

## Economic Growth Sub-group Report to OSP

OSP sub-group theme: Oxford Economic Growth Board

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Date of previous update: June 2016

### 1. Brief overview statement

In March 2018, the Oxford Economic Growth Board agreed a new Terms of Reference and expanded its membership (see appendix 1 for more detail).

Under the new terms of reference, the Board is representing a broader range of sectors, effectively engaging with and providing a consistent voice for Oxford employers and business community. Their views and concerns will be fed into city (OSP), county-wide, sub regional and national economic policy discussions and guide economic growth related projects, initiatives and developments.

Following Cllr Bob Price's recent departure, Peter Nolan, Chief Business Officer of Oxford BioMedica has agreed to Chair the Group, aligning with his new role as an OXLEP Director. His role with Oxford BioMedica has recently become part time. Other new members have been attracted from Oxford University Press (Rachel Goode, Group Comms Director) and Rebellion (Jason Kingsley, CEO and Founder) who will represent local sectors of importance to the economy.

### 2. Achievements since last report

The Group has played a role in shaping and initiating the following key areas of work;

- Making Business in Oxford (led by B4 as a Board Member) a bigger, more effective annual business engagement, information and networking opportunity with over 900 delegates in 2018
- Creating a Task and Finish Group on the requirement for start-up and grow on space in the city, and worked to stimulate new developments
- Delivering an ongoing programme of 'Oxford Business Forum' events to debate issues of importance, with the support of OxLEP and Oxfordshire County Council
- Publishing the Oxford Economic Profile 2018, building on the Oxford Economic Narrative developed in 2013. This is a pre-cursor to refreshing the city's Economic Growth Strategy
- The group has provided input into the vision and economy and employment policy options for the Oxford Local Plan 2036
- The group provided input into the development of the refreshed Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan
- The Smart Oxford sub-group has put in place a full time project resource to more effectively coordinate this work across the city and county.
- The City Council has taken a shared approach to account management of major employers with OxLEP.

### 3. Areas of focus for the next 6-12 months

The Group has agreed the following areas to focus on:

- To facilitate more coherent communication and lobbying on local business needs, for example, working to communicate the economic importance of bringing forward planned rail investments
- To provide input into the OXLEP led Local Industrial Strategy Trailblazer to be agreed with Government
- To follow this with a refreshed Economic Growth Strategy and Action Plan for the city, so the city better signals and fulfils its economic role within the context of the sub-region and Ox2Cam Growth Corridor
- To engage with local authorities on the potential to derive social, economic and environmental value (social value) through major capital spend
- To support to work of the newly formed City Centre Task Force, which will align with the OSP and this group
- Inclusive Economy Task Group: This will work to make Oxford a 'Living Wage City', a pilot initiative of the Living Wage Foundation, and develop an 'Inclusive Recruitment Charter' for Oxford Employers. Several employers have agreed to join the group meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018
- Through Smart Oxford develop a 12-24 month road map and terms of reference for Smart Oxford.
- Support the work of the city council and partners in shaping key development projects that are moving to planning stage
- Continue to look for opportunities to add new enterprise and innovation space across the city
- Continue to build on the engagement with businesses across the city and communicate the outcomes.

### 4. Requests for OSP support/advice/action/intervention (if required)

Ask that the OSP Board lends support and influence on the following initiatives pro-actively where required

- Engages with the process of developing a refreshed Economic Strategy
- City Centre Task Force (this covers a number of areas in addition to Economic Growth)
- The Inclusive Economy Task & Finish Group. This may need input from OSP members in future, given its targeting of anchor employers and institutions.