



Combined Authority Board

13th November 2024

Title:	Homes England Strategic Place Partnership (SPP)
Report of:	Rob Bridge, Chief Executive
Lead Member:	Mayor Dr Nik Johnson
Public Report:	Yes
Key Decision:	Yes - KD2024/056
Voting Arrangements:	Simple majority of voting Members, subject to that majority including the vote of the Mayor, or the Deputy Mayor acting in place of the Mayor

Recommendations:

A	Approve the entering of a Memorandum of Understanding with Homes England to agree a Strategic Place Partnership (SPP) and all the outlined governance arrangements associated with the SPP.
B	Approve the formation of the Strategic Place Partnership Board and the development of a five-year Partnership Business Plan and annual Delivery Plans.
C	Delegate to the Mayor and Chief Executive to finalise the Memorandum of Understanding with Homes England.
D	Note the governance arrangements for the Combined Authority to engage constituent councils to inform and contribute to the business and delivery plans.

Strategic Objective(s):

The proposals within this report fit under the following strategic objective(s):

	Achieving ambitious skills and employment opportunities
x	Achieving good growth
	Increased connectivity
	Enabling resilient communities
x	Achieving Best Value and High Performance

This partnership will contribute to achieving appropriate housing growth linked to the corporate strategy and priorities of CPCA.

1. Purpose

1.1	This report requests approval for creating a Strategic Place Partnership (SPP) with Homes England to enable closer working to support delivery of the new housing and growth all of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
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2. The Proposal

2.1	<p>The Strategic Place Partnership (SPP) is a model developed by Homes England to enable greater collaboration and partnership working at a sub-regional scale, recognising those places with ambitious proposals for place-based growth and regeneration. Homes England have already signed SPPs with Greater Manchester Combined Authority, West Midlands Combined Authority, West Yorkshire Combined Authority, the Association of South Essex Local Authorities, and recently Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and North East Combined Authority. It is not a commitment for capital funding but a shared document tailored to local priorities that can be jointly resourced to accelerate new housing delivery.</p>
2.2	<p>Over recent months discussions have taken place between the CPCA Chief Executive, Executive Director Place & Connectivity and Homes England Directors following recent engagements relating to the emerging Local Growth Plan. These discussions have explored the opportunity of agreeing to a SPP for our region which would enable a joined up approach and influence on Homes England investment proposals and decisions.</p>
2.3	<p>The SPP would be supported by a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CPCA and Homes England and this would lead to the development of a Partnership Business Plan for the period and an Annual Delivery Plan.</p>
2.4	<p>The MoU is not legally binding (excepting Freedom of Information and Anti-Bribery provisions which are legally binding), but the intention is that Homes England and CPCA formally sign up to this document, as a commitment to collaborate for the region. The Mayor and CPCA will work jointly with the constituent councils to shape the plans and commitments within the SPP.</p>
2.5	<p>The MoU sets out the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic Objectives<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Work collaboratively and flexibly at all levels of their organisations to align their resources to explore creative ways to deliver more high-quality homes that will support economic growth, place making and regeneration within the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Area.○ Develop a robust pipeline of investment ready proposals to unlock and accelerate housing delivery, economic growth and regeneration across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to achieve an equitable, pioneering, connected and resilient region.○ Realise opportunities to support place-based growth and holistic regeneration solutions to create and grow sustainable, healthy neighbourhoods contributing to the region's net zero carbon ambitions and bio-diversity net gain ambitions.○ Improve the supply of high-quality, energy efficient and affordable homes providing greater choice and opportunity for people to access a home in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough region that meets future housing needs.• Partnership Business Plan<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The Parties will collaborate to co-develop a Partnership Business Plan which considers how the Strategic Objectives will be applied in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to identify Focus Areas of activity to be delivered through the Joint Working Principles set out below.• Joint Working Principles<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Work together to identify capacity and resource to support the development and delivery of the Partnership Business Plan.○ Develop and maintain a robust database of opportunities for new homes, inclusive growth and placemaking.○ To be flexible to identify solutions, share information and intelligence and experiences, and communicate openly.○ Acknowledge the interests of wider stakeholders beyond the Parties.• Governance Structure<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ A Partnership Board will be established between which will be attended by Directors of Homes England; and the Mayor, Chief Executive, Executive Director Place & Connectivity and Chair of the Environment & Sustainable Communities Committee of CPCA and will convene on a biannual basis.○ The SPP will be chaired by the Mayor of CPCA and will be responsible for setting the strategic direction of the SPP, providing a forum for liaison between the Parties for the delivery of the

	<p>Partnership Business Plan, including overseeing the development of business cases for priority projects and assessing performance against the Strategic Objectives and Focus Area activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Other invitees from constituent councils would be invited to the SPP as deemed appropriate and linked to the agenda and business to be discussed. ○ Below the SPP, a Strategic Place Operational Group will be set up and will include relevant representatives from constituent councils and partners to take forward specific activities in the plans. ○ At CPCA regional level, the current Leader’s Strategy Meetings, Chief Executive Group and Place Directors will be the forums that also monitor this at a local level and importantly help develop the business and delivery plan, feeding into the SPP. ○ Notwithstanding this overarching governance, it is anticipated that separate project specific governance arrangements may be put in place with the relevant Parties and that Homes England will maintain a direct relationship with individual local authorities at a project level. ○ For the avoidance of doubt, it should be noted that the SPP does not have any decision making powers delegated to it. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Term of Memorandum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is proposed that the SPP would run for 5 years unless terminated/ amended or extended by a prior written agreement.
2.6	The SPP will ensure the region, through the CPCA, can influence and shape the investment priorities of Homes England for our area. In addition, this will lead to opportunities of finance and resources to help deliver the CPCA Shared Ambition (for which Homes England are a contributor) and the emerging Local Growth Plan.
2.7	It is important to note that the SPP will not overlap with any of the emerging ‘Case for Cambridge’ work which the Housing Minister continues to engage with the Mayor and Leaders in the region on.

3. Appendices

3.1	No appendices.
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4. Implications

Financial Implications

4.1	There are no direct financial commitments arising from this work, other than officer resources and time. It is hoped at aligning ambitions between all parties will lead to more projects being ready to access available resource and capital funding through government and the private sector to deliver the housing that meets the city region needs.
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Legal Implications

4.2	The CPCA legal team have reviewed and commented on the MoU and SPP.
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Public Health Implications

4.3	No specific public health implications from SPP, but better quality homes and neighbourhoods should lead to better health outcomes.
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Environmental & Climate Change Implications

4.4	This is covered under the strategic objectives with the SPP supporting place-based growth and holistic regeneration solutions to create and grow sustainable, healthy neighbourhoods contributing to the region’s net zero carbon ambitions and bio-diversity net gain ambitions.
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Other Significant Implications

4.5	None
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Background Papers

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