

## Chief Executives' Group – North Yorkshire and York

7 September 2017

### Report of the YNYER Directors of Development Group

#### **1 Purpose of the Report**

To update members of the Chief Executives' Group as to the work and progress of the YNYER Directors of Development Group.

#### **2 Background**

- 2.1 This report advises and updates members of the Chief Executives' Group of the work of the Directors of Development Group (DoDs) and the key issues arising.
- 2.2 The Directors of Development Group last met on 15 June 2017. The principal items of business addressed at the meeting related to:
- Accelerating housing delivery.
  - The YNYERH Spatial Framework.
  - East –West Connectivity Economic Impacts Study.
  - Directors of Development Forward Work Programme.
  - Spatial Planning and Transport Board.

#### **3. Accelerating Housing Delivery**

- 3.1 Dilys Jones of the Homes and Communities Agency led a discussion around potential mechanisms for accelerating the delivery of housing, informed by examples of good practice elsewhere. The potential for strategic partnering arrangements between the Agency and local authorities, and as now being established at York Central, was explored.
- 3.2 The potential of the HCA to assist with the process of effectively engaging the MoD in relation to the future disposal and redevelopment of surplus assets within the sub-region was explored and it was agreed that the issue be raised at a high level within the Agency.
- 3.3 It was also agreed that work be undertaken to identify all significant sites lying dormant but with residential planning consents across the sub-region, and to analyse the reasons why they are not being developed. The results of this analysis will be considered at the September meeting of the DoDs and appropriate actions agreed.

- 3.4 Sarah Hall (Housing Strategy Manager) provided feedback in relation to a recent facilitated workshop for YNYER planning officers regarding the delivery of housing by small (SME) builders. In response the DoDs tasked the Heads of Planning Group with driving the delivery of further training and peer-to-peer events, including for Agents and SME builders, as well as reviewing the local approaches of planning authorities to the SME sector with a view to improving culture and customer care where necessary. The objective of this activity is a desire to see the SME sector play a greater role in the delivery of new homes across the sub-region.

#### **4. YNYERH Spatial Framework**

- 4.1 Carl Bunnage advised the group of views and decisions of the LGNYY Board in relation to work undertaken on the draft Spatial Framework to date, and sought a steer from DoDs as to how work on the document should be progressed in line with this. The capacity and extent of the available technical resource available within the sub-region to undertake this work was considered.
- 4.2 Directors agreed to progress with further targeted stakeholder engagement, and the establishment of a template methodology to guide further detailed work in developing proposals for each of the Strategic Development Zones (areas of greatest economic growth potential) in a consistent way. It was acknowledged that external consultancy assistance would be needed to undertake this work, although it was agreed that discussions take place first to ascertain the extent to which the Homes and Communities Agency may be able to assist. Proposals in line with this approach are now being developed in detail and Chief Executives will be kept apprised as further progress is made.

#### **5. East – West Connectivity Economic Impacts Study.**

- 5.1 Carl Bunnage updated the DoDs on progress made to date with this study, advising that further technical modelling work is being done to better understand the realities of the concerns regarding delays and congestion on the network as highlighted by the business sector. Once this work has been undertaken, and in due course, the draft report will be presented to Directors for their consideration and input.
- 5.2 An early benefit of the Study was identified in providing evidence to support and reaffirm the continued need for investment in the upgrading of the Harrogate to York railway line in the face of a potential reduction in commitment for this as being indicated by Network Rail.

#### **6. Forward Work Programme**

- 6.1 Having been previously requested individually to identify key priority topics and workstreams for the year ahead, Directors considered and agreed a proposed forward annual work programme, including the allocation of specific tasks to the planning, housing and economic development officer sub-groups reporting to them. It was agreed that the lead officer for each of these sub-groups be charged with reporting issues and progress made in relation to

each priority action to each (quarterly) meeting of the DoDs in order that Directors can maintain oversight and provide strategic direction where necessary. A summary copy of the agreed annual work programme is appended

## **7. Spatial Planning and Transport Board: Role and Future**

7.1 The City Of York Council sought the views of Directors as to whether the Spatial Planning and Transport Board was still considered beneficial, particularly in supporting collaborative working under the Duty to Cooperate in plan-making. It was accepted that the Board had not met for a considerable period of time.

7.2 The initial view of Directors was that the Board had the potential to fulfil a beneficial role, but that some of the lessons emerging from the operation of a similar group within the Leeds City Region partnership structure needed to be reflected upon. The role for the Heads of Planning Group in providing greater support for the Board was also discussed. Directors undertook to consider a further report regarding the future of the Board with recommendations at its September meeting.

## **8. Next Meeting**

8.1 The next meeting of the YNYERH Directors of Development is scheduled for 21 September 2017. Key items of business are likely to include:

- Accelerating Housing Delivery (following up actions already agreed and next steps)
- YNYERH Spatial Framework (next steps)
- East-West Connectivity Economic Impacts Study (draft report)
- City of York Local Plan
- Harrogate Local Plan
- Future of Spatial Planning and Transport Board

## **9. Recommendations**

9.1 That Chief Executives note the recent and on-going work of the YNYER Directors of Development Group.

**David Bowe**  
**Corporate Director (Business and Environmental Services, NYCC), in the capacity of Chair of the YNYER Directors of Development Group.**

**September 2017**

## Annex 1

### YNYERH Directors of Development Forward Work Programme 2017/18: Summary Table.

Priorities	Lead Group	Support Group
Future Pipeline development	EDO	DoD
Housing provision and affordability.	CHOG	
Industrial strategy	EDO	DoD
Review of current/future employment space (offices, industrial units, development sites) to inform inward investment queries/strategies.	HoP	EDO
Stronger HCA Partnership	CHOG	DoD
Emerging Opportunities -Brexit, election	DoD	EDO
YNYERH Spatial Framework- Further Development including: Action Plan/sub-area action plans under the Spatial Framework, Developing SPZ, identifying supporting governance, project teams etc...	DoD	EDO, HoP, CHOG
Delivering strategic employment sites	DoD	EDO, HoP
Achieving a joined-up approach with neighbouring areas outside the subregion.	DoD	
Pushing the preparation and adoption of Local Plans to achieve full and up to date coverage.	HoP	
The successor to the Local Growth Fund (LGF)	EDO	DoD
Production of an employment and skills plan for the whole LEP	EDO	DoD
Enhance Governance / accountability linkages from DODs. EDO, Heads of Planning	DoD	

#### Key:

CHOG : Chief Housing Officers Group

EDO : Economic Development Officers Group

HoP : Heads of Planning Group