

## **Minutes of a meeting of the OXFORDSHIRE GROWTH BOARD on Wednesday 26 July 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:**

Professor Alistair Fitt	Universities Representative
Kevin Bourner	Homes and Communities Agency Representative

### **Officers/ other attendees:**

Paul Staines	Oxfordshire Growth Board Partnership Programme Manager
Richard Byard	Director for Business Development, OxLEP
Patsy Dell	Head of Planning, Sustainable Development & Regulatory Services, Oxford City Council
Caroline Green	Assistant Chief Executive, Oxford City Council
Gordon Mitchel	Interim Chief Executive, Oxford City Council
Fiona Piercy	Interim Assistant Chief Executive, Regeneration and Economy, Oxford City Council
Sue Halliwell	Director for Planning and Place, Oxfordshire County 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.
Caroline Gore	Strategic Director, West Oxfordshire District Council
Jennifer Thompson	Committee and Members Services Officer, Oxford City Council

### **Apologies:**

Apologies were received from:  
Jeanne Capey, Jeremy Long, Phil Shadbolt, and Andrew Harrison

*The Growth Board considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting together with addenda tabled at the meeting and made decisions as set out here. Except insofar as otherwise specified the reasons for the decision are contained in the agenda, reports and supporting papers attached to the signed minutes and available with these on the website. Where documents were updated after original publication, these were republished and marked as such.*

## **Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for the year**

In accordance with its terms of reference, the Growth Board appointed Councillor Price as Chair and Councillor Cotton as Vice-Chairman for 2017/18.

### **1. Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations.

### **2. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting on 29 March 2017 were agreed as a correct record, to be signed by the Chair as such.

Note: the meeting scheduled for 1 June was cancelled.

### **3. Chair's Announcements**

The Chair announced that the meeting was being filmed for a about managing housing need and growth in Oxfordshire, and that there would be a presentation after the meeting on emergency planning in the county.

### **4. Public Participation**

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

The Board heard:

- a question from Helen Marshall, CPRE (question and response read out by the Chair as the questioner was unable to attend)
- a question from Robert Warne, Chairman of Sunningwell Parishioners Against Damage to the Environment (SPADEF), on behalf of Need not Greed
- an address from Ian Green, Chairman of the Oxford Civic Society
- an address from Robert Warne, Chairman of SPADEF, on behalf of Need not Greed

The Chair replied to the questions and addresses.

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

## **5. Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy(OXIS) Approach to prioritisation and public engagement- report and presentation**

The Growth Board considered the report, updated press release, and presentation given by the Growth Board Programme Manager setting out progress with this project to identify, map and rank Oxfordshire's infrastructure requirements to 2040 and beyond.

The Board noted that the consultation on the strategy had started on 19 July, hosted on the County Council's website, and that a report would come to their next meeting.

In agreeing the recommendations the Board made and noted points including:

- the recommendation from the Programme Manager that a supplementary budget of £9,500 was sufficient (not £19,500 as in the report);
- that much of the infrastructure requirement in OXIS was known to partners and had been subject to consultation through other processes (e.g. through local plans, Thames Water's strategy, and LPT4);
- noting that infrastructure did not stop at the county boundaries and OXIS must align with those for the areas beyond Oxfordshire
- that in respect of addressing the funding gap identified , that the gap was "gross" and that receipts from S106 agreements, CIL and other funding streams would offset the shortfall and would be raised from a range of private, local, and government sources;
- that when scoring and ranking projects , anything fully funded would be shown separately;
- that when considering the proposed questions on the web site to prompt public responses the first question was perhaps too closed and officers would re-examine the wording.
- and asked
- for the likely funding source(s) to be identified where this was possible;

**The Growth Board resolved to:**

- I. Note progress with OXIS.
- II. Approve a supplementary budget allocation of up to **£9,500** to cover the additional costs of OXIS and authorise EOG to engage with the consultants to finalise the additional costs within that cap.

## **6. Oxfordshire Joint Spatial Plan/Strategy**

The Growth Board considered a paper setting out an update on the project and issues that needed to be addressed.

In agreeing the recommendations the Board made and noted points including:

- a report would be brought to the next meeting setting out the route map and required decisions;
- adequate resources would be required to keep to the timetable for developing this plan, either external consultants or a cross-district in-house team seconded

from the local authorities. The latter would have advantages of flexibility and local knowledge but must be adequately resourced;

- discussions with DCLG were continuing and productive;
- the interaction between this plan, the infrastructure plan, and five local plans (and the County Council's plans) was complex and, given the different timelines for each one, would require management to maintain alignment of the aims in each plan. This may mean a lighter touch plan until the end of the main local plan periods in the 2030s then a more definitive plan thereafter;
- the report would need to cover the interrelationship with adopted and in progress local plans
- delivery of the plan was key but much harder to achieve;
- a major challenge was the joined up long-term planning of transport, infrastructure and development at both local and national levels.

The Board noted that as it was not a body which could make statutory plans in its own right under the planning acts, each Council would need to separately adopt this as a statutory plan in their own right.

**The Growth Board resolved to:**

- I. Approve the preparation of a business plan for an Oxfordshire Spatial Plan/Strategy, to be presented to the Growth Board in September 2017, based on the flexible approach set out in this paper;
- II. Agree that the Leaders should take part in an appropriate discussion during the autumn to address issues needed to progress the joint approach.

## **7. Community Employment Plans**

The Growth Board considered the report and evidence paper from OxLEP seeking to facilitate the introduction of Community Employment Plans (CEP) in Oxfordshire.

Richard Byard, OxLEP, introduced the report and corrected Appendix 4 (proposed sites) to remove three which should be excluded from this paper:

- Oxford Science Village (Land to the south of Grenoble Road)
- Land at J7 of M40 (Harrington)
- Barnard Gate Garden Village

He also asked, and the Board agreed to add wording to the recommendations: III. OxLEP .....threshold *via supplementary planning documentation as appropriate.*

The Board noted:

- that sites listed which already had planning permission and S106 agreements could not be subject to a requirement to develop a CEP;
- South and Vale were including the requirement for CEPs as a policy in their Local Plans to give more weight to these ;
- thresholds should include small satellite sites, and there was a need to be mindful that minimum thresholds could be circumvented.

**The Growth Board resolved to:**

- I. endorse the CEP Evidence Paper with the deletion on three sites from Appendix 4: Oxford Science Village (Land to the south of Grenoble Road); Land at J7 of M40 (Harrington); Barnard Gate Garden Village;

**and that**

- II. the CEP Evidence Paper (*as amended to include the changes above*) is published on OxLEP's website as evidence for CEP policies in Local Plans;
- III. OxLEP continue its work with each Local Planning Authority to facilitate the implementation of CEP policies and to request CEP's as a condition on development sites which meet the proposed threshold via supplementary planning documentation as appropriate.

## **8. City and Growth Deal Programme reports**

The Growth Board considered the report and appendix setting out progress on the City and Growth Deal projects. The Board noted the announcement of funding for two new south-facing slip roads at the Lodge Hill Interchange.

On final funding for the flood alleviation scheme, Prof Alistair Fitt undertook to report back on the status of commitments from the two universities and Richard Byard undertook to report back on the status of commitments from private firms.

**The Growth Board agreed to note the report and appendix.**

## **9. Matters arising from the LEP**

The Growth Board noted a verbal update from Richard Byard on the work of OxLEP.

- Three European Social Fund projects for Oxfordshire have been announced to support:
  - Skills opportunities for growth in Oxfordshire;
  - Training and employment for jobseekers and inactive people in Oxfordshire;
  - Skills for business in Oxfordshire.
- In addition there were substantial EU funds available for projects around social enterprises and access to finance.
- There was no confirmation of availability of place-based funding.
- OxLEP was looking for a 'long list' of viable projects to enable quick responses to funding opportunities.

## **10. Local Plan update**

The Growth Board considered a report setting out progress towards Local Plans adoption across the county.

Cllr Barber reported that final planning permission for Grove Airfield had been issued.

Cllr Hudspeth announced the approved funding for the slip roads onto the A34 at Lodge Hill. This will unlock the delivery of 950 homes to the north of Abingdon currently being considered by the planning authority.

**The Growth Board resolved to note the report**

## **11. National Infrastructure Commission and DCLG Update**

The Growth Board considered a report and verbal update on these projects and noted the challenges and progress, including ongoing discussions on the middle (South Northamptonshire) section of the Oxford to Cambridge corridor.

**The Growth Board resolved to:**

- I. Note the progress with the NIC workstreams.
- II. Note the progress on the development of an Oxfordshire housing and growth deal proposition to government.

## **12. Growth Board Forward Plan**

The Growth Board considered the work plan and noted there was a need for both them and the CCG to better understand the interrelationships between the strategic planning and siting of health facilities (primary and hospital care; local and central) and the emerging infrastructure and spatial plans.

The Board asked for a formal meeting with the CCG to discuss these issues.

**The Board noted their forward work plan.**

**The meeting started at 2.00 pm and ended at 3.35 pm**

**Chair .....**

**Date: Tuesday 26 September 2017**