

**To:** Oxfordshire Growth Board  
**Date:** 26 September 2017  
**Title of Report:** Public participation - requests to address the meeting and questions submitted have been listed in the order submitted.

## Introduction

1. Members of the public can address or ask questions of the Oxfordshire Growth Board.
2. Addresses and questions submitted by the deadline are listed below in strict order of receipt by the host authority.
3. Where written responses are available, these will be circulated at the meeting. The Chair may give a verbal response in place of or in addition to this. If no response is available for the meeting a written response will be sent and circulated to all Board members within ten working days of the meeting.

## Addresses and questions

1. Question from Colin Thomas, the Need Not Greed (Oxfordshire) Coalition – Agenda Item 6 OXIS..... 1
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### 1. Question from Colin Thomas, the Need Not Greed (Oxfordshire) Coalition – Agenda Item 6 OXIS

*The OxIS report makes it clear that priority is being given to schemes that promote growth and connectivity, with green infrastructure relegated to a possible but unspecified ‘specialist strategy’. This appears to work against all the principles of good sustainable development, with plans for economic growth racing ahead and environmental interests at best parked in a silo and at worst forgotten about. This is despite the fact that the report clearly acknowledges a key message from the recent consultation that more emphasis should be placed on Green Infrastructure, the historic environment and understanding the economic environmental value of Oxfordshire.*

What active steps is the Growth Board taking to mitigate its approach to ensure that the quality of life of the existing residents of Oxfordshire is not being compromised by the dash for growth?

### **Response**

#### **2. Question from Helen Marshall, CPRE Oxfordshire – Agenda Item 8 O2C**

*it is noted that the councils are actively working with the NIC on plans to create an Oxford Cambridge Growth corridor involving a million more houses and an Expressway. Can we be advised:*

- a) Why it was not thought appropriate to consult with Oxfordshire's residents on a plan that would transform the rural nature of the County into a growth hub before this work started?*
- b) Why Councils have been to put it mildly less than forthcoming about the numerous work streams when directly asked?*
- c) Whether the public will be consulted at all on the principle of this growth plan before it becomes irreversible, and before any commitment is made to the Government or its Agencies and if so when?*

### **Response**

#### **3. Question from Helena Whall, CPRE Oxfordshire – Agenda Item 10 Government consultation on Objectively Assessed Need**

*The new Government Housing numbers have exposed the SHMA (Strategic Housing Market assessment) for what CPRE Oxfordshire always said it was – over-exaggerated and deeply flawed. It shows the SHMA was never the assessment of housing need it pretended to be, but a mask for the Growth Board's scheme, about which we had never been consulted on or even told about, to change rural Oxfordshire into an industrial hub. The Government now says that Oxfordshire's twenty-year housing target is not the 100,000 houses in the SHMA but less than 70,000. Numbers for all Districts are dramatically reduced and, crucially, the City numbers are almost halved from 28,000 to 15,000. The Government also acknowledges that the Green Belt and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty prevent Councils from meeting housing need.*

*In light of this, will the Growth Board now:*

- a. Call a temporary halt to all Local Plan proceedings currently underway - to avoid surplus allocation of land which allows developers to cherry-pick the 'best' sites?*
- b. Update the Oxfordshire SHMA, based on the new methodology, including proper acknowledgement of Green Belt and AONB constraints?*
- c. Ensure any proposed uplift for economic growth ambitions are subject to full democratic consultation?*
- d. Take this opportunity to draw a line under the diverse Local Plans and commit to the production of a Joint Spatial Plan, allowing the proper consideration of the cumulative environmental and social impacts of development across Oxfordshire?*

### **Response**

