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| Meeting: | BNG BOARD |
| Date: | 21 November 2008 |
| Contact: | Anne Mulroy/Karen Anderson |
| Board Action: | For information and Decision |
| Sensitivity: | Public |

Item 7: New Growth Point Submission and Governance Arrangements

Link to BNG Vision and Objectives: Population growth is a key part of BNG's vision and housing growth plays a big part in achieving this. A new vision has been agreed by the two Councils and BNG for housing growth that complements that for renewal.

Housing market renewal is unfinished business and requires continued effort. Housing growth will be delivered alongside renewal, to secure the infrastructure needed to accelerate housing development; this is the focus for the Growth Fund and Community Infrastructure Fund.

Recommendation: That the Board note the Growth Point Programme of Development, which was signed off by the Chair and Director, as agreed, in time for the submission on 27 October 2008, as well as by the local authority leaders and Chief Executives. The Board is also asked to agree that proposed changes to BNG's Scheme of Governance to extend the geographical and functional remit of the partnership to cover growth alongside renewal are brought to the January Board.

The Programme of Development

Electronic copies of the above document which sets out what is needed to accelerate housing growth in Newcastle Gateshead as well as the partnership's request for £7.935m from the Growth Fund for 2009-11 (on top of the £150,000 already allocated for 2008/9).

A summary is attached to this report at appendix 1. An accompanying document that sets out the story behind growth, 'Creating Great Places to Live' is also available; this document will have a longer life and be useful to help stakeholders to understand the shared vision for housing between the partners up to 2030. It will be professionally formatted and sent to all Board members in due course; a basic version is available on request in the meantime.

Timescales

The Government expects to inform partnerships and local authorities of their allocations before Christmas. We will be informed which of our Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF) expressions of interest (summary at appendix 2) have been passed to go through to develop a Business Case in January 2009; these must be submitted to Government by April 2009 with notification of successful projects in July 2009.

The scale of housing development and where the initial focus will be

We aim to deliver a total of 17,900 new homes by March 2017, and 14,270 after taking demolitions into account. This is a 23.8% uplift over the draft Regional Spatial Strategy. This is more than 1,500 additional homes a year compared to 738 over the last five years.

The initial programme, subject to the actual allocation, will provide developers with confidence

and help to get sites ready for the market to deliver:

- Strategic Flood Risk Assessments, Water Cycle Studies, Surface Water Management Plan, Green Infrastructure Strategy, Ecological Impact study (all but the last project are conditions of grant)
- Site investigations and potential remediation – East Gateshead, Town Centre, Bensham, Teams
- Transport – site access, gateway improvements linked to Scotswood EXPO site, Westmorland and Elswick Roads
- Site infrastructure/Strategic land assembly – East Gateshead, Hadrian’s Way, Scotswood
- Green infrastructure – Riverside Park in Teams and Walker Harbottle Park and pocket parks
- Ouseburn pumping station and sewerage system capacity increase – design
- Business Cases for transport infrastructure around strategic site access and sustainable links
- Metro Green Feasibility study
- Flood risk management options – Gateshead Quays, Stella, Dunston Riverside, River Team

Changes required to BNG’s Scheme of Governance

Following receipt of a Letter of Commission from both Local Authorities the existing partnership can be easily adapted to provide added value to a partnership for housing growth and the following amendments need to be made to the current BNG constitution/agreement to formalise the proposed approach:

- The functional remit of BNG will extend to strategy formulation and co-ordination and performance management for the housing market renewal and housing growth programmes.
- The geographical remit of BNG will extend to the whole of Gateshead and Newcastle for housing growth purposes.
- The BNG partnership will need to report to the overarching Gateshead and Newcastle Partnership as required.
- Adjustment to BNG’s governance structure and Board membership to respond to the dual responsibilities of renewal and growth including addressing linkages with wider partners in addition to the existing membership of Gateshead and Newcastle LSPs. There is a need to further strengthen the relationship and working arrangements with wider partners, eg Primary Care Trusts, transport and employment organisations and it is suggested that this is done through the Strategic Partnerships. A report will be submitted to Board in January which will revise the current scheme of Governance in relation to membership and the new specification for the work of the Board.
- BNG Board to further consider how best to ensure communication/representation given the focus on Local Area Agreement targets for measuring performance on the New Growth Point.

Capacity to deliver

The Partnership of BNG, Newcastle and Gateshead have recognised the challenge of delivery in implementing the New Growth Point. Newcastle and Gateshead are reviewing their current capacity within renewal and assessing any adjustments to capacity that may be needed. BNG continue to review where they can add value to growth at the same time as delivering renewal. All three organisations will be assisted in this by an external review of capacity by an independent consultant to ensure delivery targets can be met and the transition to growth alongside renewal can be achieved.

Stakeholder engagement

Despite the tight timescales for the submission of the programme the Homes and Communities Agency, One NorthEast, Government Office North East, Highways Agency, Northumbrian Water Ltd, the Environment Agency, Nexus, City Region and adjacent local authorities, City Development Company/NewcastleGateshead Initiative, Natural England, CABE, Home Builders Federation, local authority members and the BNG Board have been consulted on the content of relevant sections.

This will be enhanced by an event in January 2009 to discuss the content of the whole programme and how stakeholders can influence our work and help us to take it forward. This will be at the Live Theatre and co-hosted by the Leaders of both Councils and BNG's Chair. It will provide the opportunity to highlight the shared ambitions for the wider area for economic and housing growth, with the focus being on the latter.

| Implications | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Financial: | There are positive direct financial implications as a result of the Growth Point submission that, together with continued housing market renewal and the work of our partners on educational achievement, economic growth, skills development etc, can really help to accelerate housing and population growth in NewcastleGateshead. |
| Equality: | The growth programme aims to accelerate housing growth that will improve the choice of housing in the area for people on different incomes and at different lifestages. |
| Sustainability: | Design and sustainability are key features of the programme. |
| Freedom of Information: | This report is a public document - as is the summary and 'Creating Great Places to Live', the story behind the growth point. The Programme of Development is not public as it will change depending on the level of funding available. |

| Risk Map Element | Brief description of any material risks, including of not proceeding. | Impact | Probability |
|-------------------------|--|---------------|--------------------|
| Strategic: | A strategic risk register is an annex to the Programme of Development. | | |
| Financial: | | | |
| Development: | | | |
| Operational: | | | |
| Reputational: | | | |