

Growth Partnership Board Meeting
1st March 2011
Cambs FA, Bridge Road, Histon, Cambs

Growth Partnership Board Members Present:

Name

John Williamson (JW)
Simon Payne (SP)
Liz Bisset (LB)
Graham Hughes (GrH)
Jo Mills (JoM)
Giles Hughes (GiH)
Peter Studdert (PS)
Laura Halstead (LH)

Authority

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

Additional Attendee(s)/Substitutes:

Geoff Bruce (GB)
Anna Keyes (AK)

Cambridgeshire Horizons
Cambridgeshire Horizons

Minutes:

Gill Barker (GDB)

Cambridgeshire Horizons

Apologies:

Alex Plant (AP)
Steve Hampson (SH)
Steve Plant (StP)
Malcolm Sharp (MS)
John Onslow (JO)
Gary Garford (GG)

Cambridgeshire Horizons
South Cambridgeshire District Council
Huntingdonshire District Council
Huntingdonshire District Council
Cambridgeshire County Council
Fenland District Council

Actions

1. Welcome and Apologies

JW welcomed all attending and reported the apologies noted above.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th November 2010 and matters arising.

The Minutes were agreed.

Matters arising:

Under Item 2: P'Boro City Trust survey results had been requested. GDB to chase.

Action points under Items 4, 5 and 6 were all covered through the Agenda;

Under Item 7: CSR Growth Implications – paper had been to JSGIC and was also at this meeting on its way to Main Board.

GDB

3. Major Sites Programme and Key Issues (inc SRR)

JW's report had been circulated. Main Points:

- Cambridge Southern fringe (CSF) and Cambridge North West (CNW) were most active sites;
- Challenging aspect now will be resourcing;
- CLG announcement of £5m pot available nationally as transitional funding for LDV's into LEP's over 3 years. Specific criteria for bidding and use. Up to £200k available on taper system over the 3 years to self financing. Both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to bid separately. Draft bid currently being worked up by Horizons for circulation for comment;
- GI Strategy Review Public Consultation commences Thursday 6th March for one month;
- Noted that under 3.5 – Trumpington Meadows (CSF), 2nd bullet should read 'Pre Application Presentation' considered by JDCC in February.

Discussion:

- Further funding 'pot' available for bids for LEP's, targeted for training for Board Members, called Capacity funding. Bid currently being worked up by LEP Implementation Team;
- Chief Planning Officer's meeting shortly will discuss requirement for resourcing of Strategic Planning;
- Horizons legacy planning, deciding which work should continue and where it could sit, plus how it will be financed, post Horizons, all needs to be considered;
- Important to keep momentum on growth issues;
- Deadline for transitional funding bids is 6th April, similar date for LEP capacity funds;
- With size and function within the LEP still to be decided, important to attract funding to strengthen ability to develop and deliver growth;
- Query whether Quality of Life issues may become unaffordable in current climate. Noted that QoL was integral to all new communities built in Cambridgeshire and la's should ensure that Horizons' legacy goes forward;
- Under 4 – Clay Farm Community Centre – Noted that this may be moving toward a Trust model. A Project Group had now been set up, reviewing workstreams such as housing, chief facilities, viability etc and was liaising with the Community Forum. Noted that the Community Centre, triggered by housing numbers, would not now be built until 2014 at the earliest. Mike ?? at CCC to provide some wording on time frame arrangements re S.106.

GH

Agreed:

- A small group of Senior Officers to meet to look specifically at Horizons Legacy planning as soon as possible;
- Bid for transitional funding for LDV's into LEP's to be made by deadline, giving broad outline for spend, as per report. Detail can follow;
- Bid for LEP Capacity funds also to be made, and above small officer group to review how two might link together;
- Report/letter to be circulated to enable member briefing;
- All the above to obtain member sign off through Horizons Main Board in March, or by email if required.

JW

JW

JW

Agenda

3. a) A14 update

GH's paper had been circulated. Main Points:

- Two separate workstreams: 1) Development issue due to Highways Agency (HA) 'nil detriment' policy, particularly for CNW and Northstowe. Process now underway with funding from Dept for Transport (DfT) and Horizons; 2) Larger DfT study as a result of letter of reply from Mike Penning MP, Minister for Transport who was very supportive. AP and GH currently working with DfT to bring together a Steering Group and agree a Terms of Reference.
- Both studies very much linked and will converge in the end, with the first to take 6 months to completion and the second to feed into the CSR in 2020.

Discussion:

Urgent need for agreement from HA to defer 'nil detriment' in relation to the NIAB site. Impact of site on A14 miniscule if not positive; Noted that Huntingdon area able to get development through planning.

4. HGF Capital and Revenue Budgets:

JW's report had been circulated. Main points:

a)Capital budget: Of £23m budget, £19m now spent with remainder committed.

b)Revenue budget: Of £1.7m budget, £1.2m spent

At Main Board in March 2010 agreement had been given for up to 3 month overrun beyond March 2011 on projects. There were a small number of projects that would require more time.

Discussion:

The projects that may overrun beyond the 3 month time limit were discussed. Query as to whether Huntingdon Town Centre project had overcome its CPO problems. Noted, yes.

Agreed:

To recommend to Board that the small number of projects noted in the paper as having potential timing overruns to be allowed to complete. Noted at this time that completion was estimated by September 2011. Beyond this time the projects would be managed down by CCC;

5. Horizons Core Budget

LH gave update on the April to September 2011 budget and noted that Audit & Risk Management will review this Budget for Main Board. Main points:

Current year would provide a small surplus, added to reserves;

All possible cut backs being made, budget includes all staff redundancy costs of £205K giving total of £775K. This leaves a potential £370K. Any staff leaving sooner negates redundancy.

Discussion:

- JW noted that the HCA were requesting early claim of costs to March 2011 and Horizons were obliging;
- Noted that there was a potential end September scenario of £370K from Core, £250K from HGF Revenue and up to £200K from the LDV Transitional funding;
- Noted that the small group of Senior Officers reviewing Horizons Legacy should investigate the use of the potential LDV Transitional fund of up to £200K.

6. Housing

a) Draft outturn for 3rd Quarter:

SBee's paper had been circulated. Key point at 3.2 showing 396 homes completed October to December 2010. This is encouraging.

Discussion:

Noted that Section 6 is currently funded through Horizons, three surveys annually at a cost of £2K each. JSGIC had debated this issue and decided that all local authorities should review alternative ways of collating this data.

Agreed:

All local authorities to review ways of collating housing completion figures on a quarterly basis.

b) Housing issues:

SBee's paper had been circulated. Noted that it had also been to JSGIC. It contained detail of the government's reforms on Affordable Rents and Housing Benefit changes and the implications. Noted that workshops were being organised by the HCA on the Affordable Rents product.

Discussion:

LB, as Chair of Housing Board, noted involvement in some of this work. There was enormous concern being expressed regarding the combined effects of these reforms. Policy was currently driving a mix of tenure which only accommodated some of the need. Current government guidelines seem to say there was no funding for S106 sites. A very complex issue which has not yet been fully understood;

Noted that CLG was now considering cutting Affordable Housing from CIL sites. This will complicate the issues even further. Further discussion would be required.

All

7. Cambridgeshire Local Investment Plan (CLIP)

AK's paper had been circulated. She noted that CCC Cabinet had now endorsed this, subject to **cb analysis (?)** work. Additional material will be added as an appendix prior to forwarding to Main Board. All other local authorities have now endorsed the work. Main Board should therefore be able to endorse this document.

Discussion:

Query whether comments made by individual authorities have been actioned within the document? AK noted that they had, and a 'log' had been kept of what alterations were made and when;

Request for the 'log' to be circulated;

Noted that Main Board had signed off the Housing elements of the document for each of the 5 District authorities at a previous meeting, to enable the HCA to utilise it for future funding potential;

Noted that the HCA was in a much reduced position since the new government and query what weight this document would now carry? Agreed that the document itself may now need to narrow its focus;

AK

Noted that CCC officers had an internal request from members for detailed analysis of parts of this document prior to Full Council deliberation and that the possibility of achieving this level of detail within the timescale was small.

Agreed:

To recommend the endorsement of this document at the next Main Board meeting, with the caveat that the HCA may no longer have funding to progress all of this and that emphasis should, therefore, be on housing.

8. CIL Pilot update

AK's paper had been circulated. Main points:

New government was to continue CIL with minor changes to the original details;

Hunts and Ely CIL Pilot did not get green light in first round. However, work was progressing on the charging schedules and a bid to the 2nd round would be made. It is hoped adoption will be toward the end of the year.

Discussion:

Noted that in two tier areas, such as Cambridgeshire, making decisions on charging levels will be a challenge;

Expected that Tariffs in place for 2013/14 so efforts need to be kept up.

9. CRIF and COF update

SF's paper had been circulated, noting that both projects were proceeding well. Additional external funding had been secured from the Climate Change Skills fund of £80K for the CRIF and £30K for the COF;

A CRIF Steering Group had now met twice with good representation from all bodies. The work needs to be completed by September 2011 and will be used as an evidence base Cambridgeshire wide;

Updated detail on the COF showed 3 defined workstreams. This work was important to the CIL;

SF and AP are meeting with CLG on these subjects later this month.

10. Horizons Work programme

a) Project Overview Plan:

JW's paper had been circulated. He noted that all projects were moving forward and the Plan showed projected end dates.

b) April – September 2011:

JW's paper had been circulated. He reported that Main Board, in December, had communicated its requirement for a mini business plan, work programme, to cover the transitional period to September 2011. Founder members had identified potentially three main work stream areas as priority, with the remainder winding down. This paper sets out the timescales and whether the work will be complete or require adoption, and will help to form the Legacy for Horizons, both physical and functional.

Discussion:

- Overviews reviewed and noted;
- Suggestion that detail should be discussed within a small(er) senior officer group prior to Board;
- This smaller group to modify/agree as required to enable paper to be recommended for approval to Board;
- Concern registered that timescales were too tight for March Board meeting. Suggestion for recommendation for workstreams to continue with detail to return in June.

Agreed:

- A meeting of Senior Officers (small group) to be organised for as soon

as possible to facilitate a recommendation on workstreams to continue and placement of same, effectively Horizons' legacy;

- This meeting recommends to Main Board that the workstreams outlined in this paper continue, with an update for decision to come to the June 2011 Main Board meeting.

JW

11. Review draft Agenda for Main Board

Items agreed as per current draft. Items 9 and 10 to be transposed.

GDB

12. Forward Planner - 2011

Noted that a Main Board meeting was anticipated for both June and September 2011. A GPB meeting would therefore be required.

A provisional date for the next meeting of GPB was being held as 1st June.

Discussion:

Future of Growth Partnership Board. Noted that the focus should be on a 'Task & Finish Group' to organise the succession for Horizons' legacy.

Agreed:

Future Agenda to reflect the above.

GDB

13. Any other Business

There was none.

14. Date of Next Meeting:

1st June 2011, 1000 at Cambs FA, Bridge Road, Histon, Cambs.