

Oxford Economic Growth Strategy – Action Planning

Summary Update Paper for the OSP Meeting 16th May 2013

Introduction

The Oxford Economic Growth Strategy (EGS) was formally adopted by the Oxford Strategic Partnership (OSP) in January 2013. A copy of the full EGS can be downloaded at www.oxford.gov.uk/osp. Upon adopting the EGS, the OSP tasked partners to identify actions against the 11 elements and recommendations in the EGS and identify roles that partners will need to take to deliver against these actions.

1. Expanding Oxford's knowledge economy using the global connections of Oxford's Universities and major/large employers to attract new companies, and promote new start-ups;
2. Supporting the growth of existing employers including large, global companies, high value small and medium sized enterprise, the Universities, and the health care sector;
3. Ensuring sufficient supply of employment land;
4. Strengthening Oxford's city centre retailing offer;
5. Expanding the value of Oxford's tourism across the region;
6. Continuing to improve education and skills attainment to support future economic growth opportunities;
7. Increasing, the annual rate of housing development in locations which are easily accessible to the city centre and other main employment areas by cycle, bus, and rail;
8. Ensuring on-going investment in broadband infrastructure;
9. Addressing the environmental challenges and opportunities presented by economic growth;
10. Investing in the physical and transport infrastructure to enable economic growth; and
11. Securing an effective partnership for implementation and 'single team' delivery for Oxford.

At a meeting of the Economic Growth Strategy Steering Group on Friday 3rd May, reports on responses from partners and emerging actions and action plans against each of the 11 elements in the Economic Growth Strategy were received.

The following papers presented to the Steering Group are attached as appendices:

- Appendix One – Report on principal growth sectors and emerging action plan (Element One)
- Appendix Two – Report on Elements 2 -11 and emerging action plans
- Appendix Three - Oxford City Council Outline Draft Action Plan (Presented to the City Executive Board on 5th April 2013)
- Appendix Four - Summary of the Economic Growth Strategy

Please note that papers are draft and this is very much work in progress.

Summary of Progress

- A summary of the Economic Growth Strategy has been produced and this is being distributed to partners and stakeholders (Appendix 1)
- Oxford City Council has responded to the recommendations in the Economic Growth Strategy and presented a paper to the City Executive Board outlining actions and areas where the City Council will lead and/or work in partnership with others (Appendix 2)
- Oxfordshire County Council is in the process of responding to the recommendations in the Economic Growth Strategy and a paper is due that will outline actions and areas where the County Council will lead and/or work in partnership with others
- Element One of the Growth Strategy recommends analysis of key sectors to identify growth areas. Appendix 3 reports on progress made.
 - There are clear links to the work being undertaken as part of the City Deal bid – much of which dovetails with the emerging action plan
 - Discussions with sector groups such as ProOxford, the universities and research previously undertaken in key sectors including bioscience, publishing and creative identifies key issues as transport, housing, inward investment and skills.
 - The work emerging from the City Deal identifies key developments and actions in the following areas - Education sites; Employment and research sites; Transport infrastructure; Innovation skills; Mentoring support; Finance; Connecting networks and growing the brand; International marketing
 - An action plan of key projects and developments is emerging and can be found in Appendix 3
- Elements Two to Eleven of the Strategy have actions emerging against them, with greater detail to be added over the coming months following further discussions and input from key partners (see appendix 4)

Next Steps

- The Economic Growth Strategy Steering Group has agreed to act as the Steering Group that will oversee the development and delivery of the Action Plan and will report to the OSP on a regular basis.
- The Steering Group will meet again towards the end of June. Expansion of the Group to include other business/private sector representatives is being explored. The new Chief Executive of the Local Enterprise Partnership will be invited to join the Steering Group.
- The action plans will continue to be developed and will dovetail with work being undertaken to develop the City Deal bid
- A full report on progress together with updated action plans will be brought to the September OSP meeting