

SE HA Social Enterprise Steering Group Meeting 20 February 2007

In Attendance:

Dave Ahlquist(DA) - UnLtd
 Marion Forsythe(MF) – Kelsey Housing Association
 Christine Hevey(CH) – Circle Anglia
 Michelle Howlin(MH) - SEEDA
 Alex Johns(AJ) - SEEDA
 Robin Jones(RJ) – Groundwork
 Nigel Kershaw(NK) – Big Invest
 Rick Levene(RL) – Old Ford Housing Association
 Sarah Linington(SL) – SEEDA
 Cathy Michaels(CM) – Hyde Housing Association
 Adrian Moran(AM) – Housing Corporation
 William Miller(WM) – Amicus-Horizon
 Denise Rajchel(DR) – Hermitage Housing
 Nick Rendle(NR) – Southern Housing Group
 Raife West(RW) – Havant Housing Association

Apologies:

Lynda Anderson – Atlantic Housing
 Leanne Baxter(LB) – Circle Anglia
 Den Barry – Hermitage Housing
 Bob Beaumont – Affinity Sutton
 Gordon Boxall – MCCH
 Ralph Facey – Radian Group
 Warren Finney – National Housing Federation
 Andrew Mason – Portsmouth Housing Association
 Stuart Paterson – Prospect Housing
 Martyn Pearl – Medina Housing Association

Agenda Item		Action
1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>WM welcomed all to the meeting and apologies were given on behalf of those listed above.</p>	
2.	<p>Notes and Actions of the last Meeting</p> <p>WM is still to circulate a copy of Amicus-Horizon's bid for the Housing Corporation's Innovation and Best Practice Grant. It was agreed that this would be circulated with the Minutes of the Meeting.</p>	WM

<p>3.</p>	<p>Cultural Shift South East Update</p> <p>For the benefit of those people attending the Steering Group Meeting for the first time, AJ provided an overview of the Cultural Shift Programme.</p> <p>There are 2 phases of the programme, Action 2 being the operational stage and Action 3 which focuses on mainstreaming and dissemination. Both these phases will finish in December 2007.</p> <p>Within the programme, there are 3 main development projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Really Helpful IT Company – supported by Portsmouth Housing Association 2. Social Business Solutions 3. HMP Standford Hill <p>The programme is part of an action learning set, being observed by an academic team, from the Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship. One of the key emerging themes of this research, is the issue of State Aid. A protocol for guidance is currently being written. AJ agreed to circulate the draft guidance in due course.</p> <p>Cultural Shift South East is also part of a Transnational Partnership with projects operating in Italy and Poland.</p> <p>In addition, 5 sector development groups are also being facilitated:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Housing 2. Regeneration 3. Culture 4. Regeneration 5. Environmental Business <p>There will be an opportunity for joint working between the sector groups and hopefully stimulate the action learning process even further.</p> <p>AJ also spoke about the Cultural Shift website – www.culturalshift.com This will be a ‘one stop shop’ for all social enterprise information.</p>	<p>AJ</p>
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4.	<p>Demonstration Project Development</p> <p>1. Environmental Improvement and Training Enterprise (Rapid Response Estate Maintenance)</p> <p>WM presented his proposal for 2blitz a Neighbourhood tidy and training pathway enterprise. The vision is as follows:</p> <p>‘A sustainable social enterprise facilitated by housing associations, providing a competitive, planned and fast neighbourhood tidy service, engaging residents and providing opportunities via a learning pathway’.</p> <p>Key Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver positive impact on neighbourhood cleanliness and tidiness. • Engage and empower residents (focus u25s). • Contribute to community cohesion. • Promote a pride in place. • Provide learning and development opportunities via a innovative ‘pathway’. • Add value to existing services/contracts. • Deliver a competitive quality & VFM service. • Achieve a sustainable business plan (employment and cost). <p>What work will it do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor repairs. • Landscape and garden maintenance. • Cleaning and clearance. <p>Allied with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist niche ‘Neighbourhood Blitz service. • Retained pool of young learners/champions. <p>Market Analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lot! • HAs. • LAs. • Subcontracts. • Campus / Health. • Private work. 	

	<p>Start Up Proposals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial pilot 2 teams – based in South London & North Kent. • Small central staff team and two operational teams. • Initial pool of retained pathway learners. • Enterprise a partnership based within host agency • Moving to establish CIC and expand. <p>Partnership arrangements- Role of Has/ Contractors/ Other agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enterprise partners. • Investors. • Sponsors. • Service beneficiaries. • Procurers. • Creating the expanded market. <p>An Added Value Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VFM on contract work. • Responsive and flexible. • A niche neighbourhood blitz service. • Young persons pathway. <p>How the pathway and retained pool may work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile based. • Incentives and progression routes. • Market/ job identifiers/ surveyors with reward. • Contributing to jobs and neighbourhood blitz. • Incentives to become a local lead/manager, ultimately set up own team? • Encouraging respect for environment. <p>Business Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generated income to cover revenue costs. • Subsidised training pathway and neighbourhood blitz speciality work. • Starting scale? two teams fully equipped and based out of lock ups/depots. • Retained pool of residents/young people in areas of operation. • Operational turn over £350K - £500K? pa. • Set up costs (pump prime required) in order £200 – 250K? <p>Next Steps</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility study needed to test relationship with Old Ford Housing. RL & MH to produce this for comment. Group to respond with any comments and indicate if they are willing to be a partner. <p>4. Best Practice arrangements in linking emerging social entrepreneurs to procurement arrangements among Housing Associations and the development of a HA procurement protocol.</p> <p>WM explained that the concept is designed to develop and nurture social entrepreneurs in the region.</p> <p>RW said that consultation should begin with tenants.</p> <p>NR is working closely with the School for Social Entrepreneurs. There is a lot of research in this area which can be tapped into.</p> <p>Big Invest works in partnership with the Housing Corporation. Shortly a member of the Housing Corporation will be co-opted member of SEC.</p> <p>DA said that UnLtd are now receiving applications for both Level 1 (up to £5000) and Level 2 (Up to £20,000) grants.</p> <p>Suggested activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrepreneurship and engaging with communities. • Scoping up of procurement practices and linking with good practice in other areas. WM agreed to write the brief for this and identify which areas can be linked together. WM to consult members of the group individually. • MH suggested a mentoring scheme facilitated by the County Networks. 	WM
5.	<p>Information Exchange</p> <p>Housing Corporation: The Neighbourhoods and Communities Strategy was published in October. As a result of the Housing and Regeneration Review, which was launched in April 2006, the Government has just announced proposals for a new agency to deliver regeneration and housing, in a major shake-up of the way it supports the delivery of new homes and develops mixed, sustainable communities in England.</p>	

	<p>The proposed agency - Communities England – will bring together the functions of English Partnerships, the Housing Corporation and a range of work carried out by Department for Communities and Local Government, including delivery in the areas of decent homes, housing market renewal, housing PFI, housing growth and urban regeneration. There will be a Neighbourhood and Regeneration strategy to support this. The focus will be on trying to tie together, economic regeneration and housing.</p> <p>The Housing Corporation has just published ‘Unlocking the door’, which investigates the borrowing power of Housing Associations. This paper looks at how the application of new approaches to investment, together with the capacity of partners – balance-sheet strength, cash flows and land banks – can help fund more quality homes over the 2008-11 comprehensive spending review period.</p> <p>End and Means: The Future Roles of Social Housing in England by John Hills was published during February 2007.</p> <p>The Quirk review was announced during September 2006. The review’s terms of reference are to find ways to overcome barriers to more community asset management and ownership, while taking account of the need to manage risks. It also supports work with community land trusts.</p> <p>The review of the Third Sector will be published with the Comprehensive Spending Review.</p> <p>HM Treasury is conducting a review of economic regeneration and renewal.</p> <p>WM asked AM for the best approach in liaising with the Housing Corporation. AM suggested working closely with the National Housing Federation and submitting a response to the Hills Report. He also suggested liaising with the Cabinet Office to feed into the Comprehensive Spending Review.</p> <p>Hyde Housing Association: CM spoke about the effect of the increasing loss of rural shops. Recently 2 communities have begun working together to develop an idea for a joint village shop. CM is investigating how the shop can operate in a sustainable way. Communities are being encouraged to invest their</p>	
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own time into such initiatives. Examples of successfully community enterprises are the Master Robert Inn, Buriton and Pub in the Hub in Scotland.

Hermitage Housing:

DR informed the group that Hermitage Housing has taken over the management of a failing BME Resource Centre. As a consequence of this, they are also involved with some enrichment projects.

Havant Housing Association:

RW said that he would like to liaise more closely with other nearby Housing Associations. He expressed his concern that this group's approach is too top-down.

Southern Housing Group:

The School for Social Entrepreneurship programme is rolling ahead and will continue to develop over the course of the next two years. Southern Housing Group will shortly begin a regeneration project in Kidbrook. This will involve new housing units and infrastructure.

SEEDA:

AJ said that the 2008-2016 Regional Economic Strategy has now been published. For the first time the environment as well as smart growth has been included. There are also more cross-cutting themes than ever before.

SEEDA retains the national RDA lead role for social enterprise.

AJ encouraged the group to lobby the RDA's if they want specific issues to be addressed. This is particularly important with a view to the result of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Kelsey Housing Association:

MF said that the organisation has been very under resourced recently. The 2 main focuses are –

1. IT learning – e.g. home loan schemes.
2. Construction training.

These schemes are low cost but high impact. Kelsey HA has now joined with Dominion Housing Group and it is hoped that these 2 projects can be rolled out, in particular in terms of IT learning.

	<p>Big Invest: NK circulated details of a sample of social enterprises that Big Invest has invested in.</p> <p>NK said that Big Invest is currently doing work around the issue of personal financial inclusion and is working closely with HAs. NK would like to transform personal finance lending in the UK and ensure individuals only have 'affordable' debt.</p> <p>NK said that when applying to Big Invest, it is prudent to only complete half the application form before then seeking guidance from the Big Invest Team. This is because members of the team, will then be able to advise whether it is worth proceeding with the application or not.</p> <p>NK said that he would be happy to consider the Recycled Outdoor Furniture Enterprise proposal when it is ready.</p> <p>Groundwork South East: Groundwork is a federation of Trusts in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, each working with their partners to improve the quality of the local environment, the lives of local people and the success of local businesses in areas in need of investment and support.</p> <p>RJ has been charged with facilitating the Cultural Shift Environmental Business development sector. Members of the working group include the National Trust, Green-Works and the Environment Trust. Please let RJ know if you wish to make links with this group.</p> <p>UnLtd: DA Confirmed that the deadline for the next round of UnLtd grants is 12 March 2007.</p> <p>DA asked the group, if they are aware of any social enterprises that are not in contact with their local county network, to please let him know.</p> <p>DA said that he would be pleased to share his own social enterprise experience and knowledge with the group.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">All</p>
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Old Ford Housing Association:

RL said that Furniture on the Street is developing a new model which uses a stainless steel frame.

RL asked the group to let him know if they are aware of any projects being refurbished.

Circle Anglia:

CH spoke about the Growing Concerns social enterprise gardening project.

Currently a feasibility study is being carried out to establish if a property identified in Camden, would be suitable to lease out to social enterprises.

Circle Anglia is also in the process of securing the lease of a community centre in Waltham Forest. Circle Anglia will support the community to operate this centre.

CH is also involved with a community café in Peartree, Welwyn Garden City.

Amicus-Horizon:

The neighbourhood recycling project supported by Amicus-Horizon, has just completed its 2nd year of operation. It is now hoping to open a second depot in order to achieve greater economies of scale. WM said that the huge success that it has enjoyed, can largely be attributed to the entrepreneurial spirit of the manager.

Amicus-Horizon has recently established a new partnership with SEEDA, in the Thames Gateway area. There is a space available for activities to take place with the guidance of a manager.

As mentioned during a previous meeting, there is a successful Bistro operating in the Isle of Sheppy.

	<p>WM is still involved with complex LEGI negotiations, which if selected, would provide funding for incubation units in Hastings.</p> <p>Rural community catering is another area which has scope for development e.g. available space within sheltered housing schemes. WM would be grateful for any suggestions.</p> <p>Amicus-Horizon has just been re-financed and has cemented its partnership with Barclays Bank, which is its main funder. Barclays has committed to giving those residents who are not normally eligible, their own bank account.</p>	
7.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>To be confirmed – April 2007</p>	