

Update on sub-regional strategy and action plan

January 2011 CRHB meeting

Introduction

As the end date for our sub-regional strategy approaches (March 2011) this report presents a summary of progress on the action plan, and a proposed course of action for our sub-regional working from 2011 onwards.

Summary of discussions to date

At Housing Board meetings, we have discussed and agreed in outline, that in future and while the new housing agenda becomes clearer, we will

- Continue to work as a housing sub-regional group
- Look for links wherever possible to the emerging LEP and its work streams, as they crystallise
- Delay producing a sub-regional strategy document for the time being
- Instead work together on briefing and topic notes, consultation responses, and sub-regional projects to help all partners across our geographic area respond to changes and new ideas presented to us.
- Keep abreast of changes in our housing markets through the continued development of the SHMA
- Produce an action plan for sub-regional projects and tasks which builds on the 2008-11 action plan, and adds in new work items as they emerge in the coming 12 months.

Perhaps around November 2012 we will need to review this approach and whether it is time, by then, to produce a new sub-regional housing strategy or not.

Review of our 2008 to 2011 strategy's action plan.

Overall, a review of our action plan using red, amber and green status reveals that:

- **37** actions have been achieved (61%)
- **21** actions are ongoing or not fully completed yet (34%)
- Only **2** actions have not been completed (3%)

One is unclear, feedback awaited and to be added asap (2%)

A breakdown of the actions using reference numbers is included at Annex 1.

Depending on the outcome of discussion at the January CRHB meeting, a colour coded action plan can be made available on the CRHB pages of Horizon's website.

To ensure we share in the successes of sub-regional work, a paragraph on each of the 3 colours is included below. This will also help build a new action plan for 2011+ where some actions have yet to be fully completed.

Actions or decisions requested

Do Board members feel the summary points above adequately reflect our agreed plan for strategic projects and tasks for 2011 onwards?

Do Board members feel this summary of progress reflects your experience of sub-regional projects and working over the past 3 years?

Are you happy for the full colour coded action plan to be published on Horizons website, subject to minor details being added throughout where further clarification is being sought?

Would CRHB members be happy to receive a new action plan for 2011+ at either February or March 2011 meeting?

GREEN: Selection of actions achieved

- Cambridge contributed heavily to regional research in 2009/10 to improve links between housing related support information, JSNAs and SHMAs.
- CRHB reviewed its sub-groups and cut number from 6 to 4, saving time, mileage and carbon emissions for participants
- Built a strong “managing growth” partnership, informed and supported by CRHB who consider and contribute to quarterly updates on housing growth indicators.
- The Cambridge Quality Charter learning programme has provided training and resources to share information, including 2 introduction to housing sessions for staff and Members in 2010.
- CRHB ran environmental spotlight session and shared materials. [Click here](#) to access the Board papers and presentations (listed under January 2010) with further “sharing” session planned for early 2011
- Report on s106 wording produced in May 2009, and used by districts across the sub-region as a "menu" of clauses. Available if you [click here](#). Housing viability study for 4 of the sub-region's districts commissioned in April 2009, linking in to the s106 report. [Click here](#) to access the report.
- SHMA fully updated in 2009. Further review and update annually, next for 2010. SEBC and FHDC now full members and therefore benefit fully from the research and information available. Developed a new Data Atlas to ease access to selected SHMA data. Housing Market Bulletins and SHMA briefing notes issued. SHMA available on Cambridgeshire Horizons website, at www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/shma. Housing Market Bulletin first issued in Autumn 2008, now on Edition 7 (December 2010) and working to produce quarterly. Bulletin is shared widely with positive feedback.
- New development surveys, estate and lettings agent surveys and survey of private rents undertaken in 2008, 2009 and 2010. Have now removed reliance on costly primary data so no need to repeat interview survey of 2006, saving approx £60K every 5 years.
- New development surveys now completed in HDC, ECD and FDC. ECDC survey currently being analysed. SEBC and FHDC to follow. Sharing learning from Cambourne ([click here](#)), HDC ([click here](#)) and FDC ([click here](#)) surveys via the SHMA and Cambridgeshire County Council learning network
- First JSNAs involving housing produced in Summer 2009. Homelessness a key JSNA with very broad involvement of agencies across Cambridgeshire. New JSNAs produced in September 2010 including Gypsies and Travellers, New Communities with housing and Supporting People input. Now working to link to SHMA as appropriate and linking via new website. Older Peoples JSNA produced in 2009, incorporates relevant housing issues via input from CRHB.
- Currently working together to produce LIPs, one for Cambridgeshire and 2 separate ones for SEBC and FHDC (links to be added).
- 6-monthly review of CBL carried out in 2009. Monitoring carried out through bi-monthly Management Board, bi-monthly Operational Group meetings and quarterly RSL Forum meetings.
- Homelessness action plan approved in January 2009. Sub-regional homelessness strategy group to ensure it is implemented and monitored throughout the coming year. New Homelessness Executive set up, Cambridgeshire-wide, to share homelessness learning and actions.
- Agreement to require 10% of homes for people with disabilities and all affordable homes to Lifetime standards, via planning process, in 2009.
- SP research on Support needs for Cambridgeshire was completed in 2009 and is being used to inform the strategic shift from residential to floating support services.
- Project reported late 2008 providing criteria for new Gypsies and Travellers sites. Need to continue to work together following demise of RSS to meet new "light touch" guidance issues in August 2010, and to continue to work to ensure temporary and permanent sites are available for these households and for Travelling Show People.

AMBER projects: part complete, stalled, or still underway

- In December 2009 Northstowe was short-listed in the second wave of eco-town proposals. The second wave of eco-towns stood to share up to £10 million worth of funding to help deliver the highest standards of sustainability. Of this funding Northstowe was awarded £1.5m, subsequently reduced to £750,000. This money will be used to for two projects: a retrofit project in Rampton Drift and building an exhibition space on the park and ride site which will showcase environmental technologies.
- SP research, JSNAs and other projects all being incorporated or linked in to the SHMA.
- Link built between CBL and SHMA team to ensure make best use of the system in updating the SHMA. Locata system (which runs HomeLink) now part of our housing need calculation from 2009 onwards
- A joint local authority/HCA/CPL group has been meeting regularly to consider issues around the delivery of the 3 Strategic Growth sites including significant input into the drafting of the s106 agreements for the first sites.
- Decent homes: SCDC achieved the decent homes standard as at (October 2011? SB to check with SH). City (SB to add here)
- The first year of operation of HomeLink has been the subject of formal review. Also CLG Funding has been achieved from the Enhanced Housing Options programme to reinforce the role of Home-Link as the portal for improved housing advice and assistance.
- Action plan to implement EHO included in the Home-Link work plan. Administrator recruited and mutual exchange modules implemented. Actions due to complete during 2011. *(Include in new action plan as the admin persons funding ends in March and additional resources would be required to make sure this delivers)*
- Principles of a Local Lettings Plan for the strategic growth sites have been agreed with Cambridgeshire Partnerships Ltd.
- Consultant taking HIA project forward. SP Commissioning Body supports a joint service approach. Cambs Commissioning Body sign up to service model for Cambridgeshire moving forwards. Commissioning Body agreement on next steps and high level responsibilities. Relative levels of need between the 5 districts agreed.
- Districts are working with SP and PCT to develop a long-term strategy for provision of extra care housing across Cambridgeshire.
- Working to improve ethnicity and equalities data via the SHMA, and to gather district monitoring information in future to create a database of actions alongside context. Absence of HEDG regional group affects progress. Need to review local monitoring and processes required via CRHB, SHMA project and possibly Homelink management board.
- Cambridgeshire Traveller Strategic Coordination Group has been reconvened, and is commissioning a county-wide Gypsy & Traveller Strategy to help facilitate joint work. Suffolk group already active to support provisional and good practice.
- Decision to focus on travelling show people and light-touch review of remaining Accommodation needs assessment, led by Cambridgeshire County Research Group in Autumn 2010

RED actions: not complete

- Limited success for mortgage rescue scheme in our area, though some households benefitted. Entry level purchase has been an issue related to mortgage availability and the significant increase in deposits required, leading to more difficulty for first time buyers accessing homes. Have continued to monitor via Hometrack and quarterly surveys of housing completions throughout the County.
- Review of access strategy under Homelink scheme. Review of Home-link Access Strategy has been delayed due to pressure on staff and other priorities. Access to rent deposit schemes is not reviewed sub-regionally. *(Seek a CHRB view on whether they wish to do this piece of work and if the resources are available (see note above re admin post) to complete it. If so it can be added to action plan for 2011/12)*

Annex 1: Summary of Colour breakdown of actions

Green
3.1
3.2
4.1
5.1
5.2
5.3
5.4
5.5
5.8.1
5.8.2
5.8.3
6.2
6.3
7.1.1
7.1.2
7.1.3
7.1.4
7.2
7.3
7.4
8.1
8.2
8.3.2
8.4
8.5.1
8.5.2
8.5.3
8.7
10.1.1
10.2
11.3
11.4.1
11.4.2
11.4.4
11.5
11.6
12.1.1

Amber
5.7
5.8.4
5.9
7.1.5
8.3.1
8.3.3
8.3.4
8.3.5
8.6
9.1
9.2
9.3
10.1.2
10.1.3
10.3
11.1
11.2
11.4.3
11.7
12.1.2
12.1.3
Red
6.1
11.4.5
Blank
5.6