



Agenda Item No: 2.2

Community Housing Strategy

To:	Housing and Communities Committee
Meeting Date:	10 January 2022
Public report:	Yes
Lead Member:	Councillor Lewis Herbert
From:	Roger Thompson, Director of Housing and Development
Key decision:	No
Forward Plan ref:	N/A
Recommendations:	The Housing and Communities Committee is recommended to: a) Recommend the Combined Authority's Board approves the Community Homes Strategy.
Voting arrangements:	A simple majority of all Members present and voting

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the proposed Community Homes Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The proposed strategy can be found at Appendix 1. It is intended to then secure approval from the CPCA Board in March 2022 as this strategy will be incorporated as part of the paper described in the forward plan as 'future combined authority housing purpose and function'.

2. Background

- 2.1 Community-led housing (CLH) involves local people playing a leading and lasting role in providing affordable homes.
- 2.2 The combined authority's Housing Strategy of September 2018 recognised that delivery of community housing could contribute towards meeting the combined authority's housing objectives.
- 2.3 On 27 January 2021 the combined authority board approved a community homes business case that included the provision of £5,000 community homes start-up grants to support emerging community-led housing groups.
- 2.4 Potential community housing groups are recognised across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and were supported by the combined authority through the community housing enabling team.
- 2.5 Following the Mayoral election in May 2021 East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) became aware of a pending resourcing issue with all of the then CPCA community housing team and did not wish to lose impetus on community housing proposals within their district, so they recruited a dedicated officer to continue this work themselves at local district level.
- 2.6 Staff from the Community Homes team left the combined authority in August and September 2021, and it has since been identified that support services can be provided to an equivalent or better standard externally by Eastern Community Homes (ECH) that specialise in supporting community homes groups across eastern England.
- 2.7 A procurement waiver was obtained on the basis that ECH are a sole supplier. The waiver provides authority to appoint ECH to provide support to Community Homes groups across the majority of the combined authority's area from November 2022 to April 2023. The arrangement shall exclude East Cambridgeshire where groups shall be supported locally by ECDC.

Significant Implications

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2021 – 2025 included a budget of £100,000 per annum for 2 years towards community housing and the £100K homes projects. The draft MTFP for 2022-23 includes a revised budget for community housing of £70K per annum until

2025 – 2026 to reflect the closure of the £100K Homes project. There is sufficient headroom in this budget to cover the costs of appointing ECH.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 The recommendations accord with CPCA's powers under Part 4 of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Order 2017 (SI 2017/251).

5. Other Significant Implications

5.1 N/A

6. Appendices

6.1 Appendix 1 – Community Homes Strategy

7. Background Papers

N/A