

BICESTER STRATEGIC DELIVERY BOARD - NOTES – 29 JULY 2020

MEETING: Bicester Strategic Delivery Board DATE AND TIME: 29 July 2020 at 10:30am VENUE: Virtual meeting		Board Members: Cllr Barry Wood (CDC) (Chairman) Cllr Ian Hudspeth (OCC) Cllr Colin Clarke (CDC) Cllr Richard Mould (BTC) Cllr Lynn Pratt (CDC) Cllr Jason Slaymaker (BTC) Cllr Lawrie Stratford (OCC) Cllr Michael Waine (OCC)		David Crook (Homes England) Robert Jolley (Cherwell District Council (CDC)) Graham Perryman (Bicester Chamber of Commerce) Rosie Rowe (NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)) Lyndon Robinson (Bicester Vision) Veronica James (Environment Agency (EA)) Attendance as required (MHCLG)	
	TOPIC	Note		Action by	
	Note	Due to the number of key strategic infrastructure projects on the agenda, the Chairman focussed on these items for the meeting to enable discussions and queries to be raised. Agenda items not discussed are shown as 'This item was not discussed'.			
1.	Apologies	Cllr Ian Hudspeth represented by Cllr Ian Corkin; Lesley Tims replaced by Veronica James, Environment Agency; and David Crook, Homes England. Noted: Cllr Sean Gaul no longer a Bicester Town Council member.			
	Welcome	The Chairman welcomed Cllr Les Sibley to the meeting for item 3. Robert Jolley, Assistant Director – Growth & Economy, introduced Dean Fischer, interim Bicester Delivery Team Manager.			
2.	Notes of previous meeting and matters arising	The notes of 16 January 2020 were agreed with updates in agenda items below.			
3.	NWB Rail Underbridges	Presentation by Alan Cook, CDC and Jacqui Cox, OCC. The project is being achieved through partnership working with Oxfordshire County Council to deliver a significant infrastructure project at NW Bicester of two underbridges and the realignment of Howes Lane, which are key to the delivery of Bicester's housing allocation, along with sustainable walking and cycling connectivity. A fixed timetable is in place with Network Rail enabling track possession Easter 2021.			

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		<p>Completion of the underbridges in June 2021. The project remains on schedule.</p> <p>Realignment of Howes Lane A4095 – OCC advised there is currently no funding available for the delivery of the road realignment. Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council are working together to identify likely funding that will allow this road to be progressed and reviewing the design due to the high cost of the number of signalled junctions currently planned. Highlighted that the realignment work is key to unlocking further housing development with three planning permissions already granted on site, which require the road to be fully built out.</p> <p>Updates will be presented at future Board meetings.</p> <p>The Chairman and Board thanked Officers for the presentation.</p>	
Governance			
4.	<p>Review of SDB:</p> <p>I. Terms of Reference</p> <p>II. Timetable</p>	<p>Presentation by Dean Fischer, interim Bicester Delivery Manager.</p> <p>The report sets out the scope, approach and timeline for the review of the Bicester Strategic delivery Board (SDB) to consider whether changes, if any, need to be made to its current membership, role and function. It also considers what the key themes of the review will be, what will not be included in the review and provides an overview of who will be involved in the review and how.</p> <p>The Board approved the scope and approach to the review of its role and functions as set out in the report.</p> <p>Noted at item 2 Recommendation - the reference to 'Growth Board' should be the 'Strategic Delivery Board'.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Dean Fischer for the presentation.</p>	
Development and Investment			
5.	COVID-19; Recovery; and Cherwell Industrial Strategy	<p>A presentation was given by Robert Jolley, Assistant Director – Growth and Economy, with updates below.</p>	

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		<p>The Cherwell Industrial Strategy (CIS) is currently in progress following workshops with partners and key stakeholders. It is likely that the CIS will be renamed as the COVID-19 Recovery Strategy as a large part of the work already undertaken is directed towards recovery and regeneration for the Cherwell District.</p> <p>As part of Cherwell District Council's (CDC) response to the pandemic, CDC's Chief Executive established a Business Community Response Cell which has been key in dispersing a number of finance grants, which has benefitted over 2,000 businesses in the district.</p> <p>Recovery options have also been set up by the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) and CDC has set up an Economic Recovery Group led by Paul Feehily, Executive Director – Place & Growth, which also links with other services including health.</p> <p>The Board highlighted that to assist with the recovery process a focus on ultrafast broadband is required for the county.</p> <p>Action: Board Members to forward any questions and queries on the report to Sue.Cavalier@cherwell-dc.gov.uk</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Robert Jolley for the presentation and update.</p>	Board Members
6.	Update on the Bicester Town Centre Task Group work	This item was not discussed.	
7.	Inward Investment to Bicester	<p>Update added after the meeting from Cherwell District Council:</p> <p>At the last meeting, Board Members requested an update on the 2015 – 2017 Inward Investment report. Montagu Evans, the consultants, have completed the report for 2017 – 2019, as circulated, using the same criteria to ensure consistency in reporting.</p> <p>Data sources used included CDC's Annual Monitoring Report, residential and commercial completions provided by CDC's Planning Policy Team; and property market research carried out by Montagu Evans.</p> <p>The total amount of inward investment delivered for:</p> <p>2016 – 2017 = £125m. For comparison, the 2014 – 2015 figure was = £75m.</p>	

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Garden Town			
8.	Programme update	This item was not discussed.	
Healthy Bicester			
9.	Programme update	<p>Report and Appendices previously circulated. Verbal update on key updates given by Rosie Rowe:</p> <p>Prior to the lockdown a successful Partners' meeting was held with 55 local stakeholders. Great support continues across the town in sustaining the programme and work to promote healthy living and reduce social isolation.</p> <p>The Healthy Bicester Newsletter Appendix and the media coverage shown in Appendix B give details of projects and ways in which Healthy Bicester have worked together with local organisations to assist during the lockdown. The programme will continue to work closely with Healthy Bicester Partners to gain further understanding of the impact of the pandemic and continue to address emerging needs.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Rosie Rowe for the report.</p>	
Infrastructure			
10.	Oxford Cambridge Expressway	<p>Update added after the meeting from Oxfordshire County Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Expressway project is on hold; strategic regional connectivity work is going on though via... ...England's Economic Heartland (EEH) connectivity studies are planned to be progressed, with the Northampton to Oxford and Oxford-Silverstone-Aylesbury studies needing to take into account strategic multi-modal connectivity issues in and around Bicester. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the proposed EEH Draft Transport Strategy is currently out to consultation 	
11.	London Road Level Crossing	<p>Presentation by Jacqui Cox, OCC on the London Road Options Appraisal Report (OAR).</p> <p>In a previous meeting, Members expressed a request to look for a solution to potential traffic problems in light of increased rail timetabling through Bicester.</p> <p>The purpose of the report is to look at the benefits of a number of options against each other objectively to find out what measures are needed to allow continued access to Bicester town centre once additional train services have been implemented.</p> <p>A number of options are currently being tested with finalising for the OAR report for reporting back to the East West Rail Consortium (funders of the work) in December.</p> <p>Updates will be presented at future Board meetings.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Jacqui Cox for the presentation.</p>	
12.	Press release summary and agreed communication messages	This item was not discussed.	
13.	Any Other Business	No items raised.	
	Date of next meetings	2020 dates: 29 October	