

## Local Government North Yorkshire and York

6 March 2020

### General Updates

#### Report of Richard Flinton (LGNYY 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 (City of York Council, Chief Executive)

Progress as at 14 February 2020

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

#### 2.1 Progress to date/update:-

- (a) The Housing Board has received reports previously on Syrian Refugee Resettlement and the Asylum Seeker Dispersal Scheme. In terms of the Asylum Seeker Dispersal, negotiations continue to be on hold and we are awaiting further contact from Home Office colleagues. In terms of the new Global Refugee Resettlement Programme, each Local Authority has taken a report through their governance structures seeking approval to participate in the scheme. All Local Authorities have now confirmed their participation in the scheme and a resettlement programme will be developed, broadly along the same lines as the previous Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programme but over a longer timescale.
- (b) A review of the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Housing Strategy has commenced following Housing Board confirmation that an overarching Housing Strategy covering the York and North Yorkshire geography is still needed. A consultation and communication plan is currently being drawn up to enable the initial drafting of a new strategy based on partner feedback. A new strategy needs to be in place by April 2021.
- (c) The Housing Board in February will consider a report on the Rural Housing Enabler Programme to consider steps needed to regularise RHE contracts and put the programme on a more sustainable financial footing following the recent depletion of reserves below a prudent level.
- (d) Housing supply performance for quarters 1 and 2 (1/2 year) of 2019/20 has become available and a copy is available on request. Key headlines are: - overall housing supply figure (2,475) is ahead of supply at the same mid-point in the last financial year; 4,500 new planning permissions were granted, showing a continuing healthy supply pipeline; but affordable housing

completions continue to be below target, albeit with underlying signs of improvement.

- (e) A project group has been established as part of the County Council's review of the county wide young people's pathway – a joint working programme between County Council and boroughs / districts to assist homeless and potentially homeless young people. This review is on-going with input from nominated housing officers.

## 2.2 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) 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.
- (c) 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.

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

3.1 There is nothing to report.

## 4.0 **Yorkshire and Humber Strategic Migration Group – Report of Neil Irving (NYCC, Assistant Director - Policy, Partnerships and Communities) on behalf of himself and Ann-Marie Douglas (City of York Council, Temporary Accommodation Manager)**

4.1 The Strategic Migration Group met on 13 February 2020. The Group is now chaired by Robin Tuddenham (Chief Executive, Calderdale Council). The main issues discussed at the meeting were:

- (a) The good progress being made with the current Syrian refugee resettlement programme in the region.
- (b) The positive support for the new global resettlement scheme from local authorities in the region.
- (c) The need to ensure that all eligible people are informed about, and supported to apply to, EU Settlement Scheme to protect their existing rights to live, study and work in the UK.

**5.0 York, North Yorkshire and East Riding ESI Funds Sub-Committee – Report of Councillor Darryl Smalley (City of York Council), County Councillor Andrew Lee (NYCC) and Councillor Steve Arnold (Ryedale District Council)**

5.1 Report awaited.

**6.0 Recommendation**

6.1 That the report be noted.

Richard Flinton  
Honorary Secretary to Local Government North Yorkshire and York