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28<sup>th</sup> November 2008

Thank you for your letter of 7 November regarding the proposed LAA partnership arrangements.

Can I begin by saying how pleased Sir David Trippier and I were that the Cambridgeshire Together Board unanimously agreed that the Cambridgeshire Horizons partnership was best placed to lead the delivery of priorities under the managing growth theme.

I believe that the arrangements that have been developed under the Cambridgeshire Horizons banner since 2004 reflect a mature partnership working system across the public and private sector, which is critical to enabling the delivery of sustainable new communities.

You asked in your letter about confirming resolution of the geographic coverage of Horizons, and I am happy to say that this matter has been confirmed and that our remit now extends to the whole of Cambridgeshire.

Turning to the LAA priority indicators that you have asked Horizons to cover, we would of course expect to look after indicators 154 (net additional homes provided), 155 (number of affordable homes delivered) and 159 (supply of ready to develop housing sites). The “other” indicators in relation to housing and planning (12, 156, 157, 158, 170 and 181) are somewhat beyond our normal area of activity, but I can see that it may make sense to link these into the growth theme if they have no other natural home, and given that we do host a sub-regional housing function (through Sue Beecroft’s role).

However, it does not seem appropriate to expect Horizons, as the Growth Partnership, to be responsible for NI 198 (Children travelling to school – mode of travel usually used). This indicator is overwhelmingly related to existing schools, rather than new communities, and the tools available to make a difference are not within our sphere of influence. The same argument applies to the “other” transport indicators (167 to 169, and 178) which relate to peak time congestion and

maintenance of County highways and I believe should be dealt with elsewhere in the partnership structure.

Finally, you asked about representation on the Cambridgeshire Together Board. I can confirm that I will attend the Board as Chief Executive, with my Deputy, John Onslow continuing on the LAA Reference Group. As for the Local Authority Member representative, a proposal will go the Cambridgeshire Horizons Board meeting on 10 December, and I will be in touch thereafter to let you know the decision reached.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Plant', written in a cursive style.

Alex Plant  
Chief Executive

Cc:  
Sir David Trippier  
John Onslow  
Brian Smith  
Mark Lloyd  
Sue Beecroft