

HOUSING BOARD

9th January 2020

HOMES ENGLAND – WORKING TOGETHER TO DO MORE

Purpose of Report

This report is to introduce Homes England’s ‘Housing partnerships building growth’ presentation to the Board, and discuss opportunities for closer collaboration on strategic housing and development matters.

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 strategic intention behind Homes England’s ongoing collaborative work with SCR.
2. Comment on and support opportunities for a closer working relationship with Homes England on strategic housing and development matters.

1. Introduction

- 1.1** The Homes England (HE) Strategic Plan 2018-23 was launched in October 2018, it sets out the organisation’s Mission and Objectives to help unlock more new homes being built in England. The key elements of the Plan are outlined in the attached presentation (Appendix 1) will be given by Homes England at the Board meeting.
- 1.2** Danielle Gillespie, Director of Markets, Partners, Places North from Homes England will be attending the meeting. The report and presentation proposes opportunities ideas on how the SCR and HE can work more collaboratively to achieve more positive housing outcomes for the City Region, for the Board’s consideration.

2. Proposal and justification

- 2.1** Homes England were previously known as the Homes and Communities Agency and have the same land acquisition and capital investment powers as its predecessor, but are

seeking new ways of working with partners involved in the housing industry to deliver more new homes in England.

- 2.2 Over the past years, HE have provided significant investment to support new build homes of a wide range of types, tenures and locations across the SCR.
- 2.3 As one strand of its new ways of working with partners, HE is seeking to work more closely with public sector partners who are committed to delivering more high quality new homes, of the right types and tenures to meet local need and in the places where people want to live. This form of partnership working is intended to go beyond HE's "business as usual" of land acquisition, capital investment and site disposals, with new activity that could include bespoke solutions to unlock major housing growth opportunities.
- 2.4 Initial collaborative work has already started to create an SCR/HE joint pipeline of strategic housing projects – an update on this work is being presented in a separate agenda item. Their proposal is to further strengthen connections with SCR to help unlock the priority housing sites identified on the joint pipeline with HE's support.
- 2.5 HE have been invited to join the Housing Review Advisory Panel to bring their specialist advice and perspectives. A meeting is scheduled between Nick Walkley, Chief Executive (Homes England) and Dan Jarvis (SCR Mayor) in January to also discuss these joint working opportunities

3. Consideration of alternative approaches

- 3.1 Do Nothing or Do Minimum: Decline the opportunity to explore new ways of collaborating with Homes England and request a business as usual relationship with Homes England. Scheme promoters (LAs/ HAs & Private Sector etc) continue to approach Homes England directly and separately on a project by project basis as and when funding is required. Schemes are considered by HE on an individual basis. Similarly, the SCR operates in a similar way, with some liaison with HE on co-investment of schemes at a project level, but with no shared ownership and agreement to the strategic goals and ways of working.

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 co-promotion of initiatives and opportunity between Home England and SCR.

6. Appendices/Annexes

- 6.1 Appendix 1 – Homes England Presentation

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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: