

Minutes of the Cambridge sub-Regional Housing Board (CRHB) held on 9 April 2010

1. Introduction and Apologies

Present

Alan Carter (AC)	Cambridge City Council (Chair)
Stephen Hills (SH)	South Cambridgeshire District Council (Vice Chair)
Dan Horn (DH)	Fenland District Council
Steve Clark (SC)	Forest Heath District Council
Steve Plant (SP)	Huntingdonshire District Council
Frank Mastrandrea (FM)	Huntingdonshire District Council
Trevor Baker (TB)	Cambridgeshire County Council
Paul Kitson (PK)	Homes & Communities Agency
Tom Purser (TP)	Go-East
Kathy Brown (KJB)	Cambridge City Council (taking minutes)

Apologies

Jane Hollingworth (JH)	East Cambridgeshire District Council
David Keeling (DK)	RSL representative
Sue Beecroft (SB)	Cambridgeshire Horizons
John Williamson (JW)	Cambridgeshire Horizons
Nigel Howlett (NH)	RSL representative
Carole Herries (CH)	St Edmundsbury Borough Council

Action

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

- The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

Matters Arising

- SB will send round a link for feedback from the Enablers training event. **SB**
- SB to report back on some other key PIs when reporting Growth PIs. **SB**

Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment

- Mike Davey agreed that TB should take instruction from CRHB on what research should be carried out. The Planning Officer Group have set out what they would like to be included. Approximate costs are:
 - Desk top exercise of updating previous survey (approx £10k)
 - Desk top exercise and interviewing the Travelling Show Peoples Guild (approx £10k)
 - Small focus groups - possibly using MRUK - (approx £6k).
- There is £20k available from the SHMA budget. TB to liaise with Peterborough – if they are prepared to contribute towards the cost, then all of the above work could probably be done, however, if they don't, some elements of the survey may have to be reduced.
- Steve Plant is the lead contact on CRHB for this for TB to liaise with.

3. Cambridgeshire Police Shirevalty Trust – Liz Damazer, CPS Trust

- The Trust is based at Alconbury Airfield and is effectively a “police charity”, which is run independently and self-funded.
- Bobby Scheme – helping the elderly. The lower age of people they offer to help varies to limit or increase referrals, depending on the amount of funding received (Home Office, Community Cashback, etc). The Trust visits victims of burglary and also proactively assists elderly people to feel safer in their own home by fitting security equipment and talking to them about what they could do. Proactively 100,000 homes across the County have been made more secure. This service is offered free to victims and

asks for £20 towards the cost of proactive visits.

- Driving Centre – a driving course has been created on the airfield. It teaches less-abled (mentally, socially etc) young people. They are taught in the classroom which helps with discipline, basic mechanics and are taught to drive when they reach the age of 16. Groups of young people are offered two hours a week for a year after which time they will have learnt social as well as driving skills. Transport, timetable and staffing are the main problems in getting the young people to the airfield. Driving is also used as an incentive to encourage regular attendance eg at day release.
- Victims of burglaries are visited and proactive referrals come from a range of community talks, police days, leaflet drops where there have been a series of burglaries, etc. Visits are carried out where there is a hot-spot area, those at most risk are visited first.
- As opposed to working individually on making homes safer for the elderly, districts could consider putting some money into the CPS trust and ask them to carry out the work. Efficiencies could be made regarding purchasing equipment.
- AC to speak to Nigel Howlett about LD presenting at an RSL forum.

All

AC

4. Spotlight Review of CRHB

In SB's absence, this item has been deferred and still to do.

SB

- Wiring diagram
- How we link to the 5 LAA themes
- Confirm good practice on environmental sustainability on CRHB website
- Sub-regional strategy outcomes – linked to CAA action plan

5. Feedback from RHAG

- In SB's absence there was no RHAG feedback.

Letter to Shelter

- SB had drafted a response to Shelter's affordable housing league table (this was not circulated). AC asked the Board for their thoughts on the publication.
- It was generally seen as an election campaign, raising the profile of the need for more affordable housing, however, the figures could be *shot to pieces*.
- It was agreed that no further action would be taken in response to the publication. However, SB would invite Shelter to the June CRHB where the focus is homelessness, and it would also be an opportunity to discuss the league table.

SB

6. Work Plan

- May - Community Well-Being – KJB to confirm Liz Robin attendance.
- June - Homelessness – invite providers of Places of Change – DH to invite rep from Ferry project and AC to invite rep from Jimmy's.
- July – Housing Delivery - SH to invite Jo Mills who is leading on the Self-Build Initiative on Orchard Park. CLT – opportunity for general update.
- DH is working on targeting an action plan in Clarkson ward, linked to HMOs. DH is on leave in August so it was agreed to switch round the August and September focus topics. Consideration of the sub-regional strategy can still be achieved in August which can sometimes be light on attendance due to the holiday period.
- October – Assets – include a Planning focus – invite John Williamson – joint strategies, CILs – general catch-up.
- TB has sent Mike Davey the workplan to attend as and when he feels

KJB

DH

AC

SH

DH

SB/JW

necessary, but specifically in relation to the LAA Stronger and Safer Communities Board.

- Carbon Challenge update – sometime in the Autumn – PK

PK

7. Consultation / Publications

Paper circulated

Council housing: A real future (prospectus) – by 6 July 2010

City and SCDC have been asked to take on over £200m of debt each. SH is extremely disappointed with how SCDC has come out of this; they are no worse off but no further forward. AC also disappointed re the City but there are potentially some other benefits, eg the Council can run their own programme, eg for regeneration, infill. SCDC has the potential to be the highest debt per property in the Country.

Statutory Guidance for Local Duties on Child Poverty

Council's have a duty to cooperate. TB to ask the Housing Strategy Group to proactively make a link. Working groups are already being set up in Suffolk.

TB

Housing Design and Sustainability Standards Consultation

Enablers will focus on this at their next meeting and talk to the RSLs to consider a response.

FM

New Policy document for Planning Obligations: Consultation

If CIL comes in it will have an impact on affordable housing. This will be a County-wide response with Anna Keyes from Horizons leading.

CRHB asked if SB could create a diagram of all the statutory housing duties authorities have to do (changes in the last 18 months). CLG already has a document setting this out which SB can build on -

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/strategichousingrole>.

AC to speak to SB.

AC/SB

8.1 Cambridgeshire Horizons

- Disappointing announcement by Marshalls - implications for housing supply to be worked through with the authorities over coming weeks and months.
- Work started on NIAB frontage.
- Glebe Farm/Clay Farm appeal decision which, importantly, reinforced the authorities' policy position in requiring 40% affordable housing.

8.2 Homes and Communities Agency

- Because of purdah guidance the HCA are unable to give specific details of end of year stats but overall are delighted with the regions performance
- No future investment decisions will be made, including social housing grants, unless they have already been approved, until after 6 May. Although there is one exception which is around Mortgage Rescue.
- A large proportion of grant is already committed for the 2008-11 programme. Areas short on numbers will be identified, consultation will be limited.
- The Gypsy and Traveller fund closes 30 April.

8.3 Go-East

- DFG and private sector allocations have been sent through.
- Homelessness grant for 2011/12 is going into the area based grant. There is uncertainty around how the money will be drawn down. There will be a method of allocation but need to ensure homelessness spec prevention data is reflective of the full range of services – specific unsuccessful preventions, unmanaged moves – these are important in

proving need and for allocating grant next year. This can be discussed further at the next two CRHBs.

- Private rented sector – more focus on addressing demand and increasing housing supply.
- Linked to HRA reform – enhancing role in LAs enabling housing growth, new build and private rented land initiative.
- CIL – how authorities can borrow against future CIL revenues.
- Total capital – national report – pilots of what it might deliver for a number of streams, but specifically housing.
- Housing and Planning Delivery Grant (HPDG) – 2009/10 allocations were officially announced on 16 March. Mechanisms for next year announced. TP to send links round. LAs will lose their HPDG if they cannot demonstrate a 5 year land supply.
- Peterborough will be updating their SHMA over the next few months.
- Funding announced to support LAs to update/produce Extra Care Strategies (circa £20k per authority).
- Centre of Cities – city focused economic think-tank “arrested development”. Looking at the cities that have the potential to grow economically.

TP

8.4 Single Conversation

- The Action Plan went to the GPB, and was then presented to the Horizons Board. Draft document approved with comments. SB is working with Jo Emmerton on a template to capture district investment requirements. SB will be sending this out.
- Anna Keyes anticipates that letters will go to Chief Executives, with a view to the final investment plan being endorsed by September 2010.
- The investment plan and detailed programmes have a 5 year timeframe.

SB

9. Any Other Business

- CRHB approved the renewal of the Hometrack Subscription at a cost £16k.
- SHMA – all updated chapters are on the Horizons website labelled 2009 if they were updated last year. Old versions are still available listed under “archive”. SB will send a briefing note to partners to let them know it has been updated.
- Affordable Housing Needs figures – now have final methodology; it has been changed due to the economic situation and old figures were based on the old housing needs survey, now based more around Home-Link figures. This is now with LAs.
- Place Survey – run again this year, same methodology as last year.

SB

SB

10. Future meetings

The next meeting will be held at 10am, on Friday 7 May 2010 at Sanctuary Hereward, Ely.

2010 Meetings

Usually the first Friday of the month, starting at 10am – to finish with lunch by 1.00pm.

4 June - ECDC

1 October – Sanctuary Hereward

2 July – Boathouse Wisbech

5 November - ECDC

6 August – Sanctuary Hereward

3 December – Sanctuary Hereward

3 September - ECDC