

Supplementary Papers

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FOR THE MEETING OF

Oxfordshire Growth Board

held in the Didcot Civic Hall, Britwell Road, Didcot, OX11 7JN

on Tuesday 24 September 2019 at 2.00 pm

- 15 **Growth Board written responses to recommendations of the Growth Board Scrutiny Panel Recommendations made on 19 September 2019 (Pages 2 - 4)**

Growth Board response to recommendations of the Growth Board Scrutiny Panel Recommendations made on 19 September 2019

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
<p>Recommendation 1: That the Growth Board and its advisory sub groups should acknowledge the impact of its growth strands such as Housing, Infrastructure, Oxfordshire plan 2050 and Productivity have on trying to achieve net Zero Carbon. Given the partner councils climate and environmental ambitions the GB should support research into smarter and greener construction methods and include it as a part of its core strategy in all areas of growth.</p>	Yes	<p>The Growth Board acknowledges that any work undertaken as part of the Housing and Growth Deal will need to take account of the environmental and carbon ambitions and policies of each local authority, which may be different in each area. The Board supports the principle of ensuring that work within the Housing and Growth Deal takes account of the latest research and evidence with regards to green construction methods. This has been a recurring theme championed in previous discussions of the Housing Advisory Sub-group. However, there are no specific pieces of research commissioned at this time into this issue.</p> <p>The Board has now added the issue of modular construction methods to its forward plan of work. Whilst the implementation of any such schemes will be a matter for each local authority, the Board notes that raising green construction standards is limited by current national building regulations and industry constraints.</p> <p>The Board will consider the recommendation that smarter and greener construction should be a matter of its core strategy as part of its ongoing review.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2: That the Growth Board feedback to England’s Economic Heartland Transport Strategy consultation, that the central and main purpose be to achieve a Zero- Carbon transport system by 2050, to first use it as a starting point rather than later taking steps to reduce zero carbon.</p>	No	<p>The Growth Board did not go as far to agree this recommendation at their meeting on 24 September. However, the Board did raise the importance of the Oxfordshire’s environmental and carbon reduction ambitions in their comments to England’s Economic Heartland. Members of the Board also expressed their preference for the progression of rail, cycle, pedestrian and public transport options over car journeys. The Board supported the principle</p>

		of providing a joint response to the EEH consultation. It will be for each authority through its own processes to agree to the wording of any joint response, and any additional responses on behalf of individual councils.
<p>Recommendation 3: Oxfordshire Plan 2050 timelines.</p> <p>i) That the Growth Board reflect on the implications of the revision in Oxon Plan 2050 timelines would have on the future work for Local Plans</p> <p>ii) That the Growth Board consider the implications of the revised timelines on staffing and study (research) costs.</p> <p>iii) That the Growth Board acknowledge that the revised timetable would help the Oxfordshire to Cambridge expressway project and use this opportunity to help align it with Local Plans.</p>	<p>In part</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>In part</p>	<p>i) The Growth Board notes that the revised timeline for the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 may have implications for each authority's local plan. However, the Board considers that detailed consideration of the impact that the revised timetable might have on Local Planning Authorities is a matter best considered by each authority.</p> <p>ii) A decision to extend the time period for the project will require additional funding, primarily to cover staff costs for the additional time preparing the Plan, and to undertake any additional work for example additional engagement/consultation or technical studies / evidence base. The financial implications of the extension will be addressed through funding that is already available through the Housing and Growth Deal. The Board requested at its meeting on 24 September 2019 that an update be provided at a future meeting on the costs associated with the revised timetable in due course.</p> <p>iii) The revised Oxfordshire Plan 2050 timeline will allow the project more time to take account of any progress made by Central Government in proposals for the Oxfordshire to Cambridge Expressway. The new timetable for the Plan however has been proposed solely for the purpose of ensuring that the Plan is the best it can be and meets Oxfordshire's needs. The new timetable remains challenging, but will allow more time to increase synergy between the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and individual local plans.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4: That the Growth Board acknowledges that it is appropriate that a local planning authority give due consideration to all factors in considering its local plan. In addition, it is recommended that the Growth Board clarify the</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Growth Board recognises that each local authority remains sovereign and independent in making their own decisions about the future of local planning in their area. The Board expressed at their meeting on 24 September a will to continue to work in partnership. The Growth Board will</p>

<p>potential impacts of possible outcomes of such processes in Oxfordshire, and of any revision in the timetable for the JSSP contained within the Growth Deal.</p>		<p>consider the impact of significant revisions to any local plan timetable and/or scope if and when such a scenario occurs that requires the specific input of the Board.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5: That the Growth Board reflect on the positive achievements of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal in the national context and in its discussions with Central Government.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Growth Board and its officers have a track record of securing significant Government investment in Oxfordshire, as one of the few areas in the country that make a net contribution to the Exchequer. The Board welcomes the Scrutiny Panel's recognition of the positive achievements to date, and we will continue to make the case for further funding agreements with Government where that investment helps contribute towards the ambitions of the partner councils and their residents.</p>
<p>Recommendation 6: That the Growth Board acknowledge that the Oxford to Cambridge expressway project is in contradiction to the environmental ambitions of the Local Authorities with regards to a Climate Emergency being declared. The Panel would like to ask the Growth Board take steps to communicate this to the media and the government.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Growth Board recognises that the Government's plans for an expressway between Oxford and Cambridge are likely to present challenges for meeting local environmental ambitions, and we are yet to hear how they intend to meet those challenges. The Board has extended an invitation to Highways England to attend their meeting on 26 November 2019 to better understand their early plans. This will provide an opportunity to test what level of consideration has been given by the Government to protecting Oxfordshire's environment and meeting local carbon reduction targets. Highways England's attendance is provisional at this stage. The Board notes that some local authorities have resolved through their own processes to oppose the expressway, in part owing to environmental grounds. The Board does not feel it is appropriate at this stage to take a collective position on the issue.</p>