

## ECONOMIC & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

### INFRASTRUCTURE SUB-GROUP

#### WORK STREAM – UPDATE JUNE 2017



Economic & Skills Development Partnership

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| Programme 1:  | Lead:   |
| Provide direction and input to the Local Plan and associated policy documents on the Bracknell Forest business community's infrastructure needs.  | GH      |
| Update:   | Date:   |
| Key dates for ESDP involvement were discussed. The next stages of the local plan will be most important, and a timetable for consulting is to be produced. Gerald Hegarty to now lead this Programme from an Infrastructure Sub-Group perspective.  | 3/4/17  |
| Programme 2:  | Lead:   |
| Explore the viability of creating a Business Improvement District (BID) within Bracknell Forest, forming a Steering Group to assess and report on potential options.  | JS      |
| Update:   | Date:   |
| A BID Meeting was held on 31 May, with Ruth Duston (Chief Executive of Victoria BID) presenting. The meeting enabled members to gain valuable knowledge from another experienced BID professional. A third party provider has undertaken a survey of local businesses to support the activities of the BID Team. A meeting is scheduled for 20 June to review the results.  | 12/6/17 |
| Programme 3:  |         |
| Working with the LEP, provide business-led advice to Train Operating Companies and Network Rail on delivering improved rail services to and from Bracknell.   | SJ      |
| Update:   | Date:   |
| South West Trains are near to completing improvements to Bracknell station, but it is now understood that the planned increased service frequency is due to be implemented in December 2018 rather than 2017. The Sub-Group, with the help of BFC officers, forwarded a letter and 'report' in response to the Heathrow Expansion Consultation, focusing on better rail access to Heathrow from Bracknell and the need for a strategy for housing Heathrow workers. | 12/6/17 |
| Programme 4:  | Lead    |
| Provide business-led advice on future development needs for Superfast Broadband in Bracknell.   | TB      |
| Update:   | Date:   |
| BTLC, a specialist broadband company, has agreed to join the Infrastructure Sub-Group. It is expected that their representative would lead this Work Programme.   | 12/6/17 |
| Programme 5:  | Lead:   |
| Provide support to the LEP and local authority in seeking funds to improve Bracknell's Strategic road corridors to increase capacity and provide reliable journey times   | SJ      |
| Update:   | Date:   |
| On 22 May the ESDP wrote a letter supporting Bracknell Forest Council's application for funding under the government's National Productivity Investment Fund for an improvement to the A322/A329 at Downshire Way. Under central government's Growth Deal 3, funds have been secured from the LEP (50% grant) for road improvements; £2.9 million for the 'Mercedes garage' junction at the A329 Long Hill Road, and £5.5 million for the 'Golden                   | 12/6/17 |

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| Retriever to Tamworth' A3095/Nine Mile Ride junction. |  |
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| Programme 6  | Lead:    |
| Continue to improve and promote the sustainable transport network that provides a high level of accessibility to key services including employment, education, healthcare, shopping and leisure.   | SJ       |
| Update:  | Date:    |
| The Sub-Group will seek business support for improvements under the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), aimed at meeting demand for more choice in travel around the Borough. The Sub-Group will continue to work on ways of supporting initiatives such as flexi-working styles to reduce the pressure on the road network at peak hours, as well as improving the quality of cycling and walking links. Questions on flexible working were added to the BID business area survey. | 12/6/17  |
| Programme 7  | Lead:    |
| Provide advice and direction on improving the availability of rented and graduate accommodation to meet increasing demand from Bracknell's business employers.   | JT<br>ML |
| Update:  | Date:    |
| This is a new task aimed at improving the housing and other accommodation for lower paid workers and graduates. JT will be engaging with corporates based in Bracknell that have an issue recruiting skilled staff due to the lack of affordable housing. The need for a strategy for housing Heathrow workers was included in the ESDP's response to the Heathrow Expansion Consultation.   | 12/6/17  |

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