

CAMBRIDGESHIRE HORIZONS

Agenda Item No: 11

Cambridge Local Investment Plan Update

To: **Cambridgeshire Horizons Board**

Date: **8th December 2010**

From: **Acting Director for Development**

Purpose: **For Decision (FD)**

Recommendation: **The Board is invited to:**

- **Note progress so far with local authority consultation on the CLIP.**
- **Note the Homes and Communities Agency comments on the CLIP.**
- **Note the current position and agree to defer final sign-off of the CLIP until the next Board meeting.**

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OVERVIEW

- 1.1 The Cambridgeshire Local Investment Plan (CLIP) has developed as part of our “single conversation” with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). The single conversation is the HCA’s place-based business model designed to achieve more efficient investment delivery in line with locally determined priorities; and to realise the benefits of creating a single housing and regeneration agency.
- 1.2 The objective of this Cambridgeshire Local Investment Plan (CLIP) is to address the need for investment across Cambridgeshire whilst encompassing the key objectives of the HCA by delivering sustainable growth and regeneration, and representing excellent value for money.
- 1.3 The consultation draft of the CLIP has been prepared by the HCA, Cambridgeshire Horizons and Cambridgeshire Local Authorities, in partnership with the Cambridge Regional Housing Board.
- 1.4 The CLIP seeks to demonstrate that Cambridgeshire remains resilient, ambitious and committed to its challenging agenda of housing expansion and economic development. Growth and regeneration projects in the county can succeed, despite the economic downturn and reduction in available public funding over the coming years.

2. HCA Comments

- 2.1 The Homes and Communities Agency has commented on the CLIP process to date, acknowledging the considerable time and effort that all the partners have put into it. In order to ensure that the CLIP is part of an ongoing dialogue, the HCA has offered regular implementation meetings with housing and planning colleagues from local authorities. This will allow emerging or changing priorities to be addressed.
- 2.2 The HCA also emphasises that the final CLIP could also be used more widely, as evidence of agreed priorities to support applications for other types of funding. Examples would be Regional Growth Fund and European Regional Development Funding. The draft CLIP is already helping to guide HCA funding decisions, by providing information on need and strategic fit. Once agreed, it will be used in the same way to attract HCA investment into Cambridgeshire and assess future bid rounds.

3. CONSULTATION PROGRESS

- 3.1 The CLIP has gone through member processes in all six local authorities. The five district councils have endorsed the document, subject to comments. Key comments that will be worked into the CLIP include the following, in addition to more minor proof-reading points:
 - Document should be more concise & focused;
 - Executive summary should be more outcome-focused;

- Further reference to governance and greater recognition of local authorities role;
 - More up-to-date statistics, where available;
 - Greater detail of partners involved in projects;
 - Stronger consistency between district summaries;
 - Make reference to the Cambridge Challenge;
 - Additional Fenland DC infrastructure projects to be added;
 - Further background information to be added to Fenland's district summary.
- 3.2** Cambridgeshire County Council has also taken the CLIP through their member process. The cabinet chose not to endorse the CLIP in its current form, requesting greater clarity on the scope and role of the CLIP in relation to county-provided infrastructure. They queried the extent to which the document should comprehensively include every type of county council provided infrastructure, such as schools, waste facilities, and transport schemes.
- 3.3** The county council intends to take the CLIP through the same member process in the new year, once a sufficiently clear steer has been elicited from the Homes and Communities Agency.

4. NEXT STEPS

- 4.1** Cambridgeshire Horizons, the HCA and the County Council will continue to discuss the appropriate level of infrastructure detail to be included in the CLIP. The document will then be brought back to the next Board meeting for final approval.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1** As covering page.