

Joint Strategic Growth Implementation Committee

Minutes from the Committee Meeting of Wednesday, 17 October 2007 (8 am – 10 am) Swansley Room, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambourne

Committee Members Present:

Sir David Trippier, Chairman

Cllr Dr David Bard, South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Nichola Harrison, Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Sebastian Kindersley, South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Lewis Herbert, Cambridge City Council
Cllr Ray Manning, South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Ian Nimmo-Smith, Cambridge City Council
John Onslow, Cambridgeshire Horizons
Cllr Roy Pegram, Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Sian Reid, Cambridge City Council

Cllr Victor Lucas, Cambridgeshire County Council (substitute for Cllr Reynolds)

Also in attendance:

Kathy Baldwin, Cambridgeshire County Council
Steve Hampson, South Cambridgeshire District Council
Graham Hughes, Cambridgeshire County Council
Caroline Hunt, South Cambridgeshire District Council (Part 2)
Sally Hutchinson, Cambridgeshire Horizons (Minutes)
Gareth Jones, South Cambridgeshire District Council (Part 2)
Paul Mumford, Cambridgeshire Horizons
Simon Payne, Cambridge City Council
Peter Studdert, Director for Joint Planning (Cambridge Growth Areas and Northstowe)
Trevor Woollams, Cambridge City Council (Part 2)

Apologies:

Stephen Catchpole, Cambridgeshire Horizons
Cllr John Reynolds, Cambridgeshire County Council

PART 1 (Public)

Actions

Item 1 – Welcome and Apologies

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Joint Strategic Growth Implementation Committee.
- 1.2 Apologies had been received from Cllr John Reynolds and Stephen Catchpole.
- 1.3 The Chairman apologised for the extra papers that had been tabled.
- 1.4 The Chairman asked Committee Members to note the contents of the Final Report of the Review of Cambridgeshire Horizons (tabled) produced by John Walker and that a further short review would take place in the Autumn of 2008.
- 1.5 Cllr Sebastian Kindersley asked if we could ensure that we communicate widely to all those involved that from the Final Report of Cambridgeshire Horizons which quotes from the Interim Report of 2006 that there is no change and that the speed of growth will be maintained.
- 1.6 The Chairman informed Committee Members that the proposed Planning Gain Supplement (PGS) had been withdrawn. The introduction of a Tariff System has now been proposed supplementary to the current S.106 contributions, however, the final detail has yet to be decided. The Chairman agreed that Cambridgeshire Horizons would work with Government and Partners whilst the details are being discussed and finalised.
- 1.7 The Chairman agreed to circulate a paper on variable Tariff Levels written by John Walker to Committee Members.
- 1.8 Committee Members asked questions and made the following comments:-
- (a) Cllr Sian Reid – before the idea is progressed, could we weigh up the pros and cons of the system and the benefits versus S.106. This was agreed.
- (b) Cllr David Bard – question of timing, S.106 discussions are taking place regarding Northstowe, should these continue? The Chairman confirmed that all current S.106 discussions/negotiations for all the development sites continue.
- (c) Cllr Nichola Harrison concerned that the income raised from

Chairman

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the proposed system versus the current S.106 system may be less.

- (d) Peter Studdert – expressed some concern regarding the income raised from the system and the level of affordable housing, detail needs to be looked at.

- 1.9 The Chairman confirmed that a number of questions remain unanswered and that a separate item on the system would be scheduled on the agenda at the next meeting.

Agenda Plan

Item 2 – Minutes of the Joint Strategic Growth Implementation Committee – 11 September 2007

- 2.1 The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting of Tuesday, 11 September 2007.

Item 3 – Matters Arising

- 3.1 The Chairman thanked Committee Members in responding quickly in giving their named substitutes for this Committee.
- 3.2 The Chairman thanked all those involved in reaching an agreed position on the Section 29 Committee.

Item 4 – Northstowe and Southern Fringe Delivery Plans

- 4.1 The Director for Development presented the paper and asked the Committee to endorse the Delivery Plans as a framework for the delivery of Northstowe and the Cambridge Southern Fringe Development sites.
- 4.2 Committee Members asked questions and made the following comments:-
 - (a) Cllr Roy Pegram – Referred to page 19 of the Southern Fringe Delivery Plan and page 21 of Northstowe Delivery Plan. Could both the Delivery Plans be updated when a major change occurs to the programme eg involving more than 3 months change in a key milestone as stated in the Northstowe Delivery Plan. This was agreed.
 - (b) Cllr Nichola Harrison thanked the Director for putting the plans together. Cllr Harrison if they could be made into working documents by putting them into clip folders so that pages can be replaced more easily. This was agreed. Cllr Harrison also commented on the need for consistency within the documents, adding that a loose-leaf style document would allow updates to be made easily.

Director for Development

Director for Development

- (c) Cllr Lewis Herbert – referred to page 44 of the Southern Fringe Delivery Plan, Risk No. 23 – Housing. Could the Northstowe Delivery Plan contain the same detail in relation to Affordable Housing? This was agreed.
- (d) Cllr Sian Reid also thanked the Director for putting the plans together. Cllr Reid asked if the Plans could be uploaded onto the Cambridgeshire Horizons website as they will be a very useful tool for Ward Councillors and residents. This was agreed
- (e) Cllr Dr David Bard Should the Risk Register be uploaded onto the website due to confidentiality reasons? The Director would run ongoing checks to ensure confidential items were not uploaded onto the website.
- (f) Cllr Ian Nimmo-Smith – The Plans give greater confidence to the delivery approach of the projects. Need to ensure the Plans are continually updated.
- (g) Cllr Victor Lucas – Could the S106 approval process be contained in both documents? Are we looking for other mechanisms to fund community projects?

The Director responded by saying that the Programme of Development (POD), formerly known as Growth Area Fund has just been submitted for the period 2008-11 for £129m of which £30m of this is the Rolling Fund. No response from Government has been received to date. Need to continually look at other options for funding.

4.3 The Committee endorsed the Delivery Plans.

Item 5 – Update on Resources

- 5.1 The Director for Development presented the paper and asked the Committee to note the progress with spending the additional £1.4m grant and the criteria for agreeing allocation of funding for studies for the remainder of the financial year.

The Director went on to say that Cambridgeshire Horizons is also currently in the process of recruiting a new Chief Executive and Business and Communications Manager.

- 5.2 Committee Members asked questions and made the following comments:-

- (a) Cllr Roy Pegram – Preparatory work needed to ensure finances are used appropriately.

- (b) Cllr Ian Nimmo-Smith – Need to look at the overall picture from the resource allocation of £3.2m. Processes need to be in place to ensure value for money.

Item 6 – Long Term Delivery Plan (LTDP)

- 6.1 The Director for Development presented the paper and asked the Committee to note the key findings of the draft Long Term Delivery Plan and asked for comments on the proposal to assess the Plan's ability to deliver reduced carbon emissions.

The Director went on to say that the Low Carbon brief would set out all the sectors to be considered. The study will focus on growth but recognise interaction with existing communities.

The Director confirmed that the final Plan will be uploaded onto the Cambridgeshire Horizons website.

- 6.2 Committee Members asked questions and made the following comments:-

- (a) Cllr Sian Reid thanked those concerned for the progression of the Plan. Do need to note that the target of a 60% reduction in carbon emissions is against a base of the 1990 Carbon Levels. Need to quantify existing and 1990 emissions. The Plan should also identify opportunities to trigger changes in behaviour e.g. Congestion Charging.
- (b) Cllr Victor Lucas asked for clarification of the timescale of the Plan and could it be developed to look further into the future?

The Director responded by saying that the timescale of the LTDP mainly focuses to 2021 and some longer-term elements to 2031. Will need to consider how we can look beyond these dates.

- (c) Cllr Nichola Harrison also thanked those involved with the development of the Plan and very much looks forward to seeing the detail. Cllr Harrison went on to say as costs rise so does the funding gap. How is the funding gap going to be plugged, does the Plan tackle that? Have Deloitte looked at this?

The Director responded by saying that the Plan does include costs per site and potential funding resources. Although the document does not give all the answers it does identify key areas that should be looked at in more detail.

The Chairman responded by saying that if all the funding required was not available through S.106 and/or the tariff system then the Government should be approached to assist

with the extra funding requirements.

- (d) Cllr Nichola Harrison – Is it realistic to approach the Private Sector for additional funding?

The Chairman responded by saying that there are some things that the Private Sector will not pay for.

- (e) Cllr Ian Nimmo-Smith – This committee needs to quantify the reality on the funding shortfall. What is the economic content of the Sub-region, could we commission a joint study with EEDA/GCP looking at the Private Sector/Local/Regional/National Economy to supplement the additional funding?

The Chairman agreed to look at the possibility of commissioning this study and ways of innovative/imaginative funding.

Chairman

- (f) Cllr Sian Reid – Sums discussed are small compared to the amount of money coming into the Cambridge Sub-region as part of the economy and for economic development.
- (g) Cllr Dr David Bard – Do need specific bids to set out what is needed.
- (h) Cllr Sebastian Kindersley – if Government agencies underwrite costs, why should developers pay? How does the LTDP address the risk that Government agencies imposed upon the Growth Agenda. Need to ensure Government Agencies understand the funding implications through this Committee.

Item 7 – Major Development Sites Progress Report including Government Agencies Update

- 7.1 The Director for Development presented the paper and asked the Committee to note the progress that has been made.

The Director thanked those Committee Members who had participated in the Strategic Programmes and Risk Register Workshop on the 4 October 2007, a summary of the event has been circulated. The Strategic Risk Register will be updated following the workshop. We are still awaiting a response from Government on the Growing Cambridgeshire Bid to the Housing Growth Fund. As Northstowe is already allocated it is clear from the Communities and Local Government (CLG) that it is not an Eco Town but a Prototype Eco Town, however, we are awaiting a formal response from Government on this.

Appended to this paper are the first reports from key agencies namely Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Environment Agency and

The Highways Agency (tabled). It is intended to rotate reports from key agencies to future meetings.

7.2 The Chairman suggested that we invite one speaker from a Key Agency to each meeting. The Chairman would invite Chief Constable Julie Spence to the meeting scheduled in December.

Chairman

- (a) Cllr Kindersley thanked the Director for the reports from the Key Agencies. Look forward to receiving an update from the Cambridgeshire Constabulary prepared for this Committee.
- (b) Cllr Sian Reid referred to Cambridge East and asked if further extensive discussions could be made with Marshall Aerospace to clarify their intentions.

Pleased to see Transport Measures included in the Project Risk and Opportunities Register but would like to see these lines expanded into phases of consultation and delivery.

The Director of Joint Planning responded by saying that we are awaiting the Final Inspectors Report for Cambridge East. A Cambridge East Reference Group will be scheduled in the New Year.

- (c) Cllr Nichola Harrison – could we ask for a report on this matter from the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to this Committee?
- (d) Cllr Victor Lucas – Cambridge East, timetable looks optimistic. How will this affect us? Cllr Lucas is a member of the Police Authority and confirmed that Chief Constable Julie Spence wants to work closely with Partners, the LAA should provide forum. The Police report circulated to the Committee was not written for JSGIC.
- (e) Cllr Ray Manning – South Cambridgeshire District Council not convinced of the viability of Cambridge Northern Fringe East (CNFE).

Director for Development

Simon Payne responded by saying that a report on CNFE would be circulated in January 2008.

- (g) Cllr Sebastian Kindersley – what will happen to the housing allocation if CNFE is excluded?

Simon Payne responded by saying that the housing target is a moving picture.

- (h) Cllr Nichola Harrison – It is important that reports to this Committee from external bodies are practical and focused. JSGIC can almost play an enforcement role.

Cllr Harrison suggested 2 additional Risks to be added to the Risk Register, namely:-

- Revenue Costs and how will they be met
- Housing Trajectory and timescale slipping

Cllr Harrison referred to Page 8 of the Risk Register, R17 Transport, and asked that specific transport issues to be incorporated into the Register.

- 7.3 Unfortunately Cameron Adams was not able to attend the meeting and sent his apologies.

Item 8 – Agenda Plan and Any Other Business

- 8.1 The Chairman asked Committee Members to raise any concerns with the proposed 2008 meeting dates at the next meeting.

- 8.2 In addition to the agenda items already scheduled, the following items would be put on the Agenda plan for the meeting on 4 December:-

- Tariff System
- Policy on Tabled letters/documents

- 8.3 The Chairman informed the Committee that he has invited Iain Wright MP to visit the Cambridge Sub-region on Thursday, 6 December 2007.

Item 9 - Date of next meeting

Tuesday, 4 December 2007 at 2 pm – 4 pm in the Monkfield Room at South Cambridgeshire District Council.