

## Growth Board response to recommendations of the Growth Board Scrutiny Panel Recommendations made on 1 June 2021

The Growth Board is requested to provide a response to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel for decision at its meeting on 8 June 2021.

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
<p>Recommendation 1: That the Growth Board ensures that the Oxfordshire Growth Needs Assessment work is published earlier than scheduled, along with all supporting evidence based documents, which would allow the maximum amount of time for consultees to review the document and also ensuring there is a genuine choice of options all of which are realistic rather than presenting a fait accompli before responding to the Regulation 18 Part 2 public consultation.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Oxfordshire Growth Needs Assessment (OGNA) is in the final stages of completion and is programmed to be completed by the time the Board commence consultation on the Regulation 18 draft Oxfordshire Plan 2050 on 31<sup>st</sup> July. The consultation will present a genuine range of options. Although the Board notes the wish of interested parties to view this study in advance of the consultation it is not possible to meet this wish as all councils are fully engaged in the final stages of Oxfordshire Plan completion.</p> <p>The Board recognises the importance of OGNA but believes that the OGNA, which will offer scenarios for growth for consultation and is therefore the subject of consultation in its own right, is primarily an important piece of supporting evidence for the Regulation 18 Oxfordshire Plan as it sets a context for the policy options that Plan presents. For this reason, the Board concludes that they are most usefully published and considered together. The Board also believes that the length of time the consultation will run will allow interested parties ample time to consider and reflect upon both documents and understand their implications, an understanding that will be heightened by consultation workshops on policy themes in the Oxfordshire Plan.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2: That the Growth Board, in its consideration of Advanced Oxford's report on Powering Up for the Green Recovery, considers the Scrutiny Panel's feedback set out below. The Board is encouraged to reflect</p>		

how these views can inform key future plans and strategies:

- i. Future Growth Board work and strategies should consider how any increase in total office space can remain compatible with the long-term carbon reduction ambitions of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision, and the wider need to design any future Oxford city employment spaces to be car-free and include facilities for sustainable travel.
- ii. There needs to be a balance of focus on areas outside Oxford city along the knowledge spine within the Oxford - Cambridge Arc to promote the creation and development of employment space in areas with good rail links to Oxford such as Bicester and Banbury.
- iii. There needs to be a focus on sustainable means of transport such as cycle lanes and routes, light passenger railways and autonomous vehicles when designing new spin-out and high-tech spaces.
- iv. In addition revisiting recommendation 3 made on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021 to the Growth Board on the impact that changes in local rail services do and may have on modal shift with regards to personal car use, consideration should be given to the building of new train stations on

Yes

Yes

Yes

Partial

- i. Now that each of the councils has agreed the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision, which sets a range of ambitions in this area, we would expect to see future plans and strategies that align with the Scrutiny Panel's view. This is already being done in, for example, the draft Local Transport and Connectivity plan, which was consulted on earlier this year. It explains that "Our plan sets out to achieve this by reducing the need to travel, securing high quality gigabit connectivity, and by discouraging unnecessary individual private vehicle use through making active travel, public and shared transport the natural first choice." We understand that car-free developments are already being planned for locally in some areas.
- ii. The forthcoming Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and existing Local Plans will have a role in addressing this.
- iii. We agree that there is a need to move substantially more towards sustainable transport modes at pace. The Oxfordshire Strategic Vision has as ambition that by 2050, we will "have transformed movement and connectivity within the County and beyond. There will be greater digital connectivity and physical mobility in and between places in ways that enhance environmental, social and economic wellbeing, with an emphasis on sustainable travel, including walking and cycling." We would expect that this will help to inform the emerging Local Transport and Connectivity Plan and the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy, among other key plans and strategies.
- iv. As part of the emerging Local Transport and Connectivity Plan, Oxfordshire County Council will be updating its Oxfordshire Rail Strategy, which will have the ORCS as its substantial basis. It will however have other areas added in, including consideration of future proposals beyond the current ORCS timeline (which broadly

<p>existing lines in areas such as Kidlington-Begbroke-Yarnton.</p> <p>v. In placemaking, consider designing communities, employment spaces, housing, and transport options holistically, especially in light of changes to working practices in a post-pandemic world and how it is likely to reduce levels of commuting in the long term.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>ties in with Local Plans). Whilst there is no current scope to rework the (now completed) ORCS, there will be opportunities in the future to expand our evidence base (including looking at modal shift which is an important factor) to better understand how and where longer term rail investment is needed to support the Oxfordshire Plan 2050. Given that the LTCP is still in development, the Growth Board would ask that the Scrutiny Panel's recommendation be considered as part of wider responses received through its draft consultation processes</p> <p>v. The forthcoming Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and existing Local Plans will also have a role in addressing this.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3: That the Growth Board in noting the Overview of Local Skills Landscape report undertakes to actively consider diversity of leadership, responsible business practices, attracting youth to Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) fields, and addressing traditional imbalances such as the under-representation of women in STEM based businesses.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Within its own remit and influence, Growth Board member organisations will have their own policies and programmes with respect to equality and diversity in recruitment process. The Board notes that supplementary to the Advanced Oxford Presentation is an additional report available online: "<i>A Snapshot of Gender Diversity in Oxfordshire Innovation/Knowledge-based Companies.</i>" The Board is also aware that the OxLEP Innovation Sub Group has been sponsoring work being undertaken by Oxford Brookes Business School on how to increase gender diversity in university spin out companies: <i>Women and Spinouts: A Case for Action at Oxford Brookes University</i> (hyperlinked). OxLEP has also been supporting a range of other programmes aimed at increasing diversity across Oxfordshire's employment sectors including through the IDEA initiative through Enterprising Oxford and the High Flyers programme under the Oxfordshire Investment Plan. Significant progress still needs to be made however within STEM sectors in particular to reflect the diversity of our communities.</p>