

# Supplementary Papers

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FOR THE MEETING OF

## **Oxfordshire Growth Board Scrutiny Panel**

held in the Old Library, Oxford Town Hall, OX1 1BX

on Thursday 19 September 2019 at 6.30 pm

Open to the public including the press

9 **Growth Board Advisory Sub-Group Notes** (Pages 2 - 16)

To consider notes from meetings of the following Growth Board Members Advisory Sub-Groups:

- Oxfordshire Plan 2050 – 25 July 2019
- Infrastructure Sub-Group – 28 May 2019
- Infrastructure Sub-Group – 23 July 2019
- Housing Advisory Sub-Group – 3 September 2019

# Notes

OF A MEETING OF THE

## Oxfordshire Growth Board Oxfordshire

### Plan 2050 Advisory Sub-Group

HELD ON THURSDAY 25 JULY 2019 AT 10.00 AM  
 COMMITTEE ROOM 2, WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL,  
 COUNCIL OFFICES, WOODGREEN, WITNEY, OX28 1NB

#### Present:

Councillors James Mills (Chair), Jeff Haine, Alex Hollingsworth, Jeannette Matelot, Sue Roberts and Catherine Webber

**Officers:** Giles Hughes, Rachel Williams and Kevin Jacob

#### **16 Apologies for absence and notification of substitutes; declarations of interest; Chair's announcements**

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Colin Clarke, (Cherwell District Council) and Councillor Judy Roberts, (Vale of White Horse District Council) who was substituted by Councillor Catherine Webber.

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **17 Notes of previous meeting**

The notes of the meeting held on 30 May 2019 were agreed.

#### **18 Presentation from Alison Smith (University of Oxford) on natural capital mapping exercise for Oxfordshire**

The sub-group received a presentation from Professor Alison Smith, on research work undertaken by the Environmental Change Institute and University of Oxford to map natural capital in Oxfordshire. A summary of the main points of the presentation is set out below:

- Natural capital was a term to describe those elements of the natural environment that provide benefits for humans. These might be air, water, rocks, plants, animals, etc often referred to as natural assets.
- Eco-system services were derived from these natural assets and could include cultural services, i.e. recreation and aesthetic value, regulating services, i.e. flood

and erosion control, water quality, cooling and shading and provisioning services i.e. food crops, livestock, wood etc.

- An example of a regulating service provided by woodland was cooling and shading. During a heatwave in July 2018, Epping Forest had been 20 degrees vs 38 degrees at the Excel Centre.
- Local Natural Capital Plans were a key part of and linked to the goals set out by HM Government in 'A green future: Our 25-year plan to improve the environment' and the National Planning and Policy Framework.
- The majority of land-use in Oxfordshire was set aside for food production, mainly arable farming with relatively low provision of Broadleaved woodland.
- Land use scoring approaches had been developed to calculate 0-10 scores for the ability of each habitat/land use type to deliver each of the eco-system services. Separate maps could be produced for all 18 services and extra multipliers could be used to reflect habitat condition and or location. It was accepted that some scores would be based on objective judgements whilst others would be more subjective.
- Most scores were based upon indicative rankings, but two (carbon storage and air quality regulation) were proportional to measured values.

Points raised in discussion included:

- That land on private estates might score quite highly in terms of the regulatory services it provided and have a high aesthetic value but would not contribute significantly towards recreation and amenity if it was not publicly accessible. It was felt that this was a subtlety that should be reflected in the scoring matrix.
- The 'value' of elements of natural capital was linked to location, i.e. a much-loved tree in an urban environment would score more highly than a single tree in a rural or wooded environment.
- The view was expressed that full natural capital mapping was needed. Officers commented that natural capital work was an increasingly important and helpful contribution to the strategic spatial planning process. It would be appropriate to produce more detailed survey information at different stages of the planning process, so the more specific the location the higher level of mapping information required. Some concern was expressed regarding the need to ensure the objectivity of natural capital consultants engaged by consultants.
- The role of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 as a development plan with policies applicable to specific applications, but not as the only tool available to undertake natural capital mapping.

A detailed discussion took place on seeking funding to scope reports for natural assessments to map known ecological data and ground checking work for full biological and soil health baselining. It was suggested by Councillor Sue Roberts that recommendations should be made to the Growth Board from the sub-group that Officers should be asked to source funding for the scoping reports. After further discussion and input from Officers it was **agreed** that it would be more appropriate to ask the Executive Officer Group of the Growth Board, (EOG) to consider the request.

The Chair thanked Professor Smith for her presentation, and it was agreed that copies would be circulated to members of the sub-group.

## **19 Presentation from Environment Agency on natural capital work being undertaken for the OxCam Arc (Luke Newbey)**

The sub-group received a presentation from Luke Newbey Project Manager OxCam Local Natural Capital Plan, (LNCP) Project Team, Environment Agency on work to a pilot a LNCP within the Oxford to Cambridge Arc area. The main points of the presentation are summarized below:

- Work to pilot a LNCP for the Arc had been commissioned by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, (DEFRA) and was presently the only one of its kind in the country.
- The intention was that LNCPs would be strategic places plans that articulated the local vision and the benefits of delivering HM Government's 25-year plan to improve the environment and within the Arc there was real ambition that growth should be sustainable with natural capital thinking embedded.
- The objective was to publish the ARC LNCP in March 2020 with the objective of helping partners within the Arc provide environmental protection and environmental enhancement.
- Natural capital indicator mapping work was currently in progress linking into other natural capital work across the Arc area.
- There would be continued engagement to ensure the ARC LNCP was locally owned and codesigned in order to ensure a legacy for the project.
- Careful consideration was being given to how best to present natural capital information in a way that would be open, shareable that meet user needs. An option being considered was grid-based mapping at different levels of detail and access depending on nature of use.
- HM Government was looking for LNCP related infrastructure related schemes for consideration as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review process.

In discussion, members of the sub-group that they felt it would important for there to be engagement with groups representing stakeholder groups, for instance those representing landowners, farmers and relevant professional bodies such as the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. At the local level such organisations would be a key source of information. Potential confidentiality issues were recognized, but it was felt that there should be a way to address these issues.

The Chair thanked Luke Newby for the presentation, and he was asked to provide an update on progress at a future date.

## **20 Workshop to review the aspirations and objectives of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 as presented in the consultation document**

In view of the light of the time available a workshop style discussion did not take place, but RW provided a summary of the report on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Regulation 1 Consultation (Part 1). The following key points were raised:

- Work was ongoing to reflect on ways to engage with groups outside of the 35-44 and 45-54 age groups which had made up most of the responses to the consultation. This included building links with schools and colleges to obtain a broader range of voices.
- One of the key themes from the consultation responses to the vision for the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 was that it should be more ambitious. In discussion it was felt

that there was a need to recognise that the plan was a strategic statutory document and there was a risk that in seeking to make it more ambitious it could become overly proscriptive and constrain local planning authorities in setting their own priorities. Officers confirmed that the scope and powers of the plan had not changed and setting of local policies remained a matter for local planning authorities.

- A suite of local press titles had been used for all major updates and to push local engagement including those covering the Abingdon area.

## **21 The next steps**

This item was not discussed, but several other issues were raised by way of any other business.

### Oxford to Cambridge Expressway

Whilst it was noted that Oxford City Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and South Oxfordshire District Council had passed council motions opposing an expressway this was a Highways England scheme not an Oxfordshire Council's scheme. In further discussion, it was felt that whilst the plan and Expressway were separate project, it was appropriate for the evidence base to be shared.

### Work to identify housing numbers for the Oxfordshire Plan between 2020 and 2050

A discussion took place regarding the potential impact of uncertainty around routing options for the Oxford to Cambridge Express Way on work ongoing to identify housing numbers 2020-2050 for the Oxfordshire Plan 2050.

## **22 Future meetings**

It was agreed that the meeting of the sub-group scheduled for 22 August should be cancelled. Dates for the rest of the calendar year were noted as:

- 19 September (subsequently cancelled)
- 17 October
- 14 November
- 12 December

# Notes

OF A MEETING OF THE

## **Oxfordshire Growth Board Infrastructure Sub-Group**

HELD ON TUESDAY 28 MAY 2019 AT 1.00 PM

MEMBERS BOARD ROOM, COUNTY HALL, OXFORD, OX1 1ND

### **Present:**

**Voting members:** Councillors , Yvonne Constance, Amos Duveen, Jeff Haine, Ian Hudspeth, (Chair) and David Turner

**Officers:** Caroline Green (Oxford City Council), Sue Halliwell, Kevin Jacob and Simon McEneny (Oxfordshire County Council)

### **1 Apologies for absence and notification of substitutions; declarations of interest; Chair's announcements**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Linda Smith, (Oxford City Council) and Councillor Lynn Pratt, (Cherwell District Council).

There were no declarations of interest.

The Chair welcomed Councillors Turner and Duveen as new members of the sub-group representing South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council respectively.

### **2 Note of the previous meeting**

The notes of the meeting held on 18 March 2019 were agreed.

Matters Arising

Cowley Branch line – update as part of the study of all the Oxfordshire Rail Network commissioned by Network Rail expected in autumn 2019.

### **3 Growth Deal Year End Programme Report**

The Group considered a report setting out an overview of the Growth Deal Infrastructure workstream delivery and performance to 30 April 2019. It was noted that the end of the first year of delivery of the programme had occurred and a spend of £30m had been

achieved. An updated delivery plan had been presented to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in April for its consideration.

Issues raised:

- It was a significant achievement to have delivered the planned spend as had any spend remain there was potential for it to be reclaimed by HM Government.
- Members questioned and received clarification on funding for the Watlington Edge Road.
- Members questioned arrangements for Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) as part of the proposed Year 2-5 infrastructure programme. It was noted that was about putting in place preparatory arrangements if required and did not relate to any specific schemes now.
- Members questioned the red, amber green, (RAG) rating in respect of individual projects. It was noted this reflected the level of confidence in completion of the planned stage in a scheme's schedule not physical completion on site.

The Group noted:

- 1) The Year 2 Q1 monitoring report and the progress made to date
- 2) The Year 2 reprofiling exercise and the agreement with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, (MHCLG).
- 3) The Year 2 to 5 delivery programme exercise and the programme going forward.

#### 4 Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy - Proposed Update

The Group considered a report on proposed options to progress the commitment in the Growth Deal to refresh the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy, (OxIS) in years 2 (2019/2020) and 4 (2021/2022) of the Deal whilst aligning this to the requirements of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050.

Issues raised:

- The OxIS had been approved by the Growth Board in November 2017 and examined all infrastructure including scheme put forward via the Housing and Infrastructure Fund, (HIF) and those which now had Growth Deal funding. A refresh was intended to allow for the long list of schemes to be updated in light of the Deal, successful HIF bids to HM Government and later local plan iterations.
- A wide range of partners such as the NHS, utilities had been engaged with although a challenge was the differences in how each organisation undertook long term planning.
- Members raised the importance of the consideration of the supply of water in terms of future infrastructure requirements and their ranking.

After discussion the Group **supported** the progression of Option 2 as set out in the report for a refresh of the OxIS to be undertaken in two tranches.

#### 5 Oxfordshire Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP5) Update

The Group considered a report that set out an update on the production of a new Local Transport and Connectivity Plan for Oxfordshire, (LTP5) to replace the previous LTP4 version agreed in 2015 with an update in 2016.

Issues raised:

- A refresh was needed as the much had changed since the LTP4 had been approved, An ambitious and transformative plan was required to reflect the wider national, regional and local policy framework and to take into account funding secured for Oxfordshire as part of the Housing and Growth Deal and Housing Infrastructure Fund.
- Other key changes were to seek to include 'connectivity' into the title to encompass not just transport connectivity, but also digital connectivity and to reflect on the acknowledgment by Oxfordshire County Council of a Climate Emergency.
- The indicative consultation timeframe was noted and representatives of district councils encouraged to raise the issue of the LTCP5 to parish councils through their own liaison channels such as parish liaison meetings.
- Members commented that it was important that the plan should address rural transport and connectivity access issues as well as those linked to conurbations.
- The issue of heavy good vehicle routing was raised.

The Group **noted** the report.

## **6 Any other business**

Housing Infrastructure Fund Update

The Group was provided with an update on the progress of the housing from infrastructure fund.

Issues raised:

- Year 1 commitments had been achieved.
- Oxfordshire had developed a constructive working relationship with Homes England
- Risks to the infrastructure programme and delivery of homes were highlighted.

The Group **noted** the report.

## **7 Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting as Tuesday 23 July was noted.

The meeting closed at 2.15 pm

## Notes

OF A MEETING OF THE

# Oxfordshire Growth Board Infrastructure Sub-Group

HELD ON TUESDAY 23 JULY 2019 AT 10.00 AM  
MEMBERS MEETING ROOM, OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, COUNTY  
HALL, NEW ROAD, OXFORD. OX1 1ND

### Present:

Councillors Ian Hudspeth (Chair), Amos Duveen, Jeff Haine, Linda Smith and David Turner

**Officers:** Caroline Green, Sue Halliwell, Rachel Wileman, Melissa Goodacre, Simon MCEney and Kevin Jacob.

## 8 Apologies for absence and notifications of substitutions; declarations of interest; Chair announcements

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lynn Pratt, (Cherwell District Council) and Yvonne Constance, (Oxfordshire County Council).

There were no declarations of interest.

## 9 Notes of the previous meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 28 May 2019 were agreed.

No matters arising were raised.

## 10 Thames Valley Flood Scheme

The sub-group received a pre-circulated presentation from Joe Cuthbertson, Project Officer, Environment Agency on the Thames Valley Flood Scheme and measures to mitigate the risk of future flooding.

Points raised during the presentation included:

- Key infrastructure coming at risk of flooding and costal change was increasing due to climate change.
- Property areas at risk in the Thames catchment.
- Existing defences put in place since the 1970's.

- Current and future schemes planned to include Flood Water Storage Area schemes in the Thames Upper reaches.
- Some locations that were at risk of flooding had potential flood alleviation schemes that were technically possible but were not viable on a cost benefit basis whereas some schemes were not technically viable.
- The National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England, Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme, River Thames Scheme and National Infrastructure Assessment.
- The Environment Agency wanted engagement with Oxfordshire local authority partners around the Thames Valley Flood Scheme and next steps in planning for future growth.
- Provision of flood alleviation infrastructure could be potentially be provided at the same time as other infrastructure improvements to help reduce cost and reduce disruption to residents.
- Flood alleviation schemes were felt to compare well in cost benefit terms to other significant national infrastructure schemes, but a partnership approach would be needed to provide funding given the scale of the sums involved.
- Upland flood management schemes had a place in mitigating or preventing floods downstream.

In discussion, members of the sub-group questioned whether in designing potential flood alleviation schemes, solutions would be developed and approved which would represent the best technical solution available i.e. capable of dealing with 1 in 500 year level flooding events as it would not represent best value to spend money on infrastructure that would obsolete in short period of time. The sub-group was informed that all the design of scheme represented the best technical solution, but this impacted on the overall cost and affordability of the Thames Valley Flood scheme.

With regard to the potential positive impact of upper Thames flood alleviation schemes on downstream locations in the tidal Thames, there was discussion on whether this represented a case that contributions to the cost of the schemes could be made by partners in tidal Thames areas given the mutual benefit that upper Thames schemes could provide.

There was a link between flood alleviation schemes and the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy, (OxIS) and the ranking mechanism for the scheme would need to reflect this.

The Chair thanked Joe Cuthbertson for his presentation.

## **11 Presentation from Thames Water - Supporting Growth in Oxfordshire**

The sub-group received a pre-circulated presentation from Alex Nickson, Water Resources and Resilience Lead at Thames Water on the contribution Thames Water could make in supporting growth in Oxfordshire in the context of a projected water supply deficit in the future.

Points raised during the presentation included:

- Water supplies would be under pressure in the future as demand increased with population and the climate changed.
- Rain fall patterns were changing with more rain falling in the winter, but less in summer.

- A water supply deficit in the future was expected across the South East and planning by Thames water to mitigate and develop new resources were outlined as well as sewage capacity issues.
- Potential measures and schemes to develop new strategic water resources by 2030.
- Measures to tackle leakage and manage demand.
- Long term planning for water and sewage needed to feed into the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 evidence base and development of the Oxford to Cambridge Arc conversation.
- Thames Water had to work with its regulator Ofwat for approval of its plans.
- Need for HM government to make changes to building regulations around water savings.

In discussion, it was noted that it was difficult for Thames Water to plan for the future and have confidence in going ahead with the provision of water infrastructure given the challenges in predicting which planning permissions would be implemented. It was questioned what consideration was given in the National Planning Policy Framework, (NPPF) to water and sewerage issues and the sub-group was informed that there was not covered in the current version the water industry had expressed its views to HM Government, particularly with regard to problems around different timelines.

The Chair thanked Alex Nickson for his presentation.

## **12 Q2 Growth Deal Delivery Report**

The sub-group held a discussion on the progress of Year 2 of the Growth Deal Infrastructure Programme. Key points included:

- Progress was on track for Q1, but focus had now shifted from planning to the delivery of projects to meet the target spend of £30m for the financial year. To maximise spend, consideration was being of the potential to bring forward some Year 3 schemes into Year 2.
- Increased officer resource within the team to support the delivery of the infrastructure programme was now largely in place. However, given the specialist nature of the skills required recruitment and retention remained challenging.
- WS Atkins had been commissioned to provide assurance that the priorities and estimates within the Infrastructure Programme were the right ones. Feedback so far was positive.

In discussion, the time taken to bring forward a scheme in a phased manner from initial idea to feasibility, detailed design and delivery was acknowledged.

## **13 HIF Verbal Update**

The sub-group was provided with an update on bids to HM Governments Housing from Infrastructure Fund, (HIF).

A40 SMART Corridor

The business case for the related A40 Science Transit scheme had been submitted in June, and currently going through clarifications with DfT. The A40 HIF clarification stage and moderation now complete. The next step would be a cross departmental government assessment panel, but the bid was considered to score highly.

Didcot Garden Town

Sign off of the approved bid is currently expected in September/October.

## **14 Any other urgent business**

South Oxfordshire District Council Local Plan

At the suggestion of the Chair, the sub-group had a discussion around the possible impact on prioritised infrastructure if South Oxfordshire District Council withdraw their submitted local plan.

ARC/Comprehensive Spending Review, (CSR) Items

MHCLG was encouraging bids relating to potential ARC related infrastructure schemes for consideration as part of the HM Government CSR process expected in the autumn. Schemes with elements relating natural capital were particularly encouraged. Officers were investigating and the Oxfordshire Industrial Strategy, (OxIS) provided a basis for developing potential schemes.

Oxfordshire Rail Connectivity Study Update

An update on the study was expected to be presented to the Growth Board in September which would include the Cowley Branch line.

## **15 Date of next meeting**

It was note that it had become necessary to reschedule the date of the next meeting of the sub-group from Monday 9 September to Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September.

# Notes

OF A MEETING OF THE

## **Oxfordshire Growth Board Housing**

### **Advisory Sub-Group**

**HELD ON TUESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 6.30 PM  
BARRISTERS ROOM, OXFORD TOWN HALL, OX1 1BX**

#### **Present:**

**Councillors:** Robin Bennett (South Oxfordshire District Council), Liz Brighthouse (Oxfordshire County Council), Susan Brown (Chair) Oxford City Council, John Donaldson Cherwell District Council, Neil Fawcett Vale of White Horse District Council, Jeff Haine West Oxfordshire District Council and Mike Rowley Oxford City Council.

**Officers:** Adrian Arnold, Richard Byard, Kevin Jacob and Paul Staines

#### **7 Apologies for absence and notification of substitutions; declarations of interest; Chair's announcements**

There were no apologies for absence.

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **8 Notes of the meeting held on 21 May 2019**

The notes of the meeting held on 21 May 2019 were received. It was noted that the meeting scheduled for 16 July 2019 had subsequently been cancelled and it had not been possible to arrange an alternative in July.

#### **9 OxLEP Report on addressing future skills shortage**

The Group considered a report setting out:

- An overview of the construction skills landscape in Oxfordshire and how it supported housing and growth ambitions.
- An overview of how OxLEP was supporting the skills agenda and addressing the potential skills shortages whilst recognising the collective responsibility of stakeholders.

Richard Byard, OxLEP Director of Business Development introduced the report and responded to the Group's questions. Key issues highlighted included:

- Oxfordshire has one of the most successful economies in the country, with comparatively low rates of those in receipt of benefits and job seekers allowance. However, despite a low level the cohort on JSA had remained static for decades.
- Oxfordshire had a relatively low level of productivity relative to its peers and other challenges included strain on infrastructure and housing affordability.
- The recently published Oxfordshire Local Industrial Strategy, (LIS) recognised these challenges and set out a vision for innovation led growth. The 'People' (skills) pillar of the LIS had a priority to build a skills system that better responded to local demand.
- Construction skills shortages and challenges across England were well documented. Construction work tended to be transient in nature with workers often travelling long distances to projects and with variations dependent on trade and skills. This had been the experience from very large building projects such as the Westgate Shopping centre. However, large projects also offered opportunities (as Westgate also did) to build in local employment creation such as apprenticeships.
- Nationally, public housing construction had surpassed infrastructure as the sector predicted to see the largest growth in the next five years.
- The Construction Industry Training Board, (CITB) was empowered to impose a levy on employers in the construction industry to support training development through grants and funding, promotion of the construction industry as a career choice including the provision of high-quality apprenticeships, the identification of skills needs across the industry and the development to occupational standards.
- Strong links and a good working relationship existed between the CITB area team and OxLEP which was actively engaged in supporting opportunities to support growth in construction skills locally.
- There had been approximately 22,000 construction related job postings in Oxfordshire during January to June 2019 – 22% higher than national averages and this was expected to increase to 24,000 by 2027.
- There had been c3,600 (all ages) construction training starts in the 2017/2018 with 2,760 achievements, (77%).
- Initial data indicated suggested a significant undersupply of construction related learning activity. Challenges included perceptions and profile of the construction industry that affected its attractiveness as a career, (particularly amongst younger people and women), availability of construction courses and concerns around potential loss of income for schools in recommending vocational education and apprenticeships vs academic study to students.
- Through the Oxfordshire Skills Board, the OxLEP Skills Team was working with a range of partners to improve rates of construction related learning including the Department for Education.
- OxLEP had commissioned research to support the development of robust labour market intelligence (LMI) to help shape the future direction of skills provision aligned to local economic need. Once completed this would inform the creation of a Skills Needs Priority Statement which it was expected would be completed in Easter.
- OxLEP was supporting the delivery of Community Employment Plans (CEPs). CEPs seek to mitigate the impacts of development through ensuring that local people are better able to access job opportunities from development in their area and could form part of Section 106 planning obligations. A CEP had been formed part of the Section 106 planning obligations for the Westgate Development and had been focused on providing employment for those who had been out of work for a long time.
- An updated and developed report could be presented to a future meeting of the Group in January or March 2020.

In discussion, it was felt that it is important for growth to be inclusive and that no sections of the community should be left behind by it. It was also felt important for the Group to consider the potential impact of a skills shortage on the construction of housing as accelerating housing growth is a key part of the Growth Deal.

It was noted that it was assumed that most applicants for construction related job postings within Oxfordshire were resident in the county, but the market intelligence would test and establish this.

Members commented that often small and medium sized developers required skilled staff quickly and did not have the time to train staff. It was important to attract staff.

It was further pointed out that this was a circular argument in favour of affordable housing.

Members queried how the Sub-Group might help with construction training shortages. It was felt that championing and support of CEPs was important as was the encouragement of learning providers to provide more construction skills learning course places.

The Group **agreed** to note the report and requested a further report update report once recently commissioned labour market intelligence had been reported to the Oxfordshire Skills Board.

## 10 Incomplete Planning Applications

The Group considered an explanatory note and table detailing indicative information on housing requirements and supply in the Oxfordshire district authorities. This followed a request from the Group that it receive information on unfulfilled planning permissions from across the county. It was noted that delivery was broadly on target against the expected trajectory.

In discussion, Members discussed the potential reasons why applications with detailed approval were not enacted quickly, noting factors differed between sites and size of developers and could be influenced by economic factors at the national and even international level. A key factor influencing development was economic certainty.

It was noted that whilst local authorities had played a largely passive role in monitoring the delivery of development sites in the past, the Deal required a shift to more active monitoring and an understanding of how councils could drive, enable or influence development.

It was noted that although HM Government had considered the possibility of a mechanism for the withdrawal of unfulfilled planning applications by local planning applications this had not been taken forward. Committee noted that there were a number of proposals in the Letwin review that would provide tools for councils to enable increased pace of development.

The Group **noted** the paper.

## 11 Q2 Growth Deal housing from infrastructure and affordable housing programmes monitoring report

The Group considered a report and presentation setting out progress with the two Growth Deal housing programmes, the Homes from Infrastructure (HFI) and the Affordable Housing Programme (OAHF). In summary, it was noted that:

- Homes from Infrastructure - It was projected that by year 5 of the Growth Deal the forecast accelerated number of homes would be 10,491 against a base line figure of 6,549. The Oxfordshire Housing Trajectory Profile for forecast completions was 33,562 against a base line of 29,455.
- Discussions were continuing between Growth Deal Officers and Homes England around possible way of mitigating current financial barriers to the attractiveness of Growth Deal affordable housing funds.
- The delivery position on the Oxfordshire Affordable Housing Programme was as expected more challenging over Year 2. The current programme was 1,295 units against a target of 1,322. In budget terms the current spend would be £50.575m against the budget of £60m.
- As the major barrier to the success of the affordable housing programme was the levels of grant funding available, officers were investigating potential forms of alternative funding to top up funding from the Growth Deal AHP.

It was also noted that Oxford City Council had contributed towards affordable housing in the city, often with land, to ensure affordable housing was delivered and to meet the funding gap.

The Group **noted** the paper.

## **12 Mapping of major development sites and HIF**

The Group considered maps setting out the locations of major development sites related to Housing Infrastructure Fund sites as requested at the previous meeting.

The Group **noted** the report.

## **13 Date of future meetings**

The date of the next meeting as 5 November 2019 was noted.

In terms of future items, it was noted that an update report would be brought by OxLEP to the January or March meeting give an update on skills and progress with Community Employment Plans. In addition to the regular monitoring report on housing from infrastructure and the affordable housing programme, members of the Group were asked to suggest potential future agenda items.

It was agreed that information on a passive housing development in the Cherwell area would be circulated outside of the meeting and information on the costs of zero carbon housing investigated.