



Growth Board response to recommendations of the Growth Board Scrutiny Panel Recommendations made on 4th March 2020

The Growth Board is requested to provide a response to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 11 March 2020.

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
<p>Recommendation 1. That the Growth Board, in its future involvement in the Oxford to Cambridge Arc, continues to champion and seek deliverability specifically against the following section of the Oxford to Cambridge Arc joint declaration between HM Government and local partners, which the Scrutiny Panel supports:</p> <p><i>“We value the natural environment highly and aim to meet our economic and housing ambitions while overall improving, rather than degrading, the environment in the Arc. We want better places to live, which are beautiful and inspiring, to benefit the Arc’s residents today as well as tomorrow. The Government has already set out its intention for the Arc to embody England’s 25 Year Environment Plan, which we will work together to deliver, including through planning for local natural capital. We want new developments to use intelligent and sensitive design to create or enhance habitats and improve habitat 8 connectivity, in situ and in the surrounding area. We also want to improve access to the environment for existing and new communities in order to improve health and wellbeing.”</i></p>	Yes	<p>The Growth Board welcomes the Scrutiny Panel’s support for the statement set out in the Joint Declaration of Ambition. The Arc Leaders are currently a coalition of the willing, but as and when the Arc begins to develop more formal governance arrangements, the Board’s membership will continue to ensure that Oxfordshire’s environmental ambitions are heard.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2. That any representation from the Growth Board within the formal governance structures of the Oxford to Cambridge Arc should remain reserved for elected councillors within the Growth Board.</p>	Yes	<p>The Growth Board agrees that representatives of the Oxfordshire Growth Board on the Oxford to Cambridge Arc Leaders Group Executive should be chosen from the elected Local Authority Leaders to ensure democratic accountability is embedded as Arc level. The Growth Board also wishes to see</p>

		that LEPs and universities are represented on this Executive as well.
Recommendation 3. That the Growth Board encourage Government to put in place a series of phased incremental 5-year targets to reduce carbon emissions from new and existing homes to achieve Net Zero Carbon emissions by 2050. This could be an effective measure to increase the focus on realistic delivery towards this target.	Yes	The Zero Carbon Report considered by the Board on 11 March 2020 made a series of recommendations concerning the journey to zero carbon. This report represents the start of developmental work which can help to inform county wide planning for a zero-carbon future. The Board will ask officers to consider at what intervals phased targets might be most appropriate, and to make the case to Government as part of that wider work.
Recommendation 4. In view of the Government’s target to reduce carbon emissions by 2050, the Growth Board recognise the significant need for a national household retrofitting programme in addition to ensuring current developments are inexpensive to retrofit. Furthermore, make the case to Government for investment support.	Yes	The Zero Carbon Report considered by the Board on 11 March 2020 included a recommendation to seek incentive from Government to support carbon zero development. The Board will ask officers to make the case to Government on this issues as part of the wider work listed in response to recommendation 3.
Recommendation 5. That the Growth Board recognise the higher than average purchase price for modular build and Zero Carbon housing built by modern methods, setting out to Government the need for more accessible mortgage products.	Yes	The Board will ask officers to make the case to Government as part of the wider work listed in response to recommendation 4.
Recommendation 6. That the Growth Board, in considering the Housing and Growth Deal Progress report, seek to develop a reflective paper on experiences to date concerning the deliverability of the Housing and Growth Deal including mitigation activities and future risks. Furthermore, that the Growth Board ask the Government to respond to the request for extension made by officers on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 timelines and that this should reflect on the need to set flexible and realistic timescales for any future investment agreements with Government following an audit of existing arrangements.	Yes	<p>The Growth Board will ask officers to identify a suitable time in which a lessons learnt paper can be brought forward, once the audit has been confirmed as proceeding and completed.</p> <p>The Growth Board Director will seek clarity on the timing for an annual review meeting with MHCLG and Homes England where at this point, and other matters related to issues across the programme, should be addressed.</p>