

Minutes of the Cambridge sub-Regional Housing Board (CRHB) held on Friday 8 January 2010

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
Steve Plant (SP)	Huntingdonshire District Council
Frank Mastrandrea (FM)	Huntingdonshire District Council
Steve Clark (SC)	Forest Heath District Council
Trevor Baker (TB)	Cambridgeshire County Council
Sue Beecroft (SB)	Cambridgeshire Horizons
Tom Purser (TP)	Go-East
Nigel Howlett (NH)	RSL representative
David Keeling (DK)	RSL representative
Sandy Shattock	Cambridgeshire County Council
Sheryl French	Cambridgeshire Horizons
David Arkell	Cambridgeshire County Council
Kathy Brown (KJB)	Cambridge City Council (taking minutes)

Apologies

Carole Herries (CH)	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Paul Kitson	Homes & Communities Agency
Graham Tomlinson	EERA

Action

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

- Suffolk's boundary review – St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath appealed to the Supreme Court. The Secretary of State has appealed against this appeal. Bring back under AOB when there is any progress.
- G&T Wiring diagram – SP to send round.

SP

3. New Regional Structures (future for EERA and EEDA)

Graham Tomlinson was unable to attend. Defer to future meeting.

4. Environmental Sustainability – Sandy Shattock and Sheryl French

Presentation

- Offset fund – expect political challenge. Need a clear infrastructure plan, which is a huge piece of work. Need to ensure delivery mechanism is clear eg need to deliver on time. As CO² emissions increase we may find we need to deliver more than expected.
- SCDC considering retrofitting and energy efficiency in existing stock which is a bigger challenge than new build.
- It is expected that there will be a series of infrastructure themes and then need to assign money into those themes.
- This comes at a higher capital cost, which may mean less affordable housing, resulting in a balancing issue.
- Need to ensure there are effective and adequate links into the Environmental Strategy Partnership.
- At the Away Afternoon in February – consider how we can best engage.
- DH currently represents Fenland on the Climate Change Partnership.

All

5. Housing and Sustainability – sharing good practice

Regional retro-fitting project with Renewables East

- Paper circulated (JH for EDCD). Six rural properties around Littleport have been identified for this project. Funding needs to be secured. Contact Rachel Doyle for more information.
- Cambridge retrofit project (AC) – a bid has been put in with partner architects. There is approx £10m for 50 pilot projects around the country, concentrating on innovative solutions. There are two stages, first is the bid for money to carry out a feasibility study, then another bid round for funds to carry out the work. Cambridge is at the 2nd bid stage.
- The least energy efficient type of property was found (British Steel built, three bed semi-detached). Cambridge has around 30 of them (approx 300,000 nationally). The tenants were written to, three expressions of interest were received and a family was selected which was felt typified the type of household living in this kind of property.
- The aim is to reduce carbon emissions by 80% - maximising passive energy efficiency, reducing reliance on technology, simply and cost effectively, with the ability to carry out the work with the resident in occupation and also to improve the streetscape appearance. The University will monitor technological and behaviour aspects as the project progresses.
- Need to learn about how we could take forward a programme bringing the rest of the housing stock up to this level.
- HDC is working with BRE, if the two properties are acquired, they will become “show” properties and then sold on.

6. HDC’s carbon credits scheme (SP)

Paper circulated. SP to check with their contractor/supplier to see if they are able to work with other authorities. All to find out what is being done within their own authority.

7. SmartLIFE (DH)

Presentation by DH, on lessons learned from the use of three types of construction methods on three sites across Fenland.

8. The Hive (Presentation by David Arkell)

- The Hive will bring together future technologies in building along with an education centre. Website - www.talktothehive.com.
- It is proposed that we should start to co-ordinate and publicise good practice on the Horizons website.
- At February Away-Afternoon pick up how to take this forward.

**SB?
All**

9. Private Sector Decent Homes, Regeneration and Mixed Communities Pilot Projects Update

It was agreed to defer this item to a future meeting when lessons learned could be discussed.

10. Work Plan

- LAA Safer Communities lead - KJB pursuing.
- Keep the agenda in February minimal to allow the Away-Day/Afternoon

- SB asked for any thoughts for discussion for the Away-Day/Afternoon to be sent through to her. **All**

11. Consultation / Publications

East of England Housing Statement consultation – SB to send a sub-regional response but all need to contribute. **All**

10.1 Cambridgeshire Horizons

Nothing to add.

10.2 Homes and Communities Agency

No representative was present.

10.3 Go-East

Nothing to add.

10.4 Single Conversation

- Two meetings have been held. (Minutes of the first meeting held 22 December, were circulated). The Single Conversation in this area is formed on the geographic area consistent with the County boundary. It was agreed that Peterborough would go ahead with their own single Investment Plan. Single Conversations are being conducted around the country. The two Suffolk authorities have been working on a Single Conversation, meeting with Naisha and Scott.
- Horizons CEx will lead the Single conversation together with the Chair of CRHB. The Single Conversation will guide investment in the area and CRHB will have a role in guiding that impact and understand the impact on the wider sub-regional housing market.
- From HCAs perspective, their key output is for us to produce an Investment Plan. HCA should soon be circulating the local investment plan national template, however, Milton Keynes' Plan was seen to be a good example and is available as a public document.
- At the second meeting held on 5 January, with AC, SB, Steve Collins, Paul Kitson (Cambridge Investment Manager), Alex Plant and Anna Keyes, the HCA were happy that much of our evidence base is in place. Local authority housing strategies, Horizons' Integrated Development Plan and the Horizons Prospectus on Growth, all back up the Sub-Regional Housing Strategy.
- Cambridgeshire Integrated Development Plan is on Horizons' website - http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/documents/to%20be%20filed/financial_camb_idp_dec_09.pdf
- Anna and SB will put together a project plan to pull together an investment plan from existing documents, for a final draft by the end of March.
- HCA's objective is to get all plans in place by March 2011, which will inform the comprehensive spending review.
- Much can happen between now and March 2011, so in order we don't miss any investment opportunities. We will use the documents to guide this process.
- Northstowe is in the running to be an Eco town. As a new community, the thinking is that there should be a separate investment plan, driven by HCA being a major landowner. It would still be inter-related in the main Investment Plan. HCA and Horizons both felt this would be a good idea.
- The Milton Keynes one includes health and social care, as well as housing.
- Whatever investment is available will be enshrined in an Investment Agreement.

11 Any Other Business

There was no AOB.

12 Future meetings

The next meeting will start at 10am, on Friday 5 February 2010. This will be a full day event held at Sanctuary Hereward. Standard agenda items will be taken in the morning followed by a strategic thinking away-afternoon.

2010 Meeting Dates:

Normally held on the first Friday of the month, starting at 10am, to finish with lunch by 1.00pm.

5 March – Sanctuary Hereward

9 April (2nd Friday) - ECDC

7 May – Sanctuary Hereward

4 June – ECDC

2 July – Boathouse Wisbech

6 August – Sanctuary Hereward

3 September - ECDC

1 October – Sanctuary Hereward

5 November - ECDC

3 December – Sanctuary Hereward