

Aylesbury Garden Town – Project Board Meeting

2pm Wednesday 16 January 2019

PRESENT: Cllr C. Paternoster (**CP**) (Chairman); T. Aldworth (**TA**) (AVDC), P. Brockway (**PB**) (HYAS), Cllr B. Chapple (**BC**) (BCC), C. Coats (**CC**) (ABA), C. Faine (**CF**) (SEMLEP), N. Gibson (**NG**) (BCC), R. Harrington (**RH**) (BTVLEP), Cllr C. Harris (**CH**) (BCC), R. Majilton (**RM**) (NHS), G. Merry (**GM**) (AVDC), C. Perkins (**CPe**) (AGT), S. Sharp (**SS**) (AGT), M. Thompson (**MT**) (AGT), T. Venables (**TV**) (ABA), C. Ward (**CW**) (AVDC) and P. Williams (**PW**) (AVDC)

APOLOGIES: C. Amies (**CA**) (HE), Cllr A. Macpherson (**AM**) (AVDC), L. Patten (**LP**) (NHS)

1. Welcome, Introductions, Overview

	Action By
<p>Brief introductions were given and the meeting was chaired by CP.</p> <p>The Board noted that BTVLEP's Board nomination had changed from Nick Naylor to RH. Brief discussion was had on the sector make-up or the BTVLEP Board.</p>	

2. Minutes and Actions from Last Meeting

PW attended for this item.

	Action By
<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2018 were agreed as a correct record.</p> <p>The Board were updated on various actions that had been highlighted in the minutes of the last meeting from 1 November 2018. SS advised that the baseline report was ongoing following the collation of responses received.</p> <p>Alan Baxter Associates (ABA) provided a brief update on the VALP SPDs and how they would be linked back to the prospectus. PW attended to update the Board on VALP. There was ongoing dialogue with the Inspector through a discussion document surrounding the arc and its effect on housing numbers. The Inspector had changed his mind, which was likely to reduce the housing numbers, and had asked AVDC to suggest a revised number. Further revisions to VALP would be in the public domain and open for consultation. An adoption date would be subject to whether or not the Inspector deemed hearings necessary. If hearings were needed then adoption was estimated late-2019 whereas without hearings adoption would be mid-2019. The Inspector may also have been mindful that Wycombe and MK were at the stage of modifying their proposed local plans. Some of the Board expressed concern of the potential development of AGT 1 without SPDs but were advised that any such applications would be premature and subject to refusal.</p> <p>The Board also heard that from the circa £700k bid to Homes England</p>	

<p>submitted in Summer 2018, £440k had been allocated to AGT.</p> <p>MT advised that Richard Jerney (RJ) (AGT) would attend the next Board meeting to summarise the International Experience and report on necessary actions.</p> <p>CF felt that substantial funding would be needed towards cycling in order for a substantive change to take place. A cycling Champion would also be needed locally and this role would be carried out by CH. TA reported that feedback from the Delegates was that the visit to AGT had been the best engagement they had done. Overall, the Board agreed that the visit had been an excellent and worthwhile exercise that had also provided positive media coverage. It was also noted that engaging with other modes of transport would be covered by AGT's overall engagement.</p>	<p>MT/RJ</p>
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3. AGT Prospectus 2050

	Action By
<p>The Board received a presentation from CC and TV on the key points in the draft Aylesbury 2050: Garden Town Prospectus. This had previously been referred to as a Manifesto but this had changed due to its political connotations. ABA asked for feedback that focussed on the overall structure and layout, tone and language, vision, the eight GT principles and supporting graphics. The draft prospectus would be aimed at a wide audience.</p> <p>The Board discussed the statement of intent in the prospectus and the overall sentiment was that it was not exciting, unspecific to Aylesbury and could apply to any Garden Town. It was felt that the statement needed to clearly relate to the vision and specify what GT status meant for Aylesbury. It was noted that there would likely be a series of prospectus books depending on the audience (e.g. investors, businesses, the public) to highlight what was important to each reader and there was overall agreement with this approach.</p> <p>Following the statement of intent was a timeline explaining the eras of Aylesbury. Project Team feedback had been that there may be too much focus on old history and suggestions were asked for more recent events. BC offered to make timeline suggestions outside the meeting.</p> <p>The prospectus also contained an AGT Vision statement which had since been revised and distributed to the Board. CPe explained that public feedback and comments on Aylesbury had been Aylesbury's diversity, community spirit and Paralympic legacy, and this had subsequently been incorporated into the redrafted vision statement. NG commented on the importance of this public sentiment and that diversity would increase in future during AGT's development. TA felt that there should be reference to Aylesbury being a place for all stages in life: growing up, working and retiring. RH felt that the alternative vision strayed away from key themes of the Oxford-Cambridge arc (technology and quality of life) however ABA responded that the 'innovator in health and wellbeing' addressed this. Discussion turned to whether or not a</p>	<p>BC</p>

<p>vision statement was needed at all given that many themes made up AGT that could not be summarised in 3-4 lines and that the vision would come out in the Masterplan. PB advised that all GTs had a vision, albeit with varying quality, but a vision added an identity and outlined what the public can expect of GT status. A clear identity to summarise the GT movement may not please everyone but its benefit outweighed exclusion. TA added that a vision assured that the intention to grow was an enhancement to the area, not a threat, and that it was a sentiment owned by the Board.</p> <p>Regarding timescales, MT advised that a finalised first draft prospectus would be ready in March for touring with stakeholders. Feedback from this tour would be assessed with any future changes to the prospectus being made in May. In the meantime, Board Members were asked to provide any further feedback, comments or suggestions on the prospectus to SS via email; SS would circulate a reminder to the Board after the meeting.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> BC declared an interest in this item as a Trustee of the Bucks County Museum.</p> <p>NG and RH declared interests in this item as Board Members of Aylesbury Vale Advantage Legacy (AVAL).</p>	<p>All Board</p> <p>SS</p>
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4. Project Overview and Programme Update

	Action By
<p>Governance and delivery options scoping review</p> <p>A report had been circulated by PB that outlined the scope of work to assess potential options for future governance and delivery arrangements of AGT. The report recommended that the Board agreed the proposed actions in the paper.</p> <p>Members considered the paper and emphasised the need to include in the research the outcome of the £170m HIF bid should it be successful. The merit of having more community interest representatives on the Board was also discussed. The timescales in the scoping document were for reference and could be adapted. Due to this flexibility the Board</p> <p>RESOLVED –</p> <p>That HYAS and ABA investigate future governance and delivery arrangements for the Board to consider in May. An update would be provided for March’s meeting if necessary.</p> <p>Programme and planning update including approval for pilot projects</p> <p>An excel spreadsheet had been circulated which highlighted various work streams, including health & wellbeing, transport & mobility and</p>	

quick wins. **SS** provided an update on these elements whilst VALP had been discussed earlier in the meeting. Members noted the update and the benefits of having high-level detail available should it be of particular interest to Board members.

The circulated Programme Delivery Update Sheet – January 2019 outlined pilot projects that related to the AGT vision and innovation. These included on-street EV charging points, walking routes around Aylesbury, community food growing and street playgrounds. The Board felt that, on face value, these were positive projects to be involved in. Comments from the Board included:-

On-street EV charging points:

- Speak to Milton Keynes regarding their experiences and issues with EV charge points.
- Commercial opportunity is there however be cautious as the market may drive this forward anyway.

Walking routes around Aylesbury:

- Ensure routes are quadrant around Aylesbury and not just a path that starts and ends. Also ensure they are well lit and not a target for graffiti and anti-social behaviour. **SS** had liaised with Cherwell regarding the placement of paths.
- **BC** had spoken to the MD at Kingsbrook regarding the establishment of a link path from the development to the canal. This possibility would be picked-up by the team.

Community Food Growing:

- There could be scope to include a link to a local food bank. This scheme would be important to bring people together.
- **BC** suggested liaising with Aylesbury Town Council regarding allotments.

With the pilot schemes, **NG** advised that the procurement process needed to be thorough and that important consideration should be given to alternative providers and the ongoing maintenance costs of pilot projects.

RH and **CF** discussed the possibility of incorporating Woodlands into pilot projects specifically related to the strategic aspect of the Woodlands spinal road. It was felt that if the ideas from the cycling report were to become reality then this road needed to be designed accordingly. Comparisons were drawn to poorly-designed shared bicycle and car spaces in Milton Keynes.

RESOLVED –

That the pilots be undertaken. Any issues would be reported back to the Board.

Funding update

MT advised that the HE review was positive and the Built Environment

MT

SS

<p>Forum had noticed AGT which was likely as a result. The budgets were split and further allocation would be based on the masterplan from March. The £170m HIF bid draft was progressing well and it would likely be submitted in March. It was expected to be robust and include details on cycling. NG commented that the focus on HE was housing delivery so the case for increased funding through cycling should relate back to delivery of housing quantity. TA advised there was further discussion to be had on the HIF bid.</p>	
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5. Workstream Updates

	Action By
<p>Comms & Marketing</p> <p>CPe gave a presentation regarding community and stakeholder engagement. The Baseline Report and emerging themes of AGT had been shared at forums for Members, Officers and S&Ps whilst a New Community Panel had been established to steer the masterplanning process. The New Youth Panel had been established to provide insight from a mix of young people. A pop-up exhibition ran for three days in early December which saw roughly 500 people pass through. Social media statistics were also promulgated.</p> <p>The interactive section on AGT's website had been launched where users could place pins and comments in the AGT area. There had been an increase of 26% traffic to the website in the last 30 days.</p> <p>Next steps for comms focused on raising awareness of AGT's brand by exploring partnership possibilities with local developers and the pilot projects. Community Stewardship and Health & Wellbeing work stream engagements were planned for the end of January and the next round of Masterplan engagement would be in March. The launch event for the prospectus was scheduled late-March.</p> <p>Health & Wellbeing and Community Stewardship</p> <p>PB advised that work was ongoing to set-up the forums for 31 January. 45 invitations had been sent for Health & Wellbeing and guest speakers had also been invited. The intention of these forums was to correlate issues and prioritise then establish projects to address them. The implementation of these projects would be ready for commencement in March. After brief Board discussion, PB confirmed that BCC links made up most of the H&W invitation list.</p>	

5. Dates of Future Meetings

	Action By
<p>The dates of future meetings were noted.</p>	