Notes
OF A MEETING OF THE

Oxfordshire Growth Board Infrastructure Advisory Group

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 MAY 2021 AT 11.00 AM
VIRTUAL VIA MS TEAMS

Present:

Members: Councillors , Pieter-Paul Barker, Duncan Enright, Alex Hollingsworth, Liz Leffman, Lynn Pratt, Judy Roberts and Phil Southall

Officers: Amit Alva, (Oxfordshire Growth Board), John Disley (Infrastructure Strategy & Policy Manager, Oxfordshire County Council), Rose Sutton (Strategic Infrastructure Coordinator, Oxfordshire County Council), Hannah Battye (Head of Infrastructure Delivery, Oxfordshire County Council), Kevin Jacob (Oxfordshire Growth Board) and Paul Staines, (Interim Head of Programme)

1 Introductions & welcome to new members; Apologies for absence and notifications of substitutions

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Ed Turner substituted by Councillor Alex Hollingsworth and apologies from Councillor Jeff Haine.

2 Appointment of temporary Chair for this sub-group meeting

Councillor Liz Leffman was appointed Temporary Chair for the meeting.

3 Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Role of the Infrastructure Sub-Group; Terms of Reference

The role of the Infrastructure Advisory Group and its Terms of Reference were noted by the group.

5 Notes of the previous meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 1 March 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

6   Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy Stage 1 Update

The advisory group considered an update, introduced by John Disley, Infrastructure Strategy and Delivery Manager, Oxfordshire County Council, on the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS) which aims to set out the infrastructure needs for Oxfordshire to 2040 forming part of the evidence base for the Oxfordshire Plan 2050. The report produced by City Science followed the completion of OxIS stage 1 up to the year 2040 ahead of its public and stakeholder consultation. OxIS stage 2 would continue to be aligned with the aim of complementing and providing evidence base for the emerging Oxon Plan 2050. The report was delivered by Jo Muncaster and Laurence Oakes-Ash from City Science with support from officers. The advisory was updated on several aspects of stage 1:

- The OxIS stage 1 considers infrastructure schemes to 2040 within existing Districts' Infrastructure Delivery Plans (IDP), Local plans and also wider sources such as Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP), Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and utility providers applying a 'needs-based approach' appraisal aligned to OxIS themes to re-prioritise strategic infrastructure schemes. It also aligns itself with Regulation 18, part 2 of the Oxfordshire Plan Consultation and the District Local Plans forecast.

- The group was also updated on Growth trajectory to 2040 on local housing projections beyond 2020 and projected increase in population by 2030, in addition the group was also presented with data on remaining approximate allocated strategic employment floorspace during core Local Plan periods within Oxfordshire towns and rural communities. The group was also presented with a table of Oxfordshire's future needs to 2040 with key policies and strategies on the core OxIS themes of Environment, Health, Place-Shaping, Productivity and Connectivity.

- The group was also presented with data on Strategic Infrastructure Scheme Identification and Outcomes in addition to focusing on gaps and additional scheme requirements to 2040. The methodology used for the multicriteria OxIS scheme appraisal and new & emerging funding streams for deliverability were also outlined.

In discussion, members discussed the need for clarity on timescales and objective scoring for the projects, it was agreed that City Science would provide standardisation of the results and a summary report and scheme list would be circulated to members and officers. In addition, member also felt the need to assess the approach, progress and output including next steps which would be included as a full technical report.

The group also discussed the need to fill some of the gaps in the outlined Infrastructure schemes such as health infrastructure with regards to hospitals in areas including Banbury and transport link to surgeries in Bicester, intra urban cycle routes, building innovation, employment land and transport hubs. The group noted that OxIS was developed prior to the gap analysis done by City Science in this update which was in its early stages and OxIS stage 2 alignment to Oxfordshire Plan 2050 would be key in looking at spatial options with high level principles and more detailed specific infrastructure schemes at a granular level.

Members also discussed infrastructure opportunities in rural areas in relation to environmental travel access and other Highway projects such as A34 improvements, the

group noted that there are current ongoing efforts in lobbying the Department for Transport (DFT), however the objectives of DFT are to co-ordinate improvements by bringing together smaller infrastructure projects like Kennington Bridge and Lodge Hill. The group also discussed the need to look at water resources especially River Thames as an avenue for infrastructure projects.

Officers welcomed feedback on gaps in infrastructure schemes and further feedback including on OxIS public & stake holder consultation. It was agreed that OxIS Stage 1 Summary and Technical Report and Scheme List would be circulated in due course, previous figures of participation through the Open Thought portal would also be produced and circulated, in addition the Infrastructure Advisory Group would be considered as a pilot for the OxIS public and stakeholder consultation.

7   Infrastructure Sub-Group Forward Programme

The group noted items on the forward programme which is an update on the Local Transport and Connectivity linked to OxIS and Infrastructure Programme Delivery reports.

8   Dates of next virtual meetings

The dates of future meetings in the Agenda were noted except for 31 August 2021 which may be subject to change due to alignment with next stage of OxIS to allow for reporting.

The meeting closed at 12.40 pm