

Minutes of a meeting of the OXFORDSHIRE GROWTH BOARD on Tuesday 26 September 2017

Voting members of the Committee present:

Councillor Bob Price	Chair - Leader of Oxford City Council
Councillor John Cotton	Vice- Chairman - Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council
Councillor Barry Wood	Leader of Cherwell District Council
Councillor Ian Hudspeth	Leader of Oxfordshire County Council
Councillor Matthew Barber	Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council
Councillor James Mills	Leader of West Oxfordshire District Council

Non-Voting members of the Committee present:

Jeremy Long	Chairman of OXLEP
Professor Alistair Fitt	Universities Representative
Richard Venables	OXLEP Business Representative – Oxford City
Catherine Turner	Homes and Communities Agency Representative
Clark Gordon	Environment Agency Representative

Officers:

Paul Staines	Oxfordshire Growth Board Partnership Programme Manager
Patsy Dell	Head of Planning, Sustainable Development & Regulatory Services, Oxford City Council
Caroline Green	Assistant Chief Executive, Oxford City Council
Gordon Mitchell	Interim Chief Executive, Oxford City Council
Peter Clark	Chief Executive, Oxfordshire County Council
Adrian Duffield	Head of Planning, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils
Yvonne Rees	Joint Chief Executive of South Northamptonshire and Cherwell District Councils.
Nigel Tipple	Chief Executive, OxLEP
Giles Hughes	West Oxfordshire District Council
Jennifer Thompson	Committee and Members Services Officer, Oxford City Council

13. Apologies for absence and substitute members

Apologies were received from Adrian Lockwood, Andrew Harrison, and Veronica James (Clark Gordon attended for the EA)

14. Declarations of interest

None

15. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 26 July were agreed as a correct record, subject to correcting minute 3 to add ...being filmed for a *television documentary* about managing....

16. Chair's Announcements

No announcements.

17. Public Participation

In accordance with the public participation scheme, the Chair invited those who submitted addresses and questions to speak to the Board.

The Board heard:

- A question from Colin Thomas read by David Illingworth, North Abingdon Local Plan Group
- A question from Helen Marshall read by Dr Peter Collins, Chairman of CPRE Oxfordshire
- A question from Helena Whall read by Dr Peter Collins, Chairman of CPRE Oxfordshire
- An address from Peter Rutt / Co-ordinator, Expressway Action Group.

Full details of the questions, responses and addresses are in the supplement to these minutes.

18. Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OXIS) - final report for approval

The Board considered the report and the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy report circulated separately. The consultants from AECOM involved in preparing the strategy, gave a presentation and answered questions.

In discussion the Board noted

- OxIS was a comprehensive document that for the first time offered a countywide picture of the infrastructure needed to support growth
- The projects were split into those that were regional or countywide and those that had a more local focus. All projects had been ranked once categorised.
- OxIS included all strategic infrastructure: other more localised infrastructure that would be provided through other mechanisms or local agreements (CIL, S106) was not included.
- The strategy needed to take account of plans from all relevant government departments.

- OxIS highlighted a gross funding gap rather than the actual gap once all contributions had been taken into account because funding contributions are subject to negotiation with developers, infrastructure providers etc. It was not possible to entirely quantify the funding gap and what CIL and S106 may deliver. Then Board noted that councils needed to work together and with partners to fill the funding gap.
- The capacity of the NHS and utilities to provide their parts of the infrastructure was crucial and engagement with them was essential.
- There was more work to do on quantifying the need and costs of a number of specialist infrastructure elements such as green infrastructure and energy.
- This was a positive strategy setting out what was necessary to support growth and must be a live document.

The Board noted the Growth Board Executive Officers Group would be the owners of the strategy and ensure that it was kept up to date, reporting to the Board as appropriate. Finally the Board noted that it had not been possible to feed all comments and representations received into the draft strategy and agreed that the consultation responses should be incorporated into the final draft.

The Board resolved:

1. to approve the OxIS report as it is presented and the conclusions contained therein, and delegate the finalising of the report to include the consultation responses in full to the Executive Officers Group in consultation with the Leaders.
2. to approve the ranking of the regional and countywide projects in the OxIS report.
3. (iii)to agree to the periodic update of OxIS and ask officers to build this into the Board's Work Programme and budgets

19. Housing Infrastructure Fund

The Board considered a short paper tabled at the meeting by the County as lead authority for HIF Forward Funding Bids, setting out the summary of proposals for expressions of interest to the national HIF. The Board noted that the bids had been prioritised as required and due to the size of each of the three bids submitted only one bid was likely to be funded. The West Oxfordshire proposal should be called Oxfordshire Cotswold Garden Village or West Oxfordshire Garden Village.

The Board resolved to:

1. endorse the HIF bids that the County Council propose to submit, pending final assessment and approval
2. ask the Chair of the Board to write to government in support of these bids on behalf of the Board.

20. Updates on progress with the Oxford to Cambridge (O2C) Corridor workstreams with the National Infrastructure Commission and development of a Housing and Growth (Place-Based) Deal for Oxfordshire.

The Board considered a report setting out progress on a number of workstreams that the councils are currently working on with the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) on the Oxford to Cambridge corridor (O2C) and on discussions with Government officials on developing a housing and growth deal for Oxfordshire.

The Board noted the focus on first mile/ last mile and local schemes and on non-car routes and cycling. This work also needed to show the rationale for infrastructure and form the first part in a long-term realistic and ambitious investment programme.

The Board noted:

1. the progress with the NIC workstreams.
2. the progress on the development of an Oxfordshire housing and growth deal proposition to government.

21. Matters arising from the Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP)

a) OxLEP: England's Economic Heartland Alliance (EEH) formation of a Strategic Transport Body (STB)

The Board considered a report and annex setting out indicative proposals from the England's Economic Heartland Alliance (EEH) for the formation of a Strategic Transport Body (STB) covering its current footprint covering an area including Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes, to Cambridgeshire.

Nigel Tipple and Jeremy Long, OxLEP, said discussions on the STB were in very early stages and did not reflect the views or input of all 28 local authorities covered by the proposals. The Board noted that there was a need to have a single joint and consistent message to allow focus in talks and development.

The Board:

1. noted the proposals for the development of a Strategic Transport Board (STB) across the EEH geography and
2. agreed the continued engagement in developing the proposal supported by EOG.

b) City and Growth Deal Programme reports

The Board considered a report and operating plan progress report (Annex 1) giving an update covering the period to 31 July 2017.

The Board noted the report and the steps being taken to find the gap funding for the Oxford flood alleviation scheme.

22. Report on Government consultation on calculation of Objectively Assessed Need

The Board discussed the recent announcement of a consultation on the calculation of Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) and the implications for housing numbers. They commented on the OAN not taking appropriate account of economic growth and affordable housing; the implications for councils depending on their Local Plan timetable; possible fall-back positions in the absence of a Local Plan or a plan which was not in compliance with the required housing figures; and the necessity of a considered response to the consultation and its outcome.

The Board noted that reports on the implications of the consultation and the OAN figures would be brought to the next meeting of the Board for endorsement before submission to government a future meeting.

23. Oxfordshire Local Plans progress report - September 2017

The Board considered the report and noted the progress towards Local Plans adoption across the county.

24. Dates of next meetings

The Board noted the next meetings on
30 October at 2pm
30 November at 2pm.

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and ended at 3.35 pm

Chair

Date: Monday 30 October 2017

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