

Eco Bicester Strategic Delivery Board

Date of meeting: 30 May 2013	AGENDA ITEM NO: 3
Report title: Review of the Eco Bicester Strategic Delivery Board's activities of 2012/2013	
Author: Caroline Clapson (Eco Bicester Project Team) Tel: 01295 221514 Email: caroline.clapson@cherwell-dc.gov.uk	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to look back at the achievements of the Eco Bicester Strategic Delivery Board (EBSDB) over the past year and to provide Members of the Board with a broad outline of potential future activities and work over the coming year.

2. Background

- 2.1 The EBSDB was established in March 2010 and is a key element of the governance arrangements for the Eco Bicester project.
- 2.2 Following the identification of NW Bicester as a site for an eco town, a liaison group had been established to steer work on bringing the proposal to fruition. With the successful bid for DCLG funding in 2009 it was recognised that more formal arrangements were required to steer work on the project. The Eco Bicester Strategic Delivery Board was formed bringing together the key organisations and government agencies which collectively have the powers and authority to deliver the NW Bicester development. One of the early decisions taken by the Board was that they did not wish to solely deal with development at NW Bicester but that they would seek to take a holistic view of the opportunities for the town as a whole.
- 2.3 The EBSDB established its working arrangements and terms of reference when it met in April 2010. The Board was established as an informal partnership with no decision powers or budget of its own. It operates on the basis of consensus and influence. The EBSDB has now been operating for just over 36 months and meets quarterly.
- 2.4 Current membership of the Eco Bicester Strategic Delivery Board comprises of Cherwell District Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Bicester Town Council, Bicester Vision, Bicester Chamber of Commerce, the Homes and Communities Agency, the Environment Agency and the Oxfordshire NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (the successor body to the Oxfordshire PCT). Other partners are asked to attend as required, including the North West site's promoters, a2 dominion Ltd and P3 Eco Ltd.

3. Work of the Strategic Delivery Board 2012/2013

3.1 The EBSDB has met 4 times over the past year and has considered reports on a wide range of subjects including:

- an investigation into the potential for use of waste heat from the Ardley Incinerator at NW Bicester;
- progress on the Travel Behaviour Project;
- progress and outcomes from the Highfield Energy Efficiency Project (GLEE);
- the future of RAF Bicester and the MoD's overarching strategy for their operations and land in Bicester;
- updates on the progress in the establishment of the Recycling and Reuse Centre;
- updates on the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) "Funding for Innovation" successful funding bids;
- updates on the final outcomes from the retrofitting scheme in Bicester and progress of the Collective Switching Scheme;
- regular updates on the progress of the Demonstration Projects and the development of NW Bicester;
- regular reports on the planning context for Bicester including coverage of relevant national and local planning policy documents;
- updates on major infrastructure projects which will impact on Bicester including the M40, East / West Rail, Town Centre Improvement Scheme;
- updates on the progress of Local Management Organisation for NW Bicester;
- updates on the overall affordable housing progress in Bicester;
- regular reports on financial monitoring and risks to the project and;
- a review of the workings of the SDB and project management arrangements for Eco Bicester.

3.2 Key outputs of the SDB this past year have been:

- Strategic leadership and influence in promoting the Eco Bicester initiative
- Overseeing and supporting a range of successful projects falling under the banner of Retrofitting and Energy Efficiency including the Green Deal pilot and the Collective Switching Scheme.
- Overseeing the successful conclusion of the subsidised insulation scheme for Bicester residents (approx 1700 completed installations which represents approximately 13% of the housing stock in Bicester).
- Initiating and supporting the examination of innovative approaches which complement the Eco Town development, such as the setting up of a Local Management Organisation for NW Bicester (and potentially wider Bicester) and the Recycling and Reuse Centre.
- Providing encouragement to the Eco Bicester Project Team to explore and submit successful bids to the TSB and other bodies, for initiatives which complement Eco Bicester – these include Design for Future Climate, High Density PV Smart Power, Innovative Refurbishment of the Garth and the Post Occupancy Evaluation of Bryan House.
- Directing the allocation and safeguarding of DCLG funding where it can make the most impact in the delivery of NW Bicester.
- Responding positively to the recommendations arising from a CDC internal audit of the project which took place in 2012.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 The project has now reached a significant milestone, with the recent commencement of work to secure a masterplan for the whole NW Bicester site and outline planning application for submission to CDC next year. It is likely that this will involve a particularly intense period of work for both the developer's consultant team and the Eco Bicester Project Team and yet at the same time, it will be vital that progress is maintained on the other projects in the wider town that complement the development of NW Bicester. The Board has already demonstrated its effectiveness in overseeing and promoting the delivery of a wide range of ambitious projects as well as planning progress on the scheme, and therefore changes to the Board are not recommended at the current time, although this is something that will need to be kept under review.

5. Forward Plan

- 5.1 The Forward Plan for the year is contained at Item 14 of this Agenda. It contains details of anticipated reports and the meetings to which they will be presented. No doubt as the year progresses this will be amended and augmented but it has been drawn up as shown based on how we think the project will develop.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 SDB Members are requested to:
- (i) Note the contents of this report
 - (ii) Approve the Forward Plan as set out in Item 14