Division(s): All

CABINET – 16 MARCH 2010

HOMES & COMMUNITIES AGENCY SINGLE CONVERSATION: LOCAL INVESTMENT PLAN

Report by Head of Sustainable Development

Introduction

1. This report outlines the ongoing work with the Homes and Communities Agency to develop a Local Investment Plan (LIP) and Local Investment Agreement (LIA) for Oxfordshire. The aim is to produce a final LIP signed off by the Oxfordshire local authorities by the 31 March 2010. The report recommends that agreement to and sign off of the LIP is delegated to the Head of Sustainable Development in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure.

The Single Conversation

2. The Homes & Communities Agency (HCA) is involved in a "Single Conversation" process which over time is intended to involve all local authorities. Oxfordshire was selected by the Homes & Communities Agency last summer as one of three areas in the South East as a pilot for the process. The other two are east Kent and PUSH (Partnership for Urban South Hampshire).

3. The Single Conversation is a process of dialogue between the HCA, Oxfordshire local authorities and partners to set out investment priorities. The LIP will set out a shared vision and objectives for places within the area and identify priority investments linked to place making for the short, medium and longer term. The aim is to ensure that funds from a variety of sources, including partner organisations, are linked to achieve maximum impact and value for money. The LIP will cover a fifteen year time horizon with the first five years in detail.

4. The LIA will set out agreement, in principle, between the HCA and the Oxfordshire local authorities about the investments that will be funded and resources to be provided by HCA and the local authorities. The HCA now say there is no longer a requirement to complete the Local Investment Agreement (LIA) in the same timescale as the LIP.

5. The Oxfordshire Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Partnership (SPIP) is the partnership board for the project although individual councils retain the need to sign off the project through normal channels. The County Council is represented on the Partnership by the Cabinet Member for Growth & Infrastructure and the Director of Environment & Economy.

6.   At the SPIP meeting in December four cross cutting themes for the single conversation were endorsed as a focus of the preparation of the LIP:

-       providing the economic drivers to support the Oxfordshire economy and support "Building the Future " of the economy;
-       providing the housing , including affordable housing, to support the economy of Oxfordshire through the development of healthy and thriving communities;
-       address the regeneration needs of the most deprived groups and communities/breaking the cycle of deprivation;
-       providing the necessary infrastructure to support the development of thriving and healthy communities and planned growth in Oxfordshire.

7.   Each district has undertaken a long term assessment of sites and schemes likely to come forward over the next 20 years. Work has progressed also on developing an understanding of County Council infrastructure requirements necessary both for the delivery of specific sites and in more strategic terms to support the overall delivery of growth in the county.

8.   At the current time there is a lack of clarity about the amount of funding available to the HCA over the next five years. The work has progressed with the development of a priority list of projects and programmes (Annex 1). Each district council has a list of schemes which are deliverable in the next five years. From these lists the district councils have identified their top priority schemes (page 1 of Annex 1) and work is progressing to identify any implications for these in terms of strategic infrastructure.

Comments of Head of Sustainable Development

9.   The aims of the single conversation process are consistent with the thinking behind the setting up of the SPIP. Although the short term aim for the Oxfordshire pilot is to produce a local investment plan, the single conversation is seen as an ongoing, iterative process, which includes building relationships with other delivery agencies including government departments. The LIP will be regularly reviewed and updated.

10.   The HCA emphasise priorities around a place-based approach to delivering investment linked to regional priorities and wider objectives for places not just housing; and linkages and leverage with other programmes. This issue relates closely to this Council's developing approach to locality working through its Closer to Communities Strategy. The cross cutting themes for the LIP are consistent with the Council's overall priorities.

11.   There is still a considerable amount of detailed work to be completed in drafting the final LIP document. It is intended that the SPIP endorse the substantive content at a meeting on 1 March; and that officers would then finalise the full write up of the document for submission to the HCA at end of March. The outcome of that meeting and development of the process through early March will be reported orally.

12.   A key issue is for the County Council is to ensure that appropriate priority is given to strategic infrastructure which is necessary to deliver the top priorities. The list of strategic infrastructure items included in the final section of annex 1 (Contributes to meeting strategic infrastructure needs) have been developed in detail using assessment forms that have been completed also for district council schemes. For transport, as Annex 1 shows there is an overall scheme to incorporate all schemes identified through the LTP process. For individually identified schemes, it will be important to consider how LIP priorities fit with the emerging Local Transport Plan 3, through which the County Council will be assessing and prioritising schemes and which is subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment regulations.

13.   As the final LIP will not be completed until late March I recommend that the County Council's agreement to and sign off of the document that is proposed for submission to the HCA is delegated to me in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure . The approved LIP will be reported to the Capital Investment Board in due course so that Cabinet members will have the chance to see the final document.

Financial and Staff Implications

14.   Whilst the focus in preparing the LIP is around HCA investment, the objective is to identify and draw in a range of investments from different sources, including partner organisations within the sub-region. The LIP could provide an important element in the allocation of public funding for infrastructure. Work on the single conversation has been met out of existing resources. It has had a major impact on staff resources and input to other work areas which will continue through to the end of March this year. We are learning from the process and will take work forward on infrastructure planning in the next year but it is not anticipated that this will have any additional staffing implications

RECOMMENDATION

15.   **The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to delegate to the Head of Sustainable Development in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Growth & Infrastructure authority to agree to and sign off the final Local Investment Plan.**

CHRIS COUSINS
Head of Sustainable Development

Background papers: Nil

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February 2010

Draft list of Oxfordshire Priority Projects
(As circulated to the Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Partnership 1 March 2010)

Top Priority Schemes:

District	Scheme	Total Homes 2010 - 2030 (min)	Number of Homes 2010 - 2015 (min)	Number of Affordable Homes 2010 - 2015 (min)
Oxford	Oxford Small and Medium Sites (including Blackbird/Greater Leys and windfalls) (HRA Land Capacity tbc)	n/a	3,222	1,344
ALL	Oxfordshire Rural Housing Schemes	n/a	1,498	1,023
Cherwell	NW Bicester Eco Town, Bicester	5,000	1,250	300
Cherwell	Banbury Canalside, Banbury	1,200	1,200	180
Cherwell	SW Bicester	1585	1000	476
ALL	Oxfordshire Extra Care Schemes	n/a	900	600
Oxford	Oxford West End Renaissance Project	830	830	415
South	Great Western Park, Didcot	2,700	700	210
West	Large Strategic Sites (North Carterton, West Witney/North Curbridge SDA and Chipping Norton)	n/a	700	280
Vale	Grove Airfield, Grove	2,500	650	260
Vale	Great Western Park, Didcot	600	600	180
Oxford	Barton (including regeneration of Barton and Northway Estates)	1,000	500	250
West	Small to medium sites in market towns of Witney, Carterton and Chipping Norton (including windfalls)	n/a	500	200
South	Fair Mile Hospital, Cholsey	353	353	106
Vale	Tilbury Lane and Lime Road, Botley	280	280	112
West	Carterton Expansion, Carterton	1,000	200	80
South	Chinnor Cement Works, Chinnor	178	178	71
Total: 17 Schemes (min)		**n/a**	**14,561**	**6,087**

Note: to be complete following agreement of top priorities - one example provided below

Strategic Infrastructure to Deliver the top Priority Schemes:

District	Scheme	Total Homes 2010 - 2030 (min)	Number of Homes 2010 - 2015 (min)	Number of Affordable Homes 2010 - 2015 (min)
Cherwell	M40 Junction 9 Improvements	n/a	n/a	n/a

Total (min)				

Countywide Totals:

District	Scheme	Total Homes 2010 - 2030 (min)	Number of Homes 2010 - 2015 (min)	Number of Affordable Homes 2010 - 2015 (min)
ALL	**ALL**	**n/a**	**22,493**	**9,092**

Objective: Delivers new housing, including affordable housing (not including sites identified as a priority schemes)

District	Scheme	Total Homes 2010 - 2030 (min)	Number of Homes 2010 - 2015 (min)	Number of Affordable Homes 2010 - 2015 (min)
Cherwell	Subtotal: Bicester and Upper Heyford	8,160	3,825	1,226
	NW Bicester Eco Town, Bicester	*5,000*	*1,250*	*300*
	Former RAF Upper Heyford, Upper Heyford	*1,075*	*1,075*	*300*
	SW Bicester Urban Extension, Bicester	*1,585*	*1,000*	*476*
	Gavray Drive, Bicester	*500*	*500*	*150*
South / Vale	Subtotal: Didcot	5,750	1,800	560
	Great Western Park, Didcot (South)	*2,700*	*700*	*210*
	Great Western Park, Didcot (Vale)	*600*	*600*	*180*
	Ladygrove East, Didcot (South)	*650*	*300*	*90*
	Didcot Urban Extension, Didcot (South)	*1,800*	*200*	*80*
Cherwell	Subtotal: Banbury	1,580	1,180	354
	Bankside Urban Extension, Banbury	*1,470*	*1,070*	*321*
	Oxford and Cherwell College, Banbury	*110*	*110*	*33*
Vale	Subtotal: Wantage & Grove	4,000	840	336
	Grove Airfield, Grove	*2,500*	*650*	*260*
	NE Wantage, Wantage	*1,500*	*190*	*76*
Oxford	Oxford West End Renaissance Project	830	830	415

West	Large Strategic Sites (North Carterton, West Witney/North Curbridge SDA and Chipping Norton)	n/a	700	280
Vale	Subtotal: Harwell	670	545	179
	Northern part of Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, Harwell	*400*	*275*	*110*
	Chilton Field, Harwell	*270*	*270*	*69*
Oxford	Barton (including regeneration of Barton and Northway Estates)	1,000	500	250
Vale	Subtotal: Botley	472	472	189
	Timbmet, Botley	*192*	*192*	*77*
	Tilbury Lane, Botley	150	150	60
	Lime Road, Botley	130	130	52
Vale	Former Nursery and Cricket Ground, Farington	400	400	160
South	Fair Mile Hospital, Cholsey	353	353	106
South	Extension to Wallingford, Wallingford	500	250	100
South	Extension to Thame, Thame	700	200	80
West	Carterton Expansion, Carterton	1,000	200	80
South	Chinnor Cement Works, Chinnor	178	178	71
Vale	South of Park Road, Faringdon	400	100	40
South	Thame United Football Club, Thame	100	100	40
Vale	Old Gaol, Abingdon	62	62	24
Oxford	New Council House Building Programme, Oxford	58	58	58
Cherwell	Cherwell Small and Medium Sites (including windfalls)	n/a	854	490
Oxford	Oxford Small and Medium Sites (including Blackbird/Greater Leys and windfalls) (HRA Land Capacity tbc)	n/a	3,222	1,344
South	South Oxfordshire Small and Medium Sites (including windfalls)	n/a	200	70
West	Small to medium sites in market towns of Witney, Carterton and Chipping Norton (including windfalls)	n/a	500	200
Vale	Vale Small and Medium Sites	n/a	76	37
ALL	Oxfordshire Rural Housing Schemes	n/a	1,498	1,023
ALL	Oxfordshire Extra Care Schemes	n/a	900	600
ALL	Central Oxfordshire (no specific location(s))	4,000	1,250	500
ALL	Oxfordshire Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople (GTTS)	n/a	tbc	tbc
Total: 39 Schemes (min)		**n/a**	**21,093**	**8,812**

Objective: Supports economic growth (not including sites identified as priority schemes)

District	Scheme	Total Homes 2010 - 2030 (min)	Number of Homes 2010 - 2015 (min)	Number of Affordable Homes 2010 - 2015 (min)
Cherwell	Bicester Business Park	n/a	n/a	n/a
Oxford	Northern Gateway (Mixed-use employment led development)	200	200	100
Vale	Science Vale UK	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total: 3 Schemes (min)		**n/a**	**200**	**100**

Objective: Achieves regeneration and / or tackles deprivation (not including sites identified as priority schemes)

District	Scheme	Total Homes 2010 - 2030 (min)	Number of Homes 2010-2015 (min)	Number of Affordable Homes 2010-2015 (min)
Cherwell	Banbury Canalside, Banbury	1,200	1,200	180
Oxford	Blackbird Leys and Greater Leys (numbers included with small & windfall sites)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Oxford	Homelessness Projects (The Old Fire Station, Wet Garden, Aspire Oxford, Steppin'Stone, The Gap)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Oxford	Regeneration Projects (Rosehill and Wood Farm)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total: 4 Schemes (min)		**n/a**	**1,200**	**180**

Objective: Contributes to meeting strategic infrastructure needs (not including sites identified as priority schemes)

District	Scheme	Total Homes 2010 - 2030 (min)	Number of Homes 2010-2015 (min)	Number of Affordable Homes 2010-2015 (min)
ALL	Access to Oxford	n/a	n/a	n/a
ALL	Children and Family Centres	n/a	n/a	n/a
ALL	Chiltern Rail Ever-Green 3 Project (Part of East - West Rail)	n/a	n/a	n/a
ALL	Fire Stations (Bicester, Thame, Wallingford)	n/a	n/a	n/a
ALL	Green infrastructure Strategy	n/a	n/a	n/a
ALL	Infrastructure to meet existing deficits	n/a	n/a	n/a
ALL	Libraries (Banbury, Bicester, Didcot)	n/a	n/a	n/a
ALL	Primary schools to support growth (Cherwell 7, Oxford 2, SODC 5,Vale 3, West 1)	n/a	n/a	n/a
ALL	Primary & Secondary Capital Programmes	n/a	n/a	n/a
ALL	Resource/Day Care Centres	n/a	n/a	n/a
ALL	Schemes identified through LTP3 process 2011 to 2030	n/a	n/a	n/a
ALL	Secondary Education Schemes to support growth including Building Schools for the	n/a	n/a	n/a

	Future (Banbury, Iffley Mead, Cheney, one more tbc)			
ALL	Strategic Waste Management Sites	n/a	n/a	n/a
ALL	Young People's Centres	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cherwell	Banbury Flood Alleviation Scheme	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cherwell	M40 Junction 10 improvements	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cherwell	Bicester Community Hospital, Bicester	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cherwell	M40 Junction 9 Improvements	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cherwell	SW Bicester Perimeter Road and Park & Ride provision	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cherwell	Transport Improvements at and around Bicester	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cherwell	New Park and Ride Facilities (Bicester)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Oxford	Oxford Flood Risk Management Strategy	n/a	n/a	n/a
South	Didcot Northern Link Phase 3	n/a	n/a	n/a
South	Didcot Parkway (Foxhall Car Park Improvement and Station Interchange)	n/a	n/a	n/a
South	Townlands Hospital, Henley	n/a	n/a	n/a
South / Vale	Southern Central Oxfordshire (Science Vale) Transport Package	n/a	n/a	n/a
West	Cotswold Line Redoubling	n/a	n/a	n/a
West	Chipping Norton Communuty Hospital, Chipping Norton	n/a	n/a	n/a
West	Cogges Link Road and Witney Town Centre Enhancement , Witney	n/a	n/a	n/a
West	Witney Downs Road A40 Junction, Witney	n/a	n/a	n/a
West	Witney Community Hospital, Witney	n/a	n/a	n/a
Vale	Grove & Wantage Railway Station	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total: 32 Schemes (min)		**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**

**Note: All calculations are based on interpretations from the District 20 year templates. Further refinements may be necessary. **