

# Minutes of the Cambridge sub-Regional Housing Board (CRHB) held on 4 June 2010

## 1. Introduction and Apologies

### Present

Stephen Hills (SH)	South Cambridgeshire District Council (Chair)
Jane Hollingworth (JH)	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Sarah Gove (SG)	Fenland District Council
Steve Plant (SP)	Huntingdonshire District Council
Steve Clark (SC)	Forest Heath District Council
Julia Vernon	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Heather Woods	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Trevor Baker (TB)	Cambridgeshire County Council
Sue Beecroft (SB)	Cambridgeshire Horizons
Paul Kitson (PK)	Homes & Communities Agency
Nigel Howlett (NH)	RSL representative
Sarah Ireland (DK)	RSL representative
David Greening (DG)	Cambridge City Council
Bev Williams (BW)	Jimmy's Night Shelter (Item 2 only)
Rob Jakeman (RJ)	Cambridgeshire County Council
Kathy Brown (KJB)	Cambridge City Council (taking minutes)

### Apologies

Alan Carter (AC)	Cambridge City Council (Chair)
Dan Horn (DH)	Fenland District Council
John Williamson (JW)	Cambridgeshire Horizons
Frank Mastrandrea (FM)	Huntingdonshire District Council
Carole Herries (CH)	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Tom Purser (TP)	Go-East

**Action**

## 2. Spotlight on Homelessness

### Jane Hollingworth – Homelessness Sub-Group

*Presentation circulated at the meeting*

The Homelessness Sub-Group have a number of actions they wish to address, however, it was agreed that they should focus on key actions/what is achievable and prepare a priority list to report back to CRHB.

- Supported Lodgings – JH is hopeful that there will be a move forward on this next year.
- Suggested RSLs should have own homelessness strategy prepared in consultation with LAs. This will be taken to the RSL Management Forum for discussion – JH to link with Management Forum via NH.
- SP reported that it used to be easier to work with schools PSA (Public Service agreement) agenda – but now relying on other people, nothing seems to get done.
- Cambridge City is doing work on links to employment – from the homelessness grant a job description is being drawn up in partnership with the Cambridge Housing Society, to fund a pilot post for one year.
- As a sub-region we haven't had a chance to develop some of the housing option initiatives as we are not a trailblazer.
- New JSNA website will be in place from September.

**JH**

**TB**

### Assessment Centre - David Greening

- Major project to develop Jimmy's Night Shelter

- **Web address to be inserted.**

### **3. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

- Minutes agreed.
- DH circulated a paper for discussion re Marketing Supporting People outcomes. Use case studies to demonstrate the impact of how much SP money and other pots of money can save money, eg preventative work with police.
- Suggest taking it back to DIG to take forward – Hunts, Cambridge Housing Society and Horizons agreed to provide help and case studies.

**SP/NH/  
SB**

### **4. Progress on the County's Affordable Housing Scrutiny Report – Rob Jakeman**

- Three County Councillors and three District Councillors are on the Review Group (Cllr Nigel Bell, Chair)
- There are two opposing views within the review – (1) that progress has been made in meeting housing targets and the economic climate is a blip; (2) that the system is broken, and we are nowhere near meeting housing need.
- The general feeling is that the public sector needs to take a greater role in moving things forward. Can the public sector provide loans, gaining small equity share in housing developments?
- The review is looking at the value or sale of County owned land; rural exception sites; staircasing in relation to social housing (how much people own of the property) and whether LAs could assist in mortgage provision.
- It is positive to hear the County are interested in addressing the need of affordable housing provision; and as a key landowner are in a position to unlock land.
- RJ has the task is to steer and share their recommendations before any conclusions and decisions are made.
- JH is meeting with the panel shortly and will enlighten on rural exception sites particularly.
- As a Scrutiny Committee they can only make recommendations, it is likely it will go to the County Cabinet and probably the Horizons Board.
- RJ was invited to attend the next meeting where we will have a wider discussion on the Single Conversation and Housing Delivery.

### **5. Sub-regional Action Plan**

Defer to August, to discuss alongside the Sub-Regional Housing Strategy.

### **6. Work Plan**

- Swap round the HEDG and CSHG spotlights. JH sends apologies for the August meeting.
- CRHB future agenda item - to review sub-groups' top priorities. May need to review roles of groups, too many to keep track of. What are CRHB trying to get out of these groups?

### **7. Consultation / Publications**

*Consultation register circulated*

SB circulated an additional note on Area Based Grant announcements.

### **8.1 Cambridgeshire Horizons**

- LIP paper (CLIP) circulated for comment. Two timetables running – hope to get initial outline to 1 July Horizons Board, but more complete version

aiming for September Board meeting, then to consult Councillors between September and December 2010. Letter will go to CExs setting out the process and asking for districts' input.

- SB will copy to CRHB and GPB to ensure the most appropriate people get to see it asap.
- This document is very raw and needs a lot of input from CRHB members. All comments welcome

## 8.2 Homes and Communities Agency

Main news is cut to national funding streams, in 4 main areas

- Nationally, £230m out of current year.
- Kickstart - reserve bids have been deleted, other bids being prioritised. Locally affects Clay Farm and project in St Ives. Awaiting news on which kickstart schemes will survive.
- Gypsy and Travellers – £30m saving – basically scrapped. Schemes in Fenland and Peterborough affected.
- HCA have been asked to find 10% efficiency savings in addition to existing 3% efficiency savings
- Horizons have been asked to look at HGF funded projects and report back to HCA on how much is committed.

## 8.3 Go-East

No representative present.

## 8.4 Single Conversation

- SH/SB/AC attended a Single Conversation meeting and one main action was to get the LIP completed.
- The HCA outlined the process and once all the documents are in place nationally, they will be validated by comparing Eastern Region, East Midlands and West Midlands LIPs.
- SC will send round the Kings Lynn LIP, which the HCA have already signed off.

**SC**

## 9 Any Other Business

- SC asked if anyone had the formula for calculating commuted sums accepted in lieu of affordable housing delivered.
- Initial outturn for homes built in last year = 2100 (draft outcome, likely to change after rationalisation of survey). Higher than target we set ourselves, but lower than we have seen for a while.
- CSHG recommended a housing person should attend the older persons JSNA meetings though JH due to go on 8 June, TB to ensure housing is represented
- CIH conference – a view was expressed that shared ownership had no place. What is the CIH policy on this?

**All**

**JH/TB**

## 10 Future meetings

The next meeting will be held at 10am, on 2 July 2010 at the Boathouse, Wisbech.

### Future dates

6 August – Sanctuary Hereward

5 November - ECDC

3 September – ECDC

3 December – Sanctuary Hereward

1 October – Sanctuary Hereward