

**Growth Partnership Board Meeting
18th November 2010
The Maltings, Ely, Cambs**

Growth Partnership Board Members Present:

Name

Alex Plant
John Williamson
Simon Payne
Graham Hughes
John Onslow
Jo Mills
Steve Hampson
Malcolm Sharp
Gary Garford
Giles Hughes
Peter Studdert

Authority

Cambridgeshire Horizons
Cambridgeshire Horizons
Cambridge City Council
Cambridgeshire County Council
Cambridgeshire County Council
South Cambridgeshire District Council
South Cambridgeshire District Council
Huntingdonshire District Council
Fenland District Council
East Cambridgeshire District Council
Joint Planning Director

Additional Attendee(s)/Substitutes:

Shirley Blake – sub for Giles Hughes

East Cambridgeshire District Council

Minutes:

Gill Barker

Cambridgeshire Horizons

Apologies:

Giles Hughes
Simon Payne
John Onslow
Gary Garford

East Cambridgeshire District Council
Cambridge City Council
Cambridgeshire County Council
Fenland District Council

Actions

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

AP welcomed all attending and reported the apologies noted above.

2. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th September 2010 and matters arising.**

The Minutes were agreed.

Matters arising:

Under Item 3 – P'Boro City Trust survey results not received as yet. GDB to chase.

GDB

3. **Major Sites Programme and Key Issues (inc SRR)**

JW's report had been circulated. Main Points:

- Activity now on Cambridge Southern Fringe (CSF), Cambridge North West (CNW), Market Towns and Cambourne;
- New co-ordinating group set up for CSF;
- Significant issue for all is A14 and particularly important for Northstowe, NIAB and University sites;
- Addenbrookes Access Road now open which is positive for Clay Farm;
- Challenge now faced is infrastructure and resources for all the above sites;
- Founder Members (FM) meeting coming up to decide future of Horizons. Possibility of some transitional funding to achieve LEP, but no knowledge at the moment of how much;
- AP noted that Grant Shapps MP had written to Chief Executives and Chairman of local delivery vehicles (ldv's) suggesting there may some resource to assist with the transitional period. Confident of a positive response to the letter sent regarding the A14. Working with Dept. for Transport and Highways Agency (HA) to find a way forward.

Discussion:

- Cross authority discussions taking place regarding A14 to try to ensure that the HA policy of objecting to any growth where 'nil detriment' to the A14 is caused is applied judiciously in the individual context of the development concerned;
- Relevance to NIAB site and conditions imposed, important for government to be aware of the implications of it's policy and how it is applied.

4. **HGF Capital and Revenue Budgets:**

a) Capital and Revenue budgets:

JW's report had been circulated. Main points:

- **Capital** budget – of £22m available, £18m now spent with remainder committed. Appendix B shows projects which will still be active post-March 2011;
- Currently over-profiled by 7% - £1.54m. Three Options on how to proceed to be discussed. 1) Share out risk across all projects; 2) Overspend falls on projects yet to complete; 3) Utilise current assets to raise funding for the shortfall, including management of the borrowing that Option 3 would entail;
- One project stands out as able to be cut back – LCDI (Northstowe element) at £500K, leaving £1m to cover;
- **Revenue** budget - £407K spent currently;

Discussion:

- Query whether the capacity in Revenue could be utilised to fund overprofile?
- Noted that there was £300K but unsure regarding capitalisation;
- Concern expressed regarding one of the last projects to be completed – The Hive – and therefore Option 2 would prove disastrous to this project;
- Noted that should Option 3 proceed, then CCC and Hunts would require assurance that they would have first call on returns from investment assets;
- Noted that once returns do come back from investments, a number of projects which have had to fall away due to cut backs could be reconsidered;
- Noted that Appendix A shows the dates when the investment returns are due to commence;
- A further Option suggested – a surcharge against each project?
- Query as to who would actually do the borrowing. Noted that County hold the ‘pot’ ringfenced for the returns on the investment and were therefore best placed;

JW

Agreed:

- Horizons to recheck all project budgets once more to ensure final size of overspend;
- Northstowe LCDI monies to be utilised toward the overspend;
- Preferred Option 3 – should management of this be able to be organised.

5. Housing – outturn for 2nd quarter

SBee’s paper had been circulated. Of note:

2nd quarter figures of 230 completions on larger sites;

Discussion:

Noted that the figures by District had not been available. SBee to try to ensure available for Main Board;

Noted the figures should be healthier in the next year with the activity on CSF and CNW.

SBee

6. Cambridgeshire Local Investment Plan (CLIP)

AP noted that this update was for information, with the CLIP currently going through each local authority internal process. Changes are being made along the way on infrastructure and sustainability. Once each authority had completed their own process the updated document would go to Main Board in December for endorsement. The HCA are pressing for this document as soon as possible as an evidence base for their future funding, as it fits with the ‘localism’ issue;

Discussion:

- Noted that the County were unable to endorse the document without clearer information from the HCA regarding criteria. JW to organise;
- Document had been endorsed by South Cambs DC, Cambridge City Council, East Cambs DC and about to go through Hunts DC. Not clear about Fenland as no representative in attendance at this meeting.
- Noted that the document could proceed as a District-wide document as its predominant use will be Housing related;
- Preference for endorsement throughout the County to ensure it can be

JW

used as a strong evidence base;

Agreed:

JW to seek clarity from HCA as to exact requirements. This information to be fed back to County to encourage endorsement.

7. CSR Growth Implications

Documents circulated had been forwarded to JSGIC, and captured the basics of the CSR in relation to Growth.

Discussion:

- Concern expressed regarding the cumulative impact on housing and housing benefit;
- Affordable Housing policy of 40% an even greater challenge, and now the new 'affordable rents' policy. Lobbying was required;
- Noted that the combined effects will also hit the labour market;
- Suggestion that AP and LB (and possibly Naisha from HCA) discuss implications and look to hold a half-day conference to highlight these and discuss options and ideas;
- Noted that missing from the report was Godmanchester's 700 homes – also affected by A14. Noted and would be added.
- Query whether the New Homes Bonus Scheme could be utilised – i.e. top slicing for 'growth'? Noted that this could possibly be a discussion for the LEP;
- Noted that Business Rate bonus and TIF were further ideas. Possibility that FM's could look at this for future funding mechanisms for growth.

AP/LB

SBee

8. Work programme

JW's paper and appendices had been circulated. Main Points:

Paper listed Horizons' main budgets and tasks, with appendices showing timelines, all HGF funded projects and an overview and governance arrangements. He noted that there was some good news regarding funding, with £100K from the Climate Change Skills Fund administered by the REIP, with £30K to Carbon Offset and £70K to CRIF. The first meeting of the CRIF Steering Group was planned for 6th December. CIL will be moving ahead, so the work with Hunts and ECDC will continue.

Discussion:

- Query regarding CIL controls in specific areas. Noted that primary legislation for CIL already in place;
- Query what will happen after March 2011? Noted that FM's will be deciding on how these issues will move on. It was envisaged that a LEP would be functional by September 2011 and the immediate issue will be how the gap is filled. Noted that there may be some funding for transitional work from CLG, presuming there is renewed commitment to partnership working from local authorities;
- Noted there may be some element of agreement for Horizons to continue in order to bridge the gap, with FM's considering the choices and implications.

9. Green Infrastructure Strategy Update

SF's paper had been circulated. JW noted the main points:

The Green Infrastructure Strategy Review was being led by Horizons, with the review to be used as an evidence base going forward, informing local authority policy;

Local authorities have provided individual input. There were outstanding

issues still to be resolved, primarily for SCDC and Cambridge City Councils which were currently being addressed;

Currently driving to a point where this document can be signed off, with issues around technical appendices still to be agreed, resulting in some delay to the original timetable;

Document was to have gone before Cambridge City in November and SCDC in December, but will now be the January authority meetings, with public consultation after that. It is due to return to Main Board in December;

Discussion:

- Noted that the document would go before the January Development Committee of the City Council, but work required to enable that. Chapter 4 'Aims and Objectives' needs clarity, also the section representing the original strategy needs to be cross referenced for audit purposes;
- Noted that Policy officers were generally pleased with results so far, but anxious regarding keeping to timescales;
- Noted that this Review was extremely important as an evidence base for the forthcoming CIL;
- Noted that it was important to get this right, and therefore if timescales need to slip, this would be better than trying to rush;
- Two options – take the document to Main Board noting that some changes may still be required, seeking endorsement for Public Consultation, or wait until all changes made and endorsements from local authorities received, proceed to Board in March and have Public consultation later.

Agreed:

To the first Option.

10. Review draft Agenda for Board

Add: CLIP, for information only;

Founder Members meeting update – through Co. Secretary report.

GDB

11. Forward Planner - 2010

Noted. Delete: LAA and CAA Updates;

Add: Policy.

12. Any other Business

There was none.

13. Date of Next Meeting:

1st March 2011, 1000 at Cambridgeshire Horizons, Endurance House, Histon.