

## Eco Bicester Strategic Delivery Board

<b>Date of meeting: 30 May 2013</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM NO:  7</b>
<b>Report title: Bicester Green Deal</b>	
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### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To report on the Bicester Green Deal Pioneer Places Project as part of the Government's Green Deal Programme

### 2. Background

- 2.1 The Bicester Green Deal was launched in January 2013 following a successful bid for Government funding from the Department of Energy and Climate Changes Pioneer Places fund. Approximately £282,000 of funding has been secured and the project has been extensively publicised in the town and local media.
- 2.2 The project follows the successful Eco Bicester retrofit programme which has been previously reported to the Board and resulted in many homes in Bicester benefiting from insulation measures.
- 2.3 The project has been managed by sustainability consultants BioRegional working in partnership with officers and the United Sustainable Energy Agency (USEA).

### 3. Scheme Delivery

- 3.1 In total 100 homes have had a free Green Deal Assessments providing advice to the occupants on potential improvements to their homes that could be carried out under the Government's Green Deal scheme. Three drop in sessions have been held to help the recipients of assessments to interpret them and consider how they might save energy in their homes.
- 3.2 The second stage of the project has been to identify 14 properties for retrofitting to act as exemplars for the works that can be done to existing properties. These homes are benefiting from low carbon home improvements such as the installation of solar panels and replacement boilers. One home on London Road had also been identified for external wall insulation.
- 3.3 The homes will be open to the public on Saturday 1 June 2013 as part of a community weekend in Bicester with the GrassRoots Bicester Big Lunch taking place on 2 June. This will provide an opportunity to promote the retrofitting of existing properties to a wider audience and it is expected there will be significant interest in learning more about the benefits of installing energy saving measures to various properties.

- 3.4 In addition a number of commercial properties and non-residential buildings have been assessed in accordance with the DECC requirements for the pilot project. These include the Zeta premises on Telford Road and proposals are being worked up with several other local businesses and properties to identify the most appropriate measures.
- 3.5 In conclusion, the Pioneer Places Project for Bicester Green Deal has shown how the sustainability of Bicester continues to lead the way on high profile Government initiatives. When the pilot project completes in mid June 2013, the Green Deal programme in Bicester will become part of Cherwell District Council's Green Deal Together Programme as part of the Community Interest Company set up by the USEA of which Cherwell District Council is a founder partner.

#### **4. Recommendations**

1. To Note the contents of the report and success of the Bicester Green Deal Pilot and
2. To continue to support future retrofit programmes in Eco Bicester