

City Deal and Growth Fund: Project Exception Report

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide the Growth Board (the Board) with progress with the projects in the City Deal and Local Growth Fund for which they are responsible.

Recommendation

That the Growth Board:

I. Notes progress with the projects detailed in appendix one of this report.

II. Ask the Executive Officer Group (EOG) to review those projects flagged as amber- requiring monitoring- and develop proposals to bring the projects back to green status for the next meeting of the Board

Background

2. The City Deal and Local Growth Fund are the two partnership programmes for which the Growth Board are responsible for overseeing completion, reporting to Government through the LEP.
3. The projects that make up these programmes and their progress are summarised in the appendix to this report and for ease of reference are given a RAG status as follows.



Red- requiring action



Amber requiring monitoring



Green no action required

4. Projects highlighted as blue are complete

City Deal Summary of progress

5. There are no projects RAG rated as red but there are three projects that are flagged as amber, requiring monitoring to ensure timely completion, these are as follows.

Accelerate the delivery of 7500 homes across the county

This project is flagged amber to reflect the fact that the figures have not been reviewed by EOG since September 2015. It was hoped to bring the review to the Board at this meeting but matters have been delayed by commitments amongst partners to

compete Local Plans. It is anticipated that the review will be placed before the Board in January 2017.

Deliver an additional 525 apprenticeships for 16-23 year olds.

Accurate reporting of this measurement is problematic as the data is supplied by the Skills Funding Agency has a time lag. The latest figures available are up until the end of August 2016. These demonstrate that there were 2,590 16-24 year old apprenticeship starts during the 2015/16 academic year, compared with 2,510 during the same period the previous year (an increase of 3.1%).

The project is rated amber rating because although Oxfordshire is doing better compared with national averages, with an increase of 2% in the period August 2015 July 2016 compared to a national average of 1.3%, officers conclude that at the current trajectory the target of 525 will not be achieved.

Access to Enterprise Zone

This project is amber due to delays caused by land purchase negotiations to progress Featherbed Lane. Delays have also occurred as a consequence of the examination of Harwell Campus development within the Vale's Local Plan examination.

Local Growth Fund Summary of progress

6. There are no projects RAG rated as red but the following projects are flagged as amber, requiring monitoring to ensure timely completion, these are as follows

Oxfordshire Flood alleviation Scheme

This project is flagged as amber to reflect the significant funding gap that has yet to be closed. The EA have been asked to provide details on this funding gap and outline their proposals as to how this could be addressed and further details will be provided at the meeting.

Science Vale Cycle Route

This project is amber due to delays in the procurement and appointment of the design consultant. This may have a knock on impact to other keys dates.