

Hemel Garden Communities (HGC) Delivery Board

Minutes

20th April 2022

Delivery Board Attendees	Cllr Andrew Williams (Chair)	Dacorum Borough Council
	Cllr Alan Anderson (Cllr Anderson)	Dacorum Borough Council
	Cllr Chris White (Cllr White)	St Albans City & District Council
	Cllr Jamie Day (Cllr Day)	St Albans City & District Council
	Cllr Stephen Boulton (Cllr Boulton)	Hertfordshire County Council
	James Doe (JD)	Dacorum Borough Council
	Amanda Foley (AF)	St Albans City & District Council
	Christine Traill (CT)	St Albans City & District Council
	Colin Haigh (CH)	Hertfordshire County Council
	Sarah McLaughlin (SM)	Hertfordshire County Council
	Adam Wood (AW)	Hertfordshire LEP
	Fionnuala Lennon (FL)	Homes England
	Neil Iredale (NI)	Homes England
	Phillipa Zieba (PZ)	Hemel Garden Communities
	Nathalie Bateman (NB)	Hemel Garden Communities
	Jamie Alderson (JA)	Hemel Garden Communities
Katy Francis (KF)	Hemel Garden Communities	
Bob Lane (BL)	Hemel Garden Communities	

Attachments

- Item 2 – Draft HGC Delivery Board Minutes 9th February 2022
- Item 3 – Programme Director's Update Report
- Item 7 – Finance Paper

Item		Action
1.	<p>Welcome and apologies</p> <p>Apologies received from Tina Barnard (Herts LEP), Claire Hamilton (DBC) and William Marr-Heenan (SADC).</p> <p>Bob Lane, Independent Chair for Hemel Garden Communities, provided an introduction to the Board.</p>	
2.	<p>Previous minutes sign off</p> <p>The previous minutes of the meeting held 9 February 2022 were agreed as correct record.</p>	
3.	<p>Programme Director's Update</p> <p>PZ provided an update on key priority workstreams.</p>	

	<p>The updated Framework Plan Spatial Plan will be brought back to the Board for sign-off and approval prior to consultation.</p> <p>PZ highlighted vacancies within the HGC team and the steps being taken to successfully recruit to those posts.</p> <p>The HGC Memorandum of Understanding has been reviewed and returned to The Crown Estate (TCE) and it is hoped that this will be concluded soon. The team are looking at transformation community initiatives that may present opportunities for joint working with TCE.</p> <p>It was recommended that a HGC Board site visit is undertaken with TCE in June.</p> <p>It was noted that there may be an opportunity for advance tree planting alongside the M1 through joint working with National Highways which could contribute to sound mitigation.</p> <p>Dacorum Borough Council (DBC) are working through the Natural England moratorium and are developing a mitigation plan with other local authorities, the National Trust and Natural England. DBC are working with HGC and TCE around the wider issue of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) that is being considered through the Framework Plan and solutions were identified with Natural England at a SANG workshop on 19th April.</p> <p>The HGC team are organising a meeting with senior officers in May to consider respective partner sign-off processes and how governance processes will be managed for the forthcoming consultations.</p> <p>The Solar Bulk Buy scheme was approved at DBC Cabinet on 19th April and it will be reported to the Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership on 27th April.</p> <p>The HGC Communications and Engagement Strategy has been drafted and is under review.</p> <p>NB provided an overview of the HGC branding which was developed through consultation with the branding panel which includes representatives from the partner authorities, Hertfordshire LEP/Herts IQ and Hemel Place Strategy.</p> <p>The Board noted the programme update position and key workstream activities.</p> <p>The Board noted the progress made on branding and endorsed the final brand subject to minor refinements on the Plough Roundabout icon.</p>	
4.	<p>Your Local Journeys Survey Analysis</p> <p>The survey ran for a 4-week period in February-March and gained insight into how people travel now, how they would like to travel in the future and the barriers that prevent people from travelling more sustainably. The outputs will be used to inform the Transport Plan and shape future engagement.</p> <p>KF provided an overview of the survey results. Key findings included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 528 completed responses 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 2019/20, half of people travelled frequently by car, two thirds of respondents did not cycle and around half never took a bus - Top reasons for not walking included journeys being more convenient by car, poor quality of pavements and the journey distance was too far - Top reasons for not taking the bus included other methods of travel are quicker, bus frequency and bus routes - 52% of respondents felt it was important to change the way they travel to address the climate emergency - 60% felt we should give more road space to public transport - 63% felt we should give more road space to make Hemel more cycle friendly <p>The results are being reviewed by the team and a detailed report will be provided in due course, including a heat map to show the number of responses from each area.</p> <p>It was noted that tackling climate change is a big challenge and HGC needs to offer good reliable alternatives to encourage people to travel more sustainably.</p>	
5.	<p>Quality Review Panel Update</p> <p>A Quality Review Panel (QRP) of the Framework Plan and site visit was undertaken in March. Key highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensuring the high level ambitions of the Framework Plan are firmly communicated in the final spatial plan - The importance of the active and sustainable travel aspirations to ensure future quality - The physical integrations of the new and existing areas via a ‘hub, spoke and wheel’ development approach, as opposed to reinforcement of a radial development form - The strategic role of the existing neighbourhood centres and their future scope to evolve in response to the growth areas - The net-zero carbon ambition and be clearer collectively around how that is best achieved - The importance of stewardship to placemaking and management <p>Key findings will be reviewed by the Framework Plan team and where appropriate comments will be incorporated and included in the documentation.</p> <p>The QRP will be an ongoing tool to the programme with further input around the Transport Plan and other topics and there is an opportunity to consider undertaking a QRP for emerging planning applications.</p>	
6.	<p>Stewardship</p> <p>FL gave an overview of stewardship in the context of developments such as HGC.</p> <p>Key highlights from the HGC stewardship workshop in January:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The need for a single stewardship model for HGC across the administrative boundaries to underpin the quality of place, through 	

	<p>management of the community assets, financially sustainable and robust for the longer term.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community engagement and empowerment will be key and must be effective and transparent - HGC should consider a vast range of opportunities and community assets <p>It was suggested that a joint task and finish group is established to take this forward with support of specialist consultant expertise, and possibly engagement with the University of Hertfordshire, to develop a work plan, test different options and cross check this work with the Local Planning Authority's emerging Supplementary Planning Documents. Stewardship will be progressed in 2022 in advance of any potential applications coming forward.</p> <p>It was noted that Ebbsfleet has recently gone through this process and there may be opportunities to share lessons learnt.</p>	
7.	<p>Finance Update</p> <p>The finance paper provides information around the year-end review of programme projected income and expenditure, and forecasts for the period to 25/26. The paper is based on an updated work programme with estimated costs, acknowledgement of staffing pressures and budget commitment by the authorities and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) funding.</p> <p>A self-sustaining Finance Strategy for the period beyond the current income commitments has been highlighted as a priority once the team has more capacity.</p> <p>A public announcement on the DLUHC Garden Communities funding opportunity should be made after the local elections.</p> <p>The Board endorsed the HGC budget for 2022/23 and noted the 2021/22 Programme delivery and year-end financial position and the indicative budgets for future years.</p>	
8.	<p>AOB</p> <p>There was no AOB.</p>	