



Report To: Greater Cambridge City Deal Board Meeting

13 July 2016

Lead Officer: Alex Colyer

Greater Cambridge Housing Development Agency Progress Report

Purpose

1. To provide an update on progress with the set-up and development of the Housing Development Agency (HDA).

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that the Board note the report.

Background

3. Approval was given in July 2015 to set up the HDA. This report provides an update one year on. In particular it covers;
 - A reminder of the HDA objectives which translate into a target to work on schemes to provide 250 new homes a year.
 - A review of the operating environment and the positive benefit that housing grant under the Devolution Agreement will bring.
 - The newly established governance arrangements.
 - Progress on committed schemes.
 - Progress on establishing the team.
 - The evolving strategic approach of the HDA to secure new schemes to achieve its objectives.
4. The Greater Cambridge Housing Development Agency (HDA) is a shared housing development service 'owned' by Cambridge City Council; South Cambridgeshire District Council; and Cambridgeshire County Council (the partner authorities). The HDA has evolved as an operational model through which the partner authorities' collective resource of land, finance and staff skills can be applied to the optimal benefit of the wider Greater Cambridge City Deal objectives in respect of the delivery of new housing. The creation of the HDA was endorsed by the Greater Cambridge City Deal Board in June 2015 and offered pump-prime funding for its set-up, although it was not an obligation under the City Deal. The HDA also therefore, has the support of the other partners to the Greater Cambridge City Deal ie Cambridge University and the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership.

5. The respective partner authorities approved the creation of a shared service during the summer of 2015 with a target to formally establish the service from April 2016. An early action for the HDA is to explore whether there are advantages in moving the HDA to a wholly owned company model.

Implications

6. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk management, equality and diversity, climate change, community safety and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered: -

Financial and other resources

7. The Board is reminded that it has agreed to provide £400,000 revenue funding for the HDA. £200,000 of this is budgeted to be spent in 2016.17 and the balance in 2017.18.

There are no other significant implications of this report.

Consultation responses and Communication

8. Not applicable

Background Papers

The following background papers have been relied upon in the writing of this report:

HDA Business Plan 2016/17 – Democratic Services, South Cambridgeshire District Council

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