

Notes

OF A MEETING OF THE

Oxfordshire Growth Board Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Advisory Sub-Group

**HELD ON THURSDAY 19 MARCH 2020 AT 10.00 AM
VIA CONFERENCE CALL**

Present:

Councillors: Alex Hollingsworth, Jeannette Matelot, Sue Roberts and Catherine Webber

Officers: Rachel Burns, (Oxfordshire County Council), Giles Hughes (West Oxfordshire District Council), Kevin Jacob and Rachel Williams (Oxfordshire Plan 2050)

Other councillors: None

42 Apologies for absence and notification of substitutes; declarations of interest; Chair's announcements

It was noted that the meeting was being held virtually by conference call in light of the Covid-19 emergency and everyone was thanked for their flexibility for forbearance in making the arrangement work.

Apologies for absence were submitted from Colin Clarke, (Cherwell District Council), Councillor Jeff Haines, (West Oxfordshire District Council) and Councillor James Mills, (West Oxfordshire District Council and Chair).

It was agreed that Giles Hughes would manage the meeting Agenda.

There were no declarations of interest.

43 Notes of the previous meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 13 February 2020 were agreed.

The following points were raised as matters arising:

- Plan work programme – discussion had taken place around moving to two cycles of activity, rather than three cycles of activity as outlined at the previous meeting. The objective was to produce a briefing on progress in early summer and agreement of the consultation document in September 2020. However, it was becoming likely that the Covid-19 emergency would impact upon this timeline.

- HM Government had indicated that planning functions should continue to be undertaken by local planning authorities.

In discussion it was agreed that it would be useful to have an update on the impact of the emergency.

44 Presentation on the Circular Economy

The sub-group received a presentation on the circular economy in Oxfordshire from Rachel Burns, Waste Strategy Manager at Oxfordshire County Council.

A summary of the key points raised, and questions asked:

- It was noted that the Circular Economy was not a sector of the economy, but a theme or model applicable to any organisation or business in growing, manufacturing, buying, contracting or providing services. Circular Economy involved a modal shift in the way in which products were designed to allow for and encourage reuse or repair and consumer behaviour.
- The positive role of Community Action Networks, Repair Cafes and 'Swap-Shops' in facilitating the reuse of products was discussed and highlighted.
- In discussion members of the Group were supportive of the key principles around the circular economy.

Officers indicated that the threads of the discussion around the circular economy could be considered further as part of the development of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 so that common principles partners were comfortable with were included.

It was agreed that:

1. Details of the Community Action Group Project website should be circulated to members of the sub-group.
2. Members of the sub-group should be supplied with a copy of the report commissioned by Oxfordshire County Council on the circular economy in the Oxfordshire Plan 2050.

45 Oxfordshire Plan 2050 principles and good growth discussion

The sub-group considered a draft document for discussion which set out possible a definition around 'good growth' and 10 guiding principles that would inform the Plan's development. The draft had been developed as a shared piece of work by planning officers across the county.

The draft working definition suggested had been worded broadly with the aim that it could be useful in developing and testing future strategy options against a baseline which set out a shared concept of good growth.

In detailed discussion, sub-group members felt it was sensible and robust to have such a definition in place and to identify the guiding principles to set the broad boundaries of more specific policy at a later stage. A range of views were expressed regarding the principle of reference to, and use of the term, good growth throughout the draft document with some suggestion that a focus in language towards inclusive prosperity and wellbeing might be more appropriate than facilitation of economic growth per se.

Officers indicated that they would reflect upon the detailed specific comments made and develop the draft definition and guiding principles further.

46 Consultation and think pieces

The subgroup was updated on proposals for future Oxfordshire Plan 2050 engagement and consultation exercises, noting that considering the Covid-19 emergency, dates might need to be revised. It was intended for the consultation and think pieces to be as interactive as possible, including via the Plan website to facilitate wider public involvement. Other different kinds of approach were also being considered and both of Oxfordshire's universities had been involved in the development of engagement planned.

47 Future meetings

It was agreed to continue with scheduled meeting dates as set out in the agenda with the next meeting scheduled for 16 April subject to review in light of the Covid-19 situation with consideration being given to virtual meetings.