

MCA - HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:

TUESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2022 AT 1.00 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING



Present:

Gemma Smith (Co-Chair)	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Damian Allen	Doncaster MBC
Councillor Tim Cheetham	Barnsley MBC
Michael Faulks	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Councillor Glyn Jones	Doncaster MBC
Councillor Jayne Dunn	Sheffield CC

In Attendance:

Colin Blackburn	Assistant Director - Housing, Infrastructure and Planning	MCA Executive Team
Carl Howard	Senior Programme Manager	MCA Executive Team
Martin Swales	Interim Director of Transport, Housing, Infrastructure and Planning	MCA Executive Team
Charli Taylor	Head of Controls	MCA Executive Team
Becky Guthrie	Senior Programme Manager	MCA Executive Team

Apologies:

Councillor Amy Brookes	Rotherham MBC
Councillor Paul Wood	Sheffield CC
Gareth Sutton	MCA Executive Team

1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

An extended welcome went to external guests: Nick Atkin (Yorkshire Housing), Matthew Harrison (Great Places Housing Group) and Paul Common (Arches Housing).

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 Declarations of Interest by individual Members in relation to any item of business on the agenda

Members declared interests in respect of agenda item 7 regarding schemes in their own council areas.

3 **Urgent items / Announcements**

None.

4 **Public Questions on Key Decisions**

None.

5 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

C Blackburn provided an update on the actions arising from the Board meeting held on 7 December 2021, and were noted as follows:

- The 'Connected by Water Plan' was contained on today's agenda.
- Work was currently on-going to finalise Digital Infrastructure Strategy Delivery Plan which is scheduled to be presented to the Board in March.
- Discussions have begun with Housing Directors to develop a Housing Framework which would set out the collaborative actions required to address South Yorkshire's Strategic Housing issues.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2021 be agreed as a true record.

6 **South Yorkshire Housing Prospectus**

C Blackburn introduced a paper which asked the Board to receive the South Yorkshire Housing Prospectus and consider further collaboration with Housing Association partners to develop related proposals and opportunities that will deliver greater housing outcomes across South Yorkshire.

The draft South Yorkshire Housing Prospectus, attached at Appendix A, had been developed by Housing Associations through the South Yorkshire Housing Providers Forum.

The Prospectus set out five offers that had been developed to align with the housing priorities of the regional authorities and the SYMCA, and were noted as follows:

1. New Affordable Homes
2. Roadmap to Net Zero Carbon
3. Housing and health
4. Economic growth and employment
5. Preventing Homelessness

P Common, M Harrison and N Atkin presented the Board with background information to developing the Prospectus; details of the Housing Providers Forum; examples of collaborative work undertaken in the region; and an overview of the South Yorkshire Housing Prospectus.

The Board noted that the Prospectus would aim to be finalised and signed off

by the Housing Associations over the next few weeks with the final Prospectus aiming to be launched in February 2022.

The Board were also informed that the intention was for the MCA Executive to work with the Housing Associations, local authorities, Homes England and other partners to explore combined capacity and opportunities to deliver the Prospectus' five 'offer' proposals, including the potential for a shared housing development pipeline. A progress delivery update report would aim to be prepared and presented on an annual basis.

The Board was invited to consider and provide comments on the Prospectus and how it could support housing and economic growth across South Yorkshire which align with the priorities of the SYMCA.

The Chair thanked P Common, M Harrison and N Atkin for their presentations and invited questions from the Board.

Key points arising from Members' questions and discussion are summarised below:

- The Board welcomed the development of the Prospectus and were supportive of the proposed approach for building collaborative capability to achieve and deliver the ambitions set out in the Prospectus.
- It was queried how each local authority could provide its input to help address homelessness and social injustice.
- A discussion took place around local authority funding pressures and the significant differences in the levels of Homes England funding that Greater Manchester received in comparison to South Yorkshire.
- There was a shared agreement that there needed to be more collective working and coordinated approaches when new funding opportunities were launched so we are in a stronger position to secure additional funding for housing in South Yorkshire.
- The Board considered that work needed to take place to ascertain what affordable homes are required in different areas and sites across the region. The Board said that there was also a need to provide more housing for single people and larger families.
- To achieve Net Zero targets, the Board considered that, we should build on the existing MCA policy for housing and seek even higher environment standards in future new build homes.
- In relation to health and housing, the Board recommended that it should be quantified within the Prospectus what needs to be achieved to help improve people's health and demonstrate more robustly the links between health and housing and the potential costs to the NHS; for example, the impact that cold and damp properties have on a person's health.

- The Chair queried why there was no reference in the Prospectus about collaboration with private sector housing companies in relation to affordable housing schemes.

In response, N Atkin said that the next steps would include also engaging better with house builders and developers, but this could be more clearly set out in the final Prospectus eg. to give greater assurance of the supply of new low carbon, affordable homes.

- The Board noted that there was work to be undertaken by officers to pull together all collective housing goals and targets as part of the development of the MCA's Housing Framework which would inform this work.

RESOLVED – That the Board welcomes the South Yorkshire Housing Prospectus and agreed to consider the 'offers' by Housing Associations for further collaboration with the MCA and local authority partners to deliver better housing outputs.

7

Programme Approvals

C Howard presented a paper which requested approval to enter into contract for one BHF (Brownfield Housing Fund) project, subject to the conditions set out in the assurance summary. The paper also requested one GBF (Getting Building Fund) and one Gainshare funded project for full MCA approval. Finally, the paper recommended changes for one approved scheme.

In addition to the approval requests set out above, the Board received a late paper requesting the approval of a further GBF (Getting Building Fund) project entitled "SCC Fargate Measures" for full MCA approval.

Full details of all the projects and risks identified were included within the papers and the Board considered each project separately.

RESOLVED – That the Board approve:

- i) Progression of "Century BIC" project to the MCA for full approval of £2.6m Getting Building Funding/Gainshare to RMBC (Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council) subject to the conditions set out in the Assurance Summary attached at Appendix A.
- ii) Full approval of "Goldthorpe Residential Strategy – Market Site 1" project for £0.23m Brownfield Housing Funding to BMBC (Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council) subject to the conditions set out in the Assurance Summary attached at Appendix B
- iii) Approval of one project change for "Malthouses" which is requesting changes to an approved Brownfield Housing Fund project.
- iv) Progression of the "SCC Fargate Measures" project to the MCA for full approval of £6m Getting Building Funding to SCC (Sheffield City Council) subject to the conditions set out in the Assurance Summary attached at

Appendix D.

Delegated authority be given to the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Section 73 and Monitoring Officer to enter into legal agreements for the “Malthouses” and “Goldthorpe Residential Strategy – Market Site 1” schemes covered at number 2 and 3 above.

8 **Implementing the Connected by Water Plan**

A paper was presented asking the Board to consider a proposal for the use of an amount of previously committed but unallocated MCA Gainshare funding (for flood resilience and mitigation) to support implementation of the Connected by Water Plan.

The Board was reminded that, at its meeting of 7 December 2021, Members had endorsed, and recommended that the MCA approve, the final draft of the South Yorkshire ‘Connected by Water’ Flood Catchment Plan. Subject to this approval by the MCA Board on 24 January 2022, the Plan would be launched at a virtual event scheduled for 28 January 2022.

At its December meeting, the Board had also requested that a proposal be developed for the use of the previously committed but unallocated MCA Gainshare funding (for flood resilience and mitigation) to support implementation of the Connected by Water Plan.

C Blackburn reported that, to support implementation of the Connected by Water plan, partners were now exploring funding options. Two bids were being prepared by the Environment Agency to seek to secure Environment Agency Local Levy funding (one for £0.15m to develop a delivery plan and begin to implement the Plan, and one led by Doncaster MBC to deliver a specific action within the Catchment Plan).

Other potential funding contributions could be secured through the Environment Agency (through Adaptation Pathway funding and Flood Defence Grant In Aid), and from Yorkshire Water.

As part of the South Yorkshire Renewal Fund, £5.5m of Gainshare funding was committed for flood resilience and mitigation. £5m was allocated to accelerate the delivery of a number of early deliverable flood mitigation schemes in the South Yorkshire Priority Programme (currently progressing through the business case process). A further £0.5m was identified as contingency, and currently remains unallocated.

It was proposed that £0.15m of the £0.5m contingency funding is used to directly support implementation of the Connected by Water plan, to match the proposed contribution from the Environment Agency. The combined funding ‘pot’ would enable partners to undertake a number of the immediate actions set out in the paper.

Following discussion, the Board agreed to support the proposed approach set out above.

A Strategic Business Case for the full £0.5m contingency fund would now be developed with Local Authority partners and presented to a future meeting of the Board for consideration.

RESOLVED – That the Board:-

- i) Considered and endorsed the proposal to utilise £0.15m of previously committed, but unallocated MCA Gainshare funding (for flood resilience and mitigation) to support implementation of the ‘Connected by Water’ Plan.

- ii) Requested that a Strategic Business Case is prepared setting out the proposals for the full £0.5m previously committed but unallocated MCA Gainshare funding.

9 **Forward Plan**

The Board considered its Forward Plan.

RESOLVED – That the Board noted the Forward Plan.

10 **Any Other Business**

None received.

In accordance with Combined Authority’s Constitution/Terms of Reference for the Board, Board decisions need to be ratified by the Head of Paid Services (or their nominee) in consultation with the Chair of the Board. Accordingly, the undersigned has consulted with the Chair and hereby ratifies the decisions set out in the above minutes.

Signed

Name

Position

Date