

Joint Strategic Growth Implementation Committee

**Minutes from the Committee Meeting of Tuesday, 11 September 2007
Swansley Room, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambourne**

Committee Members Present:

Sir David Trippier, Chairman

Cllr Dr David Bard, South Cambridgeshire District Council
Stephen Catchpole, Cambridgeshire Horizons
Cllr Nichola Harrison, Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Sebastian Kindersley, South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Ray Manning, South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Ian Nimmo-Smith, Cambridge City Council
Cllr Roy Pegram, Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Sian Reid, Cambridge City Council

Cllr Ben Bradnack, Cambridge City Council (substitute for Cllr Herbert)

Also in attendance:

Jane Green, South Cambridgeshire District Council (Part 2)
Steve Hampson, South Cambridgeshire County Council
Graham Hughes, Cambridgeshire County Council
Sally Hutchinson, Cambridgeshire Horizons
Gareth Jones, South Cambridgeshire District Council (Part 2)
Paul Mumford, Cambridgeshire Horizons
Simon Payne, Cambridge City Council
Brian Smith, Cambridgeshire County Council
Peter Studdert, Cambridgeshire Horizons
Mark Vigor, Cambridgeshire County Council (Part 1)
Joseph Whelan, Cambridgeshire Horizons (Part 2)
Toby Williams, Cambridge City Council (Part 2)
Trevor Woollams, Cambridge City Council (Part 2)

Apologies:

Cllr Lewis Herbert, Cambridge City Council
John Onslow, Cambridgeshire Horizons
Cllr John Reynolds, Cambridgeshire County Council

PART 1 (Public)

Actions

Item 1 – Welcome and Apologies

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the third meeting of the Joint Strategic Growth Implementation Committee.
- 1.2 Apologies had been received from Cllr John Reynolds, Cllr Lewis Herbert and John Onslow.
- 1.3 The Chairman informed Committee Members that Cllr Ben Bradnack was attending the meeting as a substitute for Cllr Lewis Herbert and would therefore be in attendance for Part 2 of the meeting.
- 1.4 The Chairman asked committee members to re-consider the policy for substitutes for this meeting which is at present one named substitute for each Authority. The Chairman suggested that a substitute be named for each Committee Member. Cllr Pegram suggested that one substitute be named for each Political Group and this was agreed by the Committee with the proviso that each substitute be named in advance.

**Cambridgeshire
County
Council/Cambridge
City Council/South
Cambridgeshire
District Council**

Item 2 – Minutes of the Joint Strategic Growth Implementation Committee – 17 April 2007

- 2.1 The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting of Tuesday, 17 July 2007.

Item 2a – Matters Arising

- 2a.1 Graham Hughes referred to 3.2(c) of the minutes. The minutes confirmed that the North West Cambridge Transport Strategy would be consulted on. However, Graham Hughes has since clarified in an e-mail to Cllr Lewis Herbert on 6 September 2007 that whilst the Cambridge North West Transport Study will not be consulted on further as an individual report, the conclusions and recommendations of the study will certainly be consulted on as part of the AAP process by the City Council, and more widely as part of the LTTTS/TIF proposals by the County Council, this autumn.
- 2a.2 Paul Mumford referred to 6.2(d) of the minutes and confirmed that a Sustainability Appraisal will be commissioned for the Long Term Delivery Plan.

Cllr Harrison acknowledged this very important piece of work but

felt it essential to see in writing what parameters are being used by the consultants. Cllr Harrison asked if the report could be brought to the JSGIC meeting in October.

Paul Mumford responded by saying that if the report was available by October it would be brought to that meeting if not it would be brought to the scheduled December meeting.

Cllr Reid asked if the consultants would be using the same parameters used in sustainability appraisals in the planning process at the Local Authorities.

Paul Mumford confirmed that this would be the case.

Item 3 – Proposed Allocation of Additional Resources for Growth

3.1 The Chief Executive presented the paper and asked the Committee to endorse the resource allocations contained in Table 1 of Appendix 1 for Priority 1 projects.

3.2 Committee Members asked questions and made the following comments:-

(a) Cllr Roy Pegram – endorsed the resource allocation but asked for clarification as to the agreement with Government for the additional funding.

The Chief Executive and Chairman confirmed that for 2007/08 the Government awarded £700k for the arrangement of the new Joint Development Control Committees and an additional £700k awarded for the agreement in principle to the establishment of a Section 29 Committee. Continued funding at the level of £1.4M or higher for future years will depend upon the establishment of the Section 29 Committee.

(b) Cllr Nichola Harrison – referred to Appendix 1 and asked if it was appropriate for the Community Facilities Technical Expertise and Business Assessments Study to be commissioned and managed by individual Local Authorities, would it not be more appropriate for it to be jointly commissioned?

The Chief Executive confirmed that whilst the authorities would have the lead role, it was intended that all Agencies would be involved fully in the study.

(c) Cllr Nichola Harrison – asked if it was appropriate to proceed with the Air Quality Study at this present time with the assumption that TIF will reduce traffic levels.

Simon Payne responded by saying that the Air Quality Study is urgently needed for the development at Southern Fringe. It is important for the consideration for future planning applications and the TIF work and is felt to be a high priority.

Steve Hampson agreed with Simon Payne's comments as the Study is also urgently needed for the development at North West Cambridge.

Graham Hughes also acknowledged that now was the right time for the Study as TIF proposals were coming forward.

Cllr Ian Nimmo-Smith - the Air Quality Study would give a baseline.

- (d) Cllr Ian Nimmo-Smith – referred to 5.2 (e) of the minutes, if the funding is not used by the end of March 2008 is there any year-end flexibility with DCLG/Treasury?

The Chief Executive confirmed that he had written to DCLG but had not received a definitive reply.

- (e) The Chairman stressed to the Committee how important it was to spend the allocation of funding that had been awarded to the Sub-region for the allocated projects by the end of the financial year.
- (f) Cllr Dr David Bard – for the Community Facilities Study, would the brief include a Sustainable Communities Energy Strategy.

The Director for Sustainable Communities responded by saying this would not be included in the Study.

- (g) Cllr Sian Reid informed Cllr Dr David Bard that Cambridge City Council had commissioned a specialist piece of work on zero-carbon development. Cllr Reid would check that it could be shared with South Cambridgeshire District Council and if so would share the information.

- 3.3 The Committee endorsed the resource allocations contained in Table 1 of Appendix 1 for Priority 1 projects

Item 4 – Section 29 Committee

- 4.1 Steve Hampson presented the paper and asked the Committee to agree that the terms of reference provide the basis for discussions with the GO-East which will subsequently be put to each of the three Local Authorities prior to being submitted to DCLG for Parliamentary Approval.

- 4.2 After debate it was agreed that 6.1 of the report needs to be made clearer.
- 4.3 Committee Members asked questions and made the following comments:-
- (a) The Chief Executive raised concerns that £700k of funding had been awarded (see 3.2 (a) of the minutes) for the successful agreed establishment of a Section 29 Committee. Will the proposals outlined in the report meet the timetable agreed by Government? He suggested that the outline Terms of Reference should be agreed by the three Local Authorities by the end of the year to ensure continuity of funding for not only this financial year but for future years.
 - (b) Cllr Ian Nimmo-Smith agreed with the Chief Executive and felt the timetable was perhaps too relaxed.
 - (c) Cllr Ray Manning agreed that a tighter timetable was required.
 - (d) Brian Smith also agreed with urgency of moving this on especially as the Rolling Fund is a critical issue.
 - (e) Cllr Sebastian Kindersley asked if the Section 29 Committee will be able to deal with site specific issues and will Cambridgeshire County Council maintain planning responsibilities for Waste and Minerals?
- Mark Vigor responded by saying that the Section 29 Committee plan making will be site specific in definitive areas as outlined in pages 5 and 6 of the Terms of Reference.
- 4.4 The Chairman asked Steve Hampson to lead the process and initially arrange a meeting as soon as possible with the Leaders, Portfolio Holders and advisors to try and reach an agreed position.
- 4.5 The Committee agreed to the Terms of Reference for the establishment of a Joint Planning Policy Committee (Section 29).

**Planning Policy
Manager, SCDC**

**Executive Director
of South
Cambridgeshire
District Council**

Item 5 – Housing Growth Funding 2008/9 to 2010/11 and Eco-Towns Prospectus

- 5.1 The Chief Executive presented the paper and asked the Committee to note the progress made and comment on the emerging proposals. The Chief Executive also presented the Housing Growth Funding (formerly Growth Area Funds) paper

and in addition the Proposed Programme for 2008/09 to 3010/11 that was e-mailed to JSGIC Members in advance of the meeting and will be presented to Cambridgeshire Horizons Board Members on Monday, 17 September 2007.

5.3 Committee Members asked questions and made the following comments:-

- (a) Cllr Sebastian Kindersley – have we got on public record from DCLG as to whether Northstowe is an Eco-Town or whether it is not. Is Northstowe too far down the development trail?

The Chairman responded by saying that this was not clear in the Green Paper recently published by DCLG. The Chairman informed the Committee that a letter had been sent in the last week to Yvette Cooper signed by Cllr Johnstone, Cllr Ray Manning and the Chairman stating that this was not acceptable and asked for clarification of the status of Northstowe. This may affect the funding we receive.

- (b) Cllr Sebastian Kindersley – may need to go back and look at the Inspectors Report from the AAP. Cllr Kindersley also asked, realistically how much funding are we likely to receive and how will the priorities be decided if not all the funding is received?

The Chairman responded by saying that is impossible to say what we will receive at this stage. In relation to priorities a Priority Index will need to be produced, delivery in the whole of the Cambridge Sub-region as well as the key areas are essential.

- (c) Cllr Dr David Bard – is it possible there will be overlap in applications for funding for the Cambridge Gateway and Transport Improvements and the Promotion and infrastructure to support green travel essential Planning Functions through the TIF bid and the Housing Growth Funding.

Brian Smith confirmed that there could possibly be 2 applications for the same work and that this would need to be rationalised at the appropriate time.

- (d) Cllr Nichola Harrison – it is clear in 1.8 of the report that the Government is looking for additional housing over and above what is already planned for Eco-Town status. Is the Rolling Fund a separate issue, do we make an application through a separate process?

The Chief Executive indicated that the Rolling Fund has been

considered to be separate but that it was unlikely now that funding would be given outside of the Housing Growth Fund.

- (e) Cllr Nichola Harrison – Programmes versus Projects.
Individual schemes are listed. Schemes inside packages.
Could the figures be shown in more detail?

After some debate it was agreed that the presentation of the figures was correct and no further detail was required.

Item 6 – Agenda Plan and Any Other Business

- 6.1 The Chairman asked Committee Members to inform Cambridgeshire Horizons in writing of their named substitutes as agreed at the beginning of the meeting.
- 6.2 In addition to the agenda items already scheduled, the following items would be put on the Agenda Plan for the meeting on 17 October :-
- Proposed Siting of School at North West Fringe
 - Long Term Delivery Plan and Sustainability Appraisal
- 6.3 In addition to the agenda items already scheduled, the following items would be put on the Agenda plan for the meeting on 4 December:-
- Long Term Delivery Plan
 - North West Fringe Section 106
- 6.4 Dates for Committee meetings in 2008 would be brought to the October meeting.

Item 7 - Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 17 October 2007 at 9.30 am – 11.30 am in the Swansley Room at South Cambridgeshire District Council.