

ECO BICESTER STRATEGIC DELIVERY BOARD - NOTES – 26 JANUARY 2012

MEETING: Eco Bicester Strategic Delivery Board DATE AND TIME: 26 January 2012 at 11am VENUE: John Paul II Centre Completed by: Sue Cavalier		Board Members: Councillor Barry Wood (CDC) (Chairman) Councillor Keith Mitchell (OCC) Councillor Norman Bolster (CDC) Cllr Michael Gibbard (CDC) Councillor Rose Stratford (BTC) Councillor James Porter (BTC) Cllr Richard Mould (BTC) Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale (OCC) Councillor Michael Waine (OCC) Bob Langton (Bicester Vision) – Placi O’Neill-Espejo attended Matthew Tait (NHS Oxfordshire) David Warburton (HCA) – Peter Wynn attended Sally Coble (Environment Agency) – Jon Mansbridge attended		Speakers: Jenny Barker (CDC) Andrew Bowe (CDC) Adrian Colwell (CDC) Ian Inshaw (P3 Eco) Graham Johnson (P3 Eco) Daniel Round (OCC)	
		A2D – A2 Dominion BTC – Bicester Town Council CDC – Cherwell District Council EA – Environment Agency		HCA – Homes and Communities Agency OCC – Oxfordshire County Council WYG – White Young Green	
	ISSUE	STATUS/ACTION REQUIRED		RESP.	DUE
		The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everybody to the John Paul II Centre, the largest known building built to passiv haus standard in Europe. Board members introduced themselves.			
1.	Apologies	Sally Coble, Environment Agency (Jon Mansbridge (Team Leader, Planning Liaison) attending as rep); David Warburton, HCA (Peter Wynn attending as rep). Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthew Tait appointed Interim Chief Executive of the NHS Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Cluster, replaces Sonia Mills on the Board. • Bob Langton has stepped down as Chairman from Bicester Vision, Adrian Shooter appointed as Chair. Placi O’Neill-Espejo to represent Bicester Vision in Adrian Shooter’s absence. 			

ECO BICESTER STRATEGIC DELIVERY BOARD - NOTES – 26 JANUARY 2012

2.	Notes of previous meeting and matters arising	The Board agreed the notes of 27 October 2011 with updates included in agenda items below.		
3.	Emerging LDF, NPPF, Local Transport Plan, Economic Strategy and Bicester Masterplan	<p>Adrian Colwell presented the paper. The purpose of the report to update on progress in preparation for the Masterplan for Bicester over the next 20 years. Consists of a number of themes, content to be incorporated into completion of the Core Strategy in April.</p> <p>CDC and OCC have jointly commissioned WYG (White Young Green) to prepare a Concept Masterplan for Bicester. WYG will also engage with stakeholders and key partners, including Bicester Town Council. The proposals are subject to endorsement, further engagement and public consultation. Feedback from these to be reported back to the local authorities. Further information on updates, stakeholder engagement and public consultation will be added to CDC's Bicester masterplan website page (www.cherwell.gov.uk/bicestermasterplan) and OCC's website.</p> <p>The Masterplan will help ensure that the NW Bicester development is fully integrated into the existing town. It will also establish a new boundary to limit the town's growth and assist with completion of the Council's Local Development Framework Core Strategy.</p> <p>WYG gave a presentation on Bicester's current position, highlighting the pressure on Bicester for development and growth and showing the changes and linkages. Three strands to the Masterplan include: the Vision for Bicester which incorporates the One Shared Vision; future aims and ambitions; and the policies to achieve the aims. There is scope for the town to have a natural cohesion without affecting the surrounding villages and be part of the network of facilities to make Bicester whole.</p> <p>Cllr Bolster arrived 11:35am.</p> <p>Adrian Colwell reiterated the stakeholder workshops and consultation to take place and further information on the Bicester Masterplan and consultation dates will be posted on CDC's website (http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=8476)</p> <p>The Chairman thanked officers and WYG for the work to date and reiterated that there are further stages of work to be carried out with stakeholder and public</p>		

ECO BICESTER STRATEGIC DELIVERY BOARD - NOTES – 26 JANUARY 2012

		consultation. This is an opportunity to work together to make action plans happen. Any interested parties not already consulted should notify the Council.		
4.	Economic Development in Bicester	<p>Andrew Bowe presented the circulated paper which highlights existing issues and resources available in the local authorities to research the various economic strategies for Eco Bicester; and to identify the priorities for action based on the Action Plan set out in the Economic Development Strategy.</p> <p>Commitment will also be sought from the Local Strategic Partners (LSPs) and engagement with the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) for the area - South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership Limited (SEMLEP) and the Oxfordshire LEP (OLEP). Resource availability will be known from the LEPs once their governance is in place.</p> <p>Progress on the objectives will be made with WYG as part of the Bicester Masterplan and in tandem with the Task and Finish Group led by Bicester Vision. Work also ongoing with A2 Dominion (A2D) and P3 Eco to link their experience with the strategies and action plans. A2D will shortly launch a website for local businesses to register their interest to work on the NW Bicester development. The main focus of the website will be the construction supply chain.</p> <p>Joint work is also continuing with the West Northants Development Corporation (WNDC) and OCC to develop an employment, skills and training programme based on the Construction Futures Model. This work would feed into the masterplan planning process.</p> <p>Also noted that implementing the action plan for Bicester as set out in Cherwell's EDS would be in tandem with the emerging conclusions from the WYG work.</p> <p>The Board agreed the recommendations with the addition of the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The University Technical College (UTC) bid has been submitted and is seeking expressions of interest for support. The Board members are asked to lobby support for this bid. • To establish and progress the proposed "Bicester Marketing Board", beginning with skills and identify Bicester's key unique selling point (USP). 	All	Eco Bic Project Team Eco Bic

ECO BICESTER STRATEGIC DELIVERY BOARD - NOTES – 26 JANUARY 2012

		<p>An update to be brought to the next Board meeting on 12 April.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report to be brought to the next Board meeting on RAF Bicester as a heritage site with an action plan to progress and pursue this with the Defence Organisation to move this project forward. 	<p>Project Team Eco Bic Project Team</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>DCLG Eco Town Funding update and Other funding Bids</p>	<p>Jenny Barker presented the paper and circulated monitoring spreadsheet with updates on DCLG eco town funding. Eco town funding received as follows:-</p> <p>As a result of the Bid £9.7m (£3m for demonstration projects, £1.7m revenue and £5m capital) of funding was received by Cherwell District Council which is the responsible authority with regard to the funding. This funding, and initial proposals for its use, were reported and agreed by the SDB in July 2010.</p> <p>Further representations were made to DCLG for 2nd round Eco Town Growth Funding and this secured an additional £3.4m capital and £150,000 revenue in 2011.</p> <p>Both funding contributions have been received as block grant and as such are not tied to the delivery of a specific project. It has been confirmed there will not be any further specific Eco Town funding from DCLG.</p> <p>A report to the SDB in May 2011 identified three potential calls on the infrastructure funding:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) forward funding of the primary school on the site of the exemplar application – funding could be recouped from later phases of development that will be able to take advantage of the existing school provision; (ii) funding the provision of the eco business centre on the exemplar – funding could be recouped either through the sale of the capital asset in the future or revenue from the lease of the asset; and (iii) investment in a site wide energy company (ESCO) Energy Service Company or (MUSCO) Multi Utilities Company – Investment in an ESCO/MUSCO would ensure low cost energy to the development and provide a return on investment. <p>HCA offered support on the ESCO/MUSCO -</p> <p>The project team is looking into other sources of funding to improve the town and updates on bids as follows:-</p>		

		<p>(i) Update on eco town funding and potential bids</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bicester Reuse and Sustainable Living Centre – presentation given by Simon Kenton, Community Action Group (CAG) Project Manager at Resource Futures. Background work completed over past 18 months including a feasibility study and meetings re finance and funding with reuse partners. Seed funding of £40k sought to enable the appointment of a project development worker for 1 year, employed by Resource Futures, to work further on the project including further fundraising, setting up a charity and company to deliver the service and securing premises and sourcing stock. Figures presented were evidenced based on other reuse centres run by Emmaus and Bricks & Bread. Emmaus have also offered help and support along with £10k funding. • LEAF (Local Energy Assessment Fund) – bid submitted by Grass Roots Bicester in conjunction with Bio Regional. Unsuccessful in first round, further rounds available and a further bid to be submitted. • Location of the Green Investment Bank – expression of interest submitted by the Eco Bicester project team. Result of the bid known end Feb. • Getting Britain Building Fund (HCA) - is intended to unlock stalled sites with planning permission to support construction activity and provide new homes. • Big Lottery Communities Living Sustainably – expression of interest to be submitted by end January by Bio Regional as partnership with CDC, BTC, OCC, Grassroots Bicester, Bicester Chamber of Commerce, OCVC, Broadribbs cycle shop and the RSL – Sanctuary Housing. Outcome known end February. <p>Cllr Lorraine Lindsey-Gale, as Chair of the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership was delighted to supported this bid.</p> <p>The Board agreed the recommendations with the following highlighted:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that the £40k funding for the Bicester Reuse and Sustainable Living Centre is the total funding support available. 		
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ECO BICESTER STRATEGIC DELIVERY BOARD - NOTES – 26 JANUARY 2012

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jenny Barker to follow up on HCA funding support for MUSCOs/ESCOs. • To ensure that the recycled and forward funding investments tie in with financial strategies in place and the capital investment programme; and • to ensure funding is invested into the infrastructure for the whole town. 		
6.	NW Bicester progress report	<p>Jenny Barker presented the paper which provides an update on the exemplar and Masterplan.</p> <p>Exemplar – currently in process of completing the Section 106 legal agreement and this will enable planning permission to be given.</p> <p>Masterplan – work on green infrastructure, water and the economy requires refining.</p> <p>Updates given by Graham Johnson, P3 Eco.</p> <p>On track to submit the Masterplan later this year. Acknowledge there is work to be undertaken on employment and the economy. Discussions ongoing with WYG to enable partnership working and public consultation work to coincide at the same time. Currently in process of undertaking archaeology studies.</p> <p>Landowner discussions continue and due to sign shortly for further land. An additional area also confirmed and this will form part of the masterplanning process.</p> <p>A plan for a business model for provision of energy has been submitted to CDC and this would return a long term income stream for both P3 Eco and CDC. Good discussions taking place with Viridor to use heat from the Ardley incinerator.</p> <p>Proposals to achieve water neutrality being discussed with the Environment Agency.</p> <p>Updates given by Gerry Walker, A2 Dominion</p> <p>Funding agreements in place with two building contractors and clauses included on training requirements. A2D will put in place the infrastructure required to enable the school to be delivered first. A2D also ensuring to use local contractors and suppliers by creating a website for local companies to register their interest. Site currently being tested and when launched will be advertised locally.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked all for the progress made and noted that it was important for</p>		

ECO BICESTER STRATEGIC DELIVERY BOARD - NOTES – 26 JANUARY 2012

		local authorities to continue to resource the project appropriately.		
7.	Energy club and mass Solar PV – current position	<p>Andrew Bove presented the circulated paper which summarises the main issues and recommendations relating to the feasibility of the local community bulk purchasing energy and a solar photovoltaic scheme for Eco Bicester.</p> <p>“Going Dutch, Local Government and Fuel Poverty” is a paper by a local government think tank, the New Local Government Network (NLGN) (www.nlgn.org.uk) published in July 2011. The paper sets out a new initiative from the Netherlands which brings consumers together to bulk purchase energy.</p> <p>The initiative for Bicester residents would be for them to express an interest in the local authority negotiating fuel prices on their behalf and is primarily focussed on tackling fuel poverty and achieving significant savings.</p> <p>There is currently no scheme in the UK.</p> <p>The Chairman noted the progress made and the Board agreed the recommendations with the following additional comments:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A paper to be bought to the April 2012 Board meeting with the intention to gauge interest from Bicester residents for bulk purchase of energy later in the year. • To make the scheme clear that the energy club and solar panels are not in tandem and interest can be registered for each scheme separately. <p>An update on the insulation scheme was also provided and it was agreed that there was little merit in amending the boundary at this time to include other areas due to the drop in take up of the scheme and that the lifetime of the scheme had been curtailed to the end of 2012 due to the introduction of the Government’s ‘Green Deal’ scheme. It was noted that the boundary could be reviewed at a later date to be incorporated into the work being carried out by WYG.</p> <p>The Board agreed the recommendation.</p>		

ECO BICESTER STRATEGIC DELIVERY BOARD - NOTES – 26 JANUARY 2012

8.	Demonstration projects update	<p>Jenny Barker presented the circulated update with the following additional information:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel behaviour – mapping progressing on walking and cycling. Action – Daniel Round to bring a paper on travel behaviour and the school travel plan to the next Board meeting. • Insulation scheme – nearly 1200 installs complete. All Board Members to promote this scheme. Action – All to promote this scheme. 	Daniel Round All	
9.	Risk Register	The Board is recommended to note the content of this report and the attached summary document.		
10.	Forward Plan	<p>Additional item noted below:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on the travel behaviour project and to include the school travel plan 		
11.	Date Of Next Meeting	2012 dates - 12 April; 19 July; 4 October	All to note	