) A review of the Rural Housing Enabler programme has been completed in readiness for a new programme from 1 April 2015. A key element of the review revolved around a funding model to ensure that the programme remains financially sustainable. The funding model, summarised below, has received positive feedback from the majority of partners and will form the basis of the new programme.

• Local Authority contribution	£6,500 per year (previously £5,000)
• NY Moors National Park	£2,500 per year
• Housing Association retainer	£3,000 per year (previously £2,500)
• Housing Association “pay per unit” contribution	up to £30,000 (capped)

(c) Work is underway in developing a new post-April 2015 York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Housing Strategy with a new set of draft key priorities to be considered by the Housing Board on 8 December. The following draft key housing priorities have been developed following consultation with key local authority housing leads:

- Increase the supply of good quality housing across all tenures and locations.
- Ensure that our housing stock reflects the needs of our urban, rural and coastal communities.
- Ensure our housing stock meets the diverse needs of our communities at all stages of their lives whilst promoting social cohesion.
- Ensure existing and new housing is of the right quality and has a positive impact on health and wellbeing.
- Continue to reduce homelessness.
- Provide housing support for those with specific needs.

## 2.2 Barriers to progressing the project over the next period

- (a) The main barrier continues to relate to current housing market conditions which are hindering the contribution that the planning system can make to affordable homes delivery. However, housing market conditions and associated confidence are improving and this barrier continues to lower as housing market confidence grows.
- (b) Lack of suitable land continues to be a barrier to the delivery of affordable housing although Local Authority planning frameworks are continuing to develop with a growing number receiving or anticipating Planning Inspectorate approval. This progress should ease housing land supply in the medium term. The Growth Deal makes specific reference to the need to have up to date local plans and associated land supply.
- (c) Private sector housing improvement funding ceased from 1 April 2011 as a direct result of CSR. Local Authorities still have the freedom to fund private sector housing renewal from their own funds, but current feedback from Local Authority colleagues is that this area of activity has reduced significantly with Disabled Facilities Grants being the core business.
- (d) Local opposition to housing (including affordable housing) is also hindering progress in boosting housing supply. The Housing Board has written to the Housing Minister to request that more supportive key messages come out of

Government, supporting new housing and the key role it plays in boosting local economies and sustaining communities. The Chair of the Board has also met with the Housing Minister when he visited the region in July in order to reinforce this message.

- (e) Funding the infrastructure needed to bring housing sites forward is also a barrier which has, at least in part, been resolved via the allocation of Local Growth Funding. However, this is likely to be an on-going pressure as further key sites come forward.
- (f) Selby District Council has also had a further a barrier raised by developers and agents on its patch which relates to delays in statutory agency consultee responses to planning applications.

**3.0 Sub-Regional Spatial Planning and Transport Board – Report of Ian Stokes (Development Officer (Transport Strategy), City of York Council)**

- 3.1 A date is still being sought for the Members’ Duty to Cooperate workshop, which is expected to help set the forward programme for the Board.

**4.0 Yorkshire and Humberside European Regional Development Fund Performance Management Board for North East and West Yorkshire – Report of Councillor Derek Bastiman (Scarborough Borough Council)**

- 4.1 The meeting scheduled for 1 October 2014 was cancelled on the basis that reasonable progress was being made, and being mindful of time and resource pressures.

**5.0 Yorkshire and Humber Member Improvement and European Board – Report of Councillor Derek Bastiman (Scarborough Borough Council) and Councillor Tracey Simpson-Laing (City of York Council)**

- 5.1 The Board has not met since LGNYY’s last meeting.

**6.0 Recommendation**

- 6.1 That the report be noted.

**Richard Flinton**

Honorary Secretary to Local Government North Yorkshire and York