
Report of Director of City Development

Report to Joint Plans Panel

Date: 30th November 2017

Subject: Update on Housing Mix

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): ALL	☒ Yes	☐ No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	☐ Yes	☒ No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	☐ Yes	☒ No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	☐ Yes	☒ No

Summary of main issues

1. Between July 2015 and February 2016 the Scrutiny Board (City Development) undertook a joint inquiry (with Members of Scrutiny Board (Environment and Housing)) into the issue of housing mix. Leeds has as ambition to deliver housing growth of a high standard in all sectors. The Adopted Core Strategy sets the strategic framework for the delivery of this growth through a spatial strategy and a series of housing and design policies.
2. Scrutiny Board considered the performance of these policies in delivering a housing mix for the City. The recommendations of the inquiry sought action from the Chief Planning Officer and the workings of the Plans Panels. This report updates on the implementation of changes to secure improved housing mix.

Recommendations

3. Joint Plans Panel is invited to note a verbal report, which will be given at the meeting.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report updates on the achievement of housing mix policies in the Adopted Core Strategy.

2 Background Information

- 2.1 Between July 2015 and February 2016 the Scrutiny Board (City Development) undertook an inquiry into housing mix. The inquiry was made jointly with Members of Scrutiny Board Environment and Housing.
- 2.2 Leeds has an ambition to deliver housing growth of a high standard in all sectors. The Adopted Core Strategy sets the strategic framework for the delivery of this growth through a spatial strategy and a series of housing and design policies. The advancing site allocations plan identifies land for housing throughout the District to meet overall housing requirements. These plans are supported by evidence of housing need and an objective assessment of housing need. The housing requirement in Leeds seeks to meet specific needs including for smaller households (i.e. provide an appropriate housing mix). The Core Strategy recognises this through a variety of policies e.g. Policy H4 sets targets for 2-bed properties in the City; Policy H5 on affordable housing and H8 on homes for independent living.
- 2.3 The monitoring of completions between 2012 and 2015 showed that Policy H4 was not on course to achieve the target mix by 2028. It was of great concern to the working group that if possible remedial action available was not taken quickly and robustly it would be difficult to get target figures back on track. To this end, Members wanted to understand and highlight the challenges in achieving housing mix objectives.
- 2.4 The scrutiny report included a specific recommendation as follows:

Recommendation 9 – That the Chief Planning Officer advises Joint Plans Panel of actions to be taken regarding the Implementation of Policy H4 and proposed actions to ensure improved delivery.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 A verbal report will be given at the meeting in line with the recommendation above.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Changes arising from the Scrutiny Board recommendations are being rolled out. Many of these are driven through officers within the Housing Growth Team which sits across City Development and Environment and Housing Directorates.

4.2. Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 This report raises no issues for these matters.

4.3 Council policies and Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 Housing Mix actions are supporting the BCP priorities related to housing growth of a high standard in all sectors.

4.4. Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 The importance of spending money wisely is acknowledged. The measures set out in the verbal report raise no additional spend.

4.5. Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 The report is not eligible for call-in as it is for information only.

4.6. Risk Management

- 4.6.1 None.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 A verbal report will be made at the meeting.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 Joint Plans Panel is invited to note a verbal report, which will be given at the meeting.