

Contact Officer: Steve Copley

## KIRKLEES COUNCIL

### ECONOMY AND NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY PANEL

**Tuesday 7th November 2017**

Present: Councillor Rob Walker (Chair)  
Councillor Judith Hughes  
Councillor Darren O'Donovan  
Councillor Gemma Wilson

Co-optees: Mark Mercer

Attendees: Cllr Peter McBride, Cabinet Member for Strategic  
Planning, Regeneration and Transport  
Cllr Julie Stewart Turner, Chair of the Overview and  
Scrutiny Management Committee  
Steve Copley, Principal Governance and Democratic  
Engagement Officer  
Yolande Myers, Governance and Democratic  
Engagement Officer

Apologies: Councillor Martyn Bolt  
Councillor Marielle O'Neill

**1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the Panel meeting held on 4 Oct 2017 were presented and approved as a correct record.

**2 Membership of the Committee**

Apologies for absence were noted on behalf of Cllrs Martyn Bolt and Marielle O'Neill.

**3 Interests**

No interests were declared.

**4 Admission of the Public**

The meeting was held in public session.

**5 Housing in Kirklees**

The Panel welcomed the following officers who introduced a preliminary presentation – a scene setter – describing the key issues surrounding the demand and supply of housing in Kirklees:-

- Paul Kemp – Service Director for Economy, Regeneration and Culture
- Helen Geldart – Head of Housing Services
- Simon Taylor – Head of Strategic Investment

*(NOTE:-The actual presentation, plus webcast of the discussion which took place during the meeting, is available via the Kirklees website)*

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In summary, the presentation and the slides focused on:-

- The context surrounding the changes in demand for housing in Kirklees
- The availability and affordability of housing, plus the changing needs of the population
- The types of housing on offer in Kirklees
- What the council is trying to do and/or influence in order to deal with these changes in demand and growth
- The figures for the actual delivery of new homes for purchase or rental when compared to the total number of planning permissions granted in the period from 2007 to 2016
- What is being done to deal with the particular housing needs of “vulnerable people”
- What is being done to deal with homelessness in Kirklees
- The key changes in national legislation which will impact on the response from the council and other agencies, developers and landlords (The welfare and welfare reform and work act (2016), the housing and planning act (2016) and the homelessness reduction act (2017)
- Plans for a review of the current housing allocations policy by 31 March 2018.

As a result of the discussion and questions which followed, Cllr Rob Walker suggested that the Panel may want to focus its attention and work in subsequent meetings on the following topics:-

- Age designation and the letting of properties
- The availability and demand for supported housing
- The provision of more affordable new homes
- The condition and regulation of private rental accommodation
- Homelessness
- The infrastructure required to support housing development

However, members of the Panel agreed that, due to the complexity and nature of each of these issues and the time available, their attention and work should be limited to a couple of these key issues

### **RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That Paul Kemp, Helen Geldart and Simon Taylor be thanked for their attendance at today’s meeting, plus their presentation on “Housing”

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- (2) That these officers provide the answers and additional information etc to the questions raised by members of the Panel about the facts and figures in today's presentation.
- (3) That the discussion at the next Panel meeting on 14 December 2017, should focus on:-
- The availability and demand for supported housing
  - The plans for the review of the housing allocations policy by 31 March 2018
  - The opportunities to improve upon the current figures for the actual delivery of affordable new homes for purchase or rental having considered the total number of planning permissions granted in the period from 2007 to 2016
- (4) That the Panel will, following its meeting on 14 December 2017, decide how to progress consideration of these issues, which may include the creation of a more informal "task and finish group" which will report back on its recommendations and work to a Panel meeting in 2018.

### **6 Work Programme**

The Panel received a current copy of the work programme for 2017/18, but acknowledged that it will need to be revised in light of the discussion and decisions on item 5 above.

Members of the Panel also asked that the work programme, which is a working document, acknowledge that:-

- The work on "Transport" include consideration of the councils position and influence in terms of the structures and work that is taking place in the region and sub region to oversee the development of transport links, and
- An update on the work on "Waste management strategy" be considered by the panel in the period from Jan to April 2018

Therefore, a revised copy of the work programme will be presented to the next panel meeting on 14 December 2017.

### **RESOLVED -**

That the work programme be received and updated in light of the discussion in today's meeting, and presented to the next meeting of the Panel on 14 December 2017.

### **7 Future meeting**

The Panel were reminded that the next meeting would take place at 0930 on Thursday 14 December 2017, Council Chamber, Town Hall, Huddersfield

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It was also noted that officers would check and confirm the proposed dates for the next Panel meetings in the period from Jan to Mar 2018.

The Governance Team will share details of the agreed dates with members and officers by 14 December 2017.

### **RESOLVED -**

- (1) That the next meeting of the Panel will take place from 0930-1230 on Thursday 14 December 2017, in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Huddersfield,
- (2) That the Governance Team check and confirm the dates for the Panel meetings in the period from January to March 2018.