

**Growth Partnership Board
Thursday 8th January 2009
Room 128, Shire Hall, Castle Hill, Cambridge
1000-1200 hours**

BOARD MEMBERS:

Alex Plant	Cambridgeshire Horizons
John Onslow	Cambridgeshire Horizons
Peter Studdert	Director of Joint Planning
Simon Payne	Cambridge City Council
Liz Bisset	Cambridge City Council
Mike Hosking	Cambridgeshire County Council
Graham Hughes	Cambridgeshire County Council
Steve Hampson	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Jo Mills	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Malcolm Sharp	Huntingdonshire District Council
Steve Plant	Huntingdonshire District Council
David Archer	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Giles Hughes	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Gary Garford	Fenland District Council
Chris Hodson	Fenland District Council
Geoff Bruce	Cambridgeshire Horizons

Apologies:

Simon Payne	Cambridge City Council
Malcolm Sharp	Huntingdonshire District Council
Liz Bisset	Cambridge City Council

Also in attendance / substitutions:

Laura Halstead	Cambridgeshire Horizons
Tim Wetherfield	Cambridge City Council
Steve Ingram	Huntingdonshire District Council

Minutes:

Gill Barker	Cambridgeshire Horizons
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Actions

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received as above.

2. Introduction

AP noted that the formation of this Board was required due to the extended area now covered by Horizons. He noted that the LAA were using Horizons as its partner with regard to the Managing Growth Agenda.

3. Consideration of Terms of Reference

A draft Terms of reference had been circulated for discussion.

Discussion points:

- ToR to note the Cambridgeshire Together Board and the LAA targets?
- Should it also make reference to the Joint Strategic Growth Implementation Committee (JSGIC) and Senior Officer Board (SOB)?
- Under Bullet Point 2 – to state sustainable communities;
- Should this Board shape the Agenda for Horizons Main Board;
- Should it influence strategic policy development;
- Should meetings be quarterly, in line with Horizons Main Board;

Agreed:

All the above – except regarding influencing of strategic policy. It was agreed in this case that the ToR should state 'to advise Horizons Main Board on the delivery implications of "emerging policy options"'.JO

4. Programme and Key Issues

Summary Report to Date

JO outlined the three attachments:

- i) copy of Programme and key Issues report to last Main Board meeting in December 2008;
- ii) Strategic Risk Register (SRR) – focuses at present on City and South Cambs;
- iii) Level '0' Programme – all areas represented but does focus on City and South Cambs

and sought views on whether this was the level of detail required, and the scope of the SRR.

GB then gave a verbal overview of the SRR in its current format and explained its development. It would continue to develop, currently looking to add the outcomes of the Quality Charter. GB sought views and suggestions for this document.

Discussion:

- The SRR needs to feed into the individual local authorities own risk management system and ensure appropriate actions are taken;
- SRR format is complex but each individual authority link back is critical;
- SRR was reviewed, through SOB (City/County/SCDC) on a monthly basis. It has now been taken to a higher level and therefore needs to be less frequent but more rigorously reviewed;
- East Cambs, Fenland and Hunts will need to progress the SRR with members prior to each GPB meeting. GB currently organises this with City and SCDC. Will extend to cover East Cambs, Fenland and Hunts.
- Summary of SRR to come to GPB Meetings.

GB

GB then gave an overview of iii) the Level '0' Programme advising this had now been updated to November 2008.

Discussion:

- It was generally agreed this programme was very useful;
- A table of dates to be considered as a different format;
- Some areas may require refinement – due dates, issues out of area control?
- Keep it simple;
- If in the public domain, need to ensure it is consistent with other information.

5. Proposed HGF Capital Programme

JO's paper had been circulated. He noted that any/all amendments to it needed to be complete by the morning of 9th January. This paper would then be forwarded to members for their meeting on 12th.

JO then outlined the following:

Main Points:

- Horizons Main Board had agreed the principles as laid out in Appendix 1 of this document;
- A clearer picture of priorities was now emerging based on experience;
- Funding of £29m over the next two years - £1.29m of which was revenue;
- £27.7m of capital + any underspend from this year available;
- Possibility of other funding through Eco Quarters – up to £12m nationally, requiring bids;
- Three key criteria identified: 1) Actual delivery of new homes; 2) delivery of infrastructure essential for

development and 3) contribution of sustainable future development;

- Members had noted concern that the finishing of sites already started should be priority, i.e. Orchard Park and Cambourne;
- Quality of Life Projects to be top-sliced at 10%;
- A Flexible Fund for Major Developments of £13.5m;
- Market Towns fund of £5m – focusing on delivery;
- Northstowe – timetable now slipped back – allocation of £3m. Potential for HCA to be more involved;
- Cambridge Gateway CIF project funds of £1.5m;
- ICE project funds of £1.5m;
- Members will be asked to comment on these proposals and seek for their officers to:
 - a) Identify a priority list of schemes for progressing existing major sites which have experienced significant slowdown in delivery
 - b) Prioritise Green Infrastructure projects and develop a programme of projects that will fit within the £3m top slice proposed
 - c) Invite expressions of interest from developers of major sites for funding from a Flexible Fund, based on loan/equity/land share type arrangements and asking developers to set out what the return to the public sector would be for any investment made.
 - d) Undertake further prioritisation / phasing of market town schemes
 - e) Work up programme for schemes associated with Northstowe
 - f) Develop a programme for review of HGF revenue for studies and other on-capital work. The results of this will then be fed into Horizons Main Board meeting on 25th March.

Discussion:

- Capital programme put together because of a) current difficult climate and b) need to target funds on actual delivery;
- Concern regarding funds for Market Towns – current delivery figures show funding should be at 30%, equalling £8.3m;
- Report should show POD bid was for £82m with only £29m being granted – less than one third;
- Requirement to be seen NOT to reward bad management;
- Eligibility for the Flexible Fund pot needs to be clear;
- Need for a commitment to funding over the long term – can sometimes be the last piece of a jigsaw to enable;

- For the Flexible pot to consider a 4-year cycle, setting up a reserve list should the monies not be used during first two years;
- Orchard Park should be at the top of the list as it is 'oven-ready' for delivery and needs very little funds;
- Flexible fund good idea in principle but untried – should have a fall-back policy;
- Deliverability takes average of 20-22 months when no complications (i.e. external funds, CPO's etc). Only schemes without these complications to be considered?;
- Funding comes through in two tranches – April 2009, April 2010 – need to be ready by March 2009 latest;
- Rural areas have delivered 60% of housing in the last 7 years;
- Requirement to deliver as stated in POD over next two years to ensure further funding for years 3 and 4;
- Sites with land ownership and planning in place to be concentrated on;
- Flexibility needs to be the key word across all 'pots';
- BSF could be cut back considerably and this have effect overall;
- Try to influence developers to utilise local labour;
- Concern that 4.10 – Item 1) appears to have no funding;
- Members will need to be advised of recommendations for actual spend from the Flexible Fund during the course of the two-years;
- Process to be set up to cover management of Flexible Fund;
- Current processes for fund management to be sent out to all as a reminder and a benchmark;
- Explain what Green Infrastructure actually covers;
- Public accountability of decisions? – through Horizons Main Board;

Agreed:

Report to be amended to show:

- Governance of funds;
- Strengthen regarding deliverability, affordability and sustainability;
- Show original POD bid amount against that actually awarded;
- Current year underspend earmarked for completion of existing sites;
- HCA to be key player – report to reflect this;
- Updated report to be circulated Friday morning.

JO

6. Cambridgeshire Prospectus

AP reported on a meeting with Terry Fuller (TF) – Regional Director of the newly formed HCA. TF had been impressed with Cambridgeshire, particularly in areas of joint working such as Planning, Horizons etc and along with the resilient local economy and housing market this bode well for the future. The area was therefore very attractive for regeneration projects, able to converse on the ‘single conversation’ level they required.

Discussion had turned to the idea of the Cambridgeshire Prospectus. JO is currently working this document up. The GPB will have input into this document and it is hoped it will become a prototype nationally. It will also give Cambridgeshire impetus into HCA funds.

Discussion points:

Should this be reflected in the GPB Terms of reference – i.e. lobbying of organisations such as HCA, EEDA etc?

Agreed:

To add to ToR – “Advise Horizons Main Board to enable lobbying of other government agencies”.

AP

7. Cambridgeshire LAA – Managing Growth Update

JO reported on the CPB relationship with the LAA.

Main Points:

- Horizons Main Board had been identified as a member of the Cambridgeshire Together Board for Managing Growth for the Cambridgeshire area. This Board would need to advise the Horizons Main Board, with Senior Officer Board (SOB) doing similarly through JSGIC;
- Strong links with Delivery Boards for each site, i.e. Northstowe (NSDB); Cambridge Southern Fringe (CSFDB)etc. This is important as it brings together developers/key stakeholders and local authorities and highlights Cambridgeshire’s ‘joined up’ thinking;
- The Sub-Regional Housing Board already links with the Managing Growth Partnership and therefore into Horizons Main Board. All these links need to be tidied up;
- LAA have identified 35 targets from the 190 indicated by government. There are at least two which are relevant to Managing Growth, 154 and 155 and Horizons actively monitor these through Sue Beecroft of Horizons who is also on Housing Board;
- These Housing targets, 154 and 155, will not be met over the years involved but we need to evidence as to why;
- The LAA emphasises linkages and focuses us on Growth;

- The LAA is also about to be assessed, which will include Horizons;
- Cambridgeshire Together have asked AP to report on the Managing Growth Theme. This report will be circulated in draft form for comment to the next meeting and onto the Main Board.

AP

8. Meeting Dates for 2009

A forward planner had been circulated. The March meeting was agreed. The June meeting was to be set for 9th. All others as per planner.

9. Any other Business

There was none.

10. Date of next meeting

Confirmed as 6th March, 2009 – 1400 at Cambridge Housing Society Conference Room, Vision Park Histon.