

Minutes of the Cambridge sub-Regional Housing Board (CRHB) held on 14 January 2011

1. Introduction and Apologies

Present

Alan Carter (AC)	Cambridge City Council (Chair)
Jane Hollingworth (JH)	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Abbie Taylor (AT)	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
Stephen Hills (SH)	South Cambridgeshire District Council (Vice Chair)
Heather Wood (HW)	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Carole Herries (CH)	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Trevor Baker (TB)	Cambridgeshire County Council
Sue Beecroft (SB)	Cambridgeshire Horizons
David Keeling (DK)	RSL representative (Item 5 only)
Nigel Howlett (NH)	RSL representative
Kathy Brown (KJB)	Cambridge City Council (taking minutes)

Apologies

Paul Kitson (PK)	Homes & Communities Agency
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Action

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

- Notes from the LEP summit are not for public circulation. However, a Report of the Summit will be circulated.
- SB to contact Go-East to see if CRHB can receive any input.
- Emergency Planning – what resilience have we got between ourselves for emergency planning? All feedback to SPlant.
- Concerns about homeless nominations to/from RSLs. JH to revise the homelessness paper circulated today to include the issue and take to the Home-link Operations group.
- SB awaiting Affordable Housing completions figures. SB to e-mail individuals.
- G&T County-Wide Strategy – meeting next week to sign off final document.

SB/KJB

SB

All

JH

SB

KPIs – the City Council is creating high level KPIs – other LAs may find this useful as a starter. The list of statistics that the CLG still require LAs to submit can be found here:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/decentralisation/tacklingburdens/databurdens/>

3. Homelessness – Issues and Implications of Recent Policy Changes

Report circulated

- We are likely to see a huge number of vulnerable people seeking housing from 6 months time.
- Private rent – when 30th percentile comes in landlords are not going to lower their rent as they don't need to because of demand!
- Under 35s – difficult sector to find housing for.
- Private sector leasing is drying up.
- B&Bs reluctant to take our client group, although this is not an ideal housing situation.
- Could see an increase in HMOs but there could be a delay in landlords recognising this opportunity, which could pose the problem.

As a sub-region, what can we do about it, and do we want to? Are we working coherently? Are there other solutions?

- We need to remind our Members.
- Raise awareness, ask Polly to pictorially demonstrate where we are heading. **TB**
- Publicise stories about the type of people eg families, not all unsavoury clients!
- Reduce reliance on B&B and use RSLs more.
- Need to target some resource to this area of work. NH to ask the Housing Management Forum to provide some volunteers. Task Group – liaison between enablers and homelessness group, with RSLs providing TA. NH, and JH to liaise; SB to provide the link between groups. **NH/JH/SB**
- Forest Heath are already working closely with RSLs to address an increased number of homelessness.
- SB to provide an electronic link from the Horizons CRHB webpage. **SB**

4. Sub-Regional Position Statement/Review of the Sub-Regional Housing Strategy and Action Plan

Paper circulated

- Still some actions not completed, but the majority have been achieved or ongoing. Out of 61 only 2 are not completed.
- This will be published on the Horizons website at the end of the financial year.
- Ongoing concerns will be carried forward into the 2011/12 action plan.
- Need a positive statement to reflect what we have done/achieved; to reflect the last Strategy and to bring the work of this group up to date. Are our policies the same, or are we are going to do anything different?
- NH wished to acknowledge there may be inconsistencies in views but we continue to work together well as a sub-region.
- On behalf of the Task Group, SB to draft a statement to circulate for comment. Include employment, economic links. Send a final copy to the LEP. **SB**

5. Local Decisions: A Fairer Future for Social Housing Consultation – Draft Consultation Response

- Each authority gave a summary of their response to the paper.
- There are some significant differences, particularly between stock holding authorities, and non-stock holders. However, there are some key common areas - recognition of local needs; local markets; Home-link is working well; value of the SHMA to drive needs data. SB agreed to draft summary to respond to these principles. AC, SP and CH to review for reply on Monday. **SB**
- There is a clear impact on HB which needs to be worked through.
- It was felt that the govt doesn't fully understand HAs.
- We are currently not in a position to have a common response on tenancies. Each LA to take this forward individually with the HCA. **All**

6. Housing Training

- This item was brought to share ideas - what support is given to housing officers in terms of training/views on sub-regional approach to supporting graduates, school leavers who are interested in moving into housing?
- SCDC do a lot of training and are progressing a partnership with the CIH. E-mail AC if anyone is interested in progressing this and CCC will liaise with SCDC. **All/AC**

- Fenland looking corporately as apprenticeships/NVQs.
- Post meeting note – the CIH has been working with Anglia Ruskin University to develop a new Foundation Degree Course in Housing at the Cambridge Campus. ARU has had positive discussions with the CIH about the content of the course and is hoping to obtain full accreditation from the CIH in February. The course will be open to students from March this year. Fees are below the standard rate at present. Full details can be found at www.anglia.ac.uk/socialhousing.

7. Work Plan

February

Affordable Rents – Paul Kitson

Care and Support - Cathy Mitchell (confirmed); Mike Hay (tbc)

MAPPA - Andy Jarvis (confirmed). Invite Supporting People to this meeting.

This meeting will run as a normal Board meeting. There is still too much uncertainty to hold an Away-Day to plan for the future.

AC
SB

March

Sub-regional “statement”.

SB

April

Gypsies and Travellers

TB

8.1 Cambridgeshire Horizons

Nothing to report.

8.2 Homes and Communities Agency

No representative present.

9 Any Other Business

CCC have 5 new council housing (code 4).

County Council website – Community of Practice (IDeA initiative) to share information about consultations and areas of good practice. The JSNA website is being developed to include information/data on a broader area of subjects and geographic area; this should be launched by 11 February.

TB

- Link to the JSNA SHMA page:

<http://www.cambridgeshirejsna.org.uk/other-assessments/strategic-housing-market-assessment-shma>

- Ward profiles might also be of particular immediate interest to Cambridgeshire districts:

<http://www.cambridgeshirejsna.org.uk/other-assessments/interactive-atlas-cambridgeshire-ward-profiles>

- Research for Cambridgeshire Community of Practice:

<http://www.communities.idea.gov.uk/c/3939081/home.do>

Once you have an IDeA login, you can access the housing and other CoPs including our work on community profiling.

10 Future meetings

The next meeting will be held at 9.30am on Friday 4 February at Sanctuary Hereward, Ely.

9.30am on the following dates in 2011:

4 March - East Cambs DC

1 April – Sanctuary Hereward

6 May – East Cambs DC

3 June – Sanctuary Hereward

1 July – East Cambs DC

5 August – Sanctuary Hereward

2 September – East Cambs DC

7 October – Sanctuary Hereward

4 November – East Cambs DC

2 December – Sanctuary Hereward