

## Public Questions and EDC Response

### EDC Board 16 November 2016

The following questions and responses can also be found on the Corporation's website at [www.ebbsfleetdc.org.uk](http://www.ebbsfleetdc.org.uk)

#### Relating to Item 2a) Interim CEO's Strategic Report

**Q1** We are surprised that the Agenda doesn't include feedback on the Draft Implementation Framework (IE) and Local Authority progress on adoption. Is the IE only being discussed in the non-public section?

**Answer:** EDC is very grateful for all of the feedback on the Implementation Framework which we have received on the website, at the Open Days and from direct email submissions. We have captured this feedback in a report which will be shared with Board in Part 2 of this agenda. We will then publish the full details on the EDC website.

Once adopted by EDC the Implementation Framework will be formally shared with local authority officers for recommendation for endorsement by their Councils.

**Q2** The September Board Minutes record that, "KCC, Highways England and Land Securities had agreed to combine resources to undertake a major one off tidy up of the verges and highways ... in late September/ early October". When and where was this done?

**Answer:** Various works took place over a two-week period by both Land Securities and Kent County Council during the period from late September to early October. Land Securities work included the tidying up of the verges and roundabouts as you travel towards Eastern Quarry. Also, KCC covered a wider area of the road network within Ebbsfleet Garden City area during this same time period.

#### Relating to Item 2b) Communications

**Q3** We would like to congratulate KCC Cllr Mark Dance on his contribution to the 5<sup>th</sup> November issue of Property Week. It says, 'Dance is kept awake at night by the infrastructure issues the county faces and he readily admits significant investment is needed in this area'. "We've got a big fight on our hands at the moment at the Ebbsfleet and Bean junctions on the A2," says Dance.

"We're building 15,000 new homes at Ebbsfleet and Bluewater gets 22 million visitors a year and that's not even mentioning the Paramount theme park development which will add another 18 million a year to that junction and we're already at gridlock".

What are EDC doing to help Mark (and Bean Residents) sleep at night?

**Answer:** The development of Ebbsfleet Garden city is being taken forward in a planned way and a key consideration for this is addressing traffic and transport challenges. We are working with Highways England, KCC, Dartford and Gravesham Councils to ensure that the planned improvements to the A2 junction can proceed as planned. In addition, the EDC is investing in creating new pedestrian and cycle routes to encourage people out of their cars and we are working with our local authority partners on a plan to upgrade Fastrack.

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### Relating to Item 3 Acting Chief Planning Officer's Report

**Q4** We note that, in two current planning applications, WSP| Parsons Brinkerhoff have produced a Parking Technical Note to challenge the DBC Parking SPD guidance that was written, and consulted upon, following complaints from residents in new developments. For a 104-bedroom Hotel and Pub/ restaurant it appears to lead to 110 spaces instead of 248. The other case is for 192 dwellings and no provision for vans is proposed. The surveys did not include the nearby Ward of Bean & Darenth where parking problems are widespread and lessons ought to be learned.

Have EDC supported the study and, if a reduced provision or bay size is agreed, will they take responsibility for any future complaints?

**Answer:** The consideration of planning application submissions is a matter for the EDC Planning Committee and not for this Board.

### Relating to Item 4 Finance Director's Report

**Q5** For the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2016 Board the £3.719m Operational Budget was broken down under 44 headings whilst the £39.1m Project Budget was only presented under 5 "Pillar" Headings. In the interests of Open Government can the recipients (of £380,000 at that time) be identified?

**Answer:** Given that 16/17 is the first year of EDC's capital programme the reporting of our project expenditure is constantly under review. The EDC started its existence with no physical assets so currently much of the project expenditure is of a commercial nature, particularly as the EDC is in the process of negotiating some land / property / utilities transactions. For future Board meetings we will endeavour to give more project information where this is appropriate. The EDC is fully committed to being open and transparent wherever possible.

**Q6** Has any decision been made on the timing and appointment of a new Permanent Chief Executive? PMG welcomes the engagement and working relationship it has developed with the existing Interim Chief Executive and hopes that he will continue in this role on a permanent basis in the future

**Answer:** The EDC is working with officials in DCLG to agree the timetable for the recruitment of the permanent Chief Executive.