

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ADVANTAGE MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th January 2017

The Saunderton Estate, Wycombe Road, Saunderton.

Present: Adrian Brown (AB), Richard Harrington (RH), Neil Gibson (NG), Philip Ingman (PI) and Michael Garvey (MG).

Apologies: Karen Satterford, Andrew Grant & Bob Smith

In Attendance: Liz Thomas (LT)

1.	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 20th September 2016 It was agreed to: Approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20th September 2016.</p>	
2.	<p>Buckinghamshire Advantage – Options for the way forward RH explained that following the discussions regarding future BA activity at the last Board meeting, legal advice has been sought which favours collapsing BA and re invigorating AVA (rather than creating a new AVA). The advice therefore is that it would be simpler to restructure BA to handle current work commitments than to make the Company dormant and create a new AVA. By adopting this approach, it would give clarity around the legal structure which would be helpful for the Aylesbury Woodlands scheme and also assist with the arrangements for governing AVEZ and the Aylesbury Garden Town Initiative. It is recommended that BCC, AVDC and BBF invite Wycombe District Council, South Bucks Council and Chiltern District Council to step down from BA and effectively resign. It was noted that the BTVLEP would continue to represent the departing local authorities. A new/revised Member/Director Board (comprised of BCC, AVDC & BBF/BTVLEP) could be created to oversee and govern activity related to Aylesbury Woodlands, Enterprise Zone and the Garden Town Initiative. Consolidating AVA activity into a more structured arena would provide a more effective vehicle, reduce vulnerability and enable it to function more effectively. A conversation with the BTVLEP would be required to review the way assurance and governance is carried out in the event that BA reduced membership. If the BTVLEP assurance function is undertaken by another arrangement, it may no longer be necessary for SBDC, CDC and WDC to be owners of Bucks Advantage. It was also considered helpful to gain clarity as to whether SBDC, CDC and WDC would remain as ‘sleeping partners’ within BA if agreement was not forthcoming.</p>	

	<p>It was recognised that the current activity around the unitary model is likely to impact upon the environment in which BA operates and there may be merit in retaining the existing BA model in a dormant state so that it can be adapted to suit the circumstances when the unitary position becomes clearer. However, this approach may leave Aylesbury Woodlands exposed. In view of this, it was agreed that streamlining the ownership of the Company in the short term would enable the company to be more focused on the current business and enable a more effective governance structure to be put in place</p> <p>It was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) RH to draft up a recommendation on future membership of BA.ii) RH to discuss alternative options for the provision of assurance and governance with BTVLEP.iii) The proposed draft approach should be circulated to the BA Members for discussion [either electronically or at a meeting (possibly after next BTVLEP Board meeting on 27th January 2017)].	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Any other Business There was no Any Other Business.</p>	


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Chair

31st October 2017