

Oxfordshire Strategic Transport Forum

Purpose and Remit

To provide a strategic oversight and coordinated input to Oxfordshire's strategic transport planning, policy and infrastructure development, advising how this enables and supports inclusive connectivity and clean growth across Oxfordshire (in particular the Oxfordshire Housing & Growth Deal) in the context of the wider Oxford to Cambridge Arc and England's Economic Heartland (EEH) area.

The Group's main objectives are:

1. Act as a strategic sounding board, providing rigorous advice, recommendations and challenge to decision making bodies on strategic transport opportunities, solutions and agreeing priorities for funding and delivery which will have a demonstrable, positive impact on Oxfordshire's priority outcomes;
2. Provide 'cross mode' advice on strategy development/approval, and investment and decisions including Oxfordshire Plan 2050, Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS) and Local Transport & Connectivity Plan (LTCP) outcomes, objectives and priorities
3. Work with Government, the Oxford to Cambridge Arc, EEH (as the emerging sub-national transport body) and stakeholders on transport or other infrastructure schemes, funding opportunities and other proposals, including putting forward opportunities and bids.
4. Promote innovation, forward looking projects and new initiatives, to ensure Oxfordshire remains at the forefront of technology and smart working;

Specific Responsibilities of the Group to include:

1. Provide a strategic steer on the update of the Oxfordshire LTCP and its component strategies
2. Provide a strategic, integrated cross mode input into the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 (Joint Statutory Spatial Plan) and District Council Local Plan development
3. Act as a strategic, cross-mode sounding board and consultee on specific transport and related projects and initiatives, including: Transport Congestion Management, Ultra Low / Zero Emissions Zone(s), the Strategic Active Travel Network, the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway and the Strategic Public Transport Network (covering Rail, Rapid Transit and Bus)
4. Provide input to support the prioritisation of schemes and projects, for example for the Housing & Growth Deal and Housing & Infrastructure Fund processes and updates of the OxIS.
5. Promote and showcase Oxfordshire Transport and wider infrastructure connectivity proposals and opportunities, for example via an Annual Conference
6. Provide coordinated input to responses on national and local consultations on strategic transport or planning policies and proposals

Governance

1. Meetings to be held every 2 months, ahead of scheduled Oxfordshire Growth Board meetings, supported by virtual or ad-hoc discussions as required, e.g. to meet specific deadlines
2. Chairman to be appointed annually (for 2019/20, it is proposed to continue with the current Chairman)
3. To be organised and facilitated by Oxfordshire County Council as Highways Authority and hosted on an agreed, rotational basis by Group Members
4. All Group recommendations to be agreed by consensus, reflecting any differences of views
5. All recommendations and feedback to be programmed into the decision-making cycle for the Oxfordshire Growth Board, Oxfordshire LEP Board, County Council Cabinet and other decision-making forums as required

Proposed Membership Organisations (assumption is one representative for each)

- Oxfordshire County Council (Officer and Member)
- Oxfordshire City & District Councils – Transport and/or Economic Development
- Oxfordshire LEP
- Oxfordshire Cycle Network
- Network Rail
- Oxfordshire Rail Operators
- Oxfordshire's Principal Bus Operators
- Highways England
- Freight Transport Association (or equivalent body)

NB: Terms of reference will be reviewed on an annual basis.

August 2019