

Economic Growth Steering Board Meeting Notes:

24.02.2021 10am-12pm (On Zoom)

Chair: Peter Nolan

Vice-Chair: Richard Venables

Attendees:

Confirmed-Cllr Susan Brown, Peter Nolan, Matt Peachey, Clayton Lavallin, Ahmed Goga, Grant Hayward, Tom Edwards, Tony Hart, Carolyn Ploszynski, Peter Reynolds, Leah Bryan, Richard Venables, Phil Clare, Hayley Beer-Gamage, David Hartley

Apologies:

Iain Nicholson, Tom Bridgman, Amanda Ford, Mish Tullar, Adrian Cooper, Richard Rosser Llewelyn Morgan, Dr Stuart Wilkinson, Peter Wilder

Notes/Actions:

Item	Lead	Notes (Key Discussion Points)	Actions (Who/What/By when)
1. Welcome and apologies	Chair: Peter Nolan	Taken by Clayton Lavallin in meeting Apologies: Tom Bridgman, Amanda Ford, Mish Tullar/Adrian Cooper-Tentative, Carolyn P joined 10-11am and Richard Venables joined 11am-12pm.	
2. Minutes of the previous meeting, actions and matters raising	Chair: Peter Nolan	Minutes were taken, no outstanding matter arising, actions included: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pitch Pack on LIS to be shared-Completed• OxLEP to share Recovery Plan at December Meeting, Board in January-Completed• Clayton L and Stuart W to meet re: Social Value/Procurement-Completed• Clayton L to send our 2021 dates for meetings in advance-Completed	
3. Updates			
a) Station and West End	a) Carolyn P	Station: See slides for governance and Landowner coordination details <ul style="list-style-type: none">• £760M announced for EWR, which should wrap in works at Oxford Station West side.• We await details to be announced of the package of investment as related to Oxford Phase 2 and then any follow on works from ORCS. Expected in April.	

		<p>West End:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 key groups: West End landowners, wider stakeholders, strategic Board • Easter onwards workshops to be scheduled <p>Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is Station Phase 2 funding likely to be secured, Answer: yes 2. Network Rail funding has been announced, is the Phase 2 funding part of this, Answer: Subject to announcement but looks good 3. Cllr Brown noted that there's a cut in funding for East West. The previous announcement was for more funding. The reduction is removing the electrification. 4. Osney Mead/University update: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Tassa Light is funded and will open in August 21. Energy systems community supportive and on track. Will contribute to the Energy system accelerator. b) Potential meanwhile space in Osney Mead (Lab space for start-ups).
<p>b) Workspace Projects (George St/Cave St)</p>	<p>b) Matt Peachey</p>	<p>George St</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funded through LGF. Works at George st underway, £800k of wider budget to be used for George st workspace. Focus on sustainability. • Procurement process completed and operator identified 'Runway East' (Preferred operator subject to contract). George st to be operational later in the year. <p>Cave Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bigger opportunity, nr St Clements/South Park. Decision in June about scheme, looking at options for such as mixed use residential /commercial, new build workspace. Business case for residential and workspace, early space start up and modular offices. Stanford house already established, so consulting with them. Budget £6-8.5 Million. <p>Q: Changes in market for workspace, move to virtual working rather than physical space? A: Market still overall indicative of need for this but some areas will diminish and if start up market less than expected. 2 phase will allow time for this to become clearer. A: High street changes are accelerating and understanding how this is affecting larger employers will help inform this. A: Less of an impact on high street than expected re: vacant unit numbers, so positive updates from landowners. Big chains taking the biggest hit. Clarendon under redevelopment. Oxford is faring well vis a vis other cities, confidence in market, strong destination. Retail/Hospitality impacted but high street evolving rather than dying. Measures to bolster this are a focus for us. Vacancies not as high as forecast but watching brief. We have a survey prepared to understand workforce returns/impacts, with a transport</p>

		<p>focus. Several initiatives to better understand trends and gain insight. A lot unknown until we emerge from lockdown fully.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>Smaller shops getting better take up, with rent achieved. Existing retailers and those starting new businesses are in very different positions. Many Retailers have lost up to 80% of trade, especially larger retailers. Filing bigger shops also a challenge, low demand.</p> <p>A: Large employers scaling back office space, with more working from home. Planning to adopt a blended model, retaining base and reducing footprint. Mix of home working and office collaboration. Transition from office and retail to lab space. Evolution in commercial property, losing low skilled jobs and gaining higher skilled jobs.</p>
c) Meanwhile in Oxfordshire...	c) Matt Peachey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnering with Makespace consortium to launch £1.875m revitalisation of vacant shops across Oxfordshire. • Entrepreneurs to bring new ideas to diversify the offer and boost footfall; independent traders, cultural venues, creative studios and co-working spaces • 112 organisations, across 50 units, supporting up to 300 jobs • £1.875m Getting Building Fund through OxLEP. Makespace plans to use the funding to leverage additional investment • Wider benefits; resident engagement, energy efficiency, affordable rent, RLW/OLW, work placements, traineeships or apprenticeships • Challenging, experimental project • Support, connections and ideas needed • Project underway, operator and steering group in place • Wider benefits also outlined • A lot of factors, landlord interest, market and appetite of occupiers. Appetite looks good so far, but early wins needed as 1 year funded.
d) Kickstart	d) Clayton Lavallin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxford City Council's Economic Development Team are acting as a 'gateway' organisation, supporting local employers to take part in the national Kickstart Scheme. • The Council helps them to register and apply to the scheme, helps to create and advertise vacancies and employers are provided with a 'placement pack' to support the placements to be set up. The Council also administers a government grant to them once the placement starts.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kickstart Scheme was launched by the Government in September 2020 and provides funding to create new job placements for 16 to 24 year olds on Universal Credit who are at risk of long term unemployment. <p>Two Kickstart Cohorts supported to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cohort 1: 15 Employers, 36 Placements • Cohort 2: 7 employers, 29 placements • Cohort 3 & 4: TBC <p>Call out for referrals from Employers interested to participate.</p> <p>Qs: Need for information sharing with Skills Board A: Yes, we have shared OCC data with Skills Team at OxLEP but need for wider DWP coordination of this information sharing across Oxford City/Oxfordshire Gateways</p> <p>Q: Need to get offer right as Target group is severely impacted A: Agree, the scheme can also only partly meet need as it is specifically targeted to 16-24 only and UC claimants/long term unemployed who can afford to work only 25 hours per week at minimum wage.</p> <p>Q: Difficulties re: obstacles and bureaucracy with DWP A: Absolutely agree there have been many obstacles to overcome with DWP not least of which the delays, overly bureaucratic process and changes to eligibility criteria in new year.</p>
<p>e) Workplace Parking Levy</p>	<p>e) Matt Peachey</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on where the Levy is and where the bus priority measures will be • Next steps are opportunities for this group and businesses to get involved and contribute • Technical work, business case and consultation ongoing • Range of consultation on scheme, Oxford Forum is an opportunity to feed in. • Controversial area and engagement needs to happen in the right way (echoes the conversation on Oxfordshire Plan) <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundamental to consultation is need to learn from where it has been implemented successfully i.e. Nottingham, where they set up consultancy support to other areas to implement this. • Tom Edwards in contact and bidding for this work, working closely with Nottingham. Their insights are very valuable esp. around engagement with businesses. • Nottingham scheme was specifically an income raising scheme for the tram rather than as a means to reduce traffic, in Oxford it is potentially to raise a little income towards buses for example but also wider aim to reduce traffic and encourage alternative means of transport. Tension at the

		<p>heart of the work that needs to be done. Lessons to be learnt but not directly transferable- different city/aims.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problems with congestion and workplace levy can help alleviate this but it is not the only solution. Singles out one specific part of the city too which is important to growth. Nottingham was business led which is in contrast to Oxford. • One of the major points of difference that the city council and the University of Oxford have with the county council is that we think it needs to cover the whole city and the county are adamant that it should only cover the east.
<p>f) Oxfordshire 2050 Plan</p>	<p>f) Peter Nolan/Ahmed Goga</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carolyn outlined ambitions of programme, need for economic growth to be factored in, housing forecasts and alignment with LEP to ensure coordination. • Summer Consultation will inform and April 12th, detailed discussion (Next Quarterly meeting of EGSB). • March, latest draft of Vision document to be released, not sufficient business input at this stage. • Business Directors on LEP invited to contribute to strategy, articulated what was lacking in the Plan and need for business leaders to inform. Danger that it will become an exercise in group think, building around a shared perspective rather than starting with an understanding of where we are. • Need for diversity of voices, stronger business voice (Vision paper did not reference businesses once) • Tip ex test, take out Oxfordshire, does it reflect any other area or is it Oxfordshire specific in its analysis. • A: Strategy is motherhood and apple pie and lowest common denominator currently and needs more input, City not reflected and recognised which is a clear issue. Representations from LEP, Businesses and City Council required. • Task and Finish Group set up, the first week of January, to ensure drafts shared and that submissions circulated are incorporated. Would be helpful if submissions to LEP are shared with leaders. • Vision statement not an adequate reflection of feedback to date. • Need to recognise that action for sustainability/wellbeing needs economic growth/prosperity to fund and invest in. Excellent work on the City Centre Vision and Action Plan (OCC), great anchor from which to these arguments.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top down process rather than building on strategic visions across the city/districts and so this needs to be tackled. Joint meetings of infrastructure and others are providing more of this kind of input/alignment. • Needs to be right ahead of the ARC to position us well in advance. • Escalate, LEP funded support to social enterprise is part of the solution to these issues, play a huge part in the solution, which is the reason OSEP was established.
g) OxLEP	g) Ahmed Goga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined with Item below
4. Main Discussion Items:		
County-wide Recovery Plan	Ahmed Goga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERP Briefing, please see attached slides. <p>Updated data, summarised slides to allow time for discussion</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of Air BNB properties in Oxford are still operating... a number of tourists around the city so if even now we are seeing some, when they clearly shouldn't be here, I am hopeful that when they ARE allowed the visitor economy will recover well.
Draft Economic Strategy Update	Matt Peachey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Strategy produced, will be shared with Members and this group in March to coincide • Wider consultation from April • Optional Briefing on City Centre Vision and Action Plan • Call out to group for views on priorities for the central pillar of the strategy and the role of this group
Visitor Economy-Update	Hayley Beer-Gamage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several factors affecting visitor economy inc. Sector specific furlough,
5. AOB -CEZ	Chair: Peter Nolan Grant Hayward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant to provide an update by email due to time restraints in meeting.
6. Next Meeting Dates	Chair: Peter Nolan	<p>Next meeting Tuesday 13th April, 10-12pm</p> <p>Future Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 13th July, 10-12pm • Tuesday 12th October, 10-12pm

