

## REPORT TO OXFORDSHIRE GROWTH BOARD JOINT STATUTORY SPATIAL PLAN

### Purpose of report

- 1) To update the Growth Board with progress on the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan (JSSP) work stream

### Recommendation

*(i) That the Growth Board note the report*

### Background

- 2) The Board will be aware of the key commitment in the Deal to develop an Oxfordshire Joint Statutory Spatial Plan (JSSP). The JSSP will build on the existing and emerging set of Local Plans to set the strategic direction for planning in Oxfordshire and address linkages to wider planning considerations, for example the Oxford-Cambridge Growth Corridor.
- 3) Oxfordshire is committed to a positive plan led approach to ensure the protection and enhancement of its built and natural environment and resources, to define and steer the nature and location of future development and secure essential infrastructure. This is consistent with the Government's core planning principles and the Duty to Cooperate.

### The Scope of the JSSP

- 4) The JSSP will be a statutory plan for Oxfordshire. On adoption it will carry full weight in the planning process and provide the higher level strategic planning policy framework under which decisions will be taken and the planning policies of partner authorities will be developed.
- 5) The JSSP will provide an overall strategy for the scale and pattern of development across Oxfordshire. It will identify the number of new market and affordable homes needed and the amount of employment land required to 2050. The plan will calculate these as countywide figures and then identify the most appropriate spatial strategy for the distribution of growth based upon an understanding and appreciation of Oxfordshire, its population and resources, infrastructure, environmental quality, constraints and natural capital.
- 6) The JSSP will also outline the strategic transport and other infrastructure that needs to be provided to support sustainable growth. Aligning with a new 2050 Transport Vision, OxIS and the emerging Local Industrial Strategy, the JSSP will set strategic policies to support the generation of jobs and wealth and the preservation and enhancement of Oxfordshire's built and natural environment.
- 7) The scope of the JSSP with its supporting evidence will be focused on addressing the following critical issues:
  - Planning for continued economic success

- Delivering new housing
  - Identifying essential infrastructure
  - Addressing strategic environmental issues
- 8) The JSSP will be a strategic planning document; it will not address the whole range of land use planning issues or include detailed or site specific policies. These will be considered and developed as local policies by partner authorities in the preparation of the next round of Local Plans.
- 9) The JSSP will provide a countywide strategic vision for sustainable growth and provide a clear overview of the countywide growth picture to avoid incremental, speculative, and unplanned development.

### **JSSP timetable**

- 10) The Growth Deal Delivery Plan contains a series of key milestones for the JSSP as follows:
- Principle of JSSP agreed through the Approval of Deal – February 2018 - **achieved**
  - Draft Oxfordshire-wide Statement of Common Ground - 31 March 2018 - **achieved**
  - Joint JSSP Project Board established to take forward JSSP under Section 28 – July 2018
  - All Local Plans submitted for examination - 1 April 2019
  - Draft JSSP published for formal consultation - 30 October 2019
  - Submission of JSSP - 31 March 2020
  - JSSP Adoption (subject to examination.) 31 March 2021

### **Progress to date**

- 11) The JSSP forms one of the four streams of work for the Growth Deal and is led by Giles Hughes as the project sponsor, and Rachel Williams as the work stream lead. An interim team of planners drawn from across the local authorities has been progressing work on the scope and timetable for the project; this will need to be supplemented with more resources (seconded or recruited staff and consultancy support) as the project develops.
- 12) Work to date has focused on defining the scope of the JSSP and project planning. The interim team visited those responsible for the West of England Joint Spatial Plan and have held initial meetings with officers from across the authorities, in a range of disciplines, to help define the scope of the project.
- 13) A series of documents are being produced to set the framework for the JSSP including a Local Development Scheme (which sets out the timeframe for the project) and Statement of Community Involvement (which defines the approach to involving communities and stakeholders in the development of the project). The intention is to bring these draft documents to the July Growth Board meeting in advance of seeking wider views and comments, and then taking them through individual local authority approval processes.