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**Report to:** Place Panel

**Date:** 28 January 2021

**Subject:** **West Yorkshire Housing Partnership Prospectus**

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## **1. Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 To provide Panel Members with an update on the work of the West Yorkshire Housing Partnership (WYHP) and background to the presentation that will be given at the meeting by Helen Lennon, Chief Executive, Connect Housing and Chair of WYHP and Nick Atkin, Chief Executive, Yorkshire Housing

## **2. Information**

### Background

- 2.1 The West Yorkshire Housing Partnership - WYHP (formerly known as the Leeds City Region Housing Association Partnership) was established in March 2019. The partnership is chaired by Helen Lennon, Chief Executive of Connect Housing based in Dewsbury and has a membership of 24 housing associations, 10 of which have their headquarters based in West Yorkshire. Helen is also a member of the Place Panel.
- 2.2 The partnership previously included members from York, Craven, Harrogate and Selby however had decided to reduce its membership to West Yorkshire only to align with the geography of the constituent members of the Combined Authority and the Mayor (when elected).
- 2.3 The partnership was originally set up to promote ways in which the housing association sector could work collaboratively with the Combined Authority and partner Local Authorities to achieve collective regional outcomes. The partnership now includes representatives from Leeds Council and Kirklees Council as two of the large stock holding Local Authorities in West Yorkshire and is geared towards promoting affordable housing in the region.

## Prospectus

- 2.4 Since the announcement of the West Yorkshire devolution deal the WYHP has sought to broaden the relationship with the Combined Authority and to influence and have a role in shaping the policies of the future West Yorkshire Mayor. (note: Leeds Council and Kirklees Council have not been involved in the development of the prospectus or in seeking to influence any political positions). In the last three months the partnership has developed its prospectus which sets out;

*'How we can work with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) to help deliver its vision. It is intended as a start point for discussion with WYCA, mayoral candidates and local authorities around how we can deliver change together.'*

- 2.5 The prospectus outlines five ambitions the partnership wants to work closely with the Combined Authority, its partners and mayor on;
- Building new homes
  - Climate emergency and fuel poverty
  - Regenerating local areas
  - Connecting people to economic opportunity
  - Supporting health care and homelessness

Each ambition is structured by setting out the challenge and opportunity, what housing associations in the region are doing to address this now and what more could be done through collaborative working

- 2.6 The prospectus was launched among the Housing Association partners on 5<sup>th</sup> October. Councillor Hinchcliffe gave a keynote welcoming address and Tom Stannard as Chair of Directors of Development formed part of the panel discussion. The prospectus was launched publicly on 21<sup>st</sup> October and the housing association members of the WYHP are currently undertaking a series of engagements with potential mayoral candidates and with some of the Combined Authority officer groups such as the Directors of Development and Strategic Place Officers.
- 2.7 A copy of the prospectus is at appendix 1 of this report. Panel Members will be provided with a presentation at the meeting from Helen Lennon, Chief Executive, Connect Housing and Chair of WYHP and Nick Atkin, Chief Executive, Yorkshire Housing on the work of the partnership and to open up discussion how collaboration with the WYHP could support the strategic priorities of the region.

### **3. Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report

### **4. Legal Implications**

- 4.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report

## **5. Staffing Implications**

5.1 There are no staffing implications arising from this report

## **6. External Consultees**

6.1 The prospectus is an external document from the West Yorkshire Housing Partnership. Combined Authority Officers attend the WYHP meetings in advisory roles but the partnership is not a group that is run or formalised by the Combined Authority.

## **7. Recommendations**

7.1 That Place Panel note the contents of the report and discuss collaboration with the WYHP following the presentation at the meeting

## **8. Appendices**

8.1 West Yorkshire Housing Partnership Prospectus