

## Kirklees Council

### Scrutiny Lead Member Report

**Lead Member:** Rob Walker – Economy and neighbourhoods panel

**Period of Update :** 18 Sept to 27 Nov 2017

#### Panel Highlights

**18 Sept** – Progress report and first ideas on work programme shared with OSMC

**4 Oct** – First formal meeting of the actual Panel. Agreement that the topics to consider and prioritise are:-

1. Housing
2. Transport
3. Towns and communities

**9 Oct** – Met with Cllr McBride and Mather and officers to develop work programme, and to discuss how to tackle it

**2 Nov** – Briefing with officers to prepare for Panel meeting (7 Nov)

**7 Nov** – Panel meeting – Excellent and informative presentation on state of nation in terms of housing issues. Discussion highlighted several topics for consideration and/or further attention.

- 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, the Panel agreed that it should probably consider focusing its attention on:-

- The availability and demand for supported housing
- Plans for the review of the housing allocations policy by 31 March 2018
- 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.

**14 Dec** – Next formal meeting of the Panel to check and approve the minutes of the Panel (7 Nov)

**Outcomes:**

Housing – Raised awareness and understanding of the key issues which members and officers need to consider in 2018

Housing – Identification of three key issues for further attention in the period from Dec 2017 onwards.

**Monitoring Work**

13 Nov – Briefing with officers to discuss the availability of the corporate performance reports. Details of the Q1 and Q2 reports to be shared with members of the panel by 14 Dec 2017.

4 Dec – Meeting with Cllrs McBride and Mather to discuss items in the agenda plan – including key decision items – which may benefit from some pre-scrutiny work, plus agenda for the next Panel (14 Dec)

**Looking Ahead**

14 Dec – The draft agenda for the Panel will include:-

- Housing - Follow up on issues raised in panel meeting (7 Nov) and possible creation of a reference group of members to follow up on issues
- Housing – Specific discussion on “The availability and demand for supported housing” (including extra care housing)

Looking ahead to draft agendas and items for meetings in period from Jan to Mar 2018

- Transportation (\*)
- Towns and communities
- Waste management strategy – Update

*(\*) Already looking to arrange preliminary briefing with Cllrs McBride and Bolt to help prime and shape the discussion on “Transport issues” in Kirklees and West Yorkshire.*

**General comments**