

Growth Board 26th April 2018

Agenda item – Statement of Common Ground

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## **REPORT TO OXFORDSHIRE GROWTH BOARD STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND**

### **REPORT PURPOSE**

1. To outline the draft Statement of Common Ground that has been prepared in line with the commitments made by the Oxfordshire partners through the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- i. That the Growth Board note the report and the attached draft Statement of Common Ground.

### **BACKGROUND**

2. The Government's proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework include a requirement for plan making authorities to prepare and maintain one or more Statements of Common Ground. These will document any cross-boundary matters being addressed with neighbouring authorities and the progress in co-operating to address these. This is to strengthen the application of the current 'duty to co-operate'. The suggested National Planning Policy Framework changes are currently the subject of consultation.
3. The Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Delivery Plan, signed in March 2018, include a requirement for a Statement of Common Ground. The subsequent Delivery Plan set an early deal milestone (end March 2018) for the production of a draft Statement of Common Ground in order to outline the future work on the Oxfordshire Joint Statutory Spatial Plan. This milestone was met and the attached draft Statement of Common Ground was submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government last month.
4. The document has been prepared as a draft, reflecting the stage the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan project is at and the current status of the draft revised National Planning Policy Framework. The document is intended to work dynamically, being updated over time to reflect the progress of the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan, national planning legislation and the Oxfordshire partners joint working arrangements.
5. The draft Statement of Common Ground sets out that the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan will address the following key strategic planning matters:
  - An overall strategy for the pattern and scale of development in Oxfordshire to 2050

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- Identify the number of new market and affordable homes and level of economic growth needed across Oxfordshire.
  - Identify an appropriate spatial strategy and strategic locations for new development based upon an understanding and appreciation of both the environmental quality and natural capital of Oxfordshire.
  - Outline the strategic transport and other infrastructure that needs to be provided to support sustainable growth.
6. The draft Statement of Common Ground indicates that while the Growth Board will maintain oversight of the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan work programme, as required by the Deal, formal decisions will be required by each constituent local planning authority at the preferred option (Regulation 18 Town and Country Planning Act (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012), submission (Regulation 19), and adoption (Regulation 26) stages.
7. The intention is that the draft Statement of Common Ground is published on the Growth Board website as one of the first stages in the preparation of the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan.