

Public Questions and EDC Response

EDC Board 18 May 2016

The following questions and responses can also be found on the Corporation's website at www.ebbsfleetdc.org.uk

Relating to Item 2a: Interim Chief Executive's Strategic Report

1. Can you report progress on:

1a) The Master Plan and Supplementary Planning Document(s)?

Response

We are completing work on the draft Master Plan and Implementation Framework (the Ebbsfleet Masterplan). The EDC Board will consider this at the June Board meeting. We then propose to run a public engagement programme through the Summer and early Autumn.

1b) Commercial development in EGC for employment and reduced travel?

Response

The Garden City is seeking to deliver up to 32,000 new jobs with a strong focus on attracting new investors and businesses as well as supporting the growth of local companies.

The major commercial development will be Ebbsfleet Central around the International station with its good public transport connections. Our aim is to encourage easy access to all areas where existing and new jobs are located by improving public transport, cycle routes and walkways.

1c) Implementation of Dartford Borough Council 2016 Development Policies Plan?

Response

The EDC takes full account of the Dartford Development Policies Plan Document and gives the policies within this the necessary weight when determining planning applications. Although these policies have been ratified by Dartford Borough Council's Cabinet, it is recognised that they are yet to go through the formal adoption process.

1d) Timing of A2 Bean & Ebbsfleet A2 SRN (Strategic Road network) improvements?

Response

Highways England are responsible for delivering improvements to the A2 Bean & Ebbsfleet junctions to enable major development in the vicinity of Ebbsfleet. The works are currently programmed for construction to start in Spring 2020, to be fully open in 2022/23.

We are working with Highways England to try to secure the earliest possible start date for improvements to be implemented to improve on this timetable.

1e) Connections to the EQ Private Waste Treatment Works?

Response

The Waste Treatment Works proposed for the Eastern Quarry is a private facility that is being procured by the developers of the site. Any questions should therefore be directed to the Eastern Quarry developers.

1f) Arrangements for Water Supply (e.g. New Bean Reservoir/ Boreholes)?

Response

The EDC is not aware of any such proposals.

Relating to Item 2c: Interim Chief Executive's Communications Report

2. There hasn't been a Local Stakeholder engagement event since 8 December 2015. How is the commitment to a Locally Led Garden City met?

Response

We are fully committed to local people and other stakeholders being involved in the design and development of the Garden City and throughout this year we have continued to engage with groups and organisations across the area. We have also increased our digital engagement activities to engage with a wider audience; our social media platforms are reaching thousands more people in addition to our targeted local work.

Following EDC Board discussion of the draft Implementation Framework (the Ebbsfleet Masterplan) in June we are planning to run a public engagement programme on this through the Summer and early Autumn.

3. The New Website is welcome. Will publicly available Reports and Press Notices be added to it?

Response

The new EDC website provides an enhanced platform through which we can communicate the work being carried out by the EDC and across the Garden City.

EDC press notices and publicly available reports will be added to the website as they are published. We welcome feedback on our new website and any of the reports we feature.

Relating to Item 3: Chief Planning Officer's Report

4. Board Paper 15/015 (May 2015) said, regarding the Planning Committee, "The timing and frequency of Committee meetings to achieve a balance with respect to efficiency, flexibility and accessibility for the general public". The Planning Committee meetings on 20th April and 18th May 2016 have both been cancelled. What is the justification for only publishing a monthly list of Decisions under Delegated Powers if there is a meeting?

Response

The EDC holds Planning Committee meetings when it is necessary to do so. As with Local Authorities not all planning applications need to go through this process and can be determined under delegation.

Delegated decisions are reported to the Planning Committee for information rather than for a decision, and the EDC will not hold a Planning Committee solely to cover this item. When Planning Committees are held a delegated decisions report is always produced covering the period since the last report.

The public access website enables the viewing of planning applications submitted to the EDC, and allows the public to search on decisions made during a particular period. This includes both Planning Committee and delegated decisions.

Relating to Item 4: Finance Director's Report

5. For 2016/17, will separate monthly Finance Summary Reports be produced for the £3.744m EDC operational budget and the £39.1m capital budget? Will both be publicly available at Board meetings?

Response

Yes - the reporting format for the capital spend is being developed and these financial reports will be available publicly at future Board meetings.