

Notes

OF A MEETING OF THE

Oxfordshire Growth Board Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Advisory Sub-Group

**HELD ON THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER 2020 AT 10.00 AM
VIRTUAL VIA MS TEAMS**

Present:

Members: 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 and Rachel Williams (Oxfordshire Plan 2050)

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

There were no apologies for absence or substitutions.

Councillor Mills declared an interested in the discussion regarding the engagement exercise undertaken with young people on the grounds his brother was an employee of Abingdon and Witney College, one of the colleges worked with.

18 Notes of the previous meeting

The notes of the previous meeting were agreed.

19 Presentation on the Stage One outputs of the Oxfordshire Growth Needs Assessment work

The subgroup received a presentation from Rachel Williams, Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Lead, setting out draft emerging outputs from the development of the Oxfordshire Growth Needs Assessment, (OGNA). This followed a previous presentation to the subgroup in May which had set out the brief of the consultants engaged to undertake the work.

It was intended to share an updated comprehensive version of the presentation more generally with all district, county and city councillors later in the year incorporating feedback from the subgroup at this and the November meeting.

The presentation covered:

- The context of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, the Plan's aspirations and its relationship with the OGNA.

- The purpose of the OGNA to:
 - Appraise housing market and economic dynamics across Oxfordshire
 - Provide a robust evidence base for understanding housing and employment land needs to 2050
 - Inform decision-making whilst recognising increasing uncertainty further into the future
 - A product closely developed with an Officer Steering Group comprised of representatives of all Oxfordshire principal councils.
- The structure and two stages to the OGNA
- Headline information on Oxfordshire's Housing Market
- Headline demographic Trends in Oxfordshire
- An explanation of HM Government's 'Standard Method' of calculating minimum housing need
- Wider policy considerations
- Economic trajectories and assumptions in modelling
- A range of indicative needs trajectories for Oxfordshire
- Next steps

Officers stressed the OGNA would form an important part of the consideration of the levels of housing and employment to be identified within the Oxfordshire Plan 2050. Its purpose was not to make recommendations about housing or jobs targets for the Plan, but it would provide a range of reasonable figures for testing and consultation and its outputs would need to be considered by local decision makers within the local authorities alongside other Plan evidence.

The subgroup asked detailed questions relating to the inputs and methodologies used within the assessment, the relationships with the local plans, consideration of Covid 19 and Brexit impacts on future economic growth and of major employment locations with commuters outside of Oxfordshire such as armed forces bases. Members of the subgroup commented on the importance of environmental considerations and Officers highlighted that in using the OGNA and through the Plan process, local decision makers had the opportunity not just to determine levels of growth, but to shape the future form of that growth.

It was noted that further work would be undertaken, and a further discussion held at the November meeting.

20 Future meetings and forward programme

The subgroup noted the dates of its future meetings, as presented in the Agenda.

Members were reminded of engagement undertaken earlier in the year with young people from Abingdon & Witney College and City of Oxford College and that a summary of the findings had been circulated to them.

In conclusion, Members noted that this would be Councillor Mills last meeting of the subgroup and paid tribute to his contribution and chairmanship whilst wishing well for the future.

The meeting closed at 11.20 am

