

Notes

OF A MEETING OF THE



Future Oxfordshire Partnership Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Advisory Group

**HELD ON THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 10.00 AM
VIRTUAL VIA MS TEAMS**

Present:

Councillors Emily Smith (Chair), Colin Clarke, Duncan Enright, Jeff Haine, Debby Hallett, Alex Hollingsworth and Anne-Marie Simpson

Officers: Adrian Colwell (Oxfordshire Plan 2050), Giles Hughes (West Oxfordshire District Council), Kevin Jacob (Future Oxfordshire Partnership), Paul Staines (Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal) and Peter Truman, (Oxfordshire Plan 2050)

13 Apologies for absence and notifications of substitutions; declarations of interest; Chair's announcements

There were no apologies for absence, but Councillor Clarke indicated that he had an additional commitment and would need to leave the meeting at 11:00.

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

14 Notes of the previous meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 17 June 2021 were agreed as a correct summary.

15 Review of the chronology of sign off for the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Regulation 18 Part 2 consultation

Regulation 18 Part 2 Consultation

Paul Staines, Interim Head of Programme and Adrian Colwell, Oxfordshire Plan 2050 outlined the planned timeline for the approval by partner council Cabinets of the Regulation 18 Part 2 consultation phase on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050. The advisory group received a draft events programme setting out dates for planned public engagement events up to the close of the consultation period on 8 October 2021.

It was noted that the draft consultation document and supporting evidence base had already been considered by a number of council overview scrutiny committees with

various comments made which various members of the advisory group referred to. Officers advised that every effort would be made to update the consultation document with any minor technical updates required prior to the beginning of the public consultation but stressed that detailed responses on the content of the consultation document could be made during the consultation period.

In discussion, members felt that that it was very important to make clear in any consultation explanatory information that the Regulation 18 Part 2 consultation was not on a consultation of a proposed 'final version' of the Plan. At Regulation 18 Part 2 stage, views were to be sought on the range of options and issues presented and that after the conclusion of the consultation period, the responses would be considered carefully and then inform the drafting of the final formal Regulation 19 consultation document, which itself would be subject of a statutory public consultation.

The Chair and advisory group members paid tribute to Oxfordshire Plan 2050 team and all those who had supported what had been a major piece of work and achievement to bring the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 to this point.

Chronology and timeline to Regulation 19 consultation

Officers introduced an initial high level draft workplan of activity and key milestones required at the conclusion of the Regulation 18 Part 2 public consultation leading into the planned approval to commence public consultation on the Regulation 19 version of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 in May 2022.

It was highlighted that to date no spatial plan such as the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 had been taken to Regulation 19 stage under current planning regulations and legislation. Therefore, there were some uncertainties around how the Planning Inspectorate would consider the Plan and its supporting evidence base as a long term spatial strategy as it differed materially from Local Plans. There could also be impacts on the adoption of the Plan arising from the Planning Bill.

It was noted that a further iteration of the workplan would be presented for discussion at the August meeting of the advisory group.

16 Consultation update

The advisory group considered an update from Peter Truman, Communications and Engagement Advisor, on the Communications Strategy for the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Regulation 18 Part 2 consultation which also included details of the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy, (OxIS) consultation.

The advisory group was informed that:

- The consultation would open on 30 July and conclude on the 8 October.
- The primary mechanism for the public to learn about and respond to the consultation would be online, via the [Oxfordshire Open Thought website](#) but copies of the consultation documents would also be available at public libraries.
- It was intended to run a number of free public webinars during August and September where members of the public could learn more about the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 through presentations by principal members of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 team and

district and county council partner officers. There would be opportunities for members of the public to raise queries and ask questions.

- It was also intended that relevant officers attend webinars organised by third parties if at all possible.
- Information and publicity material regarding the consultation would be sent to town and parish councils who would be asked for their assistance in raising awareness within their localities of the consultation as well as seeking formal responses from them.
- Officers recognised that the OxIS public consultation was already in progress and would run concurrently to a degree with the Oxfordshire Plan 2050. HM Government was also due to start its consultation on the Oxford to Cambridge Arc Vision. The need for clear messaging and information around the separate, but linked consultations was therefore recognised in order to mitigate the risk of any misunderstanding.
- As part of the wider engagement and liaison piece of work for the consultation, members of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 team would also be working with the communications teams in each of the partner councils to coordinate information and promote the consultation.
- Responses received to the consultation would be analysed to provide demographic data around the groups responding.

In discussion, members again discussed how levels of awareness of and engagement with the consultation might be increased amongst hard to reach groups, particularly young people, and school age children, whilst acknowledging it was important to focus time and resources where they would add the most value. Officers acknowledged that this was important but advised that although considerable efforts had been made, achieving engagement with schools had been very challenging to secure, not least because of the challenges schools had faced during the pandemic. Members offered to do what they could to facilitate contact with school contacts in their localities.

Members raised the importance of using and selecting social media channels selectively in order to best target consultation information most effectively. It was suggested that short video clips might be most effective in generating exposure and interest. It was also important for content to be accessible.

It was noted that Peter Truman was moving to a new role and members of the advisory group thanked him for all his hard working in supporting the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and the wider Oxfordshire Growth Board and wished him well for the future.

17 Update on the relationship between the Oxfordshire Plan and the OxCam Arc consultations and the messaging around them

Giles Hughes, Chief Executive, West Oxfordshire District Council, introduced a paper setting an update and explanation of the relationship between the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 consultation and HM Government's anticipated public consultation on the Oxford to Cambridge Arc Spatial Framework. Whilst separate, there were considerable synergies between the different consultations.

At that time, the nature and content of the Spatial Framework consultation was not known, but it was expected that it would be pitched at a relatively high level and that in addition to the local consultations on the Plan 2050 and OxIS, individuals and groups should be encouraged to make responses. It was felt that the HM Government consultation offered a genuine opportunity to contribute and influence the development of the spatial framework as a strategic document.

18 Future meetings and work programme

The advisory group noted the dates of its future meetings as set out in the Agenda. It was agreed that there would be sufficient business to warrant a meeting in August as scheduled to receive an update on the opening of the Regulation 18 Part 2 public consultation and future planning.

The meeting closed at 11.55 am