



A fresh approach to people, homes and communities



Guest Blog: The Evolution of Devolution – Sheffield City Region

The SCR geographical footprint covers nine local authorities and is a large and diverse area but one that reflects the existing functional economic area where people live and work.

The Deal itself was signed in October 2015 and included an ambition to deliver 7,000 new homes across the region annually for the next 10 years.

So where does the SCR Housing Compact fit within this ambition?

As a group of housing providers we set ourselves two objectives at the outset, increasing new supply and ensuring our services continue to target the most vulnerable. The compact was developed during 2016 and in December I chaired the launch with political leaders from the area and David Orr, CEO of the National Housing Federation.



All the ALMOs in the region have signed the compact, A1 Housing, Berneslai Homes, Rykneld Homes and St Leger Homes.

So what you might be saying? We've got a signed agreement on how we're going to do things together but haven't we had those before?

The first concrete output has been a programme bid to the HCA entitled " More New Homes " to secure funding of £23m pa to form a devolved ring fenced fund for housing growth. The bid articulates the case for flexibilities and exploring off site construction models.

Our second piece of work is around supply and disinvestment and ensuring access to housing for those in need.

We've also learned lessons along the way and recognised that as a forum of housing providers we needed to be a part of the SCR housing governance structure and we've now got that agreed.

The experience of coming together around a common purpose, showing collective leadership and developing mutual trust is proving to be a sound basis for working together in these challenging times.