



Cambs RPs and Enablers Forum
Minutes of the meeting on
Friday 14th October 2016, 10am at SCDC's offices, Cambourne

Present:

Helen Fortune	Accent Group
Sue Davis	bpha
Jules Hill	bpha (minutes)
Sarah Ireland	bpha (Chair)
Juliet Drewett	bpha
Sue Beecroft	Cambridge City Council
Nigel Howlett	CHS Group
David Broker	Cross Keys Homes
Olivia Manton	Fenland and East Cambs Councils
Anthony Moore	Flagship Housing
Sarah Lyons	Housing Development Agency
Frank Mastrandrea	Huntingdon District Council
Andy Chapman	Luminus Group
Maggie Lynch	Metropolitan Housing
Claire Astbury	National Housing Federation
Sarah Brind	Sanctuary Group
Uzma Ali	South Cambs District Council
Julie Salisbury	West Suffolk Housing

Apologies:

Helen Reed	Cambridge City Council
Fiona Coulson	Circle Housing
Caroline Hannon	Fenland District Council
Laurence Castle	South Cambs District Council
John Lefever	Hastoe Housing Association
Sue Philp	Suffolk Housing

1.	Introductions Round table introduction from everyone in attendance and apologies noted.	
2.	Matters arising from previous forums None.	



3.	<p>Project Lightning - Virgin offer called 'Project Lightning' to improve connectivity for social housing tenants</p> <p>Meeting attended by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Neil Prose - Business Development Manager – Wayleaves - Sitec Infrastructure Services, Working on behalf of Virgin Media- David Hawthorne – Director - Sitec Infrastructure Services, Working on behalf of Virgin Media- Kirsty Wookey – Virgin Media <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A copy of the presentation slides have been added to the Cambridgeshire Insight forum page.• Project Lightning – 5 year programme to extend network throughout the UK. Currently 18 months into the programme.• The project is self funded by Virgin Media.• Liberty Global are the parent company.• Extends as much as the BT global reach network but has faster speeds.• No cost to the organisations they are working with.• Working with Cambridge Regional College to see if roles can be filled, apprenticeships.• Master Access Agreement with Virgin Media.• Site Wayleave is set up for each specific site once agreed to work with Virgin Media.• On new local sites (i.e Nortstowe, Trumpington Meadows etc.) Virgin Media and Open Reach are being installed to give new residents a choice of supplier.• Social and Digital inclusion – has a current pilot with Paragon HA in Walton on Thames with 16-24 year olds. Online training platform - users will receive an accreditation on any training they complete.• Looking to see if IT equipment can be sourced to donate to residents who are unable to afford to buy their own equipment.• Virgin Employees get one day a year to volunteer. Hope to use the time to set up interview workshops.• Small Businesses – would like to help those who do not have a website. Competitions run to be able to invest in small businesses.• Trialling a partnership with Paragon – recruitment specialist attends career fairs, hold workshops.• Apprenticeship programme is being expanded next year as part of a Government scheme.• Support to be given to apprentices who do not have the necessary skills to be accepted on a formal apprenticeship. • Virgin have a specific offer for those are currently digitally excluded.• David Broker queried the timing it would take for tenants to have online access. Some tenants are currently waiting 3 months to be activated.• Kirsty stated that on new build properties where Virgin Media is	
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	<p>already installed the installation is usually be less than 4 weeks but is affected by demand. On a new build site the show home packs will be available offering 3 months free Virgin Media.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If the house/flats are pre-installed, with Virgin working with the Development Manager in advance, then the tenant should be able to be activated almost immediately.• Virgin does not demand a minimum number of units in order to install the cables. The earlier involvement to work on the infrastructure the better.• For Rural areas it would need to be reviewed on a case by case basis to see how far away the network is.• Sarah Lyons stated that internal conversations need to be had with housing colleagues to encourage them to get residents thinking in advance about their online needs.• Helen Reed queried if a HA is going through a process of getting roads adopted would that affect Virgin who need to dig up the roads. Virgin would just need a wayleave to be able to get to the property. Virgin have build standards and would need to replace as like. A HA would not like to undertake Virgin work and then not get the roads adopted. Virgin would be happy to meet with HAs and Highways Agency on site if necessary.• Uzma Ali – interested in the digital inclusion for communities. Would be very interested in the presentation with the SCDC local resident groups. Virgin would like to know postcode geographics to check the rural areas.• Claire Astbury – CCG Cambridgeshire, has had contact from them and they are looking at the future of delivering health services digitally. Could be good for Virgin to make contact with them.• Significant interest from the forum to engage Virgin with various contacts/groups.	
4.	<p>HCA programme update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No representative present at meeting.• AHP 16-21 has now closed and it has been heard that it was undersubscribed.• Query over whether starter homes would form a significant part of future delivery?• Sarah Ireland attended a Viability and Planning Conference and DLCC rep was adamant that the Government will be taking starter homes forward.• Some RPs did put into the bid for AHP shared ownership and it is being processed. No firm date on allocations, expected mid-December. bpha did not submit a bid as the programme is fixed.• No update on the restructure at the HCA.	



5.	<p>Update from Enablers:</p> <p><u>SCDC (Uzma Ali)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The planning appeal for Kettle Close Oakington was won (appeal reference is: W0530/W/16/3142834). In the plan 3 dwellings or more should be providing 40% affordable dwellings. The Developer was not providing the minimum.• David Ousby is happy to help with any forum members who are experiencing viability issues.	
6.	<p>Enablers Report – Housing Delivery 2015/16 – All</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A copy of the CRHB report – Housing Enabler Annual Review has been added to the Cambridgeshire Insight forum page.• Julie Salisbury will be meeting with planners and members.• Olivia Manton - East Cambs local plan will be review for approval at a full council meeting on the 16th November.• Claire Astbury – publication of a proposal for another new product – incremental ownership scheme. Round table consultations are taking place with HAs. http://www.housing.org.uk/latest-updates/new-report-on-buy-as-you-go-and-the-flexibility-to-innovate	
7.	<p>Housing and Planning Act and Brexit – All</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Autumn statement - http://www.housing.org.uk/resource-library/browse/autumn-statement-2016-submission-our-offer-to-everyone/	
8.	<p>Supported Housing Funding Announcement – Sarah Ireland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• http://www.housing.org.uk/latest-updates/government-announcement-on-the-future-funding-of-supported-housing/• https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/funding-for-supported-housing• NHF are still lobbying on Supported Housing and positions on rent payment.• New Director of DCLG for Supported Housing (Helen MacNamara became Director General for Housing and Planning at DCLG in July 2016)• NHF consultation taking place soon.• Claire Astbury asked forum if there is a top up pot – thoughts on if it should go to district or counties? Nigel feels it should go to counties, there is a wider need, money originated.• Nigel – two new funding systems were announced. A new separate system for temporary supported housing. No details on what the	



	<p>funding stream will look like.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sarah – through the consultation process the forum make representations about the potential impacts on the delivery of new supported housing schemes. Claire Astbury to co-ordinate on behalf of the Forum.• Older Person Accommodation Strategy is soon to be published.• bpha have 4 Extra Care schemes in the pipeline. bpha are still happy for us to progress new schemes as part of our social purpose even though they may be subject to LHA rent.	
9.	<p>Refugee Housing – Sarah Ireland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cambs City Council have an initiative would like to provide housing for up to 50 people and Councillor Herbert has personally written to Has with stock in the City. Half have been housed via own stock or private renting. CCC would like to work with HAs in providing further accommodation. Nomination Rights/Agreements. bpha have agreed to assist and have put forward 2 properties.• Families are brought from camps, some have been living there for 3 years. Charites providing furniture. Councils pay LHA capped rent and can pay some costs for voids.• Appealed to all HA's for offers if you have stock in the area and ideally areas with facilities.• Contact at the Council is Linda Kilkelly - Safer Communities Manager. lynda.kilkelly@cambridge.gov.uk or 01223 457045.	
10.	<p>The Greater Cambridge Devolution Agreement – Nigel Howlett</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stephen Hills is working on the business plan for housing.• The District Councils have now agreed how to split the £100m via an assessment of housing need.• Individual LA's have their own local priorities, ie. Peterborough less on housing and more on a University.• No timescales at present. LA's are not going to vote until mid-November.• The combined authority is due to be set up subject to legislation, early next year. Mayor elections not taking place until next May. All the LA's have agreed that elections for Mayor will be taking place.• Norfolk and Suffolk were involved in the original devolution discussions. Norwich have pulled out of the discussions as have 3 other councils. There is a big concern that Norfolk County Council will pull out mid-November which will collapse the proposal.• The NHF want to put out a statement on behalf of HA's. Claire will be contacting members.• Nigel – creation of new tier of local authority. No increase of net cost. i.e staff of new authority will be current staff of current local authorities. Unsure how costs will be managed.• Mayor's role – Sarah Lyons questioned the purpose. Nigel – could be a	



	<p>current/local political person who is aware of local issues or it could be someone who is elected from outside the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sarah Ireland – Bedford Mayor works well, he is Lib Dem but he brings political parties together and it works well in the area.	
11.	<p>Help to Buy update – Juliet Drewett - bpha</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Juliet is a HTB Stakeholder Manager and joined bpha on the 5 September.• Works on the areas of Cambs, Norfolk and Suffolk previously covered by Kamjit Chana.• 50000 Low Cost Home Owner applications have been received in total. Cambridgeshire applications in total are just short of 3000.• Bury St. Edmonds roadshow held – 200 visitors. Mainly shared ownership, a few equity loans. Taylor Wimpey attended.• Milton Keynes event taking place in a couple of weeks.• A new HTB guide available on the website https://www.helptobuyese.org.uk/• HTB contracted has extended to July 2018.• Access is available to the backend of the systems should anyone need access to access reports/numbers for their areas. A Stakeholder guide is also available to assist.• Target HCA – there is a new company dealing with the management of the equity loans.• Mortgage Guarantee Scheme is due to cease in December this year.	
12.	<p>Any other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nigel confirmed he will be writing to forum members for contributions to the sub-regional role.• SCDC projected pipeline for RPs. Uzma advised that Gina Manderson - Housing Strategy Assistant - will be contacting everyone for information.• Stephen Hills is leading on a Market Assessment project working with Savills. It will include information such as incomes of the population of the district and housing product options open to them. Report is expected to be published in Spring 2017.	
13.	<p>Meetings for 2017</p> <p>Dates to be advised.</p>	