

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

### **Report Purpose**

- 1) This report is to update the Board with 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)
- 2) This report also updates the board on the progress of discussions with Government officials on developing a housing and growth deal for Oxfordshire

### **Recommendation**

That the Growth Board:

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

### **Background – National Infrastructure Commission investigation into the Oxford to Cambridge Corridor**

- 3) The Oxfordshire Growth Board constituent councils, the LEP and the University have been supporting a number of workstreams feeding into the NIC's corridor work and the preparation of their next report due in the autumn. Since the Growth Board last met a further presentation to the NIC on the importance of the transport connectivity of the first/last mile transport in Oxford/Oxfordshire as well as engagement with the NIC commissioned cycling investigations have taken place.

### **Progress to Date**

#### **First/last mile transport in Oxford**

- 4) Submissions to the NIC in late 2016 promoted the importance of the first and last mile connections in the effective operation of the transport system in Oxford. The NIC recognised the importance of the first/last mile issue and invited Oxford, Cambridge, Milton Keynes and Northampton to present further evidence to them of the potential transformative impact that first/last mile connectivity infrastructure projects could have in those cities. On 18 April the City, County, University and the LEP jointly presented the initial vision for Oxford/Oxfordshire to the NIC Commissioners, along with details of key transport infrastructure projects that support the delivery of growth commitments now and in future. On 5<sup>th</sup> September a further presentation of

the joint work that has been undertaken over the summer relating to a long-term transport vision for Oxford/Oxfordshire and a funding approach to support the delivery of that vision that took place. A new high-level, long-term transport vision for Oxford/Oxfordshire has been developed as part of this work and the Growth Board will be shown a presentation on the highlights from that work.

- 5) The feedback from the NIC on the work undertaken around the long-term transport vision and its funding and delivery has been very positive and will enable the NIC to coherently present the clear transformative potential for Oxford/Oxfordshire in their next stage report to the Treasury this September.

### **Investigation of transformation around Cycling in Oxford/Oxfordshire**

- 6) The NIC has asked Andrew Gilligan (former Mayor of London cycling tsar) to undertake an investigation into the opportunities for increased cycling in the cities along the Ox-Cam corridor. The County and City Council along with the University and local stakeholder groups met with Andrew Gilligan and provided support to the Oxford investigation stage back in August. The draft report is anticipated shortly.

### **Oxfordshire Housing and Growth (Place based) Deal**

- 7) Oxfordshire Councils, the LEP and Universities have been asked by government to submit a housing and growth deal proposition to support the delivery of the existing homes and jobs growth commitments across the county. The draft proposition for Oxfordshire has been sent to government for consideration.