

Minutes of the Cambridge sub-Regional Housing Board (CRHB) held on Friday 4 September 2009

1. Introduction and Apologies

Present

Liz Bisset (LB)	Cambridge City Council (Chair)
Jane Hollingworth (JH)	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Dan Horn (DH)	Fenland District Council
Steve Plant (SP)	Huntingdonshire District Council
Stephen Hills (SH)	South Cambridgeshire District Council (Vice Chair)
Kevin Marshall (KM)	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Trevor Baker (TB)	Cambridgeshire County Council
Sue Beecroft (SB)	Cambridgeshire Horizons
Tom Purser (TP)	Go-East
Nigel Howlett (NH)	RSL representative
Colin Wiles (CW)	RSL representative
Sarah Ireland (SI)	RSL representative
Jo Keegan (JK)	Supporting People Cambridgeshire
Sue Questier (SQ)	Hunts DC (representative from the Private Sector Housing Group)
Kathy Brown (KJB)	Cambridge City Council (taking minutes)

Apologies

Alan Carter (AC)	Cambridge City Council
Steve Clark (SC)	Forest Heath District Council
Carole Herries (CH)	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Frank Mastrandrea (FM)	Huntingdonshire District Council
John Onslow (JO)	Cambridgeshire Horizons
John O'Mahony (JOM)	Homes & Communities Agency
Hilary Anderson	Supporting People Suffolk

Action

2. Supporting People Update – Jo Keegan

(Paper circulated)

Needs analysis by Civis

- Focus needs to move towards floating support.
- Almost 3000 peoples' needs are NOT currently being met.
- Given the population projections, this could be 8000 to 9000 additional people needing support by 2026.
- Needs exceed supply overall.
- However, care must be taken when looking at individual client groups as needs may overlap between groups.
- Decisions on SP funding must also look at things like the Index of Multiple Deprivation etc, SP investment is not purely on this needs analysis. If funding is "unringfenced" from 2010 onwards, may need to ask for more money and to prime the Cambridgeshire Together Partnership to show the impact of SP funding (DH).
- This research is to inform the strategic thinking.
- This will be a good tool to feed into the JSNA. SB to send JK the latest version of the New Communities JSNA.
- Older Peoples needs – balance of floating support and extra care needs further investigation.

SB

SP's position with the County Council

The County is proposing to develop prevention and re-enablement strategies.

Want to position SP within them.

SP now represented on Community Well-Being Partnership Board (part of the LAA). This replaces the SP Joint Members Group (JMG). The SP Commissioning Body remains.

SP Strategy and the link between SP and the LAA

- For clarification, expenditure will be brought in-line with income, not the other way round.
- No clear mechanisms as to how Cambridgeshire Together Board deals with lots of the “medium priority” areas in the LAA. We will assist and need to take this forward by helping make a clear case for SP.
- SP represents a third of the LAA budget, a significant amount, largest single element of that budget so should be centre stage of the overseeing group. Need to make the case for what we do and not weaken the overall impact. Connections to other and wider agendas.
- SB mentioned Making Cambridgeshire Count – need to ensure SP gets into the mix as it is a good example of how funding benefits more than one Indicator and of prevention work leading to huge savings and good outcomes.
- Not expecting pot of money to change for the next couple of years.
- Re-enablement / personalisation into SP services – would pilot this as part of floating support work, where people buy their own services.

Suffolk SP were unable to attend this meeting but will be invited to a future meeting.

KJB

Action: need a sub-regional network diagram showing different strategies and information affecting older people specifically.

SB

3. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

- JSNAs – the Homelessness and Migrant Workers JSNA will be going to the County Council Cabinet - TB to circulate. New Communities – will be in final draft by end of November, and ready for circulation early 2010.
- JOM still to circulate priority areas.
- Managing Growth - Orchard Park has been put forward to the HCA.
- Enablers have some concerns about how the HCA are working with LAs, individually and strategically. The HCA only have 2.5 weeks for the bid round, therefore, LAs are given 5 days to turn round their response, which is considered too short a time. The Enablers have a rotating Chair which may not help with communication. JH to take away the task to look at the structure to try for a more organised approach for better communication.

TB

JOM

JH

4. Single Conversation

ToR circulated, discussed and amended.

- SQ felt it was important that the Private Sector Housing Group feed in. CRHB agreed for SQ to be added to the Task Group.
- One person from each LA is not required but individual officers will jointly represent all LAs.
- LB to write to formally invite a representative from the Chief Planning Officer Group.
- AC to arrange the first meeting.

LB

AC

5. Rugg Review

Paper circulated

- CRHB are asked if there are any new actions to pursue to improve links

with housing groups.

- Private Sector Housing Group could receive agendas/minutes of CRHB and be invited as a guest as and when the agenda is relevant.
- SQ to be involved in the CSHG.
- CW wished to explore having an RSL rep on the PSH group.
- The above will hopefully improve joined up working for housing providers across the region.

CW

6. Sub-Regional Housing Strategy

Action Plan circulated

- SB highlighted where there were gaps and asked that progress reports were sent to her by 2 October.
- Any concerns to be brought back and flagged up at CRHB.

All

SB

7. Housing Completions

Paper circulated

- 2,810 homes were built from April 2008 - March 2009 which, although is above our LAA target of 2,300 homes, is a drop from 4,229 in the last year.
- There was an encouraging number of larger sites delivered in the first quarter of this year.
- Figures show that larger sites have held up and the smaller sites have suffered in the current economic climate.
- The County Council believes that although completions have dropped the 2021 target is still achievable.
- We have an opportunity to review our delivery targets with Go-East for 2009/10 and 2010/11.
- Need to ask Enablers group to liaise with their planners when planners consult developers on new (2009) Annual Monitoring Returns. Need a realistic figure which will inform forthcoming targets for the LAA.
- SB to add in affordable starts on site and overall starts on site if at all possible.

8. Work Plan

- Older People's Strategy went to the Cambridgeshire Together Board, where they asked for an action plan to be produced, but have not required to see the action plan, or set a time for it to be produced. Therefore suggest we need to include this in our review of strategies (see item 2).
- SB/LB/JO need to discuss what growth work needs to come back to CRHB, and schedule onto the workplan.
- Single Conversation Task Group added to the agenda as a standard item.
- Need a mid-year refresh - the agenda tends to thin out at this time of year - consider what else should be scheduled onto CRHB.
- Is there anything that the CSHG wishes to bring to the Board?
- Invite Rod Craig to December re Older People's Strategy.
- October - RSS Review – please notify KJB of any suggestions of who to invite.
- Feb/March – Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

LB/SB

All

JH

LB

All

9. Consultation / Publications

Paper circulated

Highlighted consultations:

- CLG proposals for introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy – comments to SB.

All

- Cambs CC Community Engagement Strategy – Mike Davey

10.1 **Cambridgeshire Horizons**

- Nothing to report.

10.2 **Homes and Communities Agency**

- No representative present.

10.3 **Go-East**

- Regional Grand Committee – takes place Tuesday 8 September. Regional MPs present questions to the regional minister followed by a debate.
- HCA are holding a seminar in the next couple of weeks to help LAs put together Kickstart bids.
- Gypsy and Traveller policy published – practitioner and councillor workshops will be held.
- Housing Finance Report consultation closes 27 October.
- LAA refresh 154 and 155 targets open for renegotiation.
- Housing Growth Fund consultation is expected shortly.
- Go-East is looking for examples of good practice on preventing homelessness and repossession in response to the recession eg debt advice, support for those attending court. A comment was made that more support could be offered if Data Protection issues could be resolved.

All

11 **Any Other Business**

SHMA Newsletter circulated and was circulated widely. Consultation on the next chunk of chapters ends October.

New Homes Survey would benefit from including questions from the KLOE on the strategic housing role which proposes a widening of the remit for LAs.

12 **Future meetings**

The next meeting will be held at 10am, on Friday 2 October 2009 at East Cambs DC offices, Ely.

2009 Meeting Dates:

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

6 November – Sanctuary Hereward

4 December – East Cambs