

Delivering our Corporate Strategy quicker and better through growth.

That Aster ensures long term sustainability by undertaking an innovative and holistic approach to growth that is centred on a strong offer both internally and externally and is supported by evidence led decision making.

Key Objectives...

To ensure that growth can support our strategy and vision it is supported by a clear articulation of our priorities:

- Increasing our financial capacity – Our growth strategy supports building financial capacity within the Group for the long term, and we will make commercial decisions that ensure profit for purpose
- Development – Working with partners or through M&A growth can support delivery of more homes
- Social Impact – Growth supports our commitment to do things in an ethical way, and we consider a range of options to work in partnerships to enhance our social impact in our communities and beyond
- Services to customers – Successful growth which isn't detrimental to our existing services

Our approach to growth is flexible and is grounded by lessons learned from our own experience and from across the sector. Our approach is multi-faceted and contains several key strands:

- Organic Growth – We will seek to grow the business through our ambitious development plan, we will improve and develop existing services and business areas to ensure long term, sustainable growth
- Growth through M&A – Our approach will be flexible and based on risk and reward, and will be underpinned by the agreed Aster Merger Code
- Growth through additional services – We will seek to expand and strengthen in areas of augmentation, whilst still considering opportunities for diversification
- Growth through partnerships – Proactively working with current and new partners to
- Our offer is built on the strengths we have within the business, and our reputation in the sector and beyond. A Well Run Business – A strong focus on Governance and our G1 rating
- Our Financial Strength – We must harness our strong business plan
- Our Products and Services – The quality of the Aster product, and our sector leading expertise in specific products

develop a range of approaches to partnership working, including strategic partnerships that unlock new capacity and geography

- Balancing risk and reward – Ensure that growth can clearly support one of our business priorities and strategy and enhance the financial and business plan. Our risk appetite sets out our parameters
- Core and non-core growth – Core growth is defined as adding overall capacity to the business plan, while non-core growth encompasses a holistic range of opportunities but should be grounded by financial viability and balancing risk and reward

- Our Approach – Our culture of openness and innovation
- Our Red Lines – We will not invest in an opportunity without the knowledge that it must contribute to the achievement of our strategy, we will ensure that any offer of investment does not have a negative impact on strategy elsewhere

The Aster offer should be flexed to incorporate different approaches. Specifically the agreed approach to small HAs and distressed businesses

To ensure that our approach to growth can be truly flexible and our offer to partners is clear and transparent we have built our capability and capacity internally:

- Mobilisation Resource – To ensure maximisation of opportunities, resource is required to deliver both the offer and the implementation of the project
- Networked Team – Draw on expertise from across the business
- Clear oversight and responsibility – Clear distinctions between M&A, core and non-core growth that enables oversight and accountability

- Business Intelligence – Build our capacity to use intelligence to lead on a more evidence based approach to growth
- Clear understanding – Demystifying growth, and creating a clear understanding from the Board downwards