

Ebbsfleet Development Corporation

Board Meeting Part	One
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Date of meeting:	17 February 2021	Paper Number:	EDC 021/011
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Title of paper	Chief Executive's Update
Presented by	Ian Piper
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
Annexes	None
Delegation	Not Applicable
Financial impact	Not Applicable
Legal impact	Not Applicable
Stakeholder impact	Not Applicable
Sponsor impact	MHCLG have been engaged in agreeing the strategic priorities, Corporate and Business Plan.

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1. Governance

1.1. Following an open recruitment process by MHCLG, Ministers announced the appointment of Simon Dudley as the Corporation's new Chair with effect from 21 January. I would like to welcome Simon on behalf of the executive team.

2. Dealing with the Pandemic

2.1. All staff remain working from home and we continue to operate effectively to meet our Business Plan milestone targets, having adapted well to this new style of work.

2.2. As reported previously though, this way of working, and the restrictions of the pandemic more generally, have placed additional strains on the well-being of staff and we continue to implement new ways to support them.

3. Funding Allocations 2021/22

3.1. We have received formal notice of our capital allocation for next year (£16m), along with the commitments that are covered for subsequent years. We are awaiting confirmation of our ability to retain and utilise capital receipts which would boost our available budget by around £3m next year, and we are waiting for formal confirmation of our revenue allocation for 2021/22.

4. Corporate Plan

4.1. The EDC is required to have in place a corporate plan which must be approved by MHCLG Ministers and published. The EDC's current corporate plan covers the period April 2016 to end March 2021 (aligned with the last Spending Review period), and so the EDC must now develop a new corporate plan for 2021 onwards.

4.2. We have agreed with MHCLG that our next corporate plan should extend beyond the next Spending Review settlement period which covers only the single year 2021-22, and so we are now working on a plan for a four year period to March 2025. The EDC Board agreed a set of overarching priorities for this period late last year, and these priorities are now being considered by MHCLG Ministers. We expect feedback from this process soon.

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4.3. We have agreed with MHCLG that we will prepare our draft plan in the coming months, working closely with the Department to ensure that it captures the Government's strategic objectives for Ebbsfleet. Clearly, the Board will need to shape the plan and its content, and so we expect to bring a series of drafts to the Board over the coming months. The timetable we have agreed with MHCLG is for the Plan to be approved and published by the end of Quarter 1 2021/22.

5. London Resort

5.1. Board members will already be aware that PINS accepted the application for a DCO by London Resort for Examination. As reported last month, this is a further major step forward for the project and now establishes the timescales for the Examination in Public and subsequent decision by the Secretary of State. There will be a very significant body of work required by EDC as one of the relevant authorities and as the Development Management Authority for the location of the Resort. We are working very closely with both Dartford BC and Kent CC and will continue to do this, sharing expertise and resource where we can.

5.2. There is a very large amount of submitted information that is now being digested and there are many meetings with the London Resort team scheduled to continue the dialogue around all relevant matters.

6. Update on Spatial Priorities

6.1. Ebbsfleet Central

The emerging results from the master planning work were presented to Board in a pre-board session ahead of the January meeting. Further discussions with the Board will take place in pre-board session ahead of the February meeting. Further updates on commercially confidential matters are contained with the Head of Ebbsfleet Central's report in Part 2.

6.2. Thames Way Development Area

An informal session with Board members to consider the current emerging proposals is scheduled for w/c 21 February, following which we are aiming to take the initial out for public consultation.

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6.3. Northfleet Riverside

Work continues on preparation of the outline planning application, which is now expected to be submitted in March, a short delay due to the need to consider how best to accommodate required flood defence works.

We are also nearing finalising of the documentation required to procure a development partner. We expect the first stages of this process to commence this financial year.