

Chairman's replies to Supplementary Questions to the Oxfordshire Growth Board on 29 January 2019

Mr Pearce, on behalf of Fleur Woodland, asked a supplementary question to the chairman.

The chairman's response:

As part of the principles of good growth that the Growth Board wish to promote for Oxfordshire, our whole infrastructure approach is about reducing traffic, cutting journey times, improving mass transit options and reducing the need for travel through the way new communities and workplaces are designed. Travel will be safer, smoother and cleaner. For example, changes to the built environment could reduce the number of journey required by for example enabling more home working through high speed broadband connections and enhanced public transport and cycling infrastructures that offers alternatives to travelling by car. However, it also makes sense for us to consider how we can maximise the capacity of our existing road network to ensure that what we have is as effective as possible. These two ambitions are complementary and underpin consultations on the future of our infrastructure network.

Mr Pearce asked a supplementary question. It was surprising that there appeared to be no co-ordination in planning for the Arc and planning for development in West Oxfordshire. When will the co-ordination begin?

The chairman's response:

It is untrue to state that there is no coordination between planning in West Oxfordshire and the wider ambitions for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc. The West Oxfordshire Local Plan has set out how the districts will meet its housing need and an apportionment of the need for Oxford City and this will now be overlaid by the development of the 2050 Oxfordshire Plan that will set the long term strategic growth directions for Oxfordshire, WODC included. Part of that strategic direction will be the articulation of how Oxfordshire will contribute to the agreed growth ambitions for the Arc.

Sue Haywood asked a supplementary question. What practical measures would be taken to ensure sustainable development? What steps would you take to get people with the right skills sets round the table to ensure a robust process to achieve sustainable development?

Chairman's response:

The principle of sustainable development is key to our ambitions for Oxfordshire. We don't want growth at any cost, we want good growth that's planned and managed at

a sustainable level, minimises environmental impacts, is inclusive and benefits everyone. This key principle will be enshrined in the Oxfordshire Plan 2050.

In terms of engagement The Growth Board is led by elected representatives acting on behalf of the people of Oxfordshire. All six voting members of the Growth Board are elected representatives, meetings are held in public, the papers published in advance and members of the public may address the meeting. The Board has committed to consulting and engaging widely on the development of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and the first stages of this are taking place with a bus roadshow to introduce residents to the Plan. These will be followed by exhibitions in each district. Later in the year more detailed consultation of strategic growth options will follow. Details can be found on the Oxfordshire Plan website www.oxfordshireplan.org