

# Local Government North Yorkshire and York

24 July 2015

## General Updates

### Report of the Honorary Secretary

#### 1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To provide a brief update on issues which do not require a full paper.

#### 2.0 Sub-Regional Housing Board – Report of Mary Weastell (Chief Executive, Selby District Council)

Progress report as at 13 July 2015

Enhanced two tier project title: Affordable Housing

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

Project Lead: Colin Dales, Richmondshire District Council  
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#### 2.1 Progress to date/update:

(a) The Housing Board has received a performance update for quarters 3 and 4 of 2014/15 (full year outturn) which can be summarised as follows:

- 875 new affordable homes were delivered (compared to 309 during 2013/14)
- 513 of these homes were delivered with HCA subsidy and 271 without. 347 homes were delivered via Section 106 agreements
- 169 affordable homes were delivered on Local Investment Programme sites at Aiskew, Knaresborough, Middle Deepdale and Egton
- 472 households were accepted as homeless compared to 429 during the previous year while homeless prevention interventions totalled 3,966 compared to 3,799 during the previous year
- 10,717 households accessed housing options services compared with 10,009 the previous financial year
- In terms of private sector housing interventions, 677 homes benefitted from improvements at a cost of £3.6 million, the majority of spend relating to disabled facilities grants.

Moving forward, the Housing Board has widened its performance remit to include housing supply overall – private and affordable.

(b) A review of the Rural Housing Enabler programme has previously been included in this update. The new programme is now up and running with the proposed addition of East Riding of Yorkshire.

- (c) A new York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Housing Strategy with a new set of key priorities is currently in the process of being adopted by partners – full sign up is anticipated by September.
- (d) The North Yorkshire Housing Strategy Manager post, which coordinates the work of the Housing Partnership, manages the RHE programme and acts as link officer to the work of the LEP, has been converted into a permanent post and the current post holder confirmed in the position following a competitive selection process.

## 2.1 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 barrier raised by developers and agents within its area 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 It was intended to convene a Duty to Co-operate workshop, deferred from October/November 2014, early in 2015, but this was again postponed until after the local elections in May 2015. Subsequent to these elections, several authorities have a new Member representative on the Board. The inaugural meeting of the ‘shuffled’ Board date is due to take place in summer 2015 (potentially 06 August 2015) and it is

expected that there will be a substantial amount of appropriate business for the Board to conduct, much of it around the Duty to Co-operate.

#### **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 programme achieved its 2014 n+2 target of £84M in year spend (cumulative total £373M). Half of this amount was claimed and paid in the final two months of 2014. The programme value at £487M is 100% legally committed. Output performance is strong, particularly in relation to key growth indicators. The value of the ERDF programme has risen by around £80M since its launch in 2008. This additional value has been successfully invested in projects supporting local economic growth. Over the past 3 years around £50 has been re-invested from funds returned to the programme and successfully reallocated to local projects. This is an extremely positive outcome for the programme and partners. The Yorkshire and Humber ERDF programme is in a stable position to manage out its final year. As the programme moves into the final months of delivery, the priorities for action are:- maintaining performance in respect of spend and outputs; managing delivery risk so as not to compromise orderly closure; and effectively managing project closure up to end 2015.

#### **5.0 Shadow Board 2014-2020 European Structural and Investment Funds Programme Management Committee – Report of Councillor Derek Bastiman (Scarborough Borough Council)**

5.1 The European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme is now open for business and has been launched on GOV.UK website along with a set of supporting documents. The 2014-2020 ESIF Growth Programme will provide €3.6 Billion of European Regional Development Fund, €3.5 Billion of European Social Fund including the Youth Employment Initiative, and €221 Million from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. The key objectives of the Programme are based on local priorities and include:- research and innovation; supporting small and medium size enterprises; creating a low carbon economy; increasing labour market participation; promoting social inclusion; developing people's skills; supporting micro and small rural businesses; investing in small scale renewable and broadband investments; and supporting tourism activities. As outline and full applications come through in response to these calls, partners will help determine how they fit with local conditions and growth opportunities, through the ESIF Committee in each LEP area.

#### **6.0 Recommendation**

6.1 That the report be noted.

**Richard Flinton**

Honorary Secretary to Local Government North Yorkshire and York