

# Minutes of the CAMBRIDGE SUB-REGIONAL HOUSING BOARD (CRHB) held on Friday 17 August 2007

## 1. Introduction and Apologies

### Present

Liz Bisset (LB)	Cambridge City Council (Chair)
Tim Mills (TM)	Fenland District Council
Jane Hollingworth (JH)	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Steve Plant (SP)	Huntingdonshire District Council
Frank Mastrandrea (FM)	Huntingdonshire District Council
Simon Phelan (SPh)	Forest Heath District Council
John Onslow (JO)	Cambridgeshire Horizons
Sue Beecroft (SB)	Cambridgeshire Horizons
Jill Tuffnell (JT)	Cambridgeshire County Council
Trevor Baker (TB)	Cambridgeshire County Council
Carole Herries (CH)	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Stephen Hills (SH)	South Cambs District Council
Solma Ahmed (SA)	Go-East
Kathy Brown (KJB)	Cambridge City Council (minutes)

### Apologies

John O'Mahony (JOM)	Housing Corporation
Denise Lewis (DL)	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Nigel Howlett (NA)	Housing Association Representative
Ian Christmas (IC)	Cambridge City Council

## Action

### 2. Minutes of Last Meeting/Matters Arising

Minutes from 1 June (July meeting was cancelled)

- Amendment, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, should read SPERG, not SREG.
- Still need to allocate champions – discuss under work programme.
- JO'M – is there more information available about mapping land for housing? JO'M
- JO'M to respond to JT/TB on question at end of item 3. JO'M
- Sue Benowski will represent us at JAR meetings – clarify. JH
- Home Improvement Agency – in train.
- Planning for Gypsy & Travellers Accommodation. Agreed to respond individually. Reminder to send copy of responses to SB for the "library". All
- TB to continue representing the County on this group after JT retires; it has been beneficial to have a research input.

### 3. Draft Work Plan for CRHB / Membership and Roles

Draft work plan discussed and clarified. Updated version will be circulated..

SB

Membership – LB to incorporate into the Terms of Reference – to be discussed in more detail at the next meeting. SH is having internal discussions about identifying a planning representative to sit on this group to bring a planning perspective. It would also be useful if that person attended other relevant groups to enable appropriate feed back/in. Also need to consider if we have significant accountability back to Members and at an appropriate level.

#### 4. **Housing Green Paper**

Pick up under item 5.

#### 5. **Consultation Register**

To identify any papers we want to respond to as a sub-region. SB requested a copy of any individual responses to build up a “library”.

##### **Communities England and the future of social housing regulation briefing paper – deadline 10 September**

- GO East is participating in discussions to ensure housing, along with planning, is included in its focus.
- Need to ensure there is transparency.
- CRHB generally supports the new organisation of Communities England, which is the integration of English Partnerships and the Housing Corporation, taking in some of CLG’s responsibilities and agrees to a sub-regional response.
- Response to be brought back to next meeting for agreement.

**SB**

##### **Review of sub-national economic development and regeneration – no decision required**

- Brought to the meeting to ensure all are aware of plans affecting regional structures and links to new homes agency, EEDA and EERA.

##### **The Housing Green Paper – deadline 15 October**

- SB took away comments.
- Bring back a revised version to next meeting.

**SB**

#### 6. **Progressing the Sub-Regional Strategy**

- The group agreed the approach. Need to ensure we do this openly and in a way that Members are happy with.
- SA to report back at next meeting after meeting with CLG. SA to ask if a 3 year strategy is OK, as opposed to 5 years, which can get out of date.
- This will run alongside the local strategies.

**SA**

#### 7. **Housing Needs of BME Communities in the East of England**

- Agreed to participate in the pilot as outlined in the circulated paper. Helen Reed, Cambridge City Council, agreed to lead on this work.
- FM/SB to confirm with JO’M methodology that using retrospective information is sufficient.

**LB  
FM/SB**

#### 8. **The Low Cost Home Ownership Market**

- What will the policy implications be? To be picked up in the Strategy group and bring back to this meeting what the implications of the policy are clear.

#### 9. **Cambridgeshire Horizons update**

- Joint delivery arrangements for sites around Cambridge are being implemented.
- Steven Catchpole is leaving at the end of October.
- Long term delivery plan – commissioned work setting out infrastructure requirements and costs. This links to growth area funds round 3 and a requirement to put in a bid.
- Finalising the delivery plan for Northstowe and working on the one for the Southern Fringe.

## 9.2 Housing Corporation update

No representative in attendance, however, LB updated the group on the Cambridge Challenge. The HC has put out a Press Release and the BPHA led partner was chosen to develop the affording housing on the 3 major sites.

## 9.3 Go-East - update

- New structure now embedded. SA has the role of regional housing champion.
- The new housing minister, Yvette Cooper, will be working from Eastbrook every Monday.
- Meeting with CLG on 5 September on Housing Green Paper.

## 9.4 Regional Housing Delivery Group - feedback

Feedback at next meeting.

## 9.5 Sub-Regional Housing Association Meeting - feedback

No representative.

## 9.6 KW Employers Consortium - feedback

- The Enablers are no longer required to do a presentation on affordable housing delivery. They will bring any policy/strategy issues to their regular meetings and present them to Steve Plant to feed back to CRHB.
- They (mostly County Council and Addenbrookes) were not experiencing direct pressure from their staff in terms of KW affordable housing shortage. However, they felt that Key Workers generally were not sufficiently aware of the other affordable housing (non KW) that are available.
- BPHA highlighted the drop in take up of Open Market Homebuy as a result of the more complicated regulations that have been introduced.

## 9.7 Cambridge Sub-Region Housing Group - feedback

Discussion mainly around the HMA.

## 10. Any Other Business

- Migrant Worker update - JT to contact policy colleagues at the County about whether they are planning to go ahead and commission contract work on Migrant Workers. The Research Team have been asked by Peterborough to do some work on Migrant Workers and their families, establish numbers by age group, country of origin etc. The Team will ensure that whatever work they do for Peterborough is replicated for all of Cambridgeshire. JT
- SHMA update – SB has met with each district to work through formulas; still to meet with St Eds. Website being built. Issue specific workshops for all stakeholders and then feed back as interest groups in late September.
- LB thanked Jill Tuffnell, for all her contribution over the duration of CRBH. This is the last meeting Jill will be attending before she retires.
- Refer to ECDC website - ECDC has turned down a planning application for a 5000 new settlement and is challenging an appeal.

## 11. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 7 September at 10.00am and finish at 12 noon in the Mezzanine Room at South Cambs District Council. This will allow easier attendance for those attending the CIH Eastern Region conference in the afternoon. No lunch is required. SH