

CAMBRIDGESHIRE HORIZONS

Agenda Item No: 6

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES ACROSS THE GROWTH SITES

To: **Joint Strategic Growth Implementation Committee**

Date: **11 February 2010**

From: **Jo Mills
South Cambridgeshire District Council**

Purpose: **To inform members of proposal to set up an officer Joint Community Infrastructure Group, reporting to the Senior Officer Group) that would inform the planning of joint growth sites and the creation of sustainable communities;
To seek member views on the scope and work of the group.**

Recommendation: **The Joint Strategic Growth Implementation Group is asked to endorse:**

The early establishment of the 'Community Infrastructure and Services Group' with Terms of Reference and a draft work plan to be reported to Senior Officer Board.

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1. Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to seek comments from members on the creation of a Joint Community Infrastructure and Services Group to inform the planning of the joint growth sites and creation of sustainable communities.

2. Background:

2.1 The Strategic Affordable Housing Group was set up after the Cambridge Challenge to:

- Provide co-ordinated input to the planning negotiations for the joint growth sites
- Ensure effective communication between the local housing authorities, major developments planning teams, Cambridgeshire Partnerships Ltd (CPL) and the HCA (Homes and Communities Agency formerly the Housing Corporation)
- Ensure the full range of housing-related issues are planned and considered, including the provision of supported housing.

2.2 The Strategic Housing Group has worked well in terms of developing policy across the joint sites, and in ensuring the housing strategies and policy intentions of the local authorities are reflected in the master planning and development of s106 agreements and that the intentions are deliverable. It reports regularly to the CPL Board.

2.2 Officers from the local authorities, including the County Council, and NHS Cambridgeshire have recently considered the co-ordination of community-related aspects of growth, and recommended that a group similar to the Strategic Housing Group should be set up for Community Infrastructure and Services. All agencies are moving into an era of reduced resources, but even without this, greater co-ordination across this area will help us to be more effective and make the better use of resources.

2.3 It is worth noting that the three Delivery Boards for the Fringe sites (East, Southern and North-West) stopped meeting in late 2009, and that now, matters are considered within the planning project teams or by the Senior Officer Board.

3. Considerations

3.1 It is proposed that a tight strategic group be set up to consider issues that relate to social and community infrastructure on growth sites involving Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire Councils. The group will report to the Senior Officer Board. Membership would include representatives of the district, city and county councils, NHS Cambridgeshire, Cambridgeshire Horizons and CPL. The Terms of Reference would be based on those for the Strategic Housing Group (attached) and Northstowe Community Partnership Group. The remit of the group would encompass: community buildings and facilities, community development and engagement, arts, sports, health,

education, economic development, governance, faith, social enterprise and the third sector. The key purpose of

the group would be to deliver a rounded approach to the community related aspects of growth, with best use of resources and maximum outcomes.

- 3.2 The Community Infrastructure and Services Group would:
- a) Have a small core membership and draw in others as required. There would be some overlap with the membership of the Strategic Housing Group and meetings would usually follow on from each other.
 - b) Co-ordinate the planning and delivery of community infrastructure and services, and feed into the project teams for each site through representatives from the group (as with the Strategic Housing Group).
 - c) Co-ordinate and review engagement, communication and accountability to County and District Members, Parish Councils and community groups.
 - d) Incorporate the Steering Group for the Community Technical Manager.
 - e) Establish effective links to the Culture Sub-Group of the Economic Prosperity Partnership and to the Quality Panel.
 - f) Share learning and experience.
- 3.3 The appendix from the report on planning project management arrangements for Trumpington Meadows is attached. This shows how the Community Infrastructure and Services Group would relate to the Trumpington Meadows Project Team. The arrangements for Cambridge North West would be identical, and reflect the current arrangement for housing.
- 3.4 It is suggested that the Strategic Housing Group and Community Infrastructure and Services Group should both provide reports to the Senior Officer Board twice a year. These reports could also be presented to JSGIC in order to present information on policy implementation.
- 3.5 South Cambridgeshire District Council and partners involved at Orchard Park have agreed to participate in the Joseph Rowntree Foundation SUNN Network (Sustainable Urban Neighbourhoods Network). The network involves nine areas with new developments below 3,000 homes. It is facilitated by Urbed, and the first meeting was in York in November. The second meeting will be in Orchard Park in March. SUNN is a two-year programme that will consist of a visit each quarter to one participant and will culminate in a national conference in London in December 2011.
- 3.6 Cambridge City Council, with Horizons and SCDC, has been invited to join the Young Foundation Future Communities initiative. It was launched at the House of Lords in January and no firm decision has yet been made regarding participation.

4. Community Engagement

- 4.1 Community Engagement across the major growth sites should sit under the umbrella of the 'Community Infrastructure Group'. Partners are keen to ensure a joined up approach to community engagement to ensure consistent and equitable opportunities for community involvement are offered across the growth sites. This will help avoid confusion and misunderstandings and ensure more reliable, fully informed and inclusive decision-making processes, policy development and service planning.
- 4.2 A Growth Areas Community Engagement Strategy with accompanying Action Plan is being developed by partners to provide an overarching framework for engagement across the growth sites. It will set out why community engagement forms an essential part of decision-making processes, who needs to be involved, and how meaningful engagement may be achieved.

5. Recommendations

As per cover page.