

## **The Preparation of Joint Spatial Plan for Oxfordshire**

### **Report Purpose**

- 1) At the Growth Board Executive Officer Group (EOG) meeting on 13th March 2017, EOG were invited to consider the preparation of an Oxfordshire Joint Spatial Plan (the Spatial Plan).
- 2) EOG approved the report and a detailed project outline for consideration by the Growth Board. The project outline is attached as an annex to this report.

### **Recommendation**

*That the Growth Board approve the project outline- attached at appendix one- as the basis for the preparation of a detailed project plan and business case for an Oxfordshire Spatial Plan*

### **Background**

- 3) The Growth board will recall that in September 2014 it commissioned critical friend advice on the process for meeting Oxford's unmet need. One option considered was to address this through the commissioning of what was then called a Strategic Planning and Investment Framework, a jointly commissioned framework to assist Local Planning Authorities to manage wider strategic issues of growth and infrastructure.
- 4) Although not considered appropriate at the time, the board recognised that the development of an overarching spatial plan for growth throughout the county would enable pro-active, co-ordinated decisions on both housing and business growth and a comprehensive understanding of the infrastructure implications of the same.
- 5) The proposal to develop the Spatial Plan-as detailed in the appendix to this report- can be seen as development of this strand of thinking. It is also however recognition that the emerging growth expectations of Government, both for the county and related regional growth initiatives, for example the Oxford to Cambridge corridor will pose growth related challenges that will only be met by co-ordinated strategic planning.

### **Next steps**

- 6) Subject to the board's agreement to the recommendations of this report officers will begin the process of developing a detailed business plan. This business plan will address
  - a. Indicative timeline
  - b. Resources required- including staff and budget
  - c. Should the project be commissioned or prepared internally?
  - d. The scope of the project, including for example;
    - will the plan be statutory or non-statutory.
    - the relationship between this plan and local plans, e.g. is there a place for strategic site allocation in the plan.

- does the preparation of the plan impact upon local plan development timetables.
- e. Governance arrangements.
- 7) It is expected that, a draft Business Plan could be circulated in April and approved at EOG at their May meeting. The project could commence soon after that, subject to resource and budget availability.