

Notes

OF A JOINT MEETING OF THE

Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Advisory Subgroup and Infrastructure Subgroup

HELD ON THURSDAY 21 JANUARY 2021 AT 4.00 PM

VIRTUAL VIA MS TEAMS

Present:

Councillor Pieter-Paul Barker, Councillor Colin Clarke, Councillor Yvonne Constance, Councillor Jeff Haine, Councillor Tom Hayes, Councillor Alex Hollingsworth, Councillor Ian Hudspeth, Councillor Jeannette Matelot, Councillor Michele Mead, Councillor Lynn Pratt, Councillor Judy Roberts, Councillor Anne-Marie Simpson, Phil Southall and Councillor Catherine Webber

Officers: John Disley (Oxfordshire County Council), Andrew Down, (South and Vale Councils), Kevin Jacob, (Oxfordshire Growth Board), Owen Jenkins (Oxfordshire County Council), Paul Staines (Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal) and Rachel Williams (Oxfordshire Plan 2050)

32 Apologies for absence and substitutions

An apology for absence was submitted by Councillor Debby Hallett, Vale of White District Council, (substituted by Councillor Catherine Webber).

There were no declarations of interest.

33 Election of Chair for the meeting

Councillor Ian Hudspeth, Oxfordshire County Council was elected Chair of the meeting.

Councillor Hudspeth gave a short introduction on the format for the joint meeting. He explained that the primary objective was to further improve mutual understanding between the members of both subgroups around the key workstreams of the two subgroups and arrangements for the coordination of these workstreams.

34 Coordination of the development of Oxfordshire Strategic Planning documents

Officers gave a presentation which set out the common objectives/priorities, complementary timelines and common resources between the work to develop the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy and Local Transport and Connectivity Plan. The presentation included a pictorial representation of Oxfordshire's Strategic Map, setting out relationships between the various plans and strategies

influencing and influenced by, the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy, (OxIS), Oxfordshire Strategic Vision and the Local Industrial Strategy, (LIS).

Common objectives across the suite of plans and documents included climate emergency, the natural environment, health, inequalities, productivity and connectivity.

Members of both subgroups asked detailed questions of Officers and an in discussion raised several points, in summary that:

- S106 contributions for school provision arising from development were paid to the county council, but because of national legislation, all new schools were now academies, run by external organisations with a risk of disconnect. This needed to be considered in school infrastructure planning.
- There was a need for strategic level planning of major NHS infrastructure such as hospitals and an opportunity existed to do so as part of the longer-term period to 2050 of the Oxfordshire Plan.
- The ideal position was for strategic planning policy to dictate provision and location of infrastructure rather than infrastructure dictating the direction of strategic planning. The work undertaken as part of both the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and OxIS to mitigate this was noted, in particular, the complementary timelines of the projects. It was stressed that OxIS as a strategy was in effect tethered to the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and whilst it was correct for it to influence the Plan as part of a two-way process, it would not dictate the direction of the Plan. This also applied to other plans such as the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan.

Members commented that the presentation had been very informative and the joint session helpful in sharing understanding and ideas. It was also suggested that there might be opportunity to undertake similar briefing type sessions to a wider group of councillors in the future using the greater opportunities to do so offered by virtual events and that the slides from the presentation could be shared more widely. This would be valuable in improving understanding and knowledge as much as possible.

It was agreed that Councillor Hudspeth should report back on the key points arising from the meeting to the next Growth Board and officers consider what the most effective mechanism's for future wider councillor engagement and briefings might be.

The meeting closed at 5.05 pm