

Local Government North Yorkshire and York

6 July 2018

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 York, North Yorkshire and East Riding ESI Funds Sub-Committee – Report of Dave Atkinson on behalf of Councillors Andrew Lee (NYCC), Ian Gillies (CYC) and Steve Arnold (Ryedale District Council)

2.1 On Friday 27 April 2018:-

- (a) The Sub-Committee considered updates on progress from representatives of the Managing Authority (Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) - ERDF; Department for Work & Pensions - ESF; Department for the Environment Food & Rural Affairs - EAFRD).
- (b) Sub-Committee Members considered the full application on Gypsy Race Park and Avenue. This is funding for public realm and environmental enhancements to an area in Bridlington Town Centre. The aim is to support biodiversity and ecology, as well as opening up access routes and opening green areas for recreational and educational use.
- (c) The Managing Authority advised on revised timescales for the deadline for calls (March 2020 - for projects to be completed by June 2023).

3.0 Sub-Regional Housing Board – Report of Mary Weastell, Chief Executive, City of York Council

Enhanced two tier project title: Affordable Housing

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

Project Lead: Colin Dales, Corporate Director (Operations), Richmondshire District Council, Tel: 01748 901002 email: colin.dales@richmondshire.gov.uk

3.1 Progress to date/update:-

- (a) Work around the Community Housing Fund continues. The Community Led Housing hub was formally launched on the 5th March with a new “REACH” website. The key aim is to assist communities in developing their own housing schemes via access to advice and assistance from key professionals such as architects, project managers, funders and legal professionals. Each Local Authority is currently working with local communities to bring housing schemes forward. Confirmation has also been received that Homes England will manage Community Housing Funding going forward and any associated bids.

- (b) The Housing Board previously received a report on an approach from the Home Office to extend the Asylum Seeker Dispersal programme into North Yorkshire. The Board's initial view was not to participate in the programme but officers were instructed to meet with the Home Office to establish basic ground rules around additional funding, local control of dispersals and managing community cohesion issues. A further report was submitted to the Housing Board presenting a proposal developed by the Home Office and G4S. The Board (narrowly) voted in favour of participation and requested that a new proposal be developed by officers to deal with issues raised. A revised proposal was submitted to the Housing Board which gained broad agreement. Each Local Authority is currently taking soundings locally with a view to feeding into the Housing Board during the Autumn. It is hoped that a consensus (either based on a "yes" or "no" position) can still be established as a Housing Partnership so that the North Yorkshire Authorities remain "as one" on the matter.
- (c) The Housing Board and Directors of Development have previously received a report on unimplemented planning permissions – over 24,000 across North Yorkshire, York and the East Riding – with proposals on how to convert these permissions into housing completions more quickly. A "hit squad" of required specialists has been established to home in on key problematic housing developments which are not converting into completions. A prioritised list has been established and outcomes will be closely monitored.
- (d) A bid submitted for the Design Quality Fund element of the Planning Delivery Fund has been successful with £285,000 being allocated over 2 years. Key pieces of work approved by the Directors of Development, and to be shared with the Housing Board, are :
- Masterplans for Catterick Garrison and around 5 other key housing growth opportunities during 2018/19.
 - A dedicated officer (2018/19 through to 2019/20) to secure Off Site Manufacture (OSM) and Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) on our major sites, including Catterick and other MoD sites, working between the industry and councils, developers and landowners (including the MoD) to broker deals to utilise OSM and MMC.
- (e) Two meetings of a Yorkshire wide Housing Working Group have been held with Leaders and senior officers to explore where closer working on common housing issues may be productive e.g. joint bids for funding, sharing of good practice and lobbying. Further meetings are planned along with associated work streams. Confirmation of participation from some South Yorkshire colleagues is still awaited.
- (f) A "housing deal" with Homes England has been drafted with the key aim of clarifying key asks and deliverables for the Housing Partnership which will form the basis of future funding opportunities with Homes England. The draft deal has been considered by the Directors of Development and amendments are currently being made prior to a report being submitted to the next scheduled meeting of the Housing Board.
- (g) North Yorkshire will host a conference on *Rural Housing for an Ageing Population* in response to an All Party Parliamentary Group inquiry into the issues. The event will take place on the 27th July at the Harrogate Convention Centre. The event has been arranged in partnership with the Housing

Learning and Improvement Network and the Northern Housing Consortium.
The key note speaker will be Lord Best.

3.2 Barriers to progressing the project over the next period:-

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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.
- (c) 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.
- (d) 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.
- (e) The stalling of new / proposed housing legislation is also becoming a barrier as housing providers take stock and come to terms with all the new policies and proposals and the impact on business plans. This barrier is reducing as time moves on and updates will continue to be provided in this respect.

4.0 **Sub-Regional Spatial Planning and Transport Board (Secretariat: City of York Council)**

4.1 At the Board's last meeting on 17 January 2018, the Board:-

- Considered a paper from Harrogate Borough Council (HBC) entitled 'Harrogate District Local Plan Consideration of Cross Boundary Issues' and endorsed the Duty to Co-operate table therein summarising the strategic issues and outcomes.
- Considered a paper from City of York Council entitled 'City of York Local Plan Pre Publication Draft (Regulation 18) Consultation, 2017' and endorsed the approach taken by City of York Council in meeting the requirements of the Duty to co-operate in the plan making process.
- Cllr Rebecca Burnett (HBC) reported that HBC has secured Government funding to why housing delivery in the borough is so low, adding that the resultant work was due to be completed by the end of March 2018 and this may be a suitable item to include on the agenda for the next Board meeting.

4.2 A further meeting of the Board was arranged for Thursday 3 May 2018 but was subsequently cancelled as it coincided with local government elections in some of the authorities within the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding area. The date for the next Board meeting is yet to be set, but is expected be after the next Directors of Development meeting on 31 May 2018.

4.3 Cllr Peter Dew (CYC) has succeeded Cllr I Gillies (CYC) as the Board's Chair, for the present time.

5.0 Yorkshire and Humber Strategic Migration Group – Report of Neil Irving (NYCC) on behalf of himself and Councillor Derek Bastiman (Scarborough Borough Council)

5.1 The Group was due to meeting on 1 March 2018 but the meeting was cancelled due to snow. The Group's next meeting is due to take place on 4 July 2018 which is two days before today's LGNYY meeting. Therefore a written summary of deliberations is not available at the time of circulation of papers for today's LGNYY meeting.

6.0 Recommendation

6.1 That the report be noted.

Richard Flinton
Honorary Secretary to Local Government North Yorkshire and York