

Feedback from Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Partnership, SPIP, members meeting 1st March 2010**The draft minute from the SPIP concerning their discussion of the economic assessment is as follows:**

The next steps in the process for Economic Strategy review and update were considered. The County Council was proceeding on the basis that the Economic Assessment would inform commissioning of the new County Economic Development Strategy. The Partnership expressed the view that under its Terms of Reference it was the body which should approve the commissioning of the new Strategy. It was noted that the current 'status quo' position was that the Strategy itself would be prepared by the Oxfordshire Economic Partnership. It was suggested that it would be helpful if both Partnerships could consider and agree a 'Pre-Strategy' briefing document which identified the key themes arising from the Economic Assessment and set out the terms of reference for the Strategy.

There was some discussion of the definition of Oxfordshire as a functional economic sub-region. The County Council view was that this was now a settled issue. However, there was some comment that spatial differentiation within the Economic Assessment was not fully covered. There were significant differences in economic issues in different parts of the county. Government Office commented that the wider geographical context should be considered and explored in the Assessment. There appeared to be too narrow a focus on immediately adjoining county areas. Comparative analysis was also needed in a global or international context. This would be necessary to back up any consideration of the 'world class economy' aspiration. SEEDA pointed out that there was a need for careful consideration of the Economic Assessment with various sectorial interest groups (major employers, small business sector, education sector, tourism interests, defence were all mentioned). It was also noted that particular attention should be given to sectors which might offer significant growth prospects in the next ten years.

AGREED:

- Progress on the Economic Assessment was noted.
- SPIP should prepare and approve a Pre-Strategy briefing document and commission the Strategy work by Oxfordshire Economic Partnership (this work should be done in summer 2010 after the general election).
- OEP would be invited to present their emerging thinking on the Strategy to SPIP within a similar timescale.
- All members of the Partnership were invited to submit their feedback on the Economic Assessment directly to the County Council but to copy their input to the SPIP secretariat. (The Chairman noted that he would offer some specific feedback of his own)

Dave Waller, 8th March 2010