

DRAFT OXFORD ECONOMIC GROWTH STRATEGY

OVERVIEW OF RESPONSES FROM CONSULTATION AND DISCUSSION AT THE STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 20TH DECEMBER 2012

1. Introduction

Comments on the draft Strategy were invited from all who were informed at the outset of the process to develop the Strategy and invited to participate in interviews, focus groups and workshops. This includes businesses, business and professional groups, universities and colleges, LEP Board and other partnerships, public sector organisations/partners (including Leaders, CEOs and EDOs of all Oxfordshire local authorities).

The attached paper (Paper 2.2) was prepared and circulated to the members of the Oxford Economic Growth Strategy Steering Group in preparation for the Steering Group meeting held on 20th December 2012:

- Cllr Bob Price, Chair (Oxford City Council and OSP Member)
- Phil Clare (University of Oxford)
- Richard Venables (VSL Partners and ProOxford Group)
- Tom Flanagan (Oxfordshire County Council)
- David Edwards and Michael Crofton-Briggs (Oxford City Council)
- Sebastian Johnson (OSP)
- Lee Shostak (Shared Intelligence)

2. Respondents

The four week period for comment ran from 14th November 2012 to 12th December 2012. By the closing date we had received comments from the following:

- Becky Buell & Ruth Mayne (leaders & experts in low-carbon development in Oxford)
- Cherwell District Council
- Experience Oxfordshire
- Kier Property
- Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action
- Oxfordshire County Council
- ROX
- Thames Valley Police
- University of Oxford

It should be noted that after the attached report had been produced further comments were received from the following:

- South Oxfordshire District Council (17/12/12)
- Vale of White Horse District Council (17/12/12)
- West Oxfordshire District Council (19/12/12)

These responses were circulated to the Steering Group members and are included as additional appendices.

Following further circulation of the draft report by Richard Venables to businesses after the Steering Group meeting was held a response was received from David Williams, Director, Meeson Williams Limited. This response is also attached as an additional appendix.

3. Revised version of the Economic Growth Strategy

The draft Economic Growth Strategy has been revised (paper 2.3) to reflect the appropriate detailed comments and the purpose of this note is to identify the most important results from this consultation and the discussion of the Steering Group.

4. Key points from the Steering Group Meeting on 20th December 2012

The Steering Group discussion on 20th December 2012 noted how the overwhelming response to the draft Strategy at meetings and presentations has been welcoming and positive.

The meeting reviewed comments received and highlighted three core messages from this consultation.

a. The Strategy as a Shared Framework for Action

With one important proviso (see point two below) all of the respondents appeared to accept that the draft provides the basis for partners to agree a shared framework for more detailed actions. The thrust and messages of the overall narrative and the vision and strategic priorities were, essentially, deemed sound. Whilst there were numerous detailed comments, some of which were appropriate for inclusion in a revised draft, no respondent challenged the essential focus and the primary elements of the draft. This is an important step forward for the Oxford Strategic Partnership.

b. The Need for an Oxfordshire Wide Strategy

Some respondents, including the adjoining district councils and County Council emphasised the need for a wider Oxfordshire Strategy. . These respondents see “greater” Oxford’s economic future as completely intertwined with the Oxfordshire County as a whole and the policies and actions need to be based on this wider perspective.

The Growth Strategy has a wider context but the OSP has needed to focus on the city region. The EGS will input into a wider Oxfordshire strategy when this is developed

Following the Autumn 2012 Statement, the government has asked each Local Enterprise Partnership to prepare a multi-year, multi-agency growth plan. This provides an opportunity to incorporate the proposals in the Oxford EGS into a county-wide growth plan.

c. The Prioritisation Challenge

Some respondents did not support the priorities and evidence. However, the strategy is clear in its growth principles and further detailed work in preparing an action plan is to be undertaken as one of the immediate priorities

5. Next Steps

The OSP is asked to:

- i) Agree and adopt the Oxford Economic Growth Strategy
- ii) Invite the LEP to use the Economic Growth Strategy, evidence and recommendations as part of the county wide growth plan
- iii) Commence the preparation of a detailed action plan based on the EGS
- iv) Build stakeholder commitment to a detailed action plan

SJ LS PMcV 090113