

JOINT STRATEGIC GROWTH IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
Minutes from the Meeting held
Thursday 5th March 2009, 1400-1600
The Kreis Viersen Room, Shire Hall, Cambridge

COMMITTEE/ BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Committee:

Sir David Trippier	Cambridgeshire Horizons
Alex Plant	Cambridgeshire Horizons
John Onslow	Cambridgeshire Horizons
Cllr Dr David Bard	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Ray Manning	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Sebastian Kindersley	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Nichola Harrison	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Sian Reid	Cambridge City Council
Cllr Ian Nimmo-Smith	Cambridge City Council
Cllr Sir Peter Brown	Cambridgeshire County Council
Peter Studdert	Joint Planning Director

Attendees:

Graham Hughes	Cambridgeshire County Council
Simon Payne	Cambridge City Council
Brian Smith	Cambridgeshire County Council
Steve Hampson	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Geoff Bruce	Cambridgeshire Horizons
Laura Halstead	Cambridgeshire Horizons
Hazel Belchamber	Cambridgeshire County Council (Item 7)
Vicky Head	Cambridgeshire County Council (Item 7)
Sarah Wordingham	Go-East (Item 6)

Minutes:

Gill Barker	Cambridgeshire Horizons
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Apologies:

Cllr Matt Bradney	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Lewis Herbert	Cambridge City Council
Rob Hammond	Cambridge City Council

Actions

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

SDT welcomed Sarah Wordingham of Go-East who was presenting on Climate Change under Item 6.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th January 2009

The Minutes were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

Under Item 4 – SDT noted his correspondence with the Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP. Unfortunately she was not available as Horizons Conference keynote speaker. Lord (Chris) Smith of Finsbury, Chair of the EA has been invited to be the principle speaker.

4. Major Development Sites progress report

JO's report had been circulated. JO noted that further to 2.1.5, contact had been received from the Bell School seeking to clarify that they were keen to achieve implementable planning permission as soon as practicable. They can then decide whether or not to 'go to market'.

Discussion:

- Under 2.2 - North West Cambridge: Concerns were raised regarding the traffic situation. The various quadrants of the overall site were discussed noting a potential to bring forward up to 6,000 dwellings. With the various applications coming through singularly, there was a need for 'joined up' thinking. The Highways Authority was to be requested to confirm that study work was being carried out. It was noted that discussions were ongoing to identify the need regarding community infrastructure and this would come back to JSGIC;
- Under 2.4 – Northstowe: The meeting aspired to consider again whether Northstowe could become a full Eco-Town. It was noted that this aspiration would have to await the outcome of the current discussions between HCA and Gallagher regarding the site. It was also noted that the Northstowe Delivery Board, which brings together the developers, local authorities, and the wider public sector, already aspired to the site being 'an exemplar'. The NS Area Action Plan sets out the policy and any alteration to this would need to be ratified by local authority members;
- Concerns were raised on the impact of both the A14 and the Huntingdon Road regarding the above;
- CCC to circulate information currently available by the next meeting, with particular regard to TIF, and its assumptions that the A14 will be widened prior to the development coming forward;
- Various major infrastructure projects were coming up to completion, such as Addenbrookes Access Road, The Boulevard and Guided Busway. This is all 'good news' and should be well publicised as such;

JO
Agenda

GH

The Strategic Risk Register (SRR) was tabled to the meeting, and JO noted that this document was still work-in-progress. The new format set out Risks using the LAA targets as a framework. There was also more clarity in setting out and assessing risk, with overall score on the left. Column 8 onward showed actions required. Feedback on this w-i-p document was welcomed.

All

Specific Risks Highlighted:

Risk 15A – Red risk – Trunk Road – there was a need to do more than maintain pressure. It was noted that this issue had been the subject of a conference call with CCC and would be covered at Main Board;

MB Agenda

Discussion:

- Document extremely useful but needs to be received earlier;
- General agreement that this meeting required sight of this document prior to each meeting;
- Urgent need within Cambridge Southern fringe for the issues regarding Gypsy's and Travellers to be addressed ;

Agreed:

SRR to be circulated to members at least 1 week in advance of meeting to allow for comments on 'mitigations' to be debated by email prior to meeting date.

5. Local Asset Backed Vehicle

AP circulated a short hand-out giving basic principles of a LABV. It involved participating local authorities and other public funding streams forming a 'consortium' and being matched financially by private sector investment. This LABV would then invest in projects seeking a long term financial return. Examples of current LABVs, such as Croydon and Blueprint in the East Midlands were noted. Work was currently involving consultants Eversheds and King Sturge, with soft market testing underway on private sector investment interest.

This will go forward to Main Board on 25th March. Initial comments sought.

Discussion:

- Only a quick overview given, much more detail required;
- By Main Board meeting, a more detailed document, currently some 100 pages, would include reference to current LABVs in operation;
- General agreement that this was an interesting option to investigate, but some concerns over time it would take to set up.

6. Climate Change

Sarah Wordingham of Go-East presented.

Main Points:

- UK was the first country in the world to have legally binding targets – energy and adaptation: 80% by 2050;
- Three '5 year' budgets set;
- Local Area Agreements with specific targets – NI185: CO² reduction % and carbon reduction commitment within own local authority.

NI186 – per capita reduction in CO² for domestic, business and transport. NI188 – planning for adaptation through strong partnerships, LSP to involve Risk Assessment, and NI187 – deals with fuel poverty and insulation to set ratings;

- Key areas of local influence include local energy targets, site specific opportunities, feasibility studies, code for sustainable homes, adaptive infrastructure and transport plans;
- Ten-fold increase in renewable energies needed by 2020, with current consultations on Heat and Energy Strategy which requires near zero emissions from existing building by 2050 and the Community Energy Saving Programme.

Discussion:

- Globally, this requires all nations to ‘sign up’ at the forthcoming International Summit;
- But needs action at all levels, from international to local;
- A Sustainable Parishes website is available giving a host of informative tips;
- Concern that the carbon footprint for the district does not allow for ‘millstones’ such as the A14, whereas motorways are taken into account;
- Defra have agreed that the transport information does require refinement;
- Quality Charter for Growth is a very useful document in this context;
- Transportation responsible for bigger proportion of carbon over time, government needs to take this into account – 95% of money spent in the A14 corridor will be on road transport;
- DfT currently looking at strategy regarding carbon emissions from transportation;
- Important research currently going on within Universities, which Go-East should try to tap into;
- David Saunders of DECC had recently visited the region, and met with Horizons among other partners.

SDT thanked SW for a very informative presentation.

Agreed:

To invite SW back once government strategy on carbon emissions of transport was known.

Agenda

7. Revised Pupil Forecasts

Hazel Belchamber, CCC Acting Director of Planning & Development, Office of Children and Young People’s Services, had circulated a report.

Both she and Vicky Head, Research Manager of CCC, were present for discussion.

Main Point:

- Key issue was the multipliers, currently 20-30 at primary school level and 15-20 at secondary school level. Review of demography suggests should increase to 25-30 at primary and 18-25 at secondary;
- Main reason for increase is that Cambridge has much higher number of family homes and therefore more children (e.g. Cambourne);

- Currently operating at the 'top' of multiplier range agreed.

Discussion:

- People currently utilising housing in different ways than anticipated;
- Robust figures required for planning purposes which are future proof;
- Local authorities have specific policies on housing mixes. Does this cause problems?;
- Profiles of communities change over time, i.e. Cambourne currently a successful settlement for young families, but in current climate those families will remain in situ rather than move on which means in 10 years profile of numbers of 'children' will have changed;
- Developer contribution by way of S106, in current climate, cannot be relied on. Has CCC taken this into account?;
- It was noted that DCSF are looking into this and a meeting with CCC is being arranged;
- Important to realise that any application currently within the planning system, and therefore S106 commitments, cannot suddenly be expected to review the multiplier ranges for school provision, for example CSF;
- Time to revisit policy on single storey schools?;
- Cllr Brown noted that CCC needed to be pragmatic regarding school design and support options other than single storey where that was sensible;
- The figures have implications for the entire Cambridge sub-region;
- It was noted CCC currently looking at the provision within the City and have not yet investigated beyond, but this will obviously have a ripple effect.

Agreed:

CCC to bring this issue back to JSGIC when they have the information regarding City provision available.

Agenda

SDT thanked both Hazel Belchamber and Vicky Head for attending.

8. Forward Agenda Items

A forward planner was circulated. SDT asked that suggestions for future items on the agendas be emailed to GDB.

All

9. Any other business

There was none.

10. Date of next Meeting

Wednesday 13th May, 2009 at 10.00.
Venue: The Swansley Room, SCDC, Cambourne.