

## **Communities and Partnership Scrutiny Committee**

### **Consultation Response – A Regeneration Framework for Oxford To 2026**

#### **1. Introduction**

The 6<sup>th</sup>. October Communities and Partnership Scrutiny Committee considered the consultation draft of the Regeneration Framework. They also had before them the comments of Area Committees excluding those from Cowley and South East Area Committees.

The Committee had seen the document throughout its development and thanked officers for their time and co-operation

#### **2. Conclusions and Recommendations**

These are divided between 2 general and 5 specific recommendations with a statement from the committee preceding each one. In addition there is an appendix listing particular comments from members of the committee.

##### **General Statement**

The Committee recognises that this is a valuable piece of work that is well evidenced. It represents a significant improvement to strategic planning for regeneration and has the potential to move Oxford and its communities forward in a positive and collaborative way. The committee accepted the principles of the Framework but felt it needed to be rebalanced along the lines of the recommendations

##### **General Recommendations**

- a) The action plan in its current form is not adequate to provide a robust mechanism to monitor and demonstrate improved outcomes. This should be redrafted to provide a more focused framework that clearly outlines priorities, expected outcomes and effects that can be evaluated
- b) Before the Framework is finally drafted and adopted by Council CEB should consider all suggestions from Area Committees and Scrutiny and either include them or explain why they do not wish to do so.

##### **Specific Recommendations**

The committee highlights 4 themes that they wish to prioritise to CEB and 5 specific recommendations.

##### ***Balance within Regeneration***

Committee statement:

The Framework prioritises economic regeneration with insufficient attention to other aspects of regeneration.

Recommendation

- c) To place greater emphasis on physical, social and environmental regeneration.

### ***Affordable Housing***

Committee statement:

Affordable housing is key to a sustainable long term future for Oxford and its communities. The Framework does not highlight or prioritise this adequately

Recommendation

- d) To link the provision of affordable housing and improvements within the private rented sector stock with all elements within the framework and reprioritise this within action planning.

### ***Jobs***

Committee statement:

The Framework emphasises the importance of high tech jobs in the context of economic regeneration. This is only part of the picture for Oxford communities. The availability of “entry level” jobs in terms of providing regeneration within our deprived communities is important.

Recommendation

- e) To redraft the Framework so it recognises the importance of entry level employment in providing regeneration within deprived communities

### ***Community Participation and Engagement***

Committee statement:

An effective and living strategy has to engage with and produce real outcomes for communities

Recommendation

- f) To bring forward at the earliest opportunity both:
- The detail of how we will communicate our ambitions to our communities in a shared dialogue; and
  - A blue print for community participation to be used as a basis for all actions and projects
- g) To ensure full participation of Area Committees in all projects relating to their area

## **3. Table of Councillor Comments**

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Councillor</b>
<b>Balance within Regeneration</b>	
How does the document address environmental decline	Cllr. Simmons
The Framework is balanced too much in favour of economic regeneration at the expense of other areas	Cllr. Simmons Cllr. Rundle
The focus is too much on economic regeneration and worklessness needs to be looked at alongside physical, social and environmental issues	Cllr. Murray
We should be asking the PCT and Police to focus more on prevention and detection around "hard drugs". These are the basis of much crime and anti-social behaviour	Cllr. Murray
What are the plans for education and skills particularly for young vulnerable people? Would we reconsider a Foyer	Cllr. Murray
What if Grenoble Road doesn't happen? What is plan B	Cllr. Murray
There are pockets of deprivation in other areas. The concentration on super output areas for deprivation misses these. How can we ensure we won't do this	Cllr. Murray Cllr. Altaf-Khan
The regeneration objectives at 1.4, even if not in any particular order, do suggest a hierarchy. Both sets should be written the other way round. In particular engagement and participation of communities should always be first. This should be reflected throughout the document and isn't	Cllr. Rundle
This is a living document but the vision and aims need to remain stable. As written they will age quickly. These needs to be reconsidered	Cllr. Rundle
Why wasn't Evan Harris consulted?	Cllr. Royce
<b>Affordable Housing</b>	
The delivery of affordable housing is not prominent enough within the Framework. Just delivering on the recommendations of the OSP Affordable Housing Review is not ambitious enough	Cllr. Murray
The quality of housing in the private sector is not addressed along with plans for regulation to ensure standards. How about the outcomes from the Strategic paper done on this subject a while ago	Cllr. Murray
What is the allocation policy review? Details and relevance	Cllr. Murray
Why is there no mention of Rosehill Phase 2	Cllr. Murray
<b>Jobs</b>	
How about jobs for 16year olds in the City with low levels of qualification. No emphasis is placed on this	Cllr. Murray
The diversity of our economy is not mentioned. How about our manufacturing base	Cllr. Murray
What are we to do to help employers to provide better diversity in our economy	Cllr. Murray

Focus needs to be kept on tourism. Not only is this important to the economy of the City and region but it provides many of the entry level jobs we need	Cllr. Royce
<b>Community Participation and Engagement</b>	
How do we increase community capacity to engage with this work	Cllr. Murray
We should take from this what suits our areas. One size does not fit all	Cllr. Smith Cllr. Rundle
Ordinary people cannot engage or participate with a document like this. How will we ensure participation	Cllr. Altaf-Khan
Engagement and participation of ordinary people should be a priority throughout this. Disappointed that it is not	Tenant representatives
Need to be clear how some of these things are going to happen and what difference they will make	Tenant representative
To be a living document we must see engagement and participation with our communities. Disappointed not to see a blue print for this in the Framework	Cllr. Simmons

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