

Council/ Committee:	Executive	Agenda Item No.:	12.
Date:	15 th June 2009	Category	*
Subject:	North Derbyshire and Bassetlaw Housing Market Area Housing Strategy – Governance Arrangements	Status	Open
Report by:	Head of Regeneration		
Other Officers involved:	Housing Strategy and Enabling Manager		
Director	Strategy		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Regeneration		

RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS

COMMUNITY SAFETY – Ensuring that communities are safe and secure

CUSTOMER FOCUSED SERVICES – Providing excellent customer focused services

ENVIRONMENT – Promoting and enhancing a clean and sustainable environment

REGENERATION – Developing healthy, prosperous and sustainable communities

SOCIAL INCLUSION – Promoting fairness, equality and lifelong learning.

By providing balanced communities through affordable housing provision.

Individual schemes will address issues of community safety, council inclusion and improvements to the local environment through careful planning and partnership working.

TARGETS

Decent Homes (PSA7), Affordable Housing LAA target 155, Affordable Warmth, Regeneration targets, the Council Vision:

“To enhance and improve the wealth profile, well being and quality of life for the communities of the district of Bolsover”

Sustainable Community Plan target: “To increase Housing Association Investment in our District”

VALUE FOR MONEY

The ability to lobby for regeneration funding will be greater if the authority works within the Housing Market Area context.

THE REPORT

0.0 Introduction

This paper provides Members with information on the development of the North Derbyshire and Bassetlaw Housing Market Area (HMA) Housing Strategy. The paper also requests approval for the proposed governance arrangements and delivery mechanisms for that Strategy.

On 30th March 2009, Chesterfield Borough Council presented the proposed governance arrangements (Appendix A) to the North Derbyshire Leaders Forum. The recommendation, to put forward to Members, the governance arrangements for the delivery of the North Derbyshire and Bassetlaw HMA Housing Strategy, was approved.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) was received by full Council 14th November 2007 and its' conclusions noted (minute 503 refers). The SHMA identifies the three Derbyshire districts (Bolsover, Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire) and one Nottinghamshire district (Bassetlaw) as forming a single Housing Market Area (HMA).
- 1.2 To build on the findings of the SHMA, the North Derbyshire and Bassetlaw Housing Strategy Group submitted a bid to the Regional Housing Group for funding to support the development of a cross boundary Housing Strategy. In April 2008, Sheffield Hallam University (CRESR) were contracted to develop the Housing Strategy for the HMA and to recommend delivery mechanisms for that Strategy.
- 1.3 Completion of the HMA Housing Strategy is required June 2009 and will be reported to members shortly thereafter. In terms of the delivery mechanism for joint working, a meeting was held on the 11th February 2009, involving CRESR and relevant representatives from the four local authorities. Representation from Bolsover District Council was as follows:

- Director of Strategy
- Portfolio Holder for Housing Management representing Cllr Tomlinson
- Head of Planning
- Housing Strategy Officer
- Chair of LSP Housing and Environment Forum

Detailed discussion of the proposals can be found in the body of the report.

2.0 National and Regional Drivers

- 2.1 Several government reports published in 2008 reinforced the case for a sub regional approach to growth and investment and advocated a clear need for a cross boundary approach to policy in terms of housing supply.
- 2.2 The merger of the Housing Corporation with English Partnerships to create the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) signals a change in emphasis away from just bricks and mortar affordable housing provision to the creation of “quality places”. The change of emphasis means that a more strategic approach to funding has been developed by the HCA that will cover Housing Market Areas as opposed to single districts.
- 2.3 The new method of accessing the £17.3 billion national funding pot from the HCA will take the form of the “Single Conversation” followed by Local Investment Agreements that will last between 5 – 10 years. Given these drivers it is essential that the HMA Housing Strategy is supported by appropriate governance and delivery mechanisms that ensure joined up and mutually acceptable decisions across the four authorities that form the Housing Market Area

3 Governance Arrangements

- 3.1 Appendix A sets out the proposed governance arrangements for the delivery of the North Derbyshire and Bassetlaw Housing Strategy.
- 3.2 It recognises that East Midlands authorities face a number of different ways and therefore shows the Executive Sounding Board feeding into:
- The County Council LAA structure
 - Sheffield City Region (where applicable)
 - LSP Forums
 - Individual District Scrutiny procedure
 - Homes and Communities Agency, the Regional Development Agency, Government Office, the Regional Housing Board
- 3.3 It is proposed that the Executive Sounding Board is made up of:
- Chief Strategic Housing Officers
 - Lead Members with responsibility for strategic housing
 - Supporting People from Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire
 - PCT from Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire
 - Representatives from the 3 local strategic partnerships

And that they are responsible for;

- Monitoring the delivery of the HMA Housing strategy
- Setting the strategic direction for the HMA
- Agreeing priorities for joint working and investment
- Contributing to the Sheffield City Region agenda
- The ‘single conversation’ with the HCA

3.3 It is proposed that this group is chaired by one of the Elected Member Representatives on the group and that this role is rotated between the four local authorities on an annual basis.

3.4 It is proposed that the HMA Partnership Group is made up of the Strategic Housing Leads from each of the four local authorities and that this group replaces the current North Derbyshire and Bassetlaw Housing Strategy Group. They will be responsible for;

- Ensuring the delivery of the actions identified in the HMA Housing Strategy
- Facilitating the delivery of joint working and investment opportunities
- Recommending strategic direction to the Executive Sounding Board
- Collating and analysing data to both support and develop the HMA Housing Strategy
- Developing bids for funding to the HCA / EMRA / Sheffield City Region
- Co-ordinating the dissemination of information to all consultative groups and ensuring that linkages and actions are made / shared where appropriate
- Co-ordinating and hosting a minimum of four consultation 'events' annually with wider stakeholders which could include formal consultation events, surveys and questionnaires, research programmes

3.5 It is proposed that this group is chaired by one of the local authorities and that the Chair of the Group attends the Executive Sounding Board to report on the delivery of the HMA Partnership Group. It is proposed that the Chair of this Group is from a different local authority to the chair of the Executive Sounding Board, to ensure inclusivity, and that his role is also rotated on an annual basis.

3.6 Detailed Terms of Reference will need to be developed for both of these groups and will be reported to Members shortly. The establishment of the group does not give delegated authority from the Council as such and all relevant matters will still be referred to Bolsover District Council's Executive for a decision.

IMPLICATIONS

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The work to develop the HMA Housing Strategy, the four Housing Needs Studies and recommend these governance arrangements has been met

by monies secured from the Regional Housing Group (£20,000) and each of the four local authorities (£25,000 each). It was agreed at the start of the work in 2007 that any remaining monies at the end of the work programme will be divided equally between the four authorities.

- 4.2 Whilst there are no financial implications from the establishment of the governance arrangements, there are likely to be financial implications in the future in order to deliver the actions in the Housing Strategy, carry out joint research and arrange consultation with wider stakeholders.
- 4.3 It is proposed that each local authority should contribute a minimum of £2,500 per annum to support these joint working arrangements, however this will need to be discussed in the first instance by the Executive Sounding Board. This specific cost will be met from existing budgets.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- 5.1 There have been no negative impacts identified by the establishment of these governance arrangements, which seek to include existing consultative groups and will include wider stakeholder consultation.
- 5.2 The work undertaken already has included research into the Housing Needs of specific community groups of interest including, younger persons, older persons, people with complex needs and BME households. Specific actions relating to these groups have been included in the HMA Housing Strategy and 'fair access' has been incorporated as a cross cutting theme throughout the Strategy.

6.0 ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Governance Structure proposed at Appendix A, must develop meaningful links with the Derbyshire LAA Partnership in the near future.
- 6.2 It is important to note that the statutory responsibility for strategic housing remains with lower tier authorities and that within this arena, the District has the ability to retain control.
- 6.3 Appendix A confirms that Scrutiny arrangements are retained within individual Local Authorities for the housing function.

7.0 HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS - None

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS - None

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. That Members note the work already undertaken within the North Derbyshire and Bassetlaw HMA in order to deliver strategic housing objectives**
- 2. That Members approve the proposed governance structure for delivery of the Sub Regional Housing Strategy and to influence future investment in the East Midland authorities' area.**
- 3. That a further report be brought to Members on the Housing Strategy for the North Derbyshire and Bassetlaw HMA**
- 4. That a further report be brought to Members on the Terms of Reference for both the Executive Sounding Board and the HMA Partnership Group**
- 5. That with respect to Appendix A, members request future reports on:**
 - a. The delivery arm**
 - b. Links to the Derbyshire LAA Partnership**

ATTACHMENT: Appendix A

REASON FOR DECISION TO BE GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION

In order to ensure the delivery of strategic housing across the District.

