

Report to: Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee

Date: 03 November 2022

Subject: **Strategic Partnership with Homes England**

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Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information or appendices?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state paragraph number of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1:	
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on the development of the Strategic Place Partnership (SPP) with Homes England.
- 1.2. Committee members are asked to consider, provide and comments and endorse the proposed strategic objectives.

2. Information

Background

- 2.1. In recognition of the shared ambition to drive forward good quality housing growth, the West Yorkshire Devolution Deal set out a commitment to develop a Strategic Place Partnership (SPP) between the Combined Authority and Homes England to build and strengthen collaborative working across the region.
- 2.2. In advance of developing the SPP, Homes England and the Combined Authority have been working closely to establish the strategic priorities of both organisations which were captured within the Action Plan shared with the Committee in April 2022. Since this time, Homes England have formalised their approach to Strategic Place Partnerships and currently have pilots

underway with Greater Manchester and the Association of South Essex Local Authorities.

- 2.3. On 6 July 2022, Homes England's Chair and Chief Executive met with the Mayor and colleagues to visit key transformational projects in West Yorkshire and discuss the synergies and greater collaboration of both organisations. It was agreed that a Strategic Place Partnership for West Yorkshire would be prioritised. The SPP will build on the well-established relationships West Yorkshire has with Homes England and Government partners and will take learning from the pilots that are in place in other parts of the country

Progress to Date

- 2.4. District partners, Homes England and the Combined Authority are working together to draft the SPP. This will build on the action plan and the joint working already taking place across a number of large strategic housing projects in the region such as Dewsbury Riverside, Bradford City Village, Aire River Growth Corridor, Leeds City Centre periphery and South-East Calderdale. Formalising the collaboration with Homes England through the SPP, will set out a clear framework for partnership working across the region and on key strategic housing projects.
- 2.5. West Yorkshire has demonstrated that it meets the key criteria, agreed between Homes England and DLUHC, for establishing a Strategic Place Partnership which have been strengthened through the joint work the Combined Authority and Local Authorities have undertaken to develop the strategic housing pipeline, driven by the application of the Housing Revenue Fund.
- 2.6. The first step in developing the SPP is to begin drafting the Partnership Business Plan (PBP) which will then form the key annex of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Combined Authority and Homes England to formalise the commitment to partnership working. The PBP will set out the detail of the partnership including:
- The ambition of the partners and the partnership;
 - The place-based challenges and opportunities in West Yorkshire;
 - The strategic objectives for the SPP;
 - Delivery plan which sets out how the objectives will be achieved, accompanied by a Resource Plan, with a focus on outcomes and outputs achievable in Year 1 of the partnership;
 - The pipeline and place-based priorities (nearer term, medium term and long term);
 - Principles for working together and a governance plan.
- 2.7. Work has already commenced to draft the introductory and evidence-based sections of the PBP which outline the opportunities and challenges of achieving place-based growth in West Yorkshire. A core element of the SPP is ensuring the partnership brings added value to achieving place-based growth in West Yorkshire, demonstrating how a closer working relationship can

accelerate and deliver positive housing and regeneration outcomes for West Yorkshire.

Proposed Strategic Objectives

- 2.8. The PBP will set out three key strategic objectives that the Strategic Place Partnership will aim to achieve. In discussion with District Officers and Homes England and building on the key themes identified in the Action Plan, the three strategic objectives are proposed as follows;

SO1: Develop short-, medium- and long-term investment ready proposals to unlock and accelerate housing delivery and regeneration across West Yorkshire, supporting the region's levelling up, economic growth and inclusivity objectives

SO2: Realise opportunities to create and grow sustainable neighbourhoods contributing to the region's net zero carbon ambitions

SO3: Improve the supply of good quality and affordable homes providing greater choice and opportunity for people to access a home in West Yorkshire that meets their housing need.

- 2.9. The Committee are asked to consider and provide any comments on the proposed strategic objectives. Following endorsement from the Committee, the key deliverables to achieving each of these strategic objectives will be developed by the task and finish group. This will be focussed on how the SPP will act as the catalyst for achieving the proposed objectives and bring added value to housing growth across West Yorkshire.

Next Steps

- 2.10. The SPP is being developed to a tight timescale with a draft for discussion document brought to the Committee in January 2023. Following an initial discussion with the Committee, wider stakeholder engagement will take place with key partners in the first quarter of 2023. It is proposed that a final version of the document will be brought to the Committee for approval in March 2023.
- 2.11. Wider stakeholder engagement on the SPP will be required once a working draft is in place, particularly with key partners such as Housing Associations, proactive private developers and with wider Government departments among others. Therefore, it is important to include time for stakeholder engagement within the process before the SPP is formally approved and launched.
- 2.12. In parallel with the Combined Authority consultation and approval programme, Homes England will progress internal approvals which will be led by Homes England's Executive Leadership Team. Meetings are frequent and Homes England have advised this would not prevent approvals being taken forward through the Combined Authority.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1. The proposed Strategic Objectives for the SPP include an explicit reference to supporting the region's net zero carbon ambitions highlighting the continued focus on tackling the climate emergency.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1. The focus on supporting good quality housing growth as a key strategic outcome for the SPP will support the region's inclusive growth ambitions. Particularly in the context of the cost of living crisis, ensuring housing is affordable and equitable is a key priority across the region and for Local Authority partners.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1. The SPP development will take account of protected characteristics and EDI implications throughout its development and an EQIA will be carried out ahead of the SPP approval.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1. There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

8. Staffing Implications

- 8.1. The development of the SPP is being led collectively between the Combined Authority, Homes England and District Partners. Local Authorities have each contributed officer time and commitment to developing the SPP alongside the CA and Homes England which is key to ensuring the strategic objectives and actions are embedded and supported across the region. Officer time and support is gratefully received.

9. External Consultees

- 9.1. Consultation with partners will take place following the production of a working draft in January 2023.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1. That the Committee endorses the proposed strategic objectives of the Strategic Place Partnership
- 10.2. That the Committee notes the progress made to date and the proposed timeline for a working draft and finalised SPP to be produced.

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

None.