

**MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL HOUSING BOARD MEETING:  
16 JANUARY 2009**

**ACTION**

**1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and the apologies were **noted**.

He went on to welcome Cllr Mick Grant from Hull and Humber Ports City Region to his first meeting.

It was **noted** that visitors David Curtis, Karl Tupling and John Jefferies were presenting agenda items.

A full list of attendees and apologies is attached at **Annex A**.

**2. Minutes of the Last Meeting – 3 October 2008**

The minutes of the last meeting were **agreed** as an accurate record.

**3. Matters Arising**

Karen Maxwell updated members on Supporting People. It was **agreed** that this was an important item and that work should be carried forward as a priority into the new arrangements.

**4. Sub National Review – Moving Forward**

Sue Jeffrey gave an update on SNR. She explained Government had now published additional draft guidance on the process for regional arrangements. She went on to say that the functions of the new Board were set out in the regional Business Plan.

Members thanked Rob Warm for his work supporting the Housing Board. It was explained that Carole Cozens would be leading the team until new arrangements were put in place. Kelly Jevon's was also welcomed back from maternity leave.

It was **noted** that the Housing function would fall under LGYH. The Board's thanks to Karen and the Housing Forum were also **noted**.

Members **agreed** to delegate decisions to the Chair and Vice Chair in the period until the Assembly's formally wound up. It was **noted** that the Housing Advisory Group would continue to meet to take work forward.

The thanks of the Assembly to the Chair, Vice Chair, Board Members, the sub regional housing partnerships and partner organisations for their contribution to the work of the Board were recorded.

## 5. **Regional Funding Advice – Agreeing the Draft Housing Response**

Carole Cozens introduced the item. It was **noted** that the document was still in draft form and the Board needed to consider the Housing and Regeneration element of the Advice.

The following points were made:

- Additional priority schemes were added to the list;
- West Yorkshire supports growth and renaissance;
- Energy efficiency, (including off-gas communities) is an important issue; and
- The Board supported the proposed shift from 'Homes' to 'Access', but not to forget the renewal agenda and ongoing support for weak markets.

It was **noted** that Yorkshire Forward had a project 'Community Energy Solutions' which works in off-gas communities.

GOYH encouraged members to make any comments they have on maintaining decent homes as the funding would be wound up in 2010.

Members **agreed** that they were happy with the broad thrust of the document. It was **noted** that delivery would be the responsibility of the new arrangements.

## 6. **HCA – Regional Investment Strategy**

David Curtis from HCA gave a presentation on the above and the following questions/ comments were **noted**:

- Pleased to hear about Supporting People; and
- The continuation of regeneration sites is a HCA priority.

It was **agreed** that any questions or comments could be sent to the HCA. The Investment Plan would be available for comment in February and the Assembly **agreed** to circulate to Housing Board Members.

David Curtis/  
Assembly  
Officers

It was **agreed** that the presentation would be circulated with these minutes.

Hannah  
Madajewski

## 7. **Regional Loans Fund – Agreeing Business Plan and Next Steps**

Carole Cozens introduced Karl Tupling and John Jeffries, and gave some background to the formation of the Business Plan. Karl and John gave a presentation on the new Business Plan.

The following questions/ comments were raised:

- Turning around the scheme would be a big challenge;
- Need support from CLG;
- It would be good to have a Minister at the re-launch event;
- The Board was pleased to see the process on this; and
- West Yorkshire welcomed the re-launch but suggested the under-spend could be re-directed to Mortgage Rescue.

The Board endorsed the general direction of the business plan, and approved, in principle, the business plan as a way forward for the scheme. However, concern was raised by Members about the immediate impacts of the credit crunch on schemes such as Mortgage Rescue, and a discussion ensued about whether some of the allocated resources for the Regional Loans Scheme could be used for this purpose instead.

Councillor Waller was asked by the Chair to work with officers from the Assembly to look into this matter and prepare a proposal for consideration by the Chair and Vice Chair to be taken forward in the new arrangements.

Cllr Andrew  
Waller/ Carole  
Cozens

It was **agreed** that the presentation would be circulated with these minutes.

Hannah  
Madajewski

## **8. Delivering the Action Plan to address Housing Market Issues – Update and Actions**

Carole Cozens updated members on progress with the Action Plan since the last meeting. The Board **agreed** that the Housing Delivery Pot be used to fund research into Mortgage Rescue options available in the Region. This would help inform the decision to redirect resources to Mortgage Rescue (see item 7).

## **9. RSS Review – Consultation on Spatial Options**

Andy Haigh updated members on the RSS Consultation on Spatial Options. He explained that the deadline to respond would be 30 January 2009.

## **10. Monitoring**

Carole introduced the item and Mary Clark from the Assembly asked Members to note the spend progress up to September 2008.

Naz Parkar provided an update on progress being made on delivering NAHP targets by the HCA. He stressed that, although the number of new starts was down, which would impact on next year's affordable housing targets, spend would be allocated to support existing regeneration schemes.

He also updated the Board on the launch of the Mortgage Rescue Scheme, for which the region had been allocated £1.8m for 2008/9.

Members were happy with levels of spend in some sub-regions, but questions were asked about underspends in others. It was **agreed** that monitoring should also be a key priority for the new arrangements.

Mary highlighted to Members that there would be a Private Sector Practitioners Fair on 21 January 2009 at the National Railway Museum in York. The purpose of this event is to improve delivery across the Region.

## **11. Advice to Ministers: Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant Bids 2008**

Carole updated the Board on the Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant Bids 2008 and explained that the revised Barnsley bid

had now been agreed with the Chair and was submitted to CLG for Minister approval.

The Minister approved the recommended bids, with a slight change to the funding for Doncaster sites.

It was **noted** that the next round of bids would be launched quite soon.

## **12. Any Other Business**

The Chair expressed his confidence that the new arrangement would build from the success of this Board going forward.

Hannah Madajewski, Business Services Officer  
January 2009

DRAFT

## REGIONAL HOUSING BOARD MEETING 16 JANUARY 2009

### Attendees

Cllr Kris Hopkins	Chair
Patricia Farrell	Deputy Chair
Rob Pearson	English Partnerships
Isobel Mills	Government Office
John Kirkham	Home Builders Federation
David Curtis	Homes and Communities Agency
Naz Parker	Housing Corporation
Cllr Allen Healand	Humber Housing Partnership
Tony Stacey	National Housing Federation
Cllr Jean Butterfield	North Yorkshire Housing Partnership
Cllr Jane Evison	Regional Housing Forum
Sally Rawlings	Rural Housing Interests
Mike Gahagan	Transform South Yorkshire
Simon Foy	Yorkshire Forward
Alex Brown	Y&H Tenants and Residents
Cllr Mick Grant	Hull and Humber Ports City Region Partnership
Cllr Andrew Waller	Leeds City Region Partnership
Cllr Elizabeth Smaje	West Yorkshire Housing Partnership
Janet Whipps	Gateway Humber (Deputy for Stuart Whyte)
Cllr Michael Auty	Town and Parish Councils
Andy Haigh	YHA
Carole Cozens	YHA
Hannah Madajewski	YHA
Sue Jeffrey	YHA
Mary Clark	YHA

### Visitors

Alan Jenks	North Yorkshire Housing Partnership
Lindsay Greenwood	West Yorkshire Housing Partnership
Karen Maxwell	YHHF
Rob Warm	Migration Partnership
Karl Tupling	
John Jeffries	
Fay McCulloch	YHA
Kelly Jevons	YHA

**Apologies**

Mayor Martin Winter  
Patrick Bowes  
Cllr Jahangir Akhtar  
Stuart Whyte  
Tony Reeves

Sheffield City Region Partnership  
Yorkshire Forward  
South Yorkshire Housing Partnership  
Gateway Humber  
Bradford City Council

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