

Notes

OF A MEETING OF THE

Oxfordshire Growth Board Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Advisory Group

**HELD ON TUESDAY 27 APRIL 2021 AT 10.00 AM
VIRTUAL VIA MS TEAMS**

Present:

Councillors: Colin Clarke, Jeff Haine, Alex Hollingsworth, Michele Mead, (Chair)
Anne-Marie Simpson and Emily Smith

Officers: Adrian Colwell (Oxfordshire Plan 2050), Giles Hughes (West Oxfordshire District Council) and Kevin Jacob, (Oxfordshire Growth Board)

45 Apologies for absence and notifications of interest; Chair's announcements

Apologies were received on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council and Councillor Debby Hallett, Vale of White Horse District Council, (substituted by Councillor Emily Smith).

There were no declarations of interest or Char's announcements.

46 Notes of the previous meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 18 March 2021 were agreed as a correct summary.

47 Briefing note and updated Oxfordshire Plan 2050 - (Version 7) Reg 18 Part 2 Consultation Document

The subgroup considered an updated draft version of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Regulation 18 Part 2 Consultation Document. The subgroup was informed that in light of feedback from the previous meeting, additional or updated draft policies had been added in respect of air quality, health infrastructure, sustainable transport, sustainable freight and town centre renewal. There had also been some reordering of themes and policies within the document.

It was noted that officers within each local planning authority had informed the drafting of the revised document through the Head of Planning officer group. Further update and changes would continue to be made leading up the formal consideration of the full text document by councils.

In discussion, it was suggested that in addition to the publication of the commissioned evidence base, it might also be useful to set out a secondary list of all the evidence data

commissioned or utilised so that it was possible to demonstrate that meaningful data had informed draft policies, i.e. on Climate Change. Officers commented that all the proposed policies had an evidence base of data to support them whether commissioned directly or drawing upon published research.

Members asked several questions of clarification and gave specific feedback in respect of the text of the draft document which officers agreed to reflect in developing the next iteration of the document.

The subgroup noted the updated consultation document.

48 Oxfordshire Plan 2050 evidence base and list of documents to be published at Reg 18 Part 2 stage

The subgroup was presented with a document that set out an indicative list of evidence base documents contributing to the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 that would be published at Regulation 18 and Regulation 19 consultation stages and available to local council decision makers at each Oxfordshire principal council.

The subgroup noted the list of Oxfordshire Plan 2050 evidence base documents to be published.

49 Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Spatial Options Presentation

The subgroup received a detailed presentation setting out an overview of the initial draft spatial options for the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and undertook a detailed discussion of those options. It was noted, that when finalised, the options would form part of the public Regulation 18 Part 2 consultation process.

Officers described the principles underpinning all the draft options, principally that they must help deliver the ambitions set out in the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision, though each option would be designed to do this in different ways as each option had a different key driver for transformation. It was stressed that at Regulation 18 Part 2 stage of the Plan, a series of reasonable options would be consulted upon rather than the identification of a single option which could accommodate all of Oxfordshire's anticipated growth. The options would be evaluated based on what authorities wished to achieve over the 30 year period of the plan, in a consistent, robust, evidence based and fully transparent way including the use of Sustainability Assessments. It was noted that in developing the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and the spatial options, there would be a need to be mindful and take into consideration any impacts of the emerging Oxford to Cambridge Arc Spatial Framework at the Regulation 19 stage, as was the case with all government planning policy.

The subgroup was taken through the levels of existing committed housing growth as set out in each of the adopted district and city local plans. For three local authorities, delivery of this growth extended beyond the end of their respective plan periods. It was explained that the amount of committed growth needed to be taken into account in considering the indicative growth scenarios outlined in the draft Oxfordshire Growth Needs Assessment, (OGNA) to arrive at a residual net growth amount over the period of the Oxfordshire Plan to 2050.

In discussion members of the subgroup, whilst not taking a position in respect of any draft option, commented that they represented a reasonable range of options for further work to be undertaken and testing in preparation for the Regulation 8 Part 2 stage consultation. Several general points were made:

- There was a need for clear messaging in all Oxfordshire Plan 2050 consultations, being cognitive of the power of language and different meanings
- It would be useful to show the breakdown of forecasted residual housing numbers, (taking account of the existing committed growth) for the different trajectories set out in the OGNA within the Regulation 18 Part 2 consultation.
- It would be important to demonstrate how issues such as climate emergency had been considered and taken into account in the drafting of the options
- That it would be important to recognise that each option was not without challenges and some could be more deliverable than others.

Following the discussion of the draft spatial options, the subgroup was informed of the broad high level steps it was intended to follow as part of the Regulation 18 and Regulation 19 processes as follows:

- STEP 1: Identify high-level spatial strategy options for distributing growth in Oxfordshire (to be consulted on through Reg 18 consultation).
- STEP 2: Testing of high level spatial options, including Oxfordshire's growth requirements, opportunities & constraints.
- STEP 3: After Reg 18 Consultation - Selection of Spatial Strategy.
- STEP 4: Identification of areas of focus.
- STEP 5: Further testing of suitability, achievability and deliverability to establish development capacity.
- STEP 6: Confirm broad locations for growth (& phasing).
- STEP 7: Confirm level of growth within the OGNA range.

The subgroup noted the presentation.

50 Future meetings and work programme

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

The meeting closed at 12.00 pm

Chairman

Date

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