

# Notes

OF A MEETING OF THE

## **Oxfordshire Growth Board Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Advisory Sub-Group**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2021 AT 10.00 AM  
VIRTUAL VIA MS TEAMS**

### **Present:**

Councillors Colin Clarke, Jeff Haine, Alex Hollingsworth, Jeannette Matelot, Michele Mead, (Chair), Anne-Marie Simpson and Catherine Webber

**Officers:** Giles Hughes (West Oxfordshire District Council), Kevin Jacob, (Oxfordshire Growth Board), Nick Mottram, (Oxfordshire County Council), Sam Thomas, (Cherwell District Council), Peter Truman, (Oxfordshire Plan 2050) and Rachel Williams (Oxfordshire Plan 2050)

### **35 Apologies for absence and notifications of substitutes declarations of interest; Chair's announcements**

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Debby Hallett, Vale of White Horse District Council, (substituted by Councillor Catherine Webber)

There were no declarations of interest.

### **36 Notes of the previous meeting**

The notes of the previous meeting held on 18 December 2020 were agreed.

### **37 Discussion on the emerging options for the Reg 18 part 2 consultation - Part 1 of 2**

The subgroup undertook the first of two planned discussions around the emerging options arising from Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and considered a discussion draft of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Regulation 18 (Part 2) Outline Consultation document, facilitated and supported by specialist officers.

Discussion of the first part of the document was focussed upon the thematic policy areas of addressing climate change and improving environmental quality, with each policy area divided into narrative points, overarching principles, draft preferred policy options, alternative policy options and where appropriate, questions to be resolved. Members of the subgroup were asked for their feedback, comments and questions and a detailed discussion took place.

The subgroup was informed that following the discussion, the draft document would be further refined with a second workshop scheduled for its April meeting. Work on a spatial strategy was continuing and would feed into the document when it had been progressed further.

### **38 Update on the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision and presentation on the linked college engagement**

The subgroup received a presentation from Peter Truman, Communications and Engagement Advisor on engagement undertaken with further education colleges and the Voice of Oxfordshire Youth, (VOXY) around the draft Oxfordshire Strategic Vision. The following points were highlighted:

- Engagement on the draft Vision followed on from previous engagement with further education colleges and VOXY about the Oxfordshire Plan 2050.
- Several workshops had been held with students from the colleges and a remote version of the session sent to members of VOXY. All those involved in supporting the events had been impressed with the thought and maturity shown by the students in their responses.
- Students were asked a variety of questions in relation to the Vision, its outcomes, how changes from Covid-19 might impact on how people live and work in the future and how the success of the Vision might be measured.
- Responses ranked a natural environment which was in a better state than currently as the outcome most important to them, as well as being part of a healthier, happier, equal society.
- Support for good mental health had been an additional proposed outcome of the Vision raised by many respondents
- Questions around digital connectivity in the context of Covid-19 had produced interesting results. Whilst many respondents were 'digital natives' in that they had a good operational knowledge of technology, there was a split between respondents who felt more connected those who felt less connected.
- It was felt that this might be because although many young people were comfortable with a digital environment, there were many who felt less comfortable and missed the face to face social contact they had prior to Covid-19.
- Respondents had drawn a link between access to exercise and the link between environment and physical and mental health.
- Officers were continuing to work with further education colleges within Oxfordshire about how more consultation and engagement with young people about the Vision and Oxfordshire Plan 2050 could be undertaken.

In discussion, members of the subgroup commented that they also thought the students had shown a high degree of maturity and care in their responses and acknowledged the high importance placed on the protection of the environment and mental health. It was felt important that those planning for Oxfordshire's future were made aware of the exercise and how young people were thinking.

The subgroup noted the update.

### **39 Future meetings and work programme**

The subgroup noted the dates of its future meetings as presented in the Agenda.

It was noted that it was Rachel Williams last meeting as Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Lead and the Chair and members of the subgroup paid tribute to her support and professionalism, wishing her well for the future.

The meeting closed at 12.05 pm