

Minutes of the Cambridge sub-Regional Housing Board (CRHB) held on 3 September 2010

1. Introduction and Apologies

Present

Alan Carter (AC)	Cambridge City Council (Chair)
Stephen Hills (SH)	South Cambridgeshire District Council (Chair)
Dan Horn (DH)	Fenland District Council
Steve Plant (SP)	Huntingdonshire District Council
Frank Mastrandrea (FM)	Huntingdonshire District Council
Steve Clark (SC)	Forest Heath District Council (taking notes)
Tom Purser (TP)	Go-East
Nigel Howlett (NH)	RSL representative
David Keeling (DK)	RSL representative
Trevor Baker (TB)	Cambridgeshire County Council Research Group
Polly Jackson (PJ)	Cambridgeshire County Council Research Group
John Williamson (JW)	Cambridgeshire Horizons
Sue Beecroft (SB)	Cambridgeshire Horizons

Apologies

Paul Kitson (PK)	Homes & Communities Agency
Kathy Brown (KB)	Cambridge City Council
Carole Herries (CH)	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Niki Hollingworth (NH)	St Edmundsbury Borough Council

2. Spotlight on the SHMA

TB circulated a note (available at http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/documents/crhb/meetings/sept_10/shma_spotlight.pdf). Summary:

- New chapter structure being piloted
- FAQs to be added to website
- Adding links within and between chapters to help accessibility
- Moved from primary to secondary data – “equally robust”
- Primary interviews cost £70K in initial years, so huge benefit
- Moved over to HomeLink CBL system with bands, rather than 7 separate housing waiting lists
- Continued to use conservative estimates in all cases
- Mapping service imminent
- Budget: equalised for first 5 years. Possible reduction if needed over next 5 years, but to be worked up.

Questions / discussion:

- Suggest don't “fine tune” too far
- Make sure we get credit for building homes!
- Will we be freed of restrictions in guidance?
- Future funding for Hometrack?
- Pos RSS, JW had attended meetings commissioned by Public Service Board (LA chief execs) to plan medium and long term.
- Need agreements and evidence behind any future strategy.
- Beyond 2021 might incorporate work EERA, County and broader LEP area – planning to 2031. Will need a debate between post-RSS steering group (JW and Adrian Tofts are on this) and the SHMA project team.
- Need to demonstrate the investment in SHMA is justified, e.g. against the cost of losing planning appeals.
- Suffolk position not as clear, need to ensure Suffolk is as focussed about post-RSS activity.

Action

**TB/PJ
TB/PJ
TB/PJ**

**TB/PJ
SB**

**JW/AT/
SB**

- Need SHMA info more than ever. Must be sharp, appropriate and fit for purpose. TB/SB/PJ
- Constant vigilance! Focus time and effort on what's needed more
- Democratic accountability comes from CRHB, as stat duty to assess housing need
- Role of CRHB in developing the SHMA can continue independent of LEP if necessary, and even if boundaries differ.
- Need to make the case for investment in the SHMA. Summarise funding in the past – value brought – issues for the future – anticipated budget needed – managing it in short and long term. Include examples. Future planning world? Where does it add value? SB
- Might need to increase Research Group hours if more demographic work is needed. TB
- Need to consider housing's role in LEP and be ready to explain what's essential in future, and plan for the worst-case scenario. To be worked up – make the case – investment at present and options of funding disappears AC, JW, NH

3. New Announcements and Our Plans to React

- Commend the CIH housing futures website – to be found at <http://www.housingfutures.cih.co.uk/>
- Governance - meaning the level or stage a decision is made - will be crucial in the localism debate
- Wednesday's Guardian trailed launch of Policy Exchange report "making housing affordable" – available at http://www.policyexchange.org.uk/images/publications/pdfs/PX_Housing_WEB.pdf
- Look out for the Localism Bill in November
- Our plans to react:
- SB, DK, SC and SH to meet. Want to do a statement in response to the proposals SB/DK/SC /SH
- SHMA should help with the analysis, may also suggest work for the task groups
- Discussion:
- No mention of reducing statutory duties – either health or housing – to match the cuts in resourcing. Pressure already being felt.
- Who and how will we lobby? Might be via MPs in our area. Could be via CIH and NHF. Good connections.
- Will meet and feed back to CRHB.

4. Fenland presentation on 3 key projects

- DH presented on 3 key projects for Fenland (and ECDC)
- HMO intervention project
- Targeted Area Action Plan
- Migrant Shelter in Wisbech
- Slides available at http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/our_challenge/housing/crhb_meetings.aspx

Updates:

Cambridgeshire Horizons

- 10.1
- LEP – future of Horizons wrapped up in LEP.
 - Cash and subsidies will stop after March 2011. Uncertain if CH revenue funding might move to LEP, or not.
 - No detail yet, but LEP may absorb a variety of partner agencies. Bid now available at <http://www.yourlocalenterprisepartnership.co.uk/>
 - HGF capital – CLG is "bidding" to Treasury to retain some £££ as shows good outcomes. Will work with Opportunity Peterborough to see if will bid

- for Regional Growth Fund (RGF). Deadline for Tranche 1 is Dec 2010.
- Have secured £7m of capital funding, though sent to City erroneously, instead of County. Likely to go to Clay Fringe site on Southern Fringe of the City, where 4,000 completions will be coming forward.
- Green Infrastructure Strategy – to be completed in Spring 2011.
- Carbon Offset Fund – working to develop so can pool resources for energy infrastructure.
- Learning and Development Programme – housing day course to proceed without site visit. All agreeable to this.
- Quality Panel – reviewed 2 sites in June against the Quality Charter principles; next Friday (10 Sept) will assess St Neots. For more on the Panel, see <http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/qualitypanel/>
- Update reports on CLIP and housing completions drafted for GPB. These papers will be circulated with the CRHB minutes for comment / info, to feed into Horizons Board on 29 Sept.
- Thanks to all for sterling efforts in responding to the CLIP information request, further developments to be made clear after a meeting on Tuesday.

10.2 GO-East

- Outcomes of CSR will determine any remaining GO issues, and the Localism Bill
- Unlikely to be housing and planning teams, in fact whole regional tier seems to be dissolving
- All wished Tom well as he departs for a new role, and thanked him for his efforts.

10.3 HomeLink Management Board

Been asked by Stevenage and North Herts if HL could extend to them. Might help with costs, economies of scale etc.

5. Work Plan

Oct

Update from SH sub-group's work and actions proceeding
 Agenda too light to run a whole meeting, suggest email instead.
 Ask Kathy to un-book room at Sanctuary's offices

KB

November

CSR outcomes
 Equality and diversity
 LEP and housing
 Task group
 HRA review
 Bring plan for sub-groups (SL and SB) – incorporating a brief review of CSHG

All
 TBC
 NH
 SH
 AC / SH
 SL/SB

December

3rd sector review – Assembly now running , SH to contact

SH

Previous meeting suggestion:

Suggest Gypsy and Traveller spotlight review, once got JSNA, GTANA and county strategy completed

TB

January

Sharing good practice – possibly including SCDC experience of Inspection in Nov/Dec

SH

Sub-regional position statement and review of sub-regional housing strategy just ending

SH/SB

6. Consultation / Publications

Register produced but too late to bring to meeting.

Available at:

http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/documents/crhb/meetings/sept_10/

7. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

- Trish R (HDC) to attend localism session with CLG.
- Action notes agreed and available at http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/documents/crhb/meetings/aug_10/action_notes_aug_2010.pdf

11 Any Other Business

- Future CRHB meetings to start at 9.30am, if Homelink management board is on the same day will ask to bring start of the HL management board forwards to 1pm, so not a 2 hour gap between! **KB / AG**
- If outcomes of HCA bids are announced 31 August, follow with an e-mail exchange on the upshot
- QC training programme outline of officers and cllrs sessions to be circulated with these notes. Link to Quality Charter training prospectus available at http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/our_challenge/training/forthcoming_training.aspx

12 Future meetings

The next meeting will be held at **9.30 am** on 5 November 2010 at ECDC offices.

Future dates

**1 October – Sanctuary Hereward -
CANCELLED**

5 November - ECDC

3 December – Sanctuary Hereward