

## For publication

### Sheffield City Region Social Housing Compact (H000)

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Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	29 November 2016
Cabinet Portfolio:	Cabinet Member For Housing
Report By:	Alison Craig - Housing Manager

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#### **1.0 Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To seek Member approval for Chesterfield Borough Council to sign up to the Sheffield City Region Social Housing Compact.

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Members approve that Chesterfield Borough Council sign up to the Sheffield City Region Housing Compact.
- 2.2 That the Cabinet Member for Housing be delegated responsibility to sign the Social Housing Compact on behalf of Chesterfield Borough Council.

#### **3.0 Report details**

##### Background

- 3.1 Recent changes to national Government housing policy have focused entirely on various forms of home ownership. For the first time in over 100 years, no new grant is to be made available for social rented housing. It is estimated that by 2020, the cumulative impacts of Government housing policy will result in a loss of 370,000 social rented homes.

- 3.2 It is the general view of northern housing organisations that Government housing policy has been dominated by issues relating to housing markets in London and the South East, whilst at the same time homelessness, in all its forms has been increasing.
- 3.3 As a result of the National Housing Federation's decision to enter into a voluntary arrangement with the Government to extend the Right to Buy to Housing Associations, relations between local authorities and housing associations have become strained as this and other policies have prejudiced stock retaining local authorities in the management of their Housing Revenue Accounts and continuing to meet housing needs in the medium term.
- 3.4 In the context of the above, a seminar was held in January 2016 bringing together local authorities, ALMO's, Housing Associations and the Homes and Communities Agency to discuss how all parties could continue to work together in order to increase new housing supply to support growth plans in the Sheffield City Region (SCR) and mitigate the potential impact of national housing policies on vulnerable people and those in the greatest housing need.
- 3.5 It was decided key to establishing and maintaining relationships between providers a new Social and Affordable Housing Compact would be beneficial. A steering group was established to develop the Compact. The steering group was led by Rotherham Borough Council and facilitated by South Yorkshire Housing Association and included a mix of Local Authority and Housing Association members from across the Sheffield City region.
- 3.6 After several early iterations a draft Compact was produced and consulted on to be adopted by each of the local authorities across the SCR. The objectives of the compact are set out below and the full Compact is attached as **Appendix 1**.

#### Objectives of the Compact

- Create common purpose for local authorities, ALMO's and Housing Associations providing and managing social and affordable housing in the Sheffield City Region.
- Provide effective mechanism for engagement with the Local Enterprise Partnership, Sheffield City Region Combined Authority, Homes and Communities Agency and Central

Government and ensure the strategies of local organisations support the Strategic Economic Plan and promote the devolution agenda for housing.

- Complement the work of key housing organisations involved in affordable housing policy issues and avoid duplication by focusing on issues specific to the SCR.
- Focus on expanding the supply of new housing, supporting and investing in existing stock, understanding the products and services we need to deliver to ensure vulnerable people can continue to access good quality affordable housing and ensuring a range of low cost home ownership solutions are available across the region.
- Enhance and increase opportunities for joint working, shared services, joint procurement and bidding for external resources.
- Enable us to work collaboratively with other devolved regions
- Maximise opportunities provided by national policies and funding streams and ensure they are coherent at a local level.
- Facilitate better engagement of the housing sector in wider public sector reform discussions, particularly in the context of place based solutions. This includes employment and skills, crime and policing, health and social care and poverty.

3.7 The Compact has an action plan that shows how the work will be taken forward.

3.8 A launch event for the Compact is to take place in December 2016.

#### **4.0 Financial implications**

4.1 There are no financial implications associated with signing up to the SCR Social Housing Compact.

#### **5.0 Risk management**

5.1 There are no risks associated with signing up to the SCR Social Housing Compact.

## **6.0 Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)**

6.1 A preliminary Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached at **Appendix 2**. The Compact is intended to ensure that everyone, irrespective of their personal characteristics, can access decent housing at a cost that they can afford. It is also intended to protect and enhance housing and support opportunities for disabled people, BME communities and the most vulnerable people locally.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

7.1 That Members approve that Chesterfield Borough Council sign up to the Sheffield City Region Housing Compact.

7.2 That the Cabinet Member for Housing be delegated responsibility to sign the Social Housing Compact on behalf of Chesterfield Borough Council.

## **8.0 Reasons for recommendations**

- 8.1 To help achieve the Council priorities:
- To improve the quality of life for local people
  - To increase the supply and quality of housing in Chesterfield Borough to meet current and future needs

## **Decision information**

<b>Key decision number</b>	<b>696</b>
<b>Wards affected</b>	All
<b>Links to Council Plan priorities</b>	'To improve the quality of life for local people' 'To increase the supply and quality of housing in Chesterfield Borough to meet current and future needs'

## **Document information**

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<b>Background documents</b> These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material	

extent when the report was prepared.

**Appendices to the report**

Appendix 1	Sheffield City Region Affordable Housing Compact
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Appendix 2	Preliminary Equalities Impact Assessment
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