

ECO BICESTER STRATEGIC DELIVERY BOARD - NOTES – 8 OCTOBER 2015

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| <p>MEETING: Eco Bicester Strategic Delivery Board</p> <p>DATE AND TIME: 8 October 2015 at 2pm</p> <p>VENUE: John Paul II Centre, OX26 6AW</p> <p>Completed by: Sue Cavalier</p> | <p>Board Members:</p> <p>Cllr Barry Wood (CDC) (Chairman)</p> <p>Cllr Ian Hudspeth (OCC)</p> <p>Cllr Lawrie Stratford (OCC)</p> <p>Cllr Michael Waine (OCC)</p> <p>Cllr Richard Mould (BTC)</p> <p>Cllr Rose Stratford (BTC)</p> <p>Cllr Jim French (BTC)</p> <p>Cllr Norman Bolster (CDC)</p> <p>Cllr Michael Gibbard (CDC)</p> | <p>Karen Curtin, Director (Bicester) (CDC)</p> <p>Sally Coble (Environment Agency)</p> <p>Ben Jackson (Bicester Chamber of Commerce)</p> <p>Adrian Shooter (Bicester Vision)</p> <p>NHS Clinical Commissioning Group rep</p> <p>David Warburton (HCA)</p> |
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| | TOPIC | PURPOSE | RESP. | BY |
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| 1. | Apologies | Adrian Shooter, Bicester Vision - Graeme Laws attending as rep David Warburton, Homes & Communities Agency - Stephanie Ainsworth attending as rep Sally Coble, Environment Agency – Lesley Tims attending as rep Cllr Jim French, BTC; Cllr Ian Hudspeth, OCC; Cllr Rose Stratford, BTC | | |
| 2. | Notes of previous meeting and matters arising | Notes agreed of 23 July 2015 with the following queries raised and updates included in agenda items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Item 3, page 1 – concern raised by Cllr Waine on the number of groups with a similar purpose to the SDB. <i>Advised that membership and Terms of Reference of the SDB are a Forward Plan item for the January 2016 meeting.</i> Item 3, page 1 – Growing Bicester brand guidelines circulated. Item 5, page 3 – what feedback has been provided to unsuccessful companies on the A2Dominion Employment Portal. <i>Advised that Willmott Dixon are contracted for construction of the first phase and are using the portal to engage contractors. Willmott Dixon will provide feedback if requested by individuals. Phase 1 tenders now complete and Phase 2 will be tendered for shortly.</i> | | |
| 3. | Garden Town update | The Garden Town Delivery Manager presented the report which provides a progress update on the ongoing Garden Town work including central government funding and findings from consultations. | | |

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| | | <p>Funding – the first capacity study commission is currently underway to refresh Bicester’s One Shared Vision and is close to employing consultants to work with residents and stakeholders to form Bicester’s Future Vision.</p> <p>The submitted capital bid to DCLG has now moved to Treasury for consideration, with the outcome to be announced in the Autumn Spending Review. It is expected that it will be difficult to get funding but there will still be opportunities available.</p> <p>Engagement update - a ‘light touch’ questionnaire has been used at recent community events including Bicester’s Big Lunch, Bicester’s bike day and Bicester Town Council’s Activity Day. Combined results to date indicate a high level of community spirit, requests for more green space and leisure facilities and traffic congestion concerns still high. The questionnaire will continue to be used at events and can be found on the Eco Bicester website. The questionnaire was also included in the Garth Gazette Garden Town 4 page pull out as shown as Appendix A. A business-focussed questionnaire has since been designed to understand why people invest in Bicester and the main benefits of Bicester as a location, which will also be add to the above websites. Further strategic engagement includes a meeting with Victoria Prentis, MP in July; presentations to university students; and the Garden Town Delivery Manager spoke at the Planning for Housing Conference in September and met the Ebbsfleet Garden City Team.</p> <p>In summary, both capacity funding studies and engagement with residents and businesses will continue to be pursued.</p> <p>The Board noted the content of this report with the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That “green infrastructure” references be changed to a clearer definition. • Clarity sought on the objectives of an additional M40 junction. • The Vision and Bicester Masterplan to be refreshed using policy context of the local plan to create a doc that can also be used to promote Bicester. <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Board members to encourage participation in the Bicester questionnaire to inform the Bicester Future Vision. | All | |
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| 4. | Eco Bicester One Shared Vision Steering Group report | <p>The Commercial Director (Bicester) updated the Board of progress:</p> <p>Eco Business Centre – an operator to be procured using a competitive dialogue process. Discussions ongoing with A2D to timetable the build simultaneously with the local centre to reduce the amount of disturbance to residents.</p> <p>Growing Bicester campaign – a working group of CDC, BTC and OCC officers are launching a new website which will be an information portal on Bicester. The Growing Bicester campaign will also be used to promote events, discussions and engagement with residents and businesses. Discussions are also taking place with developers to include the Growing Bicester logo in promotional opportunities. An event on Growing Bicester and the Garden Town is proposed for spring 2016.</p> <p>Franklin’s Yard – the topping out ceremony took place end September and is on course for completion spring 2016. A stakeholder / partner event is proposed.</p> <p>Graven Hill – good progress is being made with a number of surveys currently being undertaken and infrastructure works to start in January 2016. It is anticipated that the first 10 plots will start on site in April 2016 and these be filmed for the Grand Designs TV programme. A price preview event will be taking place on 20 November at the Bicester Hotel, Golf and Spa and this will determine the no of plots available and also give an indication of timescales for the first phase.</p> <p>A ‘spotlight’ on Graven Hill to be bought to the January 2016 Board meeting.</p> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eco Business Centre project timetable to be circulated with the Board notes. | AB | |
| 5. | NW Bicester Steering Group report | <p>The Bicester Delivery Manager presented the report which sets out progress on the development at NW Bicester.</p> <p>Exemplar development – first phase occupations are expected during early 2016 and construction will then move straight onto the Phase 2. The first primary school has planning permission with the proposal to open in September 2016. The local centre is subject to planning permission with good discussions on potential occupiers. The eco business centre and community hall are also part of the local centre.</p> <p>NW Bicester Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) – approved for development management purposes by Cherwell District Council’s Executive on 1 June 2015. The SPD is being reviewed in light of the Local Plan Inspector’s report and will proceed to formal adoption now the Local Plan has been adopted.</p> | | |

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| | | <p>Outline planning applications – currently 5 applications submitted for major parts of the site. Good progress being made but it remains challenging bringing forward a large and complex scheme. The development is developing and achieving interest in the town.</p> <p><i>Concern raised by the Board that the number of houses are detailed per application but not the number of jobs. The Board were advised that planning application use classes detail the type of office use to be provided but not the jobs that are bought with it. The NW Bicester Masterplan was accompanied by an Employment Strategy which identified jobs for the site. The eco development homes have also been designed to give people the choice to work from home. The Growing Bicester campaign will also promote Bicester for business along with the Local Plan which promotes designated areas in Bicester for employment uses.</i></p> <p>The Board noted the content of the report.</p> | | |
| 6. | Eco Bicester Project update | <p>The Project Officer (Sustainability) presented the project update spreadsheet with the following updates:</p> <p>Bicester Green and Sobell House – have received a 1 year extension on the lease. It took a significant amount of lobbying with concern that Bicester Green would need to leave Bicester.</p> <p>Boiler scheme – the scheme started again on 1 October and currently has 50 registered applicants.</p> <p>LEMUR –data driven Local Energy Mapping for Urban Retrofit – funding received for a feasibility study to look at the retrofit needs of the town. A small pilot is proposed for spring 2016.</p> <p>P.E.A. Award – jointly won by CDC and Bioregional for ongoing environmental work in Bicester.</p> <p>The Board noted the content of the report.</p> | | |
| 7. | Bicester Grid Study | <p>Steve Drummond from the Low Carbon Hub gave a verbal update on the Bicester Grid Study.</p> <p>Action: SC to circulate the presentation to Board members.</p> | SC | |
| 8. | Buckingham Road cycle improvements | <p>The CDC and OCC joint report was presented by Ben Smith, OCC, and updates on the proposed improvements for walking and cycling along a section of the Buckingham Road, Bicester.</p> | | |

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| | | <p>The SDB approved a package of travel behaviour demonstration schemes in October 2011 including capital projects for cycling improvements on Buckingham Road. To progress the improvements, further work needs to be commissioned to take the scheme to a detailed design and an additional £60k is sought to deliver the proposal which includes a contingency fund.</p> <p>The Board raised concern and sought clarification on the level of funding requested. The Board noted the contents of the report with the following additional action:</p> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OCC to provide an update on costs and contingency to each Board meeting. | OCC | |
| 9. | S106 funding held by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) for transport improvements | <p>The report was presented by Jacqui Cox, Principal Infrastructure Planner at OCC, Following a request from the last Board meeting, the report informs the Board about funding for transport schemes in Bicester, currently held by OCC, from developer contributions (S106 contributions). Appendix 1 shows the contributions earmarked for specific projects and a smaller general transport contribution pot.</p> <p>Advised that S106 contributions are defined by legal agreements for their use and whilst there is some flexibility, there are restrictions in place.</p> <p>The Chairman sought confirmation of the opening of the Park & Ride for 27 November (Black Friday) and OCC advised the Park & Ride would be operational but may need to close afterwards to finish the project.</p> <p>The Board noted the content of the report.</p> | | |
| 10. | Risk Log | The Board noted the content of the risk log with no comments. | | |
| 11. | Funding Position Statement 2015/16 | <p>The Bicester Delivery Manager presented the new paper on funding bid submissions and their progress by the Bicester Delivery Team.</p> <p>The Board noted the report with no comments made.</p> | | |
| 12. | Financial Monitoring Statement | The Board noted the content of the report with no comments made. | | |
| 13. | Action Plan 2015/16 | <p>The Board noted the Action Plan with the following additional items to be included:</p> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spotlight: Garden Town to include engagement proposals • Board Action Plan and key targets to achieve in 2016/17. • Members to forward any topics for inclusion to SC. | SC All | |

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| 14. | Press release summary and agreed Communication Messages | <p>The Board noted the report and the agreed the following 3 key communication messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P.E.A environmental award. • Growing Bicester campaign. • Bicester grid constraints. | JC | |
| 15. | AOB | No items raised. | | |
| 16. | Date of next meetings | 2016 - 14 January at 1pm; 10 March at 1pm; 28 July at 2pm; 27 October at 1pm | All to note | |