

Oxford Economic Growth Steering Board (EGSB) TOR

1. Purpose and role of the EGSB

Oxford city needs to effectively **articulate, act and influence to support local economic growth, development and regeneration priorities**. Sustainability and fairness might also be more central to Oxford's approach to economic development.

The EGSB needs to do this in a way that is both cognisant and supportive of the county-wide spatial and economic strategies led by the Growth Board and OxLEP, aware of Oxford's county-wide, regional, national and international economic inter-relationships.

Oxford is important. It is a world class city of learning, knowledge, innovation and growth and focal point for investment. Oxford has significant ongoing issues with economic and social inequality exacerbated by educational attainment and health issues. Events in developed economies highlight the urgent need to distribute the benefits and opportunities of growth more widely. Issues related to tight housing and labour markets and supply deficits that hamper our enviable growth potential, worsening inequalities and dampening output. Oxford's economic development needs must be considered with both local residents and the regional population in mind. Key requirements that follow include:

- A refreshed, simplified Economic Growth Strategy that should align more closely with the LEP's, and draw from the newly published Oxford Economic Profile (Jan 2018)
- EGSB should continue working as a multi-sector partnership to engage with and provide a more consistent voice for the Oxford business community. It can build on this to represent a wider group.

3. Vision and Objectives

Collaborate to enable Oxford to fulfil its role as a world leading city that supports sustainable and inclusive, innovation led economic growth region-wide; aligning with and complementing the strengths of the city-region.

Objectives:

- Identify areas of both concern and new opportunity, and act in partnership to enable positive change, attracting the appropriate support and resources to do so.
- To engage widely with business/employers in Oxford and voice their needs, ensuring that these are understood by OxLEP, educational institutions, local authorities and national government alike.
- To regularly review and monitor the Oxford Economic Narrative and progress of the Oxford Economic Growth Strategy.
- To align with wider local, regional and national strategic plans and projects.

4. Ways of working

These will focus more on areas that need to change, can change, and require leadership and partnership to do so, alongside the pre-existing strategic objectives. Ways of working include:

- Task & Finish Approach (decisive action on key issues and opportunities by sub-groups with wider members)
- Monitoring approach (strategy and economy)
- Engaging and consulting (employer's needs and aligning connected strategies)
- Voicing (communicating effectively)
- Reporting (both to the OSP, its other sub-groups and back to member's organisations).
- It is envisaged the key governance and organisation arrangements will otherwise remain similar to those agreed in 2014 (see appendix 1).
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5. Membership

The membership's engagement levels and willingness to contribute have been a consistent strength of the EGSB. Striking a balance between private, academic and public sector representation will be key as will the need to align with wider interests that have a stake in the vision and strategy going forward, including those that may offer an alternative view.

The membership will align closely with Strategic Economic Plan and OxLEP sub-strategy groupings (innovation, skills, culture and tourism, growth board functions and environment) and provide a sounding board for Oxford in the regional context and ensure representative, active and engaged membership that offers leadership on issues. The membership must be knowledgeable, networked and pro-actively involved.

The approach is to build upon the strong membership in place to ensure improved coverage across key sectors and areas the areas aligning with the SEP, whilst ensuring pro-active, valuable contribution. A private sector chair would aid this process.

EGSB Governance Arrangements

Chair: The Chair and Vice Chair will be the Oxford City Council representative on LEP and the Oxford Business Representative on the LEP. The Chair and/or Vice Chair will lead on reporting to the Oxford Strategic Partnership Steering Board up to twice a year.

Executive Support: Executive support will be provided by Oxford City Council's Economic Development Team. This will include the following tasks:

- Convening meetings
- Providing briefing papers as required
- Co-ordinating and reporting on progress against the Economic Growth Strategy Action Plan
- Support and brief members of the Steering Board as required
- Providing an overview report to the OSP Steering Group
- Ensure links to wider OSP work and priorities

Meeting dates: Quarterly – March, June, September and December each year. Meetings will be no longer than two hours in duration

Attendance: An appropriate substitute may be sent if a Steering Board member is unable to attend. Other attendees will be invited to attend as appropriate based on the agenda and key focus of discussions.

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Governance and Structure: The Steering Board sits under the Oxford Strategic Partnership Steering Group and will act as the co-ordinating group for the Oxford Economic Voice ensuring that businesses messages, views and priorities from the city are fed into the LEP, local authorities and central government and any other appropriate policy or funding bodies.

The Oxford Strategic Partnership has adopted a set of principles - based on the Nolan principles for public life - to guide its actions, and promote public confidence in its actions - www.oxfordpartnership.org.uk/guiding_principles.asp. The Steering Board will work to those principles

Any declarations of interest will be declared at the start of the meeting, if required.

Meetings are held in public but are not public meetings.

Forward Plan: The Steering Board will take up to two items for detailed reporting and discussion at its meetings. These will either be focussed on an element / action within the Economic Growth Strategy or focussed on a sector or network important to the city and the wider economic area.

The Forward Plan will be agreed by the Steering Board and members are encouraged to suggest and facilitate items for discussion and debate.