

# Joint Scrutiny Report



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## Update on Oxfordshire's Strategic Economic Plan refresh process

### Purpose

1. To provide Joint Scrutiny Committee members with an update on the process for producing a refreshed Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan (SEP)

### Background

2. Officers have discussed with South and Vale Cabinet members the process for developing a refreshed Oxfordshire SEP.
3. As a result of feedback from members, officers were asked to ensure that:
  - a. Copies of the refreshed SEP be placed on the Council's website so visitors to the website could comment on the document, via a dedicated email address, if they so wished to do.
  - b. The refreshed document is discussed at the next Joint Scrutiny Committee, so cabinet could take their comments into account when determining whether/how to endorse the refreshed SEP
  - c. Cabinet be kept informed of developments with regard to the SEP
  - d. A subsequent paper is presented to October cabinet meetings, summarising key aspects of the refreshed SEP document and recommending how Council should respond to the LEP's request that the refreshed SEP be steered through Council's democratic process, with a view to endorsing the document.

4. The refreshed SEP is attached as an Appendix to this report.) The document has subsequently been ratified by the LEP Board at their Board meeting on 5 September 2016.
5. The document was also placed in the Business Section of both Council websites with the following invitation:

The Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) is currently refreshing the Strategic Economic Plan so it can align better with Oxfordshire's current economic environment.

We have received a final draft version of the Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan. Oxfordshire Local Economic Partnership have asked our Cabinet to endorse its' content at their next meeting in October.

The document can be accessed via [the Oxfordshire LEP website](#).

The Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan document has already been subject to a full public consultation process. However if you would like to comment on this, in advance of our cabinet meeting, you can do so by emailing [sepconsultation@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:sepconsultation@whitehorsedc.gov.uk) by Friday 30 September 2016.

6. To summarise, the current timetable is therefore as follows:

Date	Action
24 August 2016	Revised version of refreshed SEP document circulated to cabinet members and posted on OxLEP website for information
31 August	Revised version posted in Business Section of Council websites, with an invitation to comment via a dedicated, unique email address for each council area – before 30 September 2016.
22 September	Refreshed SEP document to be discussed by Joint Scrutiny Committee
30 September – 1 October	Comments to be incorporated into the cabinet paper being drafted for 6/7 October Cabinet Meetings
By end October	Oxfordshire councils to provide either full or qualified endorsement of the SEP document
November	OxLEP to finalise refreshed SEP document and obtain their Board approval to publish this as a final refreshed SEP document

## Conclusion

7. The final revised SEP document has been circulated to cabinet members and represents OxLEP's final revision, pending any comments received following each councils consideration of the document.
8. Officers are confident that OxLEP will fully consider all responses to the refreshed SEP document, and will take account of further comments made by councils before publishing a final version of the SEP document. That said, as

with all consultation exercises, OxLEP would not necessarily be expected to incorporate every comment into the final SEP, due to the essential need for collaboration, prioritisation and compromise during the production of such a county-wide strategy document.

9. The Joint Scrutiny Committee is asked to:
  - a. Note the timetable for production of a refreshed Oxfordshire SEP
  - b. Note that a paper summarising the SEP will come to both South and Vale's October cabinet meetings for their consideration, comment and endorsement (either full or qualified) and
  - c. Submit comments for the Cabinets' consideration