

ECO BICESTER STRATEGIC DELIVERY NOTES - NOTES – 23 JULY 2015

<p>MEETING: Eco Bicester Strategic Delivery Board</p> <p>DATE AND TIME: 23 July 2015 at 14.00 – 16:00</p> <p>VENUE: John Paul II Centre, Bicester</p> <p>Completed by: Liza Ellis</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 Lynn Pratt (BTC)</p> <p>Cllr Norman Bolster (CDC)</p> <p>Cllr Michael Gibbard (CDC)</p>	<p>Karen Curtin, (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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1.	Apologies	<p>Cllr Michael Waine (OCC)</p> <p>Cllr Lynn Pratt (BTC)</p> <p>Sally Coble, Environment Agency – Lesley Tims attended as rep</p> <p>Ben Jackson, Bicester Chamber of Commerce - Peter Cox attended as rep</p> <p>Adrian Shooter – Bicester Vision</p> <p>Graeme Laws – Bicester Vision</p> <p>David Warburton and Stephanie Ainsworth, Homes & Communities Agency</p> <p>NHS Clinical Commissioning Group rep</p>		
2.	Notes of previous meeting and matters arising	<p>The Board agreed the notes of 26 March 2015 with updates and matters arising included in the following agenda items.</p>		
3.	Eco Bicester One Shared Vision Steering Group Update	<p>Karen Curtin, Commercial Director (Bicester) advised the Board of progress of the work of the Steering Group and the key work streams as below;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garden Town – update at agenda item 7. • The Eco Business Centre , which has Executive approval to start the procurement process. The project team is established with the initial meeting on 24 July 15. • NW Bicester issues; applications and legal agreements considered. • A partnership has been created between OCC and CDC to lead on a 		

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		<p>communications and marketing campaign for Bicester with input from Bicester Town Council and Bicester Vision. The brand name has been agreed as “Growing Bicester” and this will be used on web-sites, hoardings, and bus shelters. Early adopters of the brand are the Community Building site in Franklins Yard and the new park and ride facility when it is operational.</p> <p>A presentation was given by Karen Curtin on the “Growing Bicester” campaign.</p> <p>Feedback/questions from the Board:</p> <p><i>Peter Cox; there is nothing that shows pedestrians and cyclists, it would be helpful if they were included in this project.</i></p> <p><i>Karen Curtin; pedestrians and cyclists are included in the logo/brand.</i></p> <p><i>Cllr Ian Hudspeth; I think it is a good idea to have a co-ordinated brand to make it easier for people to understand what is happening in Bicester. OCC are happy to support this project.</i></p> <p><i>Cllr Lawrie Stratford; a key thing will be getting the local press interested in good news stories rather than negative stories. This is a good opportunity to show how Bicester is growing. I particularly like the term “growing” as it describes the future for Bicester and it is good that OCC and CDC are working together on this project.</i></p> <p><i>Chairman; Having this public relations exercise may well help the image of Bicester. I believe there are a lot of positive press stories out there.</i></p> <p>Action:</p> <p>Andy Bowe to bring an update on the Eco Business Centre to the October SDB.</p> <p>Growing Bicester brand guidelines to be sent out with the minutes</p>	<p>AB LE</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>NW Bicester Steering Group report</p>	<p>Jenny Barker presented the report and noted the following key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exemplar Development – Work is progressing and showhomes are now open on the site. An application has been submitted for the local centre including a convenience store, retail units, pub, community hall, nursery, commercial units, servicing, landscaping and parking. This is due to be considered by the planning committee in August/September 15. Planning permission has now been granted by OCC for the primary school. The 		

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		<p>White Horse Federation have been selected as the academy provider for the school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NW Bicester Supplementary Planning Document – The District Council has now produced a draft supplementary planning document to guide development proposals for the site. The document was approved for Development Management purposes by CDC Executive on 1 June 15. • NW Bicester Planning Applications – Jenny updated on the planning applications in progress as detailed in the report. <p>Jenny concluded that good progress is being made on the exemplar development and the show homes are now open and available to view. Plot reservations are going well with the first occupation anticipated for the end of this year.</p> <p>The Board noted the progress made.</p> <p>Feedback/questions from the Board:</p> <p><i>Chairman; there is a lot going on and it is terrific to see the first houses being built and sold on the Eco town. This is a terrific success story for Bicester and will be positive for the town. We need to make sure this all comes together cohesively.</i></p> <p><i>Cllr Ian Hudspeth; it's fantastic this has been delivered in such a short space of time.</i></p>		
5.	A2Dominion Employment Portal Update	<p>Apologies received from A2D and Jenny Barker presented the report; NW Bicester Business Employment and Training update.</p> <p>Jenny highlighted the progress on the objectives as detailed below:</p> <p>Objective 1 – Work directly with local employment/ training agencies including Job Centre Plus and Bicester Job Club to identify employment opportunities relating to construction of the development and skills and training to assist local people;</p> <p>Objective 2 – Delivery of workshops in conjunction with Bicester Job Club to introduce opportunities relating to construction of development to local job seekers;</p>		

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		<p>To date 539 operatives/management have been inducted on site with 136 classed as local which equates to a 25% Local Labour force.</p> <p>Objective 4 – Delivery of local supply chain events to promote opportunities for companies local to Bicester and how these opportunities will be made available during construction;</p> <p>A2Dominion is delivering supply chain events that enable local businesses to engage directly with A2Dominion and our main contractor Willmott Dixon.</p> <p>Objective 5 – Provision of a minimum of ten apprenticeships relating to construction of the Development to local persons residing in Bicester.</p> <p>We currently have 5 apprentices on site within our supply chain: 2 Bricklayers, 1 Plumber, 1 Electrician and 1 Carpentry apprentice.</p> <p>Objective 6 – Setting up and maintenance of a website to attract local suppliers which allows them to compete for work on the construction of the Development.</p> <p>Where companies have been unsuccessful on the first phase of 94 units, their details will be kept by A2Dominion and shared with future main contractors for tender opportunities on latter phases of the development.</p> <p>To date 49 suppliers/sub-contractors have tendered for opportunities on site and Willmott Dixon has agreed work packages with the companies as detailed in the table on page 3 of the report.</p> <p>Currently 27 work packages on phase one of the Exemplar have been let, 21 of these are with companies from within a 50 mile radius of the development site = 78%. The approximate value of this work to is £15m.</p> <p>In addition, contracts are currently being placed for Painting and Decorating and Floor Finishes, both of which are also with companies from within a 50 mile radius of the development site.</p>		
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		<p>This will complete the appointment of all work packages on the first phase of the Exemplar by Willmott Dixon. Phase two is currently out to tender and all tenderers will be adhering to the same use of the Business Portal as Willmott Dixon adhered.</p> <p>Suppliers:</p> <p>Willmott Dixon are using 9 local businesses so far to supply materials and services, including the Lunchbox for on-site catering, and are using 2 local companies to recycle waste generated during construction.</p> <p>The Board noted the progress made.</p> <p>Feedback/questions from the Board:</p> <p><i>Chairman; I would like to know if this has been done anywhere else? This is a positive example to feed back to central government.</i></p> <p><i>Cllr Norman Bolster; I have to say I have heard negative comments from some companies that were not successful in the process and it would be good if they could have feedback on the reasons why.</i></p> <p>Action:</p> <p>A2D to provide feedback to unsuccessful companies.</p>	<p>JB</p> <p>A2D</p>	
6.	Eco Bicester Project update	<p>Gabi Kaiser, Project Officer (Sustainability) presented the report with updates on new projects or projects with significant progress and highlighted the following areas:</p> <p>1.3 Bicester Green</p> <p>2.1 Big Lunch</p> <p>3.2 Boiler scheme</p> <p>3.3 Heat network</p> <p>3.4 Community Solar Scheme</p>		

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		<p>4.4 Bicester wayfinding project</p> <p>The Board noted the progress made.</p> <p>Feedback/questions from the Board:</p> <p><i>Chairman; a lot of positive work has been going on and the success stories are now coming through.</i></p> <p><i>Peter Cox; queried the grid connection for Brita (item 3.4)</i></p> <p><i>Karen Curtin; a working group has been set-up with SSE to move forward with grid capacity to deliver the developments; this has been escalated upwards and through two LEPs.</i></p> <p>Action:</p> <p>Gabi Kaiser to circulate an update on the Brita issue to Board Members.</p>	GK	
7.	<p>Update on Garden Town funding attracted to Bicester</p>	<p>Maria Curran, Garden Town Delivery Manager, presented the report and did a presentation, which provides an update on Central Government funding available for delivering the Bicester Garden Town concept and consultations undertaken.</p> <p>The Board noted the report and progress made.</p> <p>Maria Curran advised on delivering infrastructure requirements and the growth agenda and what that means including further sustainable transport options i.e. electric cars. Maria advised engagement will continue throughout the year and we are looking at developing an investment prospectus for Bicester.</p> <p>Feedback/questions from the Board:</p> <p><i>Chairman; that was very interesting, a lot of work has already been done. It is terrific that central government are committing funds to enable us to deliver this and that we have central government support. There was a direct mention of support for Bicester Garden Town in the Conservative manifesto. We will be able to build up a business case and the key message is that Bicester is going to be a really exciting place to</i></p>		

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		<p><i>live and we are all committed to making that happen.</i></p> <p><i>Cllr Richard Mould ; I have had feedback form the public in Bicester that they are not sure what is going on. There is so much happening that local people feel left out and they are not receiving the messages.</i></p> <p><i>Chairman; that is recognised, which is why there is a running theme through all this work on communication and marketing. All elected Councillors can be getting the message out there and playing that role in communicating the messages out.</i></p> <p><i>Peter Cox; I commend the council in applying themselves to this scheme, but wonder whether the general public will understand the language being used?</i></p> <p><i>Chairman; it is true there that a lot of it is buzz words and it will be important in future to communicate the messages in language people understand.</i></p> <p><i>Lesley Tims; on behalf of the environment agency I can confirm we support these water, green infrastructure and partnership working positive initiatives.</i></p>		
<p>8.</p>	<p>Sustainable Transport Strategy – Update</p>	<p>Lisa Michelson sent apologies and Ben Smith represented OCC.</p> <p>Andy Bowe and Ben Smith presented the update report with the recommendations as follows;</p> <p>Andy Bowe advised the reduction in the amount of resource since the start of the project has impacted on the delivery; looking to secure funding through local growth funds and schemes, but may struggle to deliver the project in the future.</p> <p>The Board was recommended to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the proposals to deliver improvements to a radial route for cycling and walking improvements with the preferred option being Buckingham Road to be funded by the remaining budget for the Travel Behaviour Demonstration Project. • Note the further work on the Delivery Plan and support further work 		

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		<p>with further updates to be received by the Board and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the funding bids and the implications if the bids are unsuccessful in terms of limiting what can be delivered in the short term. <p>Feedback/questions from the Board:</p> <p><i>Chairman; it is right to document the work that has been done and to link to the adopted local plan. The key is delivering and we need to recognise that long term funding is needed for this project. In terms of prioritising the projects we will take your advice on that and ask the board to consider in the financial agenda item. OCC s106 money used to be allocated clearly – may be able to lift this and bring back to board.</i></p> <p><i>Peter Cox; in the Masterplan the Banbury road comes off the Eco town development, but what will encourage those people to use that road?</i></p> <p><i>Ben Smith; we are looking at developing a scheme on the Middleton Stoney road to link in with NW at the western end.</i></p> <p><i>Jenny Barker; NW road improvements off site to link to the town have been looked at and upgrades to routes linking with the railway and using Queens Avenue, Shakespeare Drive. A number of routes have been identified to seek improvements to link into the town.</i></p> <p><i>Cllr Ian Hudspeth; there is a tendency to focus on Oxford and not the good work being done in Bicester.</i></p> <p><i>Cllr Lawrie Stratford; agree we need to encourage walking, but the real challenge is cycle paths and lanes on roads which are already narrow. We need to make sure we don't increase the risks.</i></p> <p><i>Chairman; we have committed to a whole picture of lifestyle change and we can influence people choosing to cycle and can make a difference. If we don't make the opportunity clear cut, then the chances of success are reduced. I am convinced we</i></p>	
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		<p><i>can change habits by giving choice and opportunity.</i></p> <p><i>Peter Cox; I agree with the Chairman and have examples where Bicester cycle routes have been very well used after initial doubts have been overcome.</i></p> <p><i>The Board</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Support the Bicester Sustainable Transport Strategy and note it will go to the Cherwell District Council Executive in September 2015</i> • <i>Note progress on travel behaviour and issues around resourcing of work;</i> • <i>Support the proposals to deliver improvements to a radial route for cycling and walking improvements with the preferred option being Buckingham Road to be funded by the remaining budget for the Travel Behaviour Demonstration Project.</i> • <i>Note the further work on the Delivery Plan and support further work with further updates to be received by the Board and</i> • <i>Note the funding bids and the implications if the bids are unsuccessful in terms of limiting what can be delivered in the short term.</i> 		
9.	Bicester Grid Study	<p>Steve Drummond sent apologies, therefore this item was deferred to the October meeting.</p> <p>Action: Carry forward to next meeting.</p>	SC	
10.	Risk Log	<p>Jenny Barker presented the risk log:</p> <p>There were limited changes to risk levels this month and all updates are in bold type.</p> <p>The Board noted the report and no comments made.</p>		

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11.	Financial Monitoring Statement	<p>The Board agreed the Financial Monitoring Statement.</p> <p>Feedback/questions from the Board:</p> <p><i>Chairman; I would like options on how to allocate the remaining unspent capital on the report to come to next meeting.</i></p> <p>Action:</p> <p>Jenny Barker to bring options to next meeting.</p>	JB	
12.	Action Plan 2015/16	<p>The Board noted the report and no comments made.</p>		
13.	Press release summary and agreed Communication Messages	<p>The press releases were noted and the key subjects for communication messages agreed as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress on the exemplar and engaging with the local economy. Cllr Wood to give some comments. • Marketing campaign for Growing Bicester. • Project updates; re-run of boiler scheme. • Attendance at Bicester lunch • Garden town ; public friendly awareness of spring event and messages • Cycling in Bicester and success of existing routes <p>Feedback/questions from the Board:</p> <p><i>Chairman; OCC need to communicate delays involved in works on roads and pre-</i></p>		

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		<i>warn the public.</i>		
14.	Date of next meeting	2015 dates: 8 Oct at 2pm at John Paul II Centre, Bicester	All to note	