



**To:** Oxfordshire Growth Board  
**Date:** 4 June 2019  
**Report of:** Growth Board Scrutiny Panel  
**Title of Report:** Recommendations from the Scrutiny Panel meeting of 30 May 2019

<b>Summary and recommendations</b>	
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	<p>To present Scrutiny Panel recommendations concerning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governance of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc Committee and the role of the representative to the Ox-Cam Arc.</li> <li>• Revisiting the recommendation on structured communication between the Growth Board and council's members.</li> <li>• Oxfordshire SHMA 2014 update and the Oxford Green Belt review.</li> <li>• Local Industrial Strategy endorsement and local authority sign off process.</li> <li>• Changes in the text of the agreed and published versions of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Regulation 18 Part 1 consultation.</li> <li>• Joint Declaration of Ambition HM government and Local Partners</li> </ul>
<b>Scrutiny Lead Members:</b>	<p>Councillor Andrew Gant, Chair of the Growth Board Scrutiny Panel. Councillor Sean Woodcock, Vice-Chair of the Growth Board Scrutiny Panel.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation: That the Oxfordshire Growth Board states whether it agrees or disagrees with the recommendations in the body of this report.</b></p>	

<b>Appendices</b>
<p>Appendix 1 – Draft Growth Board response to the recommendation</p>

### Introduction and overview

1. As this was the first meeting of the Scrutiny Panel for the year 2019/2020 a new Chair and Vice-Chair was elected for the year. Oxford City Councillor Andrew Gant was nominated by Councillor Sean Woodcock and seconded by Councillor Craig Simmons. Cherwell District Councillor Sean Woodcock was nominated by Councillor Andrew Gant and seconded by Councillor Susanna Pressel.
2. The Scrutiny Panel Chair introduced the new Growth Board Chair Councillor Sue Cooper and Growth Board Director Bev Hindle.
3. The panel also received a presentation from Nigel Tipple, Chief Executive of the OxLEP on the role and governance of OxLEP. In addition to a presentation from Sue Halliwell, Director of Place and Planning Oxfordshire County Council on the working of the Growth Deal Infrastructure team.
4. The Scrutiny Panel considered the Growth Board's Agenda for its meeting on 4 June 2019.
5. The Panel would like to thank Councillor Sue Cooper (Growth Board Chair, South Oxfordshire District Council), Nigel Tipple (Chief Executive, OxLEP), Caroline Green (Assistant Chief Executive, Oxford City Council), Susan Halliwell (Director of Place & Planning, Oxfordshire County Council), Bev Hindle (Growth Board Director), Andrew Down (Acting Deputy Chief Executive - South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils) for attending the meeting to answer questions.
6. Councillor Sue Cooper, the new Chair of the Growth Board expressed her views to the Panel on the need for a new positive and sustainable approach towards growth. Bev Hindle (Growth Board Director) echoed these sentiments expressing the need for a Growth Board review with discussions possibly leading to a change in the narrative.
7. The Chair also discussed the need for a structure to the governance of the Ox--Cam Arc and the role of representative to Ox-Cam Arc committee. Councillor Craig Simmons also expressed the need for the **Growth Board to declare a Climate Emergency** keeping in line with other districts in the county. Some of these questions will be put verbally to the Growth Board by the Chair along with other questions from the members of the public.

**Recommendation 1: That the Growth Board clarify the governance structure for the Ox- Cam Arc Committee and the appointment procedure of the representative to the Ox-Cam Arc Committee.**

8. The panel sought some clarifications on the work of the OxLEP specifically with regards to skills gap, opportunities for existing workforce, big picture strategy and timeframes until 2040 which were answered by Nigel Tipple, Chief Executive OxLEP.

9. The Panel also discussed the Oxfordshire Affordable Housing Potential update taking into account different and complex factors affecting completion targets which have been redefined by the NPPF. It was concluded that all authorities are due to produce their Annual Monitoring Report of all Housing and not just Affordable Housing which would include the type of housing. Cllr Matthew Barber suggested that the Panel look at Annualised Housing and Affordable Housing Trajectories with a graph comparing the Actual Versus Forecast (4-year plan) and affordable housing as a percentage of overall housing completions as part of the Scrutiny Work Plan, this was agreed by the Panel.
10. The panel also discussed at length the need to preserve AONB and Oxfordshire countryside. In the wake of parts of the Green belt being taken out, whether this could be swapped for other areas/land to compensate for this loss. The motion for this to be put forth as a recommendation to the Growth Board fell through a vote, however the Chair asked for the location names to be added to the updated Green Belt Map for further discussion.
11. The panel discussed the report and presentation from Growth Deal Infrastructure Team with regards to the need for superfast full fibre broadband, overall infrastructure not just roads, emergency transport planning and setting of delivery timelines. The panel also took into account local plans will have an impact on the infrastructure provided by the Growth Deal.
12. The panel also took into account the report on Air Quality and Climate Change which provides a holistic view in the context of Oxfordshire Plan 2050. The panel observed that Air Quality plans are based on the assessments done by local authorities.
13. The panel discussed the need to revisit its earlier recommendation on a structured communication process between the Growth Board and council's members having received incorrect or incomplete information.

**Recommendation 2: That the Growth Board revisit the earlier recommendation on structured communication between the Growth Board and council's members considering member reports of having received incorrect or incomplete information.**

14. The panel also considered the earlier question from a member of the public with regards to whether there has been an update to Oxfordshire SHMA 2014 and/or Oxford Green Belt Review been commissioned.

**Recommendation 3: That the Growth Board commission a review of the Oxford Green Belt and/or request an update to Oxfordshire SHMA 2014.**

15. The panel also considered the earlier statement made by the member of the public that there are indications that the Government might sign-off the Local Industrial Strategy and Ox-Cam Arc prior to assessing the outcomes of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050.

**Recommendation 4: That the Growth Board reflect on the mutual dependencies between the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and both the Local Industrial Strategy and Ox-Cam Arc and also that the Growth Board commit to informing the Government with urgency the need for the LIS to go through Local Authority sign off process prior to final endorsement.**

16. The Panel noted it was acceptable for the Growth Board to receive verbal updates from the Growth Deal teams in absence of any substantial progress or reporting from the Growth Deal Teams. The Vice-Chair expressed his concerns on the clarifications of acronyms in the some these reports and the need for a Glossary to explain the terminology used; for the benefit of the members of the public.
17. The Chair expressed his continued concern over the changes in text of the agreed and published versions of Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Regulation 18 Part 1 Consultation. The version presented to the Local Authority Scrutiny Committees was changed before publication into the public domain which in the opinion of the panel had altered the narrative of the document beyond technical amendments

**Recommendation 5: That the Growth Board outline what procedures were followed for the changes to Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Regulation 18 Part 1 Consultation and reflect on the changes in the text which altered the narrative between the endorsement of the Local Authority Scrutiny Committees and the publishing of the document in the public domain.**

18. The Chair also asked for clarification with regards to the process of Scrutiny followed with regards to the Joint Declaration of Ambition HM Government and Local Partners.

**Recommendation 6: That the Growth Board seeks clarification on the process; how and when the Joint Declaration of Ambition HM Government and Local Partners will be subject to public scrutiny and debate.**

#### **Future Work**

7. As well as reviewing the Growth Board's response to these recommendations at its next meeting, the Panel will also be considering in detail:
  - a. An up to date Oxford Green Belt Map which includes already developed areas and existing allocation of sites for development with addition of location names included.
  - b. Annualised Housing and Affordable Housing Trajectories with a graph comparing the Actual Versus Forecast (4-year plan) and affordable housing as a percentage of overall housing completions derived from the Annual Monitoring Reports.
  - c. Questions from the Panel with regards Skills training and coverage within the OxLEP framework.
  - d. The Energy Strategy – Draft Delivery Plan by OxLEP.
  - e. Health services and Green transport and safety (Cycle routes) vision in Oxon Plan 2050.
  - f. Updates from Growth Board Sub-Groups.

- g. To consider the Growth Board's Agenda, and any items for discussion including annual monitoring data that was previously requested by panel.

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