

Eco Bicester Strategic Delivery Board

Date of meeting: 30 May 13	AGENDA ITEM NO: 8
Report title: Bicester Green (Sustainability & Reuse Centre)	
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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report is to provide information for the Board on the development of the Bicester Sustainability and Reuse Centre, now known as Bicester Green.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Board may recall that 12 months seed funding was agreed to support the setting up of a *'one-stop shop' providing goods, services and information on all aspects of sustainability. There will be a large element of reuse – selling items diverted from the waste stream - but its unique strength is the combination of different elements. The Centre will be an independent social enterprise, led by the local community, providing social and environmental benefits.'* Following the agreement of the funding a project manager was appointed to over see the setting up of the centre.
- 2.2 Reports on the progress towards the setting up of the centre have been brought to the Board over the last 12 months identifying progress. This report will be the last such report as the centre, now known as Bicester Green, has been established and the funding through the DCLG Eco Town grant has come to an end.
- 2.3 The following update has been provided.

3. Progress Report

- 3.1 **Employment of staff** – Emma Gordon commenced work in her post as Centre Manager on Monday 15 April 2013 and has been busy, during her induction, meeting key stakeholders and attending events. She has also been trained in PAT testing and has attended a Health & Safety course. Cliff Jordan's contract with Resource Futures came to an end on Tuesday 30 April 2013. He will continue to work for the Centre in the role of Project Development Manager, subject to the terms and conditions of his new contract, which is in the process of being issued by the Directors. Work is continuing to encourage volunteering for and trusteeship of the Centre.
- 3.2 **Open store** – the lease was finally signed on 19 April. The office is now furnished and operating from Unit 2 of the McKay Trading Estate. The meeting room has already been used by the Grassroots Bicester CAG. People from the local area are being encouraged to visit the Centre between 2 and 4pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays to register their interest in the various workshops and training programmes that will be housed at Bicester Green, namely bicycle, wooden furniture and small WEEE repair. Expenditure has been lower than anticipated in April

and no operational income was in the plan. Grant income of £40,000 has been received as well as £10,000 of additional contract income. Operational income of £1,000 in May is planned.

- 3.3 **Stakeholder event** – preparations are getting underway to launch the Centre at a public/stakeholder event. This will help to raise the profile of the Centre and its work amongst both local people and the press.
- 3.4 **Update on funding** – As a result of slight adjustments to income and expenditure, the Centre's cashflow is expected to remain in the positive for the whole of the first year, which relieves the requirement to secure further grant funding of £5,000 in August..

4. **Recommendations**

- 4.1 Note the progress.