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OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

To:	**Scrutiny Committee**
Date:	**5 March 2019**
Report of:	**Scrutiny Officer**
Title of Report:	**Scrutiny Committee Consultation response to the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Regulation 18 (Part 1) Consultation**

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To consider whether the Committee should submit a response to the Regulation 18 (Part 1) Consultation, and if so, what that response should be.
Key decision:	No
Scrutiny Lead Member:	Councillor Andrew Gant, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee
Corporate Priority:	Meeting Housing Needs
Policy Framework:	Corporate Plan 2016 - 2020
Recommendations: That the Scrutiny Committee:	
1. Considers whether it wishes to submit a response to the Regulation 18 (part 1) consultation.	
2. Subject to recommendation 1, that the Committee approves (with any revisions) its response to the Regulation 18 (part 1) consultation.	

Appendices
Appendix 1: Draft response to the Regulation 18 (Part 1) Consultation

Introduction and overview

1. The six Oxfordshire Councils (four Districts, one City and the County Council) and the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OXLEP) have agreed the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal ("the Growth Deal") with Government. Under the terms of the Growth Deal, these authorities have committed to producing an Oxfordshire Joint Statutory Spatial Plan (JSSP) for submission to the Planning Inspectorate for independent examination by 31 March 2020 and adoption by 31 March 2021.

2. Each of the Councils agreed the Growth Deal through Council meetings in February 2018, and one of the resolutions was to participate in the preparation of a JSSP to the timescales set out in the Growth Deal Delivery Plan. The Plan will provide an Oxfordshire-wide, integrated strategic planning framework and supporting evidence base to support sustainable growth across the county to 2050, including the planned delivery of the new homes and economic development, and the anticipated supporting infrastructure needed.

3. On 21 January 2019, the Scrutiny Committee considered a report which would subsequently ask the City Executive Board on 22 March to approve the Regulation 18 (part 1) Consultation Document. The Committee made a number of comments in relation to the Consultation Document. A principal remark from the Committee was that the aspirations and objectives in the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 should be more ambitious, and give a greater recognition to the need to address climate change and provide genuinely affordable housing.

4. These comments were welcomed as a valuable contribution by the Council's Board Member for Planning and Transport, and it was suggested that they would form a useful submission as part of the consultation. The JSSP officer core has very recently confirmed that as a public consultation, it would welcome submissions from any individual, group or cohort, including Scrutiny Committees. The Committee is therefore asked whether it wishes to make a formal response to the consultation. Because the Council is a partner in administering the consultation, there are no current plans for the Council as a whole to respond to the Consultation.

5. At the conclusion of the meeting on 21 January 2019, the Committee resolved to submit a recommendation to the City Executive Board, which was subsequently accepted, which read:

   That the Council works with the Oxfordshire districts to incorporate minor amendments to the Regulation 18 Consultation Document, to strengthen the Plan's ambitions to address climate change and provide truly affordable housing (consistent with other long term national and local policies and targets). These themes should be considered the basis for the Council's response to the consultation.

6. On 26 February 2019, a revised version of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Aspirations and Objectives document was circulated to the Scrutiny Committee membership, highlighting various minor changes that had been made in response to the Committee's recommendation.

The Draft Response

7. Oxford City Council's Scrutiny Officer has drafted a brief response for the Committee to consider at its meeting on 5 March 2019. As the public consultation closes on 22 March 2019, this is the only opportunity in the schedule of meetings where the Scrutiny Committee can meet to consider whether and how to respond. The response has been drafted based principally on an extract from the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2019, which were approved on 5 February 2019. Whilst a draft has been produced in preparation for the meeting, there is no obligation for the Committee to agree this as its response.

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