

Joint Strategic Growth Implementation Committee Meeting
13th May 2009
The Swansley Room, South Cambridgeshire District Council offices,
Cambourne
1000-1200

Committee Members:

Name

Sir David Trippier (SDT)	Cambridgeshire Horizons
Alex Plant (AP)	Cambridgeshire Horizons
John Onslow (JO)	Cambridgeshire Horizons
Cllr Dr David Bard (DB)	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Ray Manning (RM)	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Sebastian Kindersley (SK)	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Matthew Bradney (MB)	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Peter Brown (PB)	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Nichola Harrison (NH)	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Sian Reid (SR)	Cambridge City Council
Cllr Ian Nimmo-Smith (INS)	Cambridge City Council
Cllr Lewis Herbert (LH)	Cambridge City Council

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Graham Hughes (GH)	Cambridgeshire County Council
Simon Payne (SP)	Cambridge City Council
Peter Studdert (PS)	Joint Planning Director
Laura Halstead (LH)	Cambridgeshire Horizons
Jo Mills (JM)	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Tim Wetherfield (TW)	Cambridge City Council
Gill Barker (Minutes)	Cambridgeshire Horizons
Kathy Baldwin (Item 6)	Cambridgeshire County Council
Andy Curtis (Item 6)	Cambridgeshire County Council

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Sir Peter Brown	Cambridgeshire County Council
Brian Smith	Cambridgeshire County Council
Steve Hampson	South Cambridgeshire District Council

Actions

1. a) Welcome and Apologies

SDT welcomed all to the meeting and noted the apologies above.

b) Declarations of Interest

NH – under Item 5 – as Chair of Trustees of Shape East;

PS – under Item 5 – as Officer member of Shape East.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th March 2009

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

Under Item 3 – SDT noted that Kate Barker, author of the renowned Barker Report and member of the Monetary Policy Committee, had now agreed to be principle speaker at Horizons Conference on 17th June.

Under Item 5 – SDT noted that the issue of Local Asset Backed Vehicle (LABV) had been to Horizons Main Board and it had been agreed that the issue should be deferred for the time being.

4. Major Development Sites progress Report : including Strategic Risk Register (SRR)

JO's paper had been circulated previously.

Main Points: Housing market continues to be difficult and is major concern;

Some development is taking place on existing sites;

SRR is still a work-in-progress document. Pages 2 and 3 show the suggested new layout, with risks listed in line with LAA outcomes;

Comments welcomed;

Officer group currently working on this are consolidating risks to produce a document with clear ownership, mitigations and pathways;

Should be complete for the next meeting;

Cambridge North West – dealt with under Item 6;

Cambridge East – under Item 7;

Cambridge Southern Fringe – under Item 11;

Quality of Life project funding is through HGF.

Discussion:

- Much of the information contained in JO's paper should be highlighted within an A4 size 'leaflet' which could then be used to give a clear picture to members of the public;
- 2.1.1 noted Countryside had lodged an appeal regarding Clay Farm/Glebe Farm development– agreed very important issue. This was a major area of growth for the sub-region and would be discussed in more detail under Item 11;
- Concern that policy regarding affordable housing should be maintained;
- It was noted that further to the recent Joint Development Control Committee (JDCC) meeting, and a subsequent meeting with the developer, the Trumpington Meadows site seemed close to agreement. Planning permission could be granted by end of June;
- Concern noted regarding attendance at JDCC meetings.

SDT

Maintaining quoracy was a problem. All members to be reminded of this responsibility;

- Noted that last JDCC meeting had approved QoL work on a river restoration project on a 2k stretch of the Cam. This was good news and should be publicised;
- Noted that LH was working with Communications Managers in each of the 6 local authorities to publicise these issues;
- Chesterton Station: noted that Regional Funding Allocation (RFA) had been recommended. Concern raised that there should be no housing in this area. Requires joint discussion. Rail service should be priority. Traveller's sites required urgently.
- Concern regarding both permanent and transit site provision for Gypsies and Travellers;
- S29 committee, which should be formed post-elections, will be responsible for joint forward planning issues;
- Query as to funding mechanisms being pursued. AP gave an overview of the Investment Package information presented to the last Main Board which included HGF Flexible Fund, Variable Rate Tariff (VRT), the Cambridgeshire Prospectus, Integrated Development Programme and Local Asset Backed Vehicle (LABV) – (see note under Item 3);
- Query regarding recent media around £400m additional funding to HCA. AP noted that a joint letter from all 6 local authorities, co-ordinated by Horizons, had been forwarded to the HCA as a result of this additional funding. However, notification of the additional award to HCA was only a week old, so too early to expect a response;
- AP also reported on a potential new initiative, Tax Increment Financing, which was referred to in the Chancellor's Budget last month. AP was currently exploring this possibility with central government and regional officers;
- Noted that EEDA's proposed Regional Infrastructure Fund(RIF) was being scaled back but it was still feasible this could fund some capital infrastructure such as Chesterton Station;
- Chesterton Station interchange is in the Regional Funding Allocation (RFA) for 2013/14. AP currently investigating possibilities to kick start this work earlier through RIF type investment;
- Query whether the Social Investment Bond approach was proceeding. AP noted he had been in contact with both Treasury and City Life officers, slow progress;

Agreed

- Work on SRR to be completed;
- GH agreed that CCC should work with Horizons to produce the A4 size leaflet giving 'clear picture' as in Discussion Point.1. This would be circulated for member approval at the next meeting and could then be utilised for public consumption;
- Horizons Main Board agenda and all supporting papers to be circulated to JSGIC members.

JO/GB

GH

GDB

5. Cambridgeshire Quality Panel Proposal

PS's paper had been circulated previously. He reported that this was for

discussion and was a work-in-progress proposal which promoted the formation of a Panel of nationally recognised experts in all the areas promoted by the Quality Charter to investigate, advise and report to members on large scale developments within either the sub-region or the County as a whole.

Main Points:

- It was envisaged this Panel would meet 6 times a year;
- A maximum of 8 panellists and a Technical Secretary with cost of £30K per year;
- Based on the Quality Charter themes, it was envisaged their advice would be extremely useful with regard the Master Plan processes; design codes etc;
- Free up of time of the current development and conservation planning officers to better consider smaller applications;

Discussion:

- Some members considered this was a good idea, having a pool of knowledge and expertise dedicated to advising on larger application;
- Others were concerned at the effect of the advice on the decision making process, and any potential appeals process;
- Considerable discussion took place regarding potential benefit/downside;
- Noted that Panel would be funded by Horizons at minimal cost to benefit ratio, and administration could fit within Horizons;
- Choice whether to limit Panel to City/SCDC/County or all 6 local authorities and this would determine the budget from which the costs would be borne.

Agreed

SDT to organise and Chair a meeting, to take place within the next 2 weeks, of at least one member from each authority and the Chair of their respective Development Control Committees to continue the discussion.

SDT/GDB

6. Community Infrastructure Planning for North West Cambridge

Kathy Baldwin and Adrian Curtis of the County Council presented the paper.

Main Points:

- KB noted that the paper had been circulated as a result of the previous JSGIC meeting, at which it was queried what work the County was doing to forecast the implications of planned new development on infrastructure and transportation;
- The paper listed the various methods currently employed and showed the results of these studies and modelling. It also considered the proposal for the Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) and the effect with and without TIF on traffic levels by 2021;
- There were brief notes on education and retail proposals.

Discussion:

- General agreement that this was a useful report but noted that the North West Action Plan (NWAP) will take precedence;
- Report crystallises all elements coming forward in the NW quadrant, giving clarity and focus on this proposed development which will worsen congestion, which in the absence of intervention will be bad already, so pressure is on to deal with this;

- Difficult to assess Cambridge North West (CNW) until there has been a decision on TIF;
- Noted that whether TIF happens or not, the community infrastructure and transportation is still required, just the funding mechanism changes;
- AC explained that the modelling work reported in the paper compares the year 2025, with and without any development, including added growth up to that time. The modelling appears to show a relatively small, 2%, uplift in traffic overall against base models.
- Noted that all are striving to bring out an improvement overall, not to make the situation worse;
- £500m from TIF is difficult to replace;
- Long Term Transport Strategy is investigating possible funding streams should TIF not proceed;
- Significant investment is required in the transport network but there may be other funding methods coming forward;
- Cambridge East (CE) transport strategy would need to be developed. Any new development will make the current situation worse. There is potential for CE to benefit from TIF, but if TIF does not happen then there will have to be something else;
- Housing numbers equivalent to CE will have to be delivered somewhere locally if not at CE. This would appear to make a good argument for TIF;
- Clear picture, with and without TIF, should be put to the public;
- Time scales for various aspects of the planning process were noted;
- Noted report covered sports, communities, retail but not provision for Gypsies and Travellers;
- Policy for NWAP and NIAB main site already debated and agreed. Too late now to add extra provision. Could still be considered on NIAB extra.

Agreed

SDT thanked GH, KB and AC for presenting this report.

7. Marshall - update

AP reported that a response letter from Marshalls to SDT's letter had been received. This accepted that Marshall will explore local options first, and quickly. There is a meeting soon between Defence Estates and the Marshall Group to look at possible sites. They will try to then move on to Heads of Terms etc. There is a member briefing with DE and Go-East on Friday 15th May 2009.

Discussion:

SDT noted that copies of the Marshall letter had been circulated to members and these would be in the public domain, just with any commercially sensitive areas blocked out;

Noted that Marshall re-affirming their commitment to consider a move should be made public;

Marshall to advise Main Board in June of progress to date;

At the appropriate time a joint press statement would be beneficial – SDT to organise.

SDT/LH

8. Forward Agenda Items

Noted and agreed with following points:

Meeting on 13th May – showed item with Speaker on Housing Economy – this had been delayed to meeting on 9th September;
Meeting on 15th July – currently showed both Fire and Police reporting. This could be by written report is necessary.

9. Any other Business

There was none.

10. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 15th July, Committee Room 1, The Guildhall, Cambridge at 1000 am.

It was proposed by INS to hold Item 11 in 'closed' session due to the commercially sensitive nature of the issue. This was seconded by MB and agreed unanimously by the meeting.
Meeting closed at 12.20.