

Growth Board response to recommendations of the Growth Board Scrutiny Panel Recommendations made on 12 July 2021

The Growth Board is requested to provide a response to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel for decision at its meeting on 19 July 2021.

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
<p>Recommendation 1: That the Growth Board request that each partner council considers the Pathways to a Zero Carbon Oxfordshire Report at a meeting of their full council, to give it visibility and prompt debate and action against the recommendations within the report.</p>	<p>In part</p>	<p>The Growth Board wishes to recommend that each local authority considers how the Pathways report can be used to drive action against recommendations in the report. However, the Board believes that it is for each council to decide how it wishes to do that, and to develop a tailored approach as necessary. We understand that the Growth Board's Environment Advisory Group will be considering how councils and partners can work together in responding to the report, and notes from their meetings can be made available to the panel.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2: That the Growth Board requests that partner councils, in their consideration of the Pathways to a Zero Carbon Oxfordshire Report, consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. prioritisation of projects given the limited resources available based on the marginal cost of abatement of carbon dioxide emissions. b. Take account of the differences of approach required between local authorities regulating activity in their communities to encourage carbon reduction and the development of zero carbon projects initiated by local 	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Growth Board will refer this to its Environment Advisory Group, which has a representative from each of the six partner councils.</p>

authorities using their own financial resources.		
<p>Recommendation 3: That the Growth Board requests that each partner council gives consideration in future iterations of their Local Plans:</p> <p>a. to the banning of natural gas central heating boilers, in order to mitigate emissions from new developments.</p> <p>b. to the ambition of promoting land use for solar electricity generation.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>No</p>	<p>These are matters for each local planning authority to consider.</p> <p>a) We do not believe that local planning authorities have the ability to impose such a ban. In any event, the Growth Board notes that HM government has ambitions to ensure that all new homes will be banned from installing gas and oil boilers before the next round of local plans, which would achieve the same outcome.</p> <p>b) The issue of land use, and the competing demands for it, is covered substantially in the recent Pathways to a Zero Carbon Oxfordshire Report. Whilst the Board supports the scaling up of renewable energy infrastructure, we believe that matters of land use are best discussed by local planning authorities themselves.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4: That the Growth Board write to HM Government advocating for the discontinuation of gas boilers in new residential and commercial developments as soon as possible, in favour of more sustainable alternative heating methods.</p>	Yes	<p>The Growth Board can support this recommendation with respect to fossil fuelled gas boilers (i.e natural gas). The Board will write to HM Government offering support for their discontinuation and appropriate action in this area.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5: That the Growth Board explore opportunities in the future to assess whether some communities can pilot a shared access approach to ground source heating, possibly managed through parish or town councils.</p>	No	<p>The Growth Board recognises the value in exploring these types of opportunities. However, the Board does not possess the resources to undertake a project such as this.</p>
<p>Recommendation 6: That the Growth Board requests that each partner council give consideration as to how they will manage the transition to a low carbon society so as not to disproportionately impact disadvantaged communities. It is suggested that this should</p>	Yes	<p>The Growth Board will refer this to its Environment Advisory Group, which has a representative from each of the six partner councils. The recently agreed Oxfordshire Strategic Vision is very clear in wanting to tackle inequalities. As all six councils have signed up to the vision, we would hope to see this recommendation captured in their work, once more detailed carbon reduction action plans come forward.</p>

<p>be tackled through specific, tangible support and incentives.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 7: That the Growth Board ensures that the Oxfordshire Plan builds in zero carbon building standards to lock in long term progress towards net zero.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Growth Board agrees that opportunities to lock in zero carbon building standards should be explored through the development of the Oxfordshire Plan, though a decision on such matters will be reserved for individual local authorities, and subject to consultation.</p>
<p>Recommendation 8: That the Growth Board asks officers to liaise with Parish and Town Councils, Neighbourhood Forums and elected members to identify suitable community buildings in their localities where copies of the Plan can be made available and visible to the community, especially in locations such as a library, and in areas where digital access might not be universal.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>A list of deposit locations has been developed for the consultation which is similar to that of the previous successful and wide-ranging consultation. We have been advised that revisiting this list entirely with town and parish councils would not be possible in the time available, given the lead in times for the existing logistical arrangements that are already in place. The Board wishes to assure the Panel that relevant documents will be made available and visible in tried and tested community locations across the county and is developing a flyer for parish council noticeboards to signpost residents to where the plan can be accessed</p>