

Minutes of the Cambridge sub-Regional Housing Board (CRHB) held on 1 April 2011

1. Introduction and Apologies

Present

Alan Carter (AC)	Cambridge City Council (Chair)
Stephen Hills (SH)	South Cambridgeshire District Council (Vice Chair)
Jane Hollingworth (JH)	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Dan Horn (DH)	Fenland District Council
Frank Mastrandrea (FM)	Huntingdonshire District Council
Trish Reed (TR)	Huntingdonshire District Council
Carole Herries (CH)	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Sue Beecroft (SB)	Cambridgeshire Horizons
Trevor Baker (TB)	Cambridgeshire County Council
Sophie Robinson (SH)	Homes & Communities Agency
Nigel Howlett (NH)	RSL representative
David Keeling (DK)	RSL representative
Philip Sullivan (PS)	RSL representative
Andy Glaves (AG)	South Cambs District Council (Items 1,2, 5,6,7)
Kathy Brown (KJB)	Cambridge City Council (taking minutes)

Apologies

Martin Palmer (MP)	Forest Heath District Council
Steve Plant (SP)	Huntingdonshire District Council
Paul Kitson (PK)	Homes & Communities Agency

Action

2. Draft minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Draft Minutes circulated

- DH has attended the first Urgent Care Network meeting looking at moving money from acute care to preventative services. Could we do more around hard to let voids in sheltered schemes for those being discharged from hospital? Enablers are leading a brainstorming session with Cathy Mitchell will be held to look at projects and then any business case needs to be passed through the UCN. DH will feedback to CRHB after this meeting.
- SB to ensure that the point around residential care units not being required is relayed to the planners. **SB**
- SH attended the final STOG, however the group will continue to lead on localism under a different name; next meeting will be held in 3 months time.
- Planning Policy Statement – all to send individual responses to SB to pull together a joint response. **AII/SB**
- Homebuy Agent for England – FM to circulate via e-mail, for discussion in May. **FM**
- DFG – SB to check if any consultation took place and to e-mail round. AC/SH are looking at a shared HIA, and to pick up with SP. **SB
AC/SH/SP**

3. Gypsy and Traveller Spotlight – presentation by Trevor Baker

Papers circulated – methodology and timetable

Presentation to be circulated following meeting.

KJB

4. JSNA Steering Group Membership – “prevention in the Working Age

Population”

- This JSNA is key to GPs and is being updated this year. There is no housing representation on this JSNA at the moment, and it was questioned if there should be and who would be most relevant.
- SB to request a draft ToR for the group for an officer of the Strategic Housing Group to pick up.

SB

5. Home-Link Response to Change – Impact on Allocations Policy – Stephen Hills/Andy Glaves

CLG letter on Social Housing Mobility circulated

Housing Policy Changes and Allocations paper circulated

- SH summarised the changes.
- Three streams of Affordable Rents – new, potential conversions of existing programmes, conversions of properties in LAs where there are LSVTs? It is envisaged there will be approx 100 conversions per month.
- The first Affordable Rents homes are expected to come through June/July, and changes will need to be made to the back-office starting next week.
- There are a number of things to think about including, are all LAs going to agree on length of tenancy?
- The Home-Link Operational Group and Management Board will give LAs and RSLs the capacity to work through the changes.

There was no support for the mobility fund.

6. Sub-Regional Housing Statement

Draft Statement circulated

- This is a good strategic paper which clearly states what CRHB is trying to achieve to replace the Sub-Regional Housing Strategy which ends in April 2011.
- The wording needs to be tweaked to ensure it links in to influence the government agenda and will be managed through the Task Group and brought back to the June meeting.
- Choices need to be aligned with our strategic agenda and with the government agenda.

7. Affordable Rents

SHMA Projections Business Case paper circulated

- TB presented the paper to update the Board.
- BPHA has commissioned to promote work of RPs.

8. Discussion of Development Forum invite to CRHB

- Ed Skeates from the Development Forum has offered to attend CRHB. The Board felt it would be helpful for his attendance and suggest that he attended quarterly, and for this to follow the Development Forum so he could share issues coming out of that meeting. SB to contact ES to invite him to an initial CRHB to present the Development Forum’s role.

SB

9. Work Plan

Due to there being only a few non-key items for the next meeting, it was agreed to cancel the May meeting and defer these items to the June meeting.
June

- TR to check SP's CBL/HCA item (Post meeting note - nothing to report – remove item). TR
- Remove - shared services between 3 LAs as this is not progressing.
- LEPS - SB to invite Alex Plant to the June meeting, as he is leading on the LEP; link to progress on Localism. SB
- Sign off Sub-Regional Housing Statement SB
- GTANA sign off at CHRB - 5 min discussion for sign off, with circulation beforehand - TB TB

July - possible venue change, visit to Oxlip House, Bury St Edmunds – DK/KJB
DK/KJB

- Spotlight on Homelessness – JH JH
- HIA shared services - SH SH
- Housing and Health - follow-up from brainstorm session with Cathy Mitchell – DH DH
- HCA bids – PK PK

Future items

- Peterborough's Zero Carbon Challenge – SB/PK – possible visit in September. SB to pursue SB
- Forest Heath and St Eds shared services (CHerries) CH

10. Consultation / Publications

Paper circulated

10.1 Cambridgeshire Horizons

- Alex Plant will be taking up the role of Executive Director for Community Services, starting on 4 July; he will be taking with him the work on LEP.
- Sir David Trippier has retired.

10.2 Homes and Communities Agency

- New Homebuy Equity Loans to help first time buyers; loan is free for first 5 years and repayable when the resale goes through.
- Public Sector Land Scheme – to accelerate the release of public sector land to keep pace with delivery.
- Spatial Strategy due in May – this is based around a build now, pay later scheme.
- Public Sector Construction procurement – to reduce construction costs by 20% through procurement.
- Restructure – voluntary redundancy process has now ended; target of 30% reduction overall but there is no view yet on the next steps

11 Any Other Business

- With the disappearance of the RSS – the County Research Group will be holding the housing forecasting model for the East.
- Commissioning Strategy Extra Care, 2011–15 – will be issued imminently. Circulation via KJB if needed. SH
- Local Authority Involvement in Housing Complaints – the Board had no further information on this. PS to look out for any further announcements.

12 Future meetings

The next meeting will be held at 9.30am on Friday 3 June 2011 at East Cambs DC.

The May meeting has been cancelled.

Future Meetings

First Friday of the month, starting at 9.30am – to finish with lunch by 12.30pm.

2011 dates

1 July – East Cambs DC

5 August – Sanctuary Hereward

2 September – East Cambs DC

7 October – Sanctuary Hereward

4 November – East Cambs DC

2 December – Sanctuary Hereward