

**Ebbsfleet Development Corporation  
Board Meeting – 16 September 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**

How concerned are the Board about the withdrawal of Ebbsfleet International Eurostar Services since March 2020, now extended to 2022?

**Response**

The Board will have a chance to discuss this issue at its meeting on 16 September, however, it is likely that the Board will be concerned about the announcement, particularly in respect of its impact on attracting business to Ebbsfleet Central. Officers are in the process of seeking a meeting with Eurostar in order to explain the significant potential that exists at Ebbsfleet, and to ensure that the cessation in service is temporary.

**Question 2**

Is there anything to stop EDC making a 'Grant' to EIL (Eurostar International Limited), similar to that EDC make towards the Bean & Ebbsfleet junction improvements? Money might, similarly, be repaid from Developer Contributions.

**Response**

The money paid to DfE for the Bean and Ebbsfleet junction improvements was a way of frontloading cashflow to help ensure the infrastructure is delivered in a timely manner. This forward payment will be repaid to EDC through previously agreed developer contributions as the homes are built out.

There are no developer contribution agreements in place for funding EIL which means any payment to that company by EDC would be by way of a non-recoverable grant. Applications for grant funding are subject to EDC's own governance and decision-making rules with due regard to State Aid and other appropriate legislation and guidance.

**Question 3**

Can you summarise the results of adopting the Better Points scheme 'app', such as Measurable Behaviour Change?

**Response**

The BetterPoints app was initially funded by NHS England through our Healthy New Town Programme in order to incentivise local residents to walk, run or cycle in their local area. The programme now has over 1500 active users and is supported directly by EDC.

Residents are regularly invited to report on how the app helps them to meet their aspirations to become more active. 63% of residents reported that they are more active since they started using BetterPoints, and we have recorded an increase in total recorded, walking, running and cycling activities year on year. Users of the app have also gone on to launch initiatives including Sunday Active, HiiT and local health walks, which brings the community together through joint physical activities.

#### **Question 4**

Will the website be updated to revise European high-speed Ebbsfleet rail hub “ ... two hours from Paris.”? The journey via St Pancras adds about an hour.

#### **Response**

Yes, we will update the website to reflect the current temporary cessation of the service from Ebbsfleet.

#### **Question 5**

What services are NLA Media Access Limited providing to EDC?

#### **Response**

NLA Media Access (NLA) is a publisher-owned rights licensing and publisher services business with a core aim of supporting journalism. They work on behalf of the UK’s newspaper and magazine publishers to license organisations to make paper and digital copies of newspaper, magazine and news website content. As our monthly communications Board report contains copies of Ebbsfleet Garden City news cuttings, which are distributed to the Board and published online, the EDC pays the licence.

#### **Question 6**

Can you provide an update on Ebbsfleet Central applications? The Implementation Framework says the area, “*will become a dynamic new heart for Ebbsfleet, a major commercial hub and a centre of excellence for medical, education and learning*”.

#### **Response**

The Corporation has appointed a world class team of consultants to prepare a new Outline Planning application that we expect to be submitted in the Spring of 2021. It is still the aim of the Corporation to deliver the vision set out in the Implementation Framework.

#### **Question 7**

The June Transparency Data shows a ‘Grant’ of £9,700,000 paid to Highways England for A2 Junctions. That’s over 21% of £45,000,000 Forward Funding and 44% of £22,000,000 EDC 2020/21 Transport Budget. What is the total paid to date? Is it proportional to Works carried out that started 31-March-2020?

#### **Response**

The EDC has now grant funded Highways England £45 million in total (which is the full amount payable by the EDC under the grant agreement) related to the Bean and Ebbsfleet A2 junction improvements. The EDC’s grant funding is a contribution towards the whole scheme costs (which is still anticipated to be circa £125 million). The total scheme costs include not only the construction cost but also the design and development work which has been ongoing since the EDC made its first grant payment.