

Agenda



Oxfordshire Growth Board

Wednesday 11 March 2020 at 2.00 pm
Fountain Conference Centre, Howbery Park, Wallingford,
Oxfordshire OX10 8BA

From 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2020, the Oxfordshire Growth Board meetings are managed by South Oxfordshire District Council.

Contact: Kevin Jacob

E-mail: democratic.services@oxfordshiregrowthboard.org

Telephone: 01235 422191

Website: www.oxfordshiregrowthboard.org

members 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020

Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council (which holds the Chair)	Councillor Sue Cooper
Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council (which holds the Vice-Chair)	Councillor Emily Smith
Leader of Cherwell District Council	Councillor Barry Wood
Leader of Oxford City Council	Councillor Susan Brown
Leader of Oxfordshire County Council	Councillor Ian Hudspeth
Leader of West Oxfordshire District Council	Councillor James Mills
Chairman of OxLEP	Jeremy Long
Vice-Chairman and Skills Board representative	Adrian Lockwood
Universities representative	Professor Alistair Fitt
OxLEP business representative - Bicester	Miranda Markham
OxLEP business representative – Oxford City	Peter Nolan
OxLEP business representative – Science Vale	Angus Horner
Homes England representative	Catherine Turner/Kevin Bourner
Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group representative	Louise Patten
Environment Agency representative	Emma Hill

Notes:

1. *Members of the Board may be accompanied at the table by senior officers from their organisation.*
2. *One member, one vote for each constituent local authority member only.*

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

AGENDA

MAP

A map showing the location of Howbery Park is attached, as is a plan showing the location of the Fountain Conference Centre on the Howbery Park site.

1 **Apologies for absence**

2 **Declarations of interest**

3 **Minutes** (Pages 9 - 17)

To adopt as a correct record the minutes of the Oxfordshire Growth Board meeting held on 28 January 2020.

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 Thursday 5 March 2020 three clear working days before the Growth Board meeting.

Addressing the Board

Notice of a wish to address the Growth Board by making a statement must be received by 12 noon on Tuesday 10 March 2020, the working day before the Growth Board meeting.

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

6 **Growth Board Scrutiny Panel update** (To Follow)

To receive any recommendations from the Growth Board Scrutiny Panel meeting held on

4 March 2020. (To follow)

7 Quarter 3 Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Progress Report and Financial Summary (Pages 18 - 31)

To update the Growth Board of the 2019/20 Quarter 3 progress report for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal and endorse any amendments to the programmes of work as necessary. Also, to receive the Quarter 3 financial summary for the Housing and Growth Deal.

8 Oxfordshire Plan 2050 sub-group update (To Follow)

To receive an update from the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 sub-group. Summary notes from the meeting held on 13 February 2020 (to follow).

9 Zero Carbon Housing (Pages 32 - 44)

To update the Growth Board on zero carbon housing technology and consider wider opportunities for Oxfordshire.

10 Feedback from the Growth Board and Health & Wellbeing Board Networking Event (Page 45)

To provide feedback from the Growth Board and Health & Wellbeing Board networking event held on 5 February 2020.

11 Oxford to Cambridge Arc Update (Verbal Report)

To update the Growth Board on recent developments in respect of the Oxford to Cambridge Arc.

12 Growth Board Forward Plan (Pages 46 - 48)

To note and comment on the Growth Board's Forward Plan.

13 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.

14 Dates of next meetings

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

- 2 June 2020
- 22 September 2020
- 24 November 2020
- 26 January 2021
- 23 March 2021

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.



Birmingham airport


B4009 Watlington
M40 J6

A4074 Oxford


A4130 Didcot




Sat Nav: OX10 8BA

Brightwell

Benson


Wallingford

Centre for Ecology & Hydrology
South Oxfordshire
District Council

Crowmarsh
Gifford

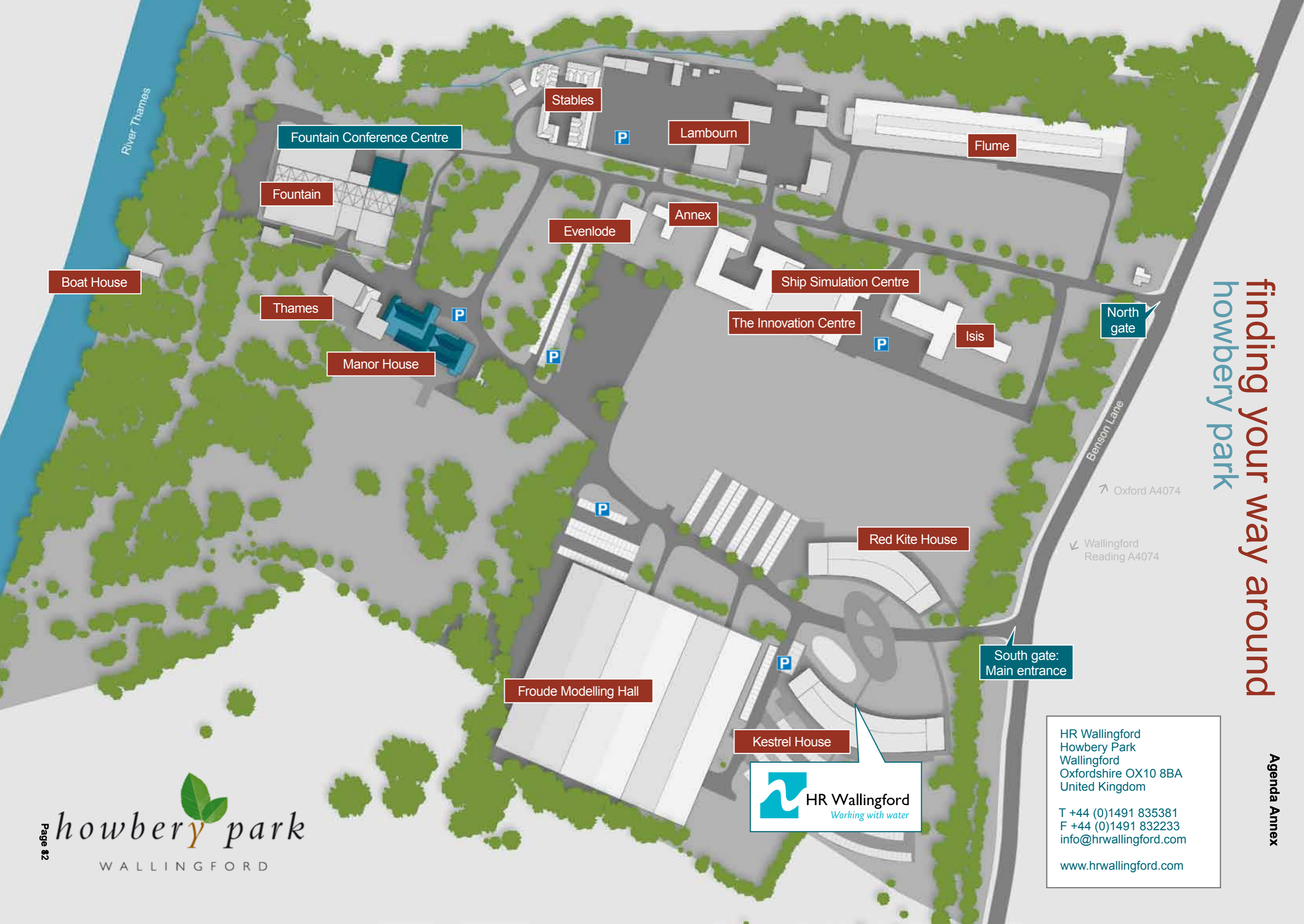
A4130 Henley
M40 J4 

A4074 Reading


London Heathrow


Agenda Annex

finding your way around howbery park



North gate

South gate:
Main entrance

↑ Oxford A4074

↓ Wallingford
Reading A4074



HR Wallingford
Howbery Park
Wallingford
Oxfordshire OX10 8BA
United Kingdom

T +44 (0)1491 835381
F +44 (0)1491 832233
info@hrwallingford.com

www.hrwallingford.com

Minutes

OF A MEETING OF THE

Oxfordshire Growth Board

OXFORDSHIRE

G R O W T H B O A R D

HELD ON TUESDAY 28 JANUARY 2020 AT 2.00 PM**DIDCOT CIVIC HALL, BRITWELL ROAD, DIDCOT, OX11 7JN**

Present:

Councillor Sue Cooper, (Chair), (South Oxfordshire District Council), Councillor Susan Brown, (Oxford City Council), Councillor Ian Hudspeth (Oxfordshire County Council), Councillor James Mills (West Oxfordshire District Council), Adrian Lockwood, (OxLEP Vice-Chairman), Jeremy Long, (OxLEP Chairman), Louise Patten, (Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group), Catherine Turner, (Homes England), Angus Horner, (OxLEP business representative - Science Vale), Councillor Emily Smith (Vale of White Horse District Council), Peter Nolan (OXLEP business representative - Oxford City), Emma Hill (Environment Agency), Professor Linda King, (Universities) and Councillor Barry Wood, Cherwell District Council.

Officers: Caroline Green (Oxford City Council), Bev Hindle (Oxfordshire Growth Board), Giles Hughes (West Oxfordshire District Council), Kevin Jacob, Oxfordshire Growth Board, Gordon Mitchell (Oxford City Council), Nigel Tipple (Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership), Yvonne Rees (Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire County Council), Mark Stone (South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils), Stefan Robinson (Oxfordshire Growth Board), Craig Bower (Oxfordshire County Council), John Disley (Oxfordshire County Council), Matt Haywood (Network Rail) and Ed Vokes (Department for Transport)

Other councillors: Councillor Andrew Gant, (Oxford City Council and Chair of the Oxfordshire Growth Board Scrutiny Panel).

33 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Professor Alistair Fitt, (the Universities' representative) who was substituted by Professor Linda King and Miranda Markham, (OxLEP Business Representative – Bicester).

34 Declarations of interest

None

35 Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Oxfordshire Growth Board held on 24 September 2019 be signed as a correct record.

36 Chair's announcements

The Chair indicated that, with the meeting's concurrence, she intended to vary the order of the Agenda to consider Items 10 and 11 after Item 7.

Attention was also drawn to the revised date and venue of the next meeting – Wednesday 11 March 2020 at the Fountain Conference Centre, Howbery Park, Wallingford.

37 Public participation

The Growth Board received four public questions and two public addresses.

1. **Councillor Judy Roberts** had submitted a written question in relation to the Oxfordshire Rail Corridor Study report. Given her understanding that the Oxford Station Master plan was scheduled to be implemented by 2024, Councillor Roberts suggested that the programming of the signalling changes was unreasonably slow that the signalling changes required to implement the Cowley Branch line station must wait until 2026-27. The Growth Board was, therefore, asked put pressure on Network Rail to bring the signalling changes forward.

The Chair invited John Disley, Infrastructure Strategy and Policy Manager, to respond. The Growth Board was informed that the 2024 commitment was to Oxford Station Phase 2 (which facilitated East West Rail Phase 2), and that there was no firm assurance regarding the delivery date of the full station masterplan.

Further, they were also told that the reinstatement of the Cowley branch line required much more than signalling changes. For example, a track capacity upgrade would be required on the main line in order for services to be able to operate to/from Oxford and beyond. There was currently no funding or firm commitment to carry out this work.

The Oxfordshire Rail Corridor Study was effectively proposing to bring together Phase 3 of the Oxford Station upgrade (which would deliver the full masterplan), the track capacity upgrades and the Cowley branch line. All of these projects had been identified as being required by 2028.

Network Rail could only deliver schemes that were funded. The Oxfordshire Rail Corridor Study provided an opportunity to secure the commitment for further investment and, therefore, was an important step in the potential delivery of these projects.

2. **Sue Haywood on behalf of Need Not Greed Oxfordshire** had submitted a written question about the Growth Board Review. Whilst recognising and welcoming that the recent review had included recognition of the need to embed environmental and social wellbeing considerations more effectively into the Growth Board's work and output, concern was expressed that the 'growth' agenda remained at the core of the Board's purpose and title. In relation to the Growth Board's role as both an influencer to and influence of HM Government, fears were expressed regarding the impact of 'influencers' on the development of the spatial options within the Oxfordshire Plan 2050. Concerns were also expressed in reference to HM Government intervening in South Oxfordshire District Council's Local Plan.

The Board was asked if it agreed that now was the opportunity to revisit, in the first phase of change arising from the review, the fundamental aims of the Growth Board as an important forum for collaboration between the local councils in Oxfordshire and reflect this as quickly as possible in the revised Terms of Reference for the structure.

In response, the Chair indicated that points were well made, but that the review did indeed provide an opportunity for the Growth Board to revisit its aims, and the report provided a starting point for that conversation. The Growth Board would review its aims in the coming months through the revised Terms of Reference. These would then progress through the relevant decision-making processes of each council for endorsement.

Sue Haywood was of the view that there was a feeling of disconnect and lack of awareness amongst local councillors about the Growth Board's work. For example, she was of the opinion, that there was a lack of engagement by local councillors, as elected representatives, in significant matters such as the Oxford to Cambridge Arc and the Local Industrial Strategy. She asked if the Growth Board would use the review to strengthen local accountability.

The Chair responded that local councillors had been engaged and involved in the Growth Board review including via dedicated workshops.

3. Michael Tyce on behalf of Campaign for Protection of Rural England (CPRE) had submitted a written question that asked whether the Growth Board supported the intervention of the Secretary of State in South Oxfordshire District Council's Local Plan and the possibility of moving responsibility for the Plan to the County Council.

The Chair responded that the Growth Board's view was that this was a matter for South Oxfordshire District Council and HM Government and, therefore, it would be unhelpful for the Board to become involved.

Michael Tyce rephrased the question to ask the Growth Board to comment on the principle of the Secretary of State intervening in any local plan.

The Board noted the remarks but restated its former position.

Angus Horner, OxLEP Business Representative – Science Vale, stated his personal view that in an ideal world the intervention by the Secretary of State would not have taken place, but the situation was very difficult. In his view, Growth Board review provided an opportunity to revisit aims and there was an aspiration in collaboration to move forward together.

4. Roger Williams on behalf of POETS (Planning Oxfordshire's Environment and Transport Sustainability) had submitted a written question that asked the Growth Board to seek a commitment from HM Government to carry out the promised public engagement exercise on the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway (and that this should incorporate the review promised by Grant Shapps). The Growth Board was also asked for the review to give priority to addressing the climate emergency – which has been acknowledged by the Board and HM Government.

The Chair responded that the Growth Board had previously expressed the need for greater clarity from HM Government over their plans for the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway. Further, it was intended that the Growth Board would remain a space where these types of

sub-regional issues could be discussed. Highways England were due to attend the Growth Board meeting on 26 November 2019 to discuss their consultation plans. However, this was cancelled due to the pre-election period affecting their attendance, and they were recently unable to commit to a revised meeting date. The Growth Board strongly supported the need for appropriate public consultation to be carried out by HM Government in relation to the Expressway, and this would be made clear to them at each stage of the process.

Roger Williams added that the implications of the Expressway were significant for housing numbers across the Oxford to Cambridge Arc, and for the Oxfordshire Plan 2050. It should, therefore, be subject to open public engagement and debate as promised by both local and central government.

The Chair commented that these points were acknowledged. Bev Hindle, Growth Board Director, commented that HM Government had intended to undertake a public engagement exercise over the summer of 2019. This had, however, not taken place for several reasons e.g. Brexit and the General Election. Whilst public engagement was currently on hold, it was still expected to occur. Furthermore, although related the Expressway was separate to the Oxford to Cambridge Arc.

Giles Hughes, Chief Executive of West Oxfordshire District Council, informed the meeting that there was no top-down housing target. Work was ongoing to develop a range of different housing growth scenarios and options. It would, however, be a matter for local councils in Oxfordshire to decide what action to take.

5. Dr Jayne Manley, Chief Executive of the Earth Trust addressed the Growth Board to support the findings of the Growth Board review, particularly proposals for bringing more environmental consideration to the Growth Board's work and links to Oxfordshire Environment Board. She commented that society faced significant challenges, but there was an opportunity for Oxfordshire to provide leadership in respect of the environment. This did need to be matched by appropriate resources.

6. Ian Green, Oxford Civic Society addressed the Growth Board on the Oxfordshire Rail Corridor Study. The scale of the ambition of the proposals was welcomed as was the proposed next stages of work. The balance on medium/longer rail services of inclusivity versus segmentation was queried. He suggested that more rolling stock was needed that met local and feeder service passenger's needs, not passengers travelling from locations such as Birmingham. Hourly services would not be enough on already busy lines and a wider review of access to rail services was needed. It was interesting to see what the impact of the proposals on freight would be and electrification needed to be supported.

John Disley, Infrastructure Strategy and Policy Manager responded that it was still early in the process, but that the balance of short and long-term could be examined (including any best practice from other regions). Oxford had the potential to be a national rail hub which was not the case for other areas.

38 Growth Board Scrutiny Panel update

The Growth Board welcomed Councillor Gant, Chair of the Growth Board Scrutiny Panel, to the meeting.

Councillor Gant reported on the outcome of the Growth Board Scrutiny Panel held on 23 January 2020. He thanked Councillor Mills for appearing and expressed his gratitude to the officers who had attended/contributed to the meeting.

The main themes arising from the Panel included acknowledgment of the concerns expressed by residents about the role 'influencers' on the development of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 briefs; and the Growth Board review – including proposals relating to the Scrutiny Panel. HM government's engagement around the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway was also discussed.

In response to Councillor Gant, the Chair indicated that a full written response would be provided and published in due course. The recommendations had, however, been noted and would be taken into consideration by the Board.

In respect of Recommendation 2, Councillor Smith supported the sentiment expressed by the Scrutiny Panel that the Growth Board should seek clarity on HM Government's plan for the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway. She proposed that a letter should be written on behalf of the Growth Board to the Secretary of State (rather than to Highways England). This was agreed by the Board.

In respect of Recommendation 5 and the Digital Infrastructure Strategy (DIS), Louise Pattern, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group representative commented that there was strength in the Growth Board taking a wider view of the significant implications and opportunities arising from greater digital connectivity.

39 Growth Board Review

The Growth Board considered a report which set out the results of the consultation as part of the review of the Growth Board's role and functions, together with initial findings and recommendations. Bev Hindle, Growth Board Director and Stefan Robinson, Growth Board Manager, presented the report. Points highlighted to the Board included:

- There had been around 215 responses to the public consultation – in addition to engagement workshops with the public and councillors. The appendix to the report provides a flavour of the responses received (these have been linked back to the report and its proposals).
- Themes from the consultation included a clear endorsement of collaboration around meeting the challenges of managing growth, but also that the Growth Board needed to do better, particularly in how it communicated.
- The Growth Board had evolved, but there is a need to build upon its success in bringing funding into the county and to further improve how it manages growth.
- A two-phased approach was recommended, with the initial changes (including revised Terms of Reference for the Board) being brought back by June 2020. Longer-term changes relating to wider engagement would be reported back in the Autumn. In developing these proposals, it would be important to retain both flexibility and an ability to respond to changing circumstances.
- The feedback from the Growth Board Scrutiny Panel highlighted the importance of incorporating environmental and social elements into the Growth Board's work.

Key points raised during the Board's discussion of the report included:

- The process of the review itself had been very useful in helping to explain and demystify the Growth Board's work, particularly in respect of restating and clarifying what it did, but also what it did not do.
- The revisions to the Growth Board Terms of Reference needed to reflect inclusive growth and sustainability.
- The Growth Board had evolved over time but remained a successful vanguard model for collaboration that other areas sought to emulate and which the new Government might wish to use in following its own policy objectives around devolution.
- The Growth Board had been very successful in securing significant HM Government funding through the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal and Housing Infrastructure Fund bids and it was important to deliver on the terms of the deal.
- Whilst successful, it was important for the Growth Board to seek continuous improvement and the proposals contained the right balance between short term and medium-term proposals.
- It was important that the timescales set out in the recommendations were met.

The Chair and members of the Board thanked officers for their work in undertaking the review and developing the proposals. All those contributing to the review process were thanked for their contributions and input.

RESOLVED: That the Growth Board:

1. Notes the results of the consultation which have been fundamental in shaping the detailed recommendations to take forward;
2. Instructs the Growth Board Director and Manager, with the support of the Board's Executive Officer Group, to develop detailed draft Terms of Reference for the Board which incorporate the key initial changes and return those for endorsement by June 2020;
3. Instructs the Growth Board Director and Manager, with the support of the Board's Executive Officer Group, to further develop the longer-term proposals and report back further suggested improvements by Autumn 2020.

40 Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Progress Report Q2

The Growth Board considered a report which set out progress as at Quarter 2, Year 2 (2019/2020) of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal. It was noted that Quarter 3 data would be reported to the March meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Growth Board notes the progress at Quarter 2, 2019/2020 towards the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.

41 Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Grant Funding Streams Interim Financial Summary Report - Period Q2 2019/20

The Growth Board considered a report which set out an update of the interim financial position of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Grant Funding Streams for the Infrastructure Programme, Affordable Housing Programme and the Growth Deal Capacity Fund for the period 2017/2018 to Quarter 2 2019/2020.

RESOLVED: That the Growth Board note the interim financial report at Quarter 2, 2019/2020.

42 Oxfordshire Rail Corridor Study

The Growth Board considered a report setting out the findings of the first stage of the Oxfordshire Rail Corridor Study and laying out the proposed approach for the next stage of the work programme. In addition, it also provided a summary of the outcomes of a specific examination of the potential to reopen the Cowley branch line for passenger services. John Disley, Infrastructure Strategy and Policy Manager presented the report. The following points were highlighted to the Board:

- The Oxfordshire Rail Corridor Study had been funded through a partnership between HM Government and other stakeholders (including the Growth Board).
- The Board's attention was drawn to some minor typographic errors in the study's Executive Summary and Annex 3. They were informed that these would be corrected in the online papers after the meeting.
- The main findings of the Study were that a significant uplift in rail capacity and connectivity in Oxfordshire was required along with a new Train Service Specification.
- Taking account of the specific schemes and significant investment required, rail could have a critical role in supporting planned growth and employment opportunities across Oxfordshire.
- The next stages of the Study, based upon the highest priority projects, included more detailed consideration and analysis of the core rail corridor between the Oxford North Junction and Didcot, and the network from Didcot to Swindon (including the junctions to the north and east of Didcot).

In discussion, members of the Growth Board welcomed the report and supported the recommendation to approve the next stages of work. Members, nevertheless, raised several detailed queries and points of clarification relating to specific services and stations – these included the Cowley branch line, calls to investigate the reopening of the Witney to Oxford line and potential stations at Grove/Wantage.

Members also discussed climate change and the decarbonisation of the rail sector. Topics raised included: electrification, the potential for freight and the importance of stations being accessible to other forms of travel e.g. buses and cycles – it was also highlighted that this could help to mitigate some parking issues.

It was noted that the Oxfordshire Rail Corridor Study was built around several working assumptions – including the advent of East West Rail Phase 2 – and it was possible that these would need to change as a result of different circumstances, i.e. electrification. It was also acknowledged that, due to the volume of work required, it was important to manage expectations. Resources and effort would, therefore, be prioritised on the schemes that could be progressed most readily.

The importance of the local authority contributions towards rail-related schemes was also stated. This not only helped to show an ongoing commitment to HM Government and Network Rail, but also acted as a catalyst to rail projects (including stations).

RESOLVED:

1. That Growth Board welcomes the outcomes and conclusions of the first stage of the Oxfordshire Rail Corridor Study;

2. That the Growth Board approves the next stages of the work.

43 Digital Infrastructure Strategy

The Growth Board considered a report on the Oxfordshire Digital Infrastructure Strategy. Craig Bower, Digital Infrastructure Programme Director, presented the report. The following points were highlighted:

- As a result of the public funds invested through the Better Broadband Programme, levels of broadband coverage in the county had increased to around 97% - around 70% of households are connected.
- Digital infrastructure was as important as highways infrastructure and had a role to play in mitigating the negative implications of growth.
- The next step was to facilitate the provision of improved digital infrastructure – including both full fibre and 5G connectivity. This would help meet future demand and ensure that the network was not overwhelmed.
- In discussions and negotiations with partners, such as HM Government and digital infrastructure providers, it was important for local councils to show alignment of approach.
- The challenge of increasing digital connectivity was not restricted to rural areas. The City of Oxford, for instance, had less than 1% full fibre connectivity and to improve upon this would have its challenges e.g. unavoidable disruption.
- Agreement by constituent councils to a Memorandum of Understanding was underway and a decision by Oxfordshire County Council to adopt the strategy was expected in February.

In discussion, Members of the Board supported the strategy. They noted that broadband and mobile digital connectivity problems were not just restricted to rural areas and affected urban areas also.

RESOLVED: That the Growth Board:

1. Welcomes the Digital Infrastructure Strategy as a key component of planning for a sustainable and connected future for Oxfordshire, and;
2. Recommends that each constituent council of the Growth Board considers adoption of the Digital Infrastructure Strategy via their own decision-making process.

44 Oxfordshire local plans progress

The Growth Board considered a report setting out progress on the adoption of Local Plans by each local planning authority across the county.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

45 Infrastructure sub-group update

The Growth Board received the notes of the Infrastructure Sub-Group meetings held on 18 September 2019, 6 November 2019 and 14 January 2020.

46 Housing sub-group update

The Growth Board received the notes of the Housing Sub-Group held on 5 November 2019 and 7 January 2020.

47 Oxfordshire Plan 2050 sub-group update

The Growth Board received the notes of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Sub-Group held on 17 October 2019 and 14 November 2019.

Councillor Mills highlighted that as part of seeking to engage more with young people about the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, a workshop had been held in October 2019 with Voice of Oxfordshire Youth (VOXY).

48 Growth Board Forward Plan

The Growth Board noted its published forward programme as set out in the Agenda.

49 Updates on matters relevant to the Growth Board

No matters in addition to those set out in the Agenda were raised.

50 Dates of next meetings

The Growth Board noted the dates of future Board meetings as set out below. Meetings to be held at 2pm in Dicot Civic Hall unless otherwise specified.

- **Wednesday 11 March 2020 (rescheduled from 7 April), Fountain Conference Centre, Howbery Park, Wallingford**
- 2 June 2020
- 22 September 2020 (provisional)
- 24 November 2020 (provisional)
- 26 January 2021 (provisional)
- 23 March 2021 (provisional)

The meeting closed at 15:55

Chairman

Date

To: Oxfordshire Growth Board

Title of Report: Quarter 3 Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Progress Report and Financial Summary

Date: 11 March 2020

Report of: Bev Hindle, Growth Board Director

Status: Open

Executive Summary and Purpose:

- I. The purpose of this report is to update the Growth Board on progress at Quarter 3, Year 2 (2019/20) with the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal (the Deal).
- II. The report provides a summary of the following strands of the Deal.
 - Infrastructure programme
 - Affordable Housing programme
 - Oxfordshire Plan 2050.
- III. The fourth strand of the Deal, Productivity is reported through the OXLEP Board under separate arrangements.
- IV. A separate annex detailing the financial position of the Growth Deal as at 31/12/19 is appended to this report.

Recommendation:

That the Growth Board notes the progress at Quarter 3, 2019/20 towards the Housing and Growth Deal and notes the interim financial report at Annex 1.

Appendices:

Annex 1: Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Grant Funding Streams Interim Financial Summary Report: Year 2 Period Q1 - Q3 2019/20

CONTEXT

1. The Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal is one of a kind with no direct comparator in the country (either before or since it was agreed) – a short term growth deal pilot. In Year 1 we met all targets set despite needing time to effectively mobilise from day 1.
2. Year 2 was always going to be the most difficult as we would not have the benefit of any existing infrastructure or housing schemes to call on and with the nature of scheme development needing significant time from concept to design to delivery, meeting a flat target of spend and delivery has been a

challenge. Delivery of such programmes is never a straight line and inevitably projects and programmes will slip.

3. We have made substantial improvements to our own governance and approval processes and have worked with delivery partners and stakeholders to ensure we are committing wherever we can to delivery – this is despite very challenging circumstances with the market slowing down and with the competition we face in delivery of affordable housing for example.
4. We have also agreed a varied timeline for delivery of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050. The target was always ambitious, but with the emerging climate change agenda, inclusive growth and the regional picture taking shape in the Oxford to Cambridge Arc (including great uncertainty and potential change of commitment around the expressway), it makes statutory plan-making very difficult – particularly when that plan has a 30-year time horizon. However, this is such an important guide for future delivery, and it needs to be done properly, taking the time needed to ensure it is sound and robust.
5. The following Q3 report identifies some areas where we are not delivering to target. Despite market slow-down, overall housing delivery against target is still strong over time and we have made substantial efforts, such as pooling local Section 106 funding to act as a “Top-Up Fund”, to help deliver more affordable housing units. We are also working to improve our capital spend profile and the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 is running in line with the revised target timetable.

HOMES FROM INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME

6. The Growth Board will recall that the Homes from Infrastructure Programme (Hfi) is a £150m investment in infrastructure to support the acceleration of already planned housing in Oxfordshire over a five-year period from 2018/19 to 2022/23. The infrastructure projects include road, rail, cycle routes and footpaths, as well as social infrastructure such as schools.
7. The Hfi programme has two aspects.
 - Firstly, the commitment to spend £30 million per annum on named infrastructure projects that have been identified as enablers for planned growth in Oxfordshire.
 - Secondly that this expenditure will unlock 6,549 planned homes that might not otherwise have come forward at this pace.

Infrastructure

8. Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) are the lead delivery partner for the infrastructure work strand, which is being delivered through OCC’s capital projects governance framework and project lifecycle. Monitoring, reporting and control of project and work-stream level performance is reported monthly to the Growth Deal Programme Board.
9. The Growth Board will recall that in the last update officers advised that maturing spend profiles for the planned infrastructure schemes was leading to

the conclusion that the originally negotiated spend profile of £30 million per annum did not reflect the reality of the programme.

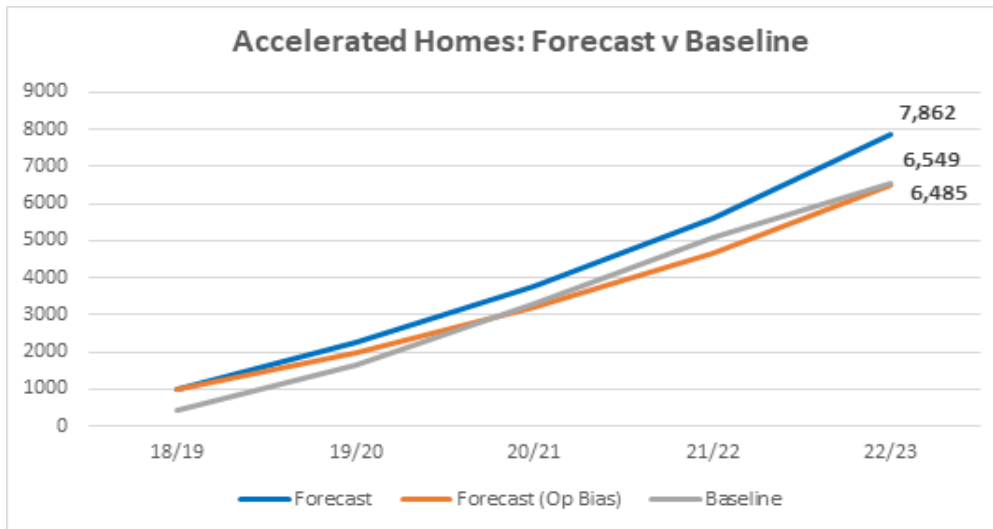
10. Officers reported that they believed that a more realistic profile would see spend much more backloaded, with greater spend at the latter end of the 5-year period when projects reach the construction phases. Years two and three will see the majority of spend associated with planning and design work which is typically only a small percentage of an overall schemes cost.
11. Accordingly, Oxfordshire County Council and the Growth Deal team undertook a comprehensive assurance exercise to review the spend profile of the Infrastructure Programme.
12. A draft proposal has been discussed with Government officers, detailing measures to ensure infrastructure spend commitments are met. Officers will report back on progress once these have been agreed.

Risk Management

13. The following risks have been identified as the key risks to the infrastructure programme:
 - The increased backloading of the infrastructure programme, leading to concerns that some schemes may fall outside of the time-frame of the Deal.
 - Managing the impact of the infrastructure programme upon the Oxfordshire road network.
 - Procurement and market readiness.
 - Potential delays due to the need to acquire land through compulsory purchase.
 - Reliance on third parties (developers / network rail etc) for delivery.
14. Officers have developed risk registers for each infrastructure scheme, including appropriate mitigations that are regularly reported to the Programme Board to ensure that risk is managed.

Delivering Housing from Infrastructure

15. Officers have previously reported that we achieved the year one target of 494 homes, accelerating 978 in that first year.
16. Officers believe that this acceleration was mainly due to the market conditions created by the first stages of the investment in infrastructure, providing developers with confidence in an already buoyant housing market to increase the pace of development.
17. The current predicted trajectory for the full 5 years of the Homes from Infrastructure programme is as follows:



18. The graph shows that, against the trajectory of accelerated homes agreed in the Deal, of 6549 homes, we are predicting to accelerate 7862 homes. Once we factor in the appropriate optimism bias percentage to this expectation, we are expecting to achieve 6485 homes.
19. The Board will note that the trajectory has reduced since we last reported to the Board and is now below the 6549 target, when the full optimism bias is applied
20. The Board will note however that the figure of 6485 is a mid-year estimate of housing completions, subject to the full 20% optimism bias and therefore a cautious estimate of performance. Officers are very confident that when we come to the year end and count actual completions- at which point the optimism bias will not be required- our final year end position will be above target.
21. Notwithstanding the above, the trend of the accelerated trajectory is of a gradual reduction. Initial investigations have identified that this reduction is due to slowing down on several larger strategic sites- in line with an overall slowdown in the housing market -with one large site whose acceleration has not been possible due to delays in the delivery of the necessary infrastructure not now expected to deliver any units in the Deal period.
22. Whilst the delivery of the infrastructure is strongly related to the delivery of the accelerated housing trajectory, it is not the only factor in the delivery of the housing. Each housing site in the Hfl trajectory has individual challenges and dependencies that need to be project managed by the partners, alongside the developers and other stakeholders to ensure that the anticipated delivery trajectory comes to fruition.
23. To secure delivery, officers compile detailed delivery plans for each site that set out the challenges and milestones to delivery that will be required and RAG (Red, Amber, Green) rate the likelihood that the expected trajectory will be achieved. These delivery plans form a database that partners, coordinated by the Growth Deal Team use to performance manage the delivery of housing.

Risk Management

24. The delivery plans contain the following risks, identified as the key to the delivery of homes:

- The pace of infrastructure delivery, particularly that identified as crucial to the acceleration of homes and the consequent impact on the pace of related housing development.
- Reliance on third parties (developers / network rail etc) for delivery of infrastructure.
- The speed of resolution of any planning issues needed to unblock sites.
- Potential impact of external market factors and the health of the economy.
- The stage and pace of development of some of Oxfordshire's Local Plans.

25. Ongoing analysis of the above risks ensure a comprehensive understanding of mitigation activities are planned.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMME (OAHF)

26. The numeric targets for the OAHF agreed in the Housing and Growth Deal, together with the Qtr. 2 and current projected programme is as follows:

	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Total
Agreed targets	148	464	710	1322
Programme as at 30/6/19	191*	333	777	1301
Programme as at 31/12/19	191*	192	1050	1433

*achieved

27. The total budget for the Programme agreed in the Housing and Growth Deal is £60million, over three years. The indicative budget drawdown, based upon the current predicted delivery is as follows

	Year One (£m)	Year Two (£m)	Year Three (£m)	Total (£m)
Indicative budget (£)	£6.5	£21.5	£32	£60
Current predicted drawdown (£) at 30/9/19	£6.715*	£13.615	£32.370	£52.70
Current predicted drawdown (£) at 31/12/19	£6.715*	£8.08	£41.475	£56.27

*achieved

28. The Growth Board will note the changes between Qtr. 2 and Qtr.3 for the OAHP. These changes are a result of a comprehensive audit of the year two programme by each council, at the request of Homes England. This has resulted in the current programme growing to 1433 units, above the target set in the Deal. Consequently, the proposed budget drawdown has also increased to £56.27million against the target allocation of £60million. Partners will now carry out a similar audit for the year three programme for reporting to Homes England at the year end.
29. Within this interim position of an overall improvement to the position of the OAHP, the key issues are;
- The year two programme has reduced materially and now delivers only 41 % of the target set. This is mainly a result of schemes not coming forward at the pace anticipated and being pushed back to year three of the programme.
 - Consequently, the number of units now pushed back to be delivered in year three has increased, meaning that over 70% of the target will be delivered in the final year. This will pose a challenge for officers to bring these schemes to fruition before the OAHP ends on 31/3/21.
30. Officers have previously advised the Growth Board that the largest challenge to the success of the OAHP is the grant rates set for the programme and our contention, based upon market evidence, that the grant rates that Homes England were offering to Registered Providers were significantly higher than those we could offer through the OAHP and consequently we could not compete with.
31. Officers have kept the Growth Board abreast in previous reports of our continuing discussions with Government, with a view to creating a level playing field for the OAHP. To date government has agreed that:
- Partner Registered Providers (RPs) that hold reserves of Recycled Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) can use this alongside OAHP grant.
 - OAHP grant can be used to bring forward schemes comprising leasehold properties, if the lease is of enough length and grant can be reclaimed if it is terminated early.
 - OAHP grant can be used to refurbish redundant care homes and count fully as additional units.
32. These concessions by Government are in large part a response by them to the commitment shown by Oxfordshire councils to the success of the OAHP, witnessed by the establishment in each council of a local Top up Fund to be used as a fund of last resort to augment OAHP Grant and other sources of funding.
33. During the last quarter Oxfordshire partners asked MHCLG to consider the following proposals to assist with the OAHP

- Whether Oxford, as the only stock owning authority in the county, can use its Retained Right to Buy Receipts (RRTB), alongside local top up funds, to deliver affordable housing that we can count towards the OAHF.
- Whether Oxfordshire, like Homes England will be allowed to count affordable housing units delivered through our planning processes without grant towards the OAHF targets.
- Whether we will be able to also use these nil grant units in the calculation of our average grant rates, thus reducing the overall average and providing some potential headroom for high grant levels for expensive schemes.

34. MHCLG have recently advised us that unfortunately these flexibilities are not something that they can agree to, offering the following reasons:

- The Government have recently consulted on flexibilities for councils with RRTB receipts and do not wish to prejudge this.
- MHCLG believe that to allow Oxfordshire to count affordable housing units delivered through the planning process would detract from the central purpose of the OAHF, which is to provide additional affordable housing over and above that secured through planning policy.

35. Officers will continue to engage with Government on innovative ways to maximise the value of the OAHF for Oxfordshire.

Risk Management

36. The key risks to delivery of individual schemes within the OAHF are from delays in planning and tender processes, financial challenges to schemes and funding gaps. These risks are managed at district/city level.

37. In addition to these site-specific risks, there are more general risks identified for the Programme, these are:

- That the OAHF is not currently large enough to withstand the anticipated dropout rate of schemes that typically occurs through the programme, as a result for example of planning delays. Experience to date suggests that up to a third of schemes can be delayed in any one year for a variety of reasons, and the OAHF needs to have the capacity to allow for such drop out and still deliver to target.
- The risks to the OAHF of a downturn in the economy, slowing housing completion rates and thence the affordable units developed. This risk could however also be an opportunity as it may also provide opportunities to bulk purchase units as affordable housing from developers, keen to offload unsold stock, bolster cash flows and retain tradesman on site.

OXFORDSHIRE PLAN 2050

38. Work in Qtr. 3 has been focussed on several key areas:
- Continuing engagement with stakeholders and in particular Duty to Co-operate bodies-a prescribed list of bodies that there is a statutory duty on the district/city councils to co-operate with in plan making.
 - Broadening the reach of our engagement, targeting those underrepresented in consultation responses to date.
 - Commissioning of technical studies and collation of evidence base.
 - Progressing work with steering and working groups of technical expert officers.
 - Developing spatial scenarios and options for testing.
39. Engagement has continued through Qtr. 3, with additional informal engagement particularly targeted at broadening the reach of the project and range of participants. There have been workshops with young people through Voice of Oxfordshire Youth (VOXY) and with residents' panels. This will continue in the next quarter with plans for a youth competition on 'future thinking', as well as workshops planned with students at both Abingdon and Witney College and City of Oxford College.
40. In addition, there has been a series of meetings with the Duty to Co-operate bodies. Those discussions will continue and develop throughout the project to ensure that any strategic matters and cross boundary issues are identified and addressed through the Plan.
41. The production of the Plan will require a significant level of technical work to form the evidence base. The evidence base will help to shape the policy options for the Plan, be used to test those options, and in due course form the supporting evidence for the consideration of the Plan at examination by an Inspector. Many key evidence studies are already underway with consultants appointed and others are on track to be commissioned in the next quarter.
42. To ensure that the wealth of local knowledge and expertise available within the councils (and partner organisations) is used to its full potential, a series of informal steering groups and working groups have been established to oversee specialist topic workstreams, such as health, transport and natural capital. Each technical commission is being carried out with the involvement of all the authority partners, via one of these steering groups to oversee the commission.
43. Over the next quarter officers will continue refining and then testing a series of spatial options. This will include testing through the Sustainability Appraisal process. A Sustainability Appraisal being a systematic process that must be carried out during the preparation of local plans to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives.
44. This work will build towards the production of the next formal consultation document. The focus of that next consultation document will be the spatial

options for the Plan and the presentation of a tested set of options for public and stakeholder consideration.

Risk Management

45. The following have been identified as the key risks to the production of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050:
- Challenges of being a front-runner, producing a new type of Plan.
 - Challenging timeframe for production of the Plan.
 - Lack of a clear vision and spatial strategy would impact upon any defence of the Plan and its policies.
 - Links with external projects, for example the Expressway.
 - Links with and relationship to district Local Plans.

DEAL GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE

46. The focus for programme governance on the Growth Deal programme for the period Q3 2019/20 has been to assess the financial process for the Growth Deal Capacity Fund. This work has identified efficiencies to the reporting of the monthly business intelligence to the Growth Deal Programme Board and the quarterly reporting cycle to the Growth Board. Work to raise the visibility of costs associated with the Growth Deal has also resulted in the reporting of the financial staffing and non-staffing costs of the Growth Board. Costs are now reported monthly within the Growth Deal financial statement.
47. A summary financial report on the Growth Deal funding streams for Year 2, period Q1 – Q3 2019/20 is attached as Annex 1 to this report.
48. A strategic programme risk register is also monitored and controlled. Tactical risks at a programme level are managed by the programme leads.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

49. None arising from this report.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

50. None arising from this report.

CONCLUSION

51. This report outlines progress against the agreed Housing and Growth Deal year two milestones at the end of Q3 2019/20.
52. The focus, both for the core Deal team and for each of the partner authorities in the final quarter of year two needs to be on activity required to complete the delivery of the year two programmes and to develop confidence in the delivery of commitments in future years.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

53. None

Report Author: Bev Hindle, Director Oxfordshire Growth Board

Contact information: bev.hindle@oxfordshire.gov.uk

ANNEX 1

Title: Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Grant Funding Streams
Interim Financial Summary Report: Year 2 Period Q1 - Q3 2019/20

Date: 11 March 2020

Executive Summary and Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to update the Growth Board of the interim financial position of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal grant funding streams for the Infrastructure programme, Affordable Housing programme and the Growth Deal Capacity Fund for the Year 2 period Q1 to Q3 (April - December) 2019/20.

The financial report for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal grant funding streams, encompassing the period Year 1 – Year 2 (2018/19 - 2019/20), will be presented to the Growth Board in Q1 2020.

It is confirmed that the s151 officer is content that this report is an accurate presentation of spend to end of December for the 2019/20 financial year.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This annex sets out the financial performance of each of the three key financial streams established for the Infrastructure Programme, Affordable Housing Programme and the Growth Deal Capacity Fund for the period Q1 - Q3 2019/20.
- 1.2 The funding for the Oxfordshire Plan programme (JSSP) is an agreed element of the Capacity Fund. A summary of financial performance is detailed in section 3.3 (ref. 3.3.2) Growth Deal Capacity Fund.
- 1.3 It is to be noted that a separate covering report has been submitted to the Growth Board outlining the business performance of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal programmes.
- 1.4 It is also to be noted that funding for the Productivity Programme is managed by Oxfordshire County Council and the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) and financial performance is reported independently to the Growth Board.

2.0 Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Fund Governance

- 2.1 In accordance with the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Delivery Plan, Oxfordshire County Council is the accountable body for the financial management of

the three key financial streams. Responsibility for the management of each financial stream is held by the programme lead.

- 2.2 A monthly review of financial performance is monitored by the Growth Deal Programme Management Office in collaboration with Oxfordshire County Council's Finance team.
- 2.3 A financial summary statement of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal funding streams is presented to the Growth Deal Programme Board for review on a monthly basis.
- 2.4 From end Q3 2019/20, the financial summary statement includes the reporting of staffing and administrative non-staffing costs of the Growth Board to ensure visibility of spend.
- 2.5 As set out in the Housing and Growth Deal Delivery document, the Deal Delivery programme will be reviewed every six months. This will be undertaken by representatives from the Growth Deal Programme Board and any recommendations for change will be reported to the Growth Board.

3.0 Financial Summary – for the period Q1 – Q3 (April - December) 2019/20

3.1 Infrastructure Fund

- 3.1.1 The financial performance for Year 2 period Q1 – Q3 2019/20 (April – December 2019), a total spend of £2.243m has been achieved.
- 3.1.2 It is to be noted that the Infrastructure Programme Team are currently reviewing the spend/committed spend position.
- 3.1.3 A separate summary report on the performance of the Infrastructure programme for Q3 2019/20 will be presented to the Growth Board.

3.2 Affordable Housing Fund

- 3.2.1 The Affordable Housing programme is currently forecasting grant to be claimed for Year 2 as £7.580m.
- 3.2.2 The covering report to this annex sets out business performance of the Affordable Housing programme for Q3 2019/20.

3.3 Growth Deal Capacity Fund – for the period Q1 – Q3 (April - December) 2019/20

- 3.3.1 For the period Q1 – Q3 2019 (April – December 2019), a total spend of £0.888m against an original planned spend of £1.812m for 2019/20 is reported.
- 3.3.2 A summary of actual spend to Q3 2019/20 is detailed below:

• Housing Delivery	Total spend	£0.399m
• Oxfordshire Plan (JSSP)	Total spend	£0.461m
• Feasibility	Total spend	£0.028m

3.3.3 It is to be noted that the spend for Housing Delivery currently includes staffing/non staffing costs for the Oxford to Cambridge Arc programme. An exercise to re-code these costs from the Growth Deal Capacity Fund to a separate cost centre will be undertaken by March 2020.

3.4 Growth Board Costs

3.4.1 From December 2019, the Growth Deal financial statement will include the monthly staffing and administrative non-staffing costs related to the Growth Board.

3.4.2 For the period Q1 – Q3 2019/20, the actual spend for the Growth Board staffing costs is reported as £0.076m against a forecast spend for 2019/20 of £0.104m. The remaining pot to support administrative non-staffing costs associated with the Board is £0.030m (£30,350). Actual spend for the administrative non-staffing costs for this period is reported as £0.004m.

4.0 Risk Management

4.1 The financial performance of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Grant funding streams is closely monitored by the Growth Deal Programme Board. This will ensure that forecast spend of the Growth Deal period is accurate, based on the knowledge of the programme plans, and actual spend is reported, based on a monthly review of all transactional activity and balanced to the Oxfordshire County Council financial systems.

4.2 Any risk identified to the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Funding streams will be reported to the Growth Deal Programme Board for review and appropriate mitigation action agreed. Any strategic risk to the overall programme will be reported to the Growth Board.

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 This annex outlines progress against the financial performance of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal funding streams for the period Q1 - Q 3 (April - December) 2019/20.

5.2 The covering report asks the Growth Board to note this financial summary of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal and the achievement against the milestones committed to.

Author:	<i>Tina Hollis, Growth Deal Programme Office Manager – on behalf of the Growth Deal Programme Board</i>
Contact information:	<u>tina.hollis@oxfordshire.gov.uk</u>

To: Oxfordshire Growth Board
Title of Report: Zero Carbon Housing
Date: 11 March 2020
Report of: Growth Board Executive Officer Group
Status: Public

Executive Summary and Purpose:

Decarbonisation of housing will be essential to achieving the UK’s target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Whilst the Oxfordshire Energy Strategy, endorsed by the Growth Board, acknowledges the wider challenge of retrofitting existing homes, ensuring that new homes are built to zero carbon as quickly as possible will assist in achieving this goal and avoiding costs and disruption of retrofitting homes in future. The Growth Board’s Housing Advisory Sub Group has considered emerging best practice and the challenges local authorities face in promoting and encouraging net-zero carbon development.

This paper provides a summary of those areas of consideration and proposes draft recommendations as to how the Growth Board could support this agenda. It is intended that the recommendations emerging from this report should be refined with input from the Growth Board Scrutiny Panel and following discussion at the Growth Board.

Recommendations:

That the Growth Board consider the report and the draft recommendations set out in section 5 of this report, summarised below:

That Growth Board partners:

- a) Make the case to Government for clear and ambitious national standards that set a long term trajectory for minimum standards to 2050 accompanied by investment and incentives for local authorities and developers to move more quickly to higher standards.
- b) Champion the exchange of good practice and guidance on sustainable and zero-carbon construction, to promote uptake and set local expectations
- c) Explore opportunities to scale up low carbon technologies through Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) and work with Homes England and developers to develop a pipeline of sites for MMC.
- d) Include higher design standards as an objective of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 as the earliest opportunity to achieve weight in the planning system and consider what can be done in advance of the Plan to set higher expectations of standards (for example through shared evidence base for local plans and guidance).
- e) Make the case to Government for sustained incentives, investment guidance and support for local retrofit programmes for existing homes

- f) Support public facing campaigns that raise awareness of what households can do to reduce energy consumption in their own homes, the benefits of energy efficient homes and lifestyle adaptations to make them most effective.

Introduction

1. In June 2019, the UK government committed to a target of achieving net zero carbon emissions across all sectors of the economy by 2050. This is a significant increase on the previous commitment of 80% reduction in carbon emissions and given that the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) currently predicts that the UK will not achieve current carbon reduction targets, will require significant national policy intervention. The CCC identified that the legally binding commitments will not be achieved without the near-complete elimination of greenhouse gas emissions from UK buildings. The CCC identified that progress made on buildings remains insufficient even to meet the previous target for an 80% reduction in emissions relative to 1990 levels and concluded that meeting the net-zero ambitions, will require bold and decisive action and clear leadership from government.
2. Oxfordshire authorities have all declared a Climate Emergency and in response are developing plans for how they will achieve a target of net-zero carbon. This sits alongside the Oxfordshire Energy Strategy, endorsed by the Growth Board, which sets an ambition to achieve net zero by 2050 or sooner. Given that domestic emissions accounts for 24% of carbon emissions in Oxfordshire, improving energy efficiency and de-carbonising homes – both new and existing - is critical in meeting this challenge.
3. Approximately 80% of the housing that will exist in Oxfordshire in 2031 (according to Local Plans) has already been built, so addressing carbon emissions from existing stock is arguably the bigger challenge. The Oxfordshire Energy Strategy identifies that about 4,000 current homes per annum would need to be retrofitted to help us meet our 2050 ambitions and the need to build a clear routemap to achieve this. This will require significant intervention and investment from government to enable large scale local retrofit programmes. But there are also plans for significant housing development across Oxfordshire and a strong case for ensuring that this housing is built to high energy efficiency standards and achieves net-zero carbon as quickly as possible.
4. The definition of a net-zero carbon home generally refers to the construction and the ongoing running and maintenance of the home. But it is not just a matter of the carbon performance of the homes themselves. To be genuinely net-zero carbon, new developments need to be supported by transport and green infrastructure that facilitates a reduction in carbon emissions and carbon offset measures. These are important issues that need to be addressed through local plan policies and transport and infrastructure plans and energy strategies. This paper recognises that wider context but does not seek to cover the range of extensive work being undertaken by Oxfordshire authorities and partners in working towards zero-carbon. Rather it is focused

on challenges and opportunities for scaling up development of net-zero carbon homes.

Benefits of Net-Zero Carbon Homes

5. Housing constructed today will still be in use by 2050 and therefore will need to achieve standards to reflect the net-zero carbon ambition either now or through transitional plans. There is currently an additional cost to building homes to net-zero carbon standards, but in the long term, these are offset by lower running costs of energy efficient homes and are considerably lower than the costs of retrofitting properties at a later stage. Costs of retrofit vary considerably depending on condition and type of housing. The CCC report UK Housing Fit for the Future suggests average retrofit costs of about £40,000 per house but a retrofit pilot for Nottingham City Homes reported costs of £80,000 per home.
6. Energy efficient homes also deliver health and quality of life benefits to residents in terms of lower energy bills which can help tackle fuel poverty and lead to reduction in rent arrears and voids. If designed as part of sustainable developments that promote active travel and greenspace they also deliver health benefits to residents.

Challenges to Delivery of Net-Zero Carbon Homes

Policy and Regulation

7. Energy and carbon efficiency requirements are set out in Building Regulations with current standards and last updated in 2013. In 2008 government passed legislation that would have required all new homes to be zero carbon by 2016. However this was dropped in 2015 as a result of concerns about the impact on housing delivery. In general therefore, the housebuilding industry has not yet been required to gear up to deliver to zero carbon standards.
8. There has been a lack of clarity about Local Authorities flexibility to set standards at a higher level than Building Regulations. The Planning and Energy Act 2008 does allow local planning authorities to set and apply policies for higher standards in their local plans. However, in 2015, the then government set out in a Written Ministerial Statement its expectation that local planning authorities should not set energy efficiency standards for new homes higher than the energy requirements of Level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes (equivalent to a 19% improvement on the Part L 2013 standard). Section 43 of the Deregulation Act 2015 introduces an amendment to the Planning and Energy Act that restricts local authorities setting energy standards above Building Regulations for new homes, but this amendment has not come into effect.
9. Government confirmed alongside the revised NPPF in 2018 that the flexibility for local authorities to set higher standards exists, however this is subject to testing against deliverability, affordability and viability of the plan as whole. Under the NPPF, local authorities are also required to meet the housing delivery test and given that the industry is not currently geared up to deliver

net-zero carbon at scale, this effectively constrains councils' ability to require net-zero carbon.

10. In response to the recommendations of the CCC, government has recently consulted on the Future Homes Standard. This is the first stage of a two-part consultation proposing revised energy efficiency standards for future homes through changes to the Building Regulations. The first stage of the consultation specifically concerns the interim measures to be applied to new homes between 2020 – 2025; future consultations will consider the requirements of the standard from 2025 both for homes and commercial buildings. Whilst the consultation proposes higher energy efficiency standards for new homes, it does not go as far as requiring zero carbon. In order to prevent the need for future retrofit, the focus of revised standards should be on fabric efficiency (i.e. triple glazing and minimal heat loss from walls, ceilings and roofs) to minimise the energy requirements of dwellings. Instead the Government's preferred option for the interim phase focusses on the use of 'carbon-saving technology' such as photovoltaic (solar) panels.
11. The consultation document also proposes removing councils' ability to set higher standards locally. Whilst there are strong arguments for high national standards which ensure consistency and certainty for the industry and avoid protracted negotiations through the planning process to determine whether locally set standards are viable for individual developments, many authorities are concerned that if national standards are not ambitious enough, the removal of the ability to set local standards will block councils' ability to achieve local carbon reduction commitments.

Industry capacity, skills and expertise

12. In general, the housebuilding industry works to the required minimum standards. As a result most housebuilders are not geared up to build to higher fabric specifications and there are insufficient supply chains, trained installers and product availability to allow them to do so. This is recognised by the CCC, for example in the case of heat pumps: *"it is not feasible to ramp up installation rates of heat pumps straight away to the current level of gas boiler sales (over a million per year) from the current level of 20,000 per year, not only due to the lack of market development but also because there are not enough qualified heat pump installers".*¹
13. The Future Homes Standard consultation paper recognises that there is a need to address these gaps in design and construction skills, supply and installation of new technologies. The document also states that Government is working with industry and suppliers to ensure that they are able to respond to the emerging skills needs of the construction sector, including skills for sustainable construction and for improving energy efficiency. However, more could be done by government; setting out a clear, defined, long term trajectory showing increased minimum standards to 2050 would help to provide market stability by enabling long term investment choices and decisions to be made.

¹ Net Zero – The UK's contribution to stopping global warming, CCC (2019)
<https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/net-zero-the-uks-contribution-to-stopping-global-warming/>

14. Government support and funding for local initiatives to address supply chain constraints is also needed. A relevant government-funded project which is beginning to address the skills and industry capacity challenge in relation to retrofit is currently underway in Oxfordshire. Led by the Low Carbon Hub, an award-winning Oxford-based social enterprise and Community Interest Company. *Cosy Homes Oxfordshire* is a home retrofit project launched in early 2019 to help make homes across Oxfordshire more energy efficient. Aimed at the 'able to pay' sector, the project is working with low carbon community groups to encourage uptake locally. The project aims to develop a supply chain and 'trusted providers' and is billed as a 'one-stop shop' for home retrofit services and is designed to support the homeowner throughout their project.

Performance and compliance

15. With large development there is frequently a time lag between application for planning or building control and delivery on site. This means that in some cases new homes are built to out of date standards. The Future Homes consultation proposes changes to the transitional arrangements that would result in the latest building standards having a more immediate effect.
16. In addition, the CCC identified that the way new homes are built often falls short of stated design standards. The CCC has identified closing the energy use performance gap as the biggest opportunity to reduce carbon emissions in the short term and estimated that it could save between £70 and £260 in energy per household per year. The Future Homes Standard consultation proposes new technical guidance on build quality and new reporting requirements to address this performance gap.

Finance and funding.

17. The CCC also identified that there are urgent funding gaps which must be addressed. These include securing UK Government funding for low-carbon sources of heating beyond 2021, and better resources for local authorities.

Costs and impact on viability

18. Costs of delivering net zero carbon housing vary across the country depending on the type of site and local construction costs. Initial uplift in costs for developers reduce down as more houses were built and employees upskilled. A Passivhaus Trust report from 2015 suggested that building to Passivhaus standards involved an increase in costs of 15-20% over and above Code for Sustainable Homes 4². A more recent report from Passivhaus Trust in 2019 finds that current best practice is at 9% additional cost³. A recent study commissioned by the County Council to inform the Oxfordshire Cotswold Garden Village evidence base indicates that costs of meeting a true net-zero carbon development are in the range of 7 to 11%. The increase in

² [Passivhaus Capital Cost Research Project](http://www.passivhaustrust.org.uk/UserFiles/File/Technical%20Papers/150128%20PH%20Capital%20Costs.pdf)
<http://www.passivhaustrust.org.uk/UserFiles/File/Technical%20Papers/150128%20PH%20Capital%20Costs.pdf>

³ [Passivhaus Construction Costs](http://passivhaustrust.org.uk/UserFiles/File/research%20papers/Costs/2019.10_Passivhaus%20Costs(1).pdf) (2019)
[http://passivhaustrust.org.uk/UserFiles/File/research%20papers/Costs/2019.10_Passivhaus%20Costs\(1\).pdf](http://passivhaustrust.org.uk/UserFiles/File/research%20papers/Costs/2019.10_Passivhaus%20Costs(1).pdf)

costs to provide enhanced fabric efficiency are relatively low at around 2% above a current standard built home. Use of heat pumps and mechanical ventilation and heat recovery systems add 4% to baseline costs, whilst the addition of solar PV adds up to 5%. It is expected that these costs to come down over time as the market develops and technology matures.

19. Developing to highly energy efficient standards has lower life time costs as additional costs will be offset in the longer term by avoiding the need to retrofit and lower energy bills. However, to date low/zero carbon homes have not been perceived as a customer benefit so have not commanded a premium in the market. Additional construction costs borne by the developer are not recouped through sales and have therefore not provided an incentive to developers to implement higher standards. Similarly for landlords, both private and social, the additional costs are borne by the landlord whilst benefits of lower running costs accrue to the tenants.
20. Additional costs of building to net-zero carbon standards therefore present challenges to local authorities in terms of trade-offs for supply and affordability. This is particularly the case in areas of high housing demand and affordability challenges like Oxfordshire. This tension was recognised by Oxford's Citizens Assembly which fully supported building new homes to zero carbon standards but expressed concern that this should not come at the expense of delivering more affordable homes to meet housing needs.
21. In the longer term, as consumer demand and regulation lead to an increase in the scale of net-zero carbon developments and the industry develops the skills and capacity, costs should reduce over time which should help address these tensions; however it does present a barrier to early adopters.
22. The 'allowable solutions' / 'offset' model that underpins the delivery of net-zero carbon developments attempts to moderate and give certainty to the additional costs of reaching zero. This model allows developers to offset carbon emissions which cannot be cost-effectively dealt with onsite through contribution to a local authority fund to deliver carbon reduction offsite. The challenge for local planning policies is how to allow for this type of approach whilst ensuring that developers are incentivised to prioritise and develop capability for on-site carbon reduction. The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 provides an opportunity to explore a strategic Oxfordshire approach to policies that balance provisions for offset with scaling up onsite carbon reduction.

Liveability

23. Living in Passivhaus or zero carbon homes also requires residents to adapt to a different way of living. They rely on a high degree of air tightness and heat pumps which some residents have found difficult to get used to. Evidence from demonstrator projects have highlighted the importance of education and advice to residents on how to use their new homes in achieving zero carbon performance.

Opportunities and progress

24. Despite these challenges, all of the Oxfordshire authorities are exploring ways and levers available to them to promote and support improved carbon efficiency of new homes, learning from experience to date and opportunities provided by planned housing development to scale up delivery of net-zero carbon homes.

Planning

- Oxford City Council's Draft Local Plan sets a trajectory for requiring all new build housing to be net-zero carbon by 2030, with an immediate requirement for 40% reduction in carbon emissions over and above current building regulation requirements, rising to 50% in 2026. This was tested as part of the Local Plan process to be viable alongside a 50% affordable housing requirement. The Draft Local Plan includes a range of other policies to support the City Council's journey to zero carbon, for example policies to reduce the use of private cars in new developments within reasonable distance of amenities and public transport.
- Cherwell District Council's Adopted Local Plan contains policies for ensuring sustainable development including for climate change adaptation and mitigation, energy hierarchy and allowable solutions, sustainable construction, decentralised and renewable energy.
- The Ecotown policy at NW Bicester, supported by the Supplementary Planning Document encourages all development to incorporate sustainable design and construction technology to achieve zero carbon development (subject to viability). Additionally, a net increase in biodiversity is required across the site.
- Cherwell District Council have also provided the opportunity in its planning policy for testing a plethora of construction techniques, materials and approaches to sustainable living at the Gravel Hill self-build site, just south of Bicester, with ten pioneers featured across *Grand Designs 'The Street'*.
- Vale of White Horse District Council's adopted Local Plan encourages developers to incorporate climate change adaptation and design measures to combat the effect of changing weather patterns in all new development. It includes criteria such as design to reduce solar heat gain, using materials to prevent penetration of heat, such as green roofs, increasing natural ventilation etc. It has a policy on water consumption which is above standard building regulations. The plan also encourages schemes for renewable and low carbon energy generation.
- The Draft South Oxfordshire Local Plan contains policies requiring new development to seek to minimise carbon and energy impacts. The Plan also encourages schemes for renewable and low carbon energy generation.

Working with developers and industry

25. Oxfordshire local authorities are also engaging with developers and working on policies and guidance to encourage private developers, landowners and investors to invest in low and zero carbon homes. For example:

- Building on their experience of Passivhaus development, Cherwell District Council are working on a policy to encourage private developers to follow suit. Cherwell District Council have been the lead delivery partner in the creation of

a countywide member-based business network, Oxfordshire Greentech, to bring collaboration, knowledge transfer and innovation to a range of 'special interest groups', including the built environment, to ensure the Oxfordshire's economy continues to grow, but in a sustainable way. Having launched in February 2019, Oxfordshire Greentech now has 100 members and growing, and provides a key link with industry and local authorities (as well as working closely with OxLEP and the Low Carbon Hub). Its annual conference "Powering the Clean Growth Era" will be held at the Said Business School in Oxford on 18th March 2020.

- West Oxfordshire are working within the Publica partnership (WODC, Cotswold, Forest of Dean) to develop guidance for developers of new homes and refurbishment of existing stock.
- South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse are undertaking a joint design guide for developers which will include encouragement of sustainable construction.
- Oxford City Council is working with developers and the University to work towards higher standards. The University has had their first Passivhaus accredited building at Kellogg College and combined heat and power at Summertown House. The City Council is working with them to embed carbon reduction in their future projects.

26. Oxfordshire partners are exploring opportunities to scale up low carbon technologies through Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) which have the potential to bring down the costs and scale up delivery of highly energy efficient homes. The Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal included a specific ambition to promote modular build housing in Oxfordshire. Initial discussions and a field visit has been held with Building Research Establishment (BRE), the national centre of excellence for R&D and knowledge exchange in the built environment to understand what innovation in modular development is being introduced into the market and how it may be applied in Oxfordshire.

27. Homes England has a specific remit to boost modular development, along with other modern methods of construction, in the UK and is investing in partnerships with manufacturers of modular homes such as the £30 million investment they have made to help bring Sekisui House into the UK housing market, in partnership with Urban Splash. Homes England have also been running the Local Authority Accelerated Construction program providing support for Local Authorities to develop using MMC on their land. One of the critical restrictions on developing Modular and other MMC projects is developing a pipeline of opportunities of sufficient scale to justify firms' investment in this technology. Discussions with BRE and Homes England have suggested that initially a pipeline of at least 200 units per year in Oxfordshire would help support the development and expansion of MMC production facilities.

28. OXLEP are also supporting engagement with industry partners and its Clean Growth Sub-Group are planning a series of events in 2020 with Constructing Excellence Oxford and Oxford Brookes University designed to identify and share best practice in innovation in sustainable construction. This is in

addition to a number of construction industry events which have already been hosted in Oxfordshire.

Case studies and demonstrator projects

29. There are examples of Zero Carbon developments in Oxfordshire. Elmsbrook in Bicester will see the development of 360 homes in a net-zero carbon development and has also delivered the Eco Business Centre, built to Passivhaus Plus standard, which is currently Oxfordshire's most sustainable non-domestic building. Graven Hill, just south of Bicester already has several zero carbon properties, across a range of building designs, techniques and materials. Hope Close, Banbury, is a development of 11 certified passive houses commissioned and developed by Cherwell DC for sale as Shared Ownership properties. Oxford City Council's housing company is building 43 affordable homes at Rose Hill incorporating enhanced insulation standards along with a high level of PV and working with the Low Carbon Hub with the aim of developing a virtual local electricity grid for residents using the generated electricity. Sassy Property and GreenCore are building 25 net-zero carbon homes at Springfield meadows, in Southmoor near Abingdon in the Vale of White Horse. Nine of these units will be for affordable rent. GreenCore are interested in other development opportunities in Oxfordshire as are other small developers. Oxfordshire partners have also been engaging with projects elsewhere in the country, including the Gold Smith Street development in Norwich which was awarded the Stirling Prize in 2019 and the Agar Grove development which is part of Camden Council's Community Investment Programme of £1 billion over 15 years.

30. Common lessons from these early adopter projects have highlighted this there are system-wide issues which will need to be addressed in an integrated manner in order to maximise the opportunities to deliver zero carbon solutions. These include:

- They require **commitment** to net-zero carbon / Passivhaus, recognising additional costs associated with being early adopters. Those authorities who have supported net-zero or near-zero carbon recognise that it not currently possible to replicate at scale given the costs, however more demonstrator projects are needed to demonstrate the benefits and achieve economies of scale.
- **Subsidy:** The majority of case studies are either directly or indirectly commissioned by local authorities with access to subsidised/council-owned land and supported with significant public subsidy and/or cross subsidy through private sales.
- **Environmental/Social investment:** For those authorities investing in net-zero carbon development, financial investment is not the only consideration. Other goals include the creation of sustainable communities, tackling fuel poverty, reducing carbon emissions and meeting climate emergency commitments.
- **Infrastructure investment:** To be genuinely net-zero carbon, new housing developments need to be accompanied by sustainable transport and energy investment. This is particularly a challenge for developments in rural areas which remain largely reliant on private car use.

- **Long-term/whole-life approach:** Developments are considered as long-term investments. Higher spec materials will need replacement less frequently, Goldsmith Street development accentuated external public spaces but designed out internal communal spaces to reduce maintenance costs. Lower tenant turnover/voids are also anticipated.
- **Specialist developers:** Procurement of specialist design consultants, developers and contractors with experience and skills required is challenging, though the number with the appropriate expertise in the market is now increasing.
- **Funding constraints:** Challenges for stock owning local authority developers include continued uncertainty and constraints on funding, such as recent increase in PWLB borrowing rates, restrictions on use of Right to Buy Receipts and competing priorities for investment including upgrading of existing stock and delivering significant numbers of affordable homes to meet housing need.

Direct involvement in Development

31. Oxford City Council's wholly owned housing company, Oxford City Homes Ltd (OCHL) is planning to deliver 2,000 homes over the next ten years with the aim of ensuring high quality new homes in terms of sustainability, thermal and energy efficiency and climate resilience. Whilst embracing the need for all new mixed tenure homes to move towards net-zero carbon as soon as possible, financial viability assessments show a need to balance this with the number of homes built and the level of affordable housing. OCHL is therefore pursuing a fabric first approach for future phases of development (airtightness to walls, roof, floors and windows) to maximise thermal and energy efficiency, limiting energy production requirements within the home, so that PV has maximum effect on reducing overall all electric (no gas) heating bills, and water saving fittings. This approach will aim to maximise carbon reduction before offsetting measures and developments will be future proofed to achieve further carbon reduction as technologies advance. The City Council has committed to bringing forward demonstration net zero or Passivhaus developments through the housing company and will undertake yearly reviews of the Business Plan to advance the approach as quickly as possible.
32. Cherwell's housing company, BUILD! is working to make use of new technology, innovation in construction methods and design to produce low energy homes on all its future developments. The Council's wholly owned company at Graven Hill is a test bed for construction techniques at the largest self-build site in the UK.

Decarbonising energy

33. Given the challenges to delivering all new homes to Passivhaus and zero energy standards and to retrofitting existing stock, decarbonising energy supply will deliver the greatest impact on reducing carbon emissions from buildings, including housing. This is recognised by the CCC who have recommended it as the highest priority for the UK government.
34. There is already a significant amount of activity in Oxford and Oxfordshire in promoting renewable energy. The Oxfordshire Energy Strategy, formally

launched at the Eco Business Centre in Bicester in November 2019, sets a framework to create a decentralised energy system that retains the economic benefits from a low-carbon transition within the county. The strategy includes a focus on supporting clean generation projects across the county, and projects that reduce energy demand and increase energy efficiency for domestic, industrial, commercial buildings and transport.

35. The Energy Strategy Delivery Plan sets out a suite of year one headline projects in promoting renewable energy. It includes two of the four national energy systems demonstrator projects which have secured c£80m of government investment over three years. *Energy Superhub Oxford* (ESO) and *Project LEO* (Local Energy Oxfordshire), will create opportunities for individuals, businesses and local communities to trade the energy they generate, use and store it at a local level. The Oxfordshire authorities are also exploring how to support local additional renewable energy production by Low Carbon Hub by entering a long term purchasing arrangement called a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).
36. Low Carbon Hub, Cherwell District Council and Oxford City Council are also partners in the OxFutures project, supported by European Regional Development Funds, delivering grants and fully-funded energy efficiency audits for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Oxfordshire. The new Energy Services Company (ESCO) will work with local contractors to deliver projects. Finance and insurance backing will make the projects low-risk. The business model, marketing toolkit, financing and insurance backing are provided by EnergyPro, and demonstrate a new '*ESCO-in-a-box*' system that could be used by local delivery partners throughout the country.
37. In addition to these projects within the Energy Strategy, The Low Carbon Hub partnership, itself, has a portfolio of more than 40 energy projects across Oxfordshire including community renewable energy projects in many local schools and businesses as and have helped to leverage £15million investment into local energy projects.

Recommendations

38. Oxfordshire's economic growth and forecast housing delivery with Garden Towns and new settlements at Didcot, Bicester and West Oxfordshire, present an opportunity for Oxfordshire to be a front runner in scaling up delivery of low carbon housing as part of the ambition for sustainable communities. The Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) highlights the opportunity for Oxfordshire as an area of innovation and new technologies to be a pioneer in preparing communities for technological and environmental change and sustainable living under the Living Oxfordshire (living labs) programme of the LIS. The Oxford to Cambridge Arc could offer the potential for Oxfordshire to benefit from investment and policy flexibility and to scale up interventions and new technologies across the wider area.
39. The Growth Board partners can support these opportunities by:
 - a) **Making the case to Government** for clear and ambitious national standards, which set a long term trajectory for minimum standards to 2050 to

provide market stability and enabling long term investment choices and decisions to be made. This should be accompanied by investment and incentives for local authorities and developers to move more quickly to higher standards. The discussions with government on the Oxford to Cambridge Arc could provide an opportunity to pursue this agenda.

- b) **Championing the exchange of good practice and guidance** on sustainable and zero-carbon construction between Oxfordshire authorities and development partners to promote uptake and set local expectations. There are a number of existing forums, for example Construction Excellence delivering learning and promotional events. The Growth Board's Executive Officer Group, working with the LEP's Clean Growth Sub Group to identify and publicise opportunities for showcasing excellence and innovation in sustainable construction.
- c) **Exploring opportunities to scale up low carbon technologies through Modern Methods of Construction (MMC)** which have the potential to bring down the costs and scale up delivery of highly energy efficient homes. This will require a pipeline of projects to create demand for modular build at a scale to deliver cost efficiencies and supply. The Growth Board could propose that Homes England works with local authorities, OxLEP, registered providers and private developers to develop a pipeline of sites for MMC. There is the possibility this could form part of a wider initiative across the whole Arc.
- d) **The Oxfordshire Plan 2050:** Different alternatives for sustainable design and construction of buildings have been tested in the sustainability appraisal for the Oxfordshire Plan 2050. Higher design standards could be an objective of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 with policies to support the delivery of the energy strategy and reduce carbon emissions. The joint plan is the earliest and therefore fastest opportunity to put new proposals to an inspector and therefore gain maximum weight in the planning system. Consideration could also be given to how higher expectations of standards could be set in advance of the Oxfordshire Plan (for example through using shared evidence base for local plans and guidance).
- e) Making the case to Government for sustained incentives, investment guidance and **support for local retrofit programmes** for existing homes
- f) **Support public facing campaigns** that raise awareness of what individuals can do to reduce energy consumption in their own homes, increasing understanding of the benefits of energy efficient homes and lifestyle adaptations to make them most effective and to increase market demand for higher energy standards.

Financial Implications

- 40. Recommendations will need to be delivered within existing Growth Board or partner resources.

Legal Implications

41. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Report Author:	Caroline Green, Housing Lead, Growth Board Executive Officer Group
Contact information:	cgreen@oxford.gov.uk 07483 007 109



To: Oxfordshire Growth Board

Title of Report: Feedback from the Growth Board and Health & Wellbeing Board Networking Event

Date: 11 March 2020

Report of: Cllr Sue Cooper and Cllr Ian Hudspeth

Status: Open

Summary Briefing

A networking event was held between members of the Growth Board and members of the Health & Wellbeing Board on 5 February 2020. The purpose of this event was to provide an informal opportunity for system leaders to discuss areas of common interest and to consider how they might work together to address such issues.

At the event, partners from across Oxfordshire agreed that significant benefits for local people can be achieved through bringing together planning for housing, infrastructure and the economy with planning for residents' health and wellbeing. Members agreed that they shared the aspiration to create healthy communities and there was considerable discussion as to the factors that enable and act as obstacles to delivering this ambition.

At the close of the event, it was agreed that there was benefit in members of the two Boards continuing to work together and that future discussions should focus on a few key areas where there would be added value from input from this wider set of stakeholders.

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

1. the Growth Board asks officers to consider and propose a few specific priorities that should be the focus of joint working between members of both Boards for agreement at a future meeting of the Growth Board and of the Health & Wellbeing Board
2. A second networking event is held in the autumn of 2020 between members of the Growth Board and members of the Health & Wellbeing Board to progress action in these identified areas.

**Oxfordshire Growth Board Forward Plan
March 2020**

The Forward Plan sets out all forthcoming issues scheduled for meetings of the Growth Board. The Plan will be updated and published on the [Growth Board's website](#) every month. Where matters for consideration are likely to require the disclosure of exempt information, and the exclusion of the press and public (pursuant to Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972) this will be made clear in the Forward Plan. Unless otherwise stated, all meetings will be held at Didcot Civic Hall, Britwell Road, Didcot, OX17JN.

11 March (change from previous date and venue - Howbery Park, Wallingford))			
Item	Item for Decision? Yes/No	Description	Contact
Q3 Housing and Growth Deal Progress Report and Financial Summary	No	To receive the 2019/20 Quarter 3 progress report for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal and endorse any amendments to the programmes of work as necessary. Also, to receive the Quarter 3 financial summary for the Housing and Growth Deal.	Bev Hindle, Growth Board Director
Zero Carbon Housing	No	To update the Growth Board on zero carbon housing technology and consider wider opportunities for Oxfordshire.	Caroline Green, Housing Lead, Executive Officer Group
The Oxford to Cambridge Arc Verbal Update	No	To receive any updates from the Growth Board Director in respect of regional developments within the Oxford to Cambridge Arc.	Bev Hindle, Growth Board Director

2 June 2020

Item	Item for Decision? Yes/No	Description	Contact
Growth Board Terms of Reference	No	To review and endorse revised draft terms of reference for the Growth Board, for subsequent approval by each constituent local authority. This builds on the work of the Growth Board Review which reported its findings on 28 January 2020.	Bev Hindle, Growth Board Director
Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy Scope	No	To consider the scope, timescale, governance and funding for updating the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy, in support of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050.	John Disley, Oxfordshire County Council Infrastructure Strategy Manager
Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Update	No	To update the Growth Board on emerging work being carried out to identify the policy options for the Plan.	Bev Hindle, Growth Board Director
The Oxford to Cambridge Arc Update (Provisional)	No	To receive any updates from the Growth Board Director in respect of regional developments within the Oxford to Cambridge Arc.	Bev Hindle, Growth Board Director
UK Tourism Sector Deal (Provisional)	No	The Growth Board will be invited to note the progress of preliminary work by the Local Enterprise Partnership to establish how the Sector Deal could benefit Oxfordshire and endorse any further proposals which respond to opportunities set out in the Deal.	Ahmed Goga, OxLEP Director of Strategy and Programmes

22 September 2020

Item	Decision	Description	Contact
Q4 Housing and Growth Deal Progress Report and Financial Summary	No	To receive the 2019/20 Quarter 4 progress report for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal and endorse any amendments to the programmes of work as necessary. Also, to receive the Quarter 4 financial summary for the Housing and Growth Deal.	Bev Hindle, Growth Board Director

Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Update	No	To update the Growth Board on the options consultation document for public and stakeholder engagement and details of the planned consultation.	Bev Hindle, Growth Board Director
The Oxford to Cambridge Arc Update (Provisional)	No	To receive any updates from the Growth Board Director in respect of regional developments within the Oxford to Cambridge Arc.	Bev Hindle, Growth Board Director

24 November 2020

Item	Decision	Description	Contact
Oxfordshire Rail Connectivity Study: Stage 2 Outcome (provisional)	No	To consider progress and any outcomes from Stage 2 of the rail connectivity study.	John Disley, Oxfordshire County Council Infrastructure Strategy Manager
The Oxford to Cambridge Arc Update (Provisional)	No	To receive any updates from the Growth Board Director in respect of regional developments within the Oxford to Cambridge Arc.	Bev Hindle, Growth Board Director