



Good Practice

Objective

<p>Lead local authority of the North Yorkshire Enablers programme</p>	<p>To achieve a step change in the delivery of affordable housing in rural communities across North Yorkshire.</p>
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Detail

The North Yorkshire Strategic Housing Partnership has developed an innovative financial delivery model to sustain its rural housing enabler programme for a further three years beyond March 2012. This should enable it to become self-financing in the longer term. Hambleton District Council will continue act as the lead employer of 3.5 Rural Housing Enablers (RHEs) and our strong sub regional governance arrangement via the North Yorkshire Rural Housing Enabler Network to the sub region’s strategic housing board will remain.

The model is financed via a cocktail of contributions from local authorities, registered providers, the county council and the Leeds City Region. Registered provider contributions comprise both a retainer element and payment based on the number of rural affordable homes they delivered in the previous year. Under the new model the partnership will enter into Service Level Agreements with funders to deliver a good quality and Value for Money service. Partners who are funding the model will also have the opportunity to have greater involvement and scrutiny through representation on the North Yorkshire Rural Housing Enabler Network.

Details continued

The Network is chaired by a district councillor and reports directly to the sub regional housing board on rural housing issues. Its current membership comprises representatives from local authorities, the county council, national park authorities, the HCA and the regional office of the Country Landowners Association. In early 2012 membership will be extended to include RP representatives.

The Network has responsibility for approving and managing the programme both in terms of rural housing delivery and targeting RHE activity. It will continue to cultivate, evidence and share innovation and good working practices across the sub region and increase awareness of rural housing issues across communities in North Yorkshire and beyond.

The RHE's continue to be embedded within each local authority housing or planning department, benefiting from local support and guidance but are now line managed by the North Yorkshire Strategic Housing Manager and report quarterly to the Network. Each LA 'buddies' with a partner and local programmes are overseen by twin local authority Steering Groups comprising RHE's, housing and planning officers. At the more strategic level the RHEs have developed an area of the partnership website dedicated to promoting their work www.northyorkshirestrategichousingpartnership.co.uk/rural/default.htm which is regularly updated. The team have also developed branded consistent promotional literature and lobbying materials.

Within the consistent framework of the sub regional programme there is scope for local flexibility to meet local needs and conditions but our work focus is always on delivery.

Outcomes

The RHE programme has enhanced and delivered comprehensive enabling capacity across North Yorkshire. This year we forecast delivery of over 150 rural affordable homes and we have about the same number in the pipeline for 2012/13

The new financial model will sustain our rural housing enabler programme for a further three years beyond March 2012 and should enable it to become self-financing.

Rural Housing Solutions conducted an evaluation of the North Yorkshire Rural Housing Enablers Programme.

For a copy of the report click on the following link: [North Yorkshire Rural Housing Enabler programme – Evaluation 2008.pdf](#)

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