

BBC/EWR Governance Board – Minutes



Date: Thursday 5th March 2026

Time: 1.30 – 2.30pm

Venue: Hybrid

Attendees:

Craig Austin (CA)

Sarah Combes (SC)

Paul Pace (PP)

Simon Joynes (SJ)

John Molyneux (JM)

Anna Robbani (AR)

Paul Pace (PP)

Aiden Hugill (AH)

Jo Branson-Budd (JBB)

Andrew Prigmore (AP)

Gavin Chinniah (GC)

Dawn Walton (DW)

Antigua Riley Corion (ARC)

| No. | Discussion | Actions |
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| 1. | Apologies None | |
| 2. | Updates from Workstream Leads Property & Legal – AH AH updated the Board that BBC’s Properties team continue to liaise with EWR re Intrusive, Non-intrusive and Archaeological licenses. AH advised that he has requested a full list of sites that EWR are seeking to access as the information provided by EWR is incomplete. AH expressed his frustration that EWR had directly contacted tenants at the Raleigh Centre Men in Sheds (owned by BBC), without notifying Property BBC. No formal letter received by property. DCO process & Planning – GC GC provided an update regarding a meeting he attended with Bedford Hospital representatives and EWR. The safeguarded land for the proposed EWR multi-storey car park was discussed. | AH to provide update on list of sites EWR are seeking licences to access when received. |

GC also updated that he attended a workshop considering designs for the car park, and impacts to local area.

Traffic & Transport – JBB

JBB confirmed that she and SC have prepared a response to the motion to Full Council brought on 4th February, regarding the proposal for a multi-storey car park in Queen’s Park. This response details the actions BBC are taking regarding the concerns raised in the Motion. JBB confirmed that this response would be circulated with the Board for review, and once finalised, shared with all Members.

JBB noted that BBC are waiting for a response from third party consultants on the technical reviews of EWR’s justifications for demolishing properties in Ashburnham Road and Poets area (the requirement for 6 tracks vs 4). Works ongoing via Pick Everard.

JBB updated that officers are seeking external expert support to review traffic modelling data provided by EWR. EWR have provided a deadline of 31st March to receive BBC’s feedback on the traffic modelling data; officers will request an extension in order for this to be thoroughly reviewed.

Stakeholder Engagement & Communications – ARC

ARC confirmed that EWR’s non-statutory consultation will begin in Spring, and she has asked EWR for the topics that will be consulted on.

ARC confirmed that FAQs re EWR had been developed and published on BBC’s website.

ARC confirmed that she has arranged a community meeting for the communities of Cauldwell and Queen’s Park for 17 March. Letters have been distributed to ward councillors and affected residents inviting them to attend.

ARC advised that she is arranging a meeting with EWR and the ICB to discuss the CPO of the GP surgery on Ashburnham Road, and related impacts.

Environment – SJ

SJ advised that very little information has been provided by EWR regarding environmental matters such as air

ALL to provide feedback on drafted response by Tuesday 10th March.

JBB to send letter, once complete, detailing BBC response to concerns raised in Full Council Motion raised on 4th February.

JBB to update the Board on technical review response when received.

AP to request extension to 31st March deadline for providing feedback to EWR on traffic modelling data.

ALL to review EWR’s published Community Consultation Strategy document, circulated by ARC.

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| | <p>quality, land contamination, flooding, water and acoustics.</p> <p>SC has requested further information regarding the proposals for acoustic fencing along the MVL curve south of Bedford St John’s station, and any other options EWR have considered and discounted. SC is awaiting a response from EWR.</p> <p>Housing – AR</p> <p>AR updated that work is ongoing toward mitigating the impact of the CPO of Charis House, with alternative models for rough sleeper provision in the area being explored.</p> <p>Updates to Full Council – Discussion</p> <p>Discussion around collating information and evidence to submit as part of EWR’s upcoming non-statutory consultation in the Spring. Decision for our proposed consultation response to be approved at Full Council before being submitted. Date TBC for extraordinary FC meeting.</p> <p>PPA & 4 vs 6 Tracks – JBB</p> <p>JBB updated that she continues to put BBC’s case forward to EWR for them funding 2 FTE staff to work on the EWR project, as it is so wide in scope and outside of BAU activities.</p> | <p>SC to follow up on request for information with EWR.</p> |
| | <p>Next Meeting</p> <p>Thursday 19th March, 1.30 – 3pm (Hybrid)</p> | |