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## Meeting of the Executive

6<sup>th</sup> May 2008

Report of the Director of Housing and Adult Social Services

### Golden Triangle Partnership Board – Membership Representation

#### Summary

1. The report set out the proposals to establish a Golden Triangle Partnership Board to over see the works of the GT, set the strategic vision for the partnership and agree any future projects.

#### Background

2. The vision of the Partnership is to:

*“to work in partnership across traditional administrative boundaries to achieve affordable housing solutions in high-value areas of North and West Yorkshire”*

3. The Golden Triangle Partnership (GTP) is a three-way partnership between housing and planning officers in Leeds City Council, Harrogate Borough Council and the City of York Council. Three housing associations – Home Housing, Accent Housing and Yorkshire Housing are also members. The Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber and the Housing Corporation provide an advisory role to the Partnership.
4. Current funding allocated to the Golden Triangle for 2008/9 – 2010/11 is approximately £5m, with £1.5 of this allocated for 2008/9. The banking role for this money is with Leeds CC
5. In recent years as a result of the banking role for the GTP being with Leeds CC, the monitoring of the GTP has been carried out by the West Yorkshire Housing Partnership (WYHP). This has at times resulted in conflicting priorities between the GTP and the WYHP and recently resulted in questions being raised regarding the future funding allocated to the GTP.
6. As a result of the monitoring and reporting being via the WYHP and the recent funding difficulties, it has become apparent that at a strategic and political level, the partnership needs clearer, more structured links with the partner local authorities. It is there for proposed to establish a Golden Triangle Partnership Board.

## Consultation

7. The three local authorities have jointly developed this proposal. As part of the development of this proposal, the North Yorkshire Strategic Housing Board & Government Office have also been consulted and are in support of the proposals.

## Options

8. Option 1 – To establish a Golden Triangle Partnership Board, and nominate the Executive Member with responsibility for Housing and the Head of Housing to represent the council on this board
9. Option 2 – To continue with the existing structure

## Analysis

10. Option 1 – The establishment of the board will ensure that the three partner local authorities are clearly setting the strategic direction for the partnership.
11. It will remove the direct monitoring of the partnerships work from the WYHP, which will free up officer time to focus on researching and implementing new initiatives, rather than spending a considerable amount of time complying with a monitoring system that has been established with a focus on regeneration rather than innovation.
12. The establishment of a board with a clear Terms of Reference will enable the partnership to set the strategic direction, provide direct Executive Member links from the partnership back to the three local authorities.
13. The proposed Terms of Reference are:
  - The Partnership Board will monitor all GTP projects and through the chief officer representative have responsibility for reporting the performance of the GTP to the respective West Yorkshire Housing Partnership Officer/Management Groups and the North Yorkshire Chief Officer Group.
  - The Partnership Board will have responsibility for feeding back to the Officer group appropriate information from the Regional Housing Board, the West Yorkshire Housing Partnership and North Yorkshire Housing Forum.
  - The Project Manager will represent the Partnership at Leeds City Council's RHB Programme Board meetings and update the GTP Officer Group as appropriate.
  - The GTP Officer Group will be responsible for delivering interventions, projects and initiatives on behalf of the Partnership and for reporting

progress to the Board as appropriate. The GTP Officer Group has its own terms of reference. These will be changed to reflect the new arrangements.

- The Partnership Board will have responsibility for:
  - Setting strategic priorities
  - Making decisions on future schemes / projects
  - Agreeing investment plans, and
  - Approving an Annual Delivery Plan
- The Officer Group will provide the Board with regular reports on the projects as part of the monitoring process. The reports will (where relevant) provide an update on any decisions taken which change or vary the nature of the project that are within the decision making remit of the officer group.
- The Partnership Board will oversee the strategic direction and priorities for the Partnership to ensure these reflect those of West Yorkshire, North Yorkshire and the Leeds City Region.
- In summary, the main functions of the Partnership Board are shown below:
  - to provide strategic leadership and political support
  - to make decisions on behalf of the Partnership following recommendations put forward by the Officer Group
  - to oversee the monitoring and delivery of the projects funded through the Regional Housing Board and administered by the GTP Officer Group
  - to provide the GTP Officer Group with relevant information which may have an impact on funding or related issues / future direction of the Partnership
  - to provide the GTP Officer Group with updates on specific information which may arise following attendance on the relevant RHB / West Yorkshire Housing Partnership meetings and / North Yorkshire Chief Officer Group meetings
- Membership of the Board is as follows:
  - Executive Member with responsibility for the housing portfolio from each of the three local authorities
  - Chief Housing Officers from each of the three local authorities
  - Project Manager
  - The Board may draw in / co-opt input from other stakeholders' representatives or specialists as contributors to particular areas of work as appropriate.
- The Board will meet on a quarterly basis. The first meeting of the new group will be held in May 2008.

- The Project Manager will be responsible for the administration of meetings and will meet with the Chair for a briefing, approximately 5 days prior to the Partnership Board meeting. Minutes of all GTP Officer Group meetings will be circulated to the Board.
  - Wherever possible decisions will be reached by consensus. Chief Officers and the Executive Member in each authority will have one vote. Where a consensus cannot be reached, decisions will be subject to majority voting. In this instance, the minutes of the meeting must record:
    - The decision
    - Whether a vote was taken
    - The result of any vote
    - Any conflict of interest registered
  - If at any time partners consider that the Partnership should be terminated then a formal meeting of the partnership shall be organised to consider this matter. This meeting shall include all Board and Officer Group members. If an individual authority/RSL wishes to withdraw from the Partnership, a formal meeting of the Partnership shall be organised to consider this matter. This meeting shall include all Partnership Board and Officer Group members.
  - The partnership can be terminated by a majority vote of each organisation. For the purposes of terminating the partnership each partner organisation will have **one** vote.
14. Option 2 – Continuation will the current process will still result in the partnership spending the Regional Housing Board allocation of £1.5m per annum, however, a key principal of the Golden Triangle Partnership will not be achieved, being innovative in it's thinking on how to deliver more affordable housing.
15. The Project Manager and Assistant are currently spending a disproportionate amount of time on monitoring and reporting to ensure compliance with the WYHP monitoring requirements. This monitoring process was established to ensure major urban regeneration schemes were delivered on time, within budget. When considering the nature of the Golden Triangle's work, it does not sit comfortably with this approach to monitoring and is stifling the partnerships ability to be innovative.

## Corporate Priorities

16. The establishment of the Golden Triangle Partnership Board will support the Council's corporate priority to "Improve the quality and affordability of decent, affordable homes in the city".

## Implications

17. Implications arising from this report are:
18. **Financial** - Leeds City Council is the banker and responsible body for the Partnership. It will be the responsibility of officers from Leeds City Council to report to the Officer Group the outcomes of the management of any funding opportunities. Leeds City Council will ensure that such funding abides by both central and local government financial regulations. The Partnership Board will only have responsibility for funding specifically allocated to the GTP, and can not commit any partner to any additional funding.
19. There are no **HR, Legal, Property, Equalities** or **Crime and Disorder** implications arising out of this report.

## Risk Management

20. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy the main risks that have been identified are that the establishment of the board could initially delay the implementation of any proposed projects.
21. Measured in terms of impact and likelihood, all risks have been assessed at less than 16. This means that at this point the risks need only to be monitored as they do not provide a real threat to the objectives of this report.

## Recommendations

22. The Executive is asked to approve option 1, to establish the Golden Triangle Partnership Board and nominate the Executive Member with responsibility for Housing and the Head of Housing Services to represent the council on this board and to refer this for ratification at Full Council.

Reason: To ensure the effective delivery of the priorities established within the Golden Triangle Partnership.

## Contact Details

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**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**  
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Head of Housing Services

Report Approved  Date

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** *None*

**Wards Affected:** *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

**For further information please contact the author of the report**