

**HOUSING BOARD**

**24<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2019**

**CHANGING ROLES OF HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS**

**Purpose of Report**

This report sets out some key points for discussion with a range of Housing Associations active in the Sheffield City Region, relating to their changing roles in supporting housing provision in the City Region.

**Thematic Priority**

This report relates to the following Strategic Economic Plan priorities:

- Secure investment in infrastructure where it will do most to support growth

**Freedom of Information**

The paper will be available under the Combined Authority Publication Scheme

**Recommendations**

The Board is asked to:

1. Note the issues relating to the changing roles of Housing Associations in the provision of housing and related activity, to inform the discussion with Housing Associations active in the Sheffield City Region.

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1** The roles of Housing Associations in the provision of housing and related activity in the SCR has evolved over the past 5 years in response to changing national policy and funding, and the changing needs of the city region. This has presented both challenges and opportunities which has and continues to have impacts on the way affordable housing is provided; how Housing Associations are funded and the impact on their business models; and how housing 'wrap around' services and activities are provided
- 1.2** In response, the Housing Board requested that a range of Housing Associations active in the city region be invited for a roundtable discussion to understand their changing roles and policy and funding environments, and the opportunities for strengthening relationships and joint working with the SCR and all partners involved in the provision of housing and related activities.

**1.3** This report provides a summary of key issues that could be addressed under this discussion with the Housing Associations.

## **2. Proposal and justification**

**2.1** Issues that could form part of the discussions with the Housing Associations include:

- The changing housing market(s) and the need for more affordable housing across the City Region.
- The changing roles of Housing Associations in housing provision and related activities both over the past 5 years and in the next 5 years.
- The changing policy and funding environment for Housing Associations and the effects on their policy priorities and business models.
- The impacts of the joint SCR working arrangements put in place following the agreement of the SCR Housing Protocol in 2017.
- The successes and continuing joint opportunities of the SCR More New Homes initiative.
- The new Partnership arrangements being put in place with Homes England and the purpose and ambitions of the new Joint Venture involving five Housing Associations active in the city region.
- The opportunities and barriers for new innovation in the housing sector, such as modular construction, to achieve housing ambitions for growth.
- The potential opportunities for closer collaboration with and between Housing Associations across the SCR in the provision of housing and related activities, including in relation to the changing focus of the emerging Strategic Economic Plan towards 'people' and addressing housing quality, fuel poverty, homelessness and health and wellbeing.

## **3. Consideration of alternative approaches**

**3.1** Not applicable. This is a discussion item with no specific proposal identified.

## **4. Implications**

### **4.1 Financial**

None arising directly from this report.

### **4.2 Legal**

None arising directly from this report

### **4.3 Risk Management**

None arising directly from this report.

### **4.4 Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion**

None arising directly from this report.

## 5. Communications

5.1 Opportunities for promoting initiatives that may arise from the discussions with Housing Associations or future planned activities will be considered as appropriate in due course.

## 6. Appendices/Annexes

6.1 None

REPORT AUTHOR	Colin Blackburn
POST	Assistant Director Housing, Infrastructure & Planning
Director responsible	Mark Lynam
Organisation	Sheffield City Region
Email	Mark.lynam@sheffieldcityregion.org.uk
Telephone	0114 2203442

Background papers used in the preparation of this report are available for inspection at: 11 Broad Street West, Sheffield S1 2BQ

Other sources and references: