

To: City Executive Board

Date: 15 September 2016

Report of: Scrutiny Committee

Title of Report: Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) Strategic Economic Plan Refresh

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To present a recommendation from the Scrutiny Committee on the Strategic Economic Plan Refresh

Key decision? No

Scrutiny Lead Member: Councillor Andrew Gant

Executive lead member: Councillor Bob Price, Leader of the Council and Board Member for Corporate strategy and Economic Development

Policy Framework: Vibrant, Sustainable Economy

Recommendation of the Scrutiny Committee to the City Executive Board:

That the City Executive Board agrees to relay the following feedback from the Scrutiny Committee to Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership:

1. The report sets a clear goal on page 19 to deliver sustainable growth in line with the Brundtland Commission definition. The SWOT analysis (p29) identifies the risk that, as it stands, this will not be achieved with regard to climate change targets - a key indicator of sustainable development. Nowhere are the conclusions of this aspect of the SWOT analysis addressed. The document should include details of how the climate change targets are to be met.
2. The report and framework should make it clear that whilst the formal response from the business community was low this does not mean that views were not given and captured as part of this exercise. Businesses engaged through workshops and other informal channels with representatives of OxLEP

3. The poor connectivity of buses across the City is identified as a threat but not closed off. This position has been made worse by the reduction in subsidised bus services. The document should include actions and solutions in this area including better use of trips around the ring road and additional stops along established routes.

Introduction

1. The Scrutiny Committee reviewed the draft Strategic Economic Plan refresh at its meeting on the 5 September. The committee would like to thank Councillor Price and David Edwards for their attendance and support.

Summary and Recommendation

2. The committee would like to congratulate the OxLEP and officers on the draft framework document. It is well written and researched, identifies issues and provides for opportunities to achieve goals. Whilst recent discussions of Local Government structure in Oxfordshire had the potential to impact on the themes in the framework positively, it was accepted that the current position remains unchanged and the best use of partnerships such as OxLEP was therefore essential.

3. The committee made comments in the 3 areas of sustainability, engagement and bus connectivity which are reflected in the recommendation.

Name and contact details of author:-

Pat Jones on behalf of the Scrutiny Committee
Committee and Member Services Manager
Law and Governance
Tel: 01865 252191 e-mail: phjones@oxford.gov.uk

List of background papers: None