

Scrutiny Board (City Development)

Housing Mix inquiry

Terms of reference

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Scrutiny Board (City Development) and Scrutiny Board (Environment and Housing) have agreed to undertake a joint piece of work in relation to housing mix.
- 1.2 Work in this area was initially started by the then Scrutiny Board (Housing and Regeneration) following a request for scrutiny from a member of the public, who asked that the Board re-examine the adequacy of the responses provided to the first two recommendations of a previous scrutiny inquiry completed in 2011 on Housing growth.
- 1.3 The concerns expressed related to population forecasting and the assessment of housing need for the city. The request for scrutiny was supported by a number of community based development groups.
- 1.4 The Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Board no longer exists. It has fallen therefore to Scrutiny Board (City Development), in consultation with the Chair of Scrutiny Board (Environment and Housing) and relevant Directors and Executive Board Members to refresh the original terms of reference and for a joint working group between Scrutiny Board (City Development) and Scrutiny Board (Environment and Housing) to proceed with the Inquiry.

2.0 Scope

- 2.1 To take forward a piece of work covering the following issues:
 - Consideration of the proposition that the recommendations of the Board's previous inquiry were not adequately responded to or monitored.
 - Consideration of any new information on population figures and their implications for housing growth
 - Consideration of the mix of housing needed in Leeds

3.0 Desired Outcomes and Measures of Success

- 3.1 The decision to undertake this Inquiry has been based on the importance of this issue to the best council plan objectives of 'promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth.'
- 3.2 It is important to consider how the Scrutiny Board will deem if its inquiry has been successful in making a difference to local people. Some measures of success may be obvious at the initial stages of an inquiry and can be included in these terms of reference. Other measures of success may become apparent as the inquiry progresses and discussions take place.

4.0 Comments of the relevant Director and Executive Member

- 4.1 In line with Scrutiny Board Procedure Rule 12.1 where a Scrutiny Board undertakes an Inquiry the Scrutiny Board shall consult with any relevant Director and Executive Member on the terms of reference. Any comments will be reflected in the final terms of reference.

5.0 Timetable for the inquiry

- 5.1 The Inquiry will take place through a series of working group sessions. following which the Board will publish its conclusions and recommendation.

6.0 Submission of evidence

6.1 working group –September 2015

- To give further consideration to the proposition that two recommendations of the Board's previous inquiry on Housing Growth were not adequately responded to or monitored
- To receive evidence on the most up to date population information and DCLG household projection guidance available to the Council and its implications for the short to medium term priorities for new housing in the city
- To receive evidence from City Development and Housing on current council policies and programmes regarding identification and delivery of the housing mix required in Leeds in the short to medium term

7.0 Witnesses

7.1 The following witnesses have been identified as possible contributors to the Inquiry:

- Executive Member for Housing, Planning and Transport.
- Executive Member for Communities
- Housing Leeds
- Intelligence Team

8.0 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

8.1 The Equality Improvement Priorities 2011 to 2015 have been developed to ensure our legal duties are met under the Equality Act 2010. The priorities will help the council to achieve its ambition to be the best City in the UK and ensure that as a city work takes place to reduce disadvantage, discrimination and inequalities of opportunity.

8.2 Equality and diversity will be a consideration throughout the Scrutiny Inquiry and due regard will be given to equality through the use of evidence, written and verbal, outcomes from consultation and engagement activities.

8.3 Where an impact has been identified this will be reflected in the final inquiry report, post inquiry. Where a Scrutiny Board recommendation is agreed the individual, organisation or group responsible for implementation or delivery should give due regard to equality and diversity, conducting impact assessments where it is deemed appropriate.

9.0 Post inquiry report monitoring arrangements

9.1 Following the completion of the Scrutiny inquiry and the publication of any final inquiry report and recommendations, the implementation of the agreed recommendations will be monitored.

9.2 The monitoring will be undertaken by the Board. This will be done at regular intervals appropriate to the content of the recommendation.