



Aylesbury Garden Town – Project Board Meeting, Joint with Delivery Team

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 20 January 2020

PRESENT: Cllr B. Chapple (**BC**) (BCC), Cllr C. Harriss (**CH**) (BCC), Cllr C. Paternoster (**CaP**) (AVDC), Stephen Hill (**SH**) (HYAS), L. Michelson (**LM**) (BCC), C. Manders (**CM**) (AGT), R. Harrington (**RH**) (BTVLEP), R. Jeremy (**RJ**) (AGT), P. Brockway (**PB**) (HYAS), G. McIlwaine (**GMc**) (AGT), C. Perkins (**CeP**) (AGT), C. Faine (**CF**) (SEMLEP), U. Diallo (**UD**) (AGT), S. Harrop (**SaH**) (AGT), G. Merry (**GM**).

APOLOGIES: Cllr A. Macpherson (**AM**) (AVDC) and T. Lane (**TL**) (AVDC).

1. Welcome, Introductions, Overview	Action By
Cllr. B. Chapple was welcomed back as the chair of the meeting. GM attended the meeting for Agenda Item 1. BC thanked GM for all his hard work and wished him well in his new role.	

2. Minutes and Actions from Last Meeting	Action By
Members in attendance at the meeting agreed the minutes. The Masterplan update is Agenda Item 3. The cycling and walking infrastructure is progressing. Project updates is Agenda Item 6.	

3. AGT Draft Masterplan: consultation and communications update	Action By
<p>GM - Slides on communications will be shown later on in this meeting. Consultation has been launched formally; this runs from 6 January 2020 to 14 February 2020. Four roadshows have been held with between 10 and 40 people attending, feedback has been positive and supportive. Statutory Partners have been sent an e-mail reminding them to complete the survey. So far 30 responses have been received and 20 e-mailed responses, people want regeneration of the town centre. Dates for the Roadshows are on the website. A report outlining the comments received will be presented at the next meeting.</p> <p>BC – There have been adverts on Oxford radio and Mix 96. I met with our new MP Rob Butler last Friday, he is very enthusiastic and looking to find funding for AGT, I have also met with Martin Tebbit. There is a Town Partnership Meeting next week.</p>	GM/SH

<p>LM – Rob Butler MP likes the focus on inclusion and our heritage.</p> <p>BC – We have a funding allocation of £460k for next year, Didcot received £100k and Bicester £200k.</p> <p>GM – Gave a presentation on the AGT Communications. There is a two page spread in Vale Life; this is delivered across the whole of Aylesbury. There have been peaks on the website linking to local media adverts which shows this campaign is working. Four days have been booked, 11 – 14 February 2020, in Aylesbury Town Centre (the old Bighthouse unit). We have received no responses from the Parishes. There are signs on the back of benches re early adopters and trying new ideas out. We are talking to the Town Council about being ‘green around the town’. The Mix 96 advert has gone well; there is a lot of information about AGT in the public domain. The funding announcement was on Mix 96, there was a press release from Rob Butler MP and a recorded interview by Cllr Bill Chapple OBE. Twitter followers have increased with the ‘top tweets’ being about the Masterplan and the Food Court. The website has been updated; it has a community focus and shows where we are now, the Masterplan and key projects we are working on.</p> <p>BC – asked the meeting for any questions and informed the meeting there is money for recycled plastic lampposts and that intelligent/smart tarmac that generates electricity when driven over is being tested. The Minister for Transport Baroness Vere of Norbiton is visiting on 14 February 2020.</p> <p>SH – Peter Parfitt will come to the AGT Board with a presentation.</p>	
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4. Capacity Fund and Budget Overview	Action By
<p>CM – Following a successful bid we have been awarded £460k, the total budget is just under £2 million. There is a paper at today's meeting on the profile of the budget; we have about £700k to spend next year. Points to discuss: how we fund staffing, SPD's, Town SPD or Action Plan, additional technical studies, green and blue infrastructure and additional engagement.</p> <p>CF – Was there any critique on our bid or queries on how the money has been spent or queries on the funding granted as we have an underspend. Has anyone looked at the spend of Didcot or Bicester?</p> <p>SH – There has been no critique as such; we have received no written feedback yet. When the bid was submitted we had to do an audit of the spend and forward planning. We are working through the underspend effectively. Homes England – we are one of the high performing bids, progress against programmes and homes. Homes England will give a more formal feedback at the next meeting.</p> <p>BC – Bicester are at least a year ahead of AGT and were a 'healthy Town' and an 'eco town before becoming a 'garden town'.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Homes England/SH</p>

<p>CF - We need feedback on where we spend money. Aylesbury is delivering homes against an historic spend when this should be against an incremental roll out. Well done on the additional spending package.</p> <p>BC – We are keen to see some projects starting so people can see AGT is happening – green projects, road closures. The cycleway from Aylesbury parkway started this year, we have Aylesbury Waterside Theatre and roads (£4.5 million). All in all we are doing well.</p> <p>SH – For the March 2020 meeting it would be good to share an audit of the programme to date and achievements and feedback from the consultation.</p> <p>RH – Clarification on the figures do we have £690k for next year.</p> <p>CM – Not all spend from the Council has been fed through yet, there will be clarification at the next meeting. We have had good communications work from the bottom up; I have not heard any bad/ugly response. It would be good to have some funding for communications.</p> <p>BC – On 1 April 2020 there is an election for the Parish of Kingsbrook, one of our better developments.</p> <p>RH – Parishes will have resources they can use, should we marry up resources such as communications.</p>	<p>SH</p> <p>CM</p>
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5. Delivery and Governance Review Report	Action By
<p>PB – talked the meeting through the Governance & Delivery Report – the short summary. There are two recommendations in keeping with the previously agreed two-step approach (short & medium/long term) as we move to the Unitary Authority. The recommendations from the Working Group to the AGT Board, that are agreed, will then need to go to the Unitary Authority for decisions. PB talked the meeting through the two recommendations in sequence with Board discussions related to each.</p> <p>Recommendation 1: Evolution of the AGT Board to a Strategic Oversight Board</p> <p>CF – Originally was comfortable with the structure but on reading again had some questions and comments. Who in the new structure is the budget holder? Delivering an incremental approach against planning/projects will be huge I cannot see how this evolved Board will work. There will be some tough decisions to make, is the structure capable of this, I don't think so.</p> <p>BC – It is a fine line we tread; the structure is democratic and deep enough to make decisions. The Town and Parish Councils are champing at the bit to get involved, maybe there should be one representative from the north and one from the south. Come 31 March 2020 some people will disappear. We can make recommendations but cannot approve them.</p>	

PB – There is a paragraph in the Board paper on the positioning of AGT and the new SOB in the new Bucks Authority constitution, following the example of Wycombe. It is a sound footing to take on more decision making. There will be more multi-disciplinary working and potentially in the future this could/should also allow for more and better decision making through the new structure.

RH – The LEP issue has been sorted. The Growth Board is in existence, meeting on Wednesday of next week, RH and LM will be attending. We need to be pro-active in how we give a voice to local people/businesses and stakeholder representatives or we will look like another complexion of a local authority.

BC – I don't think it has been decided who will have a vote, Town and Parish Councils may not have a vote. LM has been appointed as Service Director at the Unitary Authority, this gives us continuity.

LM – We will need a champion from the new councils. I am in my new role and can promote AGT. It is ultimately a partnership board.

CF – In some ways it has to 'play out' and maybe this is where we have to leave this. All of this structure leads to Statutory Decision Making/Processes, that box needs a different title.

PB – This should probably now be updated to say Buckinghamshire Council.

BC – There is a lot of water to go under the bridge before decisions are made. We do not want to 'cherry pick' which Parishes take part in Boards and we need to keep our options open. We can recommend the role of the Parish in the Board make-up.

SH – The role of Parishes is a tricky one, the Board must be kept manageable. The Community Member on the Board is the interface with Parishes.

PB – Maybe an addition of four members and let Town Councils and Parishes decide who attends – perhaps 2 reps from ATC and 1 rep each from 'northern' and 'southern' AGT related parish councils.

Recommendation 2: Programme Delivery Team and rationalisation of Team.

BC – We do need to note that this is a recommendation not a decision.

LM – Item to Unitary Authority to adopt the Masterplan. Use Shadow Executive to put recommendation through until new Unitary Authority in place.

PB – Looking at the lower half of the diagram in the Board paper now – Rationalising numbers at Programme Deliver team level - smaller and tighter, closer relationship to Technical Working Groups. The composition of all of the Technical Working Groups is not known yet pending the restructuring as part of the transition to BUA.

<p>CF – How are you envisaging the Technical Teams working with each other? If they go to AGT with an issue on one project where does this sit with the Technical Groups? Will be cumbersome if all Technical Groups have to comment/each involved in all projects. I am not trying to be negative, ‘if cumbersome’ is flagged up and maybe refined at a later date, we need to think about this.</p> <p>PB – Agreed and part of the proposal is to move away from something which is cumbersome so there will likely be some further refinement. There is also a difference in how far you can reflect something diagrammatically and what will occur in practice, with a mind towards how it is to be made as effective/efficient as possible. We are trying to enhance multi disciplinary working in private/public sectors</p> <p>SH –We are trying to articulate an approach with new people in place in the new structure. The right people on the Programme Delivery Team is critical.</p> <p>LM – You are right, different groupings of people for different project.</p> <p>BC – Perhaps this should this go back to the new Board for a final decision when we have the greater level of detailed understanding?</p> <p>PB – asked the meeting if further work was needed or if they will endorse the recommendations (1 & 2).</p> <p>CF – I will tell SEMLEP that I have issues and asked RH if as far as LEPS are concerned are you happy with the recommendations?</p> <p>RH – With the comments that have been made included I am happy with the recommendations.</p> <p>BC – Whilst this Board will not finally sign off the proposals as that will be a decision for the new Authority, I am happy to agree the recommendations as discussed.</p>	
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6. Project Schedule Update: including presentation on Community Fund	Action By
<p>UP – The Board has two papers, the long paper mirrors the Masterplan. Today we are going to concentrate on the shorter paper and the quick wins delivered this year. I come from the Highways Project Delivery Team. Parklets – we need to pick a winner. Aylesbury Station – 102 cycle racks. Cambridge Street closure – there has been some resistance. Cycle Hub at the Exchange – we should meet the March 2020 deadline.</p> <p>RJ – Cycle Hubs are not for this year.</p> <p>UD – Ruby Cycle Way – this is to encourage cycling and walking.</p>	

<p>GM – We should see if the school will do a PR event with us.</p> <p>UD – There will be a workshop late 2020 to discuss how we work with surface water and we will work with Natural England on a green structure.</p> <p>SH – We are looking at strategies to progress projects over the next year and turn these into actions.</p> <p>UD – Can we look at the Paralympics torch event?</p> <p>GM – Greening of the Town Communications in February 2020.</p> <p>CP – Gave a presentation of Community updates.</p> <p>RJ – We are having interim meetings with Bosch and Easymile re automated vehicles. There is a Community Conference on Playstreets in February 2020. We need to get road closures sorted.</p> <p>CF – What is the scenario on electric bikes in Aylesbury, we have been inundated in Milton Keynes.</p> <p>RJ – It is the opposite in Aylesbury, looking at scheme where you park it up – mainly along Waddesdon Greenway. We want to encourage people to buy.</p> <p>BC – I can understand why Milton Keynes has been inundated re bikes as there is so much shared open space.</p> <p>CF – There are some issues with electric bikes and some talk about electric scooters (which are not legal yet). There is a desire to spend the money on bikes; I am meeting with Milton Keynes on sustainable transport.</p> <p>LM – Informed the meeting that the consultation on the growth of Milton Keynes has been published.</p>	
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7. VALP Update (verbal)	Action By
<p>LM – Consultation ends on 17 December 2019</p> <p>CaP – We have had some problems staff side due to sickness and have contacted Unitary Authority to ask for a resource to meet the 31 March 2020 deadline for VALP. We are giving our response to comments and then comments and responses go to the inspector. One the inspector's report is issued and taken into account VALP will be adopted.</p> <p>CM – Will the inspector's request any more hearings?</p>	<p>SH/CM</p>

8. AOB	Action By
<p>SH – A report on the outcome of the consultation on the Masterplan will be brought to the February 2020 meeting and will go to the Shadow Executive for ‘sign off’ on 17 March 2020. A final update on projects will be brought to the March meeting and we will look at medium/long term projects. Maybe this meeting could be held at a project site.</p> <p>BC – when will the final version of the Masterplan be available.</p> <p>SH – For 23 March 2020.</p>	

9. Dates of Future Meetings	Action By
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 February 2020 - 3 to 5pm Paralympic Room AVDC • 23 March 2020 - 2 to 4pm – Mezzanine 1 BCC 	