

Bicester Strategic Delivery Board

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| Date of meeting: 29 March 2018 | AGENDA ITEM NO: 6 |
| Report title: Garden Town Update | |
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1. Purpose of Report

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

2. Funding

- 2.1 The Board will recall that Bicester Garden Town was awarded £500k additional capacity funding but in a change from previous tranches, this funding is subject to the submission and approval of an evidenced claim. That claim is being finalised and will be submitted to Homes England before 29 March.
- 2.2 Additionally, of the £19m capital (Spending Review) allocation to Bicester Garden Town, a business case for investing approximately £14.73m in highways infrastructure has been submitted to MHCLG. This will be considered in April.
The remaining £4.25m had been safeguarded for negotiations with Network Rail in connection with the Howes Lane realignment at NW Bicester. Those negotiations have seen significant progress and agreement is being concluded.

3. Capacity-funded Studies

- 3.1 **M40 Junction Feasibility Study**
The intention was to present this study to this meeting. However with the preferred corridor option for the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway expected to be identified this summer, it is considered prudent for the report to incorporate and reflect that emergent strategic context. Accordingly the study's findings will be presented at the Board's July meeting when it can be considered in light of the Expressway and the wider growth agenda.
- 3.2 **SPARK Funding**
In order to increase the profile and promote the availability of SPARK funding (financed by both garden town and healthy new town funds), a new landing page has been added to CDC's website. Guidance is now available to download and work is progressing to provide a fillable, online application form.
In light of this, the original deadline of 6 March has been extended to midday on 13 April. The deadline for the subsequent wave of funding remains as 6 June 2018. An update of both rounds will be provided at July's Board meeting.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Board is asked note the progress with the Garden Town programme.