

CAMBRIDGESHIRE HORIZONS LTD

Minutes from the Board Meeting of Friday, 2 March 2007 Swansley Room, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambourne

Board Members Present:

Sir David Trippier, Chairman

Cllr Dr David Bard, South Cambridgeshire District Council

Cllr Ian Bates, Huntingdonshire District Council

John Bridge, Cambridgeshire Chambers of Commerce

Steve Cox, EEDA

Stephen Catchpole, Chief Executive

Nigel Howlett, Cambridge Housing Society

Cllr Valerie Leake, East Cambridgeshire District Council

Professor Ian Leslie, University of Cambridge

John Lewis, English Partnerships

Cllr Alan Melton, Fenland District Council

Cllr Ian Nimmo-Smith, Cambridge City Council

Cllr John Reynolds, Cambridgeshire County Council

Steve Sillery, Developers Representative

Ian Stewart, Partnership Company Secretary

Also in attendance:

John Barnes, Business Manager

Michael Bingham, GO-East

Gwyn Drake, Highways Agency

Tom Dutton, South Cambridgeshire PCT

Quentin Golder, Taylor Vinters Solicitors

Sally Hutchinson, Executive Assistant

Jemma Little, Business & Communications Manager

John Onslow, Director for Development

Peter Studdert, Director for Sustainable Communities

Apologies for Absence:

Margaret Allen, Housing Corporation

Dr Gareth Goodier, Addenbrooke's Hospital

Alex Plant, GO-East

Janice Steed, Cambridgeshire PCT

Alistair Wayne, Greater Cambridge Partnership

Dr Nicholas Miles, Oxford to Cambridge Arc - presenting Item No. 11

Item 1 – Welcome and Introduction

Actions

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chairman went on to inform the Board that Janice Steed, Director of Strategic Development would be the representative from the Cambridgeshire PCT at future Board meetings. The Chairman thanked Tom Dutton for all the support that he had given the Board of Cambridgeshire Horizons. The Chairman went on to welcome Dr Nicholas Miles, Executive Director of the Oxford to Cambridge Arc presenting Agenda Item No. 11.

Item 2 – Declaration of Interests

- 2.1 The Chairman asked for Declaration of Interests from those present. They were as follows:-
- Steve Sillery – Agenda Item No. 9, Progress on Major Developments and Infrastructure and Agenda Item No. 10, Response to Regional Spatial Strategy.

Item 3 – Minutes

- 3.1 Steve Sillery asked that following Items on the minutes be amended
- 8.7 (c) should read
.... the need to get the correct demographic balance.
- 12.3 (i) should read
.... so that unacceptable planning applications will be less likely to be formulated.
- 12.3 (p) should read
.... Steve Sillery – A unitary authority would help enormously on the Southern Fringe. Developers favour an urban development corporation.....
- 3.2 The minutes were then agreed as an accurate record of the meeting of Thursday, 14 December 2006.

Item 4 – Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

- 4.1 Item 8.5 - The Chairman asked Cllr Ian Bates to update the Board on the situation with Hinchingsbrooke Hospital.
- 4.2 Cllr Ian Bates informed the Board that Cambridgeshire PCT had instigated a 13 week consultation period on proposals and asked the Board to respond on the Growth Agenda and Health Service provision.

- 4.3 Board Members made the following comments:-
- (a) Tom Dutton – response to the consultation would be timely as very relevant to growth. Figures were being updated at this current time.
 - (b) Cllr Alan Melton – response should be linked with the growth agenda and health service provision in general not just Hinchingbrooke Hospital .
 - (c) Cllr Dr David Bard – response should stress that the health needs for new settlements need to be taken into account.
- 4.4 The Chairman asked the Board for delegated powers to produce a document in response to the consultation by Cambridgeshire PCT which would be circulated to Board Members for approval. This was agreed by the Board.
- 4.5 There were no further Matters Arising.

Chairman/Chief Executive

Item 5 – Update from the Audit and Risk Management Committee

- 5.1 The Chairman of the Audit and Risk Management Committee, John Bridge gave an oral update to the Board. He informed the Board that the Committee had agreed a way forward on a satisfactory Reporting Structure. The Year End Accounts are likely to show a small deficit of £60k due to the timing issue of income and costs. The Chairman of the Committee went on to say that for this reason each year the accounts would show either a small surplus or deficit.
- 5.2 The Chairman of the Committee said that a new budget would be brought to the Board meeting in June.

Item 6 – LDV Review Update

- 6.1 The Chief Executive presented the paper and asked the Board to note the progress that has been made.
- 6.2 The Chief Executive went on to say that he was still awaiting confirmation of the revenue budget for year 07/08 from the Government but was hopeful that this is imminent. Discussions were still in progress with the Government on the provision of a Statutory Committee (Section 29), once this had been agreed the 3-year budget would be confirmed. A further update would be given at the Board meeting in June.
- 6.3 Board Members asked questions and made the following comments:-

Chief Executive

- (a) Cllr David Bard – Members of South Cambridgeshire are in agreement with the new arrangements on the understanding that substantial additional funding is given by the Government.
- (b) Cllr Ian Nimmo-Smith – Will the delay to the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) have an impact on the funding by Government? The Chief Executive responded by saying that he did not think that this was the case, rather it was the need to ensure the Government are content with all the new structures including the Statutory Committee before the funding is agreed and announced.

Item 7 – Health and Safety Policy

- 7.1 The Chief Executive presented the paper and asked the Board to approve the policy.
- 7.2 The Board approved the Policy.

Item 8 – Quality of Life Programme Update

- 8.1 The Director for Sustainable Communities presented the paper and asked the Board to note the progress that has been made.
- 8.2 The Director went on to say that a request had been made for a senior representative of the Faith Groups to have a representative on the Cambridgeshire Horizons Board. The Chairman said that he would be reluctant to increase the size of the Board still further but thought it appropriate that a representative could be invited to attend the Northstowe Delivery Board and the Fringe Sites Delivery Board from time to time. The Board agreed to this.
- 8.3 Board Members asked questions and made the following comments:-
 - (a) Cllr Dr David Bard – thanked the Director for his support by Chairing the Stakeholder Workshop to be held on 29 March to discuss future options for Milton Country Park. Offer to help with funding has been made by South Cambridgeshire District Council, the Director also confirmed that discussions with other parties are also taking place - The Land Restoration fund have offered to help with the Business Plan free of charge and the Cambridge Preservation Society are contributing to discussions.
 - (b) Cllr Ian Nimmo-Smith – confirmed that the City Council had been approached to help find a way forward and want to be included in relevant discussions.
 - (c) Cllr Ian Nimmo-Smith – following the Statement by the Inspectors of the Northstowe Area Action Plan is our approach to Green Infrastructure robust enough?

Director for Sustainable Communities

- (d) Cllr Dr David Bard – asked for Cambridgeshire Horizons help in making a case for green infrastructure/strategic open space through S106 negotiations.
- (e) Steve Cox – need to continue to make a case to the Arts Council for further provision of arts facilities to support the housing growth in the region. EEDA aware of the bid to fund a feasibility study.
- (f) John Lewis – is the Design Guide owned by Cambridgeshire Horizons? The Director confirmed that it is joint funded by Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridgeshire Horizons but owned by the Cambridgeshire County Council. To be adopted by the District Councils as a technical document.
- (g) Nigel Howlett – will the Stakeholder Consultation for the Design Guide include Housing Associations, the Director confirmed that it would.

Item 9 – Progress on Major Developments and Infrastructure

- 9.1 The Director for Development presented the paper and asked the Board to note the progress in delivering the major developments and strategic infrastructure projects within the Cambridge Sub-region.
- 9.2 The Director outlined the findings from the Inspectors Interim Report of Northstowe and emphasised the importance of the Masterplan. Await the final report at the end of March.
- 9.3 The Director informed the Board that joint meetings had taken place between the Local Authority Partners and LDV's in relation to the dualling of the A428 between Caxton and St Neots. It was agreed at these meetings that Consultants should be commissioned to explore this piece of work and it is hoped that this work will be completed by the end of May.
- 9.4 The Chairman informed the Board that technically the last day for consultation on Planning Gain Supplement (PGS) was the 28 February 2007, although it is understood that informally this date has been extended. The Chairman went on to say that he had sent a joint letter from various Chairmen of Local Delivery Vehicles (LDV's) to Richard McCarthy at the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). In addition a report had been commissioned by Cambridgeshire Horizons from King Sturge in comparing PGS with S.106. This made clear that the revenue from S.106 would be greater than PGS. This report has also been sent to DCLG.

9.5 Board Members asked questions and made the following comments:-

- (a) Professor Ian Leslie – are you looking at Local Energy Sources? John Lewis confirmed this was the case for Northstowe. Steve Sillery also confirmed that Cambridge East is also looking at Local Energy Centres.
- (b) Steve Sillery – discussions taking place with EDF regarding reinforcement at Fulbourn. Could be 15 years time.
- (c) Cllr John Reynolds – Is there a risk to the timeline for Northstowe if the final report is delayed. It was confirmed that the Inspectors report is still due out at the end of March, so no affect on the timeline.
- (d) John Bridge – Informed the Board that the Chambers of Commerce have sent a national response to PGS.

Item 10 – Response to Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)

10.1 The Director for Development presented the paper and proposed a response to the RSS.

10.2 The Director asked the Board to approve a proposed consultation response to Government .

10.3 Board Members asked questions and made the following comments:-

- (a) Cllr Ian Nimmo-Smith – Response is good but needs to be stronger. Additional provisions are a serious threat to the work that we are doing in delivering greater sustainable communities. However there are some good things coming out of the RSS.
- (b) Steve Sillery – made 2 comments from the developers’ point of view. It is not part of Cambridgeshire Horizons’ objectives to respond to Government on the RSS, it is the Local Authorities job to do this and is outside the remit of Cambridgeshire Horizons. RSS is looking at a different period to 2021, longer term.
- (c) Cllr Valerie Leake – expressed that it is exactly the remit of Cambridgeshire Horizons to respond to the RSS after so much consultation with the public we must respond.
- (d) Cllr Dr David Bard – Essential that we comment.
- (e) Cllr John Reynolds – RSS amendments will cause problems. As a body we must make strong representation.

- (f) Cllr Ian Bates – feels that strong representation should be made regarding the link between the policy changes and how these will effect the development and infrastructure. Does Cambridgeshire Horizons need to comment on the proposed changes to the requirement of Affordable Housing, Waste and the definition of the Sub-region?
- (g) Cllr Alan Melton – all of Cambridge should be part of the Cambridge Sub-region as defined in the RSS. Wisbech, Whittlesey and March seem to be forgotten and are not supported.
- (h) Cllr John Reynolds – from the County Council’s perspective it was understood that Peterborough provided for parts of the district of Fenland. This needs to be confirmed and clarified with Peterborough.
- (i) Nigel Howlett – Draft letter should comment on implementation and not policy. Would not add to the points already made in the letter. Housing Sub-region needs to be reviewed.
- (j) Steve Cox – Need to get the correct balance between the Policy and Implementation issues when replying; comment generally on the progress of the RSS and bring in some positive aspects into the response.
- (k) Cllr Ian Nimmo-Smith – case to be a compact city.
- (l) Gwyn Drake – RSS not the end of the story, more detailed understanding required.
- (m) Professor Ian Leslie – What is the impact of the RSS in our implementation on current delivery.

10.4 The Chairman asked for the Board to provide suggested changes to the letter so that a response could be sent by the 9 March deadline.

Item 11 – Oxford 2 Cambridge (O2C) Arc

- 11.1 The Chairman welcomed Dr Nicholas Miles to give a presentation to the Board on the Oxford 2 Cambridge Arc initiative which is *“to create one of the most successful knowledge based economy in Europe with world leading aspirations”*.
- 11.2 The presentation was circulated to the Board.
- 11.3 Board Members made comments and asked questions on the initiative.
- 11.4 The Chairman asked Dr Miles to keep Cambridgeshire Horizons informed of progress of the O2C arc.

Item 12 – A14 Consultation

- 12.1 The Director for Development presented the paper and asked the Board to note the contents of the paper and endorse the response to the Highways Agency outlined on the front cover of the paper.
- 12.2 The Director agreed to forward a copy of the Highways Agency Consultation Brochure to any Board Members who had not seen the document. Copy to be sent to John Lewis, English Partnerships.
- 12.3 The Director also tabled a document titled '*A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton Proposals, Draft Joint Statement of Support*' produced by Cambridgeshire County Council and asked for comments from the Board on this paper.
- 12.4 Board Members asked questions and made the following comments:-
- (a) Cllr Ian Bates – In the paper *Draft Joint Statement of Support* under the heading Supplementary Measures take out the word '*adequate*' environmental measures. Under the heading Implementation in relation to the timetable take out the word '*possible*'.
 - (b) Professor Ian Leslie – Asked for clarification of the processes. The Director confirmed that in relation to the tables paper Cambridgeshire Horizons would be commenting on the paper to Cambridgeshire County Council incorporating comments from the Board. The second process would take the recommendations from the main report and be incorporated in a letter to the Highways Agency in relation to the main report.
 - (c) Gwyn Drake – Further discussions need to be had with Cambridgeshire County Council in relation to the Girton Interchange due to the complexity of this requirement and the increase in costs.
 - (d) Ian Stewart – Not the issue of complexity more of a cost issue.
 - (e) Professor Ian Leslie – asked if the Girton Interchange would be an all movements junction. Gwyn Drake confirmed that this is not proposed.
 - (f) Gwyn Drake spoke about the importance of taking forward the Interim Measures for Northstowe.

**Director for
Development**

Item 13 – Agenda Plan and Any Other Business

- 13.1 The scheduled Board meeting dates for 2007 were agreed.
- 13.2 The Chairman informed the Board that they would be receiving notification of Cambridgeshire Horizons' Annual Conference which is scheduled to be held on Friday, 8 June 2007 at Hinxton Hall. Yvette Cooper, Minister for Housing and Planning has been invited to speak.
- 13.3 The Chairman went on to inform the Board that Jemma Little, Business and Communications Manager would be leaving Cambridgeshire Horizons in early June. He thanked her for her hard work and contribution to Cambridgeshire Horizons and wished her well for the future. The Board endorsed the Chairman's comments.

Date of next meeting:-

Friday, 22 June 2007 10.30 am – 12.30 pm in Committee Room 1,
Cambridge City Council, Cambridge

Councillor John Reynolds, Chairman of the Remuneration Committee asked that only Board Members remain in the room due to the confidentiality of the next item for discussion and that the meeting be closed to the public.