

# Minutes of the Cambridge sub-Regional Housing Board (CRHB) held on Friday 5 June 2009

## 1. Introduction and Apologies

### Present

Jane Hollingworth (JH)	East Cambridgeshire District Council (Chairing)
Mike Knight (MK)	South Cambs District Council
Helen Reed (HR)	Cambridge City Council
Karen Wickham (KW)	Fenland District Council
Steve Clark (SC)	Forest Heath District Council
Jo Emmerton (JE)	Huntingdonshire District Council
Frank Mastrandrea (FM)	Huntingdonshire District Council
Carole Herries (CH)	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Trevor Baker (TB)	Cambridgeshire County Council
Sue Beecroft (SB)	Cambridgeshire Horizons
Nigel Howlett (NH)	RSL representative
Colin Wiles (CW)	RSL representative
Alexandra Pelling (AP)	Homes & Communities Agency
Richard O'Driscoll (ROD)	Head of Older People's Commissioning (Item 2 only)
Liz Robin	Joint Director of Public Health (Item 7 only)
Jeremiah Ngondi	Trainee Public Health Consultant (Item 7 only)
Jago Kitcat	Trainee Public Health Consultant (Item 7 only)
Kathy Brown (KJB)	Cambridge City Council (taking minutes)

### Apologies

Liz Bisset (LB)	Cambridge City Council (Chair)
Alan Carter (AC)	Cambridge City Council
Steve Plant (SP)	Huntingdonshire District Council
Stephen Hills (SH)	South Cambs District Council (Vice Chair)
John Onslow (JO)	Cambridgeshire Horizons
Dan Horn (DH)	Fenland District Council
David Keeling (DK)	RSL representative
John O'Mahony (JOM)	Homes & Communities Agency

**Action**

## 2. Focus on provision of sheltered and housing choices for older people (Richard O'Driscoll)

- ROD presented the second draft Commissioning (Delivery) Strategy for Extra Care Sheltered Housing in Cambridge (circulated).

### Questions/discussion

- Targets and current figures in Figure 1 need to be refreshed by each district, in light of recently opened schemes and population shifts. Each district to revise their figures and forward to ROD. Targets in the action plan will remain under constant review.
- Where will resources be taken from to fund the new scheme? ROD expected existing money would just be spent differently with effective forward planning.
- Prioritising and commissioning – Supporting People Commissioning Body (SPCB) can slot in applications for new schemes within the existing “timeline” but there will be competition for SP funding from other user groups.
- NH would like a further dialogue about the strategy, and the lack of involvement of providers. ROD replied the document is a starting point, a commissioning framework for what we want to provide in Cambridgeshire.

**All**

JH asked for provider involvement in the Extra Care Commissioning Group as the framework develops in the future. ROD to take this request away.

ROD

- CRHB felt the document should be called a “framework” as opposed to a “strategy”.
- Doubts were raised about the feasibility of provision of 188 new units each year and there was discussion of the effect of moving away from block contracts. These are for the Extra Care group and SPCB to discuss further.
- ROD reported that the SPCB approved the strategy in principle, it is now a working document to choose resources, but with minor amendments. FM was under the impression that SPCB had two weeks to feed back comments and amendments.
- In February, ROD came to CRHB, and the Board requested to see the document again before it was adopted. SB asked if today’s views will be taken on board? ROD felt that nothing said this morning significantly changes the strategy. An action plan will be worked on but this is a framework.

SPCB

#### Reflection on ROD’s presentation

The meeting reflected on this subject at the close of business. ROD clearly believed that SPCB had approved the extra care strategy in principle, but members of CRHB and SPCB who were present felt that this was not the case and that an additional two weeks had been requested for consideration as the document was only circulated the day before the SPCB. SB had asked in March that CRHB see the draft but it was never sent. Members of the Extra Care Commissioning Group had discussed the first draft.

JH to clarify with the Chair, what exactly was said/agreed at the SPCB and feedback to CRHB before the next SPCB. Members of CRHB who are members of the Extra Care Commissioning Group agreed to raise these matters at the next meeting of the group.

JH

JH/HR/  
JE

#### **Update on the action plan for County’s Older Persons Strategy**

The Strategy went to the Cambridge Together Board, where they requested an action plan. This hasn’t yet been progressed. A workshop will be held at the end of July. SB has asked to be informed of who will be involved. Some refer to this as the “over 50s strategy”. It has been passed to Claire Bruin to take forward and to join up with other strategies. Clare will be explaining how this is being taken forward at the next Older Peoples Board.

### **3. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

- Market condition information – change to house prices. Polly Jackson is working on this as part of the SHMA chapter.
- SB has a new contact for the Older People’s Strategy - Lauren Gilam (Corporate Policy Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council).
- Progress with the sub-regional tariff – little progress in the sub-region to date but this does need to be considered by CRHB in the future – to be added to a future workplan
- There has been no further dialogue between SCDC and Cambridge Building Society.

### **4. Single Conversation**

- The message to be taken back to the HCA is that we want to talk as a sub-region, which includes the two Suffolk authorities, however, until we have a clear steer from the HCA, and until we know the outcome of

LGR in Suffolk, things remain unclear.

- Investment officers are currently working on a portfolio basis, AP was unsure how this will develop.
- JE requested clarification of what the HCA investment areas are, eg are there funding streams not just for affordable housing but also for community facilities. The single conversation should not just be about housing, it should involve community themes/issues as well. AP agreed to obtain feedback for the next meeting.
- LB and JO need to progress these issues.
- At RHAG, Naisha Polaine reported that she saw half the region having a Single Conversation in place by 2010 with 2 pilots underway.
- SB has prepared a "shopping list" of known requirements for the sub region, both for affordable housing and for other infrastructure projects. There is a need to co-ordinate this with the letter to the HCA from Alex Plant. CRHB felt that could not wait until the August meeting. LB as Chair should take this up with Alex Plant before the next CRHB meeting.

AP

LB/JO

LB

## 5. Update on Community Land Trusts and Rural Housing

- Progress has been limited. A meeting was held with a consultant who found that this model could also work in larger developments, not just smaller communities.
- A number of East Cambs villages still may go forward. Some land deals have fallen through, there are issues around availability of suitable land and affordability, however, the HCA has set aside grant for developing the initiative nationally. JH will report any progress to a future CRHB as it happens.

JH

## 6. Impact/Opportunities in the Housing Reform Green Paper

The government is not expecting this to come out until the Autumn.

## 7. Focus on Equality and Inclusion – Health (Liz Robin, Jeramiah Ngondi and Jago Kitkat)

- LR and colleagues gave a presentation on three new housing related JSNAs – homelessness, new communities and international migration (KJB to circulate the presentation)
- It is expected that all three JSNAs will be completed by the end of June. These will be combined and presented to Cabinets, etc in September. This will provide enough time to allow all interested parties to feed in comments. CRHB will also have the opportunity to do this. Item for future meeting - SB?

KJB

## 8. Work Plan

### 3 July meeting – amendments discussed

- Need an update on Single Conversation from LB/JO.
- Empty homes – remove - ask the CSHG to consider this item.
- BME Monitoring of Home-Link – the Home-Link Management Board should have the responsibility for this, however, it is also relevant to CRHB. HR will update in the next few weeks
- G&T – all to let SB know if their LA is putting in a bid prior to the July meeting. SB will try to attend a meeting on 26 June, with Naisha Polaine. Let SB know of any issues to take to the meeting.

LB/JO

JH

HR

All

## 9. Consultation and Publications

- This was circulated, no actions arising.
- East of England Implementation Plan – consultation report circulated. All to feedback to SB for a sub-regional response.

All

### 10.1 Cambridgeshire Horizons

- Progressing with the Integrated Development Plan, board meeting end of June, encourage comments where requested.

### 10.2 Homes and Communities Agency

- Briefing papers circulated.
- Any LA which is planning to take out the local authority grant (for LAs to build on their own land) to let JOM know. Cambridge City has a report going to committee. HR to let JOM know what decision is agreed. Funding is quite committed already, no targets confirmed.

HR

### 10.3 Go-East

- Briefing paper circulated.
- Dennis Roberts is organising a workshop (18 June, 10am – 1pm) on NI 154 and 155 – 3 places available for the sub-region. The aim is to discuss the approach to review targets in the future.

### 10.4 Regional Housing Advisory Group

- Notes circulated. Naisha Polaine and Graham Tomlinson are looking at how they can better support sub-regions and be the voice for housing.
- Dennis Roberts will be writing to the Chair offering a pot of money for the sub-region. LB to look out for this.

LB

### 10.5 Sub-Regional Housing Association Meeting

- No meeting since the Board last met.

### 10.6 Cambridge Sub-Region Strategic Housing Group (CSHG)

- The risks of having the Prospectus for Growth as the main investment plan was discussed - CSHG felt the housing strategy should be the key plan and that the Prospectus should be a sub-section of the housing strategy. This is not necessarily the view of Horizons. LB and Alex Plant to discuss.
- Julia Allen at the County Council has produced reliable figures for people wishing to be rehoused who have disabilities.

LB/SB

### 10.7 Housing Enablers

- Kickstart – one site in Hunts, one in Cambridge City, tentative ones in South Cambs and East Cambs. Likely for more to come through that are not presently known. So far, only two are known to go through.

### 10.8 CLIP Sub-Group

- No meeting since the Board last met.

### 10.9 Growth Partnership Board

- No representative present.

## **11 Any Other Business**

- SCDC stock transfer ballot results - 73% turnout, and 73% of those voted to stay with the Council.

## **12 Future meetings**

The next meeting will be held at 10am, on Friday 3 July 2009 at Sanctuary Hereward, Ely.

### 2009 Meeting Dates:

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

7 August – East Cambs

6 November – Sanctuary Hereward

4 September – Sanctuary Hereward

4 December – East Cambs

2 October – East Cambs DC