



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

JAMES PALMER
CAMBRIDGESHIRE &
PETERBOROUGH MAYOR

Agenda Item No: 2.2

£70 million Cambridge City Council Affordable Housing Update

To: Housing and Communities Committee

Meeting Date: 15 March 2021

Public report: Yes.

Lead Member: Councillor Chris Boden, Lead Member for Housing and Chair of Housing and Communities Committee

From: Roger Thompson, Director Housing and Development

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref: N/A

Recommendations: The Housing and Communities Committee is recommended to:

Note the report on spend and outputs for the £70 million Affordable Housing Programme, and the next report will be provided to the next Housing Committee meeting

Voting arrangements: A simple majority of all Members

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This report provides an update on the £70 million Affordable Housing Programme being led by Cambridge City Council as part of the Devolution Deal for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
- 1.2. The update is based on the report 'Update on the Programme to Build New Council Homes Funded through the Combined Authority' most recently presented to Cambridge City Council Housing Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.3. Cambridge City Council provides performance updates to the Combined Authority on its housing programme.

2. Background

- 2.1. The Affordable Housing Programmes for both the Combined Authority and City Council run for five years from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2022.
- 2.2. The Combined Authority is the Accountable Body for the Devolution Deal and all funding that comes from Government as a result. Cambridge City Council makes claims against expenditure incurred within its programme to the Authority on a quarterly basis and provides performance updates on the same frequency.

3. Current Reporting Position & Programme Progress

- 3.1. Due to the Covid -19 pandemic, all construction work was halted for a period at the end of March. At the time of writing all sites are working however handover delays are anticipated as a result of work stopping and a slower pace of building to meet social distancing on site.
- 3.2. Cambridge City Council have advised that they will continue to provide update reports on progress against the £70m programme. These are issued to the Combined Authority once they have been through the City Councils scrutiny process. Due to the timings of the respective meetings the latest position reported on the Cambridge City programme may not always align with the CPCA Housing & Communities meeting, so the most recent report will be presented.
- 3.3. Cambridge City Council has made claims under this programme to January 2020 totalling £34,257,806 to date. The total claim to the CPCA is approximately £31.8m as some funding has been paid direct to Cambridge City, see comment in section 3.4.
- 3.4. The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) paid £17 million of the Devolution funding directly to the City Council in March 2020. The City Council will continue to report to the Combined Authority and future payment drawdown arrangements have been agreed until the £17m is used. Future funding through the combined authority is dependent upon provision of the outstanding funding under the £170m Affordable housing programme from MHCLG.
- 3.5. 370 net new units have Started on Site. A further 170 are expected to start by March 2022

Significant Implications

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1. There are no financial implications other than those set out in the body of the report.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The obligations within the devolution deal require the Combined Authority to ensure the funds are spent in line with its Assurance, Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks.
- 5.2 The recommendation accords with CPCA's powers under Part 4 Article 11 of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Order 2017 (SI 2017/251).
- 5.3 The meeting shall be conducted in accordance with Parts 2 and 3 of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

6. Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Update on the Programme to Build New Council Homes Funded through the Combined Authority
- Appendix 1 (i) - Programme Milestone Summary
- Appendix 1(ii) - Programme Finance Summary

7. Background Papers

Cambridge City Council Housing Scrutiny Committee 18 June 2019 (Item 11)
[Cambridge City Council website](#)

DCLG Approved Business Case
Devolution Deal 2016
Assurance Framework
Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
[CPCA website](#)