



<b>Subject:</b> Housing & Growth Deal - Productivity Stream Progress Update	
<b>Author: Ahmed Goga</b> <b>Tel: 07393 001076</b> <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:ahmed.goga@oxfordshirelep.com">ahmed.goga@oxfordshirelep.com</a>	<b>BOARD MEETING No:15</b> <b>Date of Board meeting: 12/06/18</b>  <b>Agenda Item no: 6</b>
<b>Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership:</b> OxLEP Ltd, First Floor, Jericho Building, Activate Learning – City of Oxford College, Oxpens Road, Oxford, OX1 1SA	

### Summary

This report provides the Board with an update on the progress being made in the implementation of the Productivity stream of the Oxfordshire Housing & Growth Deal, since the March Board meeting.

### Recommendation

#### **That the Board:**

- **Notes the progress being made with HMG in progressing the commitments within the Productivity stream, set out in the Oxfordshire Housing & Growth Deal**

#### **1. Housing & Growth Deal Productivity Stream**

Productivity is an integral component of the Oxfordshire deal and sits alongside both the housing infrastructure streams in the overall proposal. It is central to delivering the vision for accelerated growth across the County in critical economic sectors, supporting innovation clusters and attracting investment. We anticipate that this will realise significant long term economic benefits to the UK.

In addition to the development of a Local Industrial Strategy, the Deal encompasses proposals to explore early land remediation at Harwell to bring forward critical employment land supply in Science Vale. There are also commitments to work with the LEP and partners to identify interventions and solutions to support our world class science clusters and businesses with scale up potential through emerging sector deals, development of a dedicated investor programme for trade and investment, an enhanced Growth Hub and developing a more responsive skills system.

Annex One provides a more detailed summary of the progress made to date on each of the commitments detailed in the Deal Agreement.

## 2. Key Issues and Next Steps

Good progress has been made in some areas but this has not been uniform across the productivity stream. Officials have been seeking to prioritise, initially, engagement around the Local Industrial Strategy trailblazer, whilst it has been noticeable in our meetings with departments that awareness of both the Deal and the opportunities this offers have not been fully socialised across Whitehall.

There remains the need for ongoing work to be done at senior levels within Whitehall in building Oxfordshire's visibility and relationships across the various policy teams. We are working with the Cities & Local Growth Unit to identify and present back into departments of the strategic fit between national policy objectives and the opportunity to advance these through the commitments within the Deal, and the mechanisms we now have in place.

Key areas of note for the Board to be aware of include:

- Good progress on the development of the Local Industrial Strategy, with the appointment of PwC as the advisory partner with the objective of preparing a draft document to the Board, Growth Board and HMG by the Autumn as part of an accelerated development process.
- Strong engagement and commitment across our partner network including the business sector, sector bodies, Universities and local authorities as part of the LIS process including contributions of venues, in-kind support and engagement with senior business leaders. We continue to push HMG for funding support towards the cost of developing the LIS.
- Development of the Oxford - Cambridge Growth Corridor now moving to a new stage with an agreed timeline in place for the preparation of a x-corridor economic vision. OxLEP, on behalf of the x-corridor LEPs and Mayoral Combined Authority, will be appointing an advisory partner to work with stakeholders and HMG in developing the vision with submission to Growth Boards by December.
- A range of initial preparatory meetings have been held with a number of departments and policy leads in the last quarter, which have primarily served the purpose of raising awareness of the Deal and our proposals for ambitious interventions to capitalise on the opportunities Oxfordshire offers in driving UK productivity and also delivering key government policy objectives across trade and investment, skills, business growth and capital investment.
- We now urgently need to ensure that there are clear workplans and deliverables over an agreed period during this calendar year, which we would be working towards with Departments.

We are proposing to hold a review session with HMG teams in June or July to consider progress on the Productivity Stream, and agree on interventions which can accelerate activity across each of the commitments made in the Deal and enable greater co-ordination and cohesion across HMG.