

Minutes of the Cambridge sub-Regional Housing Board (CRHB) held on Friday 5 December 2008

1. Introduction and Apologies

Present

Liz Bisset (LB)	Cambridge City Council (Chair)
Alan Carter (AC)	Cambridge City Council
Jane Hollingworth (JH)	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Dan Horn (DH)	Fenland District Council
Steve Clark (SC)	Forest Heath District Council
Frank Mastrandrea (FM)	Huntingdonshire District Council
Steve Plant (SP)	Huntingdonshire District Council
Mike Knight (MK)	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Trevor Baker (TB)	Cambridgeshire County Council
Sue Beecroft (SB)	Cambridgeshire Horizons
David Keeling (DK)	RSL representative
Colin Wiles (CW)	RSL representative
Nigel Howlett (NH)	RSL representative
Kathy Brown (KJB)	Cambridge City Council (taking minutes)

Apologies

Stephen Hills (SH)	South Cambs District Council (Vice Chair)
Carol Herries (CH)	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Niki Hollingworth (NH)	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Jo Webb (JW)	EERA
John O'Mahony (JOM)	Housing Corporation
John Onslow (JO)	Cambridgeshire Horizons
Tricia Smith (TS)	Go-East

Action

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2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

- LB met with Mike Davey who wished to talk about how housing management interfaces to the children services, particularly in the City. What mechanisms are there for picking up vulnerable households with children? He would like to meet with a wider range of senior housing managers. It was agreed that LB would initially invite him to CRHB in the new year, and to extend the invitation to homelessness and housing options representatives. He can then be invited to other groups as appropriate.
- Shared Services – half day event will be considered – SP/AC/SB
- Extra Care – PCT and County have confirmed they wish to support, with revenue funding, the existing three extra care schemes in the pipeline already allocated with capital funding. They are supportive of the concept of extra care in principal but need until the end of March to develop their future extra care strategy. Huntingdon are in negotiations about a fourth scheme.
- Gypsy and Traveller sites - SP will chase Stephen Moir if a meeting is not forthcoming.
- Older Peoples' Strategy – there were still a number of concerns in the document.

All

SP/AC/
SB

SP

3. CRHB – how do we fit in?

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SB gave a presentation on how CRHB links with LAAs (Local Area Agreements), JSNAs (Joint Strategic Needs Assessments), RES and RSS (Regional Economic Strategy and Regional Spatial Strategy), RFA (Regional Funding Advice), IDPs (Integrated Development Programmes) and the “single conversation”. Officers discussed clarity and amendments were made to the SB’s slides.

LAAs

- LB to meet with Alex Plant about how CRHB fits in with “Managing Growth” (Cams Horizons Board). LB
- SB to include who the representatives are for each groups, so LAs who do not have a rep, know who to contact for feedback. SB
- Identify which indicators for each of the 5 sub-groups of the LAA Board we wish to contribute to, and request that we be consulted on them. SB
- SB to draft a letter regarding links of the sub-regional housing strategy and the aspirations of the LAA. SB

JSNAs

- The Older Peoples’ Strategy does not link to the Older Peoples’ JSNA.
- CRHB feels adequately involved in the JSNAs; continue to ensure we have adequate impact.

RSS and RES

- As CRHB’s representative, SB needs to provide an update to CRHB at meetings and via e-mail, ensures CRHB members get sufficient opportunity to contribute.

“The Single Conversation”

- Diagram circulated to assist clarity.
- CRHB are happy to volunteer as pilot to the “single conversation”.

4. Feedback from Private Sector Decent Homes, Mixed Communities and Regeneration, EERA bid round.

- DH circulated the two bids to EERA, both were accepted.
- Merged Public and Private Sector Home Investment Works - working with Apollo and Roddons HA improve homes of vulnerable people at the same time as improving the environment. The idea is to integrate social housing investment works across into private sector homes on the same estate.
- External Solid Wall Insulation Pilot – working with Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Council to undertake a procurement exercise to bring down cost of External Solid Wall Insulation treatments.
- The lessons learnt from both projects will be widely disseminated across the Eastern region.

5. Update on Community Land Trusts

- JH circulated a briefing paper. A year ago four parishes were keen for a CLT in East Cams and at the time the government was driving it. However, nothing much has happened since and villages with 6-8 properties would not be viable schemes.
- CLTs need a lot of energy from the community to pursue.
- Since then, the Matthew Taylor’s review has come out on why CLTs work or don’t and making recommendations.
- Fordham is progressing and a pilot project is running in Norfolk.

6. Draft Disability Housing Strategy 2008-11

- Full Strategy, a summary paper and the action plan were circulated.
- The action plan has virtually been completed, therefore, it was

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- recommended that CRHB approve it.
- CRHB endorsed it subject to local policy, availability of resources, planning procedures and other local considerations.
- CRHB were asked to consider and pass any comments to JH by 12 December.
- Bring back in December 2009.
- Julie Allen is the new Community Development Officer (Housing) at the County. SB to invite her to relevant housing groups.

All

JH

SB

7. Work Plan

- Updated and will be circulated with the minutes.
- Terry Fuller has sent a letter offering a meeting with all sub-regional chairs in the new year.

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8. Consultation Register

No update available at the meeting.

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9.1 Cambridgeshire Horizons

- Horizons are assessing the state of each major development in light of the economic downturn and looking for interventions working with the HCA to support sites coming forward.
- Housing Completions Update – report circulated – interesting fact that despite the economic downturn, 400 homes were completed in first quarter, and 630 in second quarter).
- Housing Market Bulletin – copy circulated and will be on the Horizons website.

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9.2 Homes and Communities Agency

No representative present.

9.3 Go-East

Written response circulated.

9.4 Regional Housing Advisory Group

No meeting since the Board last met. Meeting to be held on 8 December. SB to circulate the papers and highlight the main points.

SB

9.5 Sub-Regional Housing Association Meeting

Nothing to report.

9.6 Cambridge Sub-Region Strategic Housing Group (CSHG)

New Estate Surveys

- As part of the SHMA Polly Jackson is planning to carry out a new estate surveys.
- It was agreed that districts would work up a list of their own priorities of estates and topics to take to the Strategic Housing Group in January; the schedule to then be taken to CRHB.
- CRHB wanted to ensure consideration is given to the reason for the survey, to be clear of the benefits.

All

Place Survey – unweighted results are out, however, TB asked CRHB to wait until the weighted results are out before further circulation.

9.7 CLIP Sub-Group

CLG has produced a large document with changes they wish to make to

forms we submit to them. Members have replied with comments.

10 Any Other Business

Enhanced Housing Options

AC reported that an offer of a grant of £80k to spend over 2 years from April 2009, has been received. This is a slight disappointment, and will seek feedback of why the second round bid was not successful. There is no specific guidance on what to spend it on. AC will reform the project group to make recommendations for spend and bring back to CRHB. Initial thoughts are to build on existing practice to maximise value for money, as opposed to it being split into smaller amounts.

Extreme weather provision and rough sleeping of migrant workers - DH asked if anyone who has experience of this to contact him.

CBL Update

Notes from MK will be circulated with the minutes.

The Housing Corporation have received Homebuy Direct Bids. FM reported that there is a very short timeframe to respond and have been asked to comment about where it sat with other shared ownership – more time is needed to do this. It stated that the Homebuy Agent was to be consulted – so it was felt that they could they answer this question, however, the Homebuy Agent hadn't seen the specifics.

Reference required for Homebuy Agent – all to reply individually.

11 Future meetings

The next meeting will be held at 10am, on Friday 9 January 2009 at South Cambs DC, Cambourne.

Proposed 2009 Meeting Dates:

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

9 January (2 nd Friday) - SCDC	3 July – Sanctuary Hereward
6 February – East Cambs DC	7 August – East Cambs
6 March – Sanctuary Hereward	4 September – Sanctuary Hereward
3 April – East Cambs DC	2 October – East Cambs DC
1 May – Sanctuary Hereward	6 November – Sanctuary Hereward
5 June – Sanctuary Hereward	4 December – East Cambs