

Scope and Disclaimer

This Due Diligence (Checklist) is intended to function as a broad roadmap for market participants considering the advancement of debt for care homes. It is aimed at those with limited prior experience of the sector and seeks to provide a broad outline of relevant due diligence / issues to consider during the early phases of evaluation of a potential transaction.

While deal activity in the senior living sector remains below projected levels, based on demographic trends and the significant interest expressed by various stakeholders in industry forums, demand for such facilities is expected to increase. This Checklist aims therefore to identify some commonly considered issues relating to the fundamentals of such facilities, for parties to bear in mind when structuring, or evaluating, a new transaction structure for which leverage will be sought (either at the onset or subsequently), or when considering the viability of refinancing an existing deal.

This Checklist is not however intended to be a primer for the level of diligence that would be required to support the underwriting of care homes. A number of key considerations applicable to this sector are beyond the scope of this Checklist, for instance, CQC registration (and its equivalent in any of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, as relevant). This is a complex area of governmental oversight and regulation.

The content of this Checklist should also not be extrapolated for use as a basis for due diligence on operational facilities as a class. Facility-specific considerations will always apply.

For broader due diligence considerations, however, not specific to an asset class and which are therefore applicable more generally to investment and development financings secured on real estate assets in England and Wales, users should refer to CREFC Europe's Due Diligence Guide for UK Investment and Development Finance (most recently updated in 2019; click here).

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to **Aparna Sehgal**, **Partner** and **Elizabeth Le Vay**, **Counsel**, at **Dechert LLP** for the leadership and coordination they have provided to our Senior Living working group, and without whom, this checklist would not have come to fruition.



We would like to thank Lisa Attenborough (Knight Frank), Steven Fergus (Barclays), Alex Green (BPF), Assaf Khan (HSBC), Richard Martin (Bank Leumi, now at Assetz Capital), Tony Throp (Puma Property Finance) and Nick White (Fortwell Capital, now at Octopus Real Estate) for their contribution and active participation in our working group.

Key Considerations

FUNDING

Debt vs. Equity ratio: [per Development]	Cost of capital for lenders	
	High entry costs? Viability of establishing a joint venture with an established market participant	
	Feasibility of sale and leaseback structures	
Single asset vs. portfolio:	Concentration of reputational risk in a single asset	
	Rating of Operator / track record of effective management of corrective actions	
	Maturity of portfolio (cross-collateralisation of operational assets)	
	Importance of single asset quality (e.g., ESG and room size / configuration; focus on 'S' and 'G')	
	Diversity of portfolio (e.g., freehold, leasehold, ground leases, propco / opco)	
Valuation:	Integrated modelling	
	EBITDA / cash flow	
	Availability of informed and sophisticated data (e.g., Carterwood Analytics report)	
	Impact of "alternative use" valuation (single asset vs. portfolio)	
Competition:	CMA clearance and impact on timing	
Joint Ventures ('JV'): [Covenants]	Considerations for facility / security documents – ensuring bankability	
Debt vs. Cost of Development (LTC ratio): [per Development]	Build cost — external economic factors	
Opco / Propco:	[Y] / [N] If Y, are they in common ownership?	
Tax:	Structure-specific considerations	

Repayment	Business Plan	
	Forward funding structure	
	If value placed on freehold or long leasehold, sale of freehold or long leasehold	
	Long-term income from ground leases / importance of compliance with tenant lease covenants / RPI / CPI / inflation linked rent reviews	
	Competence / track record of Operator	
Risk appetite of potential lenders:	Variable; consider blend of finance providers and alternative sources of capital	

CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT

Procurement Route: [per Development / Pooled]	Traditional	
	Design-and-Build ('D&B')	
	Construction Management	
Developer:	Track record	
	Covenant	
	Professional team	
	Programme	
	[NB. PC for entire building must be achieved before Operator can register with CQC as a new provider]	
	Effect of COVID-19 on design of building / variations for future proofing	
Key Contractors:	Track record	
	Covenant	
	Professional team	

Other Construction Costs:	Party wall award[s]	
	Building control	
	Construction, Design and Management ('CDM') Regulations	
	Energy Performance Certificates ('EPC')	
Collateral Warranties:	[NB. Full suite required for optimal financing options. Build delivery upfront into contractual arrangements]	
Funding Security: Options	Performance Bond	
	Parent Company Guarantee ('PCG')	
	[Others – Deal Specific]	
PLANNING CONSID	ERATIONS	
Planning Costs:	Section 278 [Highways Act 1980]	
	Section 38 [Highways Act 1980]	
	Section 106 [Town and Country Planning Act 1990]	
	Section 184 [Town and Country Planning Act 1990]	
	Section 104 [Water Industry Act 1991]	
	Community Infrastructure Levy ('CIL')	
INSURANCE REQUI NB. Requirements will differ of outsourced to a third party.	REMENTS depending on whether the borrower is also the Operator, or if op	perations are
Buildings and Contents:	[Y] / [N]	
	If Y, Key Terms should cover inflation, professional fees, debris removal	
Business Interruption:	[Y] / [N]	
Terrorism:	[Y] / [N]	

Employer's Liability:	[Y] / [N]	
Public and Products Liability:	[Y] / [N]	
Professional Liability (including medical malpractice):	[Y] / [N]	
Cyber Liability:	[Y] / [N]	
NB. Where there is developr	ment, the following are also key requirements:	
Construction All Risks ('CAR'):	[Y] / [N] If Y, Key Terms should cover full value of development, including debris removal, shoring and propping up, inflation and professional fees	
Delay in Start Up ('DSU'):	[Y] / [N] If Y, Key Terms: [•]	
Public Liability:	[Y] / [N] If Y, Key Terms: [•]	
Non-negligent Liability:	[Y] / [N] If Y, Key Terms: [•]	
Terrorism:	[Y] / [N]	
Professional Indemnity:	[Y] / [N] If Y, Key Terms: [•] Professionals: [•] Design Team: [•]	
Latent Defects:	[Y] / [N] If Y, Key Terms: [•]	
Environmental Risk:	[Y] / [N] If Y, Key Terms: [•]	
	e' Title Insurance for portfolios of properties n insurance broker at the outset to produce a report on the busir	ness

TITLE ISSUES

Development Constraints Audit:	[Y] / [N]	
	If Y, Key Terms: [•]	
Certificate of Title:	[Y] / [N]	
	If Y, Key Terms: [•]	

MACRO-ECONOMIC FACTORS

Real Estate:	Location	
	Demographics. Flexibility to flex e.g. 'accessible and adaptable' quotient	
	Staffing	
Build Value:	[•]	

VALUATION

Land:	Compliance with sustainability / environmental laws	
Operational Asset:	Valued on the basis of compliance with RICS methodology for land	
Other Considerations:	Lender appointed independent valuer	
	Feasibility study	

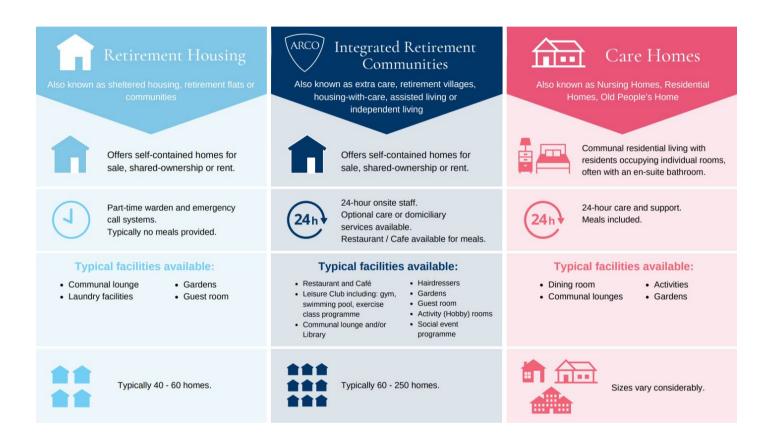
OPERATIONS

Asset characteristics:		
Management:	Reputation and experience / track record of working with local authority	
Capacity of Management:	Platform of Operator	
Concentration of Outsourced Contractors:	Impact on variable overheads	

Costs:	Business Plan and ongoing Capex requirements	
	Set-off / coverage from Deferred Service Charges for episodic overheads	
CQC:	Rating of Operator at other sites / track record in effective management of corrective actions	
INTELLECTUAL P	ROPERTY	
Branding:	Single site versus Multi-site	
Technology:	Any 'in-house' apps and 'hidden tech' solutions	
	Third party technology developer? Terms of contract and ownership of IP rights	
	Cost of upgrade of technology over time	
	ESG data collection	
DATA PRIVACY		
Data Management:	Policy details	
	Enhanced security for 'special category' data	

Appendix

Definitions of Senior Living Provision



Source: ARCO



crefceurope.org