

Aylesbury Garden Town – Project Board Meeting

10am 2 August 2018

PRESENT: A. Macpherson (**AM**) (Chairman); T. Aldworth (**TA**) (AVDC), P. Brockway (**PB**) (HYAS), B. Chapple (**BC**) (BCC), C. Faine (**CF**) (SEMLEP), N. Gibson (**NG**) (BCC), R. Harrington (**RH**) (BCC), H. Harrow (**HH**) (CE), C. Manders (**CM**) (AGT), C. Paternoster (**CP**) (AVDC), M. Thompson (**MT**) (BCC) and C. Ward (**CW**) (AVDC).

APOLOGY: C. Amies (**CA**) (HE), C. Harriss (**CH**) (BCC), M. Kemp (**MK**) (BCC), N. Naylor (**NN**) (BTVLEP) and C. Perkins (**CP**) (AGT)

1. Welcome, Introductions & Overview

	Action By
<p>Brief introductions were given and the Board were advised this was CM's last meeting before maternity leave. The Board wished her well and thanked her for her work on AGT.</p> <p>The meeting was chaired by Councillor A. Macpherson. AM was welcomed by the Board as this was her first AGT meeting.</p>	

2. Minutes and Actions from Last Meeting

	Action By
<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2018 were agreed as a correct record.</p>	

3. Project Overview, Programme Update and Update on Supplementary Planning Documents

Greg Macrdechian (AVDC Forward Plans) attended for this item.

	Action By
<p>The Board received an update on the VALP hearings which had run from Tuesday 10 July to Friday 20 July. A third week had been reserved but was not required. The first week had covered strategic (non-site specific cases) which included Spatial Distribution, Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) and Constraints. The second week covered AGT, transportation and infrastructure. Overall the hearings had reached a positive outcome with the Inspector to consider the main modifications in making the plan sound.</p> <p>The new NPPF had changed the housing need requirements and AVDC was awaiting advice from the Inspector on its impact. Other local authorities had also been affected by the NPPF changes whilst working through their Local Plans. Further work would be undertaken on Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) to rationalise those relevant in the Garden Town's delivery. There had been 17 Garden Town related SPDs which had since been reduced to seven or eight after the hearings.</p>	

Also there would be separate site specific SPDs for Aylesbury West and Aylesbury South. These would be drafted in conjunction with developers leading on these sites. Further SPDs had also been proposed for a District-wide Design and an AGT Design. It was intended for the consultants to undertake this work.

4. Progress on Master Plan

	Action By
<p>Alan Baxter Associates (ABA) had been commissioned to undertake the AGT Masterplan following the tendering process and subsequent recommendation to the Board. The consultants had three key outputs in their work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision & Strategic Narrative for AGT until 2050. This intended to be a succinct document to promote the Aylesbury vision to the public, investors, developers and the government. • Overarching Masterplan & Delivery SPD to deliver coordinated growth in Aylesbury. • A Strategic Infrastructure SPD to outline key strategic physical and social infrastructure requirements for the GT. <p>An inception meeting had been held on 27 July to set out the current purpose and discuss logistics. Workshop sessions would be organised in August as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One day for AVDC/BCC Planning, Design and Highways to have detailed discussions on the current plans and proposals. • Briefing session with Board Members and Garden Town Champion. • One day 'speed' briefing with AVDC/BCC officers in housing, education, economic development and health fields. • One day for individual key developers <p>It was confirmed that the key developers would all meet together which the Board felt was important to maximise developer buy-in to the vision. However, the Board noted that one day for developers may not be enough for their 'buy-in'. Also there needed to be a financial incentive for developers as Delivery Statements were not enforceable. Additionally, the Board had concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the availability of key participants in August. • That community assets, such as health centres and schools, would be overlooked. • Over the delivery mechanism of new settlements based on the Expressway corridor and resistance to them in local communities. The Board agreed that there was a lack of public consultation and representation in this process and that doing this may alleviate local concerns. <p>It was reiterated to the Board that the AGT vision would be linked to the town centre through the Delivery Team which contained Teresa Lane</p>	

6. Update on Pilot Projects/Innovation

	Action By
<p>A subgroup had been established to review engagement to date and list pilots and innovation related projects. Six categories had been identified: Smart GT Projects, Community Health and Wellbeing, Connected Communities, Greening and Enhancing the Environment, Encouraging Creative Design, Awareness Raising and Quick Wins. Members saw merit in the possibility of expanding the Board's Membership to bring in additional insight in certain Categories such as health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Woodlands had been identified as an exemplar project with a sub-group established to investigate the 'showcase' opportunities that can be promoted. Similar future projects would be identified through the masterplan work. The Board commented that it needs to be made clear what AGT status meant to sites such as Woodlands.</p> <p>There were discussions on bidding for infrastructure funding available from the Department of Transport and it was felt that this bid would be best made by AGT. The Delivery Team would investigate this prior to the mid-September deadline.</p>	<p>AGT Delivery Team</p>

7. Communications and Marketing

	Action By
<p>The Board received an update on the AGT social media accounts; the most recent post on Facebook had reached 1,789 people in July. There had been 1,500 visitors to the AGT website from May-June 2018 and the launch AGT website was the most clicked news item in the AVDC My Account e-newsletter. The AGT website had a form for the public to 'have their say' and information submitted would be shared with the Masterplanners. AGT was also now branded on the BCC Travel Pod in the town centre. The Board also heard of recent engagement at previous and upcoming events and the number of people expected to be reached.</p>	

8. Delivery Plan, Budget & Resources Update

	Action By
<p>The Board received an update on the current AGT team structure. A maternity post had been advertised and the recruitment process was underway whilst the Admin Support role was being temporarily filled until a graduate was recruited. The Transport officer post was temporarily filled by Geoff Gardener, BCC, whilst it was being re-advertised. The Board reiterated the importance of driving the AGT work stream forward whilst all recruitment occurred.</p> <p>The Board were asked to review and agree the proposed revised structure that had been circulated and acknowledge the impact this would have on budgetary resources. There was a proposed new role for</p>	

<p>an AGT Programme Manager (Level 7) which the Board recognised was important to steer and lead on the overall programme and stakeholder management. To mitigate a drop in AGT service, there was discussion on the possibility of MT sharing his BCC role for a short period in part with the proposed AGT role. However, on balance, the Board felt that it was necessary to undertake the full recruitment process.</p> <p>RESOLVED –</p> <p>That the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maternity post applicant be interviewed. • L7 management job specification be published as per the recruitment process and the Board would take a virtual decision on the final applicant’s appointment. Discussions would be had with MT regarding interim arrangements. • Budget and Delivery Plan be approved. 	<p>AM/TA</p>
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9. Capacity Funding Bid

	Action By
<p>The Board heard that the capacity funding bid round for 2018/19 opened at the end of June with a submission deadline of 20 July. Based on AGT’s activities and their related costs, AGT had bid £680,000 for 2018/19.</p> <p>Members asked for more information about the funding and were advised that the total funding pot for all garden towns was £7m and that bids would be assessed by the end of August. The bidding process was competitive with there being no limit to how much a garden town could bid for. The Board asked whether the bid could be increased to reflect to the expansion of AGT’s work but HH was unsure on this.</p> <p>The Board was also told that the receipt of grants would lead to the AGT team expanding. For future meetings, the Board felt that this should be made clearer in staffing structures. One idea was that it would be helpful to perhaps colour code posts in place versus proposals and those subject to additional funding.</p>	