

City Deal and Local Growth Fund Exception Report

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide the Growth Board (the Board) with progress with the projects in the City Deal and Local Growth Fund for which they are responsible.

Background

2. The City Deal along with the Local Growth Fund are the two partnership programmes for which the Growth Board are responsible for governance, reporting to the LEP.
3. The projects are summarised in the appendix to this report and for ease of reference are given a RAG status as follows.



Red- requiring action



Amber requiring monitoring



Green no action required

City Deal Summary of progress

4. There are two projects identified as red, requiring action at this stage, these are as follows.

Planning for development

Councils to list their land and property assets on e-pims by Spring 2014

Three of the five councils have completed this task and the other three are on-going. Progress is slow however and is listed as red because of the delays in completing. Partner councils have been asked to advise of completion dates so that Government can be advised

Partners commit the sites necessary to meet housing needs outlined in the SHMA.

There are two aspects to this project, the first is the detailed Programme to meet the agreed unmet need figure for Oxford outlined in a separate report to the Board. The second is the delivery of the overall objectively assessed need (OAN) agreed in the SHMA. It is the first of these that is subject to delays and flagged red as a consequence. The second will be achieved through adoption of Local Plans.

5. Three projects are flagged as amber, requiring monitoring to ensure timely completion, these are as follows.

Skills

Deliver an additional 525 apprenticeships for 16-23 year olds.

Measurement of this is very problematic as the data is supplied by the Skills funding Agency and has a time lag of 8 months. Oxfordshire's performance has been encouraging in the context of national and regional averages with an increase of 2% in the period August 2015 July 2015 compared to a national average of 1.3%. Nonetheless, officers conclude we may not meet the target of 525.

Transport

Access to Enterprise Zone

Elements of this scheme has been paused to allow for consideration in the Vale's Local Plan whilst other elements of this scheme have been delayed due to issues with acquiring the land for the scheme with both negotiations and potential CPO being run in parallel.

Governance

Partnership working with Public Service Transformation Network

There has been no progress on this to date although officers have made contact with the PSTN, advice is awaited from them on next steps

Local Growth Fund Summary of progress

6. Two projects are flagged as amber, requiring monitoring to ensure timely completion, these are as follows

Milton Park Employment Access Route

This scheme was originally approved with Milton Park as project lead but difficulties in delivery saw the scheme originally suspended and now being led by OCC. They are completing a revised project timeline and entering into negotiations to attempt to overcome the difficulties with the scheme.

Science Vale Cycle Route

The original project timeline for the scheme was approved on the basis that Local Sustainable Transport Funding (LSTF) would be used for feasibility work on the scheme with the scheme progressed through the Local Growth Fund. However, the LSTF provided was later the expected/anticipated and ended up being awarded in the same year as the Local Growth Funding. Accordingly there were delays in commencing the feasibility works but it is hoped that the scheme can be accelerated once on site to recoup some of the delays caused.

Growth Board EOG 2 February 2016
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Recommendations

The Board is asked to note progress with the projects and support the recommended actions where appropriate