



MEETING NOTES

MEETING: Tyne & Wear Strategic Housing Partnership

DATE: 23rd March, 2007

TIME: 11 am for officers, 12 noon for elected members

VENUE: Carloliol Room, Newcastle Civic Centre Hall

1. Apologies

Apologies: Alan Caddick, Paul Walker, Cllr Jim Allen, Cllr Michael Clare

In Attendance: Jackie Park, Christine Cunningham, Ian Cansfield, Debbie Shearer, Victoria Mosely-Laverick, Cllr Harry Trueman, Cllr David Napier, Cllr Bruce Pickard, Cllr Mike Cookson, Aidan Oswell. Sarah Mtango.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

3. Decisions and action points of the previous meeting

AO updated the meeting on progress against the previous action points and decisions.

AO informed the partnership of developments in the NE Housing Forum. Charlotte Howse agreed to work up a structure and resource plan for the NE Housing Forum following agreement that the work of the forum should go forward. Sub-regional co-ordinators currently meet to discuss policy development, but there still exists a political gap. The role of an effective forum would be lobbying of MP's and Ministers on behalf of the NE to lever in sufficient investment and shape policy. However dedicated resources are required to support the development of the Forum. It was agreed that with a cohesive set of T&W issues, the TWSHP would be in a better position to identify political mechanisms to lobby. AO to keep the partnership informed.

Cllr Napier reported on a meeting with Yvette Cooper re HMRP in which she indicated greater resources for social housing in CSR07. **AO** clarified that the RHS already identifies ranges of investment for the 4 objectives. The Regional assembly is likely to have increased resources, and planning is the mechanism

by which more homes will be delivered. However, the issue is distribution. The NE is not historically a good performer, so clearly an opportunity exists now to influence RHS more effectively. We now have an affordability issue rather than legacy of low demand, so common planning principles will be crucial. **IC** confirmed that T&W planning and development control officers met 22/3/07 re a common s106 policy. Cllr Pickard highlighted conflicting demands in LA's can be a problem. **AO** stressed the need to work in partnership with the developers.

CC raised the issue of better structures for involving and informing members. Members and officers both requested feedback from RHB as standard agenda item. The SHIP 3 guidance is not available till June, and **JP** confirmed there is still much to be completed in the commissioning exercise. It was suggested that Phil Toal, Housing Manager at the North East Regional Assembly be invited to a future meeting to discuss the role and function of the RHB and the link with TWSHP. **SM** to invite Phil Toal to the next board meeting.

The heads of service discussed the value of policy updates from the NHC which can be used to keep members informed of policy developments and stimulate debate. **SM** agreed to circulate information regarding consultations and briefings.

4. Sub Regional Housing Strategy Update (Aidan Oswell)

AO presented the information paper provided to attendees ahead of the meeting which clearly spelled out both the progress made to date on the SRHS and the process for delivering the final strategy by the NEHB deadline of July 2007. He also made reference to the work carried out at the editorial group workshop, which although time limited was very valuable. It was agreed at this meeting that the 4 draft chapters be circulated by the end of March. **AO** requested that investment priorities be returned by 25/4/07. A second editorial meeting would be held on 25/4/07 in which the investment priorities would be considered alongside the strategic objectives in the draft SRHS. It was agreed that these investment priorities must be logical and clearly aligned with the SRHS. The wider SRHS consultation process can then begin. Cllr Pickard asked how the process would be managed to ensure the right groups are consulted. **AO** stressed that internal and external stakeholders would be consulted at a LA level.

5. Housing Market Assessment Update (Aidan Oswell)

AO provided an update on the progress of the sub regional HMA project and referred to the notes provided ahead of the meeting, identifying some of the key issues that have emerged to date. There is a huge amount of data which must be written into a single document which is easy to use and underpins the strategic priorities in the SRHS. The Housing Needs Assessments must also be drawn into a single document and incorporated into the HMA. The evidence in the HMA must clearly link to the strategic priorities in the SRHS.

6. Local authority housing strategy presentation – Newcastle Council (Christine Cunningham)

CC provided an interesting presentation on the current housing strategy in Newcastle. The strategy is based on 8 key outcomes for the city in 2006-2021.

JP will present Gateshead's Housing Strategy at the next meeting

7. AOB

JP circulated notes from the last NEHB executive meeting and gave an update on the SHIP 3 task group.

8. Date and time of next meeting

27th April, Saltwell Room, Gateshead Civic Centre
Heads of Service Meeting 11.00 am
Board Meeting 12.00 noon subject to member availability.

Lunch will be provided