

Bicester Strategic Delivery Board

Date of meeting: 9 November 2017	AGENDA ITEM NO: 5
Report title: Garden Town Update	
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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the Garden Town programme and activities funded from Government capacity grant.

2. Capacity Funding

- 2.1 Earlier this financial year, £2.5m of capacity funding was allocated to the garden towns programme for use in 2017/18. Following a competitive bidding process, Bicester garden town has been awarded £500k towards work on strategic infrastructure and masterplanning within the town's central corridor. This was the second highest award and the largest in terms of funding per new home.

3. MIPIIM UK and Bicester's Marketing & Investment Prospectus

- 3.1 In October Bicester Garden Town took a stand at MIPIIM UK, the London-based exhibition which gathers together national and international property and investment interests. The primary purpose in attending was to promote Bicester's opportunities for high-value businesses and so help in growing a diverse employment base in the town. The key marketing collateral on the stand was the marketing and investment prospectus (hard copies will be available at the Board meeting), which was funded from garden town capacity funding.
- 3.2 CDC funded the Bicester Garden Town stand and Bicester Vision commissioned and displayed a complementary short film to illustrate the scale of growth and opportunities in and around Bicester. Representatives from both CDC and Bicester Vision were present on the stand to talk about Bicester and record enquiries.
- 3.3 More than 70 requests, queries and contacts were received at the event. These are currently being compiled for follow-up discussions. Further feedback can be provided to a future Board meeting.

4. Activities

- 4.1 Since the last Board meeting, Bicester Garden Town organised open-air film screenings in Garth Park of a series of box office classics. Offered in partnership with The Mill Arts Centre, these films took place over the last weeks of summer. The screenings encouraged people to make the most of this social, outdoor space and bring the community together. Affordable

tickets, free evening parking and refreshments contributed to around 650 people watching the movies.

- 4.2 In October, Bicester welcomed the first joint forum of garden towns and villages from across the country, which was organised by the HCA and attended by over 100 delegates. The morning session showcased self-build at Graven Hill and included a visit to both the site and the Plot Shop. The afternoon featured a keynote speech from Dr Wei Yang, a Wolfson Prize finalist along with workshop discussions covering issues common to garden towns and villages.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 The Board is asked to note progress. Further updates will be presented to future meetings.