

Oxford Strategic Partnership Steering Group

Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July 2019

Attendees:

Jan Royall, University of Oxford, Chair
Cllr Linda Smith, Oxford City Council
Cllr Andrew Gant, Oxford City Council
Shelley Ghazi, Oxford City Council
Ian Green, Oxford Civic Society
Cllr Judith Heathcoat, Oxfordshire County Council
Dan Hodge, Oxford City Council
Jo Kidman, Thames Valley Police
Tom McCulloch, Community First Oxfordshire
Gordon Mitchell, Oxford City Council
Ben Threadgold, Oxfordshire County Council
Peter Nolan, Chair, Economic Growth Sub-group
Mish Tullar, Oxford City Council
Stuart Wilkinson, University of Oxford
Jackie Wilderspin, Oxfordshire County Council

Apologies

Sharon Barrington, CCG
Brendan Casey, Oxford Brookes University
Richard Venables, VSL and Partners
Caroline Green, Oxford City Council
Kathy Hall, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust
Brendan Hattam, Land Securities
Cllr Ian Hudspeth, Oxfordshire County Council
Cllr Tom Hayes, Oxford City Council
Frank Nigriello, Unipart Group

1. Welcome and Apologies

2. Draft minutes of the last meeting & matters arising

Minutes of meeting held 30th April (paper 1) were agreed as correct

3. Growth Board update

Gordon Mitchell gave a verbal update on the Growth Board. Delivery is well into second year with work on development of Oxfordshire 2050 (Ox2050) more information [here](#)

What's new is that the original timetable for Ox2050 was optimistic and through discussions with MHLC it has been recognised that a longer timeframe will be needed. In part this is due to key developments yet to happen, first the Government proposals to bring forward in October the Expressway plan. Secondly the Growth Board with Network Rail are funding an Oxfordshire rail study which will be out in October. This report will look both at capacity and developing stations.

These two things potentially have a huge impact on planning of settlements across Oxfordshire.

The Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) is one of the five strands in the Growth Deal and was signed off by OxLEP last week. The LIS has had quite a long gestation to this point, however it is likely to be a document that Government will use to guide investment in business. Universities have been involved.

The LIS includes reference to inclusive growth and have endorsed the work the OSP is doing. It would be preferable if adopted by the Growth Board, but we're not there yet.

The whole context for the Growth Board had been the Growth Deal. Recently there has been a review of how the Growth Board is functioning and there may be a name change to reflect preservation and sustainable growth.

Update following the meeting is that the final version of the LIS commits to working through the Growth Board to convene an Inclusive Growth Commission (see link [here](#)).

4. Economic Growth Sub-Group annual update

Peter Nolan, Chairman and Founder of Oxford Biomedica gave an update on the work of the Economic Growth Sub-Group. Highlights include:

A key piece has been contributing to the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS).

- The group provided input and supported the development of the OxLEP Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) from an Oxford perspective (now published [here](#))
- Launching Oxfordshire Voice and participating in key issue forums and Business in Oxford 2019.
- Delivering an ongoing programme of 'Oxford Business Forum' events to debate issues of importance, with the support of OxLEP and Oxfordshire County Council.
- Established an Inclusive Employer task and finish group, which has now created and launched the Oxford Inclusive Recruitment Charter with Aspire. It has also supported efforts to promote the Oxford and Real Living Wage and plans for an inclusive growth seminar series in 2019.
- Smart Oxford (with ERDF funding) has run a series of workshops and started to build a group of local SMEs to address the key well-being aspects of the Oxfordshire Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) and the Oxford 2050 Vision. It is also working with MobOx to enable and support the LIS Living Labs (Health, Energy, Mobility) 'pillar'.
- Supporting the Business Visitor Economy (BVE) feasibility study led by Oxford Brookes University which examined the demand and opportunities to expand and invest in new business visitor venues in Oxford.
- Drafted an RFQ for new economic development and city centre strategies, and established support for this effort across the Council and EGSB.

Peter highlighted some of the areas of focus for the next six months:

- To lead a refreshed Economic and City Centre Strategy and Action Plan for the city,
- Promote Oxford as a Living Wage City, including the promotion of the Oxford Living Wage, and adding more private sector partners.
- Organise and deliver a series of Inclusive Growth seminars over the next 6 months,
- Continue to develop the Inclusive Recruitment Charter and increase the number of participating employers.

- Facilitate more coherent communication and lobbying on local business needs, for example, working to communicate the economic importance of bringing forward planned West End and rail station development.
- Provide input for next steps on tourism and visitor economy initiatives such as the May 2019 Business Visitor Economy (BE) study and the Cabinet's response to the tourism scrutiny review.
- To support the work of the newly formed City Centre Task Force, which will align with the OSP, this sub-group, and the new City Centre Strategy.

Supt Joe Kidman asked, as part of the City Centre work, to have a discussion about the night time economy and if it's a net benefit or net cost

There was further discussion on the development of the West End and a call from Ian Green for a comprehensive view, tied together with efficient effective transport system that links to the city centre, and one master plan for the whole area. Gordon Mitchell highlighted key pieces of work to date, including an officer group identifying barriers to progress and bringing together key stakeholders at a meeting this week.

Action – to follow up night time economy discussion with Joe Kidman (Dan Hodge)

5. Inclusive Growth - Update on seminar programme

Jan Royall gave an update on the seminar series and that the first or the four planned dates is confirmed as the 16th October (please note this section is updated following the meeting). Ed Cox from the RSA, Professor Brian Nolan and Will Hutton are among those who have confirmed they will speak. Further information to follow.

The aspiration is that we take the findings of the seminar discussion forward under an Inclusive Growth Commission and make the case to Government. Gordon Mitchell added that the aim is also to work up the 'call to action' from a range of people, not just government but also those who benefit from growth, for example businesses who will be expected to expand enormously.

There was a further discussion and agreement that a core team of people should be identified who would attend all four seminars and be part of a group to take this work forward.

Action – agree key attendees to engage with (Gordon Mitchell)

Action - send potential invitee details to Shelley Ghazi (All)

6. OSP task & finish

Jan noted that the two task and finish groups have submitted their final report Making Everyone Contact Count and One Planet/Bioregional. The value of the task and finish group was highlighted in making the OSP more effective and not just a 'talking shop'.

Future task and finish groups were discussed. Stuart Wilkinson said that some of the more complex issues around businesses and apprentices need to be unpicked and that this may fall out of the inclusive growth work.

Joe Kidman highlighted that 'looked after children' have significantly worse outcomes in adulthood than those not in care. However an insulating factor is when an adult is

present that cares for and takes an interest in that child. Agreed to follow up as potential task and finish.

Action – ensure apprenticeships are looked at as part of the inclusive growth work (Jan Royall)

Action – follow up task and finish idea relating to looked after children (Joe Kidman, Ben Threadgold, Mish Tullar)

7. Oxford City Council Corporate Strategy Workshop

Mish Tullar introduced the session and set out that the current Corporate Plan runs from 2016 – 2020, so would be launching new document 1st April. It was also shared that:

- Our new Corporate Strategy development work would align with Medium Term Financial Plan with public consultation taking place over winter
- This was a reviewed and revised approach to ensure our strategy was fit for purpose in uncertain political and economic environment
- That the result will be high level strategic document underpinned by an annual Business Plan and key performance indicators

Under each of the priority theme headings of the Current Corporate Plan the following feedback was given.

7.1. A Vibrant & Sustainable Economy

- Need to prioritise housing above employment space in planning
- Redesignate some areas to housing
- Purpose of growth is to meet needs and aspirations of the region and people already have. Need local accountability.
- Support high tech growth linked to the University
- Enable the Universities to provide homes for its own people.
- Could expand more into peripheral hubs around Oxford with improved transport links
- Growth with no net increase in carbon or loss of habitat – Smart Growth
- Want and allow people to be richer & have good lives

7.2 Meeting Housing Need

- Be open to new ideas on shaping where people live, zoned around the city
- Small packages attached to existing settlements around Oxford City Council
- Ecologically sensitive house and smaller blocks fit in more to field patterns and create attractive places
- Diversity of housing providers
- Welcome more Council house building programme
- Challenge 2nd Homes and control air bnb

7.3 Strong & Active Communities

- Help develop role of colleges in relation to community for example the student hub project
- Continue leadership role in community development and activation particularly in relation to inequalities and inclusivity - mention of the Children & Young People Strategy as setting out clearly our ambitions
- Celebrate diversity & cohesion – a proactive role via community festivals (e.g. Pride). Listen to communities and respond to their needs.

- Tackling isolation (for example through social prescribing)
- Increase voter turnout and representation within the Council and elected Members
- Greater participation and engagement of citizens across the city around the climate change agenda among others
- Do work together with communities – not o
- Prevention approach (through all the themes) for example with work on living wage, investing in parks, culture & leisure
- Want to ensure we have family based communities across the city, not just transitory population
- Need to invest in subsidised public transport to move people around – at outer ring road
- Encourage cycling & walking

7.4 A Clean & Green Oxford

- Promotion of walking and cycling (not just for commuters) including e-bikes to improve health and air quality
- Schools clean air campaign
- Influencing, advocating, enabling e.g. plastic reduction via commas to reach existing supporters as well as the unengaged
- Lead on an inclusive approach across communities on the green agenda – using existing links such as social housing, private rented
- Work in partnership to improve air quality and improve transport. For example look at congestion, increasing train capacity, rapid transport and the school run
- Promotion of energy production e.g. [LEO project](#)

Action – feed workshop comments into Corporate Strategy development (Mish Tullar)

8. Forward Plan

OSP Meeting Date	Key Agenda Items
Mtg 4. 22nd October 2019 10:30-13:00 Quaker Meeting House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth Board update • Inclusive growth update • Sub group report - Low Carbon Oxford Annual update, Safer Communities six month update • Task & Finish update
Mtg 1. 21st January 2020 10:30-13:00 Somerville College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth Board update • Inclusive growth update • Sub group report - Stronger Communities annual update, Economic Growth six month update • Task & Finish update
Mtg 2. 28th April 2020 10:30-13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth Board update • Inclusive growth update • Sub group report - Safer Communities annual update Low Carbon Oxford six month, • Task & Finish update

OSP Meeting Date	Key Agenda Items
Mtg 3. 14th July 2020 10:30-13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth Board update • Inclusive growth update • Sub group report - Economic Growth annual update & Stronger Communities six monthly update • Task & Finish update
Mtg 4. 13th October 2020 10:30-13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth Board update • Inclusive growth update • Sub group report - Low Carbon Oxford Annual update, Safer Communities six month update • Task & Finish update