

AGENDA ITEM 14

REPORT TO THE TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY CABINET

5 FEBRUARY 2018

REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

GOVERNANCE AND APPOINTMENTS

SUMMARY

This report sets out the terms of reference for the Land Commission, a change to the membership of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and an update on the recruitment process for the independent member of the Audit and Governance Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Combined Authority Cabinet:

- i. Approve the terms of reference for the Land Commission at Appendix 1;
- ii. Approve the appointment of Cllr Matthew Storey to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee at Appendix 2;
- iii. Delegate the appointment of the Independent Member for Audit & Governance Committee to the Finance Director and Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee.

DETAIL

Land Commission Terms of Reference

1. At its December meeting Cabinet agreed to proposals for a housing investment and delivery plan to deliver on a Housing Investment Agreement with Homes England (formerly the Homes and Communities Agency). The aim of the plan is to draw in additional investment to unlock stalled housing sites, accelerate housing delivery and significantly increase the provision of affordable homes. The Agreement secures the capacity, resources, funding and flexibilities needed to unlock these opportunities.
2. To ensure a joined-up approach and monitor the delivery against the agreement it was agreed by Cabinet that governance arrangements be reviewed.

3. It is proposed that the remit of the governance arrangements will be to support the delivery of the plan and oversee implementation of the agreement. It will not determine the priorities within the plan, as these will be determined at an individual local authority level, but it will seek to ensure that the opportunities of the housing agreement are maximised and escalate to Government where further flexibilities or funding is required to enable delivery. Fundamentally, the governance arrangements are in place to support overcoming barriers to the delivery of the plan.
4. The Land Commission was established under the devolution deal with a remit to unlock brownfield and publicly owned land for development. The terms of reference for the Land Commission were agreed by Cabinet in 2016 and the first meeting held May this year.
5. The Land Commission currently brings together the council executive portfolio members for housing appointed by each Council, is chaired by the Tees Valley Mayor, and is attended by a senior HCA official. It is supported by an officer working group, chaired by the Chief Executive of Stockton Council and supported by the Combined Authority's Head of Homes and Communities.
6. Rather than establish further governance arrangements for the housing agreement and delivery plan it is proposed that the role is added to the existing Land Commission and its officer led working group remit.
7. The proposed revised terms of reference are presented at Appendix 1.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

8. Councillor Jordan Blyth of Middlesbrough Council has resigned from his post as a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He has been replaced by Councillor Matthew Storey.

Audit and Governance Committee

9. Colin Fyfe, Independent Member (financial matters) of the Audit & Governance Committee has recently resigned from his position to take up the position of Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee for the South Tees Development Corporation. The Combined Authority therefore advertised for a replacement. We have received two applications for the post and the process to select the most suitable candidate is underway. Cabinet approval is requested for the delegation of the appointment to Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee and the Finance Director. The appointment will be reported back to Cabinet at the next meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. There are no financial implications in relation to this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

11. There are no legal implications in relation to this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

12. This report is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

CONSULTATION

13. The recruitment process for the Independent member of the Audit and Governance Committee was undertaken on an open basis via the Combined Authority's website.

Name of Contact Officer: Andrew Lewis

Post Title: Managing Director

Telephone Number: 01642 527091

Email Address: andrew.lewis@teesvalley-ca.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Land Commission Terms of Reference

The aim of the Land Commission is to maximise the use of brownfield land and land held by Government departments and their agencies to support economic development and accelerate housing supply. To do this it will:

- Identify brownfield and surplus public sector land
- Assess the development opportunities to bring forward brownfield and public sector land
- Identify how brownfield and public sector land may better support local investment priorities and economic growth
- Identify the barriers preventing or delaying brownfield and public sector land being brought forward for development
- Work with the Combined Authority and individual Local Authorities to identify and agree priorities in overcoming barriers
- Work with Government and public sector land holders in overcoming barriers and bringing forward development
- Consider mayoral development corporation powers for key sites

In addition, the Land Commission has a remit to oversee the Tees Valley One Public Estate programme.

Furthermore, the Land Commission will oversee and support the implementation of the Housing Agreement with Homes England:

- Monitor implementation of the housing agreement and its underpinning delivery plan;
- Ensure that the opportunities of the housing agreement are maximised and escalate to Government where further flexibilities or funding is required to enable delivery;
- Support overcoming barriers to the delivery of the plan.

Appendix 2

Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Cllr Matthew Storey	Labour
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