

BICESTER VISION

Communications/Media Protocol

As Bicester Vision is a partnership that includes representatives from very different types of organisation, it is inevitable that there will be occasions when opinions vary.

Bicester Vision is regularly contacted by the media for comments about a wide range of issues.

It is important that anyone who is asked to make a comment considers the following points:

Is the subject matter contentious? Is it possible that there are differences of opinion amongst the partners?

If that is the case then there should be consultation with the Executive Board before any statement is issued.

Any quote should be emailed to the board for approval. Board members will be given 24 hours to comment before the quote is released to the press.

If any partners are uncomfortable or disagree with the views expressed in the quote then it should be made clear in the quote that not all partners are in agreement.

Subjects that could be viewed as contentious would include, but are not exclusive to, Eco Town proposals including North West Option, Asylum Centre, Hospital provision, Traffic issues, Town Centre developments.

Non-contentious subjects:

There are other occasions when the Chairman or Manager of Bicester Vision are asked for a comment regarding issues of a less potentially controversial nature, ie: Keep Trade Local, Fairtrade Bicester, Bicester Vision events.

The partners agree that in these instances, it is acceptable for the Chairman or Manager to issue statements on behalf of the partnership.

Speaking with one voice:

It is accepted by the partners that the Bicester Vision Partnership cannot always speak with one voice and that it will not always be possible for the partnership to have one view on a subject.

Where that is the case, it is important that all partners views are respected.