

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ADVANTAGE MEETING

Minutes of the General Meeting held on 28th March 2017

The Cabinet Board Room, County Hall, Walton Street, Aylesbury.

Present: Cllr Katrina Wood [KW] (WDC), Cllr Ralph Bagge [RB] (SBDC), Cllr Warren Whyte [WW] (BCC), Alex Pratt [AP] (BBF), Cllr Isobel Darby (CDC) and Andrew Grant [AG] (AVDC) as proxy for Cllr Steve Bowles

Apologies: Cllr Steve Bowles (AVDC), Adrian Brown

In Attendance: Richard Harrington [RH] (BA), Liz Thomas (LT)

<p>1.</p>	<p>RH explained that the single item of business to be discussed relates to the structure of the Company going forward.</p> <p>RH advised that BA meetings are often not quorate and in view of the potential scrutiny of the Aylesbury Woodlands planning application, it could lead to a potential challenge. A key issue relates to the required quorum of 3 public sector directors and 3 private sector directors especially as there are only 2 private sector directors at present. In addition, whilst the BA Board was set up whereby Chief Executives of the Member Organisations were appointed as directors to deal with the day to day business, Member Organisation Leads also attend and participate in the meetings. RH added that at the AGM in September 2016, there was an aspiration for BA to become dormant particularly as most projects are located in the Vale with minimal activity in the South of the County. However, legal advice has confirmed that it is necessary to keep the Company going to comply with Companies House requirements and that it would be simpler to restructure BA to handle current work commitments.</p> <p>RH explained that the options include closing down BA and creating a new AVA or those authorities not wishing to participate could be invited to step aside, which would leave two authorities to run the Company but if other projects in the South of the County came forward in future, they could come back into the arena. As BA provides the structure to manage the delivery of the Strategic Economic Plan for the whole of Bucks, the articles would continue and working with the districts would not be precluded.</p> <p>ID suggested changing the name back to AVA with the objectives being Aylesbury centric as the remit is confined to Aylesbury and if at a later date there is work in the South the Southern authorities could be brought back in.</p> <p>RH advised that it would mean that the membership of the Company would include AVDC, BCC and BBF (as a representative of BTVLEP) or BTVLEP whereby member organisations would nominate directors to sit on the Board. AG queried if the abortive costs associated with Aylesbury</p>	

	<p>Woodlands would be shared if BTVLEP is included in the membership of the company and that if not, the membership should be two authorities. RH explained that Aylesbury Woodlands is ring fenced legacy business within BA and no other organisation carries liabilities. WW pointed out that if the 3 Southern districts do not wish to exploit the vehicle then it may be appropriate for them to step down, but it may be useful for the LEP to be in the arena in view of Government funding streams.</p> <p>ID suggested that in order to safeguard the position of the 3 Southern authorities, it would be best to retain BA in its current form, but that if Member Organisations attend BA Board meetings they should do so as observers. ID also queried if it would be simpler to constitute BTVLEP or if BA could be the constitutional body for the LEP. KW suggested that constituting the LEP would be preferable and if so WDC would withdraw.</p> <p>In view of the changing political arena within the County, it was suggested that a paper should be drawn up setting out the way to simplify matters including the revision of the quorate requirements and other relevant changes to the constitutional documentation. It was also thought that whilst the papers for the BA Board should be circulated to all BA directors and Member Organisation Leads, the Southern directors and Members may choose not to attend if they do not consider it necessary for them to do so.</p> <p>It was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) To provide a minute of this meeting to all directors and Member Organisation Leads. ii) To circulate a paper setting out measures to simplify the Company structure, addressing quorum requirements and other amendments to the constitutional documents as appropriate to enable agreement to be reached. iii) That if Member Organisation Leaders attend the BA Board meetings, they should do so as observers. iv) That Member Organisations reserve the right for their Member Directors to decide if it would be necessary and appropriate for them to attend BA Board meetings. 	
<p>2.</p>	<p>Any other Business There was no Any Other Business.</p>	

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Chair

31st October 2017