

EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY REGIONAL HOUSING GROUP

Notes from the meeting held on 10th December 2007
At EMRA offices

Present:

Bob Walder (Chair), Longhurst Group (ESEP Member Social Housing Rep)
Cllr Gary Porter (Vice Chair), South Holland DC (LGEM Member Nomination)
Charles Aimes, Housing Corporation
John Conway, Kettering BC (LGEM Officer Nomination)
Steve Harley, EMDA
Sharon McCambridge, High Peak Community Housing (ALMO Rep)
Graham Dodds, English Partnerships
Ann Branson, Leicester City Council (LGEM Officer Nomination)
Jim Grundy, GOEM
John Bibby, Lincoln City Council (LGEM Officer Nomination)
Craig Felts, Midlands Rural Housing (EMRAF Representative)
Ian Fullagar, Derby City Council (LGEM Officer Nomination)
Ruth Rigby, Supporting People Regional Implementation Group
Tim Watton, House Builders' Federation

Apologies:

Sue Kirby, emda
Geoff Millner, GOEM
Melanie Alker

Not in attendance:

Cllr Dr Sarah Hill, District of Harborough (LGEM Member Nomination)
Chan Kataria, EM Housing Association (RSL Representative)

Secretariat:

Dez Tanser, EMRA
Cathy Jones, EMRA
Andrew Pritchard, EMRA
Nigel Rudd EMRA (Apologies)

By invitation

Tom Tomazou, DASH (Items 5 & 6 only)
Nick Reed, Strategic Solutions (Items 5 & 6 only)

		Action
1.	Apologies	
	The Apologies above had been received.	

		Action
2.	Declarations of Interest	
	None were made at this point in the agenda.	
3.	Notes of last meeting	
	These were agreed as an accurate record.	
4.	Matters arising from the notes of the last meeting	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation of RHP allocation CJ reported that the regional response to CLG had been submitted by the 2nd November deadline and a copy posted on the EMRA website. Since then there had been a slight increase in the overall allocation which would be explained under Item 8. Meden Valley/Brownlow Road CJ informed the Group that the RHG had been approached to provide cash flow assistance to this project because it is progressing well, is ahead of its delivery profile and will soon have to delay purchases until new income streams commence. Unfortunately the RHG has no mechanism to do this but individual partners are considering similar requests made directly to them. 	
5.	Decent and Safe Homes Project (DASH)	
	<p>Tom Tomazou from DASH give a brief presentation of the project's progress to date, and asked members to consider further support to enable DASH to become an established service. The service has been promoted equally to all 40 Local Authorities, of whom 27 have made use of it. The service will soon be marketed nationwide which can be done at little additional cost.</p> <p>Ann Branson welcomed the new developments identified and suggested adding energy efficiency and low carbon (not just affordable warmth).</p> <p>The Chair noted that the RHG will be considering the question of future support to projects such as DASH later in the year.</p>	
6.	RHS Review: feedback from Options Consultation and draft policy recommendations	

		Action
8.	Methodology for allocation to LAs to support decent homes (in public and private sectors) and regeneration	
	<p>Ian Fullagar declared an interest in this Item.</p> <p>Jim Grundy presented this paper. The RHG asked GOEM to chase up the LAs identified in Para 19 and to provide exact figures for use in the minutes.</p> <p>The RHG agreed:</p> <p>To discontinue funding from the RHP to all LAs that have brought their stock up to the DH standard.</p> <p>To withdraw support for those LAs in the process of transferring their housing stock from 2009/10 onwards allowing time for the actual transfer to take place</p> <p>To confirm the status of Harborough which was reported to have transferred last week</p> <p>To approve the allocations contained in Appendix 3 of the report, subject to any amendments identified in the on-going discussions between GOEM and the LAs concerned.</p> <p>To transfer any savings from this budget to support intervention in the private sector, sub-regional and/or research pots, to be agreed.</p> <p>To allocate £24m (tbc) to support private sector decent homes programmes during 2008/9</p> <p>To commence a bidding round using the former PSA7 as the basis for this year's bidding round, and consider alternatives for future rounds</p> <p>To delegate authority to the RHG Working Group to assess the bids received</p> <p>That the Chair will decide the final allocations based upon the working Group's recommendations</p>	<p>GOEM</p> <p>Working Group</p> <p>Chair</p>
9.	Response to Housing and Planning Development Grant consultation	
	<p>DT presented this paper.</p> <p>The Group agreed the proposed response, and endorsed a change in the proposed breakdown of the planning element of the HPDG from 40/50/10% to 40/40/20%.</p> <p>The paper will now be considered by the Joint Board.</p>	DT/PB
10.	Response to Climate Change Consultation	
	<p>CJ presented this paper.</p> <p>Tim Watton noted that private developers are already committed to achieving zero carbon targets by 2016 and advised that any acceleration of this would not be appropriate.</p> <p>The Group agreed the proposed response.</p> <p>The response will now be submitted</p>	CJ

		Action
11.	Response to Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Consultation	
	DT presented this paper. The Group agreed the proposed response. The paper will now be considered by the Joint Board.	DT
12.	Report of the Regional Plan Examination in Public	
	AP introduced this item. He also advised the Group of the sad death of Professor Crow last week. Discussion took place regarding particular difficulties for housing figures in Lincolnshire, raised by the Panel's recommendations. EMRA is now waiting for formal notification from GOEM seeking further advice and input on identified issues.	
13.	IDeA Programme	
	The Group noted this report.	
14.	Any other business	
	Ann Branson suggested that opportunities for a discussion with Mike Peverill regarding housing related climate change should be explored.	CJ/DT
15.	Future Meeting Dates	
	10 th Jan 2pm at the Housing Corporation (confirmed) 28 th Jan 2pm at EMRA (provisional if required – to be confirmed)	