

**Ebbsfleet Development Corporation  
Board Meeting – 22 January 2020**

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

**Question 1**

Do the Board have concerns that local Garden City and Road and Rail infrastructure funding may be diverted to the Midlands and the North?

**Response**

We are not aware of any Government plans to divert funding away from the Garden City to the Midlands and the North. We also continue to work closely with our sponsor Department MHCLG to prepare for the Government's next spending review process.

**Question 2**

Have EDC communicated with NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) about the impact on 9,000 patients of the sudden closure of GP surgeries in Greenhithe, Bean, Darenth and Bexley?

**Response**

EDC are aware of recent GP surgery closures and we are continually working in partnership with Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley, Clinical Commissioning Group (DGS CCG) to ensure that there is adequate local GP capacity to meet existing need, and to plan for future need. DGS CCG have confirmed to EDC that the patients from the closure of the two practices have now been taken on by two existing GP practices in the DGS CCG area.

**Question 3**

The August 2019 accounts show a payment of £425 to *The Great British Deck Chair Company* (in Taunton), described as *Community Investment Fund*. For what event was the purchase or hire?

**Response**

The payment to the Great British Deck Chair Company was to facilitate the Ebbsfleet Green Fayre. In the absence of a venue in Ebbsfleet Green, EDC had to hire in suitable furniture to facilitate the community event.

**Question 4**

The number of homes in Ebbsfleet Garden City is shown as approaching 2,000. Are you able to inform site visitors how many homes will be built and the estimated population before EGC has its first GP practice in operation?

**Response**

EDC are working in partnership with DGS CCG to deliver an innovative approach to primary health care delivery in Ebbsfleet Garden City. EDC and DGS CCG have held a number of community and stakeholder engagements in the local area to help us develop a vision for health delivery in the Garden City which will include a proposed Health and well-being hub at Ebbsfleet Central which will serve a population of up to 40,000 people.

EDC are currently in the process of recruiting a specific Project Manager to support the delivery of the Health and well-being hub, working in partnership with DGS CCG.

EDC are working in partnership with DGS CCG to ensure there is adequate local capacity in existing facilities to meet the arriving population before the health and wellbeing hub is complete.

### **Question 5**

The Planning Committee only met twice in Public in 2019 (June and December). How does this meet the *openness* and *locally led* requirements?

### **Response**

The EDC carries out public consultation on all planning applications including sending notifications to neighbours and seeking comments from consultees. All planning applications can be found on the EDC website where interested parties are able to submit comments. All planning decisions and the accompanying report are published online clearly explaining who has commented on an application and how the decision has been reached. Residents or interested groups can contact the planning case officer if they have any queries on a scheme or development proposal. The EDC is therefore fully transparent in our planning decision making. EDC will consult the applicable Local Authority and Kent County Council on many planning applications we receive, and ward councillors are also notified of applications in their ward. The planning committee typically consider larger schemes or applications which have generated a high level of public interest. Planning committee members can also call an application in for the committee to consider. During 2019 this resulted in only two meetings however we expect more in 2020.

### **Question 6**

Planning Application Notices (such as 19/0207) appear reluctant to name the Owner and Agent when it is Tarmac Building Products [shown as “-“] and David Lock Associates [shown as “Charlie Brown”]. Why is this?

### **Response**

The information on the applicant and agent details comes directly from the application form submitted by the applicant. Some applicants provide company names whilst others identify individuals.

### **Question 7**

The ½ mile long Advertising Banner in Watling Street, on Kent Highways side of fence, appears to have been erected without permission. Is there to be consultation on a retrospective application?

### **Response**

EDC carry out consultation on retrospective applications. This advertisement consent application is currently invalid and consultation will take place when all of the required information to support the submission has been received.

### **Question 8**

Transparency Data is only available online up to September 2019 and is headed 2018/19. The annual Office Rental paid to *Kent Police Business Services* has been £87,511. Payments to *Eastern Quarry Ltd* in June, July & September 2019 were £16,080+£14,740.45+£16,080. What is 2019/20 forecast.

### **Response**

With regard to information available on the EDC website, the October 2019 transparency data has been available since early December. It can be found under the 2019/20 heading. The November 2019 data has recently been added to the website (again under the 2019/20 heading).

The office rental incurred by the EDC for the Police station accommodation was circa £170k to £178k per annum. Payments were made in 2 instalments, hence the transparency data will show payments of c £80k+ in the relevant months. The annual office charge from the Police included all EDC's accommodation costs at the Police Station, whereas the arrangements for the Observatory are detailed individually i.e. there are separate payments due for the rent and service charge (payable to Eastern Quarry Ltd who are the owners of the property) plus utility bills. The EDC anticipate that the total annual accommodation cost of The Observatory will be at the same level or lower than the annual accommodation cost incurred at the Police Station.

In addition to the Observatory office costs, the EDC utilises (and pays for) local meeting / accommodation space to host Board / EDC Committee meetings and other EDC meetings / events.