

Committee:	Executive	Agenda Item No.:	14.
Date:	7 <sup>th</sup> February 2011		
Category	1. Key decision included in Forward Plan		
Subject:	Local Investment Plan update: Sheffield City Region Joint Housing and Regeneration Board	Status	Open
Report by:	Head of Regeneration		
Other Officers involved:	Housing Strategy and Enabling Manager		
Director	Development		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor A.F. Tomlinson, Portfolio Holder for 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.

#### **TARGETS**

Decent Homes in the private sector  
Affordable Housing  
RSS Targets  
Empty Properties

#### **VALUE FOR MONEY**

Local Authorities within the Sheffield City Region (SCR) are being asked to contribute to a virtual team of Housing Strategy and Enabling Officers as part of the establishment of the Housing and Regeneration Board. The paper shows the considerable resources that some authorities have to offer in terms of officer capacity.

## **THE REPORT**

### **1.0 Executive Summary**

This paper requests authorisation for Bolsover District Council to join the Sheffield City Region Joint Housing and Regeneration Board. Terms of Reference for the Board are found at Appendix A. It is requested that Portfolio Holder for Regeneration Councillor Alan Tomlinson is the nominated member from Bolsover District Council with reserve nominee Councillor Dennis Kelly, Portfolio Holder for Environment.

### **Background**

- 2.1 The North Derbyshire and Bassetlaw Housing Market Area (HMA) Executive Sounding Board was established to oversee delivery of the Sub Regional Housing Strategy, commission joint research and lobby for funding. At present, the Board is chaired by Bolsover District Council. It covers the Local Authorities of Bolsover, Bassetlaw, Chesterfield and NEDDC.
- 2.2 The Sub-Regional Housing Strategy was followed by a delivery plan - the Sub Regional Local Investment Plan (LIP) approved by Executive November 1<sup>st</sup> 2010. During the period of LIP development, the Coalition Government established the Regional Growth Fund funding stream and realigned the Homes and Communities Agency into new geographic areas.
- 2.3 For the North Derbyshire and Bassetlaw HMA, changes to HCA boundaries meant that East and West Midlands teams were combined with the geographic funding area now covering Birmingham and Milton Keynes. Conscious that the HMA now represented the North East extremity of the new area, neighbouring HMA authorities motioned a desire to be covered by the Yorkshire and Humberside HCA team.
- 2.4 This led in December, to a map being issued showing Bassetlaw, Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire covered by Yorkshire and Humberside HCA and Bolsover by the East Midlands team. Since all district authorities are now grouped into HMA areas for funding purposes, this has left Bolsover District isolated.

### **3.0 Joint Board Support**

The Joint Board will be supported by a virtual team of Housing Strategy and Regeneration Officers covering the work streams overleaf. Offer of assistance from all affected authorities has not yet been circulated, however, Members will see the extensive capacity on offer from some Metropolitan authorities.

SCR work stream	AFFORDABLE RENT	EFFICIENT PROCURE - MENT	PHYSICAL RENEWAL	PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR	GROWTH	Board Co-Ordination
<i>HMA Strategic Objective</i>	<i>Extending Housing Choice</i>	<i>Delivery &amp; Mgmt Arrangements</i>	<i>Placeshaping for Sustainable Communities</i>	<i>Improving the Quality of Hsg</i>	<i>Extending Hsg Choice</i>	<i>Delivery &amp; Mgmt Arrangements</i>
Bolsover Offer			Danielle Troop			
NEDDC Offer	Andrew Towleron			Carl Griffiths		
Chesterfield Offer						
Doncaster Offer	Affordable Housing Team	Housing Strategy Team		Empty Property Team	Officers	Housing Strategy Team
Sheffield Offer	Officers		Offer to lead	Officers		
Rotherham Offer						
Barnsley Offer						

3.2 Members will note that the work streams fit well with existing strategic objectives within the Sub Regional Housing Strategy and that officers in effect, will be delivering existing work streams. Members should also note that each of the delivery streams results in New Homes, Affordable Homes or Empty Homes Bonus attainment.

#### **4.0 Benefits to Bolsover of Joining the SCR Housing and Regeneration Joint Board**

- 4.1 The issue of being isolated from Housing Market Area partners has been outlined in previous sections. Bolsover District undertakes a wide range of Housing work in partnership with HMA authorities including: Choice-Based Lettings, Supporting People Provider Contracts, Homelessness Prevention Provider Contracts, Joint Home Improvement Agency, Joint RSL Forum, Joint Homelessness Forum.
- 4.2 The issue of the enlarged HCA midlands area has been highlighted in previous sections with officers now being requested to attend meetings in Birmingham as a result.
- 4.3 Physical Renewal funding has been cut under the Coalition Government. It is considered that the Regional Growth Fund may be able to offer some of the funding assistance required if outputs can be shown to assist Economic Development. There is a proposal from Sheffield City Council for an SCR-wide Regional Growth Fund bid linked to housing renewal. It would be useful for Bolsover District to be included in such a bid.

4.4 Since Regional Growth Fund bids can only be submitted by the private sector, it is assumed that a private sector consortium would be required to submit a City Region wide bid.

4.5 Processes to date have been inclusive in the context of Joint Regeneration and Housing Board Development. This is borne out by the Terms of Reference attached with equal voting rights for Bolsover, Sheffield, Doncaster, Chesterfield, Barnsley, Bassetlaw, Rotherham and North East Derbyshire. It is understood that the Leader of the Council has also been invited as a full member of the Sheffield City Region Leaders Board.

### **ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

#### Finance

1. The proposed arrangements are designed to see an increase in New Homes Bonus, Affordable Homes Bonus and Empty Homes Bonus attainment by the authority than if the authority were working in isolation or even within the HMA.

#### Legal

1. In seeking authorisation to join the Joint Housing and Regeneration Board for the Sheffield City Region, there is not a requirement to amend the constitution.

#### Human Resources

1. The Executive Sounding Board for the North Derbyshire and Bassetlaw HMA meets 6 weekly. There is a requirement for the four authorities to safeguard a "strong voice" at the East Midlands level. Owing to officer and member capacity in the light of the proposed new board, it would be pertinent to reduce HMA Board meetings to quarterly meetings.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS that**

- 1) **Members approve Bolsover District Council's membership of the Joint Housing and Regeneration Board for the Sheffield City Region.**
- 2) **Members nominate the Regeneration Portfolio Holder as representative for the authority.**
- 3) **Members nominate the Environment Portfolio Holder as deputy representative for the authority.**

ATTACHMENT: Terms of Reference

SOURCE DOCUMENT: North Derbyshire and Bassetlaw Local Investment Plan.

**Reason for Decision: To enable better delivery of the Local Investment Plan and greater attainment of New Homes, Affordable Homes and Empty Homes bonus**