

## **Growth Board Work Programme Review**

### **Purpose of Report**

**To invite the Board to consider key areas of focus for the future work programme of the Board and to charge officers with bringing back detailed proposals to the November meeting of the Board**

### **Recommendation**

*That the Growth Board:*

- 1. Notes proposals from the Executive Officers Group to develop a revised work programme for the Growth Board's consideration at the November meeting of the Board;*
- 2. Considers and comments on the suggested prioritisation of projects and identifies additional areas for officer consideration*

### **Matters for Consideration**

3. The Growth Board was established in September 2014 to facilitate and enable collaboration between local authorities on economic development, strategic planning and growth.
4. The Growth Board is supported by an Executive Officers Group (EOG) that oversees officer activity in support of joint decision making and joint working and provides advice to the Growth Board in the discharge of its functions. EOG members work to ensure that the Growth Board's work programme is managed and focussed on strategic objectives that support the purpose of the Growth Board as set out in the Terms of Reference.
5. With the recommended conclusion of the current phase of the post-Strategic Housing Market Assessment Work programme, EOG note that the Growth Board's overall work programme has reached a natural point for review. EOG believe that such a review should consider both the substantive content of the Growth Board's agenda for the coming period and any appropriate change and improvement that could be made to ways of working. In considering this a number of current factors should be taken into consideration:
6. Firstly, as the priorities and approach of the new Government emerge over the coming months, and particularly leading up to the autumn statement, it will be appropriate to ensure that Oxfordshire's partnership structures remain

aligned to the national agenda. This includes ensuring that the Growth Board is engaged with and able to influence emerging sub-national structures and any revised view of infrastructure, industrial and trade strategies. Equally the Board will wish to be in a position to ensure that any change in policy is taken best advantage of to deliver improvements to the quality of life of the people of Oxfordshire.

7. Secondly, during recent months, two separate external reviews of joint working in Oxfordshire have made detailed assessments of joint decision making and strategic planning within the county. While the reports deal specifically with the issue of local government reorganisation, their analysis included a review of current decision making arrangements for strategic decision making in development, planning, transport and housing. In that context, it may be appropriate to consider how the joint working arrangements already in place through the Growth Board can continue to be built upon.
8. Thirdly, one aspect of partnership working worthy of consideration is the engagement of wider stakeholders in the work of the Board. Currently there are a number of non-voting participants on the Board all of who play a valuable role in both informing and calibrating the Board's deliberations. Recognising and strengthening the role that both these members and wider stakeholders could play in shaping and driving an agenda for growth in Oxfordshire should be a priority for the Board as it shapes its future vision.
9. Finally, the public participation scheme for the Growth Board will have been in place for 12 months by November 2016 and it is appropriate to review whether it has functioned satisfactorily.
10. The table below sets out the proposed areas for consideration in establishing a revised work programme.

Bev Hindle  
Chair, Executive Officers Group  
September 2016

### ***Growth Board Work Programme Review – Outline work streams***

	<b>WORKSTREAM</b>	<b>BACKGROUND</b>	<b>PRIORITY H/M/L</b>	<b>TIMESCALE S/M/L</b>
1	Developing proposals for joint working on planning and transport	<p>Authorities have discussed in principle the potential for further joint working in planning and transport. The content and scope of this activity has not been explored beyond specific elements of joint strategy development (for example <i>outline work stream 2, below</i>).</p> <p>This work-stream would task EOG with drafting a review scope for consideration by the Growth Board.</p>	H	<p><i>Scope: S</i> <i>Implementation: L</i></p>
2	Establishing the need for a new spatial plan	<p>Recent external reviews have challenged Oxfordshire’s capacity to deliver a ‘whole-place’ approach. Developing a joint and integrated approach for the spatial development of the county, its communities and environment, would complement the economic narrative established in the Strategic Economic Plan, the transport strategy set out in the Local Transport Plan and the development framework established through District and City Local Plans.</p> <p>Specific emerging requirements for such an approach include establishing Oxfordshire’s position within sub-national development planning and maximising Oxfordshire’s influence with regard to national infrastructure prioritisation.</p> <p>This work-stream would build on in-progress development to establish a county-wide infrastructure strategy and task EOG to develop a brief for a strategic spatial plan.</p>	H	<p><i>Brief: S</i> <i>Implementation: M</i></p>
3	Improving public participation in meetings	<p>A public participation protocol for the Growth Board was established in 2015. At various points concerns have been expressed, including by public participants, on the functionality of the protocol. This work-stream would ask EOG to consider the extent to which the protocol has met its objectives and make any recommendations for change to the Board.</p>	M	S

Oxfordshire Growth Board

26th September 2016

Agenda item: Growth Board Programme Review

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	<b>WORKSTREAM</b>	<b>BACKGROUND</b>	<b>PRIORITY H/M/L</b>	<b>TIMESCALE S/M/L</b>
4	Developing the participation and role of non-voting board members	The Growth Board is made up of six Local Authority members and additional 'non-voting' partner members. Maximising the strategic impact of the joint working requires the Board to fully engage with all members. This work-stream would ask EOG to work with non-voting partners to ensure that the Growth Board has a complete view of their priorities and concerns with respect to the Growth Board's activity and that these areas are fully reflected in the work programme and any proposed changes to ways of working.	H	M
5	Review Growth Board terms of reference and interaction with related partnership groupings	<p>The Growth Board's terms of reference were established in 2014 within a specific economic and policy context and with considerable and timely focus on supporting City and Growth Deal arrangements. Given the issues set out above and the developing context, it may be appropriate to ask EOG to review the Terms of Reference, incorporate any subsequent additions (eg. the public participation protocol and the Memorandum of Co-operation and make any recommendations for change to the Board.</p> <p>Such a review would take the opportunity to ensure efficiency, clarity and transparency in the relationship between the Growth Board and EOG and related partnership groupings such as the Local Economic Partnership and sub-groups, the Local Growth Fund steering group and the Oxfordshire Environmental Partnership.</p>	L	M