

# Notes

OF A MEETING OF THE

## **Oxfordshire Growth Board Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Advisory Sub-Group**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 18 JUNE 2020 AT 10.00 AM  
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA MS TEAMS**

### **Present:**

Councillors James Mills (Chair), Colin Clarke, Jeff Haine, Alex Hollingsworth, Jeannette Matelot, Anne-Marie Simpson and Catherine Webber

**Officers:** Giles Hughes (West Oxfordshire District Council), Kevin Jacob, Mike Pollard and Rachel Williams (Oxfordshire Plan 2050)

### **61 Apologies for absence and notifications of substitutes; declarations of interest; Chair's announcements**

Councillor Matelot recorded apologies for lateness as she was unable to join the meeting until 11:15 because of another meeting commitment and Councillor Clarke indicated he would need to leave the meeting prior to its conclusion as he had an additional meeting commitment.

There were no declarations of interest.

### **62 Notes of the previous meeting**

The notes of the meeting held on 14 May 2020 were agreed subject to the clarification of the 1<sup>st</sup> sentence of the second paragraph of minute 59, (Guiding Principles) to read, "In discussion, *notwithstanding that a range of views existed*, members of the subgroup welcomed the updated document and thanked officers for their hard work to get it this point'.

#### Matters arising: Guiding principles document for the Oxfordshire Plan 2050

Councillors Webber and Simpson referred to additional input they had received in respect of the document and climate emergency. After discussion it was agreed that most of its July meeting should be devoted to holding a workshop style discussion on climate change in the context of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050.

### **63 Updates from the Growth Board meeting of 2 June**

Bev Hindle, Growth Board Director provided the subgroup with a summary of the main points arising from the meeting of the Growth Board held on 2 June which had included agreement to ask HM Government for an extension in the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 programme and consideration of the initial impacts of Covid-19 on the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.

### **64 Presentation on the work to develop a Nature Recovery Network for Oxfordshire Mike Pollard - (Wild Oxfordshire)**

The subgroup received a detailed presentation from Mike Pollard, of Wild Oxfordshire on work to develop a Natural Recovery Network for Oxfordshire.

Members of the subgroup welcomed the presentation commenting that work to establish a Natural Recovery Network was important and needed to be progressed promptly with some areas of the county experiencing a deficit of green space and infrastructure which needed to be addressed. Accurate mapping of natural resources would aid the development of spatial planning options.

### **65 Draft skeleton for the Reg 18 (part 2) Consultation Document for discussion**

The subgroup considered a 1<sup>st</sup> draft skeleton document which was intended to set out the basic framework for the formal Regulation 18 (part 2) consultation document to be published later in 2020. It was stressed to the subgroup that the document was intended to help prompt discussion and was not intended to reflect the format of the published document. In addition to seeking the subgroups inputs, ongoing discussions were being held at technical officer level across the county.

Members of the subgroup made a number of detailed suggestions which Officers noted, and it was agreed to revisit the document for further discussion as a future meeting. Members of the sub-group were also encouraged to submit any further thoughts or suggestions outside of the meeting.

### **66 Draft letter to Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government re Planning Reforms and the Role of Strategies Planning - Bev Hindle Growth Board Director**

Bev Hindle, Growth Board Director introduced a 1<sup>st</sup> draft of a potential letter to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, (MHCLG) on behalf of the Growth Board.

The letter was intended to capture ongoing concerns regarding the suitability of the current national assessment regime in respect of strategic and spatial plans, including the Oxfordshire Plan 2050. It had been informed by recent decisions by the Planning Inspectorate in respect of other strategic and spatial plans and was also intended to capture Oxfordshire's emerging ambition in respect of inclusive growth and response to the climate emergency.

Members of the subgroup made a number of suggestions and after further discussion, the further development of the letter for further consideration and approval by the Growth Board was supported. It was noted that Officer contact with officials within the MHCLG on the subject would continue.

## **67 Spatial Planning Framework - Bev Hindle Growth Board Director**

Bev Hindle, Growth Board Director introduced a report which set out the approach being taken by the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 team in developing a strategic vision to support the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and which sought the subgroup's endorsement of that approach.

In discussion, a number of detailed points and suggestions were made including that it was important to be able convey in concise and simple language what was meant by a spatial framework or strategic vision. It was agreed to bring an updated version of the document back to a future meeting for further discussion and consideration.

## **68 Future meetings**

Thursday 16 July 2020.

The meeting closed at 12.00 pm