

Department for Communities and Local Government Board Meeting

Minutes of the Board meeting held on 10 July 2012

Present:

- The Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Chair)
- Sara Weller, Lead Non Executive Board Member
- Diana Brightmore-Armour, Non Executive Board Member
- Stephen Hay, Non Executive Board Member
- Stewart Gilliland, Non Executive Board Member
- Sir Bob Kerslake, Permanent Secretary
- David Prout, Director General
- Sue Higgins, Director General
- Peter Schofield, Director General
- Elizabeth Whatmore, Director

Also Present:

- Terrie Alafat, Director for Housing Loans and Starts (Item 2)
- Mark Clare, Barratt Plc (Item 2)
- David Montague, London & Quadrant HA (Item 2)
- Clare Pitcher, DECC corporate Secretariat (Observer)

Apologies:

- Baroness Hanham, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
- The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, Minister for Housing and Local Government
- Andrew Stunell MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

Secretariat:

- Ryan Wilkins
- David Hill
- Louisa Brownlee

Item 1: Introduction and matters arising

1. The Secretary of State welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Item 2: Housing Stocktake

2. Peter Schofield introduced the Housing Stocktake paper on the current state of play on housing supply. He also welcomed the external speakers (Mark Clare and David Montague) to the Board.

3. In introducing the paper, Peter said that increasing housing supply was a key objective for the Government. New housing supply had been running behind increases in demand (measured by household formation) for many decades, but since the financial crisis housing supply had fallen significantly below the 30 year average. He set out a number of the key issues that impacted on the supply and effective demand for housing.
4. The Board then listened to the external speakers presentations, discussed the key issues, and agreed the next steps for the Department on this issue.

Item 3: Spending Review

5. Sue Higgins introduced the paper updating on the three key work strands identifying how the Executive Team are acting as the programme board and undertaking deep dives considering the evidence base and considering innovative ways to tackle the issues.

Item 4: Performance Paper

6. Elizabeth Whatmore introduced the Performance paper and updated the Board on progress across Whitehall. She noted that the Department had delivered 88% of the actions in its plan by end May which was second overall throughout Government and that we had achieved a strong start to delivery of this year's refreshed plan with 12% of actions already completed.
7. The Board welcomed the new format to the performance reports being presented to the Board and made some suggestions for further improvement to be taken forward over the Summer. Finally Elizabeth updated the Board on the key risks (including those that had been de-escalated from the corporate risk register).

Item 5: Annual Report and Consolidated Accounts

8. Sue Higgins introduced the paper updating the Board on the successful completion and publication of the Departments annual report and consolidated accounts by the agreed deadline of the 28th June becoming the second Department in Government to achieve this.
9. It was noted by the Board that this was a considerable achievement by the team and commended the way the team had developed the working relationship with NAO whilst delivering this tight deadline.

AoB and Concluding Remarks

10. The Sept draft agenda was approved, with the addition of Growth as a standing item.
11. The Secretary of State thanked attendees for their contribution to the meeting.