

Growth Board Draft response to recommendations of the Growth Board Scrutiny Panel Recommendations made on 22nd July 2020

The Growth Board is requested to provide a draft response to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel, to be published as a supplement collectively with the Scrutiny Panel's report, for decision at its meeting on 28 July 2020.

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agree ?</i>	<i>Comment</i>
<p>Recommendation 1. That the Growth Board, in considering its role in the Post-Covid-19 recovery, supports the principles of recovery as agreed by the C40 Mayors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recovery should not be a return to 'business as usual' - because that is a world on track for 3°C or more of over-heating; • The recovery, above all, must be guided by an adherence to public health and scientific expertise, in order to assure the safety of those who live in our cities; • Excellent public services, public investment and increased community resilience will form the most effective basis for the recovery; • The recovery must address issues of equity that have been laid bare by the impact of the crisis – for example, workers who are now recognised as essential should be celebrated and compensated accordingly and policies 		

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<p>must support people living in informal settlements;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The recovery must improve the resilience of our cities and communities. Therefore, investments should be made to protect against future threats – including the climate crisis – and to support those people impacted by climate and health risks;• Climate action can help accelerate economic recovery and enhance social equity, using new technologies and the creation of new industries and new jobs. These will drive wider benefits for our residents, workers, students, businesses and visitors;• We commit to doing everything in our power and the power of our city governments to ensure that the recovery from COVID-19 is healthy, equitable and sustainable;• We commit to using our collective voices and individual actions to ensure that national governments support both cities and the investments needed in cities, to deliver an economic recovery that is healthy, equitable and sustainable;• We commit to using our collective voices and individual actions to ensure that international and regional institutions invest directly in cities to support a healthy, equitable and sustainable recovery.		
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<p>Recommendation 2. That the Growth Board, in considering its role in the Post-Covid-19 recovery, champions the role of the science and technology industries in delivering economic recovery and renewal, especially where those sectors can contribute towards our local environmental and healthy living ambitions; areas that the Panel felt were not sufficiently recognised within the report presented to them.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 3. That the Growth Board revise its Freedom of Information Request Procedure to remove references that permit local authorities to consult other local authorities on how they intend to respond; this would ensure the responses are transparent and highlight any gaps in governance or policy related issues.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 4. That the Growth Board provide the Scrutiny Panel with an update at its next meeting concerning the development of a Local nature Partnership for Oxfordshire.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 5. That the Growth Board provides clarity about how members of its Advisory Sub-Group will be expected to carry out their conduit role between that group and their local authority, as suggested in the Terms of Reference for those groups.</p>		

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<p>Recommendation 6. That the Growth Board ensures that the Advisory Subgroups have access to the minutes of the Scrutiny Panel meetings.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 7. That the Growth Board make visible on its website's home page how the public can register to speak at future meetings of the Board.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 8: That the Growth Board in its reporting for the Housing Sub-group categorise Affordable Housing in two sub-categories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Affordable Housing: 80% market rate (NPPF)ii) Affordable Housing: 5 x median household income (mortgage rates) <p>Thus, giving the actual number of truly affordable houses as per the median household income in Oxfordshire.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 9: That the Growth Board in its work with Oxfordshire Plan 2050 re-examine the boundaries of Green Belt with a focus on countryside housing developments and its impact on flood risk areas.</p>		

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Recommendation 10: That the Growth Board investigate ways of funding public infrastructure projects by incentivising private sector organisations in order to attract capital investment; decreasing budgetary pressures on these projects.		
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