

24 October 2017



County Durham Housing Group

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide members with detail of the development and performance of the County Durham Housing Group (CDHG).

Background

- 2 Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee are responsible for the scrutiny of the Council Plan 'Altogether Wealthier' priority theme and associated actions. The committee's terms of reference include examining key policies and services within the sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities' priority.
- 3 The transfer of the County Council's homes to CDHG was completed on 13 April 2015 at which point the Council relinquished its housing landlord function. A follow up report to the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 29 October 2015 highlighted to members the housing functions retained by DCC which would need to be featured within the committee's future work programme which included the performance of the CDHG.

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- 4 The transfer of homes required CDHG and the Council to enter into an agreement to ensure the "offers" the Council made to tenants would be delivered. Within the Transfer Agreement were a series of key duties, obligations and responsibilities placed upon both parties. The agreement also included 19 service level agreements through which the Council will provide services to CDHG.
- 5 Performance management arrangements to monitor the delivery of the offers and the implementation of the Transfer Agreement were developed which are monitored and reviewed through the Council's Overview and Scrutiny procedures with the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertaking a key role in monitoring the performance of CDHG in relation to its performance against the offers.
- 6 In view of the timescales within which CDHG has been established, it was important that CDHG's operational arrangements were allowed time to bed in including how the group are to develop performance arrangements in respect of delivery against the Transfer Agreement.

Current position

- 7 In the past Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee would review the performance of the Council's housing providers (Durham City Homes, Dale and Valley Homes and East Durham Homes) in October every year. At the meeting members were provided with a short presentation from each provider detailing key performance information in relation to their respective organisations.
- 8 The Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed at the meeting on the 29 October 2015 that a similar mechanism would be used in relation to the CDHG. The committee in July 2016 received an initial update on the performance of CDHG and details of the group's plans for the future. Arrangements have been made for a special meeting of the committee to be held on 24 October 2017 where members will be updated on CDHG's progress by Bill Fullen, Chief Executive of CDHG. The presentation will cover the following points:
- Background to the offer document
 - Overview of progress made since transfer
 - Key achievements delivered to date
 - Future plans over the coming year

A copy of CDHG's 2017 Annual Report can be accessed via the link below.

<https://cdhgroupnews.co.uk/newsletter/county-durham-housing-group-annual-report-201617/>

Recommendations

- 9 That the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee comment on the information provided in the CDHG's Annual Report and the presentation provided to the committee at the meeting on the 24 October 2017.
- 10 That the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee schedule into the committee's work programme for 2018-19 consideration of the CDHG's annual report together with further detail on the performance of the group in 2017-2018.

Background papers:

Economy and Enterprise OSC - County Durham Housing Group report - 28 July 2016

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – Not Applicable

Staffing – Not Applicable

Risk – Not Applicable

Equality and Diversity – Not Applicable

Accommodation – Not Applicable

Crime and Disorder – Not Applicable

Human Rights – Not Applicable

Consultation – Not Applicable

Procurement – Not Applicable

Disability Issues – Not Applicable

Legal Implications – Not Applicable