

Minutes of the Cambridge sub-Regional Housing Board (CRHB) held on 3 June 2011

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
Martin Palmer (MP)	Forest Heath District Council
Frank Mastrandrea (FM)	Huntingdonshire District Council
Trish Reed (TR)	Huntingdonshire District Council
Niki Hollingworth (NH)	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Sue Beecroft (SB)	Cambridgeshire Horizons
Trevor Baker (TB)	Cambridgeshire County Council
Nigel Howlett (NH)	RSL representative (Items 1-3)
Lynn Hogarth (LH)	Cambs Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Consortium
Julia Slay (JS) and Jo	New Economics Foundation
Alex Plant (AP)	Cambridgeshire Horizons (Item 3)
Kathy Brown (KJB)	Cambridge City Council (taking minutes)

Apologies

Philip Sullivan (PS)	RSL representative
Paul Kitson (PK)	Homes & Communities Agency
David Keeling/Sarah Ireland	RSL representative
Steve Plant (SP)	Huntingdonshire District Council

Action

2. Spotlight on the Voluntary Sector

Lynn Hogarth, CEx Young Lives, representing the Cambridgeshire Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Consortium, and the Cambridgeshire Assembly

- Young Lives is an organisation, supporting the voluntary sector groups who work with children and young families - those who are looking at their first independent housing, assisting them with social housing and linking in with Kings Ripton Court, Hunts, YMCA, and the CHS Group.
- The Consortium is a collective of 2nd tier support organisations. It is 20 strong and has a range of generalist and specialist organisations and volunteer centres in its membership.
- The Cambridgeshire Assembly provides the voice (for campaigning), and a forum to connect to the voluntary sector. However, all structures are being looked at and this will be clearer after a meeting on 28 June.
- Currently the group has limited project funding and no core funding.
- Lynn explained the roles of CVSIC and The Assembly and outlined some of the work they undertake

Next Steps and Actions

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LH to think about what housing can do better for the voluntary sector. ▪ AC volunteered that a representative from CRHB would be prepared to do presentation to the consortium/assembly. ▪ NH to nominate a representative from the RSL group, and/or a LA housing rep. ▪ LH to provide KB with contact details for the Suffolk representative to pass onto NikkiH. | <p>LH</p> <p>NH</p> <p>LH</p> |
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Julia Slay – Co-Production

- Co-Production is an “approach” which can be applied to a range of services. They have recently been working with practitioners from a range of professions such as health and criminal justice. They work with people to deliver services in equal partnership; not seeing people with needs that need to be met but exploring what skills/assets they have to offer to build up into services.
- They are building peer support networks to have a facilitative role in the community.
- Housing Project called “Up to Us” - working with HACT - up to 6 models across UK. They are working with people to pool their personal budgets to collectively purchase support from providers. Kensington and Chelsea have a cooperative board to manage these collective budgets. This is currently being used for more social activities but could lead onto providing core services. Oxford and Knowsley have a community network to trade information online, for example, someone says “I’d like to do this, does anyone else want to?”. It is currently funded by HACT but hope to move to Stonham or Advanced. It supports people in an innovative way. The downside is it excludes those who are not IT literate, so there needs to be other ways for people to engage.
- Residential settings for older people – these are very new so only just setting up committees.
- These are interesting projects but not necessarily great examples of where it is working. The expectation was greater than what was actually happening.
- SPICE – time banking – trading hours, eg if you provide 2 hours of baby-sitting, you’ll earn 2 hours that you can trade on an activity for yourself. The key aspect of the broker is to encourage people who feel they have no skills to offer, that they do, for example if they have time, they can go and chat to a person who feels isolated. The benefits have been a reduction in ASB and an increased feeling of well-being.
- Keyring organisation – supporting living networks. They set people up in their own homes (mainly people with learning difficulties), for example 10 houses, all close to each other, with one worker. They receive support from the voluntary sector but their main aim is that they are all committed to helping each other, eg they’ll go for a drink together or to the bank, whatever people need. It is much more cost effective than buying in support.
- The aim of these projects is to provide economically better services, create social networks and promote an increased feeling of well-being for residents.

Actions:

- JS to circulate report on pilot projects.
- JS to send out link to HACT projects.

JS
JS

3. Update on LEPs (Alex Plant)

Horizons will be wound up at the end of September. But there is still a desire to ensure there is a continued joined-up approach particularly around growth.

Simultaneously, trying to get the LEP going in the Cambridge and Peterborough. A bid was put in and approved last year. The LEP Board will be made up of 14 people. There is a good balance of individual skills, across different business sectors and across the LEP region. The LEP will have sub-groups.

The Board has met twice and drawn up the following priority areas: skills and employment; drawing more funding into the area – locally, from Brussels and

Whitehall; being better at engaging with government eg lobbying Whitehall and Brussels; supporting high growth businesses; developing a strategic vision for the LEP area.

There is no hierarchy in the LEP structure; the aim is to create a core team of 4-5 people to manage and co-ordinate support from LA and businesses.

Funding achieved so far:

- Bid for and won £48k from the LEP capacity fund.
- £120k from CLG Transition Fund.
- +money left over from Horizons.
- £5m start-up fund for LEPs to bid into.
- £150k from LAs.

The immediate priority is to choose one enterprise. There will be a meeting in 5 weeks time to choose the best one.

Horizons Board will close as a trading institute but will keep going as a “money-box” for when investment comes back in to use on growth priority issues at that time.

Follow-on Discussion

NH wished to thank Alex for helping to keep housing at the forefront of economic growth in a variety of meetings; and for all that Horizons has done for housing in the area.

AC added that we want to raise the profile of CRHB – we have consistently kept housing strategy, centred on Cambridge, going and are a ready-made forum that the LEP can link into.

4. Draft minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Draft Minutes circulated

- Planning Policy Statement - no joint response.
- Homebuy Agent – no support for a national Homebuy Agent, but if regional Homebuy Agent is disbanded there may need to be something on a local basis. AC to seek RSL view. AC
- DFGs – new allocation methodology. No formal announcement of cuts.
- “JSNA Steering Group Membership – prevention in the working age population” – there are no ToR; TB is happy to be the representative. TR happy to attend as and when to ensure CRHB views are being fed in.
- CBL systems – staff attending conferences were disturbed about the statements made by CLG. Locator managers around the country are meeting at South Cambs to talk about their experience. CRHB could own a statement to push some important messages of good work. SH to bring this back to CRHB. SH

5. Extra Care Commissioning Strategy (Trish Reed)

CRHB agreed to endorse the Strategy, which includes an action plan. However, NH felt they weren't operating in line with the strategy in Cambridge.

6. Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment

This has a methodology report and shorter covering report. There are still some issues around the numbers. TB has been working with the Planners to clarify some of the questions for them to agree the methodology.

Timeline:

End of June - briefing note to be circulated for LAs to take to their members.

June/July – further changes to be made to existing methodology.

August/Sept – Sign off at the Chief Planning Officers meeting.

September – Sign off at CHRB.

7. Progress on Tenancy Strategies, including Affordable Rents, and Review of HCA Package Bids

LAs will continue to develop their own approaches to see if there is any commonality and hence any value of having a joint strategy. CRHB asked the TB to take this forward with the Housing Strategy Group. This might form part of the SHMA.

TB

There was general disappointment at the poor level of information provided by the HCA to LAs, to enable them to carry out statutory duties - many gaps in the information. AC to draft a letter, on behalf of CRHB, to the local HCA asking them to refer it to the national team.

AC

8. Sub-Regional Housing Statement

- Excellent piece of work, can be used as a briefing note for members (but does not need political sign-off).
- SB to send to all CRHB members asking them to for comment/track changes.
- SB to add in lead officer names against the actions.
- Bring back to July meeting for sign off, and date it July 2011.

SB

SB

9. Work Plan

July

Spotlight on Homelessness - JH

HIA Shared Services – SH/All

Housing & Health - DH

Housing Statement sign off - SB

Communication Plan – SB

August

Keep free for emerging issues. Review at July.

September –

- G&T Accommodation Assessment sign off
- City/SCDC/Peterborough/Cambridge University/Horizons put in bid to the EU for retrofitting technology

10. Consultation / Publications

Paper circulated

11.1 Cambridgeshire Horizons

Covered under Item 3.

11.2 Homes and Communities Agency

No representative present.

12 Any Other Business

- JH and NH presented to the Adult Learning and Skills Board. Based on the Shelter figures it predicted that people will be driven out of the City in their droves. SB agreed to produce a sub-regional briefing note. Alison Cole, from Cambridge City has already produced a “what will happen

SB

when”.

- SH spoke about work from sub-group for publication.
- Funding of sub-regional co-ordinator and SHMA is progressing. A proposal is going to the Horizons Board in June to use £35k of legacy funding to fund SB’s post until the end of March. It is also proposed to bring the funding of SB’s post and the SHMA together. £140k/annum is required to sustain current levels. AC/SB will bring a paper to July/August meeting for LAs to consider finding money in their 2012/3 budget cycle. If there is not enough funding, the need to consider doing less.

13 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 9.30am on Friday 1 July 2011 at Oxlip House, Bury St Edmunds, IP32 7PJ.

Future Meetings

First Friday of the month, starting at 9.30am – to finish with lunch by 12.30pm.

2011 dates

5 August – Sanctuary Hereward

4 November – East Cambs DC

2 September – East Cambs DC

2 December – Sanctuary Hereward

7 October – Sanctuary Hereward