

The Housing Partnership for Nottingham: Terms of Reference, Governance, and Ways of Working

Overall aim

“To deliver homes across all tenures and meet the housing aspirations and needs of citizens, and in doing so assist the economic development and overall prosperity of Nottingham”

Purpose of the Housing Partnership for Nottingham

The key driver for the partnership is meeting the housing needs of the city. In terms of where it sits in the city, the Housing Partnership for Nottingham is a theme partnership of One Nottingham. As such it has a core responsibility to deliver key aims of the Nottingham Plan to 2020, specifically those relating to the Neighbourhood Nottingham theme. As a theme partnership of One Nottingham, the HNP will be the monitoring and reporting route for the issues within the Nottingham Plan that fall within its remit, namely the housing – related targets within the Neighbourhood Nottingham theme.

The objectives

The partnership is the body charged with delivering housing objectives in Nottingham at a time of unparalleled difficulty, and its response must be realistic and deliverable. The partnership intends to meet the challenge by:

- Providing a quality housing offer across all tenures and sectors of the housing market contributing to the enhanced reputation of Nottingham and its ambition to be a World Class city, using combined resources
- Overseeing the assessment of our local housing market
- Addressing the housing needs of specific groups and sectors of the housing market
- Combining and co-ordinating the activities of housing developers, providers and support agencies to bring about housing growth and improvement
- Maximising the contribution of housing to the economic growth of the city
- Through housing activity delivering outcomes which support other strategic objectives, such as improved health and wellbeing, educational achievement of children, employment, crime reduction and sustainable communities
- Bringing together in partnership the skills, knowledge, expertise and statutory tools necessary to make successful and complimentary interventions in the housing market.
- Promoting Nottingham as a city that is “open for business” and in doing so attracting housing developers
- Being innovative in its approach

Measuring success

The partnership will measure the success of its activity through the following outcomes:

- The delivery of housing objectives which have a clear economic benefit to the city, particularly in bringing employment for Nottingham people
- Delivery of relevant Neighbourhood Nottingham objectives and targets from the Nottingham Plan ie housing numbers, family housing and fuel poverty
- The best possible investment outcomes for the city achieved through successful partnership with the Homes and Communities Agency
- The achievement of sustainable communities
- An effective link with One Nottingham and the other theme partnerships in order to assist the wider partnership agenda

Accountability

The partnership will report directly to One Nottingham. There are a number of defined activities for a theme partnership within the new One Nottingham Governance Framework and Ways of Working. These are listed as an appendix to these terms of reference and these principles will guide the partnership's work.

Linking to other Theme Partnerships

The HSP will communicate with the other Theme Partnerships through the One Nottingham structures, and via the partnership's lead officer, who will liaise regularly with counterparts in the other partnerships. Some links already exist, for example via the housing contribution to the Respect Strategy. The partnership's lead officer will seek to develop such links further so that the contribution of housing to other priorities for the City is identified and delivered, and vice-versa.

Governance

The partnership will have an executive group meeting quarterly, plus a mixture of standing and task and finish delivery groups aligned to the priorities of the Housing Nottingham Plan or specific projects as they arise.

(1) Executive Group role

The Executive Group will have responsibility for the main functions of development and delivery, and directing the work of the partnership, monitoring progress and performance. It will have a key role in securing the development and delivery of the city's housing plan

The Executive Group will comprise:

- Registered provider # 1
- Registered provider # 2
- Portfolio holder, Housing Delivery
- Corporate Director of Development and/or Head of Housing Strategy
- Private sector housing representative #1 (private rented sector)
- Private sector housing representative #2 (housebuilder)
- Voluntary sector representative
- CEO, Nottingham City Homes
- HCA

(2) Standing Delivery Groups and Task and Finish Groups

Delivery groups will oversee delivery plans to achieve specific objectives of the Partnership's strategy or specific projects as required. The precise function of these will become clearer when the Housing Plan takes shape; however a standing group on specialist accommodation and support will be formed immediately because of the wide range of housing needs covered and the specific role of supporting our citizens in the current economic climate. It will cover:

- Homelessness prevention
- Accommodation offer for older people
- Housing-related support sector
- Housing provision for people with a physical disability
- Housing provision for people with a learning disability
- Financial inclusion

Additionally, there will be a standing housing supply group specifically charged with the delivery of new housing development.

The first Task and Finish Group will be charged with seeing the Housing Plan to its completion, developing its action plan and obtaining the necessary buy in and accountability from partners.

Structure

See separate chart

Ways of Working

The partnership will work according to the following principles:

- Partner business interests are fully aligned to the overall aims of the partnership: it is recognised that the partnership is based on mutual need
- Partners share the vision of the Housing Nottingham Plan and its priorities: all partners have a long term commitment to the city's growth and prosperity
- Partners are accountable for delivering their specific actions within the plan and will participate fully in the performance management of the plan, reporting information when required by the executive group
- Partners recognise that their role extends beyond the delivery of core housing services and that their work can make a positive contribution to the wider prosperity of the city

Support

The City Council (Housing Strategy) will provide administrative and facilitative support to the executive group and the delivery/task and finish groups of the partnership. This includes note taking and distribution of notes, which will be made available on the One Nottingham website.

Frequency of meetings

To be agreed

Appointment of Chair and Term of Office

To be agreed

Code of Conduct

To be drafted; will mirror the One Nottingham guidance on minimum standards of conduct.

Targets for the Partnership

To be added once the Housing Nottingham Plan is approved; clear line of sight to Nottingham Plan objectives to be shown here

Appendix 1

One Nottingham Theme Partnerships Role:

- Focus on planning, delivery and review for the Nottingham Plan targets
- Remove barriers to joint working within the Theme
- To draw together partners in a network
- To co-ordinate partner activity at the theme level
- To act as a forum and a focus for communication and partnership – to host and facilitate discussion, to disseminate communication in areas of their responsibility
- Analyse evidence, develop detailed strategy and action plans, monitor progress and review and learn lessons for their targets
- Deliver core programmes and investments as planned, either directly or through contributions by members organisations
- To enhance service outcomes by collaborative work
- To recommend priorities to the ON Board
- To facilitate and commission activity in support of the implementation/delivery plans
- Encourage local communities to express their aspirations, needs and priorities, through effective community engagement
- Implementation of the Partnership Performance Management Framework
- Establish joint-commissioning frameworks where necessary
- To maintain a good working relationship with Overview and Scrutiny
- Identify resources needed to effectively deliver activity
- To act as an escalation route, from the 3 localities, for operational issues with a broader partnership relevance or implication.
- Statutory partnerships will also have a requirement to formally report to Nottingham City Council.