

**To: City Executive Board**

**Date: 10 September 2014**

**Report of: Scrutiny Committee**

**Title of Report: Oxfordshire Growth Board**

### **Summary and Recommendations**

**Purpose of report:** To present the conclusions and recommendation of the Scrutiny Committee on the Oxfordshire Growth Board

**Key decision? No**

**Scrutiny Lead Member: Councillor Simmons**

**Executive lead member: Councillor Price**

**Policy Framework: None**

**Recommendation: For the Terms of Reference to explicitly set out that meeting agendas and minutes will be publicly available and that access to meetings will be possible for Councillors and members of the public.**

### **Introduction**

1. The Scrutiny Committee considered the Oxfordshire Growth Board report at their public meeting in September. The Committee would like to thank Councillor Price and David Edwards for attending the meeting and answering the Committee's questions.
2. The Committee supported the City Council becoming a member of the Oxfordshire Growth Board.
3. The Committee also supported the Leader of the Council being nominated as the City Council's representative on the Board.
4. Members reached and agreed the following conclusions and recommendation.

### **Conclusions and recommendation**

5. The programmes bought together within this Board will spend large amounts of money. The Committee recognised that accountability, good governance and transparency were important. The Committee heard that decisions will continue to be taken by the responsible Authority and the Terms of Reference explicitly set out this point, excluding the Board from making decisions that would bind any of the participating authorities. The Board will be a co-ordinating management structure and no significant powers are being delegated to it.
6. It is important that proposals before the Board can be subject of scrutiny in advance of decisions. The Leader of the Council confirmed that the Board is constituted as a Joint Committee under the Local Government Act. Meeting agendas and minutes will therefore be publicly available and access to Board meetings will be possible for Councillors and members of the public. However, the Committee noted that the Terms of Reference did not explicitly state this and it is therefore recommended that they be amended to make this clear.
7. The Committee agreed that it will monitor agendas published by the Board on an on-going basis to facilitate pre-scrutiny.

**Recommendation: For the Terms of Reference to explicitly set out that meeting agendas and minutes will be publicly available and that access to meetings will be possible for Councillors and members of the public.**

#### **Director and Board Member Comments**

The terms of reference of the Growth Board are for the Board and the constituent bodies to approve. The City Council will seek the agreement of the Board to the proposed amendment.

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**List of background papers: None**  
**Version number: 1**