

## WMCA HOUSING DELIVERY BOARD

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### 1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The West Midlands shares the government's urgent priority of delivering more new homes to address the housing crisis and to ensure future growth is not undermined.
- 1.2 To assist in this objective members of the West Midlands Combined Authority will work together to form a dedicated Housing Delivery Board structure in order to identify opportunities for accelerating housing delivery across the region.
- 1.3 Whilst partners can demonstrate delivery of a wide range of regeneration and housing schemes within their own portfolio, a single Strategic Board established to oversee and coordinate delivery across the region will provide a much more effective, coherent and efficient approach to establishing the conditions for accelerated housing delivery.
- 1.4 Taking a place based approach to growth and prosperity will require a new relationship between local areas and government agencies. Whilst the Devolution deal with Government has vested new powers in the region the WMCA is ambitious to go further. The Delivery Board will support this objective by identifying the 'asks' of government that will help create the conditions to accelerate the delivery of homes.
- 1.5 The Board will also need to give consideration to the inter-connection with other agencies that have responsibility for delivering similar agendas. When appropriate the Board will invite representatives from those agencies to participate in discussion on relevant agenda items.

#### 2. PURPOSE AND REMIT

- 2.1 The Board will bring together strategic level representation from local authorities and public sector partners to significantly assist in the accelerated delivery of housing across the West Midlands region. It will also identify the policy freedoms and flexibilities that should underpin the continued negotiations with Government on the devolution agenda.
- 2.2. The principal responsibilities of the Board are as follows:
  - Provide co-ordination and direction on strategic matters relating to the housing development needs of the region.
  - Develop and implement a strategy for accelerating housing growth across the region.

**Appendix A**

- Work towards a collective understanding as to the key housing development needs of the region.
- Undertake a review of existing investment funds and other financial schemes provided by Government and HCA and identify how these can be better managed and accessed at a local level and to provide a gap analysis so that proposals can be brought forward, where appropriate for a local investment fund as envisaged in the original devolution deal discussions.
- Collaborate with those external organisations that also have responsibility for housing delivery and policy.
- On behalf of the WMCA lead dialogue with Government on the West Midlands housing devolution agenda.
- As part of devolution negotiations with Government to lead on developing propositions and asks that relate to housing delivery.
- Co-ordinate plans for accelerating the disposal of surplus public sector landholdings where the development occupies more than local authority area. In this respect it will be important for the Board to establish links to the WMCA's One Public Estate Property Board.
- Ensure appropriate links and communication channels are developed and maintained between relevant local authorities and government agencies.
- Sharing information and good practice as necessary to ensure effective joined up, cross-local authority boundary working and improved performance.
- Forward planning effectively, to ensure the timely consideration of issues within the Board's remit and to allow for analysis of emerging opportunities and risks and consideration of steps to either exploit or minimise their impact.
- Formulate advice to Members of the WMCA Board on areas within the Board's remit.
- Commission and publish research on housing to inform decisions made by the WMCA Board.

**3. MEMBERSHIP**

- 3.1 The Board will be chaired by the Strategic Director for Economy (Birmingham City Council) and membership will comprise of representatives from each of the constituent members, one representative from the non-constituent members as well as the Local Enterprise Partnerships, Homes and Communities Agency and West Midlands Housing Association Partnership.

Appendix A

- 3.2 From time to time and when relevant to the Board agenda, representatives from other agencies and the private sector may be invited to contribute to the discussion.

**4. OPERATIONAL MATTERS**

- 4.1 The Board will be supported by officers from Birmingham City Council. This will include agreeing and issuing agendas, ensuring agendas and papers are circulated in a timely manner, liaising with Board members suggesting items for consideration at the meeting, recording and distributing meeting minutes.
- 4.2 The Board will meet bi-monthly and meetings will be scheduled for two hours.
- 4.3 Substitutes from departments with an appropriate level of seniority can be delegated to attend in the absence of main Board members.
- 4.4 Any issues that are not resolved may be escalated to the WMCA Board.