

Oxfordshire Environment Board

To Bev Hindle,
CC Cllr Sue Cooper (Chair, Oxon Growth Board)
Stefan Robinson, Oxon Growth Board Manager

26th November

Re: Oxfordshire Growth Board Review

Dear Bev,

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in a review of the Growth Board's priorities and format. We have completed the survey document but thought it would also help to summarise our views in a covering note.

Our overall hope is, that as a result of the review, the Growth Board will in future feel justified in placing far greater priority on environmental sustainability, and recognise its role in helping to create and drive ambition for Oxfordshire's environment.

We have been encouraged to learn of the consideration being given to an environmental workstream. We welcome this idea, providing of course it is backed with the necessary resources, and would be pleased to continue our conversations around how the Oxfordshire Environment Board could support this.

However, this will only be effective if it is not an approach undertaken in isolation. The environment must be comprehensively taken into account in strategic decisions regarding growth and development in the county. This means embedding environmental expertise across all levels of Growth Board activity.

The Growth Board currently lacks representation from the non-governmental environment sector. We believe this gap must be addressed if the Growth Board is successfully to bring forward strategic plans for the County that are in line with stated Government ambitions, such as the 25 Year Plan for the Environment and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. This approach will also help address the Climate Emergency, recognised by all our local authorities, and contribute to climate action.

Collectively, OxEB members have a wealth of expertise and knowledge, as well as active engagement with many local residents, which could help the Growth Board to achieve its objective of facilitating and enabling joint working on economic development, strategic planning and growth. We therefore ask the Growth Board to consider OxEB's request for membership.

Yours sincerely

Jayne Manley, (CEO Earth Trust), on behalf of the [Oxfordshire Environment Board](#)

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