

Growth Board response to recommendations of the Growth Board Scrutiny Panel made on 23 January 2020

The Growth Board is requested to provide a draft response to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel for decision at its meeting on 28 January 2020.

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
Recommendation 1: The Scrutiny Panel supports the principle of aligning the Local Plans timelines after the current round, i.e. from the mid-2030s with the revised Oxon plan 2050 timelines and recommends that the Growth Board take steps to ensure this dialogue is instigated with the local planning authorities.	Yes	The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 will build on the foundations set by the current and emerging local plans which will cover the period to 2031, 2034 or 2036. As recommended by the Scrutiny Panel, and by the Advisory Sub-group, there could be opportunities in aligning the time period of the district local plans, though this would be a decision for each local authority to make. The Growth Board will ask its Executive Officer Group to discuss this at its next meeting and report back.
Recommendation 2: That the Growth Board urgently seek clarity on the Government's plan on the Ox-Cam expressway by inviting Highways England for an update at the Growth Board meeting on 11 th March 2020.	Yes	The Growth Board resolved at its meeting on 28 January to write to the Secretary of State for Transport to request an update on the Government's proposals for the Expressway. Highways England has given as much information as they can at this stage, operating under the direction of the Secretary of State.
Recommendation 3: The Scrutiny Panel supports the Growth Board Review's statement of common purpose (pg. 140 para 28 of Growth Board papers Supplementary Agenda). However, the Panel asks that the Growth Board revise part b of para 28 to read the following: " <i>Support the development of local planning policy that meets the UK Government's stated aim of net zero carbon by</i>	Noted	The Growth Board notes the Scrutiny Panel's support for the draft common purpose provided by officers in their report. The Board will ask officers to factor this into any revised draft Terms of Reference that are developed as a result of the review. A decision on this issue would be best considered when the draft Terms of Reference come to the Board for endorsement in June 2020.

<p>2050, and contributes towards biodiversity gain whilst embracing the changes needed for a low carbon world.” The Panel also ask that the Greencore Site Developments at Springfield Meadows - Southmoor and The Acre - Cumnor Hill are used as case studies to progress this ambition.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 4: Growth Board Review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) That the Growth Board does not reduce the overall membership of the Scrutiny Panel. ii) That the Growth Board does not make provision for a mandatory seat for Local Scrutiny Chairs on the Scrutiny Panel. The Panel is not averse to the idea, but this decision should lie with local authorities to decide their representation. iii) That the Growth Board make the provision for the Scrutiny Panel to focus in greater detail to scrutinise the Housing and Growth Deal. iv) That the Growth Board support as a longer-term development opportunity the establishment of Scrutiny Panel Task & finish groups to undertake more detailed review of specific issues by communicating this to the Growth Deal teams for producing key reports. 	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) ii) The Growth Board notes the Scrutiny Panel’s recommendations to maintain the current scrutiny arrangement and membership. These recommendations will be the subject of further discussion, with a decision to be taken when the Board endorses a new set of Terms of Reference. iii) The Scrutiny Panel has an existing remit to check and challenge the Housing and Growth Deal, and the Panel will continue to be supported by the Board in carrying out this important work. iv) The Board welcomes the suggestion of the Panel undertaking specific Task and Finish style reviews but asks that each topic is considered on a case by case basis, taking account of officer advice in the selection of topics and the time and resource capacity of officers.

<p>Recommendation 5: That the Growth Board consider formulating a strategic plan on how to progress the Digital Infrastructure Strategy.</p>	<p>In Part</p>	<p>The Growth Board welcomes this report and the Scrutiny Panel's recommendation and recognises the importance of advancing Oxfordshire's digital connectivity. The decision to adopt this and enter the memorandum of understanding will come from individual councils, but the Growth Board supports the direction of travel presented in the report and the need for further strategic planning to take place in this area.</p> <p>Where the Project Director or constituent councils wish to make use of the Growth Board as a strategic coordination function to support strategic planning concerning digital infrastructure, this would be welcome. The Board will also use its communication channels to draw attention to this important work among local district councils and Central Government.</p>
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