

Local Government North Yorkshire and York

20 December 2019

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 2 December 2019

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. In terms of the Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programme, each Local Authority is taking a report through their governance structures seeking approval to participate in the Global Resettlement Scheme. Further updates will be given in this respect but it is very likely that a 4 year scheme will be supported and a partnership approach adopted. An update report will be submitted to the Housing Board on 16 December.
- (b) A review of the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Housing Strategy will commence early in the new year, subject to Housing Board approval. If a new overarching strategy is agreed in principle this will prompt a comprehensive consultation exercise during 2020.
- (c) Work between North Yorkshire County Council and the lower tier Local Authorities to transform County Council funded homeless prevention services has concluded with homeless prevention services now fully delegated to lower tier authorities with the associated TUPE transfers completed.
- (d) Housing supply performance for quarters 1 and 2 of 2019/20 is currently being compiled and a further update will be given in the next briefing.
- (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 has not met subsequent to LGNYY's last meeting. The Strategic Migration Group is due to meet in mid January.

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 No report supplied at the time of LGNYY agenda distribution.

6.0 Recommendation

6.1 That the report be noted.

Richard Flinton
Honorary Secretary to Local Government North Yorkshire and York