

Minutes of the Cambridge sub-Regional Housing Board (CRHB) held on Friday 3 October 2008

1. Introduction and Apologies

Present

Liz Bisset (LB)	Cambridge City Council (Chair)
Alan Carter (AC)	Cambridge City Council
Jane Hollingworth (JH)	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Dan Horn (DH)	Fenland District Council
Steve.Clark (SC)	Forest Heath District Council
Jo Emmerton (JE)	Huntingdonshire District Council
Schuyler Newstead (SN)	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Trevor Baker (TB)	Cambridgeshire County Council
Sue Beecroft (SB)	Cambridgeshire Horizons
John Onslow (JO)	Cambridgeshire Horizons
John O'Mahony (JOM)	Housing Corporation
Katrina Laud (KL)	RSL representative
Colin Wiles (CW)	RSL representative
Jo Webb (JW)	EERA
Trisha Smith (TS)	Go-East
Kathy Brown (KJB)	Cambridge City Council (taking minutes)

Apologies

Stephen Hills (SH)	South Cambs District Council (Vice Chair)
Frank Mastrandrea (FM)	Huntingdonshire District Council
Steve Plant (SP)	Huntingdonshire District Council
Carol Herries (CH)	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Niki Hollingworth (NH)	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Nigel Howlett (NH)	RSL representative
Simon Phelan (SPh)	Forest Heath District Council

Action

← --- Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

- The 5 year strategic plan will be out for consultation October/November 2008. KJB to ensure this is circulated to CRHB for comment.
- Strategic Housing Group discussed: JSNA – discussion to ensure housing is being picked up. TB to speak to Liz Robin to see how to take this forward. The Older Peoples' Strategy has now been delayed as our concerns were relayed. Bring back to the November CRHB, this will be before it goes to Cambridge Together.
- Extra Care funding – meeting 16 October understand the issues and move things forward.
- LB is meeting with Mike Davey on 9 October, officers to let LB know if there are other issues which need raising at this meeting.
- Disability Housing Strategy – bring back to December CRHB to look at the action plan before each district endorses it.
- RSL stock mapping – a meeting has not yet been arranged, but this can be discussed as part of another meeting on 16 October.
- JH meeting with Alex Plant w/b 6 October re funding.
- Local Housing Allowance – JH was asked to find out if the situation is similar in Oxford.
- Terry Fuller – to be invited to a Board meeting early 2009. LB to contact him once he is in post in December.

**All
Nov
CRHB**

JH

LB

3. Sharing Services in Housing – brainstorming session

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Functions

1. **Strategic** = 9 – 12 personnel working on strategic housing across the sub-region

- Research and Market Intelligence
- Strategy – Supporting People
- Enabling & Development
- Homeless
- Housing Advice & Options
- Home-Link
- Private Sector (cross over with HIA below)
- Performance Monitoring
- Client Side (Stock Transfer)
- Communications

2. **Operational**

- Temporary Accommodation
- HIA (cross over with private housing above)
- ASB

Approaches

- No share
- Structured Sharing
- Unstructured sharing – co-operation
- Merge
- Learning – The Why?

Considerations

- Political
- Financial
- Legal
- Customer Experience
 - Access to services
 - Geography
 - Need
- Organisational
- Expertise
- Local knowledge and context
- Systems/information
- Government agenda / environment – constraints?

Purpose - Why Share / Drivers?

- Should be outcome focused
- VFM
- Cost savings
- Improved services
- Capacity
- Legislative
- Equity

What next? Explore funding for a half day event, facilitated. To consider potential for shared work.

SB

4. Sub-regional Homelessness Action Plan - circulated

- There were reservations around the action of seeking to identify the schools with higher numbers of 16/17 year olds who find themselves

homeless. The Board suggested this be changed to “going into schools to try to prevent homelessness”.

- CRHB supported this action plan, subject to the change above.
- To identify where young homeless are coming from can act as an indicator for where an area may need investment.
- Bring back to CRHB in December. JH to invite Sue Carter, or a representative from the County’s Homelessness Group.
- This is one of the sub-groups that link into CRHB and would feed into the away-day and update the Board on an annual basis.
- Bring back to CRHB in December. JH to invite a representative from the County’s Homelessness Group to the meeting.

JH

5. Enhanced Housing Options

- The programme was funded by CLG and initially £300k per authority was available to bid for, to spend over a 3 year period. We were unsuccessful in the first round but automatically got shortlisted for the second round, to bid for £200k over 2 years.
- A submission was made, mid September, saying how we would use less money. Interviews for the 2nd round were held yesterday (we were excused from the interviews), moderation is next week, and the following week it goes to Ministers with a decision early November.
- The pitch was smarter than the first, with focus around developing Home-Link and homelessness. Its around capacity building – getting someone in to help.

6. Sub-Regional Housing Strategy

- The Board considered a further revised Strategy after comments were incorporated from discussions at the Sub-Regional Strategic Housing Group and the Regional Housing Advisory Group.
- The final version will be circulated to CRHB by 10 October.
- It will need to be adopted at district level.
- LB to contact Sara Rodriguez-Jimenez about taking it to the LAA Board for discussion.
- It should also be taken to the Suffolk Board.
- SB to circulate it to the Sub-Regional RSL meeting.
- Elements also tie in with the HCA.
- We need to think about the Strategy’s role in the long-term.

← - - - Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

SB

LB

SC

SB

7. Housing Delivery Numbers and Early Market Analysis

- Report and draft Bulletin circulated. CRHB agreed for this to be published. Continue to bring back to the Board.
- To note: the figures provide only a snap-shot in this volatile market and should not undermine development. Need to repeat this on a regular basis.
- CW to circulate a report detailing individual LA performance in relation to affordable housing completions.

← - - - Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

CW

8. Work Plan

This was revised at the meeting and will be recirculated with the next Board agenda.

← - - - Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

9. Consultation Register

- Nothing to consider at this meeting.

← - - - Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

10.1 Cambridgeshire Horizons

- Housing Growth Fund refresh bid for £80m submitted this week, for this year and next year. £37m rolling fund bid, is invested up front and reclaimed from developers when they sell houses.
- Developers have asked to renegotiate on S106 - proving challenging.
- Glebe Farm was approved by the Joint Devt Cttee, subject to S106.
- RSS Review is ongoing, will be a study, brief drawn up to go out to consultants. A clear view is needed to go forward into the RSS process. However, the timetable is very tight and as much work as possible will be done. There is agreement to set up joint member group to steer the work.

10.2 Housing Corporation

- Quarter 2 programme is finished - figures will be brought to the next Board.
- Continuous Market Engagement has started and the HC is encouraging providers to put bids forward.
- Home-Buy direct – announced by Minister, 2 Sept. Competition is now launched. Prospectus is accessed via website.

10.3 Go-East

- CLG are organising a repossessions summit at Go-East on 14 November.

10.4 Regional Housing Advisory Group

- Work starting on the Joint Implementation Plan and sub-regions will have a chance to feed into the Strategy. The document will be circulated and is not a forerunner of an integrated strategy but of the process.
- There is concern about delivery and changes in market. Each district will be sent questions asking how the housing market conditions are affecting their area. This will be used as a tool for members and planners about what a significant difference it is making to people's lives.
- RSS review will take us to 2031. EERA are carrying out an assessment of affordable housing in the region. EERA market update launched - using Home-track, looking at the credit crunch and the Govt's housing package.
- Spreadsheets will come out from the HC on 6 October, to be returned 31 October – this is our chance to get our case in for regional funding allocations. Enablers and planners need to engage.

10.5 Sub-Regional Housing Association Meeting

No meeting since the Board last met.

10.6 Cambridge Sub-Region Strategic Housing Group

Nothing to report.

10.7 CLIP Sub-Group

Next meeting, 17 October - JH will circulate the agenda.

11 Any Other Business

None

12 Future meetings

The next meeting will be held at 10am, on Friday 7 November at East Cambs DC, Ely.

Future dates:

5 December – Sanctuary Hereward

Proposed 2009 Meeting Dates:

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

9 January (2nd Friday) – venues tbc

6 February

6 March

3 April

1 May

5 June

3 July

7 August

4 September

2 October

6 November

4 December