



Subject: Productivity Stream Progress Update	
Author: Ahmed Goga Tel: 07393 001076 Email: ahmed.goga@oxfordshirelep.com	BOARD MEETING No:14 Date of Board meeting: 6/03/18 Agenda Item no: 6c
Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership: 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 December 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.

The table below summarises the progress made to date on each of the commitments detailed in the Deal Agreement.

Commitment	HMG Lead	Oxon Lead	Progress / immediate next steps
Local Industrial Strategy (LIS)	David Clinton (BEIS)	Nigel Tipple / Ahmed Goga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>February</u> – Oxfordshire developing project plan and research brief. • <u>16 February</u> – Inaugural Oxfordshire LIS Working Group • <u>21 February</u> – OxLEP / BEIS/C&LGU IS meeting to discuss and take forward deal commitment for Oxfordshire LIS. • <u>6 March</u> - C&LGU IS to lead discussion at next OxLEP Board on LIS
International investment, trade and export	Richard Colley / Naisha Polaine / Ben Raby (DIT)	Richard Byard / Sebastian Johnson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>6 March</u> – OxLEP / DIT meeting teams to take forward deal commitment.
Skills	Silkie Whitworth (MHCLG) / Maria Meyer-Kelly (DfE)	Richard Byard / Ahmed Goga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>8 March</u> – OxLEP meeting with MHCLG/C&LGU Labour Markets and Skills team to take forward deal commitment.
Land remediation – Harwell Campus	Steven Moss (UKEAEA) / Achilleas Mavrellis (BEIS)	Ahmed Goga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>31st January</u> – draft business case on options submitted to BEIS/NDA for comment and review
Growth Hub	Karen Leigh (BEIS)	Nigel Tipple / Ahmed Goga / Richard Byard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>5 February</u> – OxLEP meeting with BEIS/C&LGU GH team. • <u>End March</u> – OxLEP Challenge Session with C&LGU GH team.
Enterprise Zones	Ed Chapman (DCLG)	Ahmed Goga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>19 January</u> – OxLEP / C&LGU EZ team meeting to identify issues • <u>March (tbc)</u> – OxLEP, with LAs, to prepare information to support business case to HMT on financial options
Sector Deals	BEIS/HMG	Ahmed Goga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>On-going</u> – Oxfordshire to engage industry and relevant HMG sector leads: <u>Feb</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Space – BEIS / UK Space Agency / LEPs conference call scheduled ○ <u>Creative Industries - initial session with Creative Industries Federation</u> ○ Tourism – initial session with DCMS / Visit Britain teams • <u>8th March</u> – OxLEP meeting with BEIS Sector Deals to agree engagement plan

2. Key Issues and Next Steps

There are a number of factors which have influenced the speed with which we have been able to make progress on each component of the productivity stream during January / February:

- Ministerial approval for the delivery framework and budget envelope of the Industrial White Paper, following its publication at the end of November has taken time to be signed off, and was further affected by the Government Reshuffle in January
- The productivity stream will be working across five departments and approximately 10 different Whitehall policy teams – some of which have been less engaged than others during the deal process, hitherto, meaning that pace is variable in different areas.
- Officials have been seeking to prioritise, initially, engagement around the Local Industrial Strategy trailblazer, resulting in initial sessions with many departments on other components being scheduled for February and March

Notwithstanding these issues, where meetings have commenced with Departments there is good understanding of the opportunities which the deal, the Industrial Strategy trailblazer and wider Oxford Cambridge corridor creates. The ability to take forward key ambitions of the White Paper and align x-departmental policy objectives has also helped build an increasing willingness among officials to jointly develop and design solutions.

Our ambition is for clear workplans and deliverables to be agreed with officials following initial sessions with each department, across the relevant component of the productivity stream. These will help to shape a suite of interventions, with identified investment, that would also inform the emerging LIS.

Fortnightly conference calls are now established with the Cities and Local Growth and HMG teams to provide a focus for moving forward different components of the stream. We anticipate each department participating more consistently from April onwards, and sooner where possible, to enable greater co-ordination and cohesion across HMG and the basis for negotiating outcomes and investment to underpin the productivity stream and deal ambitions.

3. Growth Deal Governance and Productivity Stream

The Housing and Growth Deal Delivery Plan confirms that the Oxfordshire Growth Board terms of reference will be reviewed by April 2018 to reflect new responsibilities for oversight of the deal.

The Delivery Plan confirms that, once approved by the constituent authorities and OxLEP Board, delivery of the Deal will be overseen by the Oxfordshire Growth Board. It will make all decisions on the use of the grant funding allocated to the Deal by Government.

Oversight of the productivity stream of the Deal and any programme which emerges from the negotiations with HMG will be delivered by OxLEP and overseen by the OxLEP Board, with progress reports being incorporated into existing standing agenda items for Growth Board meetings.

As part of the refreshed governance, new groups will be established for each workstream of the Deal which will report into the Growth Board. They will cover Infrastructure Funding, Affordable Housing, and a Joint Statutory Spatial Plan Project Board to guide the preparation of the JSSP. We anticipate OxLEP representation on each of these new groups. The envisaged structure is shown at annex 1

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To support the implementation of the Deal, a Deal Delivery Director and Programme Managers for each of the three workstreams will be appointed. The Director will work closely with the OxLEP Executive Team to support the delivery of the productivity stream.