

Agenda

OXFORDSHIRE

G R O W T H B O A R D

Oxfordshire Growth Board

Tuesday 29 January 2019 at 2.00 pm

Didcot Civic Hall, Britwell Road, Didcot, OX11 7JN

From 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019, the Oxfordshire Growth Board meetings are managed by South Oxfordshire District Council.

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Voting members 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019

Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council
(which holds the chairmanship)

Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council
(which holds the vice-chairmanship)

Leader of Cherwell District Council

Leader of Oxford City Council

Leader of Oxfordshire County Council

Leader of West Oxfordshire District Council

Councillor Jane Murphy

Councillor Roger Cox

Councillor Barry Wood

Councillor Susan Brown

Councillor Ian Hudspeth

Councillor James Mills

Non-voting members 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019

Chairman of OxLEP

Vice-Chairman and Skills Board representative

Universities representative

OxLEP business representative - Bicester

OxLEP business representative – Oxford City

OxLEP business representative – Science Vale

Homes England representative

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group
representative

Environment Agency representative

Jeremy Long

Adrian Lockwood

Professor Alistair Fitt

Phil Shadbolt

Peter Nolan

Angus Horner

Catherine Turner/Kevin Bournier

Louise Patten

Lesley Tims

Note: Members of the Board may be accompanied at the table by senior officers from their organisation.

As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record the meeting please let the contact officer know in advance of this meeting.

AGENDA

PART ONE – PUBLIC BUSINESS

- 1 Apologies for absence**
- 2 Declarations of interest**
- 3 Minutes** (Pages 5 - 14)

To adopt as a correct record the minutes of the Oxfordshire Growth Board meeting held on 27 November 2018.

- 4 Chairman's announcements**
- 5 Public participation**

Members of the public may ask questions of the Chairman of the Growth Board, or address the Growth Board on any substantive item at a meeting, subject to the restrictions set out in the public participation scheme.

The total amount of time allowed for public participation at a meeting shall not exceed 30 minutes, unless the Chairman consents to extend that time in the interests of the proper conduct of the business of the Growth Board.

A person speaking to the Growth Board may speak for up to three minutes. Board members may ask questions for clarification.

Asking a question

Questions (in full and in writing) must be received **by 5pm on Wednesday 23 January 2019**. A written or verbal answer will be provided by the Chairman at the meeting. The questioner may ask a supplementary question directly related to either the original question or the reply received.

Addressing the Board

Notice of a wish to address the Growth Board by making a statement must be received **by 12 noon on Monday 28 January 2019**.

Petitions

Petitions on matters directly relevant to matters in which the Growth Board has powers and duties must be received **by 5pm on Wednesday 23 January 2019**. The representative of the petitioners may speak. Petitions are referred without discussion to the next meeting.

Questions, petitions and notice of addresses must be submitted to democratic.services@southandvale.gov.uk or delivered/posted to Democratic Services, South Oxfordshire District Council, 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton, OX14 4SB.

- 6 Letwin Review**

To receive a presentation from Andrew Down, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils.

7 Role of Homes England in the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal

To receive a presentation from Tom Walker, Homes England.

8 Housing and Growth Deal delivery update

To receive a verbal update on progress with the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal delivery.

9 Oxfordshire Plan 2050 (Joint Statutory Spatial Plan) (Pages 15 - 36)

To update the Growth Board with progress on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 (the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan) and plans for the first stage of public consultation.

Recommendation: to note the report.

10 Joint Statutory Spatial Plan sub-group update (Pages 37 - 38)

To receive an update from the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan Sub-Group.

11 Housing sub-group update

To receive an update from the Housing Sub-Group.

12 Infrastructure sub-group update

To receive an update from the Infrastructure Sub-Group.

13 Scrutiny panel update

To receive any feedback from the Growth Board Scrutiny Panel.

14 Oxfordshire local plans progress (Pages 39 - 40)

To consider the progress report on the adoption of Oxfordshire's local plans.

15 Updates on matters relevant to the Growth Board

Growth Board members and officers may verbally update the Board on progress on matters previously before the Board for consideration, listed in the forward plan, or relevant to the Board's future decisions. This is for the sharing of information and no decisions will be taken.

16 Dates of next meetings

The dates of future Growth Board meetings are below. These will be held on Tuesdays at 2pm in Didcot Civic Hall.

- 26 March 2019
- 4 June

Councillors' duties on declaring interests

General duty

You must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests when the meeting reaches the item on the agenda headed "Declarations of Interest" or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?

Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to your* employment; sponsorship (ie payment for expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor or towards your election expenses); contracts; land in the council's area; licences for land in the council's area; corporate tenancies; and securities. These declarations must be recorded in each councillor's register of interests which is publicly available on the council's website.

Declaring an interest

Where any matter disclosed in your register of interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest. If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Member's Code of Conduct and public perception

Even if you do not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter, the Councillors' Code of Conduct says that a member "must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself" and that "you must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned". What this means is that the matter of interests must be viewed within the context of the code as a whole and regard should continue to be paid to the perception of the public.

*Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member her or himself but also those of the member's spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.

Minutes

OF A MEETING OF THE

Oxfordshire Growth Board

HELD ON TUESDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2018 AT 2.00 PM

DIDCOT CIVIC HALL, BRITWELL ROAD, DIDCOT, OX11 7JN

Present:

Voting members: Councillors Jane Murphy (Chairman) (South Oxfordshire District Council), Roger Cox (Vice-Chairman) (Vale of White Horse District Council), Susan Brown (Oxford City Council), Ian Hudspeth (Oxfordshire County Council), James Mills (West Oxfordshire District Council) and Barry Wood (Cherwell District Council)

Non-voting members: Professor Alistair Fitt (Universities' Representative), Angus Horner (Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership business representative - Science Vale), Peter Nolan (Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership business representative - Oxford City), Lesley Tims (Environment Agency Strategic Planning and Engagement Manager for Thames Area), Catherine Turner (Homes and Communities Agency),

Officers: Steve Culliford (South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils), Andrew Down (South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils), Christine Gore (West Oxfordshire District Council), Caroline Green (Oxford City Council), Bev Hindle (Oxfordshire County Council), Jonathan McWilliam (Oxfordshire County Council), Yvonne Rees (Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council), and Paul Staines (Oxfordshire Growth Board)

Other attendees: Andrew Gant (Growth Board Scrutiny Panel Chair), Ahmed Goga (Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership), and Diane Hedges (Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group)

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Gordon Mitchell (Oxford City Council Chief Executive) and Mark Stone (South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council Chief Executive).

2 Chairman's announcements

The chairman advised of emergency evacuation arrangements and asked all present to silence their mobile telephones.

3 Declarations of interest

None

4 Minutes

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Oxfordshire Growth Board's meeting held on 25 September 2018 be signed and adopted as a correct record, subject to clarifying in minute 24 that the statement "the Growth Board welcomed the principle of the proposed expressway as it should relieve traffic pressure on the A34 and separate local traffic from national traffic" was the view of Councillor Ian Hudspeth, leader of Oxfordshire County Council as the strategic transport authority, not the collective opinion of the Growth Board.

5 Public participation

The Growth Board received three questions and one statement.

1. **Question from Councillor Suzanne Bartington (Oxfordshire County Councillor for Witney North and East Division):**

"The UK was at the forefront of negotiating the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda – the global framework for tackling the most pressing global challenges of our time. Agreed by world leaders at the UN in 2015, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The SDGs are universal with all signatories expected to contribute to them internationally and deliver them domestically, however progress has been variable across the UK. How does the Growth Board plan to embed the SDGs within the vision for Oxfordshire and embed relevant indicators to measure progress towards delivery?"

In reply, the chairman reported that in terms of the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan, all councils were clear that the challenge for Oxfordshire was to plan for future growth in a sustainable way. The advantages of the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan was that long-term comprehensive planning offered benefits over and above the usual approach to spatial planning. The Joint Statutory Spatial Plan would set a framework for the future of Oxfordshire and would seek to help address a number of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular to help ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing (goal 3), promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth (goal 8), promote the building of resilient infrastructure (goal 9), make human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (goal 11), and take action to combat the impacts of climate change (goal 13).

2. **Question from Helen Marshall on behalf on the Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE Oxfordshire):**

"Ref. Agenda item 7 – Feedback from sub-groups

As Growth Board members are hopefully aware, CPRE Oxfordshire has sought from the start to respond to the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan process in a positive and constructive way and we have welcomed the Growth Board's recognition of the value we could add as an informed stakeholder. It would therefore be disappointing, to say the least, if meaningful engagement should fail at such an early stage.

We are most surprised to note that an outline version of the JSSP Regulation 18 consultation document was due to be brought to a meeting of the Advisory Sub-Group on 15 November, which we assume has now taken place. At the October meeting, this is described as a 'skeletal document, however what the document would say is broadly known'.

However CPRE and, we assume, other stakeholders have not yet been involved in any detailed discussions to inform this document.

We ask the Growth Board to:

- (a) Confirm what level of detail this document covers, including whether it has begun the process of identifying broad areas for growth
- (b) Confirm specifically how and when stakeholders will be involved in discussions relating to its content
- (c) Explain what information and evidence the Board currently considers will be required to support the biodiversity & natural environment and green infrastructure strategic policies proposed in the JSSP Scoping Document, and what resource will be made available to achieve this?"

The chairman replied:

- (a) Work had commenced on sketching out the scope and structure of the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan for Oxfordshire that would be published for consultation in February/March 2019, as identified in the Local Development Scheme. Over the coming weeks, the officer team responsible for the preparation of the plan would continue to gather evidence and background information, and engage with partners and stakeholders to begin fleshing out the content of that document. Work had not commenced on identifying broad areas for growth.
- (b) Engagement would be an on-going process throughout the project and not limited to the formal consultation stages. A Joint Statutory Spatial Plan launch event was planned for December and invitations would go out to over 100 stakeholder bodies (including the CPRE) in the coming days. This was one step in the engagement process but would provide valuable input into the consultation document. A communications and engagement advisor had been appointed to the officer team and would be working up a more detailed communications and engagement plan for the project.
- (c) The level of information and evidence required to support the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan would be built up as the project progresses. At this early stage of the plan-making process, officers already had access to good quality baseline information and would seek to add to this for the later stages of the project. Conversations were underway with officers of the councils and Thames Valley Record Centre to ensure the appropriate evidence would be available at the right times and procured in a timely manner. The Joint Statutory Spatial Plan budget had provision for commissioning advice, data and analysis from expert bodies/consultants.

Helen Marshall replied with a supplementary statement. Whilst recognising the challenging timescales and problems with staff recruitment, could the Growth Board remember the challenges the CPRE, and other stakeholders, had themselves to engage with tight timescales imposed by the Growth Board, and work with stakeholders to address that.

3. Question from Sue Haywood on behalf of the coalition Planning for Real NEED not Spectacular GREED in Oxfordshire:

“Need Not Greed Oxfordshire (NNGO) is a coalition of 35 groups from across the county, together representing thousands of community members. At a meeting in the Spring, and in further conversations with Growth Board Members, NNGO was grateful to hear that its involvement in the JSSP process would be welcome, with rhetoric that suggested opportunities whereby we could add value in bringing evidence and issues for consideration that are pertinent to a broader sustainability agenda for Oxfordshire actively into the decision-making processes and in particular would be well placed to contribute valuable voice and appropriate insights about rural community needs and the rural economy.

We have noted the changing JSSP timetable, and acknowledge the challenges that the Growth Board and project team are having to manage, yet some of the reports presented to this meeting suggest a number of activities are progressing for which we would have expected stakeholder engagement to have been necessary in order to provide any meaningful basis and evidence and struggle to see how and when the stakeholder input required for this could have been undertaken. An example of this is the proposed production of the draft Regulation 18 document for the JSSP Panel, albeit just "testing options" at this stage, but difficult to reconcile when even the consultation on the Statement of Community Involvement has yet to start. NNGO would therefore ask:

- In light of its previous indications, how specifically does the Growth Board see NNGO adding value to the JSSP process and where in the structure would this occur?

Also, given the changing timetable, how does the Growth Board see meaningful wider public engagement, as well as just consultation processes, happening, what changes to the LDS and Statement of Community Involvement might now need to be made, and who will do this (will locally elected members have an opportunity to input to this process for example)?”

The chairman reported that:

- (a) Engagement would be an on-going process throughout the project and not limited to the formal consultation stages. A Joint Statutory Spatial Plan launch event was planned for December and invitations would go out to over 100 stakeholder bodies (including one for NNGO) in the coming days. This was one step in the engagement process but would provide valuable input into the consultation document. A communications and engagement advisor had been appointed to the officer team and would be working up a more detailed communications and engagement plan for the project.
- (b) The key milestones of the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan project were set out in the Local Development Scheme that had been approved and adopted by all councils in September/October 2018. Those milestones had not been amended. The Statement of Community Involvement was approved for public consultation at the same meetings of the councils. That public consultation was programmed to begin in the next week and would run for an extended period of six weeks to take into account the Christmas break. The intention was that a report will go to all councils in January seeking approval and adoption of the Statement of Community Involvement (subject to any amendments that were necessary following the public consultation) and also approval of the spatial plan consultation document to commence public consultation which would run

in February and March. The decision makers at every stage of the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan project would be the elected members of the district councils. County councillors would receive the same reports in the same timetable as the district councillors.

Sue Haywood asked a supplementary question. Whilst welcoming the opportunity to take part in the stakeholder event, would there be an opportunity to change the scope of the spatial plan and its Local Development Scheme?

The chairman replied that every suggestion would be given proper consideration.

4. Statement from Helen Gee, a South Oxfordshire resident (read out in her absence):

“I understand that the Oxfordshire Growth Board will hold its next meeting on 27 November. I would like to write, as a resident of South Oxfordshire, and register my wholesale objection to the completely undemocratic nature of this Board. It does not, in any way, represent the wishes of the people of Oxfordshire. It appears, from your minutes of the 25 September meeting, that you have 6 voting members who seem to have complete authority to make decisions which will affect the lives of thousands of people in the county. I cannot understand how the Oxfordshire Growth Board, as an unelected body, has this power.

I see that the Board has resolved a statement that it welcomed the principle of the proposed expressway as a way to ‘relieve traffic pressure on the A34 and separate local traffic from national traffic’. This is not the view of a vast majority of people in the county and is highly unrepresentative. I am extremely angry that the Growth Board appears to be pushing for the A34 to be a road for ‘local traffic’ and thereby supporting a new motorway to the south of Oxford. This would destroy miles of rural land, Green Belt and village communities. It is completely unnecessary and would have an extremely detrimental effect on the current residents of the affected areas.

On a connected note, I believe that there is clearly another agenda here – to do with housing and the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal, which seems to be a Government bribe to override the views of the current residents of Oxfordshire and impose unreasonable and outrageous levels of house building.

I note that the minutes of 31 July state that the Growth Board is entering into an intensive period of engagement with stakeholders. I believe that we, the people who live in Oxfordshire, are stakeholders and yet our views, expressed individually and through our Parish Councils are not being listened to.

The 31 July ‘Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Update’ states that it anticipates that the deal will ‘realise significant long term economic benefits to the UK’. This seems nonsensical when there are other regions in the UK that are far more in need of Government money, infrastructure and an economic boost.

The Growth Board’s stance on both the Expressway and the housing and growth plans for Oxfordshire are not consistent with the view of the residents (stakeholders) of Oxfordshire.”

The chairman thanked the four members of the public for their participation.

6 Feedback from the scrutiny panel

Councillor Andrew Gant, chair of the Growth Board’s Scrutiny Panel, gave some feedback from the recent panel meeting. The panel had made several recommendations to the Growth Board. The chairman gave the following replies.

Scrutiny Panel’s recommendation	Growth Board chairman’s reply
<p>1: That the Growth Board considers and adopts the following principles of responding to the Scrutiny Panel’s recommendations:</p> <p>(a) The presentation of recommendations, and their accompanying narrative, is presented to the meeting at which a relevant decision is to be taken. The Panel asks that the Growth Board gives full consideration and written responses to the recommendations made, addressing not only the recommendation, but also the rationale and context as provided in these reports going forward.</p> <p>(b) A suggested template response form was provided for the Growth Board to use to record its responses. It is requested that once a draft response is completed (preferably by the Growth Board’s chairman in liaison with officers) that this document is published as a supplement to the Growth Board’s agenda or minutes, and the Board will be asked to give its full endorsement or otherwise to the draft response and decision in relation to any recommendations.</p> <p>(c) Under the current meeting arrangements, the Scrutiny Panel would hope to circulate its report and recommendations to the Growth Board on Friday or Monday after its meeting, and would hope to publish this together with the Growth Board’s draft response on the morning of the day the Growth Board is due to meet (Tuesday). The response(s) will also be reported back to the Scrutiny Panel at their next meeting.</p>	<p>The Growth Board would use its best endeavours to meet these requests.</p>
<p>2: That the Growth Board takes further steps to raise concerns with Central Government about the timing of the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan’s 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 to Cambridge Expressway.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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. The decision on the route</p>

Scrutiny Panel's recommendation	Growth Board chairman's reply
	of the expressway lies with the Government, not the Growth Board or the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership.
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.	Growth Board members or sub-group chairmen should be invited when a relevant item appears on the Scrutiny Panel's agenda.
5: Officers working on the Housing and Growth 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.	Officers should be invited when a relevant item appears on the Scrutiny Panel's agenda.
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.	All parish councils would be sent a link to the Growth Board's website. County and district councillors could also update parish councils.
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.	The Growth Board would take a formal vote, if requested by a Board member.
8: That the Growth Board remains fully committed to encouraging public engagement in the Board's work.	The Growth Board continues to be committed to encouraging engagement, as evidenced by the public participation at this and every Growth Board meeting.
9: That the Energy Strategy Action Plan is revised to ensure it contains SMART targets and clear and measurable objectives.	The Energy Strategy is on the agenda for this meeting. This point is valid.

7 Feedback from the sub-groups

The chairmen of the Growth Board's sub-groups gave feedback from their recent meetings, the minutes of which were included with the Growth Board's agenda.

The Growth Board noted that:

- the Government's forthcoming decision on the route of the Oxford to Cambridge expressway had significant implications for Oxfordshire's Joint Statutory Spatial Plan
- the scoping document of the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan had been updated
- the affordable housing programme was on track in year 1
- Homes England had agreed 'in principle' to reprofile the year 1 infrastructure programme; formal agreement was being sought

8 Healthy place-shaping in the wider growth agenda

Further to the discussion at the last meeting, the Growth Board discussed a paper on embedding health into the growth agenda. Jonathan McWilliam, the Director of Public Health at Oxfordshire County Council, also gave a presentation on the benefits of healthy place-shaping.

The Growth Board welcomed the opportunity to bring together planning health and wellbeing with planning for housing and economic growth, and planning for improved infrastructure. The benefits of healthy place-shaping had already been experienced through successful schemes at Barton and Bicester, which had improved people's lives. Healthy place-shaping could be embedded through the sub-groups working on housing, infrastructure and the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan, and there should be a common agenda developed for the Growth Board, the Health and Wellbeing Board, and the Community Safety Partnerships.

The Growth Board suggested that the experiences gained from Barton and Bicester should be used to develop healthy place-shaping. Such a strategy should aim, for example, to reduce health inequalities, build communities and reduce loneliness, improve air quality, reduce reliance on private transport and move towards cleaner vehicles, and help people to live in their own homes for longer. The councils and agencies must work together and avoid duplication. The Growth Board considered that officers could use the Growth Deal's capacity funding to assist with this agenda through the preparation of the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan, if funds were available.

The preparation of a healthy place-shaping strategy was supported by Diane Hedges representing the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and by Lesley Tims representing the Environment Agency.

RESOLVED to:

- (a) request the production of a strategy for how healthy place-shaping can ensure that development supports the creation of healthy communities. This will inform the work of the Housing and Growth Deal and Growth Board workstreams;
- (b) embed officers with a remit for healthy place-shaping into the Growth Board sub-structures, including the Growth Deal Programme Board and the workstreams for the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan, infrastructure, housing, and productivity working with the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership;
- (c) embed healthy place-shaping into the development of the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan, the Local Industrial Strategy and the Environment Strategy. This will ensure influence over the strategic design and siting of local communities and local industry

and will also embrace environmental concerns. This will also enable the principles of healthy place-shaping to be incorporated into the Local Plans of the future in Oxford City and the districts;

- (d) create a network of officers from across respective organisations whose role (in addition to their other duties) will be to understand and keep up to date with the developments in the approach to healthy place-shaping and its evolving evidence-base. The intention is that healthy place-shaping becomes a routine part of planning in the county, and so the network will be drawn from officers with specialist knowledge of implementing healthy place-shaping and our various local authority planning departments as well as from the NHS, public health, and other partners. A lead officer and a chief executive sponsor will be appointed to coordinate this approach across the work of the Growth Board and the Housing and Growth Deal;
- (e) hold a county-wide workshop for senior councillors and officers on this topic, as set out in programme for the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan. This will scope further the potential for this approach and will help to define how it will be included in the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan when it goes for public consultation in February 2019. This should be convened jointly with the Health and Wellbeing Board, which will further serve to strengthen joined-up planning across all organisations; and
- (f) consider how capacity to assist with implementing the healthy place-shaping strategy should be funded.

9 Energy strategy

Ahmed Goga, of the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, presented the draft Energy Strategy. This was in response to the Government's request to develop local strategies that supported the national goal for clean growth.

The Growth Board welcomed the draft strategy but believed that the Growth Board should have a greater influence over energy providers' strategic decisions, where they had an impact on Oxfordshire's growth.

The Growth Board noted the intention to develop a delivery plan that would take into account the emerging Local Industrial Strategy and the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan.

RESOLVED: to endorse the draft Energy Strategy, subject to the action plan being revised to ensure it contains SMART targets and clear and measurable objectives.

10 Housing and Growth Deal delivery

Officers reported on progress with delivering the Housing and Growth Deal. The Growth Board noted the main messages that:

- there had been slippage in the year 1 infrastructure programme with an associated underspend. Homes England had agreed 'in principle' to reprofile the year 1 infrastructure programme; formal agreement was being sought
- the draft infrastructure programme for years 2 to 5 was presented for the Growth Board's approval, after which a detailed delivery plan would be prepared
- the affordable housing programme was on course to meet its year 1 targets and an indicative programme for years 2 to 3 had been prepared and submitted to Homes

England by 30 September 2018, in accordance with the agreed milestone in the deal

- work was progressing on the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan
- the draft Local Industrial Strategy (encapsulating the productivity stream of the deal) was being prepared and would be subject to consultation with stakeholders

The Growth Board welcomed the report and reiterated its support for the Housing and Growth Deal. Members urged officers to keep up the good work on delivering the deal to retain the benefits for Oxfordshire. The Growth Board endorsed the draft infrastructure programme for years 2 to 5.

RESOLVED to:

- (a) note the progress at the end of quarter 2 against the year 1 milestones in the Housing and Growth Deal;
- (b) endorse the summary indicative affordable housing programme for years 2 to 3; and
- (c) endorse the infrastructure delivery programme for years 2 to 5.

11 Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership update

The Growth Board received an update from the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership. In December, the partnership would have its annual meeting with the Government to assess its performance against the delivery of the productivity stream of the Housing and Growth Deal and to identify future projects. An update would be provided at the next meeting.

12 Growth Board Work Programme

The Growth Board reviewed its work programme for 2019 and asked officers to refine it further and publish it on the Growth Board's website.

13 Updates on matters relevant to the Growth Board

No further matters were raised.

14 Dates of next meetings

The Growth Board approved the dates of future meetings below. These would be held on Tuesdays at 2pm in Didcot Civic Hall.

- 29 January 2019
- 26 March
- 4 June

The meeting closed at 3.17 pm

Chairman

Date

REPORT TO OXFORDSHIRE GROWTH BOARD OXFORDSHIRE PLAN 2050 (JOINT STATUTORY SPATIAL PLAN)

Purpose of report

- 1) To update the Growth Board with progress on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 (the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan: JSSP) and plans for the first stage of public consultation.

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. The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 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.

Oxfordshire Plan 2050 timetable

- 4) The timetable for production of the Oxfordshire Plan was approved (through the Local Development Scheme) by all District Councils during September/October 2018. However, since then, considerable thought has gone into the approach towards the consultation stages. The aim is for the Plan making process to maximise engagement, interest and 'buy-in' for the Plan. The Plan should also seek to be enriched by the consultation process from the wealth of interest and suggestions that will emerge.
- 5) The key to effective consultation on this Plan will be to explain the narrative of the Plan clearly so that interested groups can think about the reasons for the vision, aspirations and objectives of the Plan. There is a danger that launching into broad locations for growth would distract from the critical overarching discussions around housing need and growth aspirations of Oxfordshire.
- 6) The proposal is therefore to have two Regulation 18 consultations where the first is an accessible discussion document concerning vision, aspirations, objectives and spatial scenario typologies, whereas the second consultation would look at broad locations for growth. The timetable below demonstrates how two Regulation 18 consultations can be accommodated without affecting the overall timetable of the Plan's production.

Early stakeholder engagement	Commenced
Consultation on Issues (Vision, objectives and level of growth) (Reg 18 Part 1)	Feb/Mar 2019

Consultation on Issues (Broad locations for growth) (Reg 18 Part 2)	Jun/Jul/Aug 2019
Consultation on Proposed Submission Draft Plan (Reg.19)	Oct/Nov/Dec 2019
Submission (Reg.22)	Mar 2020
Examination (Reg.24)	Sep 2020 tbc
Receipt and Publication of Inspector's Report	Dec 2020 tbc
Adoption (Reg.26) by each partner local planning authority	Mar 2021 (subject to examination)

Regulation 18 (Part 1) Issues consultation

- 7) At their Cabinet / Executive Board meetings in late January and early February, each of the Oxfordshire district councils will be asked to approve an issues consultation document for the Oxfordshire Plan (see Appendix 1). Following approval of the document, it would be published for public consultation as part of the Regulation 18 requirements for plan making. The document will be professionally desk-top published prior to publication and consultation to ensure that is visually attractive, engaging and accessible. This will be the first formal public consultation on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050.
- 8) The consultation document explores the context for the Plan (setting out the quality of life, economic, natural and built environment, housing, health and wellbeing and transport and movement contexts). It proposes a draft vision for the Plan and objectives, and invites comments and improvements to those.
- 9) The document also sets out 5 aspirations for the Plan:
 - Strong and healthy communities
 - Support economic growth
 - Improve housing availability and affordability
 - Protect environmental quality
 - Improve connectivity and movement
- 10) Each of these aspirations would offer real benefits to future generations if fully embedded in the Plan. Some of them however if taken to the extreme, or taken in isolation, would also likely result in real issues or have knock-on impacts for other elements of the plan. As with all complex planning issues there are choices to be made and balances that need to be struck. It is likely that different degrees of these aspirations, in combination, will be required and difficult decisions need to be made between them. We are keen to explore these issues with the public so that together we can decide where the appropriate balances may lie.
- 11) The consultation document also explores the potential spatial scenarios for accommodating growth in the Plan. For example, the Plan could take any of a range of options, for example intensification of existing settlements, providing new settlements or dispersing growth or it could take a combination of these options.
- 12) The intention is prompt discussion (among stakeholders and the public) on these aspirations and scenarios and to invite input and feedback to improve and refine the approach when taking it into the next stage of the Plan. Future stages of Plan

preparation will go on to consider broad locations for growth. By focussing the conversation at this this stage on the context, need and growth aspirations of Oxfordshire, this will be a vital step towards that further discussion.

- 13) The formal public consultation is programmed to be held for a period of 6 weeks in February and March (11th February to 25th March) concluding ahead of the purdah period for the local elections (being held in Cherwell, South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire).

Appendix 1: Regulation 18 (Part 1) Issues consultation document

FOREWORD

This Plan will be a step change in our approach to securing the best Oxfordshire for 2050. It will set the framework for future decision making on big issues like development, infrastructure and placemaking. The Plan will be aspirational and use the opportunity of growth as a positive to improve the quality of life for everyone.

We will engage with stakeholders and communities across Oxfordshire, and work through the plan making process collaboratively establishing a common purpose and vision for the county.

We recognise the many assets and strengths of Oxfordshire, it is a very desirable place in which to live, work, study, visit and invest. There are real opportunities for continuing our economic success, enhancing the quality of the built and natural environment, improving quality of life and reducing inequalities. With a long-term focus we hope to capture these opportunities and plan collectively for a sustainable future to the benefit of all in the county.

There are many steps in the process of developing this plan and we are looking to engage with all those interested in the future of Oxfordshire to help shape it. This consultation document is intended to start a conversation which we hope will develop and continue throughout the process and lead to a plan for Oxfordshire that we can be proud of. Please get involved in and sign up to be kept informed throughout.

The local authorities of Oxfordshire are working together to produce the Oxfordshire Plan. This project offers the chance to plan co-operatively, tackle complex issues that cross our individual boundaries, and draw up a strategic vision.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Oxfordshire Plan will cover the administrative county area of Oxfordshire. This will comprise the local planning authorities of:
 - Cherwell District Council
 - Oxford City Council
 - South Oxfordshire District Council
 - Vale of White Horse District Council
 - West Oxfordshire District Council
2. In 2018 the Oxfordshire authorities signed the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal¹ with the government. In return for guaranteed funding for affordable housing, infrastructure and economic growth, the Oxfordshire authorities have committed to submit a Local Plan for each district, to plan for the delivery of 100,000 new homes to 2031 (through those Local Plans) and to produce the Oxfordshire Plan. The scope of the Oxfordshire Plan was developed in the Scoping Document² which was agreed by the partner authorities in October 2018.
3. The Growth Deal commits to an Oxfordshire Plan that covers the period to 2050. This is a significantly longer period than is typical with a Local Plan and is important in this strategic context. A significant amount of joint work across the Oxfordshire authorities has already taken place which has fed into the current and emerging round of Local Plans. These Local Plans cover the period from 2011 to 2031, 2034 or 2036. There is therefore a good deal of detail and certainty around that period as plans are well advanced. The latter period of the Oxfordshire Plan to 2050 will be based on a new evidence base produced specifically for the project. Future Local Plans will sit within the framework defined by the Oxfordshire Plan.

VISION FOR THE OXFORDSHIRE PLAN

4. In 2050 the people of Oxfordshire are living in sustainable communities with a high quality of life and strong sense of belonging. The integrity and richness of the county's historic character and natural environment are valued and conserved. A wide range of secure and good quality housing options are within reach for all. Existing and new communities are well integrated, attractive and desirable places to live; their design and layouts facilitate healthy lifestyles and sustainable travel options. Productivity has increased and residents are well-skilled and able to access a wide range of high-value job opportunities and share in wealth creation. The private and public sector continue to have the confidence to invest in the county. Oxfordshire has embraced the technological, demographic and lifestyle changes of recent decades and new developments are fit for the future and resilient to climate change. The wellbeing of residents and workers is enhanced through being part of this special place.

Discussion point 1 – Does the above draft vision meet your aspirations for the future of Oxfordshire? Are there any changes you would like to see to the vision?

¹ [Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal](#) (Nov 2017) MHCLG

² [Oxfordshire Joint Statutory Spatial Plan Scoping Document \(Oct 2018\)](#)

OXFORDSHIRE CONTEXT

5. There are many complex and interlinked factors that make Oxfordshire a desirable place to live, work, study, visit and invest. The following section provides an outline of the main factors. In some cases these factors are real strengths and provide opportunities for the future, in others they are more challenging and in the most part they provide both opportunities and constraints.

Quality of life context

6. Oxfordshire is generally regarded as a high quality place to live. The attractive environment, accessible countryside, good employment prospects, high educational attainment, long life expectancy, safety and security, cultural richness and access to services and facilities are all factors which contribute to the quality of life in Oxfordshire.
7. Oxfordshire or individual Oxfordshire authorities frequently perform very highly in rankings that aim to measure quality of life. The Office of National Statistics collects data on people's self-assessed levels of life satisfaction, worth, happiness and anxiety³. In 2017/18 the average ranking of Oxfordshire's residents is 7.87 out of 10 for life satisfaction, compared to a South East average of 7.76 and an England average of 7.68.
8. There are areas of deprivation however, with notable differences in life opportunities and quality of life even within relatively small geographic areas. In those more deprived areas (which can be found in each of the districts of Oxfordshire) residents often have lower wages and skills, educational attainment is lower and health is poorer. There are usually combinations of factors causing such inequalities to exist between areas.

Economic context

9. Oxfordshire has a fast-growing economy focussed on innovation, technology and education. Science Vale UK has the highest concentration of science research facilities in Western Europe and Harwell Campus is home to the largest space cluster in Europe. Oxford University is the number one-ranked University in the World⁴ and it generates more technology spin-outs than any other UK university.
10. Oxfordshire has one of the strongest economies in the UK, it is one of only three net contributors to the treasury, delivering £21 billion per year to national output⁵. The ambition of the Local Industrial Strategy (currently being prepared by the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership)⁶ is to position Oxfordshire as one of the top-three global innovation ecosystems by building on the region's world-leading science and technology clusters, by ensuring there is the business and research space needed to continue to be at the forefront of innovation.

³ [Quality of Life in the UK](#), 2018, Office of National Statistics

⁴ [Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2018](#)

⁵ [Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal - Outline Agreement](#) (Nov 2017) MHCLG

⁶ [Oxfordshire Local Industrial Strategy](#), OxLEP

11. Oxfordshire's Labour Market Profile⁷ shows that it has high levels of employment with 81.6% of economically active people in employment and the largest employment sectors in Oxfordshire are wholesale and retail; professional scientific and technical; education; human health and social work; manufacturing; accommodation and food services. The level of educational attainment is higher in Oxfordshire than the national average with 50.7% of people having a level 4 or higher qualification (e.g. degree) with only 3.8% having no qualification. 63% of primary school pupils in Oxfordshire are meeting expected standards, with average scores in reading and below average in writing and maths. 46.3% of secondary school pupils in Oxfordshire achieved Grade 5 (high grade C/low B) or above in GCSE English and maths, above the England average⁸. Educational qualifications alone are only one indicator, more broadly skills levels and availability of people with the right skills to match the needs of local employers is as important.

Natural and built environment context

12. Oxfordshire has an attractive and diverse urban and rural landscape. The underlying geology criss-crossed by eight river systems including the Thames and its tributaries combined with a long history of agricultural use gives the County a gentle, yet complex, landscape character. In addition to extensive areas of farmland the county supports important wildlife habitats including woodlands, wetlands and riverside meadows and the means for active travel and recreation using the public rights of way and accessible countryside and greenspace network.
13. Many parts of the county are protected at national and international level for their nature conservation value. Oxfordshire has 7 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) that fall partly or entirely within the county. These are Oxford Meadows, Cothill Fen, Little Wittenham, Aston Rowant, Chilterns Beechwoods, Hackpen Hill and Hartslock Wood. There are 111 Sites of Special Scientific Interest in Oxfordshire, covering 4,495 hectares, which are protected at national level representative of the country's best habitats. There are many other sites identified for their ecological and geological interest including 362 Local Wildlife Sites and 46 Local Geological Sites.
14. Oxfordshire has many protected and highly valued landscapes, including the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), the Cotswolds AONB and the North Wessex Downs AONB. The county also has a wealth of built environment assets. The county's historic market towns, picturesque villages and Oxford's dreaming spires draw in visitors from around the world. There are around 13,000 listed buildings and structures in Oxfordshire and over 200 conservation areas. There is a world heritage site at Blenheim Palace and many designated and non-designated heritage assets throughout the county.
15. Oxfordshire's natural environment provides the setting for the city of Oxford and the county's towns and villages and provides places for leisure and recreation. The natural environment also provides a wide range of ecosystems services that benefit people including clean air, fresh water, surface water management and flood alleviation, food and forestry products, carbon capture and storage and the potential for renewable energy generation. There is a strong link between the natural environment and the health and well-being of people in Oxfordshire. The

⁷ [NOMIS Official Labour Market Statistics 2017/18](#)

⁸ [Compare Schools Performance](#), DfE

extent and condition of many of our environmental assets has been declining over the course of decades, with major challenges including climate change, air and water pollution, land contamination, fragmentation of habitats and a decline in biodiversity.

16. The Oxford Green Belt covers a significant area of the county. Green Belt is not a designation that recognises inherent biodiversity or landscape value in the same way as SSSI's or AONB's, but is designed to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open. The essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence.
17. The future requirement for water in the Thames Water⁹ catchment area is likely to be very much greater than they are today due to an increasing population and to support economic growth. The impact of climate change means that there is a need to protect the environment and strengthen our resilience to more severe drought.

Housing context

18. Housing costs in Oxfordshire are high, with both purchasing and renting costs above average. Although incomes and disposable incomes are above average, the wage to house price ratio is still very poor, making Oxfordshire one of the least affordable parts of the Country in which to live. Affordability ratios are 12.3 in Oxford, 11.86 in South Oxfordshire, 11.24 in West Oxfordshire, 9.75 in Cherwell and 8.93 in the Vale of White Horse. This compares to a ratio of 7.9 in England as a whole and 10.3 in the South East¹⁰. The Centre for Cities Outlook¹¹ states Oxford as the least affordable city in the UK.
19. High house prices threaten quality of life and wellbeing in Oxfordshire with issues such as overcrowding and homelessness on the rise. There are also implications for local businesses and the economy with large employers in health and education and social care sectors having problems with staff recruitment and retention due to the high cost of living.
20. There are variations in house prices across the county with district market towns and villages providing relatively affordable housing compared to the city. Many people choose to commute from areas where housing is relatively affordable to higher paid jobs elsewhere causing congestion on Oxfordshire's constrained transport network with knock on implications for the environment, air pollution and quality of life.

Health and wellbeing context

21. The health of people in Oxfordshire and life expectancy¹² is generally better than the England average although there are significant issues. The population is ageing and the number of people living with chronic and complex diseases is increasing.¹³ There are also inequalities of health and

⁹ Thames Water's Water Resources Management Plan 2019

¹⁰ [House Price to Workplace Earnings Ratio](#) (April 2018) ONS

¹¹ [Centre for Cities Outlook 2017](#)

¹² In 2012-14 the at-birth life expectancy for men in Oxfordshire was 81 (compared to England average of 79.55); the female life expectancy in Oxfordshire was 84.1 (compared to England average of 83.2) [ONS](#)

¹³ [Oxfordshire's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy \(2017\) Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board](#)

wellbeing across the county. Those in the most deprived areas of the county have poorer health and lower levels of life satisfaction and lower life expectancy.

22. In terms of living healthy lifestyles, statistics show that Oxfordshire's residents have higher levels of physical activity and lower levels of adult obesity and smoking than the England averages although there are clearly still issues to be addressed. Ease of access to healthcare provision varies across the county, in rural areas this can be difficult for less mobile residents.
23. The cluster of hospitals in Oxford link clinical practice strongly with university research, which means cutting-edge clinical practice is available to residents. Primary healthcare is under pressure across the whole country, including Oxfordshire. A growing and ageing population means that access to primary healthcare will be increasingly important. The Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group published the Oxfordshire Primary Care Framework in 2017 sets out a model of primary and community care, to ensure it remains effective. It is focused on the roles general practice should play in the community, including supporting public health initiatives and promoting schemes which reduce variation in health inequalities.

Transport and connectivity context

24. Oxfordshire sits on the busy road and rail transport corridor between the south coast ports, the Midlands and the North. It benefits from transport connections to London and the West Midlands via the M40 and close proximity to the M4 providing connections to the West and London. The M40 carries the most traffic, particularly on the stretch between junctions 9 and 10, which links the A34 via the A43 to the M1 carrying over 100,000 vehicles per day. The A34 carries up to 70,000 vehicles per day, including a large proportion of lorries. The county relies heavily on the A34 for local journeys and the route forms part of the Oxford ring road. The A34 is particularly vulnerable to disruption, as there is a lack of alternative North-South routes for journeys both within and through the county. The A40 is a major through route linking Gloucester and London and intersects with three key radial routes to the North of Oxford, where it forms part of Oxford's ring road. The route suffers from serious delays between Witney and Oxford due to the volume of through traffic and commuter traffic which uses the route.
25. The Oxford-Cambridge Expressway linking Oxfordshire to Milton Keynes and onto Cambridgeshire is likely to further increase demand for through travel, so a long-term solution to congestion on the A34 is important. The route of the OxCam Expressway¹⁴ will have implications for local highway conditions as well as shaping the spatial strategy for the Oxfordshire Plan.
26. Within Oxford there is a very comprehensive bus network and this represents the mode of choice for 48%¹⁵ of people travelling to the city centre. There is a network of frequent bus services linking the county's towns with Oxford although bus provision linking smaller rural settlements to urban areas is very limited. With limited bus priority measures into Oxford, the reliability of inter-urban bus routes are affected by traffic congestion and so often the simpler choice for residents of the towns and rural areas and therefore the preference, is to travel by car. This is partially mitigated by the very popular Park & Ride schemes on the edge of Oxford,

¹⁴ [Oxford to Cambridge Expressway](#), Highways England

¹⁵ [Oxford City Centre Movement and Public Realm Study](#) (2018) Phil Jones Associates

which have been developed since the 1970s in conjunction with restrictions on access to the city centre.

27. The rail network is very well used and provides frequent connections between several of Oxfordshire's main towns and beyond to London, Birmingham and Bristol. Recently the new link from Oxford Parkway to Marylebone opened up an alternative mainline link with London. A significant level of freight also passes through the county on route to the South coast ports. The network is operating close to capacity, so significant work to signals and dualling of lines is required to increase it. London Oxford Airport located at Kidlington offers primary regional and business aviation services.
28. Oxford is well known for its high levels of cycling and there are some cycle connections between other towns and areas of employment but this is far from comprehensive. Outside the city walking and cycling are not always seen as feasible or desirable modes of travel especially for commuting despite the health and environmental benefits they offer.
29. Localised effects are felt from emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NOx), which cause respiratory illness and can cause early deaths. Air quality is regularly monitored at many locations across Oxfordshire. At some locations air quality is at levels where legal intervention is required by Local Authorities. There are currently 13 AQMAs in Oxfordshire, where the annual mean objective for nitrogen dioxide is being exceeded (four in Cherwell, one covering the whole of Oxford city, three in South Oxfordshire, three in Vale of White Horse and two in West Oxfordshire). There are also Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in Oxfordshire which are particularly vulnerable to air pollution. Rail electrification should improve air quality adjacent to rail lines and around stations.
30. Oxfordshire County Council's Local Transport Plan 4¹⁶ aimed to ensure that the county's transport systems were fit to support population and economic growth. It is anticipated that the LTP will be reviewed and updated in line with the Oxfordshire Plan.
31. The Oxfordshire County Council led programme for improving broadband infrastructure has already achieved its December 2017 target of achieving 95% of premises having access to superfast broadband, and is set to out-turn 97% coverage by 2019.¹⁷ A barometer of how important this is to Oxfordshire is evidenced by very high adoption of fibre broadband in the county, where 50% of premises enabled by the Better Broadband programme have already taken up new fibre services. Early planning is now underway to find solutions for the remaining very rural premises, focussing on enhancing the fibre footprint to reach agricultural businesses, as well as enhancing the availability of cost effective very high speed fibre services for businesses and public sector across the county. Strategic convergence of mobile and fixed data networks is expected to develop commercially over the next five to ten years, as 5G mobile data standards are confirmed.

¹⁶ [Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan 4](#) (2015) Oxfordshire County Council

¹⁷ [Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy Stage 2](#) (Nov 2017)

ASPIRATIONS

32. When considering the future of Oxfordshire over such a long timeframe it is important to first make some important choices in terms of the aspirations of the plan based on an understanding of where we are today and what is proposed in current and emerging Local Plans. At this stage of the process in producing the Oxfordshire Plan we are keen to explore those aspirations to ensure that the underlying assumptions for the policies are sound and reflect the needs and desires of the communities of the people of the county.
33. Each of these aspirations would offer real benefits to future generations if embraced in the plan. Some of them however if taken to the extreme, or taken in isolation, would also likely result in real issues or have knock-on impacts for other elements of the plan.
34. These are not simple either /or choices. They interlink and in some cases, are interdependent on each other. As with all complex planning issues there are choices to be made and balances that need to be struck. It is likely that different degrees of these aspirations, in combination, will be required and difficult decisions need to be made between them.
35. We are keen to explore these issues with you so that together we can decide where the appropriate balances may lie. The discussion on aspirations will lead to some objectives for the plan; below draft objectives are suggested and we welcome views on those.

Aspiration 1: Support economic growth

36. Oxfordshire's economy is vibrant and dynamic, even through difficult economic times, local businesses have continued to emerge and grow and our employment rates are good. We have strengths in a range of sciences and research and development sectors which provide large numbers of high value jobs. The government has recognised these strengths and sees Oxfordshire as a key contributor to their industrial strategy for the future. The Local Industrial Strategy¹⁸ is a response to this and establishes a plan for building on our current strengths and taking opportunities that are presenting themselves to Oxfordshire businesses.
37. It is clearly desirable that future generations of Oxfordshire residents will be able to access high value, quality jobs in the future. Decisions taken in the Oxfordshire Plan will have an important impact on the opportunities for economic growth and investor confidence in the county. Maximising the creation of wealth in the county will help address infrastructure challenges and tackle inequalities. The Oxfordshire Plan needs to recognise the strengths and ambitions of the government and of local businesses and will have a role in helping to achieve some of those.
38. The implication of this aspiration is that the Oxfordshire Plan makes provision for growth in order to help support the local economy and maintain Oxfordshire's role in the national economy. Even without the Oxfordshire Plan, additional economic capacity will need to be provided in the period to 2050 as national policy states that plans need to "set out a clear

¹⁸ [Oxfordshire Local Industrial Strategy](#), OxLEP

economic vision and strategy which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth, having regard to Local Industrial Strategies”¹⁹.

39. The vitality of town centres have been negatively affected by the development in the 1990s-2000s of out-of-town shopping centres with free parking, the diverse range goods available at supermarkets and online retailing. Some of our market towns have seen new town centre shopping developments come forward in the last 10 years and the Oxfordshire Plan should build on this to continue to bring activity and spend back to town centres to support local businesses and foster vibrant communities.
40. As with housing numbers, it is for Oxfordshire to determine (in the light of the evidence available) the appropriate level of economic growth over the plan period.

Draft Objective 1 – To establish the right conditions to sustain and strengthen the role of Oxfordshire in the UK economy by building on our key strengths and assets

Draft Objective 2 – To create a prosperous, successful and enterprising economy with benefits felt by all

Aspiration 2: Improve housing availability and affordability

41. Oxfordshire has very real issues of housing availability and affordability with local people who grew up in the county finding it increasingly difficult to establish themselves in their local area. Key service providers (such as the NHS and schools) and a wide range of employers report difficulty in recruiting and retaining staff due to living costs, and affordability issues mean that for some parts the community both home ownership and renting has become out of reach.
42. A clear aspiration for the Oxfordshire Plan is to try and address these issues, to try and ensure that a wide range of housing options are available and accessible to those who want to live and work here; whether that be due to local family ties, because they are employed in key roles in the county or because they recognise what a special place Oxfordshire is.
43. The implication of this aspiration is that the Plan makes provision for the delivery of additional housing beyond the 100,000 provided in current and emerging Local Plans. Even without the Oxfordshire Plan, additional housing will need to be provided in the period up to 2050 and national policy is that plans need to make provision for the housing needs of their area.²⁰

Draft Objective 3 – To meet the county’s identified housing needs, particularly affordable housing and support our selected economic aspirations

Draft Objective 4 – To ensure that a range of housing options are available that will cater for a variety of needs and are built for adaptability, energy efficiency and to a high quality

¹⁹ Paragraph 81, [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (2018) MHCLG

²⁰ Signpost to supporting evidence on housing needs

Aspiration 3: Strong and healthy communities

44. Oxfordshire is a very diverse county with areas of deprivation in amongst areas where residents have a higher quality of life. There are many aspects that effect inequalities including skills, employment, security of housing and health. These factors link and combine to result in people facing different life opportunities. Disparities are also emerging between the generations (in particular linked to housing) and to some extent between urban and rural communities (in particular linked to digital and public transport connectivity).
45. There is a clear benefit to ensure that all residents of Oxfordshire have a good quality of life and that they are able to access jobs and secure housing. This will enable everyone to fully play part and make their contribution in making the county a sustainable community with the services it needs. The Plan could provide an opportunity to ensure a long-term and co-ordinated approach to healthy place-making across Oxfordshire. Lessons can be taken from the good practice of the Healthy New Towns projects in Barton and Bicester.
46. The implications of this aspiration for the Oxfordshire Plan are less direct than several of the others but it would affect the way in which a range of policies are framed. For example, it could mean that greater emphasis is placed on providing a range of different housing options to suit different parts of the community rather than on total numbers themselves. It could mean that economic policies are framed to try and ensure that the benefits of economic growth are shared widely throughout the community rather than focused on particular sectors. It could mean including policies that seek to address inequality of access to local services or public transport. More broadly it could mean making sure that choices taken in the plan are based on considerations of health and wellbeing for example.

Draft Objective 5 – To improve health and wellbeing by enabling independence, encouraging healthy lifestyles, facilitating social interaction and creating inclusive and safe communities

Draft Objective 6 – to create sustainable communities by providing good access to employment, housing, open space, transport, education, services and facilities to meet identified needs

Aspiration 4: Protect environmental quality

47. Oxfordshire has an attractive and diverse landscape with high quality built and natural assets. The heritage of places such as Oxford city centre and Blenheim Palace and the character of historic market towns and villages are real assets to the county. The county has substantial areas of internationally and nationally valued habitats and landscapes set within a mosaic of other areas of important wildlife habitat, high quality landscape, productive agricultural land, significant rivers and wetlands. Oxfordshire's farmed, rural and settled landscapes are valued for being accessible through the extensive public rights of way network.
48. These aspects are in large part what makes Oxfordshire so special and make it a desirable place to live and work. It is a key aspect of the tourism economy in the county, attracting visitors and supporting jobs. It is likely that the quality of the environment in Oxfordshire sets it apart from

other “competitor” economies in the UK and further afield. This plays a large part in attracting investment and employees to help grow local businesses.

49. There is a long-term responsibility on us to ensure that these environmental assets are maintained and enhanced for the benefit of future generations of Oxfordshire residents. There is also a clear short to medium term benefit in terms of preserving our quality of life and the county’s distinctive character.
50. The implication of this aspiration is that consideration (based on a clear understanding) of the environmental assets of the county should be fundamental to the choices made in the plan. Choices such as the locations of new developments should be led and guided by information on the value and quality of the environment. This may mean that development options that provide opportunities for improvement to and enhancement of the natural and built environment (and access for them to be enjoyed where appropriate) would be favoured. Future development will have to be designed to anticipate and mitigate climate change.

Draft Objective 7 – To maintain and enhance the historic built and natural environment of the county through strategic investment and high quality design and to capitalise on the benefits these assets contribute to quality of life and economic success

Draft Objective 8 – To protect and enhance the County’s distinctive landscape character, recreational and biodiversity value by considering the benefits these assets bring when selecting areas for growth, by optimising densities, by improving connectivity between environmental assets and securing a net gain for biodiversity.

Aspiration 5: Improve connectivity and movement

51. Much of Oxfordshire benefits from good connections to other parts of the county, into neighbouring areas and to important centres for employment. Other parts of the county are much less well connected both physically and virtually (i.e. broadband facilities). There are also pressures on the current networks that will need to be considered when planning for the next round of growth. Investment in new networks and connections is often very expensive and much of that is funded by the development that it unlocks; in essence this means that providing significant new pieces of infrastructure is only usually realistic where new development is delivered.
52. As the Oxfordshire Plan will look towards 2050, it is important that we don’t simply assess proposals against an understanding of current lifestyles, technologies or practice. Whilst we will need to make sure that choices are evidenced and deliverable, we will need to provide some flexibility for adaptations to be made as technological advances occur and habits change. For example, in the earlier part of the plan it is reasonable to assume that a piece of highway infrastructure will serve bus and private car travel; in the later part of the plan it is likely that technologies will have changed offering different mass and personal travel choices and that lifestyles will also have adapted making a rush-hour commute, for example, a thing of the past. This will mean the same piece of highways infrastructure will need to adapt its function and

opportunities are likely to arise out of that. Digital infrastructure is already vital to the way businesses and homes operate and this is likely to intensify in the future. It is possible that digital infrastructure will become as or more important than highways infrastructure in the future.

53. The implication of this aspiration is that choices such as the location of new development should be informed by the ability for them to connect into existing networks or be planned at a scale that would support new effective connections or networks. For example, this might mean that development that can either connect into existing transport networks, or which is of a scale that can support its own new public transport connections should be favoured over those which are poorly located or of a scale that wouldn't support the required investment. The plan will need to factor in changing technologies and lifestyles and where possible make provision for more digital connectivity.

Draft Objective 9 – To reduce the need to travel and provide better travel choices, ensuring that walking and cycling are convenient and attractive, and that public transport is preferred by residents to private car ownership and use

Draft Objective 10 – To promote development in the most sustainable locations and co-locating homes and jobs; then connecting those less sustainable locations through improved public transport and digital networks

Discussion point 2 – Do you feel that we've identified the right aspirations for Oxfordshire? Where do you think the balance should lie in prioritising these aspirations?




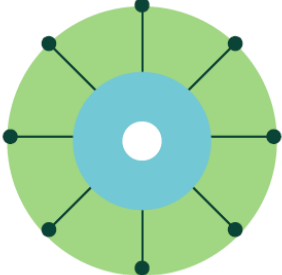
Discussion point 3 – Do you feel the draft objectives are appropriate for the plan? Are there any changes or other objectives that you would like to see? Should they be bolder? Or more specific?

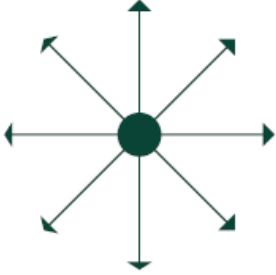
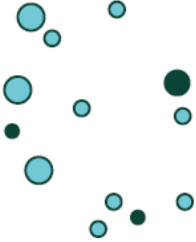
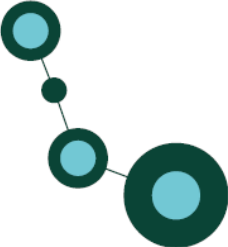
POTENTIAL SPATIAL SCENARIOS

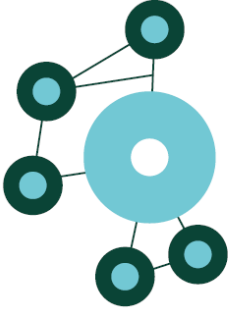
54. The Oxfordshire Plan will identify broad locations for housing and economic growth but it is unlikely²¹ to identify or allocate specific sites. This will follow through separate plans produced at the local level. It will be a challenge to settle on the best locations for growth. Decisions around where housing will be located for example will be difficult and are likely to be emotive; specific local concerns will need to be considered alongside the strategic need for homes and employment opportunities.
55. The following section presents a range of options that may be available in Oxfordshire for accommodating new development. The broad scenarios that follow are, at this stage, deliberately conceptual, and are presented here to offer an opportunity to explore their merits and drawbacks. At later stages of Plan production, these will be explored in more depth, in particular, how they might apply within Oxfordshire's geography and context.

²¹ Signpost to JSSP Process Background Paper

56. The spatial form of development that emerges in the Plan is likely to follow a combination of the broad scenarios outlined here. These overarching scenarios are not necessarily mutually exclusive and the preferred scenario is likely to involve a combination of these options:

<p>Intensification of city, town and district centres</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonly encouraged in Local Plans in line with the NPPF but unlikely to be enough to meet needs • Focus on housing and economy may conflict with other important functions of these centres • Townscape character may be affected • There are usually good existing transport links, although they may already be at capacity
<p>Intensification of development within existing suburbs</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land assembly is challenging with multiple landowners • Highly disruptive for existing residents • Focuses development close to, and supports, existing services and connections
<p>Intensification around the edges of larger settlements and strategic extensions</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can link into existing public transport networks • Focuses development close to, and supports, existing services and connections • These locations may be in the Green Belt and development may affect the purposes of the Green Belt
<p>Spoke and hub (Continue to focus on Oxford and key corridors in to Oxford)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concentrates transport along routes that are already at high capacity • May offer opportunities for funding to enhance strategic corridors • This would not help 'spread the load' of new development, but would mean improving existing infrastructure, which might be efficient, but much will depend on the potential of existing infrastructure to be improved to take new development

<p>New settlement/s</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depending on location, it may or may not be close to existing high quality transport corridors • Would need to be of a sufficient scale to support provision of sufficient new infrastructure. • May have a negative environmental impacts and but could be designed to deliver environmental gains • Designing a settlement from scratch provides opportunities for urban design principles to be followed throughout, such as Garden Town principles • A new settlement would take a long time to be delivered
<p>Dispersal (This would involve spreading new development evenly across the county, including in smaller settlements)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small sites are unlikely to generate infrastructure needs alone, so are unlikely to significantly contribute to improvements to infrastructure • The character of a smaller settlements might be adversely affected by new development • Expanding some smaller settlements can support local shops, pubs and bus services • Smaller sites may improve deliverability rates due to competing developers • Dispersal is unlikely to meet the employment land needs of the county - larger businesses often need large sites and there are advantages to clustering
<p>'String' settlement / settlement cluster (Development focused on a number of linked settlements. It could involve new and/or existing/expanded settlements)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May or may not be close to existing high quality transport corridors • Relies on there being suitable broad locations available for this type of development • This may involve promoting development at some existing, currently small, settlements, which may significantly change their character • A number of smaller settlements could collectively, be of sufficient scale to be served by shared infrastructure

<p>'Wheel' settlement cluster</p> <p>(Focus on Oxford and the existing larger towns and the key corridors in to Oxford and between the towns)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This could be a variation on the spoke and hub approach but with the added benefits of stronger links between the towns • Could take some of the pressure off the corridors into Oxford
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Discussion Point 4: Do you agree with the commentary relating to the spatial scenarios illustrated, or do you think there are important considerations we have missed? Do you consider there are any other potential spatial scenarios we should consider? Are there any spatial scenarios you think we should avoid (please provide reasons if you can)?

57. This Plan aims to make the process understandable and transparent to all potential interested parties. It will explore all reasonable options for locating new development, exploring to what degree the options meet the objectives of the Oxfordshire Plan so that whatever decisions are taken, they are clearly justified. How locations perform in sustainability terms and potential capacities will be assessed at the next stage of the plan-making process. The views of communities and stakeholders arising from this consultation will also be taken into consideration when refining options.

INFRASTRUCTURE CONSIDERATIONS

58. It is vital that when planning for a sustainable future, full account is taken of the infrastructure needs associated with new development and infrastructure required to improve existing networks to accommodate growth.

59. The successful delivery of the housing and economic growth within the Oxfordshire Plan will require a strategic approach with infrastructure delivery, particularly transport and environmental planning. Many towns and roads in Oxfordshire struggle during peak times with average annual traffic flows increasing year on year. The Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy²² (OXIS) was prepared on behalf of the Oxfordshire Growth Board to provide a view of emerging development and infrastructure requirements to support growth from 2016 to 2031 and beyond. This work will be reviewed alongside the production of the Plan.

60. Improving connectivity, public transport networks, high quality walking and cycling access to transport hubs and reducing congestion are critical to delivering a highly functioning transport network in Oxfordshire which will in turn support economic growth by improving the movement of people and commercial goods.

²² [Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy Stage 2](#) (Nov 2017) AECOM

Key regional projects

61. During the period of the plan there are several large-scale infrastructure projects that are likely to come forward including the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway, East-West rail and the projects emerging from Thames Water's strategy for improving water supply, particularly the South East Strategic Reservoir Option for Oxfordshire.
62. Decisions on each of these will have an impact upon how and in what way Oxfordshire should grow. The big challenge for the Oxfordshire Plan is the different timescales of these projects and how the Plan should respond to them or how the Plan can influence them. We are working with decision makers to identify the ways in which projects can relate and interlink with the Oxfordshire Plan.

Transport connectivity

63. Planned transport infrastructure in Oxfordshire (for the earlier part of the Oxfordshire Plan) is set out in the Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan and reflected in the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy. This facilitates movements of different modes of transport around the county's road and rail network and is aimed at increasing the capacity of the network and mitigating the impact of vehicular traffic on the local environment. These planned interventions will contribute to addressing existing issues of congestion and poor air quality and mitigate the impact of 100,000 new homes already planned for in existing and emerging Local Plans.
64. However, there is still a funding gap and deliverability issues for many strategic projects and so their delivery is not guaranteed. A bold, forward thinking Oxfordshire Plan that sets a clear vision for growth is more likely to release opportunities for Government funding and will help direct local authority funding and Community Infrastructure Levy income to the projects that are priorities for supporting growth. The Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal also states that the Oxfordshire authorities will explore the potential for a countywide Strategic Infrastructure Tariff, to increase the flexibility of the developer contribution system, and encourage cross boundary planning to support the delivery of strategic infrastructure.
65. The Plan should recognise that technology will differ dramatically later in the plan period than it does now and this is likely to have a significant bearing on lifestyle choices and opportunities to travel in different ways. Electric vehicle use is already expanding and is likely to be common place by the 2030's. Innovations are already taking place in the development of autonomous vehicles which are likely to become a feature on the highway network in the coming years.
66. However, the Plan and the decisions on supporting infrastructure also needs to get the basics right as well as planning for future technologies. Public transport (in whatever form might be available in the future) must be able to function efficiently and reliably with priority at junctions and on shared road spaces and utilising smart technology. The design of developments should encourage the use of public transport and provide connections to encourage people to walk and cycle to jobs, services and transport hubs and improve connectivity to the county's accessible greenspaces.

Digital connectivity

67. Digital connectivity of people, things and places through broadband and mobile telecommunications has increased and improved dramatically in recent years. The ability for people to access services and perform tasks from anywhere at any time via connected devices has meant a dramatic change in human behaviour. Further growth in these technologies will require improved capacity.
68. With planned rollout of fibre networks to rural areas around Oxfordshire, communities will be better connected than ever before. By 2050, digital connectivity improvements in tandem with other technological advances are likely to have transformational effects on lifestyles, employment, access to services and the way in which people interact with one another.
69. The Oxfordshire Plan should be mindful of such transformational technology as it is likely to affect the way in which people physically move around the county, with potential implications for land use patterns and the design of homes and offices in both urban and rural areas.

Energy

70. With technological advancements in transport and digital connectivity, more houses, businesses and an increasing population, the supply and demand of energy across the county is a key issue to be addressed. In addition to this, tighter environmental regulations mean that the energy generated must be greener to reduce carbon emissions.
71. The existing grid for distributing energy around the county is constrained and the Oxfordshire Energy Strategy is considering ways in which the network can be strengthened. In the future decentralised and community energy provision. The Oxfordshire Plan must therefore facilitate a shift towards lower energy demand and low carbon forms of energy development.
72. Much of the development in Oxfordshire to 2050 will be comprised of residential development so opportunities must be sought to improve the energy efficiency of homes and reduce energy demands of households. It will be important for new developments to maximise energy efficiency whilst integrating renewable and smart energy technologies in order to minimise energy demand.

Social infrastructure

73. Planning for school places and GP services are critical elements of delivering successful places. Population growth if not planned carefully, can add pressure on services for new and existing residents. There is a strong level of provision of school places throughout Oxfordshire with existing schools being extended and new schools being planned to support growth. Cherwell in particular has the largest available capacity of the five local authorities. The highest concentrations of primary schools are within Oxford, and the main towns including Didcot, Banbury and Bicester. In certain settlements (e.g. Witney, Bicester, and Oxford City) there are clusters of schools which either have a current deficit of provision, or have fewer than 10 places available and new schools are being planned.

74. There are some areas of the County which geographically show a lack of secondary education providers (e.g. North West Oxfordshire), however given wider catchments for secondary schools, and that secondary age pupils can be expected to travel further to access schools; there is good access to secondary education provision across the County. Notably, there is very little evidence of deficiency in provision, with only one area (Oxford City) which has a school with a deficit in secondary places, and three others (one in South Oxfordshire and two in Cherwell) which have less than ten places available.
75. The Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group oversees GP and other primary and acute healthcare. There is a desire to deliver primary care services 'at scale' rather than through a number of small practice sites. This offers more opportunities to deliver more services, although it should be noted that there will be strategic sites where a smaller GP practice will be essential. It will also be necessary for the traditional GP to change to adapt to the demands of modern healthcare.
76. One of the biggest impacts on social care services is likely to be from an ageing population. Oxfordshire's Joint Health & Wellbeing Board have an aspiration to shift the focus of care from nursing homes to the assisted living (extra care) approach. There are already 13 schemes opened or under construction between 2011 and 2016 delivering an additional 656 extra care flats and a further 18 schemes proposed between 2016 and 2020 at a feasibility stage with the potential to deliver a further 1,238 extra care flats. This Board have an aspiration to deliver a considerable number of additional extra care housing places to meet the needs of Oxfordshire residents and to help to shift the focus of care from nursing homes to the assisted living approach.

Discussion point 5 – Do you agree with the commentary relating to the main infrastructure issues? Are there any changes or other issues that you would like to see referred to?

Next steps and how to comment

We are really keen to hear your views on this consultation document. Comments can be made from X to Y. Your views are important as they will help shape the next stage of the plan.

You can make comments in a number of different ways, the easiest way is likely to be online. On our project website www.oxfordshireplan.org there is a copy of this document, some supporting information and a page for you to leave your comments. Much more information on the Oxfordshire Plan can be found on our website and you can register your interest to be kept informed of the progress on the project.

Alternatively if you would prefer to send us your written comments you can download a comment form from the website or pick up a hard copy from any of the Council Offices or selected libraries as listed below and returned to the following address:

All comments/completed response forms should be received by 5pm on X.

All the comments received before the consultation closes will be analysed and a summary report produced and published on our website. The responses will be carefully considered and used to help prepare the next stage of the Oxfordshire Plan. Further details of the next steps will be published on our website.

Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Advisory Sub-Group

Thursday 20 December 2018, 10:00

Committee Room Two, West Oxfordshire District Council Offices

Present:

Councillor James Mills (JM), Oxfordshire Growth Board/West Oxfordshire District Council
 Councillor Jeff Haine (JH), West Oxfordshire District Council
 Councillor Will Hall (WH), South Oxfordshire District Council
 Councillor Anthony Hayward (AH), Vale of White Horse District Council
 Councillor Alex Hollingsworth (AH), Oxford City Council
 Councillor Jeannette Matelot (JMa), Oxfordshire County Council
 Councillor Mike Fox-Davies (MF-D), Oxfordshire County Council

In attendance:

Rachel Williams (RW), Oxford City Council

Apologies:

Giles Hughes (GH), West Oxfordshire District Council
 Councillor Colin Clarke (CC), Cherwell District Council

1. Notes of meeting held 15 November 2018

The sub-group **AGREED** the notes of the previous meeting.

It was also **AGREED** to change the name of the sub-group to the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Advisory Sub-Group going forward to reflect the re-branding of the plan name.

2. Apologies for absence

See above.

3. Declarations of Interest

None.

4. Oxfordshire Plan Draft Consultation Document (Regulation 18)

The sub-group thanked the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 team and facilitators of the launch event for a successful and well-attended event.

RW updated the sub-group on recent discussions with government around aligning the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 with work on the Expressway and advised that a meeting had been held with MHCLG and the Planning Inspectorate which was very helpful and constructive. Discussions were ongoing.

An extensive discussion on the consultation draft document followed and it was agreed that RW and team would amend the document accordingly.

The next steps for the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 were then discussed (summarised as follows):

RW advised that the website was anticipated to be launched by 21st December 2018.

The sub-group agreed they would welcome having sight of the feedback from the launch event.

A report was now to be taken to each of the district councils and the city council¹ in the last week of January recommending the following:

1. The adoption of the Statement of Community Involvement (“SCI”) as amended following the close of consultation
2. The approval of the amendment to the Local Development Scheme (“LDS”)
3. The approval of the Regulation 18 (Part 1) Issues consultation document for public consultation

Informal member briefings were to be held early in January, i.e. prior to the above-mentioned meetings.

The sub-group sought further clarification as to how the current timetable of consultation met the legislative requirements. RW explained that the Regulation 18 consultation was to be carried out in two stages to ensure the aspirational elements of the plan could be debated in detail at an early stage. This additional consultation did not affect the submission date. It was agreed among members of the sub-group that this was a good judgement.

Due to the uncertainty around the county’s Local Transport Plan and whether this would be a new LTP5 or a review of LTP4, RW proposed that John Disley of the County Council be asked to come and speak to the subgroup about the project plan for carrying out this work.

5. Future Meetings

It was noted that the next meeting of the sub-group was scheduled for Thursday 24 January 2019 (10a.m.).

The meeting finished at 12:05p.m.

¹ The arrangements for taking the plan through the county council’s constitutional process are to be slightly different given its non-decision making role.

Oxfordshire Local Plans: Progress Report

Purpose of report

- 1) To update the Growth Board with progress towards Local Plans adoption across the county

Recommendation

That the Growth Board note the report

Background- Progress to date

Cherwell

- 2) The council are undertaking a Partial Review of the adopted Cherwell Local Plan 2031, Part 1 to incorporate the Growth Board's apportionment of Oxford's unmet housing needs to Cherwell.
- 3) The proposed review was approved by Council in March 2018 and submitted to the Planning Inspector. The hearings commence on 5th February for approximately two weeks. Although the final timeline is uncertain the inspector has indicated he hope to be able to provide his examination conclusions in April 2019, leading to adoption by the council in the early summer

Oxford

- 4) Oxford City Council is preparing a Local Plan to 2036. The consultation on Proposed Submission (Regulation 19) document closed on 28th December 2018. Officers are currently working through responses to allow submission to the Secretary of State on 22nd March 2019. It will then be passed to the Government's Planning Inspectorate for a review and there will be a series of public examination hearings where the plan will be assessed to ensure it complies with national policy. The Council hopes the hearings will start in late summer or autumn so that the Council can vote to adopt the plan in early 2020.
- 5) Oxford City is also preparing a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule review. The consultation closed on 13th December 2018. This will be submitted for examination alongside the Oxford Local Plan and it is expected to run to a similar timeframe for examination as the Local Plan.

South Oxfordshire

- 6) South Oxfordshire are preparing a Local Plan to 2034 to provide for the district's own housing needs plus an element of the wider housing delivery to support the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal. The timeline for completion is:
 - a) Consultation on Proposed Submission (Regulation 19) document 7 January – 18 February 2019
 - b) Submission 29 March 2019
 - c) Examination Summer 2019
 - d) Adoption late 2019

Vale of White Horse:

- 7) Local Plan Part 1 was adopted in December 2016 and the council are now preparing a Local Plan to 2031, Part 2. This will incorporate the Growth Board's apportionment of Oxford's unmet housing needs to the Vale (plus further sites for the district's own needs). The timeline for completion is;
 - a) Main Modifications consultation February-March 2019
 - b) Inspector's Report - June 2018
 - c) Adoption – June/July 2018

West Oxfordshire

- 8) Following examination hearing sessions in May and July 2017 and consultation on main modifications in early 2018, the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031 was formally adopted on 27 September 2018.
- 9) Work has also started on a new Area Action Plan (AAP) for the Oxfordshire Cotswolds Garden Village with an initial 'issues' consultation taking place from June – August 2018. The anticipated timetable to adoption expected to be as follows:
 - a) Preferred options – June 2019
 - b) Formal Regulation 19 publication – November 2019
 - c) Submission – February 2020
 - d) Examination – April 2020
 - e) Adoption – July 2020