

The Oxfordshire Growth Board

An overview – Autumn 2019

The Oxfordshire Growth Board was established in 2014 as a partnership between the six councils of Oxfordshire working together with partner organisations from across the county and further afield.

It exists to help Oxfordshire's leaders and partners work together for the benefit of the county's residents by building consensus on strategic issues such as supporting good economic growth, strategic service planning and placemaking.

The board has no direct decision-making powers in relation to planning and development, which is carried out by the elected councillors at the district and city councils.

It is organised as a joint committee and is made up of the Leaders from each of the district councils, the city council and the county council. The Leaders can vote at board meetings – votes are based on decisions they are able to make on behalf of their councils. Sometimes agreements reached at the Growth Board on key strategic issues are taken back to be voted on by councillors at the relevant councils to ensure the views of the public are taken into account.

There are also representatives from other organisations who sit on the board and are able to contribute to any discussion, but do not have a vote. The organisations represented in this capacity are the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, the NHS, the Environment Agency, Oxford's Universities and Homes England.

The board meets in public six times a year and its work is reviewed by a Scrutiny Panel comprised of county, district and city councillors from across Oxfordshire. The panel can make recommendations, which the board will consider and respond to at each of its meetings.

There are also three groups of councillors from each of the Oxfordshire councils known as *advisory sub-groups* who meet to update, support and advise the board on Infrastructure, Affordable Housing, and the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 respectively. These sub-groups are aligned to the work taking place at all the councils on the £215m Housing and Growth Deal agreed with the government in 2018.