

Chief Executives' Group – North Yorkshire and York

8 September 2016

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 any key issues arising.

2.2 The DoDs last met on 7 July 2016 and welcomed the City of Hull as a new addition to its ranks. The substantive items of business addressed at the meeting related to:

- Stocktake: EU Referendum and the Devolution Agenda.
- The YNYERH Spatial Framework.
- The YNYER LEP Local Growth Fund 3 bid and future project pipeline development capacity.
- Performance and issues in relation to the delivery of new housing including the Government's Starter Homes programme.
- City of York Local Plan (Oral Update).
- Progress in implementing more streamlined and aligned officer working structures.

3 Stocktake: EU Referendum and the Devolution Agenda

3.1 The last meeting of the DoDs took place shortly after the EU Referendum. Directors took the opportunity to take stock of the immediate implications for the YNYERH region. Whilst some implications were clearly significant, the true extent of many will not be understood or felt for some time. However, Directors did agree that more detailed impact analysis of threats and opportunities, particularly upon the local economy, was required, alongside an effective communications programme aiming to reassure organisations, businesses and investors that the region very much remains open for business as usual.

3.2 It was agreed that each local authority put forward a lead officer to assist with work alongside the LEP to undertake an impact analysis of the implications of

the vote to leave the EU, and, in the meantime, to manage a positive and proactive communications campaign regarding the region being open for business.

4 Progressing the YNYER Spatial Framework

- 4.1 Directors received an update report in relation to the YNYER Spatial Framework, noting progress to be on-track with calls for information now being issued to key partners. A schedule of financial contributions was agreed, as was the City of Hull's full participation.
- 4.2 The pace of work to prepare the Spatial Framework is now accelerating, and following officer and stakeholder engagement, two interim reports (Growth Assessment and Growth Scenarios) will be prepared and presented to the DoDs when it next meets in early October. This will be in line with the Project Delivery Plan agreed for this workstream.

5 Local Growth Fund Round 3

- 5.1 DoDs considered a report prepared by the YNYER LEP providing a 'Snap-Shot' of the LGF3 bid as submitted. It was noted that further prioritisation of bids may be required given the levels of funding likely to be available. Directors undertook to provide further comments in relation to how this exercise might be undertaken.

6 Housing Delivery Performance and the Government's Starter Homes Programme.

- 6.1 Directors considered a joint presentation by the YNYER LEP and the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) regarding performance in the delivery of housing across YNYER. Whilst delivery rates against Local Plan targets have generally increased, there is still need for a significant increase if those commitments are to be met in full. However, it was also noted that current planning policies do not always make it easy or affordable for (often locally based) small/medium sized builders to operate. Directors undertook to consider the issues affecting this sector in more detail.
- 6.2 DoDs discussed whether there might be a collective appetite to develop a bespoke starter home programme across the YNYER geography, tapping into funding available through the HCA. It was agreed that a proposed draft collective expression of interest be prepared to enable discussions with the HCA to take place, and that this be considered by all authorities ahead of further discussions on the matter at the next meeting.

7 City of York Local Plan

- 7.1 DoDs received an oral update from the City of York Council on its emerging Local Plan and as an introduction to individual Local Authorities having the opportunity to submit representations to public consultation on the draft plan (site allocations) over the summer.

8 Next Steps

- 8.1 The Directors of Development will meet next in early October when progress in relation to the issues outlined above will be monitored and further progressed.

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),
North Yorkshire County Council,
in the capacity of Chair of the YNYER Directors of Development Group.

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