

Ebbsfleet Development Corporation

Board Meeting Part One

Date of meeting:	16 September 2020	Paper Number:	EDC 020/086
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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 that affect 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 contents of this paper and their impact on performance and progress.
Annexes	No 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.

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1. Dealing with the COVID-19 Pandemic

- 1.1. We have now enabled more staff to be able to access the office, by creating small groups of no more than 6, with each group allocated time during the week when they can attend the office. This has allowed teams to meet up in a safe 'Covid compliant' environment and this has been welcomed by staff. Access is still limited to a maximum of 6 people at a time, to ensure there is adequate room to move around the office in a socially distanced manner. The next stage will be to re-arrange the layout of the office, probably reducing the number of desks, in order to be able to accommodate greater numbers at any one time, in a Covid compliant manner.

2. Governance

- 2.1. The closing date for applications for the Chair role was 9 September, and this has now been extended until 19 September. This appointment process is being led by MHCLG.

3. London Resort Consultation

- 3.1. We have had further engagement with LRCH and their consultant team in order to better understand their proposals in order to inform our response to their current consultation which concludes on 21 September.
- 3.2. Board will receive a commercially confidential report on our proposed draft response in Part 2.

4. Comprehensive Spending Review Announcement

- 4.1. Over the last month we have been busy submitting information requested by MHCLG on both our capital and revenue requirements for the Spending Review. We were required to submit a number of different scenarios with a range of investment requirements. These were submitted on the basis of the priorities previously agreed with the Board. Our request will be incorporated into the wider Ministry submission to Treasury later this month. An outcome will be announced, at a Ministry level, in November.

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5. Business Plan 2020/21

- 5.1. We have received verbal approval to our Business Plan for 2020/21 from the Ministry and are awaiting confirmation in writing ahead of publication.

6. Corporate Plan

- 6.1. Board will be aware that we are in the last year of the current Corporate Plan. As a result it will be necessary to produce a new Corporate Plan that will set our overall direction and priorities for the next 4/5 years. It is likely that the period of the Plan will follow the Spending Review (for capital) period i.e. 4 years.
- 6.2. Clearly, the basis of the new Plan will need to reflect the resources that are allocated to us as part of that Spending Review process so we are proposing a process of developing and agreeing the plan with Board and MHCLG that will align with that timetable. We propose to bring a paper to Board in November that sets out a proposed process and timetable in more detail.

7. Eurostar Announcement

- 7.1. Board members will be aware of the announcement by Eurostar that they will not stop services at Ebbsfleet until 2022 (at the earliest), due to the significant fall in demand for their services overall as a result of the pandemic. Liaising with HS1, we are seeking a meeting with Eurostar so that they are fully aware of our plans for Ebbsfleet Central and in particular the potential for significant business growth in the area. This loss of service will of course be important for the London Resort too, so it will be important that there is a strong combined voice promoting Ebbsfleet and articulating the opportunities that exist here.

8. Progress on Strategic Priorities

8.1. Ebbsfleet Central

As the masterplanning work continues, we have begun the important process of engaging with the community and stakeholders over the potential plans and options. A number of sessions involving members of the Community Board and local community groups have been set up and will run over the next few weeks.

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An important element of work this month has been to consider the impact of the London Resort proposals on development of Ebbsfleet Central and consider how to respond to the consultation specifically from a landowner and developer perspective. Again, this aspect will be covered in more detail within Part 2 of the Board agenda.

8.2. Grove Road

The current consultation process is due to conclude on 18 September. We shall report on the feedback received to Board in October, following which the Outline Planning application will be prepared and submitted.