



Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Affordable Housing Partnership Terms of Reference

The Partnership Aims

- To work collaboratively to deliver affordable housing across the Strategic Allocation Sites as detailed in the Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy
- To work with partners, stakeholders and local communities to ensure that the affordable housing delivered reflect the needs of the districts, that provide choice of affordable housing options and helps to create inclusive, mixed communities.
- To be a consultative body for the future development of local Housing Strategies and Local Plans and Supplementary Planning Documents with regards to affordable housing.
- To be a sounding board for the sharing of good practice in respect of housing management and development practices.

Outcomes

- To maximise the delivery of new affordable housing for each local authority.
- To create a framework that enables new communities to become and remain cohesive and sustainable.
- To support the Local Housing Authorities' aims in reducing homelessness.

Membership

The Partnership will be made up of representatives from the following organisations:

- Cheltenham Borough Council
- Tewkesbury Borough Council
- Gloucester City Council

The Partnership will invite other stakeholders to attend partnership meetings as required, including Preferred Affordable Housing Providers and the Homes and Communities Agency.

Our Priorities

The Partnership's focus will be on achieving the following objectives:

1. To agree and keep under review cross-boundary lettings arrangements for new affordable homes.
2. To identify and maximise funding opportunities to aid the delivery of new affordable housing where appropriate.
3. To deliver new affordable housing according to assessed needs, including agreement on tenure split, dwelling types and size.
4. To ensure as far as possible the standardisation of affordable housing clauses within Section 106 Agreements, and that the accompanying guidance notes remain up to date
5. To deliver new affordable housing in a timely and coordinated manner across the build programme of each development.
6. To ensure new affordable housing is allocated, reviewed and monitored in accordance with agreed cross-boundary lettings arrangements and the local lettings plan.
7. To ensure that robust approaches are in place to enable future community needs, including the housing needs of specific groups, to be identified and addressed.
8. To ensure the arrangements of the Preferred Housing Providers are regularly monitored and reviewed.
9. To promote housing from an equalities perspective, seeking social inclusion and routes away from welfare dependency.

Operational Matters

The Partnership will meet bimonthly (unless otherwise agreed).

The Partnership will agree a Chair and Secretariat from Membership on an annual basis.

It is expected that appropriately authorised officers will attend meetings of the Partnership. Decisions which cannot be made by the representative present at the meeting must be made clear at the time and the Partnership will agree a timescale for when the decision will be made.

Decisions made by the Local Housing Authorities will be by consensus. Where this cannot be achieved the matter will be referred to senior management of each organisation who will confer to reach an agreement on the course of action to be taken.

The Partnership does not constitute a legal body in its own right and all decisions made must be fully delegated from the represented organisation, voted for or deferred back accordingly. The members attend as representatives of their own organisation to agree a consensus, working on behalf of their own organisation to achieve the strategic outcomes and priorities identified for the Partnership.

Review

Terms of Reference of the Partnership will be reviewed annually, or as required.

There will be a formal outcomes review every 12 months to show how the Partnership is meeting its objectives and amend them when required by consensus to continue to achieve the above aims.

The Preferred Housing Providers arrangements will be reviewed on the terms as detailed in the Memorandum of Understanding.

Dated: May 2020