

OxLEP response to recommendations of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership Scrutiny Panel made on 14 September 2023

Refreshing the Oxfordshire Strategic Economic plan

The Panel welcomed the opportunity to comment on the Strategic Economic Plan, (SEP) draft v2. However, whilst acknowledging the timetabling constraints faced by OxLEP, the panel was disappointed to have received the draft only approximately two days before the meeting.

3. That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership be recommended to not endorse or note the Strategic Economic Plan document, recognising that it is an OxLEP document not one with local authority ownership.
4. That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership include the following feedback to OxLEP if it is minded to note the draft Strategic Economic Plan:
 - a. Measurements metrics and key performance indicators, (KPIs) within the document need to be linked to and be consistent with the delivery of the nine Oxfordshire Strategic Vision objectives and defined within a range of possible outcomes to achieve truly system wide effects. There is also the need for the collection of disaggregated data where relevant based on gender, ethnicity, age and disability status, to ensure inclusion of different groups of people.
 - b. That the Strategic Economic Plan should prioritise sustainable growth, the environment and the health and

Noted, OXLEP are not asking the FOP to endorse, the paper and draft SEP is shared for information and comment.

As we (OXLEP) reflected in the panel discussion, we are developing a range of indicators to support the monitoring and evaluation of the SEP. It should be noted that the FOP does not have metrics or indicators identified to monitor the Vision, the 9 Objectives and guiding principles and reports more generally on progress. As such we will work with the FOP Executive to identify common metrics to avoid inconsistency.

wellbeing of residents. The metrics and measures the SEP uses to determine its own success should broadly reflect these areas. In practice, this lends itself to a wider set of measurements than are represented in the current draft.

- c. That the document needs to strike a balance between job creation and provision of homes in a way that is environmentally sustainable.
- d. That communication about the plan needs to be framed in the context of economic growth that is sustainable. This could be linked to an approach based on the principles of Doughnut Economics.
- e. That the language within the document be double checked to ensure that it is consistent, (use of 'we' defined etc) and to ensure it does not give the impression that the Plan was encroaching on matters within the purview of the democratically determined Local Plan process or matters within the scope of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership.

Noted, OXLEP believe the SEP draft Version 2 does address all of these issues and we are developing out monitoring metrics, noting the response to item "a." above.

The plan responds to and sits within the Local Authority led Local Plan process and as such its ambitions and scale is framed by the respective employment and housing growth parameters set.

Noted, the plan is framed within the current national policy landscape, has sustainability embedded and recognises that economic growth must be framed within Local Plan ambitions. We (OXLEP) have acknowledged that many of the principles of Doughnut Economics are consistent with for instance our productivity focus, improving resource efficiency and output rather than focusing upon increased employment numbers.

Noted, we will review, but as made clear in the presentation and discussion, all local authorities have been actively involved in the development, evidence gathering and drafting of the SEP. The "we" in respect of the endorsement/approval process refers to the OXLEP Board.