

Oxfordshire infrastructure Strategy (OXIS) Progress Report

Report Purpose

- 1) At the Growth Board in May 2016, the Board approved the commissioning of an Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OXIS).
- 2) This report for information updates the Board with progress with this project

Recommendation

That the Growth Board note progress with OXIS.

Background

- 3) At the Growth Board in May 2016, the Board received a report proposing that they commission an Oxfordshire Infrastructure strategy or OXIS.
- 4) The report set out the advantages of developing such a strategy as a supporting document for Local Plans, a collation and summation of growth and infrastructure decisions taken and a county wide base-line from which new growth and related infrastructure decisions could be based.
- 5) The report also stated that the intention was that OXIS should also be designed to be able to fully integrate with the proposed development of sub-national planning, for example the England Economic Heartland Alliance (EEH). The intention being to put Oxfordshire in the best possible position to ensure that its interests are explicit, up to date, presented in a way that is relevant to that sub-national work and with the most potential to influence its outcomes.
- 6) The report also stated that OXIS should be developed in consultation with key stakeholders and be the subject of consultation so as to ensure wide ownership and understanding.

Progress to Date

- 7) Following approval of the brief the Growth Board Executive Officer's Group (EOG) approved the establishment of a partnership Project Steering Group; a task and finish group to oversee the completion of the project chaired by the County in their capacity as current Chairman of the Growth Board.
- 8) A detailed project brief was drawn up and a tender process followed that resulted in the appointment of consultants, AECOM to complete the project.
- 9) The project is broadly split into three separate sections, these are
 - A completion of a base line report, called a Stage One Report that sets out all the infrastructure proposals, intentions and challenges drawn from across all Growth Board partners and other key stakeholders. This report is currently in draft form and once complete will be published on the Board's website.

- A detailed consultation with key stakeholders to test the information in the report and its assumptions and conclusions. These will be via a series of workshops to be held in mid-March.
 - The completion of a final OXIS report for wider engagement and consultation in the summer of 2017, prior to its consideration by the Board. This tranche of the project has yet to be described in detail; however officers will be seeking wide engagement with the public and interested groups in line with commitments given by the Board at the project's inception.
- 10) The project remains broadly on track although there have been delays with stage one of the project caused by the need to chase stakeholders for information. As part of the project's management a comprehensive risk register has been compiled and regularly reviewed by the Project Steering Group which shows that there are no major risks associated with the project that we should bring to the Board's attention. Accordingly officers are confident that Board meeting should receive the final report for approval in the summer 2017.

Budget

- 11) The Board approved a budget of £120,000 for OXIS, £20,000 from each authority.
- 12) The cost of the successful tender was £110,000. Accordingly the Programme Manager will be seeking contributions from local authority partners of £19,000 to meet the agreed costs.