



To: Oxfordshire Growth Board
Date: 24 September 2019
Report of: Growth Board Scrutiny Panel
Title of Report: Recommendations from the Scrutiny Panel meeting of 24 September 2019

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	<p>To present Scrutiny Panel recommendations concerning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Growth Board and its advisory sub groups should acknowledge the impact of its growth strands such as Housing, Infrastructure, Oxon plan 2050 and Productivity have on trying to achieve net Zero Carbon. Given the partner councils climate and environmental ambitions the GB should support research into smarter and greener construction methods and include it as a part of its core strategy in all areas of growth. • That the Growth Board feedback to England’s Economic Heartland Transport Strategy consultation, that the central and main purpose be to achieve a Zero- Carbon transport system by 2050, to first use it as a starting point rather than later taking steps to reduce zero carbon. • Oxon Plan 2050-timelines. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) That the Growth Board reflect on the implications of the revision in Oxon Plan 2050 timelines would have on the future work for Local Plans ii) That the Growth Board consider the implications of the revised timelines on staffing and study (research) costs. iii) That the Growth Board acknowledge that the revised timetable would help Ox - Cam expressway project and use this opportunity to help align it with Local Plans.

Summary and recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Growth Board acknowledges that it is appropriate that a local planning authority give due consideration to all factors in considering its local plan. In addition, it is recommended that the Growth Board clarify the potential impacts of possible outcomes of such processes in Oxfordshire, and of any revision in the timetable for the Oxon Plan 2050 contained within the Growth Deal. • That the Growth Board reflect on the positive achievements of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal in the national context and in its discussions with the Central Government. • That the Growth Board acknowledge the Ox - Cam expressway project is in contradiction to the environmental ambitions of the Local Authorities with regards to Climate Emergency being declared. The panel would like to ask the Growth Board take steps to communicate this to the media and the government. 	
Scrutiny Lead Members:	Councillor Andrew Gant, Chair of the Growth Board Scrutiny Panel.
Recommendation: That the Oxfordshire Growth Board states whether it agrees or disagrees with the recommendations in the body of this report.	

Appendices
Appendix 1 – Draft Growth Board response to the recommendation

Introduction and overview

1. The Scrutiny Panel would like to thank Councillor Susan Brown (Leader - Oxford City Council & Affordable Housing sub-group), Councillor Emily Smith (Leader-Vale of White Horse District Council & Vice Chair of Growth Board) Caroline Green (Assistant Chief Executive – Oxford City Council), Giles Hughes (West Oxfordshire District Council, Head of Planning and Strategic Housing), Paul Staines (Growth Deal Delivery Manager- Housing), Aaron Rosser (Growth Deal Delivery Manager- Infrastructure), Rachel Williams (Lead officer Oxfordshire Plan 2050), James Gagg (Ox-Cam Corridor Coordinator - Oxfordshire County Council), John Disley (Infrastructure Strategy & Policy Manager- Oxfordshire

County Council), Stefan Robinson (Growth Board Manager) for attending the meeting to answer questions.

2. The Panel considered the Quarter 1 progress report for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal to the Growth Board. The panel considered the challenges being faced by the Growth Deal Housing team to with regards to grant rates not being competitive enough to attract Registered Providers. The panel also noted that S106 sums were secured for affordable housing. In addition, the panel requested for information on Investment of infrastructure to support homes for e.g. roads in a table format linked to a list of housing developments.
3. The panel also took note of the risks to Housing Growth Deal Delivery Plan and a need to see what mitigation activities were planned. The panel requested either a risk register or a supplementary appendix of detailed numbers.
4. The Panel welcomed Councillor Susan Brown as the Chair of the Housing Advisory sub-group to take the panel through the sub-group notes submitted to the Growth Board. The panel issues such as skills shortage which is being addressed in the OxLEP publication and other issues such as difficulty in pursuing Compulsory Purchase Orders and unfulfilled planning applications.
5. The Panel also noted the skills shortage to produce Zero- Carbon housing with regards to technological and construction skills. The housing sub-group are considering balancing the cost of building carbon neutral houses with the need for Housing in general.

Recommendation 1: That the Growth Board and its advisory sub groups should acknowledge the impact of its growth strands such as Housing, Infrastructure, Oxon plan 2050 and Productivity have on trying to achieve net Zero Carbon. Given the partner councils climate and environmental ambitions the GB should support research into smarter and greener construction methods and include it as a part of its core strategy in all areas of growth.

6. The Panel was pleased to welcome public contributions at its meeting which it is hoped will continue from a wide range of people.
7. The Panel reflected on the need for Growth Board to investigate alternative methods of construction such as alternatives to concrete. The panel also considered the need to have a mandate for members appointed to the Growth Board.
8. The Panel also reflected on Growth Boards Response to previous recommendations and seeks clarification on what methodology would be used for Housing Market Assessment, why the Growth Board cannot inform HM government that they should receive information from local Growth Boards, why the Local Industrial Strategy was not reviewed by individual councils and also why the Joint Declaration of Ambition was signed by all the council leaders without a consultation.
9. The Panel considered England's Economic Heartland (EEH) Outline Transport Strategy and its Framework for Engagement with discussions around the 21 Page 4

questions in the strategy document and the collation of its responses. The Panel at length discussed the Zero Carbon strategy within the transport strategy. In Addition, the lack of any new proposed railway lines, its need to look at the carbon impact from trains and the resilience of the rail network in the Oxfordshire Rail-Corridor Study.

Recommendation 2: That the Growth Board feedback to England's Economic Heartland Transport Strategy consultation, that the central and main purpose be to achieve a Zero- Carbon transport system by 2050, to first use it as a starting point rather than later taking steps to reduce zero carbon.

10. The Panel also considered an update on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 timelines the effect the revised timelines would have on Local Plans. In addition, to the flexibility within the Growth Deal and effect on staffing costs. The panel noted the lack of targets within the plan and also considered the revised timelines as an opportunity to re-align the Plan with Ox-Cam Expressway project.

Recommendation 3: Oxon Plan 2050-timelines.

- i) That the Growth Board reflect on the implications of the revision in Oxon Plan 2050 timelines would have on the future work for Local Plans**
- ii) That the Growth Board consider the implications of the revised timelines on staffing and study (research) costs.**
- iii) That the Growth Board acknowledge that the revised timetable would help Ox - Cam expressway project and use this opportunity to help align it with Local Plans.**

11. The Panel also received Oxfordshire Local Plans update, the Panel expressed its support to Local Planning Authorities in considering various factors affecting their respective plans. The Panels also reaffirms the sovereignty of the Local Councils in following the such processes, however the Panel would like the Growth Board to clarify the potential impacts of possible outcomes of the Local Plans processes and of any revision in timetable for Oxon Plan 2050 within the Growth Deal.

Recommendation 4: That the Growth Board acknowledges that it is appropriate that a local planning authority give due consideration to all factors in considering its local plan. In addition, it is recommended that the Growth Board clarify the potential impacts of possible outcomes of such processes in Oxfordshire, and of any revision in the timetable for the Oxon Plan 2050 contained within the Growth Deal.

12. The Panel also acknowledges that the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal has made major strides in achieving its ambitions. Nationally the success is second to none and that the Growth Board should use these achievements as a basis for all discussions with HM government.

Recommendation 5: That the Growth Board reflect on the positive achievements of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal in the national context and in its discussions with the Central Government.

13. The Panel noted that in the view of the declarations of climate emergency by the constituent councils of the Growth Board. The Board should acknowledge the Ox- Cam Expressway project will increase the carbon footprint and that it is against the environmental ambitions of the councils. The Growth Board should communicate this to the media and HM Government.

Recommendation 6: That the Growth Board acknowledge the Ox - Cam expressway project is in contradiction to the environmental ambitions of the Local Authorities with regards to Climate Emergency being declared. The panel would like to ask the Growth Board take steps to communicate this to the media and the government.

14. The Panel also looked at the Growth Board review with regards to role & function and structure & process of the Growth Board in addition to workshops and press releases. The Panel agreed to formulate a joint response to be agreed at the next Scrutiny Panel Meeting.

Future Work

14. As well as reviewing the Growth Board's response to these recommendations at its next meeting, the Panel will also be considering in detail:

- To review the 2019/20 Quarter 2 progress report for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal and endorse any amendments to the programmes of work as necessary.
- To review the conclusions and recommendations of stage one of the Study (which was endorsed by the Growth Board in June 2018) and approve the scope of stage 2, which sets out areas requiring further detailed options work.

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