

Growth Partnership Board Meeting
3rd March 2010
Kreis Viersen Room, Shire Hall, Cambridge
1000 - 1230

BOARD MEMBERS:

Name

Alex Plant
John Onslow
Simon Payne
Alan Carter (sub for LB)
Graham Hughes
Jo Mills
Malcolm Sharp
Steve Plant
David Archer
Chris Collinson (sub for GG)

Authority

Cambridgeshire Horizons
Cambridgeshire Horizons
Cambridge City Council
Cambridge City Council
Cambridgeshire County Council
South Cambridgeshire District Council
Huntingdonshire District Council
Huntingdonshire District Council
East Cambridgeshire District Council
Fenland District Council

APOLOGIES:

Brian Smith
Peter Studdert
Liz Bisset
Mike Hosking
Steve Hampson
Giles Hughes

Cambridgeshire County Council
Director of Joint Planning
Cambridge City Council
Cambridgeshire County Council
South Cambridgeshire District Council
East Cambridgeshire District Council

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Name

Sheryl French
Laura Halstead
Geoff Bruce
Ian Walker
Giles Clifford

Cambridgeshire Horizons
Cambridgeshire Horizons
Cambridgeshire Horizons
Element Energy
Manches

Minutes

Gill Barker

Cambridgeshire Horizons

Actions

1. Welcome and Apologies

AP welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the apologies as above.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 18th November, 2009 and matters arising.

The Minutes were agreed. Matters Arising:

Under Item 3 – Quality Panel – JO noted over 50 applicants. Officer group have sifted down to 18 for selection by the Appointment Panel which meets on Monday 8th. This gives a very strong field from which to choose a Panel to concentrate on the Quality Charter 4 ‘C’s’. No Hunts DC representative available for this meeting. MS to check.

Under Item 5 – HGF Capital – on this Agenda but to note Main Board had ratified proposals since notification of the £6m cut to funding by Government;

Also of note, LDV review by HCA now suspended until after the election; Main Board will receive first draft of LDV review response in March; Resource issues to be discussed in wider context than SOB, with generic issues discussed at GPB.

MS

3. Programme and Key Issues – including SRR Exception Report

Under 1.4 – Good news! Clay Farm appeal dismissed. The Inspector had recommended 30% Affordable Housing in Phase 1 and 40% overall. Minster’s decision had noted 40% throughout! Horizons has maintained dialogue with CPL throughout the appeal, seeking a solution to bring this project forward utilising Flexible Fund.

Exception report working well, from this meeting goes through to Audit & Risk prior to Main Board for endorsement. SRR then fixed for 3 months.

Discussion:

- TIF – Government announcement to abandon TIF, after 2-3 years of work. To be replaced with the Urban Challenge Fund, less money available to wider focus of bids. Will affect Chesterton Station and impact on Cambridge East. CCC forecast the LTP block of £4-5m from £9-10 per year. Spread over the 5 district areas this will mean no substantial investment. Focus will, therefore, be on maintenance of existing rather than new build.
- Chesterton Station still an RFA option? Noted this was still possible, although Go-East had confirmed a 40-50% cut in funding available. Chesterton Station well placed in that package.
- Noted that Cambridge North West was being led by the planning process at the moment;
- Three franchises being considered at the moment which could secure some monies;
- Possible need to re-awaken dialogue with Network Rail as a ‘Plan B’.
- Guided Busway – Noted there was still no opening date. Cabinet will receive latest report on 9th March regarding issues with contractors.

GB

Agreed:

SRR – Long Term Finance to go to Red Risk.

4. Cambridgeshire Together Report

SBee's report had been circulated. JO noted an upturn in completions and new starts. There was also good news with agreement from Go-East to revised targets for 10/11 of 3,011. Thanks were due to all officers who had worked with SBee to achieve this.

NI159 – Land Availability – New target also set, although Go-East require a more robust response. CPO's should look at this.

Under 3.3 – Non-Key indicators: decision on where best to report on these to enable monitoring.

Agreed:

Transport indicators to be dealt with at JTPM on 16th March. AC to action.

AC

5. Northstowe Update

AP noted that negotiations between the HCA and Gallaghers were continuing with finalisation expected before the end of the financial year.

Work has been continuing on the Eco Town bids with two separate letters to CLG having been sent.

SCDC now appointed an Executive Member for Northstowe – Cllr Tim Wotherspoon.

HCA extremely positive about Northstowe at the moment, with meeting to review draft of local investment plan later today.

6. HGF

a) Capital Budget:

JO's report had been circulated. He noted that following the Government decision to cut HGF Capital by £6m for 2010/11, Appendix A set out the revised programme, which had been seen by Main Board in December 2009. JO then reminded regarding the 10% overprofile and that it was agreed that this overprofile would be carried over all projects. Spending was currently behind profile, with several projects unlikely to complete by March 2011. Funding Agreements all note expected completion date and project officers will need to be robust.

AP noted that the effects of the £6m government cut had been dealt with in an exemplary and corporate fashion by all involved, enabling the revised programme to be actioned within a day of the Government announcement. Partnership working at its best.

b) Revenue Budget:

SF's report had been circulated, showing a revised projection of £786K committed to projects, some with requests for additional funds, and £1.742m still to allocate. A request had been sent out to all local authorities seeking potential new projects, the results of which were tabled to this meeting for consideration, and had resulted in £1m. Each project had been scored against tabled criteria as shown in the revised paper.

Discussion:

Noted that Northstowe Community Centre monies – at line 3, should show £188.9K still required to be spent;

Five current projects had noted additional monies required totalling £113.7K, along with two projects which will make savings of £208.9K. These were discussed;

Hunts DC may require additional funding for the two Tariff pilot studies taking place, which would include legal support;

List of 'new' projects discussed. Query regarding criteria used for scoring, and scoring mechanism itself;

Future protocols for agreement to spend were discussed.

Agreed:

The five projects requiring additional funding were agreed;
Hunts DC Tariff projects funding to be noted for future, possibly from core budget;

New projects to be re-evaluated using clearer set of criteria and return to GPB with recommendations. In the meantime, cash available to form a 'rainy day' pot to be managed by GPB.

HGF Revenue budget for 2010/11 to be put before Audit & Risk should show all current projects, including additional funding only. Remainder shown as unallocated;

Spending protocols agreed as follows: £20k and under – can be agreed by Chair of GPB alone if urgent; all other requests by consultation with whole membership.

7. Carbon Offset Mechanism

SF introduced Ian Walker of Element Energy, the consultants carrying out this study alongside Manches and Terence O'Rourke.

Ian Walker explained the basis for a carbon offset mechanism, the future dates which triggered higher expectations, 2016, 2020 and 2050, and identified the long term vision – and short term priorities, and how these might fit into the political and legal framework.

There were three key parts: the legal framework, the local policy level and the business case for a fund.

For the first – legal framework – there were various different collection frameworks, including fund holding vehicles and corporate SPV's.

He then explained the timescales for implementation and the requirement to develop a local policy framework to support. Local authorities would need to harmonise their LDF's.

Next steps would require indication of key people with whom to consult.

SF noted that a strategic steer was required from GPB, comments to be forwarded over the next week, after each GPB member had consulted with own local authority.

Discussion:

Current collection basis, S.106, would not work well for this. Tariff would work better with advantage of contributions coming from smaller sites. Could potentially struggle pre 2016 as developers do not have to comply; Time required to see what scheme would be preferable but could be time not available;

Is it possible to create different standards for different developments and occupants? AP noted that the area is looking at CIL countywide. It is too early to say how governance would operate. Developers Forum could be utilised to gain developers views, plus CLG, HCA and sub-regional Housing Board;

Agreed:

To go forward to Main Board as a draft paper. Each authority officer to canvass internally for comments prior.

MB Agenda

8. Cost Benefit Analysis – Delivering Zero Carbon

SF's paper had been circulated. She noted that this will ultimately go to Main Board in September 2010. It now required GPB to agree the aims and objectives of the project.

Agreed:

The aims and objectives were agreed.

9. **Single Conversation**

a) Drafting a Cambridgeshire Local Investment Plan:

AP's paper had been circulated. He explained the HCA process – with Horizons having been asked to co-ordinate this work in conjunction with the Housing Board. Northstowe will be a separate process. The HCA had originally wanted to include Peterborough in a joint process, but that had now been abandoned.

The Cambridgeshire Prospectus and the Integrated Development Plan have been agreed by all. The attached first draft of a Cambridgeshire Local Investment Plan (LIP) is for comment and will then go on to Main Board.

Discussion:

General agreement to the draft as presented. Noted that it will be an incremental process with the HCA. Concern that planning colleagues should also review;

Noted that there were senior planning officers on GPB. Requirement to check the alignment between the Housing Board and Horizons Main Board. Noted that the HCA requirement for this LIP was a big issue which could well determine future funding.

Document aims to be all encompassing and requires incorporation for homelessness.

b) CIL/Tariff Update:

Paper noted.

10. **Quality Charter**

a) Training Prospectus:

SF's paper had been circulated updating GPB on the development on an on-line Quality Charter prospectus for Training for 2010/11.

Main Points:

- Identified the key training themes resultant from the needs assessment carried out with officers and members of local authorities, housing associations and NHS colleagues;
- Clearly linked their relationship to the 4 'C's of the Quality Charter;
- Possibility to target training sessions at specific audiences, i.e. officers and/or members;
- Optional accreditation;
- Sought views on training themes and prospectus.

Discussion:

Noted that a member training programme would entirely compliment the current provision;

May benefit from being called 'briefings'?

Could incorporate something about the policy process and highlight where members can and should make interventions;

Wide range of themes available – need to have specialist staff available for each.

Agreed:

SF thanked GPB members for their views, noting that the programme will be available on line and use third parties for delivery.

11. **Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy Review**

SF's report had been circulated. She noted that the public consultation is drawing to a close. Key issues were coming forward. Concerns expressed based on how it is written. The Project Steering Group will work through the Strategy and make improvements.

Discussion:

AP noted a query as to how this will now be taken forward? This should have been to Main Board earlier, so now requires to be very clear as to how this will proceed.

Noted that this was a very complex document shared by all local authorities. It could form the evidence to support the GI Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The responses will now be collated and feedback to collate a second draft which will be used to collect views from partners. A final draft will then come back to GPB prior to Main Board and the Environmental Sustainability Partnership, in June 2010.

Agreed:

Between now and September, each local authority to organise their own procedures for endorsement, to enable this to be put before Main Board to approval in September.

All

12. Review Draft Agenda for Main Board

Draft agenda had been circulated.

To be added: LDV Review (NB: Separate EEDA LDV Review also)

Item 13 – Draft Protocol for the Commissioning and Governance of new Projects – noted that this was an important paper, reflecting the concerns with the process for the GI Review.

13. Forward Planner – Meeting dates

This was noted.

14. Any other Business

DA – HGF Revenue budget – new project proposals, to come before June Main Board meeting.

The meeting closed at 1250.

The next scheduled meeting is set for :
9th June 2010, Cambridge FAHQ, Histon Road, Cambridge.