

Contact Officer: Steve Copley

## KIRKLEES COUNCIL

### ECONOMY AND NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY PANEL

**Thursday 14th December 2017**

Present: Councillor Rob Walker (Chair)  
Councillor Martyn Bolt  
Councillor Judith Hughes

In attendance: Councillor Viv Kendrick  
Councillor Naheed Mather

Apologies: Councillor Darren O'Donovan  
Councillor Marielle O'Neill  
Mark Mercer (Co-Optee)

**1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the Panel meeting held on 7 November 2017 were presented and approved as a correct record.

**2 Membership of the Committee**

Apologies for absence were noted on behalf of Cllrs Darren O'Donovan and Marielle O'Neill, plus Mr Mark Mercer (Co-optee)

The Panel also noted that Mr Robert Walton (Co-optee) had submitted his resignation.

**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 to the meeting:

- Paul Kemp - Service Director for Economy, Regeneration and Culture
- Helen Geldart - Head of Housing Services
- Simon Taylor - Head of Development Management
- David Hamilton – Interim Assistant Director – Commissioning, Public Health & Adult Social Care

Cllr Rob Walker reminded members that, at the Panel meeting on 7 November 2017, members and officers had received an introductory presentation – a scene setter – describing the key issues surrounding the demand and supply of housing in Kirklees.

## Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel - 14 December 2017

The debate on 7 November 2017 had highlighted several issues which were of interest to the panel, but specifically:-

- The availability and demand for more supported housing provision
- 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 new homes for purchase or rental having considered the total number of planning permissions granted in the period from 2007 to 2016

Cllr Rob Walker also asked members of the Panel to note that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had, in his budget statement on 22 November 2017, made a number of statements about the actions which the government are planning to take to try to help deal with some of the housing issues which are of national concern.

Cllr Rob Walker invited officers to give a specific presentation to today's meeting on the demand and opportunities to develop the provision and supply of "Supported housing"

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

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

- What is being done to deal with the particular housing needs of "vulnerable people"
- The current number of retirement living schemes and extra care schemes in Kirklees
- Proposals for further developments in Ashbrow and Soothill
- The opportunities to consider and explore new joint ventures and partnerships to increase the number of schemes and homes available in Kirklees
- How the work on the Local Plan, plus evidence from the strategic housing assessment, plus the policy statements on the development of new proposals for housing, including affordable housing provision, can be used to encourage developers and partners to consider the opportunities to provide more supported housing
- Why the supply of more supported housing is important to colleagues in social care, who are facing the challenge of dealing with an increased number of residents and service users who may need some form of supported housing. Their current projections are:-
  - By 2030 – 98,200 people over 65
  - By 2030 – 4,800 adults with learning disabilities
  - By 2030 – 6,300 adults with physical disabilities
  - By 2030 – 3,200 adults with mental health conditions
  
  - 1 in 10 people who live alone are lonely or isolated
  - Around 3,500 in specialist housing at moment
  - People will want a wider range of accommodation options
  - People want different ownership and financing options

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- More people living with dementia
  - Self care confidence increasing
  - Increases in life expectancy
  - 1 in 3 people over 55 looking to downsize
  - Disabled children are living much longer
  - People with care needs want to be independent
  - 2 out of 4 people with long term conditions are more confident about managing them
- Officers plans to try to progress matters over the next 3 months by:-
- Building on and refresh the existing work undertaken on the specialist accommodation strategy, taking in to account the issues raised in the Kirklees supported housing event in November 2017
  - Taking forward a pathfinder proposal to draw down funding from the 2018/19 capital investment round
  - Progress outcomes based planning and delivery of work under communities plus

In summary, the open discussion between members and officers in today's Panel, highlighted that the demand for different types of supported housing projects is there and will continue to grow year on year.

The discussion also highlighted how important it was for colleagues and services within the council to continue to work together to raise awareness of these changes in demand, as well as the new opportunities for the council, developers, partners and the third sector, possibly working together to explore new and more creative models, partnerships and ventures, to begin to support, target and deliver the wide range of new supported housing schemes which are clearly required throughout Kirklees.

### **RESOLVED –**

(1) That Paul Kemp, Helen Geldart, David Hamilton and Simon Taylor be thanked for their attendance at today's meeting, plus their presentation on "Supported housing"

(2) That an informal reference group – consisting of members of the panel – be created for the remainder of this municipal year, to allow members and officers to meet again with colleagues to:-

- Follow up on the issues raised by the debate on housing at the Panel meeting on 7 Nov 2017,

- Track progress with the actions that should follow on from the announcements on housing in the Chancellors budget statement on 22 November 2017

- Follow up on the issues raised by today's specific debate on supported housing and the actions and tasks which officers are planning to undertake in the next 3 months

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(3) That a visit be arranged for members of the panel to see some of the current extra care schemes in Kirklees, and to find out more about the residents and service users experiences of living there.

### 6 Corporate Performance Reports for 2017/18

Steve Copley explained that the quarter 2 performance monitoring report would be considered by the Cabinet on 19 December 2017.

Copies of the same report would be circulated direct to members of this panel, to allow members to submit any specific comments and/or questions to Cllr Rob Walker and Steve Copley, who will follow up on these with the appropriate officers.

This proposal would allow the formal Panel meetings to continue to focus on the discussions on (i) housing, (ii) transport and (iii) towns and communities.

**RESOLVED** - That the quarter 2 performance monitoring report be circulated direct to members of this panel, to allow members to submit any comments and/or questions to Cllr Rob Walker and Steve Copley who will then follow up on these with the appropriate officers.

### 7 Work Programme

The Panel received a current copy of the work programme for 2017/18.

It was also noted that the potential items for the next Panel meetings were likely to be:

- 18 January 2018 – Transport – General introduction to the issues for Kirklees and West Yorkshire to consider and address
- 18 January 2018 – Transport – Rail links – The issues and implications for Kirklees
- 15 February 2018 – Transport – Road links - The issues and implications for Kirklees

**RESOLVED** - That the work programme be received and updated, and presented to the next meeting of the Panel on 18 January 2018.

### 8 Future Meetings

The Panel were reminded that the next meeting should take place at 0930 on Thursday 18 January 2018, Council Chamber, Town Hall, Huddersfield.

**RESOLVED** - That the next meeting of the Panel will take place from 0930-1230 on Thursday 18 January 2018, in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Huddersfield.