

OXFORDSHIRE GROWTH BOARD – 30 NOVEMBER 2016

Addenda to Item 7, Growth Board Work Programme Review

Oxfordshire Councils' Chief Executives have been considering the best way forward following the resolution of the Growth Board in September:

Following the publication of the PwC and Grant Thornton reports on local government in Oxfordshire it is clear that there are several areas where joint working may help us realise significant savings and improvements of public services. A working group should be established including Chief Executives and Leaders of local authorities, CCG and LEP to explore how these transformational changes can be progressed in areas including, but not exclusively: infrastructure, skills, economic development, strategic spatial planning, public assets, business rates, health and social care. The working group will investigate, but will not be restricted to reviewing the future function of the Oxfordshire Growth Board and to consider the feasibility of establishing a combined authority for Oxfordshire.

There have been two externally facilitated half day sessions with Chief Executives and progress has been made on identifying joint projects where savings and better outcomes could be gained by joint work. There is a shared commitment to take this forward.

It has been agreed that joint work should proceed in a number of areas:

Strategic Infrastructure Planning
Children & young people
Influencing proposals for investment in Oxford – Cambridge Corridor
Future of health services
Housing and Care
Future of the Growth Board

In addition discussions are underway regarding a devolution deal for Oxfordshire. All council leaders have expressed support for working up proposals for a mayoral combined authority model. In addition, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Devolution deal will be examined in detail. The Autumn Statement commitment to infrastructure and housing investment and to the National Infrastructure Commission's Oxford to Cambridge strategy will shape our ask from government in any deal.

The LEP chief executive is co-ordinating an inter authority working group to refresh our infrastructure investment priorities and the funding models available. Further discussions are now required with DCLG and a meeting for Chief Executives and civil servants has been set up in early December. Council Leaders and partners will consider progress at the earliest opportunity following this meeting. A further report will be made to the next meeting of the Growth Board.

Oxfordshire Chief Executives November 2016