

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ADVANTAGE BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th May 2016

At The Gateway, Aylesbury

Present: Adrian Brown (AB), Karen Satterford (KS), Richard Harrington (RH), Isobel Darby (ID), Ralph Bagge (RB), Katrina Wood (KW), Martin Tett (MT), Andrew Grant (AG), Philip Ingman (PI), Neil Blake (NB) and Bob Smith (BS).

Apologies: Neil Gibson (NG), Steve Bowles (SB), Richard Belfield (RB), Alex Pratt (AP) and Michael Garvey (MG).

In Attendance: Philippa Batting (BBF), Deborah Andrew (BCC) Ian Barham (BTVLEP), Liz Thomas (Bucks Advantage), Jim Sims (Bucks Advantage), Ian Boll (BCC), Ulrika Diallo (BCC) and John Callaghan (WDC).

1.	<p>Declaration of Interest There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2016 It was agreed to: Approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2016.</p>	
3.	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting of 18th March 2016 There were no Matters Arising.</p>	
4.	<p>Update on LGF 1 & 2 Ian Barham presented the report and advised that presentations would be given on the High Wycombe Town Centre Southern Quadrant and the A355 Improvements. Ian added that it is essential to demonstrate delivery to the Government especially in the context of LGF 3 as delivery is a key criteria. It is anticipated that the business cases for these projects will be signed off by the BTVLEP Board on 20/05/16 and the BA Board is asked to make this recommendation to them. Following the BTVLEP approval of the two business cases, it will be possible to increase expenditure for 2015/16. Currently BA is working closely with Amersham & Wycombe College to develop and implement their improvement plan and whilst the Aylesbury Eastern Link Road South scheme is delayed it should be noted that considerable preparatory work has been undertaken to date.</p> <p>I) A355 Improvements Ulrika Diallo (UD) gave the presentation and explained that the scheme will relieve congestion in Beaconsfield and improve North South connectivity. BCC are promoting the northern stretch of the road and Inland Homes will be constructing the southern element. There is a high cost benefit ratio and it is critical to complete the road prior to HS2 works commencing in the summer of 2019. It is anticipated that the planning application will be submitted at the end of June, procurement will take place in 2017, construction is scheduled for 2018 and</p>	

completion in 2019. Details of scheme costs and stakeholder engagement were highlighted.

UD confirmed that the northern section of the road will be restricted to 40mph, whilst the southern section will be restricted to 30mph with two mini roundabouts in line with the planning consent.

AB raised strong concern that the road design is flawed as it connects with the Inland Homes development and it is highly likely that traffic will continue to use Amersham Road. RB advised that Inland Homes agreed to pay for the road on the basis that it is a distributor road to their estate. They have consent for both the road and the residential development.

The level of support for the scheme and the extent of 'joined up' stakeholder engagement was discussed.

It was queried if there is scope for the southern section design to be improved to provide a better 'fit' with the northern section. It was acknowledged that whilst the scheme may be sub optimal, it demonstrates a contribution from the private sector; in addition negotiations and agreement with adjacent landowners have avoided the requirement to use CPO powers and public funds have been saved. It was also queried if BCC have taken measures in the local plan process to ensure that if development takes place on the adjacent land there is a mechanism for the development to contribute.

It was agreed:

- i) To endorse the principles of the project but to note that there are concerns regarding the detailed scheme design, connectivity to the Pyebush roundabout and capacity for housing growth to be incorporated in the preparation of the local plan.

II) High Wycombe Town Centre Southern Quadrant (HWYC)

John Callaghan (JC) gave the presentation and explained that the scheme was agreed within the 2014 Local Growth Deal funding package. It is ready to progress with the next steps subject to the agreement for funding to be released by the BTVLEP Board on 20/05/16. The scheme focuses on the Town centre and regeneration by redistributing traffic away from it to improve the environment to support planned growth for the area and encourage development in adjacent areas. There is also the opportunity to reopen the river along the A40.

The Westbourne Junction improvements are already providing benefits for pedestrians.

The business case for the package of schemes confirms costs and funding for schemes to be delivered up to 2019.

Costs are a challenge and an exercise has been undertaken to determine cost benefits and establish a package of 8 schemes that can be delivered by 2019. JC explained the various options and a discussion took place around their priority. In particular, it was pointed out that the Cressex

	<p>Business park ranked highly because it provides good value for money. In addition, the site is essential to the town and county in terms of employment. JC advised that the package of 8 schemes will help to create a place which is attractive to developers, accommodate growth and prevent decline and safeguard jobs.</p> <p>It was agreed:</p> <p>i) To endorse the scheme and recommend the business case for approval at the BTVLEP Board meeting on 20th May 2016.</p>	
5.	<p>Local Growth Fund Round 3 Timetable and Proposal Development</p> <p>Jim Sims (JS) presented the report and referenced the letter from Greg Clark regarding the criteria for allocating funding. The criteria sets out the expectation that funding will assist growth, that a specific figure should be proposed, that strong collaboration between the partnership and the local area should underpin the proposal, that stronger reformed governance structures are in place (it is thought that those in combined authority discussions are more likely to receive funding), that there will be greater investment by the private sector, that the strategy should engage with the government's key objectives within the wider local context (including plans for housing delivery and review of further education) and delivery to date.</p> <p>JS explained that there are 3 strands of funding (Core LGF, Major Transport projects and Housing enablement fund). We currently have a list of transport and non-transport schemes and there is a call out for LGF projects. JS outlined the timetable in order to submit the bid prior to the parliamentary recess on July 21st.</p> <p>BS advised that South Bucks had recently met with the HCA and it was reported that there is loan funding for investment for infrastructure to open up housing. In addition the Garden City prospectus encourages major developments to be put forward as a means to attract investment from other agencies. It is anticipated that the bidding round will be very competitive.</p> <p>It was agreed:</p> <p>i) To note the report</p>	
6.	<p>Any other Business</p> <p>There was no Any Other Business.</p>	
	<p>The meeting ended at 3.45pm</p>	



Adrian Brown Chair