

Ebbsfleet Development Corporation

Board Meeting Part	One
---------------------------	------------

Date of meeting :	16 May 2018	Paper Number:	EDC 018/039
--------------------------	-------------	----------------------	-------------

Title of paper	Strategic Priorities Update
Presented by	Ian Piper, Chief Executive
Sub-committee	Not applicable

Purpose of Paper and Executive Summary	
To provide the Board with an update on key matters, affecting the Corporation's priorities and performance since the last meeting.	
EDC business plan and KPIs	Matters covered will impact on some or all of the priorities within the business plan and associated KPIs.
Recommendation	FOR INFORMATION The Board is asked to NOTE the matters identified and their impact on performance and progress.
Annexes	
Delegation	Not applicable.

Financial impact	Not applicable.
Legal impact	There are no legal implications associated with this paper.
Stakeholder impact	Not applicable.
Sponsor impact	MHCLG have been engaged in agreeing the strategic priorities, Corporate and Business Plan.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 On the 19th April we hosted a visit from Sir Oliver Letwin and his review team, who have been commissioned by the Government to review and consider how the 'build out rates' of house building can be increased, particularly to look at the apparent disparity between the number of permissions granted and the actual homes built.

Ebbsfleet Development Corporation

Board Meeting Part One

Date of meeting :	16 May 2018	Paper Number:	EDC 018/039
--------------------------	-------------	----------------------	-------------

We had arranged an initial briefing at the Information Centre, then a meeting, which Sir Oliver led, with most of the major house-builders operating in the Garden City and the Local Authorities.

The outcome of the meeting and points raised have been recorded by the Review Team and issued to us for correction of any inaccuracies. Sir Oliver is due to report back to government before autumn budget.

- 1.2 The Thames Estuary Commission, chaired by Sir John Armit, is due to launch their report at an event on 21st May. I shall attend on behalf of the Corporation.
- 1.3 Some of the team and I had a very informative visit to Bicester to see and hear first-hand about the local authority's activities in respect of custom and self-build. This will help us shape the development of our own proposals over the coming months.

2. **Corporate Plan (2016-21) update and Business Plan 2018/19**

- 2.1 Following further work and discussion with MHCLG we remain on track to submit the update of the Corporate Plan and the 2018/19 Business Plan in accordance with the timetable we set out to the Board last month. This will then be submitted to the Minister for consideration and approval, ahead of publication.

3. **Stakeholder Engagement**

- 3.1 I have attended a meeting, along with the Community Building Manager, with Southfleet Parish Council to provide an update on progress. The biggest concern for attendees appeared to be related to traffic – mainly that which comes in from the south and through the village, or which leaks off the A2 when congested.
- 3.2 I have also chaired a liaison meeting with the Bean Residents Association where the main topic was the consultation process undertaken by Highways England on the A2 improvements, and we provided a brief update on the commission we have let to look at potential environmental improvements in Bean Triangle.

Ebbsfleet Development Corporation

Board Meeting Part One

Date of meeting :	16 May 2018	Paper Number:	EDC 018/039
--------------------------	-------------	----------------------	-------------

4. Community Engagement

- 4.1 The Community Investment Fund has now been given some soft promotion in local community buildings across Springhead Park, Castle Hill, Swanscombe and Northfleet and the Community Building Manager is working with a number of local groups who are potentially interested in submitting bids for funding. We anticipate the projects and initiatives which result from this funding will bring a greater sense of activity to the area and will create empowered and encouraged residents in the Garden City area.
- 4.2 The Castle Hill arts project has now commenced in Ebbsfleet Academy and Cherry Orchard School and workshops with students at both schools are on-going through May. Students are looking at local history and heritage as well as their aspirations for the future to inform the development of the finished artworks. Our hope is that this project will make a positive contribute to community cohesion and will give local young people a sense of ownership over the new public realm in Castle Hill.
- 4.3 The Community Building Manager and Cultural Development Manager are working with Ebbsfleet Academy to undertake a series of activities based around the arts in the school on 27 June. An invitation for expressions of interest has been sent to Dartford Arts network and Gravesham Art Salon and we look forward to appointing a local artist to undertake this work. Our hope is that this day of activities will help to inform our future cultural engagement with schools and will make a valuable contribution to the mental resilience of local young people.
- 4.4 The Community Building Manager has attended an open meeting of Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council to give a Garden City update and was accompanied by the Chief Executive to give an update to Southfleet Parish Council recently. The Community Building Manager also attended the Community Fun Day at Ebbsfleet United on 21 April. These events are valuable opportunities to keep local stakeholders and residents updated on progress in Ebbsfleet and fans at the football match were keen to find out more about the developments coming forward on Northfleet riverside.
- 4.5 The Community Building Manager continues to meet with local groups and has met with Cohesion Plus, Opportunities for Women in Construction and local artists in the past month.

Ebbfleet Development Corporation

Board Meeting Part	One
---------------------------	------------

Date of meeting :	16 May 2018	Paper Number:	EDC 018/039
--------------------------	-------------	----------------------	-------------

5. Progress and Performance

Central Area

- 5.1 The procurement of an experienced team of commercial property advisors to assist us on the Central Area has now been completed and we have appointed GVA. Work with their team has already commenced with the first task being to scope out some options for our future commercial involvement in the Central Area.
- 5.2 Board members will have seen the announcement by London Resort Commercial Holdings of a further delay to their submission of the Development Consent Order until 2019. I am scheduled to meet their representative on 22 May for a fuller update.

Grove Road Regeneration

- 5.3 We are close to finalising arrangements to launch a consultation on regeneration proposals for the Grove Road area. This has taken slightly longer than we would have hoped due to the complexity of the site and its environs, and the need for us to ensure that the consultation process we adopt will be effective. We hope to have completed the process before the start of the summer holidays. In the meantime we continue to liaise with landowners in the area with a view to ensuring the regeneration proposals can be delivered.

6. Staffing Matters

- 6.1 We have one recruitment process in train at present, for an Assistant Development Manager. This is open until the end of May.
- 6.2 The Directors and I are finalising a review of our capability and capacity across the team to identify any further gaps, and how best to utilise any headroom in the staffing budget.

Ebbsfleet Development Corporation

Board Meeting Part	One
---------------------------	------------

Date of meeting :	16 May 2018	Paper Number:	EDC 018/039
--------------------------	-------------	----------------------	-------------

7. **Governance**

- 7.1 MHCLG has confirmed our budgets for 2018/19 and these are set out in the Finance Paper.
- 7.2 MHCLG has also provided written confirmation of our increased delegation for approval of investments up to £10m. This is a further very positive response following one of the Tailored Review recommendations.