

Agenda



The Future Oxfordshire Partnership, (formerly the Oxfordshire Growth Board)

Tuesday 30 November 2021 at 2.00 pm
Council Chamber, Cherwell District Council, Bodicote House,
Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA

Contact: Kevin Jacob, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Democratic Services Officer
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Members

Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council	Councillor David Rouane
Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council	Councillor Emily Smith
Leader of Cherwell District Council (which holds the Vice-Chair)	Councillor Barry Wood
Leader of Oxford City Council	Councillor Susan Brown
Leader of Oxfordshire County Council	Councillor Liz Leffman
Leader of West Oxfordshire District Council (which holds the Chair)	Councillor Michele Mead
Chair, OxLEP	Jeremy Long
Chair, Oxfordshire Skills Board	Adrian Lockwood
Universities representative	Professor Alistair Fitt
OxLEP business representative - Bicester	Miranda Markham
OxLEP business representative – Oxford City	Peter Nolan
OxLEP business representative – Science Vale	Angus Horner
Homes England representative	Catherine Turner
Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group	Dr David Chapman
Environment Agency representative	Emma Hill

Notes:

1. *To watch this meeting, follow this link to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership's YouTube channel at https://youtu.be/7N_UKpnlWy4 Arrangements are subject to change at short notice so please refer to the agenda page at <http://democratic.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=635&MId=2980>.*
2. *If you plan to attend the meeting in person, please contact Kevin Jacob.*
3. *One member, one vote for each constituent local authority member only.*

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence; declarations of interest and Chair's announcement**
2. **Minutes** (Pages 6 - 16)

To adopt as a correct record the minutes of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership meeting held on 20 September 2021.

3. **Public participation** (To Follow)

Asking a question and addressing the Partnership

Questions or requests to make an address (in full and in writing) must be received by **5pm on 24 November 2021**, three clear working days before the Future Oxfordshire Partnership meeting.

Questions and addresses should be no longer than one side of A4 paper in Arial 12 font. The address or question will be circulated to the Partnership and public speakers will be invited to speak at the meeting. Written submissions may also be read out by the Chair or Democratic Services Officer where requested or if the person making the request for public speaking is not able to attend the meeting. A response may be given at the meeting or a written answer supplied. The Chair will have discretion to manage the public participation procedure as they see appropriate. Questions and notice of addresses must be submitted to futureoxfordshirepartnership@southandvale.gov.uk

Note: This meeting may be recorded for live broadcast. At the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm the meeting is being filmed. By registering to speak you are consenting to being recorded and to the use of those video and audio recordings for webcasting.

4. **Future Oxfordshire Partnership Scrutiny Panel update** (To Follow)

For action: To receive any recommendations from the Future Oxfordshire Partnership Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 23 November 2021.

5. **Housing and Growth Deal Reports**

- (a) **Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Progress Report - Quarter 2, Year 4** (Pages 17 - 25)

For information: To receive the Quarter 2, Year 4 progress report for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.

- (b) **Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Financial Report Quarter 2, Year 4** (Pages 26 - 32)

For information: To receive a financial summary for Quarter 2, Year 4 for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.

(c) Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Infrastructure Programme - Six Month Review and changes (Pages 33 - 37)

For action: To consider the outcome of a periodic review by Oxfordshire County Council of the current cost and programme projections for the schemes included with the Housing and Growth Deal Infrastructure Programme and proposed changes to the programme.

(d) Infrastructure Advisory Group update (To Follow)

For information: To receive an update from the Infrastructure Advisory Group. Summary notes from the meeting held on 1 November 2021 are to follow.

(e) Housing Advisory Group update (To Follow)

For information: To receive an update from the Housing Advisory Group. Summary notes from the meeting held on 2 November 2021 are to follow.

(f) Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Advisory Group update (Pages 38 - 42)

For information: To receive an update from the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Advisory Group. Summary notes from the meeting held on 14 October 2021 are attached and a verbal update will be provided in respect of the meeting held on 18 November 2021.

(g) Environment Advisory Group update (Pages 43 - 46)

For information: To receive an update from the Environment Advisory Group. Summary notes from the meeting held on 23 September 2021 are attached.

6. Future Oxfordshire Partnership Name Change Update (Pages 47 - 49)

For information: To consider an update on the steps that have been taken since the July meeting to transition to the new Future Oxfordshire Partnership name.

7. Future Oxfordshire Partnership Forward Plan (Pages 50 - 53)

For information: To note and comment on the Future Oxfordshire Partnership's Forward Plan.

8. Appointment of Chair of the Environment Advisory Group

To appoint a Chair to the Environment Advisory Group.

9. Oxford to Cambridge Arc Update (Verbal Report)

For information: To receive any relevant updates from the Future Oxfordshire Partnership Director concerning developments within the Oxford to Cambridge Arc.

10. Updates on matters relevant to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership

Future Oxfordshire Partnership members and officers may verbally update the Board on progress on matters previously before the Partnership for consideration, listed in the

forward plan, or relevant to the Partnership's future decisions. This is for the sharing of information and no decisions will be taken.

11. Dates of next meetings

The dates of current confirmed Future Oxfordshire Partnership meetings are below. Please refer to for the most up to date information at www.futureoxfordshirepartnership.org on times and locations.

- 25 January 2022
- 22 March 2022
- 7 June 2022
- 26 July 2022

It is intended to bring provisional dates for meetings between July 2022 and July 2023 to the next meeting.

Councillors' duties on declaring interests

General duty

You must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests when the meeting reaches the item on the agenda headed "Declarations of Interest" or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?

Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to your* employment; sponsorship (ie payment for expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor or towards your election expenses); contracts; land in the council's area; licences for land in the council's area; corporate tenancies; and securities. These declarations must be recorded in each councillor's register of interests which is publicly available on the council's website.

Declaring an interest

Where any matter disclosed in your register of interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest. If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Member's Code of Conduct and public perception

Even if you do not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter, the Councillors' Code of Conduct says that a member "must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself" and that "you must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned". What this means is that the matter of interests must be viewed within the context of the code as a whole and regard should continue to be paid to the perception of the public.

*Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member themselves, but also those of the member's spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.

Minutes

OF A MEETING OF THE



The Future Oxfordshire Partnership, (formerly the Oxfordshire Growth Board)

HELD ON MONDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 3.00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL, BODICOTE
HOUSE, BODICOTE, BANBURY, OX15 4AA

[Link to watch the meeting](#)

Present:

Councillor Michele Mead (Chair), (West Oxfordshire District Council), Councillor Susan Brown, (Oxford City Council), Councillor Sue Cooper, (South Oxfordshire District Council), Professor Alistair Fitt, (Universities representative), Louise Guy, (Environment Agency), Dianne Hedges, (Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group), Angus Horner, (OxLEP business representative - Science Vale), Councillor Liz Leffman, (Oxfordshire County Council), Adrian Lockwood, (Oxfordshire Skills Board Chair), Jeremy Long, (OxLEP Chair), Miranda Markham, (OxLEP business representative - Bicester), Peter Nolan, (OxLEP business representative - Oxford City), Councillor Emily Smith, (Vale of White Horse District Council), Catherine Turner, (Homes England) and Councillor Barry Wood, (Vice-Chair), (Cherwell District Council).

Officers: Lorna Baxter, (Oxfordshire County Council), Andrew Down, (Future Oxfordshire Partnership Director), Daisy Gladstone (Future Oxfordshire Partnership), Caroline Green (Oxford City Council CEX), Susan Harbour (South and Vale Councils), Giles Hughes (West Oxfordshire District Council CEX), Kevin Jacob, (Future Oxfordshire Partnership), Stefan Robinson (Future Oxfordshire Partnership), Paul Staines (Oxfordshire Growth Deal Team) and Nigel Tipple (Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership CEX)

Other councillors: Councillor Andrew Gant, (Chair - Future Oxfordshire Partnership Scrutiny Panel)

27. Apologies for absence; declarations of interest and Chair's announcement

Members of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership began the meeting by holding a moment of reflection in remembrance of the victims from a shooting in Perm, Russia, which is a twin city of Oxford. The Partnership's condolences were extended to Perm and all its residents.

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Emma Hill, Environment Agency, (substituted by Louise Guy) and Dr David Chapman, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, (substituted by Diane Hedges).

There were no declarations of interest.

28. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2021 were confirmed as an accurate record.

29. Public participation

It was noted that on this occasion no public requests to speak had been submitted.

30. Future Oxfordshire Partnership Scrutiny Panel update

The Chair invited Councillor Andrew Gant, Chair of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership Scrutiny Panel, to present the four recommendations arising from the Panel's meeting on 13 September 2021.

Councillor Gant explained that the first two recommendations referred to the Panel's consideration of the report on Oxfordshire's Economic Recovery Plan (ERP) and related to the need to adopt a system wide approach in these matters. The Panel requested that HM Government be asked to simplify their bidding processes to encourage this method of working – especially around the issues of town centre renewal and the promotion of manufacturing.

The Panel's third recommendation concerned the provision of disaggregated data and targets within the Economic Recovery Plan. The presentation of information in this way would make it easier to see if particular sections of society (e.g. the young) were disadvantaged during the economic recovery.

Recommendation four was a detailed set of suggestions relating to the Partnership's draft response to HM Government's consultation on its proposed Oxford to Cambridge Arc Vision. This included the importance of: environmental concerns; the provision of data centres; East West Rail electrification; reducing dependency on private cars; housing viability; quantifiable, defensible targets and addressing inequalities across the county.

Councillor Gant referred to the Panel's consideration of the creation of a Local Nature Partnership for Oxfordshire, which had been warmly welcomed, and their response to the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Regulation 18 Part 2 consultation. In so doing, he remarked that the Panel had been unclear as to the extent to which respondents to the Plan consultation were being asked to express views on levels of planned growth. While these concerns had not formed the basis of a formal recommendation to the Partnership, Councillor Gant, nevertheless, sought clarification on that issue.

The Chair provided the Future Oxfordshire's initial response to each of the recommendations – these would also be published in final form on the Partnership's website after the meeting.

In summary, the Chair confirmed that:

- The Future Oxfordshire Partnership agreed that rationalising the process by which local authorities and businesses can bid for HM Government funding would be beneficial. It did not, however, wish to submit any formal letters while existing bid processes were still ongoing. The Partnership would, nevertheless, request that the Executive Officer Group identify the best approach for delivering upon this recommendation and then report back.
- While recognising the sovereignty of councils to take a tailored approach to recovery, the Partnership agreed that there was a need, through the Economic Task Group, for a continued whole system response to the challenges facing Oxfordshire. It was anticipated that the Partnership would receive a report later in the year on the condition of the visitor economy, town centre renewal and system wide approaches to support it. With respect to the promotion of manufacturing, the Partnership noted that this formed a central tenet of the Local Industrial Strategy. They also drew attention to the fact that there is a specific project in the ERP report appendix which focusses on manufacturing and supply chain resilience – it did, however, need to secure funding before it could commence.
- It was understood that the Economic Recovery Task Group would work with national agencies and government departments to provide and make use of disaggregated data wherever it is available.
- The Future Oxfordshire Partnership would delegate responsibility for incorporating the Panel's suggested amendments to its draft response to the HM Government's Oxford to Cambridge Arc Vision consultation.

Councillor Cooper suggested that in relation to the setting of quantifiable and defensible targets for the Arc Vision, the Partnership should explain to the Panel that its strong preference was for these to be an amalgamation of those decided by local authorities.

Councillor Smith confirmed that responses about future levels of growth were very much encouraged as part of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Part 2 Regulation consultation.

31. Oxfordshire Economic Recovery Plan Update

The Partnership considered a report setting out both an update on the progress of the Oxfordshire Economic Recovery Plan (ERP) and the headline performance of the county's economy as it emerged from the challenges of the pandemic. This was presented by Nigel Tipple, Chief Executive of OxLEP.

Mr Tipple explained that the report and ERP had three broad areas of focus:

1. Activities where funding had been secured and OxLEP was working flexibly or in partnership to deliver them.
2. Activities where funding has been allocated via various HM Government support schemes.
3. Projects which had been worked up to implementation stage, but which were not yet funded.

It was stressed that a whole system, non-vertical approach was required so that where resources were available these could be targeted most effectively.

Although the levels of unemployment within Oxfordshire were broadly positive, significant pockets of unemployment existed within some urban areas. It, therefore, remained necessary to press and explore potential funding opportunities, especially those that support young people, with HM Government. Young people not in education, employment, or training, (NEETs) were a key priority and there had been a rise in the numbers of this cohort.

As the number of apprenticeship opportunities started to recover following the pandemic, the focus was upon supporting those sectors which hoped to recruit. In addition, action was being taken to promote apprenticeships in a manner accessible to young people. This was to ensure that they were aware of the opportunities that exist in their local area.

The visitor sector is a significant part of Oxfordshire's economy. It employs around 40,000 people and is the largest employer of women in the county. The sector was, however, currently experiencing significant challenges – including the closure of HM Government's furlough scheme. As a result, more capacity and support would be put in place working through the ERP.

Mr Tipple informed that Panel that, while every effort would be made to adopt a whole system approach and to pivot funding to meet the challenges facing Oxfordshire's economy, there were a substantial number of prioritised ERP interventions that were not currently funded. It was, therefore, of critical importance to continue conversations with HM Government about the support it could provide.

Jeremy Long, Chair of OxLEP, highlighted references within the ERP to Oxfordshire's Inclusive Economic Partnership (IEP). He informed members that a strong interest had been shown in this by a range of expert stakeholders with knowledge relevant to the issues affecting the county. It was, in his opinion, gaining momentum and several of its working groups had reported back on important matters. Mr Long argued that for the IEP to move forward as an Oxfordshire wide partnership, and to take advantage of the opportunities offered, a complete system approach was required. This would involve the provision of an appropriate level of project resource.

Councillor Brown supported Mr Long's remarks. She commented that the importance of the work of the IEP was demonstrated by issues such as the recruitment problems being experienced by many employers in Oxfordshire – exacerbated by a combination of relatively low wages and a lack of affordable housing.

Councillor Brown also highlighted the significance of the investment being undertaken through the Low Carbon Hub to develop alternative energy markets for the county. She argued that the need for this had been shown by the recent sudden increases in energy costs.

Councillor Brown also stressed the importance of developing workforce skills in order for people to take advantage of new employment opportunities.

Mr Tipple, in response to a question from Councillor Leffman, said that the expectation was that any relaxation of restrictions on entry to the UK would assist the recovery of the visitor economy, but that any material change in numbers should not be expected until mid-2022.

Miranda Markham, OxLEP Business Representative for Bicester, commented that a full recovery in visitors, particularly from long-haul destinations, might not be realised until 2024. It was, therefore, important not to become complacent about the challenge.

RESOLVED: That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership:

1. Notes the progress being made in delivering the Economic Recovery Plan and the key issues facing the economy.
2. Endorses the need for continued whole-system responses, through the Economic Task Group, to the economic challenges faced in Oxfordshire and the co-ordination of resources across partners to drive delivery and secure further investment to support businesses and local communities.

32. Housing and Growth Deal Reports

(a) Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Progress Report - Quarter 1, Year 4

The Partnership considered a report updating them on progress with the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal as of first quarter, Year 4 (2021/2022). It was presented Paul Staines, Interim Head of Programme.

Mr Staines explained that reviews of the Deal were now conducted on a biannual basis. This, therefore, meant that the figures in the document around affordable housing delivery were unchanged from the previous report. A more detailed update on delivery figures and projected trajectory would, however, be presented at the next meeting of the Partnership.

Councillor Leffman referred to figures for housing delivery forecast vs target graph (as set out on page 43 of the agenda). She noted that if a 20% optimism bias was not included, delivery would appear to be below the planned target by 2022/2023. Councillor Leffman asked whether the explanation for this was related to issues, such as a lack of materials and labour, which were affecting the construction industry. She also inquired as to what action the Partnership might take to bring delivery back to target.

Members were informed that the construction industry – like many others – had been disrupted by the pandemic. This had impacted upon the delivery of a number of homes that would have otherwise been expected. Due to the structure of the Deal, the delivery of delayed homes outside of the agreement's allotted time period could not be considered towards the original trajectory.

The construction industry was experiencing national labour and material shortages, and these represented emerging risks to the programme which would continue to be monitored. In recognition of these impacts, Homes England had agreed to an extension of the Deal to allow additional time for delivery of the agreed original five year target trajectory. It was currently estimated that some 2,000 additional units would be delivered in Year 6 of the Deal. This would compensate for some of the reductions earlier in the programme.

RESOLVED: That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership notes the progress as at Quarter 1, 2021/22 towards the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.

(b) Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Financial Report Quarter 1, Year 4

The Partnership considered a report setting out an update of the financial position of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal as of the first quarter, Year 4 (2021/2022). This was presented by Lorna Baxter, Director of Finance, Oxfordshire County Council, and highlighted that:

- The fourth annual contribution of £30m had been received from HM Government in respect of the five year homes from infrastructure programme.
- While it was expected to spend £24.9m during the 2021/2022 financial year on infrastructure programme projects, the full £150m of the programme had now been committed as set out in Appendix 1.
- It was expected that the £5m Deal capacity fund would be fully utilised by 2024 as set out in Appendix 2.

RESOLVED: That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership notes the Quarter 1, 2021/2022 financial report.

(c) Housing Advisory Group update

Councillor Brown referred to the notes of the meeting of the Housing Advisory Group held on 1 September 2021. She highlighted that the Group had held a useful discussion on reflections arising from the Oxfordshire Affordable Housing Programme to date.

This had covered the success from the delivery of the programme but also some of the challenges that had arisen (including some aspects which had not been originally identified). Members of the Group had reflected that the work of the programme had been important. They also highlighted the fact that there remained an ongoing need for affordable housing within Oxfordshire. In their deliberations, the Group felt that some consideration should be given to a new request for investment in affordable housing – taking into account the lessons learnt from this experience. Councillor Brown suggested that local authority members of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership should consider this possibility further within their own councils.

Councillor Cooper expressed regret that it had not been possible to deliver affordable units within South Oxfordshire under the current Deal and reiterated the need for genuinely affordable homes to be provided across the whole of the county. In response, Councillor Brown stated that the Housing Advisory Group had discussed not only why South Oxfordshire had been unable to utilise the current Deal's affordable housing opportunities, but also what more might be done to ensure that all parts of Oxfordshire could benefit from any future arrangement.

Members agreed that the national definition of 'affordable housing' was simply not working for many of Oxfordshire's residents and, therefore, excluding them from the housing market. Consequently, the Partnership decided that further action was required with social rent being the form of tenure provision most needed – although other forms of tenure each had their own place within a range of options.

Councillor Leffman stated it was particularly important for social housing to be built to high environmental standards as doing so would reduce future energy running costs for residents in addition to reducing carbon emissions.

Councillor Wood remarked that although the provision of affordable housing was very important in its own right, it was also vital to consider the social infrastructure (schools, doctors' surgeries etc) which was often required to unlock development. Moreover, it should also be borne in mind that affordable housing formed only a subset/proportion of the total homes delivered by a developer.

Catherine Turner welcomed the discussion and commented that, on behalf of Homes England, she looked forward to collaborating with Councillor Brown on the points arising from both the work undertaken by the Housing Advisory Group and the current Partnership discussion.

RESOLVED: That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership notes the update.

(d) Oxfordshire Plan 2050 sub-group update

Councillor Smith referred to the notes of the meetings of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Advisory Group held on 15 July 2021 and 12 August 2021. She also commented verbally on their most recent gathering on 16 September 2021.

In her update, Councillor Smith highlighted that the Regulation 18 Part 2 public consultation period would run until 8 October 2021. Several different stakeholder events had been held including a series of webinars and the contributions made had been very positive. She thanked everyone that had engaged with the process so far.

The Group was now focussing upon preparations leading into the formal Regulation 19 consultation expected in May 2022. It was recognised that developing the next iteration of the Plan would be a significant and different piece of work (especially within the timetable and with the need to secure approval from each local council). Consideration was, therefore, being given to early engagement with local authority members – via the overview and scrutiny process – and wider stakeholders.

RESOLVED: That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership notes the update.

(e) Environment Advisory Group update

Councillor Cooper explained that, while the Group was still establishing itself, it had, nevertheless, discussed the Pathways to a Zero Carbon Oxfordshire report at its previous meeting. The Group was scheduled to consider the Local Transport and connectivity Plan and a report on its own professional officer support during their meeting in September.

Councillor Cooper also emphasised that environmental issues linked to housing (especially retrofitting) remained the priority. She commented that communication with residents over these issues would be a key task for the Future Oxfordshire Partnership as a whole. The importance of providing a consistent message regarding the role that everyone had to play in reducing carbon emissions was also stressed.

Councillor Brown commented that it was important to realise that some 80% of Oxfordshire's housing in 2030 had already been built. Consequently, it was important not to underestimate the scale of the funding challenge presented by the retrofitting of both domestic and commercial property. In addition, particular challenges would be posed by the historic buildings within both Oxford and the wider county. The crucial issue of retrofitting should, therefore, be borne in mind during the debate on environmental standards for new housing.

Councillor Brown also highlighted the good work on the issue of retrofitting existing homes being undertaken by the Low Carbon Trust and Cosy Homes Oxfordshire and suggested that their advice and examples of best practice should be promoted and shared more widely.

Finally, investment in retrofitting at a national level would be required if the timetable for carbon emission reductions were to be achieved.

Councillor Leffman stated that Oxfordshire County Council had recently joined the County Council Network's UK 100 initiative, where county councils committed to reducing their carbon footprint. Part of the commitment included being able to demonstrate a reduction in carbon emissions. The work of the Environment Advisory Group around baseline data for carbon emissions was, therefore, very important.

Responding, Councillor Cooper stated that members of the Environment Advisory Group had agreed to work together around establishing baseline carbon emission data. In addition, Nigel Tipple, OxLEP Chief Executive, referred to the publication of the Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire report which contained a significant amount of data and analysis. While he recognised that it did not represent a full baseline, it provided a good evidence base which could be developed further.

RESOLVED: That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership notes the update.

33. Oxford to Cambridge Arc Update

Andrew Down, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Director, provided a verbal update. The Partnership was informed that the outcomes of HM Government's Comprehensive Review were expected on 27 October 2021. Although it was not expected that there would be significant capital sums allocated to the Oxford to Cambridge Arc, it was felt that there would be continued support for collaboration from HM Government. There were also suggestions that further details might be provided on how the proposed Oxford to Cambridge Arc Growth Body might be established.

Councillor Wood informed the Partnership that he had written, on behalf of the Oxford to Cambridge Arc Leaders Group, to the Secretary of State in support of existing subregional partnerships. In this letter, he had highlighted the important role that each level of governance within the Arc, from local authorities to central government, would have to play if successful outcomes were to be achieved (the principle of subsidiarity). It had also expressed the view of the Leaders Group that HM Government should establish an Arc Investment Fund to help the project achieve its aspirations.

Professor Alistair Fitt also updated the Partnership that he had written, on behalf of the Oxford to Cambridge Universities' Group, to suggest ways in which they could support HM Government in meeting its policy objectives. The letter explained that the Group currently had three main areas of support focus: life sciences, sustainable aviation and space.

Professor Fitt also informed the Panel that the Universities' Group was looking at reviewing its overall strategy and at its next meeting it would have representation from a broad range of economic sectors.

Jeremy Long, Chair, OxLEP, spoke in support of Councillor Wood's comments regarding the importance of subsidiarity in the approach HM Government took to the Arc. In his view,

they did recognise how successful the Oxfordshire Growth Board had been in building knowledge, cooperation and common understanding. It was, therefore, important to continue this success in joint working through the Future Oxfordshire Partnership. Furthermore, if there was the potential to access a collective mechanism for funding at the Arc level, it was vitally important that Oxfordshire began work on establishing its priorities. This would give them the greatest opportunity to develop a compelling case to put before HM Government.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

34. The Oxford to Cambridge Arc Vision Consultation

The Partnership considered a report – presented by Stefan Robinson, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Manager and Andrew Down, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Director – summarising HM Government’s consultation on a draft Vision for the Oxford to Cambridge Arc (an engagement exercise which would be used to help inform future ambitions for an Arc wide Spatial Framework). Appendix 1 of the document contained a draft response to the consultation.

It was highlighted to the Partnership that this was a high-level strategic response designed to complement any individual responses from members. The recommendations made by the Future Oxfordshire Scrutiny Panel were also flagged for consideration.

In discussion, the following summary points were made in summary for consideration in finalising the final response prior to submission:

- The focus within the draft response on the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision was the correct approach.
- There should be a specific request for building regulations to be updated in respect of the Environment section of the response and achievement of zero carbon.
- There should be reference to the need to for a better definition of ‘affordable housing’ within the Economy section which would more accurately reflect the reality of Oxfordshire’s circumstances, (notwithstanding it was acknowledged that there were challenges in arriving at such a definition across the county and difference in approach).
- Oxfordshire had higher rates of private car ownership and journeys than the national average in respect of achieving zero carbon.
- A way was needed to consistently measure the impact of the Arc Spatial Framework in terms of the contribution or impact made by its provisions on the climate and carbon emissions and it would be useful if the same measures could be used in Oxfordshire.
- That the importance of Local Planning Authorities retaining the ability to set local housing targets rather than them being set centrally or via the Arc should be highlighted in the response as this was consistent with the approach adopted by the Partnership in the development of its own Strategic Vision.
- Oxfordshire was fortunate to benefit from a number of world leading hospitals and the work being undertaken within Oxfordshire communities around place shaping could be emphasised.

Members of the Partnership also discussed how issues around the affordability of housing were considered within Oxfordshire. Councillor Leffman suggested that this issue might be a potential subject for discussion at the Joint Future Oxfordshire Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board Workshop planned for October.

RESOLVED: That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership:

1. Approve the submission of the draft response at Appendix 1, and;
2. Delegate responsibility to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership Director, in consultation with the Chair, to make any amendments as agreed at this meeting, prior to submission.

35. Future Oxfordshire Partnership Forward Plan

Stefan Robinson, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Manager, set out the published Partnership Forward Programme. He commented that there were no specific proposed amendments.

Councillor Cooper, referring to the expiration of the temporary legislation enabling remote meetings, made the case that there should be discretion for councils and joint committees to determine the most appropriate form of assembling and that this should be dependent on their specific circumstances. She highlighted the fact that the continuation of virtual meetings would help support the Partnership's climate change objectives by reducing the need for members to travel long distances across Oxfordshire. The Chair supported Councillor Cooper's suggestion that the Partnership should write to the Secretary of State expressing these points.

Councillor Smith asked for an item updating members on the implementation of the name change from the Oxfordshire Growth Board to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership to be added to the work programme.

RESOLVED: That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership:

1. Agree the forward programme with the addition of a report to provide an update on the roll out of the implementation of the name change from the Oxfordshire Growth Board to The Future Oxfordshire Partnership.
2. Write to the Secretary of State in support of the introduction of permanent legislation to extend discretion to local authorities to allow for the holding of remote meetings.

36. Updates on matters relevant to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership

Andrew Down, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Director, informed members of the Partnership's intention – at the request of Network Rail – to contact HM Government reiterating their support for investment in the rail infrastructure identified as part of the Oxfordshire Rail Corridor Study. Particular emphasis would be placed upon the upgrade of Oxford Station, increases in line capacity and the delivery of a fully electrified East West Rail.

37. Appointment to England's Economic Heartland Strategic Leadership Group

Andrew Down, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Director, clarified that, following a technical change in the governance structure of England's Economic Heartland (EEH), it was necessary to reappoint the Partnership's non-voting representative to the EEH Strategic

Leadership Board. It had previously been resolved that the Chair of the Partnership should take this role and that it should rotate on an annual basis – Oxfordshire County Council, as a highways authority, already sit as a voting member of the Board.

RESOLVED:

1. That as Chair of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership, Councillor Michele Mead be appointed as the Partnership’s representative to England’s Economic Heartland Strategic Leadership Board for the 2021/2022 year.
2. That the appointment of the Partnership’s representative to England’s Economic Heartland Strategic Leadership Board rotate on an annual basis with the Chair of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership.

38. Dates of next meetings

The Future Oxfordshire Partnership considered the dates of future meetings, noting that it was intended to reschedule the date of the meeting originally planned for 23 November 2021.

- ~~23 November 2021~~ (subsequently rescheduled to 30 November 2021)
- 25 January 2022
- 22 March 2022
- 7 June 2022
- 26 July 2022

The meeting closed at 4.45 pm

Chairman

Date

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To: Future Oxfordshire Partnership- formerly the Oxfordshire Growth Board

Title of Report: Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Progress Report – Year 4, Quarter 2

Date: 30 November 2021

Report of Paul Staines: Interim Head of Programme

Status: Open

Executive Summary and Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to update the Future Oxfordshire Partnership (The Partnership) on progress, at the end of the second quarter Year 4 (2021/22) with the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal (the Deal).

The report provides a summary of the following strands of the Deal.

- Housing from Infrastructure Programme
- Affordable Housing programme
- Oxfordshire Plan 2050

The fourth strand of the Deal, Productivity, is reported separately to the OxLEP Board whilst this report also updates on progress with the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS)

Oxfordshire County Council, as the Accountable Body, provide a separate assurance statement, detailing the financial position of the Deal elsewhere on this agenda.

How this report contributes to the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision Outcomes:

The Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal has a key role to play in delivering well-designed infrastructure and homes, sufficient in numbers, location, type, size, tenure and affordability to meet the needs of our county, as set out in the Strategic Vision.

Recommendation:

That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership notes the progress as at Quarter 2, 2021/22 towards the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.

Appendices: None

Housing from Infrastructure Programme

- 1) The Homes from Infrastructure Programme (Hfi) is a £150m investment in strategic infrastructure to support the acceleration of already planned housing in Oxfordshire.

- 2) The Hfl programme has two aspects.
 - Firstly, the commitment to spend £30m per annum over 5 years on named strategic infrastructure projects, identified as accelerators for planned housing growth in Oxfordshire.
 - Secondly that this infrastructure expenditure will then accelerate 6,549 planned homes that might not otherwise have come forward at this pace. This is because either the completed infrastructure allows housing to be built earlier than otherwise planned or the investment provides developers with confidence to build out sites faster than they otherwise might.
- 3) The Hfl timeline originally agreed in the Deal was a five-year period from 2018/19 to March 31st, 2022/23. This has been extended for up to two years to March 31st, 2025 to allow schemes to complete and for the relevant housing to be attributed.

Infrastructure

- 4) Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) are the lead delivery partner for the infrastructure element of Hfl which they deliver through their capital projects governance framework.
- 5) The infrastructure element of the Hfl programme comprises 23 infrastructure projects that include road, rail, cycle routes and footpaths, as well as social infrastructure such as schools. A link to a list of the schemes can be found [here](#).
- 6) In the last quarter, in addition to progressing scheme delivery, officers have also been engaged in a review of the infrastructure programme, designed to ensure that the schemes included are both deliverable within the timeframe, that costs are controlled and that the outcomes of the programme-accelerated housing- are both timely and proportionate to the investment. A separate report on the implications of this review, seeking the endorsement of The Partnership forms part of the agenda for this meeting.
- 7) OCC also report that the remaining infrastructure schemes also demonstrate challenges to delivery that are being managed. Consequently, there is an emerging challenge to remain on target for the £30 million spend for this year. Officers are considering mitigations and options that we will discuss with Homes England as appropriate and report back at future meetings.

Risk Management

- 8) The OCC manages each infrastructure project, in conjunction with relevant partners and all risks and issues are identified and mitigated.
- 9) Officers have, as part of their performance management of the programme, identified all relevant risks to each project and supplied a RAG (Red/Amber/Green) rating for each scheme. The Growth Deal Programme Board receive monthly reports of risks alongside any mitigations to ensure that we continue to manage risks appropriately. This also forms part of the quarterly monitoring information provided to Homes England.

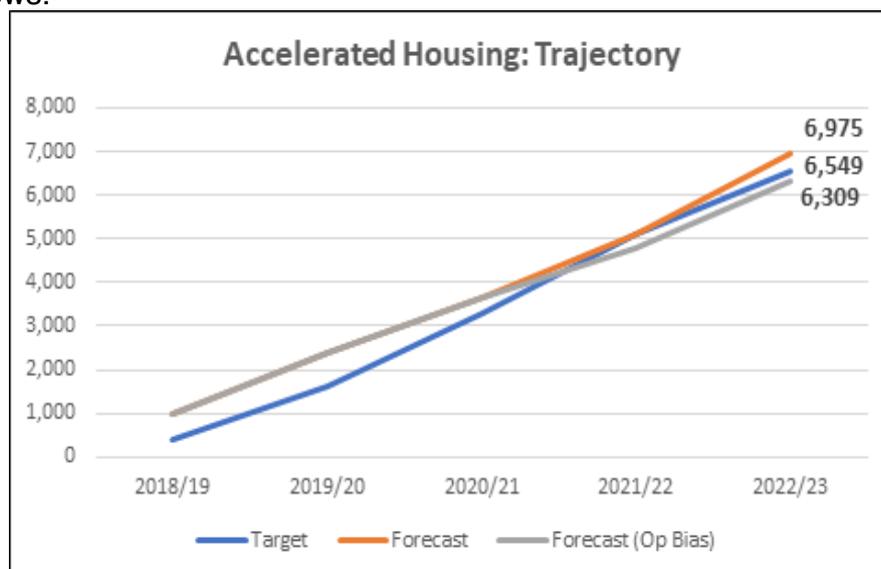
10) At a strategic level, the overall programme also has a Risk Register or RAID Log, updated quarterly, and reported to the Programme Board. This Strategic RAID Log holds the following risks to the Hfl programme together with actions proposed to mitigate.

- The backloading of the programme, an issue compounded by the pandemic that has led to concerns that some schemes may fall outside of the 5-year timeframe of the Hfl programme. Government recognised this issue and have extended the programme for a further two years to enable the completion of delayed infrastructure schemes over this extended period, subject to the approval of revised business cases demonstrating delivery within that timeframe
- The continuing commitment to spend £30m annually on the Hfl programme when this linear financial profile does not reflect the reality of infrastructure project spend, which is typically heavily backloaded to the build phases.
- Managing the impact of the Hfl programme upon the Oxfordshire road network- recognising that there are other significant infrastructure investment programmes in the same timeframe.
- Shortages of both labour and materials causing delays to projects. This is a growing risk to the programme and is a recognised national phenomenon.
- Potential project delays due to the need for some schemes to secure land through adversarial routes such as compulsory purchase.
- Reliance on third parties (developers / network rail, etc) for delivery.

Delivering Housing from Infrastructure

11) The Partnership has agreed with Homes England that the Hfl delivery trajectory will be revised every six months with an interim report including changes only by exception. Accordingly, this report contains the confirmed year end position and projections forward at 30th September 2021

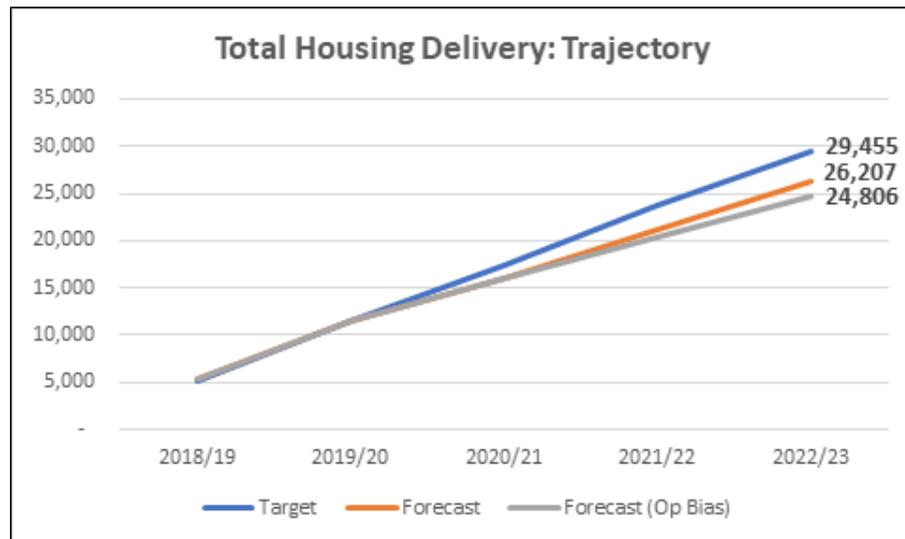
12) The position for the Housing from Infrastructure (Hfl) programme is as follows:



13) The graph shows that we continue to anticipate that accelerated housing trajectory over the original five years of the Deal will be above target at 6,975 homes against a baseline of 6,549. However, when applying the 20%

optimism bias for the remaining years of the Deal the trajectory falls to 6,309.

- 14) The graph demonstrates that the figures for accelerated housing remain robust and above target – before optimism bias adjustments- despite the challenges that the housing sector has faced in the last year. This provides further evidence that the investment in infrastructure continues to bolster market confidence on those sites when compared to the wider housing market.



- 15) The Partnership also reports that overall completions will be 26,207 homes against the target of 29,455 homes and when the optimism bias is applied to the remaining years of the Deal this falls to 24,806. These figures are an improvement on the estimates reported at the last quarter but are still below target.
- 16) Considering the overall completions trajectory, evidence suggests that developers took a pessimistic view of their performance in their in-year estimates when compared to what they were able to develop through the year, perhaps overestimating the effects of the pandemic. Nonetheless a challenge remains to achieve this target in the final years of the Deal

Risk Management

- 17) The risk management of the housing element of the Hfl programme has two elements. Firstly, there is the impact of the related infrastructure programme described in the earlier section but there are also non-infrastructure related risks to housing delivery. The Partnership has developed a two-tier risk assessment process that allows for consideration of both sets of risks and issues, reported monthly to the Programme Board and quarterly to Homes England.
- 18) The Partnership has also developed a Strategic Risk Register or RAID Log that names and addresses the following programme wide risks and issues.
- The pace of infrastructure delivery, particularly the influence of the pandemic and supply side issues that has slowed the pace of

infrastructure schemes identified as crucial to the acceleration of homes and the consequent impact on the pace of the related housing.

Government recognised this issue and have extended the programme for a further two years to enable partners to attribute the homes accelerated to the programme.

- Any macroeconomic issues that cause a potential slowdown of housing development.
- Shortages of both labour and materials causing delays to projects. This is a growing risk to the programme and is a recognised national phenomenon.
- The speed of resolution of any planning issues needed to unblock sites.
- Potential impact of external market factors and the health of the economy.

Affordable Housing Programme (OAHF)

19) The second quarter of the OAHF secured 50 additional affordable homes, meaning a total of 86 units so far this year and a grant drawdown of £4.8 million

20) The achievement of 86 units in the first half of year four reminds us of the challenge of delivery of the final year of the OAHF when compared to the required programme.

21) Addressing the challenge of delivery is a constant one for the OAHF and officers use a comprehensive programme management regime involving close engagement with all partners that enables us to track schemes closely and project manage risks and issues where possible to ensure delivery.

22) As we approached the half year stage it became apparent through this programme management regime that several of the schemes identified in the pipeline do not yet have planning permission or have other challenges that may impact deliverability within the remaining six months of the programme.

23) Consequently, following analysis of the current delivery plan, a bespoke approach has been agreed with Homes England and DLUHC to maximise the number of affordable homes deliverable through the OAHF in the remaining period of the OAHF. This approach will provide flexibility and support to the delivery of schemes this year, and as necessary, into the future.

24) Officers will continue to manage the delivery of the identified OAHF programme and secure their delivery, albeit by accessing different funding streams and report progress as we head towards the conclusion of the OAHF in March 2022.

25) This agreed approach offers welcome flexibility on start dates for construction, reduces the risk associated with the timing of planning decisions, and will help to deliver much needed affordable homes.

26) There are however several schemes that are either so well advanced through our programme application process, or that are outside of the parameters of the HE programmes such that they need to continue through the OAHP and a budget of £10m for delivery of these schemes through the OAHP has been agreed.

Risk Management

27) The key risks to delivery of individual schemes within the OAHP, are primarily from delays in scheme development, planning and tender processes, together with financial challenges to schemes viability. The partners manage these risks at district/city level.

28) In addition to these site-specific risks, there are more general risks identified for the Programme, these are identified in the RAID Log as:

- The risks to the OAHP of a downturn in the economy, slowing housing completion rates and thence the affordable units developed.
- Shortages of both labour and materials causing delays to projects as well as affecting costs and viability. This is a growing risk to the programme and is a recognised national phenomenon.

Oxfordshire Plan 2050

29) The focus of this workstream in the second quarter has been on firstly finalising the Oxfordshire Plan Regulation 18 document ready for consultation, which then commenced on time on 31st July and secondly ensuring that the consultation was successful in reaching as wide an audience as possible.

30) The consultation ran for 10 weeks, closing on the 8th October and as previously advised, the primary consultation route was a bespoke website, using the Oxfordshire Open Thought platform that was successful for the Part One consultation.

31) To complement this the Team hosted a series of seminar/workshops throughout August and September. These were a mixture of generic workshops for interested residents complemented by a specific themed workshop on the environment. There were also specific by invitation workshops with the CPRE, Neighbourhood Plan Groups and with developers.

32) The team also commissioned a focus group to offer a representative view of local people and seminars with local colleges.

33) Overall, the consultation is considered a success. We received nearly 3000 responses from a range of individuals and some 360 different organisations.

34) There was strong presence on social media for the Plan with regular posts and promotions on all the major platforms. Some additional promotional work had been commissioned via the Facebook platform which had resulted in significant levels of additional engagement and this was considered to represent good value for money in comparison to traditional media. Engagement with younger residents was a particular priority and

Instagram was the social media platform being used for this targeted promotion.

- 35) The last meeting of the Oxfordshire Plan Advisory subgroup (the subgroup) was advised that following the end of the consultation it was intended to brief them at their next meeting, setting out both a demographic break down of respondents and some of the key points emerging from the responses. A report on the consultation will be prepared for the Councils.
- 36) The subgroup also received detailed updates on the progress with the Oxfordshire Plan. There have been three broad areas of reporting in this quarter.

Oxfordshire Plan Policies

- 37) There are some 32 policies in the Oxfordshire Plan, grouped under 5 themes and each of these has been examined through the consultation process. The responses have been and are being logged and recorded throughout November and will be adjusted in the light of these and other developments.
- 38) Responses have highlighted that whilst many of the policies are largely in place others have further development required. One area of response concerned the affordable housing policy and the degree to which a policy at the Oxfordshire Plan level could usefully add value to the policies in each district's local plans, given the collective priority that affordable housing has in Oxfordshire. Following the advice of the subgroup a workshop of planning and housing officers will be convened to ensure this policy is fully scoped and will report back to the subgroup on any changes.

Assessing Spatial options

- 39) A third key plank of the next stage of the Oxfordshire Plan will be looking at the spatial options and considering how these align to the strategic options approach set out in the Regulation 18 consultation, as amended by that consultation.
- 40) The piece of work is being overseen by a working group drawn from across the councils and overseen by the Heads of Planning.

Engagement through Reg 19

- 41) At its last meeting, the subgroup considered engagement of key partners through the next stage of the Oxfordshire Plan in response to a recognition that early communication with members across councils will be vital to ensuring engagement with the emerging Plan. The subgroup discussed various methods of communication and engagement and asked officers to return to a later meeting with a formulated programme of engagement.

Risk Management

- 42) The following key risks to the production of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, previously reported remain important considerations:
- Challenges of being a front-runner, producing a new type of Plan with little bespoke guidance in national policy – this has become more

relevant with the uncertainty over the Government's Planning Reform agenda.

- Challenging timeframe for production of the Plan given the complexities of the topics it will cover and of partnership working.
- Links with external projects, for example the OxCam Arc Spatial Framework.
- Links with and relationship to district Local Plans.

43) Officers have developed a detailed risk register including mitigations to ensure that risks are appropriately managed. Meetings are planned with the Planning Inspectorate and with DLUHC to address some of the issues above.

Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS)

44) The refreshed Oxfordshire infrastructure Strategy was a commitment by Oxfordshire in the Deal.

45) The draft strategy was consulted upon over the summer and consequently several infrastructure schemes that were not in the original long list attached to OxIS were suggested.

46) In addition, officers considered the recently published Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). This is Oxfordshire's plan to deliver the requirements of the National Bus Strategy and includes 13 capital schemes considered necessary to deliver those requirements at an indicative cost of circa £36 million.

47) Both because of the importance of BSIP and the need for this funding to be secured to progress the Plan, it was felt to be remiss not to include its proposals in OxIS.

48) Cumulatively, this has led to the addition of some 25 additional infrastructure schemes being added to the long list that needed to be assessed by our consultants. This has led to a delay in finalising the Stage 1 OxIS report, which will now be considered by the Partnership in January 2022.

49) The second part of the OxIS project concerns the infrastructure implications of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050. This remains on track to deliver against the agreed timeline for the Plan

Deal Governance

50) The Growth Deal Capacity Fund continues to be monitored by the Programme Office with monthly financial statements reported to the Growth Deal Programme Board with reports to the programme Board monthly.

51) An internal audit of the Capacity Fund, by Oxfordshire County Council, is still currently in progress. An update will be shared with the Programme Board once the outcome of the report has been received.

52) The Strategic RAID (Risks, Assumptions, Issues and Dependencies) Log continues to be monitored and reported to the Programme Board on a monthly/quarterly basis. Further detailed work with the risk and issue

owners on the specific actions to lessen the impact and probability of key risks and issues will continue.

53) During Quarter 2, the Programme Office has also been responsible for progressing with the recruitment vacancies within the Oxfordshire Plan team. A new programme Lead for the Oxfordshire Plan joined on 1st November and a principal planner on the 15th. We are now in the process of actively progressing with the recruitment to fill the vacancy for the Project Support Officer role.

Legal Implications

54) None arising from this report.

Other Implications

55) None arising from this report.

Conclusion

56) This report outlines progress against the agreed Growth Deal milestones.

57) The report shows that despite the challenges highlighted in the report Oxfordshire continues to make progress towards meeting our commitments under the Deal and there are continually evolving robust best practice partnership and management arrangements, both within each council and across the partnership to address risks and issues as they arise.

58) The report asks the Future Oxfordshire Partnership to note progress with the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal, as at 30th September 2021, the second quarter of the fourth year of the Deal and the achievement against the milestones committed to.

Background Papers

None

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Contact information: paul.staines@oxfordshire.gov.uk

To: Future Oxfordshire Partnership (formerly the Oxfordshire Growth Board)

Title of Report: Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Financial Report Quarter 2 2021/22

Date: 30 November 2021

Report of: Director of Finance, Oxfordshire County Council (Accountable Body)

Status: Open

Executive Summary and Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to update the Future Oxfordshire Partnership on the 2021/22 financial position at the end of Quarter 2 for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal. The report covers the three grant funding streams:

- Infrastructure programme
- Affordable Housing programme
- Growth Deal Capacity Fund

The report is prepared by the Director of Finance for Oxfordshire County Council in the capacity of Section 151 Officer of the Accountable Body for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal and gives assurance over the grant funding and expenditure.

The fourth strand of the Deal, Productivity is reported through the OXLEP Board under separate arrangements.

How this report contributes to the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision Outcomes:

The Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal contributes towards ensuring that there are energy efficient and affordable homes in the right number, location and tenure to meet people's needs. The Infrastructure Fund will improve connectivity and support a prosperous and inclusive economy.

Recommendation:

The Future Oxfordshire Partnership are asked to note the 2021/22 Quarter 2 financial report.

Appendices:

Annex 1: Infrastructure Programme

Annex 2: Capacity Fund

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This report sets out the financial position for Quarter 2 2021/22 of the following three strands of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal and associated funding streams from Homes England (HE):

- Infrastructure Programme.
- Oxfordshire Affordable Housing Programme.
- Growth Deal Capacity Fund.

1.2 The report is prepared by the Director of Finance for Oxfordshire County Council (the County Council) in the capacity of Section 151 Officer of the Accountable Body for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal and gives assurance over the grant funding and expenditure.

1.3 Funding for the fourth strand of the deal Productivity Programme is managed by the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) and financial performance is reported independently to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership.

2.0 Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Fund Financial Governance

2.1 In accordance with the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Delivery Plan, the County Council is the accountable body for the financial management of the three key financial streams. A quarterly report is provided to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership. Responsibility for the management of each financial stream is held by the programme lead.

2.2 As the Accountable Body, the County Council is responsible for ensuring that:

- Funding is received from Government.
- Recommendations to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership on schemes to be funded are in accordance with the grant conditions.
- Regular monitoring reports are provided to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership.

2.3 The County Council also holds the risk should Government require funding to be repaid if it is unspent or deemed to have been misused.

3.0 Financial Summary Quarter 2 2021/22

3.1 Infrastructure Fund

3.1.1 The Infrastructure Fund totals £150.0m. The grant funding is being paid to the Accountable Body in five equal annual instalments of £30.0m. 2021/22 is the fourth year of the Infrastructure Fund Programme.

3.1.2 The majority of schemes are now progressing through the pre-construction phases with planning submissions expected in 2021/22 and construction and completion from 2022 onwards. This is reflected in the forecasted spend profile for 2022/23 & 2023/24.

- 3.1.3 The full list of schemes and latest profile of spend over the programme is set out in Annex 1. The total forecast expenditure on growth deal schemes reported for 2021/22 is £21.9m with actual spend of £5.8m for Q1 and Q2. The reduction of £2.9m in the forecast spend since the last update reflects a number of schemes where there is a delay entering the construction phase. This includes the Science Transit scheme where the business case is awaiting approval from the Department for Transport.
- 3.1.4 Based on the latest estimated cost plans recently submitted for certain schemes, there have been some minor changes to reflect the reallocation of grant funding. As schemes progress through design to contract let, further variations are anticipated but are expected to be funded from within the total infrastructure fund allocation. Any more significant changes to the cost plans will be submitted to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership for their endorsement and reflected in the next quarterly update.
- 3.1.5 The County Council will continue to use its freedoms and flexibilities as the Accountable Body to ensure that funding is carried forward and is available to support the delivery profile of the programme beyond the original end date of 2022/23.

3.2 Oxfordshire Affordable Housing Programme

- 3.2.1 The Oxfordshire Affordable Housing Programme (OAFP) is expected to provide funding to support the delivery of up to 1,322 units of affordable housing. The programme has continued during the first four years of the Growth Deal following agreement to extend the original three-year programme by a year into 2021/22 in order to deliver against the target.
- 3.2.2 The actual funding claimed is agreed periodically with Homes England (HE) based on the number of affordable housing units that are in contract to be delivered. To support the cashflow of the housing authorities, it has been agreed with Homes England to move from an annual claim to a quarterly claim process. This will also support the in-year monitoring by giving greater visibility of progress to date.
- 3.2.3 Funding of £25.6m was claimed in the first three years of the programme and supported 658 units of affordable housing.
- 3.2.4 Following analysis of the current delivery plan, a bespoke approach has been agreed with Homes England and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) to maximise the number of affordable homes deliverable in the remaining period of the deal. this year, and as necessary, into the future.
- 3.2.5 86 units with combined grant requirement of £4.8m have been delivered in Quarter 1 and 2 of 2021/22. A further 115 units with a combined grant requirement of £5.2m are expected to be delivered in the second half of the year and will be funded from the revised OAFP budget of £10.0m confirmed by DLUHC.

- 3.2.6 The remaining deliverable schemes in the programme will be funded directly through Homes England's Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) and other government funding streams. This combined approach will provide flexibility and support to the delivery of schemes. DLUHC have agreed in principle that all these schemes will be recognised as contributing to the OAHP targets.
- 3.2.7 Some schemes in the original programme are not eligible for HE funding according to their criteria and alternative funding routes are being identified for these.
- 3.2.8 A total of £1.4m grant funding has been requested for the Year 4 Quarter 1 drawdown and was transferred in September 2021. A further request for grant funding of £3.3m for the Year 4 Quarter 2 drawdown was submitted in early November 2021.

3.3 Growth Deal Capacity Fund

- 3.3.1 The Growth Deal Capacity Fund totals £5.0m. The grant has been paid to the County Council in three instalments. The first instalment of £0.5m was paid in 2017/18, followed by £2.5m in 2018/19 and £2.0m in 2019/20.
- 3.3.2 The funding is available to be used over the life of the programme which was originally planned to run from 2017/18 to 2022/23. At year end, funding that has not been spent is carried forward through the County Council's Earmarked Reserves. The budget is split into three elements:
- Housing Delivery: Staff costs for the core Housing and Growth Deal team.
 - Delivery of the Oxfordshire Joint Statutory Spatial Plan including staff costs.
 - Feasibility: costs of feasibility works including Rail Connectivity Study (part funding) and Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS) refresh.
- 3.3.3 Annex 2 sets out the financial position, which includes a carry forward of £2.4m into 2021/22. The future profile of spend remains under review and will be extended into 2023/24. This will be reflected in the next report.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The report sets out the Quarter 2 financial update each of the three strands of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal. Based on the on-going spend and funding position action will need to be agreed as appropriate to ensure that each of the programmes continue to be managed within the funding available.
- 4.2 As noted above the County Council will continue to use its freedoms and flexibilities as the Accountable Body to ensure that funding is carried forward and is available to support the delivery profile of the programme beyond the original end date of 2022/23.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 In accordance with the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Delivery Plan, the County Council is the accountable body for the financial management of the three key financial streams.

5.2 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

6.0 Risk Management

6.1 The financial performance of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Grant funding streams is closely monitored by the Growth Deal Programme Board. This ensures that forecast spend of the Growth Deal period is accurate, based on the knowledge of the programme plans, and actual spend is reported, based on a monthly review of all transactional activity and balanced to the County Council financial systems.

6.2 Any risk identified to the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Funding streams will be reported to the Growth Deal Programme Board for review and appropriate mitigation action will be agreed. Any strategic risk to the overall programme will be reported to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership.

7.0 Conclusion

7.1 This report sets out an update on the actual and forecast spend against the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal funding streams for Quarter 2 2021/22.

7.2 The Future Oxfordshire Partnership is asked to note the 2021/22 Quarter 2 financial report.

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Growth Deal Schemes	Report	Yr 1 - Yr	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total	Capital	Revenue
		3	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	Allocation	Allocation
			£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
GROWTH DEAL SCHEMES									
NW Bicester A4095 Howes Lane / Lords Lane u/bridge	MIBAB	4.837	2.963	-	-	-	7.800	7.800	0.020
NW Bicester A4095 Howes Lane / Lords Lane Road Realignment	MIBAB	0.343	1.400	6.000	8.007	-	15.750	15.750	-
M40 J10 Improvements	MIBAB	16.563	-	-	2.317	-	18.880	18.880	0.140
A422 Hennef Way, Banbury	MIBAB	0.170	0.030	-	-	-	0.200	0.200	0.030
Tramway Road Banbury	MIBAB	0.163	0.750	2.017	0.857	-	3.787	3.787	0.280
A361 Bloxham Rd to A4260 Oxford Rd Link Rd	MIBAB	0.300	-	-	-	-	0.300	0.300	-
Access to Headington	MIOX	3.500	-	-	-	-	3.500	3.500	-
Botley Road Corridor	MIOX	3.250	-	-	-	-	3.250	3.250	-
Oxpens to Osney Mead Cycling and Pedestrian Bridge	MIOX	5.903	0.025	0.072	-	-	6.000	6.000	-
Oxford Citywide Cycle and Pedestrian Routes	MIOX	1.479	0.020	1.286	0.500	-	3.285	3.285	0.470
Banbury Rd Improvements (Banbury Road Corridor)	MIOX	0.108	0.650	1.612	-	-	2.370	2.370	0.030
Woodstock Rd Improvement (Woodstock Road Corridor)	MIOX	0.112	1.275	5.250	5.863	-	12.500	12.500	-
SE Corridors / Connecting Oxford	MIOX	0.210	0.550	0.842	-	-	1.602	1.602	0.440
A4260 and A44 Corridor Improvements	MIOX	0.894	2.000	10.000	1.636	-	14.530	14.530	1.470
North Oxford Corridors - Kidlington	MIOX	0.040	0.750	5.000	0.210	-	6.000	6.000	-
Active Travel P2 - City	MIOX	-	0.479	-	-	-	0.479	0.479	-
Botley Road Bridge	MIOX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.500
Cowley Branch Line	Reserves	-	-	-	-	0.250	0.250	0.250	-
Watlington Edge Road	MICW	0.255	0.725	2.900	3.220	-	7.100	7.100	0.010
Benson Relief Road	MICW	0.486	0.325	0.814	0.175	-	1.800	1.800	-
Milton Enterprise Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge	MICW	0.087	0.150	2.200	0.563	-	3.000	3.000	0.420
Ilford Junction	MICW	0.077	0.200	0.400	0.600	0.223	1.500	1.500	-
Relief to Rowstock	MICW	0.245	0.750	0.700	-	3.005	4.700	4.700	-
Jubilee Way Roundabout & Didcot Central Corridor	MICW	-	0.150	0.250	0.600	-	1.000	1.000	-
Golden Balls Roundabout Junction (A4074/B4015)	MICW	-	0.375	0.600	0.025	-	1.000	1.000	-
A40/Minster Lovell West Facing Slips/Access to Carterton	MICW	-	-	-	0.710	-	0.710	0.710	0.120
Oxford Science Transit	MIHIF2	1.476	4.150	3.412	1.938	1.024	12.000	12.000	-
Access to Witney at Shores Green	MIHIF2	-	2.550	3.350	-	-	5.900	5.900	0.020
Thame to Haddenham Cycle Route	n/a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.010
Shrivenham New School	Pupil Places	-	0.600	1.900	-	-	2.500	2.500	-
Ploughley Road / A41 Bicester	MIBAB	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.010
Wantage Eastern Link Road	MICW	-	1.000	-	-	-	1.000	1.000	-
Featherbed Lane Capacity Improvements	n/a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Scheme Spend		40.498	21.867	48.605	27.221	4.502	142.693	142.693	3.970
Staffing		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.303
Programme Contingency/earmarked reserves		-	-	-	-	0.034	0.034	0.034	-
Total Other Send		-	-	-	-	0.034	0.034	0.034	3.303
TOTAL GROWTH DEAL SCHEMES		40.498	21.867	48.605	27.221	4.536	142.727	142.727	7.273
New Schools and Other Transport Schemes - Capital Switches		41.039	-	-	-	-	41.039		
Revenue		7.273	-	-	-	-	7.273		
Prepayments		-	16.500	0.700	5.800	10.000	-		
Overall Total		72.310	22.567	54.405	37.221	4.536	191.039		

	Yr 1 - Yr	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total
	3					
Funding						
Capital		75.000	30.000	30.000	-	135.000
Revenue		15.000	-	-	-	15.000
Funding Switches		41.039	-	-	-	41.039
Total Funding		131.039	30.000	30.000	0.000	191.039
Revenue C/Fwd		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Capital C/Fwd		58.729	7.433	-24.405	-37.221	0.000

Capacity Fund

Annex 2

	2017/18 Actual Spend £'m	2018/19 Actual Spend £'m	2019/20 Actual Spend £'m	2020/21 Actual Spend £'m	2021/22 Forecast Spend £'m	2022/23 Forecast Spend £'m	2023/24 Forecast Spend £'m	TOTAL £'m
Housing Delivery (Programme Team)	0.044	0.340	0.480	0.390				1.254
Joint Statutory Spatial Plan costs		0.207	1.347	(0.253)				1.301
Feasibility		0.000	0.042	0.000				0.042
Provisional forecast submitted					1.229	1.033	0.141	2.403
Total Spend	0.044	0.547	1.869	0.137	1.229	1.033	0.141	5.000
Grant Received	(0.500)	(2.500)	(2.000)					(5.000)
Grant Carried Forward (-) / Drawn down (+)	(0.456)	(1.953)	(0.131)	0.137	1.229	1.033	0.141	(0.141)
Year End Reserve Balance	0.456	2.409	2.540	2.403	1.174	0.141	0.000	



To: Future Oxfordshire Partnership (formerly the Oxfordshire Growth Board)

Title of Report: Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Infrastructure Programme – Six Month Review and Proposed Changes

Date: 30 November 2021

Report of: Owen Jenkins, Director & Senior Responsible Officer, Infrastructure Programme

Status: Open

Executive Summary and Purpose:

Changes to the Housing & Growth Deal (H&GD) Infrastructure programme have been made at various stages throughout the Deal’s existence. These changes follow reviews by OCC of the latest cost and delivery profiles for the Infrastructure schemes and are designed to ensure that -

- the annual Infrastructure spend profile agreed with Homes England as part of the agreement (£30m pa for each of the 5 years of the H&GD) is met
- the housing numbers identified as being attributable to the delivery of the Infrastructure are maximised
- the Infrastructure schemes are deliverable both in terms of
 - their overall budgets as currently allocated (whether that be solely from H&GD or from multiple funding sources)
 - their delivery timescales aligning with the H&GD period (March 2023)

How this report contributes to the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision Outcomes:

The Infrastructure programme contributes towards enhancing connectivity and providing sustainable high quality resilient transport networks which support growth.

Recommendations:

That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership endorse the proposed changes to the H&GD Infrastructure Programme as recommended by Oxfordshire County Council as follows:

- a) the removal of further funding from a scheme currently within the H&GD – the A4095 [Howes Lane] re-alignment
- b) re-allocating this funding, to introduce a scheme presently outside the H&GD – the A34 Lodge Hill interchange.
- c) Increasing funding to Milton Heights Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge to cover a cost pressure.

Introduction

1. The Housing and Growth Deal infrastructure programme is being delivered by Oxfordshire County Council. The programme is reviewed approximately every 6 months to ensure its deliverability. This report reflects the proposed changes required to deliver the obligations within the Housing & Growth Deal.
2. The recommended revisions to the programme have also been assessed within the context of the housing delivery requirements of the deal.
3. The A4095 [Howes Lane] re-alignment was flagged in the latest review due to issues relating to its allocated budget and delivery timescales.
4. This scheme is intended to re-align the A4095 at Howes Lane / Lords Lane with the new underpass near Bucknell Road / Howes Lane junction.
5. A separate but related Infrastructure scheme constructing an underbridge and underpass through the embankment supporting the twin track NAJ2 Marylebone to Aynho line at Bicester was successfully delivered in April 2021, partly funded by the H&GD.
6. The Howes Lane re-alignment is currently allocated £15.75m from the H&GD.
7. The latest review of the scheme indicates that significantly more will be needed to deliver the scheme. This increase in cost estimates includes additional drainage elements as well as a longer construction period.
8. At present, as with all schemes where the land identified as necessary to deliver the infrastructure has not been secured either by private treaty or s106 negotiation (or similar), OCC intend to authorise a CPO to support the necessary acquisitions.
9. Should a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) be necessary to secure the land, the scheme's construction phase would be concluded in Q2 2025 which is significantly past the H&GD 2023 funding window.
10. It has been indicated that a limited further contribution could be provided from CDC to support the scheme but this will not be confirmed until Feb 2022. However, to authorise a CPO, OCC must have full scheme funding in place.

11. Options

12. The 3 options considered to resolve the A4095 [Howes Lane] re-alignment's issues were
 - a) **fully fund the scheme**
 - b) **stop the scheme immediately and re-allocate funding**
 - c) **continue the scheme to the end of current stage and re-allocate funding then**

a) Fully fund the scheme

13. The H&GD Infrastructure total funding is £150m, split between ~£143m for Capital expenditure and the remaining ~£7m as Revenue.
14. Allocating additional Capital to the A4095 [Howes Lane] re-alignment would necessitate removing that sum from other H&GD funded schemes' budgets.
15. Given the substantial additional sums involved in delivering the A4095 realignment and the contracts already in place across other schemes, the 2 viable options to release this sum would be to stop work immediately on either:
 - Woodstock Road corridor
 - NOC A44 Loop Farm to Cassington

Housing implications

16. The latest housing projections indicate 150 houses will be brought forward in the H&GD period on the sites associated with the A4095 [Howes Lane] re-alignment in NW Bicester.
17. This compares with the 446 houses currently forecast for the NOC A44 Loop Farm to Cassington infrastructure.
18. The Woodstock Road corridor contributes to the overall / aggregated Oxford City housing numbers.
19. The latest A4095 [Howes Lane] re-alignment housing projection is also rated Amber in terms of certainty of deliverability, which is consistent with the overall trend for the sites in NW Bicester which had forecast 1000+ homes when the original H&GD allocation was made.

b) Stop the scheme immediately and re-allocate funding

20. The scheme has completed Feasibility and is contract for both the Prelim and Detailed design stages with work underway but with break clauses in place in all contract(s).
21. Given the spend timescales and the housing delivery mandate of the H&GD monies, the proposal is to introduce a scheme into the H&GD Infrastructure programme - the A34 Lodge Hill interchange, a scheme which will provide South facing slips at the Lodge Hill interchange increasing routes around Abingdon and access to the strategic transport network.
22. The A34 Lodge Hill interchange supports the delivers 1673 homes and would add an additional *net* 200 houses to those delivered within the H&GD original period (350 in total) with a high level of confidence in the houses at North Abingdon being delivered. The construction of the interchange will directly release the housing obligations in the s106 agreement.

23. The Lodge Hill interchange scheme is already underway – as any option to deliver within the H&GD period at this point would have to be. Planning is intended to be submitted in Dec 2021 with a clear procurement route identified and construction intended to begin in Summer 2022.
24. This delivery timescale is dependent upon existing externally provided funding allocated to the Lodge Hill interchange remaining in place.
25. The Lodge Hill interchange is also necessary Infrastructure for other strategic sites inc Dalton Barracks

c) Continue the scheme to the end of current stage and re-allocate funding

26. Given that the eventual delivery of this scheme will now potentially be delivered by Developers, it is proposed that the County Council stop work now to avoid any abortive work and release as much as possible to other schemes.

Financial Implications

27. The proposal set out in the report will enabled the Housing from Infrastructure programme to remain deliverable against the profile. Through development of the projects, the estimates have become firmer, but also have been found to be lacking in detail and therefore costs have increase. At this stage in the 5-year programme, there needs to be a level of certainty around deliverability and where the full funding of projects is coming from to commit to delivery. The A4095 project has a substantial deficit, and this would have to be met from within the existing Growth Deal programme as the County Council does not have funding available to cover the shortfall.

Legal Implications

28. It is critical that Oxfordshire can fulfil the obligations in the funding agreement and can spend the £30m per year up until 2023. Therefore, movement in the programme is necessary to deliver on the obligations. The Councils will be asked to demonstrate that the infrastructure delivered is accelerating housing. Therefore, it is critical that projects are regularly reviewed for compliance against the agreement and also state aid.

Other Implications

29. There are some significant risks if the programme is not rebalanced. If the programme is not rebalanced, it could risk the spend of the £30m per year in the final years when the risk is highest for the Council through construction of the schemes.

Conclusion

30. A primary role of the H&GD was to accelerate housing by delivering Infrastructure. It is important that the Infrastructure programme is deliverable both to cost and budget but also that the projects meet the criteria.
31. In the review, the A4095 [Howes Lane] re-alignment project was flagged for issues around deliverability within the H&GD period and the reduction in housing numbers from the start of the H&GD period.
32. Although this means H&GD funding will no longer deliver the A4095 realignment, an alternative delivery model working with developers will be sought.

Report Author:	<i>John McLauchlan & Hannah Battye (Heads of Service, Infrastructure Programme Office and Infrastructure Delivery) on behalf of Owen Jenkins (SRO Infrastructure Programme)</i>
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Notes

OF A MEETING OF THE



The Future Oxfordshire Partnership Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Advisory Group

HELD ON THURSDAY 14 OCTOBER 2021 AT 10.00 AM
VIRTUAL VIA MS TEAMS

Present:

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

Officers: Adrian Colwell (Oxfordshire Plan 2050), Andrew Down, (Future Oxfordshire Partnership), Giles Hughes (West Oxfordshire District Council), Kevin Jacob, (Future Oxfordshire Partnership), Archie Martin, (Future Oxfordshire Partnership) and Michele Smith (Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Team)

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

Apologies were submitted from Councillor Alex Hollingsworth, Oxford City Council, (substituted by Councillor Louise Upton). Councillor Colin Clarke Indicated that he would need to leave the meeting at 11:30.

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

31 Notes of the previous meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 16 September 2021 were agreed as a correct summary.

32 Regulation 18 Part 2 Consultation Update presentation

Michelle Smith, Communications and Engagements Advisor for the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Team and Adrian Colwell, Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Team, provided an interim high level update on Regulation 18 Part 2 consultation that had opened on 30th July 2021 and ran until 8th October 2021.

Officers highlighted that:

- Although the consultation had officially closed responses were still being logged. An accurate figure on the exact number of responses could not be given at this stage.

However, over 1,000 responses from over 250 different organisations and individuals have been logged so far. The responses had been from a combination of e-mails and the 'Oxfordshire Open Thought' website.

- The response logging exercise was taking longer than expected. From the information given through the responses a matrix has been produced on the number of responses, policies and spatial options. A process has been put in place to mitigate the duplication of responses. There had been responses from a wide variety of organisations and individuals including public developers, parish and town councils and three of the partner bodies from the Future Oxfordshire Partnership.
- A number of developers had responded to the consultation and a number of potential sites for development promoted. Consideration would be given as to how these sites would be expressed.
- There is now a focus on how the material gathered from the Regulation 18 Part 2 consultation was going to be published.
- The level of activity and engagement about the consultation with the public through social media had been very encouraging, especially in-regards to reaching a larger variety of new and traditionally 'hard to reach' audiences.
- An amalgamation of three website's (The Future Oxfordshire Partnership, the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and the Open Thought consultation site) is being considered. It was hoped that a progress update could be provided at the next meeting on this issue.

Officers gave the Group an overview of the analytics provided by the social media companies on the success of the consultation's digital marketing campaigns, where additional promotional campaigns had been commissioned. Facebook, Twitter and Instagram had proved the most successful in terms of value for money and audience members reached, with up to 5,000 people being reached through one post. There had been a relatively successful targeted campaign across all of the main social media channels by the Communication team to try to attract a younger audience to become engaged in the consultation.

The Group was also informed that as part of the consultation, four public workshops had been undertaken and these had been well attended. The format of these presentations had included a half an hour PowerPoint presentation talking in detail about the five key policy themes and special options which had been followed by an hour Q&A. Two more technical workshops and a focus group had been run relating to the Oxfordshire Growth Needs Assessment (OGNA).

Looking ahead to the next stage in the adoption of the Plan as part of the Regulation 19 process, the Group was provided with a provisional communication timetable.

The Group members were informed that it was expected that a report setting out a summary of the issues raised in the consultation could be published before February 2022, but there was a communication strategy in place to issue a holding statement in November 2021 via the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, Future Oxfordshire Plan websites and posts to social media. This was to inform the public and other key partners that their responses had been received, highly valued and on the progress so far in considering them.

Officers indicated that the consultation summary report would cover three key areas.

1. Reporting on the progress and matrices of the social media and workshop responses.
2. The analysis of the responses, a summary of the key points being made.
3. Providing answers for what the next steps are now the consultation stage is finished.

In discussion, members suggested that this report could form the framework of a note that could be taken to partner authorities as the basis of a separate briefing note/toolkit to all councillors to help raise the profile of the Plan, findings from the Regulation 18 consultation and issues to be considered leading into the selection of preferred options at the Regulation 19 stage of the Plan's development.

33 Work programme beyond the Regulation 18 Part 2 consultation

Giles Hughes, Chief Executive, West Oxfordshire District Council and Adrian Colwell, Oxfordshire Plan Team presented an updated work programme for beyond Regulation 18 Part 2 consultation, leading up the anticipated submission of the Plan in summer 2022.

The following points were highlighted:

- The need for councillors from all the partner councils to be fully engaged in the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 in-order for them to believe in its potential and support its adoption. The full consultation responses report would be circulated to the different council's overview and scrutiny committees, so that more feedback could be gathered at this stage, prior to, and in addition to, engagement with before overview and scrutiny committees on the final Regulation 19 consultation document. This would also give the opportunity for councillors to get a clearer picture of the direction of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 before formal approval was sought from partner councils to go out to statutory consultation.
- There was a need for regular engagement with the Planning Inspectorate and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to keep them abreast of the future direction of the Plan.
- The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 document would be reduced in length from that published at the Regulation 18 Part 2 stage, guided by the findings highlighted in the consultation report and the narrowing down of preferred policy options

In discussion, there was collective support amongst the Group for engagement with council's overview and scrutiny committees as soon as was appropriate and possible.

The Group was informed that a potential Green Belt Review, more details of which had been set out in proposed policy 10 of the Regulation 18 consultation document, could only be commissioned at a county level and not done individually. Members mentioned their desire for this to be brought to the forefront, as a prominent issue. Officers highlighted that if there was to be a Green Belt review, it had to be transparent and robust. Therefore, a specification and remit for this work was being developed carefully. It was agreed by members that this would be discussed in further detail in future meetings.

The Chair asked when the summary report to partners councils' overview and scrutiny committees would be finalised. Officers responded that it was intended to bring a draft of the report back to the Group by no later than the December meeting, together with a

presentation, prior to a final version of the report being submitted to each partner council for consideration through its individual decision making processes.

The Chair concluded the discussion by commenting that the Group had been given a good overview of the Plan's work programme. Officers were asked that the work programme be updated and presented to Group as a standing item.

(Note: Councillor Colin Clarke left the meeting at 11:30)

34 The Arc Vision and Options implications

Giles Hughes, Chief Executive, West Oxfordshire District Council and Andrew Down, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Director provided an update to Group on the Oxford to Cambridge Arc, Arc Vision Consultation, and wider governmental issues:

- Individual and group responses had been submitted in respect of HM Government's public consultation on its proposed Arc Vision. The Future Oxfordshire Partnership had made its own response.
- Officers are waiting for HM Government's response to the consultation, which only recently closed.
- As part of the most recent re-shuffle, the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government had been renamed as the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities with Rt Hon Michael Gove MOP as the new Secretary of State. It was too early to gauge the potential impact of the change.
- Although there had been nothing new from HM Government in respect of the Oxford to Cambridge Arc, there continued to be helpful engagement from civil servants, but contact would be maintained.
- Following on from this there has been some sessions set up with central government to discuss the spatial framework across the Arc and get technical officers from across the arc involved.
- The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 team and the OX-Cam Arc teams are in communication to make sure the two policies align.

Members of the Group asked about the potential impact the Oxford to the Cambridge Arc would have on the Oxfordshire 2050 Plan. Officers responded by saying the Arc spatial framework was being seen as an advisory planning policy such as the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and went on to explain that if there was planning policy within the Arc local planning policy will need to take account of it.

35 Update on team resources and progress with recruitment

Giles Hughes, Chief Executive, West Oxfordshire District Council gave the advisory group an update on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Team and resourcing. It was noted that Philip Wandsworth would lead the team as Plan Lead as of 1 November 2021.

36 Future meetings

The advisory group noted that its future meeting dates as set out in its agenda.

The meeting closed at 11.47 am

Notes

OF A MEETING OF THE



The Future Oxfordshire Partnership Environment Advisory Group

HELD ON THURSDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 10.00 AM
VIRTUAL VIA MS TEAMS

Present:

Councillors; Sue Cooper, David Harvey, Andrea Powell, Dan Sames, Pete Sudbury and Catherine Webber

Officers: Sarah Gilbert, (Oxfordshire County Council), Kevin Jacob (Future Oxfordshire Partnership), Joe Kay, (Oxfordshire County Council), Suzanne Malcolm (Deputy Chief Executive - Place, South and Vale Councils) and Archie Martin (Future Oxfordshire Partnership)

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Tom Hayes, Oxford City Council. Councillor Dan Sames, Cherwell District Council, indicated that he had to leave the meeting at 11:00.

There were no declarations of interest.

The Chair noted that the agenda for the meeting was comparatively light, but that there would be opportunity to discuss potential future items as part of the discussion around the update from the officer group and future work programme.

13 Notes of the previous meeting

The notes of the meeting held on the 3 August 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

14 Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) Update Paper - September 2021

The advisory group considered an update from the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP), presented by Joe Kay, Transport Lead, Oxfordshire County Council. The following points were highlighted:

- The current LTCP was a statutory local transport plan and an update to the Local Transport Plan Four (which had been published in 2016).
- The LTCP was broken down into two documents, the vision document which was released in February 2021 and the full report that encompassed feedback from the LTCP vision document.
- The advisory group was informed that the LTCP was due to go to Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet on the 19 October 2021 and if approved, would be subjected to public consultation in November 2021. It was highlighted that other documentation would accompany the LTCP to provide context and more in-depth details of specific policies.
- The importance of the decarbonisation chapter in the LTCP paper was stressed. It was outlined as one of the key challenges in the document, and the different transport approaches that would be taken to achieve net zero carbon by 2050.
- Targets were necessary and important to measure the success of these initiatives. These targets were set out in a timeline of a ten-year period or more. For example, a key target was to have moved to a zero- carbon transport network by 2040.
- Oxfordshire County Council was seeking feedback on the LTCP from a wide range of partners and key stakeholders. This would help to inform the paper before it was considered by Cabinet in November 2021.

Members of the advisory group thanked Joe Kay for the introduction and welcomed the LTCP as a positive contribution. In discussion they raised queries regarding the scope of the public consultation and the weight the final LTCP would have in planning decisions. It was confirmed that there was a wide scope for involvement in the consultation including by town and parish councils, and other stakeholders who had engaged in earlier work around a transport vision. The consultation would be accessible online via Oxfordshire County Council's dedicated consultation portal, as well as other methods of receiving responses.

Whilst the LTCP did not carry formal weight in planning terms, officers were working with district and city council colleagues to develop guidelines which would inform the drafting of formal Local Plan policies which would carry planning weight. Officers were also working with colleagues within the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 team and therefore it was considered that there would be a consistent common thread in respect to transport and connectivity across Local Plans and the Oxfordshire Plan 2050.

Members felt that there should be a strong focus on capitalising on the remote working agenda brought forward by the Covid-19 pandemic, in terms of transport planning.

There was a discussion between members around the most effective balance between planning guidance and mandatory planning regulations in supporting moving towards a net zero carbon transport infrastructure. It was felt that unless such requirements were made mandatory rather than guidance, they would not be given due weight and delivered in practice by developers.

A lack of public transport in more rural locations was raised which contributed to car use. Whilst the shift to electric vehicles would help mitigate carbon emissions, it was felt that viable public transport infrastructure also needed to be provided. Discussion included bus stops, in some cases with limited car parking, potentially acting as series of mini-transport

hubs, linked into cycleways and footpaths. Members discussed in particular connecting different modes of transport together, into a seamless system of transport for the general public. This did not necessarily involve a big investment in infrastructure but would help demonstrate to the public that viable alternatives to the car existed.

A number of members commented that adequate maintenance of cycleways and footpaths was important if they were to be an attractive and safe option for residents, but also discussed the positive impact flora and vegetation along footways and cycleways verges could have a positive effect on decarbonisation and limit climate change.

Members also highlighted the importance of rail, in the development of carbon neutral transport/infrastructure.

The Chair thanked Joe Kay for presenting the update and reiterated how the councils within Oxfordshire, individual members of the advisory group and the public could contribute to the LTCP public consultation.

15 Update on officer group to support the Environment Advisory Group

Sarah Gilbert, Climate Action Team Leader, Oxfordshire County Council, provided a verbal update on the establishment of a specialist officer group to help inform and support the work of the Environment Advisory Group, given the need to make the best use of the resources available and to work together. The group was comprised of representatives from across the partner Oxfordshire Councils.

The following items had been discussed and flagged by the officer group as potential future items for the advisory group work programme:

- Pathways to a Zero Carbon Oxfordshire Report, (PAZCO) – 1) creation of a delivery plan, creating deliverables that could be used as benchmarks. 2) consideration of how to engage community voices, key stakeholders, and the general public into the discussions.
- Issues and opportunities around retrofitting of green technologies to existing homes including funding/bids.
- Zero Carbon homes – reference work had been undertaken by Friends of the Earth and Bioregional on what was needed to bring the development of such homes forward.

In discussion, it was suggested that establishing a reference group with representatives in the building industry could be potentially useful in respect of new Zero Carbon homes and the retrofitting of existing homes.

Members agreed that the significant cost of individual retrofitting of properties was inefficient and that the scale of the challenge of meeting the number of retrofits required per annum needed to achieve Net Zero was significant and very challenging. It was noted that a task and finish group established by the joint South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Overview and Scrutiny Committee had recently undertaken a review around retrofitting homes and set out a number of recommend ways forward. It agreed that the report should be circulated to the members of the advisory group.

Members also referred to an acute lack of labour resource and the specialist skills within the building industry to support retrofitting. It was suggested that there was an urgent need to increase and promote apprenticeships and college courses in this area as well as continuing to work with OxLEP on the issue.

In response to a discussion regarding the data sets used by the Oxfordshire local authorities in respect of carbon emissions and the importance of shared approach to their use, Sarah Gilbert indicated that the understanding was that the data sets available to all councils originated from the same national sources, but that the officer group could investigate this further and get back to the advisory group.

The addition of items around PAZCO delivery and retrofitting to the next agenda were supported by members.

(Councillor Dan Sames left the meeting at 11:05)

The Chair thanked the officers and members for their contributions. The update was noted.

16 Future work programme

The advisory group discussed its work programme for future meetings, considering the proposed items discussed under the previous agenda item. Agreed items for the meeting on 26 November 2021 included:

- Pathways to a Zero Carbon Oxfordshire Report, (PAZCO) – 1) creation of a delivery plan, creating deliverables that could be used as benchmarks. 2) consideration of how to engage community voices, key stakeholders, and the general public into the discussions.
- Issues and opportunities around retrofitting of green technologies to existing homes including funding /bids.
- Carbon emissions. Common data sets for authorities and monitoring – provisional.

The Chair raised the importance of communications with the public and wider stakeholders and members discussed communication methods, including the potential for the Future Oxfordshire Partnership to play a central role in this topic of discussion. It was suggested that a strategic communication plan could be developed for the Future Oxfordshire Partnership's work around climate change, through the advisory group. Officers indicated they would seek to obtain high level advice from relevant officers supporting the Partnership on the potential communications role of the advisory group.

Members of the advisory group also commented on the importance of councillors lobbying HM Government on environmental issues such as mandatory building regulations.

17 Dates of future meetings

The dates for future meetings as set out in Agenda was noted.

The meeting closed at 11.25 am



To: Future Oxfordshire Partnership
(Formerly the Oxfordshire Growth Board)

Title of Report: Future Oxfordshire Partnership Name Change Update

Date: 30 November 2021

Report of: Stefan Robinson, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Manager

Executive Summary and Purpose:

As agreed on 19 July 2021, the Oxfordshire Growth Board has been renamed and rebranded as the Future Oxfordshire Partnership. This report provides an update on the steps that have been taken since that meeting to transition to the new name.

How this report contributes to the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision Outcomes:

It is important that the name under which the current Partnership operates remains compatible with the Strategic Vision for the county and suitably articulates its purpose.

Recommendation:

That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership notes this report.

Introduction

1. One of the recommendations emerging from the review of the Growth Board's operating arrangements undertaken during 2019 was to consider a change of name, to better reflect the evolution of work since the Board was formed and named in 2014.¹ Several respondents to the review felt that the name should be changed to better reflect the Board's role and function, which is to coordinate local efforts to manage economic, housing and infrastructure development in a way that is inclusive and maximises local social and environmental benefits.² In light of this feedback, the Oxfordshire Growth Board agreed on 19 July 2021 to adopt a new name – the Future Oxfordshire Partnership. This report provides an update on the steps that have been taken since that meeting to transition to the new name.

Actions taken since 19 July 2021

2. Since the name change was agreed, a task list has been developed to cover a range of actions that must be taken to ensure a smooth transition to the new name. Key actions within that list have been summarised below:

¹ Concluding report presented to the Growth Board in January 2020.

² Growth Board Terms of Reference, 2020.

3. **New website:** On 1 October 2021, the Future Oxfordshire Partnerships went live with its new website – www.FutureOxfordshirePartnership.org. The date of 1 October was intentional to coincide with the last week of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 consultation, to limit any confusion that may have been caused by the name change during the live consultation period. The website has been updated throughout to ensure that all references to the Oxfordshire Growth Board have been changed where appropriate, and the covering page featured a news release drawing attention to the change. Any searches for the previous Oxfordshire Growth Board website now automatically redirected to the new website. The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 website has also been updated to reflect the new name.
4. **Governance and reporting:** All governance documents, including the Partnership’s Terms of Reference, and that of its supporting bodies, have been updated, along with the public participation protocol. A wide range of templates (e.g agendas, minutes, reports, letter heads etc) have reflected the new name since August 2021 and will continue to do so.
5. **Communications:** Each of the constituent councils have been notified of the name change through their Communications and Democratic Services teams. The former has been requested to provide an update concerning the name change to officers and councillors within their organisation, and the latter has been asked to update any relevant live webpages to reflect the change. The Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership has done the same. In September 2021, an update was provided to the Partnership’s Executive Officer Group concerning the name change, and officers noted that the new name had already gained traction and recognition within the Arc. The change has also been made clear to HM Government through a series of letters and the Arc Vision Consultation response, and where relevant, job titles have also been changed to reflect the name change.
6. **Logo:** A new logo has been produced to reflect the name change, as featured in the header of this report, and in key governance documents, including the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.
7. **Contact details:** All general enquiries should now be directed to futureoxfordshirepartnership@southandvale.gov.uk as should any public questions which are to be submitted to meetings of the Partnership. These details are reflected on the website and in published agendas, and any contacts made to the previous email address will be automatically redirected.
8. **Social Media:** All social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram) have been updated with the new name and logo. We have managed to retain all existing followers through this transition. The four social media platforms were used extensively from mid-July to the end of the Oxfordshire Plan consultation period on 8th October, with only a very slight drop in engagement from 8th October, which is linked to the reduction in the number of posts following the closing of the Consultation. Social media pages have proved to be very effective and reached thousands of people across various demographics in Oxfordshire. Over a 3-month period to October 2021, 44,000 ‘impressions’ were made via twitter, with up to 400 impressions per day on LinkedIn. The Instagram

page created during this period proved to be successful in engaging with harder to reach community and younger groups.

Conclusion

9. The administrative process of the name change has now been completed. Those people who regularly or occasionally engage in the Partnership's work are likely to now be aware of the change, either through formal or informal means. Time will be needed however for the new name to become embedded. Efforts will continue to be made through internal and external engagements by officers to raise awareness of the change.

Report Author:	Stefan Robinson, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Manager
Contact information:	Stefan.robinson@southandvale.gov.uk

Future Oxfordshire Partnership Forward Plan (Formerly the Oxfordshire Growth Board)¹

The Forward Plan sets out all forthcoming issues scheduled for meetings of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership. The Plan will be updated and published on the Partnership’s website each month. Where matters for consideration are likely to require the disclosure of exempt information, and the exclusion of the press and public (pursuant to Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972) this will be made clear in the Forward Plan.

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30 November 2021 – Cherwell District Council, Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury OX15 4AA

Item	Description	Contact
The Oxford to Cambridge Arc	To receive any updates in respect of regional developments within the Oxford to Cambridge Arc.	Andrew Down, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Director
Name Change Transition Update	To receive an update on work undertaken to implement a name change from the Oxfordshire Growth Board to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership.	Stefan Robinson, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Manager
Q2 Housing and Growth Deal Progress Report	To receive the 2021/22 Quarter 2 Year 4 (2021/2022) progress report for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal and endorse any amendments to the programmes of work as necessary.	Paul Staines, Interim Head of Programme
Q2 Housing and Growth Deal Financial Report	To receive the financial summary for Quarter 2 Year 4 (2021/22) for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.	Lorna Baxter, Oxfordshire County Council

¹ The Oxfordshire Growth Board was renamed the Future Oxfordshire Partnership on 19 July 2021.

Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Infrastructure Programme – six-month review	To consider a draft paper to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership setting out proposed changes to the Infrastructure Programme following a six month review of the current programme.	Hannah Battye/ Owen Jenkins, Oxfordshire County Council
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25 January 2022 – Cherwell District Council, Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury OX15 4AA

The Oxford to Cambridge Arc	To receive any updates in respect of regional developments within the Oxford to Cambridge Arc.	Andrew Down, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Director
Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy: Stage 1 Final Report	To consider the outcomes of the Stage 1 report for the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy and confirm scope of Stage 2.	John Disley, County Council Infrastructure Manager
Oxfordshire Connect Rail Programme	To receive an update from Network Rail on progress with the Oxfordshire Connect Programme.	John Disley, County Council Infrastructure Manager
Environment Advisory Group Update (provisional)	To receive an update on the work of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership Environment Advisory Group.	Suzanne Malcolm, South and Vale District Councils
Oxfordshire Strategic Transport Forum Update (provisional)	To receive an update from the Oxfordshire Strategic Transport Forum. Wider scope to be reviewed.	TBC
Feedback from Joint meeting with the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board (provisional)	To receive feedback and note any actions arising from a joint meeting between the Future Oxfordshire Partnership and the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board.	TBC

22 March 2022 – Cherwell District Council, Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury OX15 4AA

Item	Description	Contact
The Oxford to Cambridge Arc	To receive any updates in respect of regional developments within the Oxford to Cambridge Arc.	Andrew Down, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Director
Q3 Housing and Growth Deal Progress Report	To receive the 2021/22 Quarter 3 Year 4 (2021/2022) progress report for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal and endorse any amendments to the programmes of work as necessary.	Paul Staines, Interim Head of Programme
Q3 Housing and Growth Deal Financial Report	To receive the financial summary for Quarter 3 Year 4 (2021/22) for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.	Lorna Baxter, Oxfordshire County Council
Oxfordshire's Innovation Ecosystem Update (provisional)	To consider a report concerning Oxfordshire's Innovation Ecosystem, and opportunities to support its development.	TBC

7 June 2022 – Cherwell District Council, Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury OX15 4AA

Item	Description	Contact
The Oxford to Cambridge Arc	To receive any updates in respect of regional developments within the Oxford to Cambridge Arc.	Andrew Down, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Director

26 July 2022 – Cherwell District Council, Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury OX15 4AA

Item	Description	Contact
The Oxford to Cambridge Arc	To receive any updates in respect of regional developments within the Oxford to Cambridge Arc.	Andrew Down, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Director
Q4 Housing and Growth Deal Progress Report	To receive the 2021/22 Quarter 4 Year 4 (2021/2022) progress report for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal and endorse any amendments to the programmes of work as necessary.	Paul Staines, Interim Head of Programme

Q4 Housing and Growth Deal Financial Report	To receive the financial summary for Quarter 4 Year 4 (2021/22) for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.	Lorna Baxter, Oxfordshire County Council
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Items to be scheduled		
Oxfordshire's Visitor Economy (provisional)	To consider a report from the Future Oxfordshire Partnership's Executive Officer Group concerning Oxfordshire's Visitor Economy. Note, the specific scope of this work is in development and provisional at this time.	<i>To be confirmed</i>