

Minutes of the Local Government York, North Yorkshire & East Riding Housing Board

1.00pm Monday 12th February 2017
Rural Arts Centre Thirsk

1. **Attendance:** Cllr Richard Foster, Craven DC Sarah Hall, YNYER SHP;; Cllr Symon Frazer, ERYC; Gail Teasdale, Broadacres HA; Julian Rudd, Ryedale DC; Cllr Ian Threlfall, Richmondshire DC; Cllr Bill Chatt, Scarborough BC; Karen Anderson, HE; Dilys Jones, HE; Julia Histon, York HA; Madeline Bell, Harrogate BC; Cllr Mike Chambers, Harrogate BC; Colin Dales, Richmondshire DC; Cllr Webster, Hambleton DC. Wyn Ashton, Craven DC; Cllr David Webster, Hambleton DC Sue Walters Thompson, Hambleton DC; Neil Irving, NYCC; Alison Fisher, NYMNPA; Matt Lewer, ERYC

Rob Tranmer, Start Regeneration; Marcus Bennett, CITB; Lynne Alison, CITB, Lee-Ann Prince, Service Delivery Manager NEYH - Home Office; David Smyth, Housing Contracts Liaison Manager - G4S (part)

2. **Apologies for Absence:** John Craig, ERYC Cllr Steve Arnold, Ryedale DC; Cllr Carl Lis, YDNPA; Paul Newman, Barratt/DWH; Cllr Richard Musgrave, Selby DC.

3. **Minutes of meeting held on 18th Dec 2018** – Agreed as a true and accurate record.

4. **Item 8 Community Housing Fund Update - Presentation**

Lynne and Marcus from CITB outlined work to consider the construction skills needs and gaps in YNYER - <http://nycyerhousing.co.uk/data/documents/York-NY-ER-DEMAND-and-GAP-presentation-v01-for-12Feb18.ppsx>

Members discussed the presentation and raised issues around the cost of documentation, travel to work and training which can be barriers in some locations. As well as the cost of training and taking on apprentices and new staff for very small businesses. The group wanted to understand the links between the issues outlined here and those in neighbouring Tees Valley and West Yorkshire and what lessons can be learned from elsewhere. There is also a need to understand the ways in which we can attract young people, women and those with construction skills in other jobs back into the industry. How can we link with National Construction Week?

The next steps are to finalise the demand report, link to the LEP skills strategy and Industrial Strategy and the emerging Housing Deal. Report to future Board meeting, *(Lynne and Marcus left the meeting)*

5. **Item 6 Community Led Housing Hub**

Rob Tranmer outlined the progress in developing a community led housing support hub for the sub region and the associated website – <http://nycyerhousing.co.uk/data/documents/Housing-Board-Reach-Housing-Hub-12-February-2018.pptx>

The site should be live in the next month at www.Reachcommunityhousing.co.uk and a formal launch will follow. Training events/seminars will be delivered across the area over the spring.

(Rob left the meeting)

6. Item 4 Asylum Seeker Dispersal Programme

Lee-Ann Prince from the Home Office outlined the background to the request for NYCC authorities to take part in the Asylum Seekers Dispersal Programme. Home Office have been actively approaching local authorities to get involved and participating LAs have increased from 92 to 150.

David Smyth from G4S outlined the proposal circulated. G4S want to work collaboratively to establish operational partnerships with LAs. He also outlined the consultation process with LAs. The Board discussed the practicalities of the proposal, particularly in rural areas and areas with deprivation issues and issues around scale, numbers and pace.

(Lee-Ann and David left the meeting)

Some elected members expressed concerns around their need to consult via their own local governance arrangements and Colin confirmed that this was in line with the Board's terms of reference. Julian Rudd read a statement from Ryedale DC and Sarah read an email from Selby DC regarding this. Julia Histon set out her reasons for abstention.

Picking up the key points debated, the Chair clarified that members were to vote on supporting the principle to participate in the scheme or to reject participation based on the submitted proposal.

A vote was held as follows:

Support: 4 votes

Reject: 3 votes

Abstentions: 4

Resolved: That the Board supports inclusion in the asylum dispersal programme in principle, subject to a revised proposal taking into account issues raised during the debate and any subsequent feedback from Local Authorities.

That a final proposal is submitted to the next scheduled meeting of the Housing Board for consideration.

7. Yorkshire Wide Housing Group Feedback

Following on from the meeting with Nick Walkely (CEX of Homes England), Cllr Foster established a Yorkshire wide group to discuss common housing issues, needs, asks of government. The next meeting is Monday 19th Feb 2018. Any issues or ideas for the next meeting should be passed to Cllr Foster for the meeting.

8. Item 7 Developing a Housing Deal for YNYER

Colin outlined the draft housing deal in development through the Directors of Development Group. The draft outlines an approach in relation to a bespoke housing deal for YNYER, which includes working with MOD on strategic sites and the off site manufactured (OSM) sector and resulting 'asks' of Homes England and 'gives' from

Housing Board partners. Sarah and Colin are working on a draft for the next DoDs meeting in May.

Agreed: The draft Housing Deal paper should be reviewed by Board members at the next meeting in April, before the DoDs meeting in May

9. Item 8 Housing Association Update

Three main areas of interest are:

1. The next meeting of the Housing Associations working in YNYER will feedback to the Board in April
2. The change in the governments approach to the Local Housing Allowance Cap for supported housing (and general needs) – however, service charges may be capped, which is likely to cause issues
3. At all regional meetings for RPS, the message is to build – pull out all the stops to max out business plans and broaden the tenure offer.

10. Item 9 Homes England Update

Housing Infrastructure Fund (marginal viability) announcements have been made. Due diligence is on-going for bids under the Accelerated Construction fund, decisions hopefully by the end of February 2018. Announcement of the Community Housing Fund is still awaited.

Delivery of the Affordable Homes programme is challenging to the end of the financial year. The future focus for Homes England will be further flexibility and a focus on areas with high need, such as in YNYER.

11. Item 10 – RHE Programme Review

Sarah updated members on the last RHE Network meeting and progress with the review – 5 out of 15 RP partners have confirmed acceptance of the annual retainer increase.

Agreed: To support the RHE Network recommendation to sign up to the National Housing Federation 5 Star Rural Plan - <https://www.housing.org.uk/topics/investing-in-communities/rural-housing/rural-housing-5-star-plan/>

12. AOB

Cllr Threlfall asked if the Board can put forward Ryedale DCs comments on the proposals from G4S and any others that Board members may have? Any comments to be fed to Colin Dales.

13. Date and time of Next Meeting

23rd April 2018 1pm Rural Arts Centre, Thirsk
Preceded by YNYER Housing Forum meeting 10:00 – 12:00