

**Cambridgeshire Horizons Board
Minutes from the Meeting held on
Tuesday 30th June 2009
Beech Room, South Fenland Business Centre, Chatteris**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir David Trippier (Chair) (SDT)
Cllr Dr David Bard (DB)
Cllr Ian Bates (IB)
Cllr Tony Orgee (TO)

Cllr Fred Brown (FB)
Cllr Sian Reid (SR)
Cllr Kit Owen (KO)

John Bridge (JB)
John Dix (RS)
Andrew Fisher (AF)
Nigel Howlett (NH)
Alex Plant (AP)
Steve Sillery (SS)
Chris Banks

Cambridgeshire Horizons
South Cambridgeshire District Council
Huntingdonshire District Council
Cambridgeshire County Council – substitute for
Cllr Jill Tuck
East Cambridgeshire District Council
Cambridge City Council
Fenland District Council – substitute for Cllr Alan
Melton
Cambridgeshire Chamber of Commerce
Greater Cambridge Partnership
EEDA – substitute for Steve Cox
Housing Association Representative
Cambridgeshire Horizons
Developers' Representative
Cambridgeshire PCT

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

John Williamson (JW)
Mark Lloyd (ML)
Sue Beecroft (SBee)
Laura Halstead (LH)
John Onslow (JO)
Gwyn Drake
Gill Barker (Minutes) (GDB)
Anna Keyes
Tim Wetherfield

Go-East
Company Secretary
Cambridgeshire Horizons
Cambridgeshire Horizons
Cambridgeshire Horizons
Highways Agency
Cambridgeshire Horizons
Cambridgeshire Horizons
Cambridge City Council

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Jill Tuck - substituted
Dr Gareth Goodier
Cllr Alan Melton - substituted
Steve Cox – substituted
Professor Ian Leslie
Simon Bishop
John O'Mahoney

Cambridgeshire County Council
Addenbrookes Hospital
Fenland District Council
EEDA
University of Cambridge
HCA
HCA

1. Welcome and Introductions

SDT welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies were noted as above.

SDT drew attention to the following:

Item 6 – Growth Partnership Board minutes were draft. All comments to either SDT or AP;

Item 7 - The Company Secretary had nothing to report at this time;

Item 8 – Julia Barrett from CCC would be reporting;

Item 10 – There had been a new Appendix A to the report circulated;

Item 12 - Draft Press Release was tabled for the meeting.

SDT then thanked all those who attended the Cambridgeshire Horizons Annual Conference on 17th June.

2. Declarations of Interest

SS declared an interest as an employee of the Marshall Group under Items 10, 12 and 17. He would leave the room as required.

Discussion followed, and it was agreed that for Items 10 and 12, SS should remain but for Item 17 he should withdraw.

SR declared a non-prejudicial interest under Item 11 – EEIP.

3. Minutes of 25th March, 2009 and Matters Arising

The minutes were agreed.

There were no matters arising which were not already on the Agenda.

4. Minutes of the Audit & Risk Management Committee of 19th June 2009

The Minutes were noted.

JB drew attention to the following points:

- Draft accounts for year end March 2009 showed a £72k deficit, to be met from reserves;
- New external auditors would attend next Audit & Risk meeting to present any queries/findings;
- ARM Committee members discussed changes to economic and political climate and were recommending an 'Away Day' for Founder Members to review Horizons objectives and report back to Main Board. Arrangements for this extra meeting, subject to Board approval, would be put in place;
- ARM Committee required 2 new members due to recent resignations. Recommendations were Cllr Ian Bates and Cllr Fred Brown.

GDB

Agreed:

Organisation of an Away Day for Founder Members;

Two new ARM Committee members, as recommended by ARM Committee.

ML then drew attention to Item 6, Horizons Reserves and Exit Policy, and thanked in particular JB and AP, for assisting with bringing this issue to a sensible conclusion.

5. Minutes from the Joint Strategic Growth Implementation Committee Meeting of 19th June, 2009

SDT noted, under Item 5 (Proposal for a Quality Design Panel), Action point regarding arranging a meeting with Leaders of the six authorities to further discuss. Due to the election it had proved impossible to organise quickly. It was now set for 7th June at 1400, to enable JSGIC to be updated.;

It was further noted that the proposal for a Quality Design Panel had come before JSGIC on its way to GPB and Board;

A query whether the Terms of Reference for JSGIC were to be reviewed due to the change in geographical area coverage of Horizons. SDT noted this was on the Agenda for the next JSGIC meeting. However, JSGIC was designed to consider the sub-region within which the major proposed developments stood;

South Cambs and the City Council were knitted together on Planning issues, through Section 29 Committee for joint plan-making and joint development control committees (Section 101).

6. Draft Minutes from the Growth Partnership Board meeting of 9th June 2009

Draft Minutes were noted.

Under Item 6 – HGF Revenue Budget: It was queried where the appeal costs would be borne, should Clay Farm issues be unresolved. AP noted that the Joint Planning Budget was specifically ringfenced for joint planning issues and managed by JSGIC, through SOB. There had not yet been discussion on this issue. JPB was awarded through a separate budget specifically to support joint planning, not HGF. The proposed public enquiry relating to the appeal is scheduled for Sept/Oct. It was noted therefore, that agreement on this issue may require contact with all 6 local authorities prior to Main Board.

AP

It was further noted there was a likely underspend in the JPB which could be utilised for the appeal, should the need arise.

Under Item 10 - Growth Agenda – Implications of Political Change: SDT noted he had meetings within the next two days with both the Liberal Democrat Shadow Housing Minister, Sarah Teather MP, and Caroline Spelman MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and would report on these to the next meeting.

SDT

7. Company Secretary's Report

Nothing to report at this time.

8. Draft Floods and Water Management Bill

Julia Barrett, Director of Environment & Regulation for Cambs CC, and Sass Willis of CCC were attending to report.

Main Points:

- Draft Bill follows in wake of the significant flooding of 2007;
- Ninety two recommendations all accepted by government;
- Regulatory procedure now going through the House, currently out for consultation until 24th July, and is available on the web;
- DEFRA currently responsible, changes involving Flood Risk

- Management partnerships plus local strategies;
- Concerns re cost of funding changes, with no additional resources available from government;
 - Environment Agency now the partner charged with national strategies, coastal erosion and reservoirs;
 - It is envisaged that county and unitary authorities will develop as centres of engineering and flood risk expertise;
 - There will be a duty on district authorities to act in a manner that is consistent with the local strategy;
 - Scrutiny of the strategy would be carried out by the relevant scrutiny committee of the lead local authority;
 - Work is in hand to establish the Strategic Flood Partnership which will respond to the Environmental Sustainability Partnership of Cambridgeshire Together.

Discussion:

- An extremely positive approach bringing partnership working to the fore;
- Meetings with the EA already taking place which will support this work. Cambridgeshire being pro-active, not complacent;
- Cambridge Southern fringe suffering already with SUD's responsibility being split between CCC Highways and City;
- Concern that river boundaries do not follow, necessarily, county boundaries and that partnership working will need to extend cross-county;
- Water sports interests need to be borne in mind. JB confirmed that other named groups are involved already, and that this sphere can be widened.

SDT thanked JB and SW for their input to the meeting.

9. LAA – Managing Growth

JO noted that this Main Board is charged with overseeing the thematic Managing Growth partnership, with particular responsibility for NI 154 and NI 155 – Housing targets, reporting to the Cambridgeshire Together Board out of which came the following three main points:

- a) agreement to the set up of a Cambridgeshire Public Service Board (all major public sector CEOs) across Cambridgeshire;
- b) Future work on the Counting/Calling Cambridgeshire initiative;
- c) Noting the Joint Accountability Committee and Cambridgeshire Together Board to maintain quality in all new developments.

Horizons has been asked to provide input to the LAA end of year report which is in the process of being finalised

Cambridgeshire is included in the second round pilot Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), the first time on a county wide basis;

Each key LAA target requires an Action Plan, and these are currently being updated.

DB noted that under 2.1.2 – regarding Counting/Calling Cambridgeshire Initiative, this is being contributed to by Horizons, through Sue Beecroft, Housing Co-ordinator.

Discussion:

- Under 2.1.1 – it was noted that CEOs county wide will be working together, including Alex Plant, through the

Cambridgeshire Public Service Board, enabling more effective cohesion across the county;

- Suggestion was made by Cllr Fred Brown to call this 'Making Cambridgeshire Count';
- Noted that Improvement East has grant funded this work up to £300K;
- Noted that the CAA will shortly be renamed 'Our Place'.
- Concern that targets for Affordable Housing (AH) could not be met, particularly post next 5 years when grant funding ends;
- Government initiatives to try to stimulate the AH market, including the HCA 'Kickstart' Programme on which decisions are expected shortly;
- HGF Flexible Fund, with and without a Kickstart combination, is being explored, using the funding on a loan/equity basis;
- Noted that the LAA key targets do not list Transport as a separate specific issue. Transport is tacitly assumed to be included across all the measures, and measured through the Transport Group. CCC provide the information for this. Query whether Main Board needed to see this level of detail?

Agreed:

Invitation to Founder Members Away Day to review objectives to be extended to NH;

Detail reported to Board to include Transport information to be supplied by CCC transport colleagues.

SDT/GDB

JO/CCC

10. Investment Package Update

AP's report had been circulated. Both the IDP and VRT issues had been updated in light of comments since the previous meeting, and there was also an Appendix of comments from all local authorities on current versions;

Under 3.29 a proposed timetable for progressing both these pieces of work required Board's comments;

He also noted that together colleagues at County, City and Horizons were making an initial bid for funding for Cambridge Station through a tax incremental finance pilot. If this is successful, it will form a helpful new addition to the toolkit for the future;

Furthermore, he had attended an evening reception at No. 10 Downing Street and had the opportunity to push this, and the importance of Northstowe, with the PM and Housing Minister. Decisions were due in the Autumn;

Discussion:

VRT:

- General agreement that Tariff was a good way forward;
- Noted that soft consultation with stakeholders on Tariff was proceeding;
- A log of current issues was included in the document and was helpful;
- Must ensure that Tariff does not deter small sites in both rural and city locations;
- A lack of specificity, administratively the scheme will need to be able to show exactly what VRT is available or has been spent in any one year;

IDP:

- Document required condensing;
- Coverage of all infrastructure including the larger A14 issues;
- Intention to use Hunts area a possible pilot scheme with a 'task and finish' group, culminating in a draft SPD for Hunts being consulted on over the autumn;
- Continuation of engagement with colleagues in other authorities;
- Concerns regarding restrictions on public spending to come, the 80/20 split and issues log were noted and explained;
- Climate change and Energy packages within the IDP – how should this be dealt with? Should VRT proceed then this would be an opportunity to tackle these;
- Noted that EEDA could continue to work with Cambridgeshire partners to ingress the IDP. Cambridgeshire's IDP is a more ambitious document than others as it needs to support the Variable Rate Tariff. The HCA will want to utilise the IDP as a starting point for their 'Single Conversation'

General:

- Transparency needs to be maintained, as does consistency between documents;
- Concern over potential Tax Incremental Funding (TIF) for a site (Cambridge Station) which may have to be broken up. Noted that likelihood of sufficient development to ensure viability of TIF projects even if site was broken up. Public transport interchange enhancement essential for improvement in the area.
- Noted that initial bid for TIF was not yet government approved, so difficult to know when any future bids might be made;
- Noted that any future increase in Ely rail traffic would require the Ely Crossroads to be upgraded. Agreed that Horizons would find out where, within Network Rail's improvements plans, this was scheduled.

AP/GB

Agreed:

Work to continue with both Variable Rate Tariff and Integrated Development Plan, bearing in mind the comments made above.

SDT thanked AP and his team for the ongoing commitment.

11. East of England Implementation Plan

JO noted the papers circulated and explained that a countywide response was being drafted on this Plan in respect of the current strategies. CCC were responsible for leading on this. Enclosed to members was a draft of a response and a single response was very important. Consultation closed on 3rd July, so comments from Board were essential today and should be fed through quickly.

Discussion:

- It was noted that EEDA proposed a full consultation report which would be available in September, with the final document in Nov/December;
- Concern that the draft Plan had nothing of substance regarding the current economic climate. This was noted under f) in the response;

- Noted that Cambridge City Council were organising their own response to the EEIP.

Agreed:

Item f) in the draft response to be toughened up regarding the current economic climate.

12. Cambridge East Relocation Progress Report

SDT reported that Marshalls were currently dealing directly with Defence Estates since it was known that Mildenhall as a potential relocation site was not possible.

The report circulated showed the progress made so far and the timetable for work still to be undertaken.

AP drew attention to paragraph 1.3 and re-iterated how critical the timescales were, due to the RSS review deadlines of September this year.

Draft Heads of Terms were coming forward. The timetable showed the process required to reach a decision by September. A press release was to go out today regarding this issue, which required Board's comments.

Discussion:

- Good news to hear that Defence Estates were being active in trying to find resolution to this issue;
- The tone of the press release could be more confident and also lacks anything specific;
- It was noted that due to commercial sensitivities, any possible locations being investigated could not be mentioned;
- Each local authority will need to take a decision in principle regarding the relocation within their own processes.

Agreed:

Press release amended to be more confident, also to reflect the retention of high quality jobs in the area.

13. Progress Report

SDT noted a tabled paper from GD of Highways Authority regarding the A14 Huntingdon – Cambridge.

GD noted that the Major Scheme (Widening between Ellington and Fen Ditton) was proceeding with difficulties which were causing a little slippage in time scales.

It was noted that the Environmental Statement and Orders would be published in the Autumn.

Update on Housing targets:

SBee's report had been circulated. She drew attention to the following:

Main Points:

- Homes delivered during year - 2,954 with an average over the last 8 years of 2,600 per year;
- Large sites showed completions of 1,740 during the year, with smaller sites contributing 1,214;
- Housing starts figures showing effects of worsened economic climate;
- Cambridgeshire Together targets for affordable housing under

NI 155 of 820 look to be surpassed , with early data showing completions of between 875 and 939;

- Across Cambridgeshire, plans for homes in LDF's represent 130% of plans set out in the RSS over the five-year period (2009-2014).

Discussion:

- Query whether traveller's sites and pitches were included. Confirmed G&T pitches are counted under NI154 if privately funded and under NI155 if publically funded;
- Query whether targets for the next two years of 2,871 can be met. It was noted that there were signs of improvement on some sites, such as Orchard Park and Cambourne, with developers back on site, so targets are still a challenge but potentially achievable;
- A small increase in homelessness was also noted;
- SBee then drew attention to a SHMA Workshop being held on 7th July should any member wish to attend.

Major developments and infrastructure:

JO's report had been circulated previously.

Main Points:

- Horizons was now managing the Housing Growth Fund Capital programme for 2009/11 of £29m and in particular the Flexible Fund, £13.5m of total;
- Funding Agreements are in the process of being agreed, with Green Infrastructure project to leading the way;
- Announced at Horizons Conference, Trumpington Meadows should now proceed and the legal issues are currently being worked through;
- Market Towns – The College of West Anglia funding withdrawal by government has repercussions across the area, not only on education but on housing and jobs – with similar issues for Hunts Regional College;
- Wisbech Waterfront project – currently looking at using HGF in the short term to enable this project.

Discussion:

- Under 2.5.3 and 2.5.4 concern was noted regarding the ability of RSL's to provide Extra Care schemes due to lack of funding. The whole issue of Extra Care needs reviewing to assess requirements against availability. Current definitions to not correlate to numerical data;
- Under 2.1.3 – It was noted that the Addenbrookes Access Road had issues between parties which both ML and AP helped to resolve. Thanks were recorded to them both;
- Discussion took place regarding the College of West Anglia funding loss and it was agreed that this was a disaster for the region as a whole. There will be a knock on effect for other colleges in the region, such as Kings Lynn. All local children will suffer. It was also noted that Huntingdon College missed out on this funding. In fact there was only one College in East of England that achieved its bid. It was mooted that a cross authority campaign should be set up to bring the issues to government. Wisbech and Fenland were already

campaigning.

Agreed:

Any campaign needs to include Norfolk, Suffolk, Bedfordshire, Essex, Herts and Peterborough around the FE outcomes to achieve any impact regarding these cuts.

14. Forward Agenda Plan

The Forward Agenda had been circulated.

JB noted that Audit and Risk meetings calendar would now need to be checked and re-circulated to ensure new member attendance.

GDB

15. Any other Business

SDT reported that AP had been approached to consider applying for a potential Non-Executive Director of the Cambridgeshire NHS Trust. This involve two days per month. Should the position be offered, any remuneration would be paid to Horizons. SDT sought Board approval for AP to pursue this post. It was noted that this would improve links between Horizons and the NHS.

Agreed:

The meeting agreed to AP pursuing this position.

AP noted that at the Conference he had announced that the HCA had said yes to a pilot scheme on the single conversation with Cambridgeshire through Horizons, they planned to follow up with a meeting with Terry Fuller, the Regional Director, accompanied by Liz Bissett, Chair of the Sub-Regional Housing Board. AF's comments on the IDP shows that work regarding the Prospectus, IDP and other cross partnership working is the way forward.

KO noted that at an event involving the HCA he had attended recently, the HCA had maintained that there had to be a commitment to Gypsy and Traveller sites, without which funding could be diminished.

IB then moved that the remainder of the meeting be held in Closed Session due to the commercially sensitive information to be discussed.

SS left the meeting at this point.

This was seconded by FB and agreed by the meeting.

14. Date of the next meeting

24th September 2009 at 10 a.m., at The Swansley Room, SCDC, Cambourne.

The meeting closed at 12.40.