

Notes

OF A MEETING OF THE

Oxfordshire Growth Board Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Advisory Sub-Group

**HELD ON THURSDAY 16 APRIL 2020 AT 10.00 AM
VIA CONFERENCE CALL**

Present:

Councillors James Mills (Chair), Colin Clarke, Jeff Haine, Alex Hollingsworth, Jeannette Matelot, Sue Roberts and Catherine Webber

Officers: Giles Hughes (West Oxfordshire District Council), Kevin Jacob, (Oxfordshire Growth Board) and Rachel Willams (Oxfordshire Plan 2050)

Other councillors: None

48 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 again thanked for their forbearance, notwithstanding that a conference call was accepted to be suboptimal. It was noted that every effort would be held to hold the next meeting by video conference.

There were no apologies for absence.

There were no declarations of interest.

49 Notes of the previous meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 19 March 2020 were agreed.

50 Presentation on Healthy Placeshaping (Richard Kuziara, Public Health Oxfordshire County Council)

The sub-group received a presentation on healthy place shaping from Richard Kuziara, Health Improvement Practitioner, Oxfordshire County Council.

A summary of the key points raised during the presentation.

- Oxfordshire faced a demographic challenge as the number of residents aged 85 and over was expected to grow by 62% between 2017 and 2032 with greatest future change forecast in the South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Districts.
- 3,554 premature deaths had occurred within Oxfordshire in 2016-2018 period. 58% of these were considered to be preventable.
- Top three causes of premature death included: musculoskeletal problems, mental health problems and non-communicable diseases including respiratory illness, cardiovascular diseases and cancer and diabetes.
- Female life expectancy in Oxfordshire was 84.7 years made up of 71.7 years of good health and male life expectancy is 81.6 years made up of 68.3 years and 13.3 years living in poor health, but significant inequalities existed the headline figures between the least and most deprived wards.
- The life expectancy gap was estimated to be as much as 16 years between some areas with some wards experiencing significantly higher standard mortality rates than England as a whole. Although this is most concentrated in well-known areas of deprivation in Banbury and Oxford issues also exist in different wards across all districts.
- Improving health outcomes was very important, considering that health care only constituted around 20% as a contributor towards good health outcomes with other factors such as the built environment, health behaviours social economic factors having much larger impacts. This underlined that in looking to the longer term and growth, the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 was well placed to take account of a wide range of factors to achieve the best possible outcomes for Oxfordshire residents.
- Linking to preventable deaths – health behaviours included physical inactivity, - social economic factors included social isolation and - built environment included air pollution, unsafe or cold homes and tackling climate change.
- Physical activity had a wide range of health benefits that extended to mental health and the built environment could play a role in encouraging, (or discouraging) this.
- Social isolation could also be very detrimental to health and have wider impacts on the health system, (such as increased visits by the socially isolated to GPs etc). Inclusive community settings and multi-use community hubs could be part of the solution to help mitigate this.
- Air pollution was the largest environmental risk in the United Kingdom.
- Healthy place shaping was about a collaborative approach which aimed to create:
 - Sustainable, well designed, thriving communities
 - Where healthy behaviours are the norm
 - Which provided a sense of belonging, identity and community.
- There was an opportunity through work with planners across all the councils to influence local plans, neighbourhood plans and the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 through health insight and evidence to achieve a built environment in the future which was more likely to support healthy living.

A summary of key points raised in discussion:

Members asked whether the population forecast included population movement into the county from growth in housing sites and for further information on how the figures had been calculated. The sub-group was informed that the data was provided by the Oxfordshire County Council Insight Team and took account of known Local Plan housing sites, but that further detail could be provided outside of the meeting.

Members commented that wide variations in outcomes and deprivations existed in many wards even where on average a ward might be regarded as relatively affluent.

With regard to the existing built environment in the county, it was felt that there were good examples of best practice, but there were also a number of housing schemes where lessons could and did need to be learnt for the future. However, the tools were available to achieve this and the information available reinforced the need for a whole place approach.

In respect of outcomes for those in areas of deprivation, comment was made that gaps in life expectancy opened quickly during life. It was felt that in looking at overall life expectancy and activity in later life, it was important to act to positively influence behaviour across all age groups, but particularly important to change behaviour from an early stage.

The suggestion was made by a member of the sub-group that in tackling air pollution there should be a focus towards visions such as access to 'shared spaces' and there should be a shift away from planning for cars. In addition to the need to plan for the future, there was a need to improve existing infrastructure. It was noted that from the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 perspective, overall transport demand was being looked at, not just demand for car trips.

It was recognised that several projects such as the FAST Activities for Families in Cherwell District had been developed within Oxfordshire already to improve and make it easier for families to access physical activity. In respect of connecting cycleways and walking routes, the Greenways project was being progressed to develop plans against which funding bids could be made.

In respect of more rural wards, it was noted that there was not necessarily full countryside access to residents even if they appeared less developed than more urban areas. E.g. for many people features such as stiles prevent access to the rights of way network

The sub-group **noted** the presentation.

51 Recommended change to Oxfordshire Plan 2050 time line ongoing joint response to Covid-19

RW presented a report which set out a recommended change to the timeline for Oxfordshire Plan 2050 considering the impact of the Covid-19 national emergency and ongoing joint response by local authorities.

It was highlighted that in seeking to outline a revised timeline, a complex set of factors had been considered including the impact of purdah periods for future elections. The main proposal set out in Option 2 of the report was to postpone the launch of the Regulation 18 until January 21, with final adoption of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 anticipated in October 2022.

In discussion, members of the subgroup felt that a delay to the timeline was unfortunately inevitable in the circumstance and supported option 2 as set out in the report. However, it was highlighted by members that the timeline for the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 had to continue to take account of, and as much as possible align with the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan, (LTCP5). This was because it was important that there was a commonality of evidence and conclusions between the two documents. It was noted that it was considered by Officers that an extension of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 timeline would be beneficial to aligning both plans.

The issue of the relationship with the production of Local Plans by a number of districts was also raised and it was noted that this would be considered fully by Officers.

Comment was made that in the context of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, the Growth Deal, the evolving Oxford to Cambridge Arc and the impact of Covid-19, it was an opportunity to have an ongoing general dialogue with HM Government around flexibilities and alignments to ensure a joined up approach across the system. It was agreed that this could be reported back to the subgroup.

It was also suggested that it was possible that there would be wider and longer lasting changes to behaviour arising from the Covid-19 emergency, for instance greater homeworking and its positive impact on pollution, that had implications for the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and which the sub-group should consider as agenda item. This was agreed for a future meeting.

It was agreed that:

1. The sub-group supported the amendment of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 timeline subject to appropriate coordination with the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan 5.
2. A report be presented to a future meeting to provide an update on dialogue with HM Government around flexibilities and alignments.
3. A report should be presented to a future meeting around any wider implications arising from the Covid-19 emergency on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050.

52 Discussion on how to design virtual member briefing sessions

The sub-group held a discussion on how briefings for councillors across the county on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 might be best be designed to maximise value given that it was likely that the opportunity for traditional face to face briefings was likely to be limited in the short to medium term.

A range of possible solutions and virtual meeting platforms were discussed. It was suggested that as part of the solution, it would be useful to have a facility whereby questions from Councillors could be lodged and moderated and answered in real-time. This type of option was widely used for webinars and conferences/

Officers indicated they would explore the suggestions made.

53 Update on taking forward last meeting's discussion on the Plan Guiding Principles

Rachel Williams updated the sub-group on how the comments and suggestions made by members present at the previous meeting, and outside of the meeting, about a draft of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 guiding principles would be taken into consideration and worked through in progressing this piece of work

Members of the sub-group were thanked for this input which had been very useful, and it was noted that the principles as presented as circulated would be recirculated to all so that councillors not present at the previous meeting could also contribute if they wished to.

It was clarified that once fully considered and appropriate technical groups consulted; an updated version of the principles document would be brought back to the sub-group at the earliest opportunity.

54 Future meetings

Thursday 14 May 2020