

Minutes

OF A MEETING OF THE

Oxfordshire Growth Board Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Advisory Sub-Group



**HELD ON THURSDAY 20 AUGUST 2020 AT 10.00 AM
VIRTUAL VIA MS TEAMS**

Present:

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

Officers: Alison Bailey, Principal Planner, Bev Hindle, Growth Board Director, Giles Hughes, Chief Executive West Oxfordshire District Council, Stefan Robinson, Growth Board Manager and Rachel Williams, Oxfordshire Plan Lead

7 Apologies for absence and notifications of substitutes; declarations of interest; Chair's announcements

Apologies were received from Councillor Haine. There were no declarations of interest.

8 Notes of the previous meeting

The notes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record.

9 Oxfordshire's Strategic Vision

The Sub-group discussed a series of questions presented by officers concerning how a Strategic Vision for Oxfordshire might be framed. The aim was to build consensus around ambition, outcomes and priorities for Oxfordshire.

Officers explained that the intention was to create a vision and narrative that would tie together and read between shared strategies, which may be associated with the Growth Board. It would not be a statutory document, and it was an internal development process at this stage. This was an initial discussion to help shape thinking. It was explained that this may also help the county to have a greater level of influence at national and sub-national levels, and that there would need to be a broad and high-level approach.

The Sub-group suggested that the emphasis on well-being, as presented in the report, was appropriate for the Strategic Vision. In a discussion about ambitions for Oxfordshire, and potential goals linked to enhanced well-being, it was requested that there should be additional references to inclusivity, and, rather than addressing inequalities (as referenced

in the report), any vision should look to actively reduce inequalities and promote social mobility. It was mentioned that wherever possible, the quality of the natural environment should not be compromised by other ambitions. The principal of net benefit should apply wherever change occurs.

Members emphasised the importance of fostering a sense of community in new developments, and that community infrastructure should be built in from the start to support this. Members also commented that if the vision is to reference housing need, then this should refer to the needs of current and future generations.

In commenting on draft criteria for judging plans and strategies, the Sub-group emphasised the importance of Oxfordshire's environmental assets.

There was general endorsement of the proposed way forward. Officers explained that there would be a process of engagement with local authorities prior to a Draft Strategic Vision being taken to the Growth Board.

Under the same agenda item, the Sub-group also had a discussion concerning guiding principles for the Oxfordshire Plan 2050. Some suggested that all other principles should be answerable to addressing the challenges presented by climate change, and that the principles could be strengthened to take greater account of the climate emergency. Others said that this was a matter of process and implementation rather than principles, and that members would be more comfortable once there was a clear and measurable plan for addressing climate change in place.

Officers explained that the current draft guiding principles tried to provide a balance to the weight of all principles, and that there was already a strong direction on climate change in the existing guiding principles. They explained that guiding principles would likely form part of the Strategic Vision and there would an opportunity to consider them in that context, including next steps.

10 Future meetings

The Sub-group noted the dates of its future meetings, as presented in the agenda.

The meeting closed at 12:00