

Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy Brief

1.0 Recommendation

The Growth Board is asked to:

- 1.1 *Agree the attached brief for an Infrastructure Strategy for Oxfordshire*

2.0 Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 31 March 2016, the Growth Board noted within the work programme that the Executive Officer Group (EOG) had supported the development of an Infrastructure Strategy for Oxfordshire and that detailed project scoping should be prepared for Growth Board in May for approval.
- 2.2 Officers subsequently prepared a brief for the development of the strategy and this document was endorsed by the EOG on 12 May and is attached for approval by the Growth Board.

3.0 Matters for consideration

- 3.1 The brief seeks to build on work and structures already in place and in particular the activity associated with delivering the post Strategic Housing Market Assessment programme. The intention within the brief is that the infrastructure strategy should be designed to be able to fully integrate with the proposed development of sub-national planning for the Economic Heart of England Alliance. The advantage of doing this is to put Oxfordshire in the best position possible to ensure that its interests are explicit, up to date and presented in a way that is relevant to that regional work and with the most potential to influence its outcomes.
- 3.2 It is proposed that the final output is developed and maintained as a live document that evolves as the reality of local development becomes understood and as national and regional plans are further progressed. In this way the document will continue to address the core infrastructure challenges faced by authorities and communities and provide a solid evidence base and agreed platform into the future for funding bids and strategic planning.
- 3.3 The brief proposes that the development of the strategy is supported with an open public consultation process to help facilitate a more informed dialogue with communities, developers and stakeholders on the impact of growth and related infrastructure priorities.
- 3.4 In addition to participation from all partners managed through a joint officer working group, preparing the strategy itself will require a significant external commission to provide specific technical capabilities and capacity. The draft brief assumes a resource base set at £120,000, representing a contribution of £20,000 per partner authority as agreed in principle through the Executive Officer Group in March.