

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE HORIZONS**

**Agenda Item No: 12**

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE TOGETHER (LAA): ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GROWTH THEME PARTNERSHIP**

*To:* **Cambridgeshire Horizons Board**

*Date:* **10th December 2008**

*From:* **Chief Executive**

*Purpose:*

1. To inform the Board of the agreed way forward for the Cambridgeshire Local Area Agreement (LAA), known as *Cambridgeshire Together* and
2. To agree how Cambridgeshire Horizons carries out its responsibilities for coordinating the Managing Growth theme within the LAA.

*Recommendations:* **That the Board:**

1. Notes the contents of the letter from the Chief Executive to the County Council Deputy Chief Executive (Children and Young People) setting out a suggested approach to coordinating the Growth theme in the LAA;
2. Nominates a Local Authority Member of the Horizons Board to be the representative of the Managing Growth theme on the Cambridgeshire Together Board
3. Endorses the approach set out in section 4 for officer coordination arrangements, specifically the establishment of a Growth Partnership Board comprising senior officer representation from each of the six Cambridgeshire local authorities and Horizons.

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## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1** The local authorities of Cambridgeshire have come together with each other and other key organisations to develop a vision for the future of the County. The vision is formalised in the Cambridgeshire Local Area Agreement (LAA) with Government, which sets out key targets to 2021 for delivery on how the partnership will improve the quality of life in Cambridgeshire. The LAA builds on the Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) established in each district. A significant amount of funding from Government is linked to the success of achieving targets drawn from a list of national indicators, Partnerships have some flexibility in deciding which indicators to focus on (some are compulsory) and are required to develop targets for those indicators in agreement with Government. The LAA funding does not include Housing Growth Funds, which are outside of this process. However, there are strong linkages between these processes and it is important that the growth agenda is seen in the context of the wider sustainable communities agenda.
- 1.2** The Cambridgeshire LAA is known as Cambridgeshire Together, which is coordinated by a Board with membership drawn from the partners. The overall aims of the partnership are to:
- improve the quality of life for residents in Cambridgeshire
  - enhance efficiency across the partnership
  - strengthen partnership work locally and with government
  - make local services more accountable to the communities they serve
- 1.3** During the past year, considerable work has been undertaken to develop the key themes and targets for Cambridgeshire Together. Five key themes have been identified:
- Managing Growth
  - Economic Prosperity
  - Environmental Sustainability
  - Equality and Inclusion
  - Safer and Stronger Communities
- 1.4** The Board has also identified 34 key targets in negotiation with Government and 5 local targets, together with the 16 statutory education targets required by Government.
- 1.5** The Board has undertaken work to ensure effective partnerships are in place to manage each of the five themes. It has been agreed that Cambridgeshire Horizons should lead the delivery of priorities under the managing growth theme. Horizons' geographic coverage now extends to the whole county, and so it is able to fulfil this role for the whole County.
- 1.6** On behalf of Cambridgeshire Together, Gordon Jeyes, Deputy Chief Executive at the County Council, has written to invite me to put in place formal arrangements for the strategic partnership to drive priorities for managing growth (Appendix A). The letter also includes the LAA indicators (targets) and other national indicators allocated to the growth partnership. I have responded to Gordon's letter, generally welcoming the proposals and setting out a suggested way forward for managing the growth partnership (Appendix B).

## **2. ALLOCATION OF TARGETS AND INDICATORS**

- 2.1** Cambridgeshire Together has allocated the targets and indicators to each of the five theme partnerships. The targets that have been allocated to Horizons are:
- NI 154 – net additional homes provided
  - NI 155 – number of affordable homes delivered
  - NI159 – supply of ready to develop housing sites
- 2.2** These are all consistent with the growth theme and link to the Horizons Business Plan. However, we have also been allocated NI 198 (children travelling to school – mode of travel used). This seem to be much wider than the growth agenda and not appropriate for Horizons to oversee.
- 2.3** Although not targets, Horizons has also been allocated other indicators (for monitoring), some of which are to varying degrees outside of our core work, but do relate to growth. However, these indicators are of less significance than those with targets attached.

## **3. REPRESENTATION ON CAMBRIDGESHIRE TOGETHER BOARD AND SENIOR OFFICER GROUPS**

- 3.1** Gordon's letter asks that Horizons nominates a local authority member to represent us on the Cambridgeshire Together Board. The Chairman will invite nominations at the meeting. Officer coordination of the LAA is led by the Chief Executives Liaison Group (CELG). As a member of CELG and Horizons' Chief Executive, I will attend Cambridgeshire Together Board Meetings.
- 3.2** CELG is supported by the LAA Reference Group (LAARG), which provides senior officer support to the LAA partnership. I have proposed that John Onslow, who has attended this group up to now, will continue to undertake this role.

## **4. MANAGING GROWTH THEME: OFFICER ARRANGEMENTS**

- 4.1** Up to now there has not been a county-wide officer group to coordinate growth across the County. A "whole County" arrangement has been in place for some time to coordinate the Programme of Development and Housing Growth Fund. Also, we have for some time had a Senior Officer Board in place to oversee the key growth issues in the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire major development sites, serving as a link to JSGIC and to oversee the Joint Planning Funds allocated by CLG in return for establishing the joint working arrangements.
- 4.2** It is now appropriate to establish a senior officer body to oversee the whole management of work relating to the managing growth theme. A proposal has been worked up by directors to establish a Growth Partnership Board to undertake this role. The Board would be chaired by myself, with John Onslow also attending (and deputising), and would be attended by up to two officers (at Director / Head of Service level) from each of the Cambridgeshire authorities. It is anticipated that by having two officers from each authority and Horizons, that the Growth Partnership Board will comprise a range of skills, including planning, housing, regeneration and infrastructure delivery. The Growth Partnership Board will report to the Horizons Board. Its remit will

include:

- Overseeing the overall programme and strategic risk register
- Monitoring LAA targets and indicators and recommending actions to the Horizons Board.
- Identifying key issues for resolution (that are not dealt with by the Delivery Boards) and seeking to resolve these issues
- Overseeing the POD / HGF process and other funding initiatives

**4.3** Given the strong focus on major sites in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire and the need to provide support to JSGIC, it is proposed to retain the Senior Officer Board, although in practice and given the overlaps in membership, it is hoped that both officer groups would work closely together and responsibilities would be allocated to the group best placed to deal with each issue. It is not proposed to continue with the HGF Steering Group as a standing group, as the work of this group will be incorporated into the Growth Partnership Board. It is also proposed to continue the current arrangements with Delivery Boards (as overseeing groups for each major development in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire – led by Horizons and involving the relevant authorities, key agencies and developers) and, where necessary, to extend this approach to the market towns as development come forward, subject to agreement with the relevant district authority. Figure 1 shows the proposed arrangements for managing growth as part of the LAA.

**4.4** It should also be noted that the Cambridge Sub Regional Housing Board, which currently sits outside the Horizons structure, will be brought into the Managing growth theme, although precise arrangements are to be worked up.