

# OXFORDSHIRE

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## G R O W T H   B O A R D

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### Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy Stage 1 Consultation

#### **Key Facts**

If you would prefer to submit your feedback on the OxIS Stage 1 consultation by email rather than through the website please use this form and send to [oxis@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:oxis@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation please provide this in answer to the initial question. By providing an organisation name, you are confirming that you have the permission of the organisation to represent them and agree to all terms concerning how these comments may be used.

As well as the main website, the consultation includes a summary report and a technical report with more detail of the project work undertaken. They can be downloaded from <https://www.oxfordshireopenthought.org/oxfordshire-infrastructure-strategy-oxis>

#### **How will my comments be used?**

Comments submitted before August 31 will be used to help inform the completion of the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy 2021 Stage 1 summary and technical reports. The project team will review and analyse this feedback and will produce a paper, to accompany the final reports, for presentation at a Growth Board meeting later this year (to be known in future as the Future Oxfordshire Partnership)

We may wish to highlight particular comments – this is not necessarily an endorsement of the content but to give a representative overview of the feedback received and to illustrate a particular feedback theme that may emerge. We may publish all or extracts of comments on the Oxfordshire Open Thought website or partner websites/ social media pages.

#### **Next Steps**

Feedback from the consultation will be analysed and may be used to make changes to the Stage 1 reports. Finalised documents will be presented to the Oxfordshire Growth Board for consideration of endorsement, currently scheduled for November 2021.

## Copy of Online questions

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Are you responding on behalf of an organisation or group?

**Witney Oxford Transport Group - <https://witneyoxfordtransport.org.uk/>**

Following Stage 1, as part of the future stages we will be looking at the county's infrastructure needs for the period 2040 – 2050 to support the Oxfordshire Plan 2050. If you represent an organisation, please indicate below if you would like to be kept informed of this work and provide a contact email address. We will only use this email address for the purposes of OxIS, the Oxfordshire Plan and associated work.

**[cmaynard@witneyoxfordtransport.org.uk](mailto:cmaynard@witneyoxfordtransport.org.uk)**

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## OxIS Themes

### Question 1 of 9

What is important to you?

Please can you rank the 5 themes from most to least importance (1 to 5) from your perspective?

- Environment            3
  - Health                    5
  - Place-shaping          2
  - Productivity            4
  - Connectivity            1
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## Infrastructure Governance

### Question 2 of 9

Are there any areas of key infrastructure governance that we have not included in our summary?

**England's Economic Heartland, the Sub-National Transport Body, as a Key Strategic Partner**

### **A Place Based Focus**

#### Question 3 of 9

Do you have any comments on the place-based methodology set out in the report and on the webpages? If so, let us know

**The place-based approach at the local level could overlook significant economic / transport corridors where a combination of places would support a single, multi-benefit infrastructure intervention. In West Oxfordshire for example the A40 corridor, with an existing combined population of c.50k in Eynsham-Witney-Carterton which is planned to grow very significantly by 2040, will justify a new high-capacity rapid transit scheme on its own alignment and within that timescale.**

## Strategic Needs

### Question 4a of 9

Please can you rate your support for strategic environment needs out of 5, as identified in the reports.

**Strongly support (5)**

### Question 4b of 9

Please can you rate your support for strategic health needs out of 5, as identified in the reports.

**Support (4)**

### Question 4c of 9

Please can you rate your support for strategic place shaping needs out of 5, as identified in the reports.

**Strongly support (5)**

### Question 4d of 9

Please can you rate your support for strategic productivity needs out of 5, as identified in the reports.

**Support (4)**

### Question 4e of 9

Please can you rate your support for strategic connectivity needs out of 5, as identified in the reports.

**Strongly support (5)**

### Question 4f of 9

Do you have any additional comments on the strategic needs themes? If so, please let us know?

**No.**

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## Identifying Key Infrastructure

### Question 5 of 9

Do you have any comments on the approach to the identification of strategic infrastructure schemes?

**In ‘considering schemes that are already proposed in established sources by key stakeholders across the county’ and ‘not devising new proposals’, Stage 1 of OxIS runs the serious risk of excluding currently-emerging schemes which will be necessary and deliverable by 2040. Witney Oxford Transport Group must cite The Windrush Line as just such a case in point. Its established policy basis is in ‘Connecting Oxfordshire’, the Local Transport Plan 2015-31, Volume 3, Rail Strategy, chapter 6, Potential future projects: Oxford-Witney Rail Link: “*The county council will retain the option of a rail line to Witney as a longer term aspiration in its A40 Strategy, and will pursue opportunities to***

***realise the aspiration with Network Rail and train operators in the future.”***  
There is now such a live opportunity to realise that aspiration, with or without support from the DfT’s ‘Restoring Your Railway’ Ideas Fund, and the County Council is pursuing it.

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## **Scheme Gaps**

### **Question 6a of 9**

Are there any environment scheme gaps that you feel have not been identified?  
Click or tap here to enter text.

### **Question 6b of 9**

Are there any health scheme gaps that you feel have not been identified?  
Click or tap here to enter text.

### **Question 6c of 9**

Are there any place-shaping scheme gaps that you feel have not been identified?  
Click or tap here to enter text.

### **Question 6d of 9**

Are there any productivity scheme gaps that you feel have not been identified?  
Click or tap here to enter text.

### **Question 6e of 9**

Are there any connectivity scheme gaps that you feel have not been identified?

**We acknowledge that ‘Rapid transit schemes’ are among the identified ‘Recommended Additional Future Connectivity Schemes to Address Environment Needs to 2040’ as “rail services are internationally recognised to provide multiple benefits to address key OxIS Needs”. We must however note that, as one such, The Windrush Line will continue to be making progress through its project development phases within the same timescale as the development of OXIS and Oxfordshire Plan 2050. In our considered opinion it should therefore be included in the Multi-Criteria Scheme Appraisal as a Regional / County-wide scheme. There is an extremely strong likelihood that the project development will be materially further-advanced by the time Future Oxford Partnership convenes as currently anticipated in November 2021.**

## **Appraisal Methodology**

### **Question 7 of 9**

What do you think about the appraisal methodology?

**Witney Oxford Transport Group has no issues with the appraisal methodology per se, other than to reiterate the concern about a possible rigidity of process which might carry the risk of excluding high-value multi-benefit schemes such as The Windrush Line which are eminently deliverable by 2040.**

## **Scheme Appraisal**

### **Question 8 of 9**

Do you have any comments on the outcome of the scheme appraisal?

**Acknowledging that the OXIS process has been ongoing for some time, it has nevertheless omitted any recognition of the Department for Transport's initiative "*Restoring Your Railway*" launched in January 2020 and the subsequent bid by the Witney Oxford Transport Group to the third round of the Ideas Fund in March 2021 "*Building a better-connected West Oxfordshire, transforming the wider Oxford economic region*" – The Windrush Line.**

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## **Funding & Deliverability**

### **Question 9 of 9**

Do you have any comments on the funding and deliverability approaches outlined? Are there any funding and delivery mechanisms that have been missed?

**Acknowledging again that the OXIS process has been ongoing for some time, and that the application of a particular 'New & Emerging Funding Stream' in Britain has only quite recently secured public recognition, Land Value Capture as pioneered by E-Rail with The Northumberland Line has very recently been investigated in detail as a mechanism for supporting The Windrush Line, and is pointing to a very substantial proportion of the scheme costs being funded in that way. The same methodology has also been applied to the Cowley branch line, with similar results. As this response is being submitted, steps are already in hand to share the confidential results with the County Council.**

**Thank you for your time in responding to this consultation**

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