

Growth Board response to recommendations of the Growth Board Scrutiny Panel
Recommendations made on 22 November 2018
Draft response provided by Paul Staines

The Growth Board is requested to provide a draft response to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel, to be published as a supplement collectively with the Scrutiny Panel's report, for decision at its meeting on 27 November 2018.

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agree?</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Recommendation 1: That the Growth Board considers and adopts the principles of responding to the Scrutiny Panel's recommendations (set out in the report of Panel from 22 November)	Yes	The Growth Board has resolved to use its best endeavours to meet these requests.
Recommendation 2: That the Growth Board takes further steps to raise concerns with Central Government about the timing of the JSSP submission deadline, and individual Local Plan submission deadlines, in April 2019 as required by the Growth Deal, without first understanding more details about the impact of the proposed Oxford Cambridge Expressway.	Yes	Agreed, officers are currently progressing a series of meetings with Government on this issue.
Recommendation 3: That in light of the continuing uncertainty about the route choice and its impact on the communities affected and the wider county, the Growth Board clarifies its rationale and evidence base for endorsing the expressway.	Yes	The Growth Board's stance on the proposed Oxford to Cambridge expressway was set out in the letter to Government dated 1 October 2018 and published on the Growth Board's website. It is important to note that the decision on the route of the Expressway lies with Government, not the Growth Board or the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership.

<p>Recommendation 4: At least one member of the Growth Board should attend each Scrutiny Panel meeting to answer questions about the Board's work. The Chair of one of the Sub-Groups should attend in rotation to discuss the work of their Sub-Group.</p>	<p>Agreed in part</p>	<p>Growth Board members are happy to attend Scrutiny as appropriate, however it believes attendance will be more effective if members or subgroup chairmen are invited when a relevant item appears on the Scrutiny Panel's agenda.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5: Officers working on the Deal's strands as part of the Deal team and the Lead officer for the councils should attend the Scrutiny Panel as appropriate to answer questions and discuss their work.</p>	<p>Agreed in part</p>	<p>Officers should be invited when a relevant item appears on the Scrutiny Panel's agenda.</p>
<p>Recommendation 6: That the Growth Board establishes a clear pro-active process for informing district, county and parish councillors about their work and future consultations and decisions. This may take the form of a circulated newsletter or bulletin sent out by the Board's programme officer, and should not rely solely on the information posted on the Board's website.</p>	<p>Agreed in part</p>	<p>The Board agrees with the principle of informing and engaging with all councils but this needs to be done in an effective and efficient manner. Accordingly, the Board has agreed that all parish councils will be sent a link to the Growth Board's website. County and district councillors should also take on the role of updating town and parish councils at their liaison meetings.</p>
<p>Recommendation 7: That the Growth Board takes formal votes on all items for decision, and records in the minutes each Leader's individual vote, to increase transparency about decisions and each Council's stance.</p>	<p>Agreed in part</p>	<p>The Growth Board will take a formal vote on any matter if requested by a Board member. It does not however agree that it is necessary to record each voting members decision, although minutes will record all views offered in any discussion prior to voting</p>
<p>Recommendation 8: That the Growth Board remains fully committed to encouraging public engagement in the Board's work.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Growth Board continues to be committed to encouraging engagement, as evidenced by the public participation at this and every Growth Board meeting.</p>
<p>Recommendation 9: That the Energy Strategy Action Plan is revised to ensure it contains SMART targets and clear and measurable objectives.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Growth Board agrees that the point made is a valid one for discussion and will include it in its deliberations on the Energy Strategy, which is on the agenda for this meeting.</p>