

Sub-group report to OSP

OSP sub-group theme: **Economic Growth Steering Board**

Date: 13 January 2020

Date of previous update: July 2019

1. Achievements since last update

- Economic and City Centre Strategy project fully underway with a consultant team (led by Hatch Regeneris) conducting interviews and initial stakeholder engagements sessions, compiling draft data analysis and evidence, etc.
- The Economic Growth Steering Board (EGSB) met on the 11th November with a presentation led by the economic strategy team to discuss evidence collected to-date, organised around a triple bottom line framework of economic, social equity and environmental indicators. Also discussed initial ideas around key citywide economic challenges and opportunities.
- Next meeting of the EGSB slated for 21st January 2020 focussed on economic strategy assets and initial strategy priorities.
- EGSB also held an optional meeting on the 16th October to give members a chance to hear from Oxfordshire County Council on the Connecting Oxford transport proposals (including the workplace parking levy), which led to a very engaged discussion with businesses having a chance to present their perspectives. A follow-up email was submitted by EGSB Chair Peter Nolan (based on EGSB member input) on these perspectives.
- Economic Development team played a lead role in organising the content and speakers for three Inclusive Economy seminars which were held in October and November 2019. Multiple members of the EGSB attended and participated in these seminars. Inclusive Economy will be a key aspect of the citywide economic strategy under development.
- Economic Development team led the expansion of the Oxford Living Wage with about seven new self-certified employers joining, an enhanced [web site presence](#), a successful Living Wage Week event that was held on the 12th November, and negotiating a new logo and branding strategy to focus on growing Oxford Living Wage awareness and join-up.
- Economic Development team led the submission of four draft business cases to OxLEP as part of the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) Delivery Plan. These included: 1) the West End Innovation District; 2) expansion of the Oxford Science Park and Cowley Branch Line; 3) creating a Creative Industries Hub in Oxford; and 4) the Inclusive Economy initiative and creating a Commission to advance this work.
- Partnered with Oxfordshire Voice (OV) to establish a transport sub-group and working actively with OV to do more substantive work in transport ahead of the LTCP5 project led by County Council.

2. Plans for the next six months

- EGSB meetings have been scheduled for 21st January and 17th of March, with a focus on guiding/reviewing the economic strategy project. There will likely be another meeting in the May timeframe as the economic strategy project is being finalised.
- Economic and City Centre draft strategies to be completed by June 2020 with opportunities for review, briefings, etc.
- Fourth Inclusive Economy seminar slated for 29th January 2020 with continued work expected to establish some kind of commission or working group to advance implementation efforts.
- Oxford Living Wage promotion to continue and ramp up as new logo is unveiled and City Council makes a push to increase number of living wage employers. This includes current efforts to work with the University and colleges on if/how they can be integrated into the scheme.
- Refined / enhanced business cases to be completed for the LIS Delivery Plan with focus likely on the West End Innovation District.
- Recently initiated project on lower cost workspaces in and near city centre to help establish opportunities to redevelop key sites / properties such as city-owned 1-3 George St, 26 Cave St, and Town Hall with public funding available to accelerate this work. Report expected in February 2020 to advance this initiative.

3. Challenges and/or blocks to progress

Two challenges of note: 1) scheduling meetings for the EGSB in line with engaging the economic strategy consultant team, but as noted above, future meetings have been scheduled through March; and 2) staffing and resources support needed to continue the Inclusive Economy agenda of work.

4. Requests for OSP support/advice/action/intervention (if required)

As the draft Economic Strategy and City Centre Vision/Action Plan are developed in spring 2020, would like the chance to present those draft documents to OSP.