



Subject: Programme Sub Group Report	
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Summary

The report provides an operational programme update up to **31st March 2019**.

Recommendations

- **That the Board notes the report**

1.) LGF spend improvement plan

- 1.1 The Local Growth Fund has a spend deadline of 31 March 2021. The full £142.5m six-year programme needs to be spent by this date.
- 1.2 The programme is fully allocated apart from £0.5m which is subject to a current skills call which is planned to be allocated at the June 2019 Board meeting.
- 1.3 At the end of March 2019 (2 years to go of the 6 years) the programme is 37% spent against allocated projects and projecting confidence to be 55% spent against allocated projects by the 31 March 2021 deadline.
- 1.4 The majority of the current underspend and at-risk future underspend is due to two large complex projects – many of the delays are outside the control of the delivery partners and us.
 - The Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme (£25.85m)
 - The Science Transit A40 Scheme (£35m)
- 1.5 Following our Annual Performance Review in December 2018 we were advised that as a result of the significant project level underspend we would be subject to further scrutiny and the development of an LGF spend improvement plan to demonstrate how we would bring the project spend back in line with profile. Our LGF spend improvement plan has been agreed with BEIS/CLG and includes

clear actions for resolving issues and timescales for decision making should re-allocation of LGF funds be required.

- 1.6 Work is ongoing on the LGF spend improvement plan actions – resulting change requests will be submitted to Programme Sub Group in August 2019 followed by Board in September 2019. We are confident that full spend can be achieved by the LGF spend deadline of 31 March 2021.

2.) New Delivery Plan for 2019/20

Following guidance from the LEP Network and BEIS/CLG we have produced a Delivery Plan for 2019/20. It will be reviewed yearly and provides a summary of our more detailed Operating Plan. Content was approved by the Programme Sub Group in May 2019 and the final document was submitted to BEIS/CLG by the deadline of the end of May 2019. The final document can be found on our website by following this link.

<https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/sites/default/files/uploads/OxLEP%20Delivery%20Plan%20-%20May%202019.pdf>

3.) Skills call recommendations

The Programme Sub Group have reviewed the Skills Call submissions and working with the Skills Sub-Group supports the recommendation to approve the submission. The remaining two projects, which met the appraisal criteria, represent very strong proposals. As such, the Sub-Group believes these should be included within the project pipeline should further Skills Capital funding become available or the potential of a future UK Shared Prosperity Fund programme be announced. See the Skills Sub-Group Paper at item 05.

4.) Operating Plan Update

The Q4 2018/19 operating plan was reviewed in the Programme Sub Group meeting on 21st May 2019.

The projects are RAG status coded using the following key:



Projects with significant issues and/or delays – see below



Projects with minor issues and/or delays – see below



Projects on track

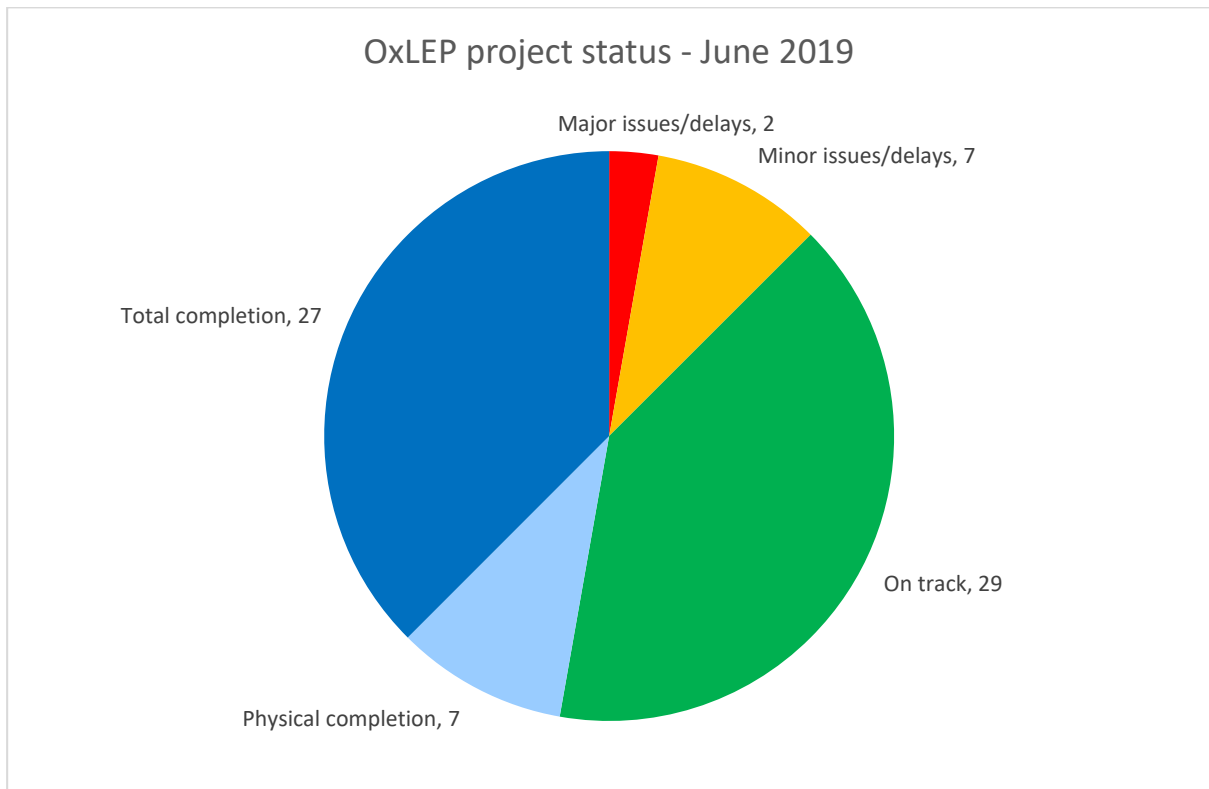


Projects physically complete with outcomes still being monitored



Projects totally complete

OxLEP project status



Operating Programme Progress updates 2018/19 Outturn



- **Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme**

The EA have received formal notification from Defra confirming the need for a public enquiry for the CPO. Contingency plans are currently being prepared in order to manage the impact on the delivery programme. More details to follow in September 2019/20.

- **Innovation Support for Business (ISfB)**

The project is currently underspent, this has been caused by delays in partners recruiting staff and procurement delays. We expect this will pull back in-line with the project expectations by the end of Q2 2019. In addition an audit in March 2019 raised issues, a plan is in place to resolve the issues.

- Note: this report was from 31 March 2019 – as at 12/6/19 the audit issues are now mitigated and this project will be changed to amber RAG status next quarter.



- **Back Hill Tunnel**

The Toucan crossing is the final part of the works transferred from the developer's proposals. The utility company has repeatedly failed to attend site on agreed dates to complete electrical works. Process is ongoing to connect traffic signals.

- **Access to enterprise zone – Relief to Rowstock (previously called Featherbed Lane)**

Detailed Design complete. Land acquisition remains the significant obstacle to delivery of this project, and a strategic review to identify the best option to take forward may result in an alternate proposal being progressed. No substantive change since last update.

- **Improvements to Northern Gateway – Loop Farm Link Road**

Project paused pending strategic review. Strategic review decision expected Q2 2019/20. No substantive change since last update.

- **Didcot Station Car Park –**

Amber to reflect delay to removal of temporary car-park.

- **Oxford City Centre Public Transport Improvements (previously known as Queen Street) -**

George Street/ Worcester Street junction improvements remains outstanding – work is scheduled for later in 2019/20.

- **Lodge Hill -**

There were delays with preliminary design due to lack of capacity within HE in agreeing design and allowing access onto land for required surveys. Mitigation for the delay to completing design has included combining elements of the detailed design to reduce the next stage duration.

- **Science Transit A40 -**

The aim is still to construct the scheme within the agreed DfT funding window but there have been delays in the submission of the OBC which puts the delivery timetable at risk.

5.) LGF reporting spreadsheet

The Q4 2018/19 LGF reporting spreadsheet was reviewed and approved for submission. It has since been signed off by the S151 officer and was submitted to government by the deadline of 24th May 2019.