

Meeting Date: 7 March 2017

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder's Report –
Councillor Heather Bradley**

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Two Castles Housing Association have been awarded £660k grant funding, following a successful bid to the Homes and Communities Agency's 'Shared Ownership & Affordable Homes Programme' to deliver 20 affordable homes in Carlisle: 10 for shared ownership and 10 for rent to buy. This is an 'indicative' bid meaning the development site (or sites) have still be identified.

Demonstration Project – Riverside are expecting to appoint their main development contractor shortly to deliver the scheme at Beverley Rise, Harraby, after running a tender on 'The Chest'. Further meetings have been arranged between the Council, Riverside and Carlisle College.

Old Brewery Residence's – Planning Officers have been granted authority to approve Impact Housing Association's application to redevelop this former student accommodation, following February's Development Control Committee, subject to some minor alterations. The conversion will provide 37 affordable rented apartments and townhouses, and includes flood remediation measures.

FLOOD RESILIENCE GRANTS

The application deadline for the flood resilience grants is now fast approaching, with all applications to be with the Council by 31st March 2017. The Council originally set a target of an uptake of the 30%, however this has now far been exceeded with take up in mid-February at 1023 (approx. 57%submitted applications, totalling just over 3.4 million of flood resilience measures.

306 households have taken the opportunity to have an independent flood level protection report, through our partner JBA Consulting. The cost of which has been paid up front by the Council.

HOUSING WHITE PAPER

The proposals in the Housing White Paper set out how the Government intends to boost housing land supply, and over the longer term, create a more efficient housing market. For local authorities the Government is offering higher fees to develop planning departments, simplified plan making and more funding for infrastructure.

There are also measures to take action against developers who do not deliver houses once planning permission is granted. For developers, there is an improved approach to developer contributions, an encouragement for a greater diversity of house builders, and more focus on design and quality. For local communities there will be simpler and clearer opportunities to get involved in the planning process. Many of the proposals are subject to further consultation, or will be part of the forthcoming Neighbourhood Planning Bill. Work is being carried out on responding to the consultation, and looking at the implications of the measures in the White Paper for Carlisle.

INVESTMENT AND POLICY

Local Plan Member's Working Group

Invitations have been sent out to the leaders of each party for nominations for members for this group. The group was instrumental in giving guidance to and assisting in the preparation of the now adopted Carlisle District Local Plan, and a suite of related documents. It is now time to reconvene this group to add value to the process of preparing documents set out in the Council's Local development Scheme. These include items such as the Community Infrastructure Levy, Supplementary Planning Documents, the Authority Monitoring Report and the Statement of Community Involvement.

St Cuthbert's Garden Village

Following an expression of interest submitted last July in response to the DCLG Garden Villages, Towns and Cities Prospectus, St Cuthbert's (known as Carlisle South in the adopted Local Plan) was selected on 4th January 2017 as one of the first 14 projects nationally so be supported by the programme. The assessment panel fed back that they were impressed by the submission and the genuine Garden Village potential that the project demonstrates. Of importance is the fact that the concept of Carlisle South is embedded in adopted Local Plan policy. The Garden Village status brings support from HCA, and we are currently awaiting a funding allocation. Very early work is underway gathering evidence to underpin the forthcoming master planning process for St Cuthbert's.