

Draft notes of the Oxford Economic Growth Steering Group Meeting

Venue: Andrew Wilkes Building, Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Woodstock Road

Date: 16th September 2015

Attendees:

Richard Venables, ProOxford Group and VSL & Partners (Vice Chair)

Andrew Baxter, Oxford Brookes University

Sebastian Johnson, Oxford Strategic Partnership

Richard Rosser, The In Oxford Group / B4

Matt Peachey, Oxford City Council

Richard Byard, Oxfordshire County Council

Llewelyn Morgan, Oxfordshire County Council

Sara Fernandez, Student hubs

Ian Francis, City of Oxford College

John Houghton, Shared Intelligence

Lee Shostak, Shared Intelligence

Matthew Kaye, Shared Intelligence

Lynn Shepherd, Chair of Venturefest

David Edwards, Director Oxford City Council

Tom Morris, Oxford City Council

Nigel Tipple, Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP)

Dr. Stuart Wilkinson, University of Oxford

Jude Eaves, Oxford Trust

Fiona Piercy, Regeneration Manager Oxford City Council

Caroline Bucklow, Social Enterprise Network Navigator OxLEP

Grant Hayward, Social Enterprise Network Navigator OxLEP

1. Welcome and apologies

Sebastian Johnson offered to chair the meeting in the absence of Cllr. Bob Price and welcomed everyone. Apologies of absence were received from:

Cllr Bob Price, Oxford City Council

Dr Phil Clare, University of Oxford

Helen Brind, City of Oxford College

Jonathan Riggall, Peter Brett Associates

Laurie-Jane Taylor, City Centre Manager (City / County Councils)

Simon Cox, Centrica

Nick Scott-Ram MBE, Oxford Academic Health Sciences Network

Hayley Beer-Gamage, Experience Oxfordshire

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

The notes of the last meeting which had already been circulated and were agreed as accurate with no amendments made.

3. Updates

a. Visitor Welcome: 'A meeting was held with representatives of private hire and Hackney carriage taxis, Experience Oxfordshire and 3 hoteliers, regarding ways of enhancing the quality of visitor welcome and information. Next steps for follow up;

- Experience Oxfordshire and Oxford City Council to look into training options and funding. The Town Team will also be involved, given the overlap with their work
- Paul Russell of Heythrop Park offered to provide their venue and in-house expertise on training needs.
- Experience Oxfordshire to explore options for improved point visitor information to be provided within taxis
- A discussion will take place with City Council licencing on options to engage more positively with COLTA members to meet the above aims and issues (service, appearance, pricing, payment options, and recognition schemes).
- The meeting also engaged taxi providers in providing information for an ultra-low emission vehicle taxi scheme, currently funded to feasibility stage.

We need to follow up with Experience Oxfordshire on dialogue with other transport providers. Finally, the Visitor Welcome programme of action was put forward for the Creative, Cultural, Heritage and Tourism Investment Prospectus being prepared by the LEP. This does not guarantee funds but could provide a strategic hook for future investment.

b. Economic Growth Strategy: The updated action plan was circulated to group members in July for any comments. Comments were received from both the County Council and University of Oxford. A final version will be circulated incorporating those comments.

c. Business Voice: Richard Venables reported that discussions had taken place with some business leaders about taking this idea forward. There was however a need to explore further with the business community which 'model' should be developed. The Buckinghamshire / Berkshire model did seem to offer a reasonable approach; progress would be reported to the Steering Group at its next meeting.

d. Town Team: The Town Team have missed Laurie Taylor who unfortunately has been away ill recently but is now returning to work. The key priority on the forthcoming agenda is whether now is the right time to take forward the BID for the City centre.

e. Business in Oxford 2015 and 2016: Richard Rosser said that the comments back on the 2015 event last year had been very positive. Preparation work was now already underway on the event for next year, but any support to publicise Business in Oxford 2016 would be greatly appreciated, since getting the right number of business representatives along at this event is critical.

f. Venturfest 2015: Lynn Shepherd reported that Venturest had been very successful with high numbers attending and low drop out – a charge had been made to attend for the first time. Plans are already progressing for 2016.

4. Part 2: European Capital of Innovation 2016 Bid – Workshop discussion

There then followed a workshop discussion to develop the themes for the European Capital of Innovation Bid, which was chaired by Lee Shostack from Shared Intelligence. A separate note of the discussion has already been circulated and the next meeting focussing on the bid confirmed for 9.30 am on **12th October** at **Oxford Brookes Gypsy Lane Campus**. On arrival, report to reception in the **John Henry Brookes Building (JHBB)** to be directed to "Executive Meeting Room JHB 128", which looks out on the atrium. Parking is limited on site so please advise early if you need a space.

5. Next meetings

The next meeting will be held on the Thursday **10th December 2015** from 10.00am to 12.00. The venue will be confirmed nearer the time but any offers for hosting are welcome.