

Minutes of the Cambridge sub-Regional Housing Board (CRHB) held on 4 March 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
Karen Freya (KF)	Fenland District Council
Steve Plant (SP)	Huntingdonshire District Council
Julia Vernon (JV)	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Sue Beecroft (SB)	Cambridgeshire Horizons
Trevor Baker (TB)	Cambridgeshire County Council
Nigel Howlett (NH)	RSL representative
Sarah Ireland (SI)	RSL representative
Philip Sullivan (PS)	RSL representative
Kathy Brown (KJB)	Cambridge City Council (taking minutes)

Apologies

Frank Mastrandrea (FM)	Huntingdonshire District Council
Paul Kitson (PK)	Homes & Communities Agency Forest Heath District Council

Action

2. Draft minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Agreed.

- DH will be attending the first Urgent Care Network meeting and will report back to CRHB. **DH**
- AG to ensure the planning sub-group are aware that more residential care homes are not required - SB will be attending and ensure the point is made. **SB**
- SP e-mailed Richard O'Driscoll, who will produce a statement for us to use in planning documents.
- AC was sent an online survey around housing and health related services with a deadline to respond by 14 March, however, this is not on the County's consultation website. AC to forward to CRHB. It was agreed to respond saying it is worthwhile but has not been circulated widely enough, and to suggest better linkage to CRHB through SB and/or TB.

3. Strengthening Links to the Third Sector

Lynn Hogarth was unable to attend this meeting, but is happy to attend a future meeting of the group. Lynn is Chief Executive of the Cambridge Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Consortium (CVSIC) who provide advice/training and profile raising, to ensure the work of the third sector is maximised. Members are organisations that deliver infrastructure services to the voluntary sector and CVSIC runs a number of projects funded through lottery money.

Also available to attend a future meeting is Julia Slay, Co-Production Co-ordinator New Economics Foundation, who leads a co-productive forum – action and research work. They oversee work on the ground, and lessons learned.

The Stronger Officer Group (STOG) is about to be wound up. This is a group, led by the County, to maximise joint working with the voluntary sector. At their last meeting (which is next week), it will be decided to either discontinue any topics or continue them via sub-groups.

SH

SH to circulate two publications produced by the Carnegie UK Trust –“A Shareholders Guide to Rural Services” and “The Power of the Plan”.

4. **Affordability of Affordable Rent – Trevor Baker**

TB to clarify the data from today’s discussions, early next week, and to include graphs, then do a total refresh in 2-3 weeks. Early circulation to include a caveat that it is work in progress and statistics do contain some flaws.

5. **Analysis of the Cambridge Market**

- SH, SB, TB and Polly met to model a 10 year view if the 80% affordable rents policy was adopted – modelling relets and new build. Broad assumptions were made to provide a view of sort of society would be created - what would the housing waiting list look like, the temp housing budget, effect on homelessness. This work will be completed May/June, to give the new politicians a something to think about.
- This work will inform the bid submissions in May for the next 4 years – but some flexibility needs to be built in.
- The longer-term vision will take more time.
- Any change in planning policy needs to take account of market and needs analysis.

What happens next:

- number crunching of TB’s stats to complete the 10 year modelling.
- Sub-Regional Strategy – are there any common themes across the sub-region in respect of the local tenancy strategies? SB to work on
- immediate - each LA to work up its own guidance to inform bids to the HCA.
- the sub-group that SH leads will continue to revisit the sub-regional strategy with stand-alone themes.

SB

Post Meeting Note – St Edmundsbury are currently working with RPs to model on 50% re-let to inform their submission in May.

6. **Sub-Regional Housing Statement**

- A short broad over-arching statement, would replace the sub-regional housing strategy. It would include successes from the Sub-Regional Action Plan and an action plan for the forthcoming 3 years. It can reinforce the current strategy, acknowledge new items, and signpost to LA’s existing strategies etc. This would avoid it having to go through the committee process.
- SB to produce the Statement for the April meeting.

SB

7. **CLIP and House Build Figures December 2010**

- CLIP housing elements were agreed at the Horizons Board. The County have added in some costly projects, with the understanding between HCA and Horizons, that the County are putting forward projects that are unlikely to be funded through the HCA. County’s Cabinet have asked for a cost benefit analysis to be done.
- Full CLIP and appendix is going to the next Horizons Board.
- If this work is going to continue, CRHB needs to start thinking about how

to fund SB's work beyond October - RSLs, LA and County?

Housing Completions

Paper circulated. This was presented to GPB and JSIG.

Horizons originally asked for a quarterly large site survey at a cost of £2000/survey. SB asked if LAs wished this to continue. CRHB's response was that it was better to have a robust annual figure, and use figures throughout the year from other available sources (enablers/planners) which would give a general feel of what is going on.

8. Work Plan

April

- G&T spotlight presentation - TB **TB**
- Homelink response to changes - impact on allocations policy as a result of changes – SH and Andy Glaves to bring a report. **SH**
- Sub-Regional Housing Statement - SB **SB**
- Affordable rents update – TB's updated stats **TB**

May –

- Affordable Rent Discussion **?**
- CBL – feedback from providers and HCA (SPlant) **SP**
- Political aspect of shared services between 3 LAs **SP?**
- Emerging LEP structure – new chair, board and link **?**

June

- Voluntary Sector - see Item 2
- What comes after the LAA?
- LEPs and progress on Localism (community land trusts, community led planning)
- General member feedback on the impact of the Government agenda

Items for future agendas

Carbon reduction theme – eg Peterborough's Zero Carbon Challenge – SB to see if there is a natural time for a site visit. Paul Kitson is also involved in this. **SB**

9. Consultation / Publications

Register circulated for discussion:

- Planning Policy Statement 3: Planning for Housing - SB to pull together joint response **SB**
- HCA proposes single Homebuy Agent for England - SB/Enablers to bring response back in April. **SB**

10.1 Cambridgeshire Horizons

Nothing additional to report.

10.2 Homes and Communities Agency

No representative present.

11 Any Other Business

- JH has accepted NH's invitation to address the County Led Adult Learning and Skills Board in May on how the policy impact on housing could affect where learners live.
- Dinah Roake is attending next Housing Enablers meeting to talk about mutuals and cooperatives.
- County G&T group have issued their final document.
- Sheltered Housing Strategy Sub-Group (14 March), due to the impending

funding. Group to issue a statement on the provision of extra care schemes and issue to registered providers. Circulate and bring to CRHB for information.

- SHMA budget – SB suggested transferring the balance (£30k) back to the County and distributing invoices for the forthcoming 5 years (approx £8.5k per district/annum which Horizons have previously met). This can be variable.

12 Future meetings

The next meeting will be held at 9.30am on Friday 1 April 2011 at Sanctuary Housing, Ely

Dates of Future Meetings

Meetings will usually start at 9.30am and finish with lunch by 12.30pm.

2011 dates

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