

Eco Bicester Strategic Delivery Board

Date of meeting: 19 July 2018	AGENDA ITEM NO: 7
Report title: Review of the Bicester Strategic Delivery Board's activities of 2017/2018	
Author: Caroline Clapson, Bicester Delivery 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 Bicester Strategic Delivery Board (BSDB) over the past year and to consider in the light of the Board's achievements, whether any changes need to be made to the current arrangements.

2. Background

- 2.1 The BSDB (or Eco Bicester Strategic Delivery Board as it was known then) was established in March 2010 and is a key element of the governance arrangements for Bicester projects, delivered by the Bicester Delivery Team.
- 2.2 The Delivery Board brings together the key organisations and government agencies which collectively have the powers and authority to oversee and direct Bicester projects, which include the NW Bicester development as well as the Bicester Garden Town initiative and the Bicester Healthy New Town programme. One of the early decisions taken by the Board was that they would seek to take a holistic view of the opportunities for the town as a whole, rather than just focusing on those arising at development sites.
- 2.3 The Delivery 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 Delivery Board has now been operating for just over 8 years and meets quarterly. The Delivery Board operates within CDC's wider project management structures
- 2.4 Current membership of the 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. Other partners are asked to attend and present to the Board as required.
- 2.5 At the July 2016 meeting of the Delivery Board, it was agreed that in order to supplement the Board's work, Task and Finish Panels should be set up with members taking on sponsorship roles for identified themes as set out below:
- Choice and affordability in housing
 - Diverse employment base
 - Green places to enrich daily life

- Innovative design that creates distinctive places
- Vibrant town centre
- Well connected community
- Sustainability part of everyday life
- Healthy living

2.6 Of the task and finish areas identified the initial 4 taken forward were those relating to housing, employment, town centre and health. At the January 2018 Board, a new Task and Finish Panel was agreed to be set up with would deal with the London Road Crossing.

3. Work of the Strategic Delivery Board 2017/2018

3.1 The Delivery Board has met 4 times over the past year and has considered reports and / or presentations on the wide range of Bicester projects, including:

- A Young People's Manifesto for Culture
- The Dimes Fuel Cell Feasibility Study
- NW Bicester
- Progress on the Garden Town initiative including capacity and infrastructure funding bids, refreshed vision / Bicester Masterplan, Joint Forum of UK Garden Town and Villages held in Bicester
- Bicester Monitoring and Investment Prospectus
- Summer open air film screenings in Garth Park
- Updates on Bicester transport issues and infrastructure including Bicester Park and Ride surveys, M40 junction, London Road Crossing, Howes Lane realignment and tunnel
- Progress on various bids that have been made to support Bicester projects such as the SEMLEP ESIF Bid for £175,000 to secure green / blue infrastructure and biodiversity enhancements in Bicester, Housing Infrastructure Fund Bid (HIF) for Howes Lane Tunnel, NESTA Expression of Interest to develop app that allows the Town Council to assess use of Bicester parks etc
- Successful bids relating to extended use of health routes, HNT evaluation, ESIF European Funding Bid – Low Carbon Innovation funding for 3 years etc, Garden Town Capacity and Infrastructure Bids
- The Town Centre Cycle Stands project
- The Bicester Wayfaring project
- The Healthy New Town "blue line" walking and cycling routes
- Town Trail Health Route
- Well-being for workers in Bicester
- Bicester, a dementia –friendly town
- Community Activation Summit on Older People
- Eat Out, Eat Well Scheme
- Social prescribing scheme for Bicester and bid for NHS England Funding
- Volunteer Fayre
- Dementia Care training
- Housing delivery figures for Bicester
- Options for town centre improvements
- Green Infrastructure tool-kit - the evaluation of Bicester's green spaces
- Bicester Healthy New Town Survey results
- Press release and agreed communications messages
- Investment attracted to Bicester

- Financial monitoring updates and risks to the project

3.2 In addition to this, 3 of the Task and Finish Panels have provided reports on their work to the Board.

4. Next Steps

4.1 Over the past year, the Delivery Board has demonstrated its effectiveness in overseeing and promoting the delivery of a wide range of ambitious projects as well as planning progress on the NW Bicester scheme. A look through the minutes of previous meetings demonstrates that the Board is comfortable in its role of challenge and scrutiny of Bicester projects as well as being able to suggest new avenues of activity to be explored that will benefit the Town. Therefore changes to the Board are not recommended at the current time, although this is something that will need to be kept under review.

4.2 It may be useful however to review the various Task and Finish Panels that were set up in July 2016 (together with the London Road Crossing Task and Finish Panel set up more recently) to see if some have now completed what they were set up to do and so can be concluded, whether the subjects they are dealing with are still relevant and whether any new ones need to be created to replace or augment the existing ones.

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 the information currently available.

6. Recommendations

6.1 SDB Members are requested to:

- (i) Note the contents of this report
- (ii) Consider whether they would like to review the Task and Finish Panels at a future meeting of the Delivery Board
- (iii) Approve the Forward Plan as set out in Item 14