

Supplementary Papers

The Future Oxfordshire Partnership

held in the The Long Room, Oxford City Council, Town Hall, St Aldate's,
Oxford, OX1 1BX
on Tuesday, 13 June 2023 at 2.00 pm

4. **Public participation** (Pages 185 - 186)
Response to the question submitted by Ian Green, Chair of the Oxford Civic Society
5. **Future Oxfordshire Partnership Scrutiny Panel update** (Pages 187 - 190)
Response to the Panel's recommendations
9. **Progress Report from the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership**
(Pages 191 - 199)

Slides presented at the meeting
12. **Key Partnership Activity and Delivery in the Energy Space** (Pages 200 - 210)

Slides presented at the meeting

Public speakers

13 June 2023

1. Ian Green, Chairman Oxford Civic Society

Planning Advisory Group Draft Terms of Reference

Oxford Civic Society is very pleased to see this Draft Terms of Reference – we have been looking forward to it. Our five comments are as follows:

1. **Purpose and objectives:** we are delighted that a Planning Advisory Group is proposed to provide a forum in which local authority members can discuss county-wide strategic planning matters.

We suggest much more emphasis on the provision of a wide-ranging strategic planning forum. The forum provided by the Group would be enriched with the inclusion of business interest groups, community interest groups, academic interests and strategic planning expertise.

A wide-ranging strategic planning forum could provide stimulating ideas from all quarters and could be extremely useful to the local planning authorities and the county council.

2. **Membership and Appointments:** paragraph 2.5 is welcome as it acknowledges that partnerships, with wider partners and experts are expected. But it is unnecessarily qualified in that wider participation will be as the agendas of meetings require.
3. **Meeting Arrangements and Structure:** paragraph 6.2 stipulates that the Group will meet in private. Why? The future of the county is of great public interest.
4. **Work Plan:** one of the gaps in strategic planning in the county is infrastructure investment planning – how do we overcome the massive infrastructure funding shortfall? Could the Planning Advisory Group take this on, with a specialist sub-group looking at innovative funding sources?

This is consistent with one of the suggestions made by FOP for the work of FOP – ‘commissioning a piece of work to explore innovative funding options e.g., land value capture, social bonds to support in financing infrastructure ambitions, as well as other workstreams which support delivery of the Strategic Oxfordshire Vision’.

This is very consistent with an Oxford Civic Society report of July 2022¹ which emphasised the importance of integrated development planning.

¹ Oxfordshire in 2050 – Linking Oxfordshire’ development policies and strategies – a briefing note. Oxford Civic Society, July 2022

5. **Challenge:** the Oxfordshire 2050 Plan largely failed because agreement could not be reached on the rate, pace and distribution of employment and housing growth. Why did it fail? Does the design of the Planning Advisory Group address the reasons for the failure?

Response:

The support from the Oxford Civic Society for a strategic planning forum is welcome. The purpose of the proposed Planning Advisory Group is to provide a forum in which local authority members can discuss county wide strategic planning matters, and this will help delivery of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision for Long Term Sustainable Development.

The proposed terms of reference make clear that Local Plans for the City and District Councils now provide the framework for long term planning across Oxfordshire. The individual councils maintain sovereignty over the content of local plans through their own internal processes, as local planning authorities. The Planning Advisory Group offers a mechanism through which to work cooperatively and constructively in developing respective Plans and other key strategies.

Each of the City and Districts set out in their respective Statements of Community Involvement how they will engage with the community and wider interest groups in developing their Local Plans. The Local Plan engagement and consultation processes provide the best place to hear stimulating ideas from all quarters and to influence Local Plan policy.

The Future Oxfordshire Partnership advisory group meetings are not formal decision taking meetings, they are there to encourage informal discussion and to help identify areas of common agreement. Therefore, they are not public meetings. Updates are given to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership in public, and summary notes are published.

The Planning Advisory Group if established may wish to work closely with the Infrastructure Advisory Group on the review of the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy . The point made about exploring innovative funding options is worth considering.

Each Local Plan will have to consider the future level of housing and employment need and be tested through an independent examination. The City and Districts will engage with each other on those questions, and the Planning Advisory Group will provide a useful forum for discussion supporting the Duty to Cooperate.

Future Oxfordshire Partnership response to recommendations of the Partnership Scrutiny Panel made on 13 June 2023

The Future Oxfordshire Partnership is requested to provide a response to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel for decision at its meeting on 6 June 2023.

Recommendation	Comment
<p><u>Item 7: Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership (OIEP) Update</u></p> <p>Recommendation 1:</p> <p>The Panel was pleased to see the good progress made in the development of the OIEP. In continuing to support the work of the OIEP, the Panel would request that the OIEP be asked through the Future Oxfordshire Partnership to consider the following summary feedback of points raised by Panel members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst supporting the expansion of initiatives such as Arch Readers in improving education attainment, problems in recruiting and retaining school staff, (for example Teaching Assistants) be recognised • The importance of the promotion and support of co-operative enterprises as part of the OIEP’s social value and procurement workstream • Importance of adult education and the challenges around adult numeracy and literacy, (for example amongst ex-offenders) in address inequality 	<p>The Future Oxfordshire Partnership is happy to suggest to OIEP that the Chairs of its relevant subgroups should consider the valuable points raised by the Scrutiny Panel when delivering the vision of the partnership through its strategy and delivery plan.</p> <p>In addition, the Future Oxfordshire Partnership notes ongoing work between OxLEP and the OIEP to seek to address the issues raised by the Scrutiny Panel, for instance through the ‘Social Contract’ programme and the Local Skills and Improvement Plan.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of developing skills of young people in the emerging green sector such as retrofit and insulation as well as capturing skills and knowledge in traditional areas for the future • The importance of access to low cost and local travel solutions for disadvantaged groups including young people. • Higher rates of youth unemployment • The importance of understanding and taking account of the needs of Oxfordshire's diverse urban and rural communities • The role of placemaking and the value to be added by the support of local community start-ups in instilling a sense of community pride • That factors relating to gender be recognised in the context of inequality, for example numbers of women and girls studying STEM subjects, menopause, and lower rates of educational attainment amongst some male cohorts. 	
<p><u>Item 9: Delivering the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision for Long Term Sustainable Development</u></p> <p>Recommendation 2:</p> <p>The Scrutiny Panel welcomed the update on work being undertaken to map and identify possible areas for joint working to deliver the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision and noted the progress made.</p> <p>The Panel requests that the Future Oxfordshire Partnership agree to add to the factors taken into consideration in filtering and selecting the list of future opportunities for joint working 'acting in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs' as referenced in a motion agreed by Oxfordshire County Council 28 March 2023</p>	<p>The needs of future generations are a key consideration in Oxfordshire's Strategic Vision for Long Term Sustainable Development which looks ahead for the period up to 2050, and the Future Oxfordshire Partnership therefore agrees with this recommendation.</p>

Item 10: Key Partnership Activity in the Energy Space

Recommendation 3:

The Panel supported the recommendations as set out in report. In addition, it requests:

- a) That through the Green Finance workstream of the Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan, consideration be given to funding opportunities which support a decarbonised energy system; the Scrutiny Panel wishes for the workstream to consider [Bristol City Council's success in securing £1bn of investment to support its net zero ambitions as a potential example and model of this.](#)
- b) That opportunities for the application of heat transfer technologies to energy management be investigated, for example use of heat generated from data centres.
- c) That barriers and opportunities to community led projects and a demand side perspective be considered as part of activity in the energy space. For example, the Panel was concerned that the costs and complexity of the planning system could be acting as a barrier to community led solar energy applications.
- d) Clarify how a land use framework or strategic land use principles could be developed and considered to support local area energy planning, and more generally, where it could sit as part of delivering the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision for Long Term Sustainable Development. In the Panel's view this was a matter of urgency.

The Panel also reiterated its view that provision of rooftop solar on new and existing properties should be prioritised over provision on previously undeveloped land.

We support the recommendation that the Green Finance workstream of the Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan consider opportunities which support energy decarbonisation, and will consider how Bristol City Council successfully secured investment in support of net zero ambitions.

Different methods for achieving decarbonisation e.g., heat pumps, battery storage, a decentralised system etc. will be explored through the local area energy planning workstream.

The Future Oxfordshire Partnership (FOP) is happy to learn from examples of good practice elsewhere, while recognising that local area energy planning must take account of specific local circumstances. For example, rural and urban environments may require different approaches. We would expect that our local area energy planning process will take these points into account, seeking to overcome barriers wherever possible and to advocate for change where appropriate.

We recognise the need for improved thinking re multi-functional land use, given increasing pressures on finite land. Local Planning Authorities are currently working on developing their respective local plans, and associated policies, recognising their statutory functions within this space. A new Planning Advisory group will however allow the sharing of information and best practice re multi-functional land use, so to ensure we continue to embed learning as appropriate.

	<p>FOP members are agreed that opportunities for rooftop solar should be maximised but that on its own this will not meet the whole of the need for renewable energy.</p>
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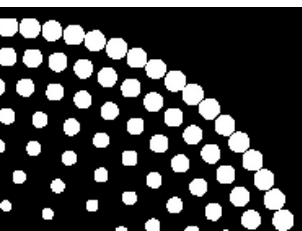


Oxfordshire
Inclusive Economy
Partnership

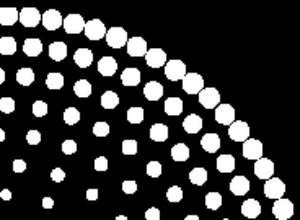
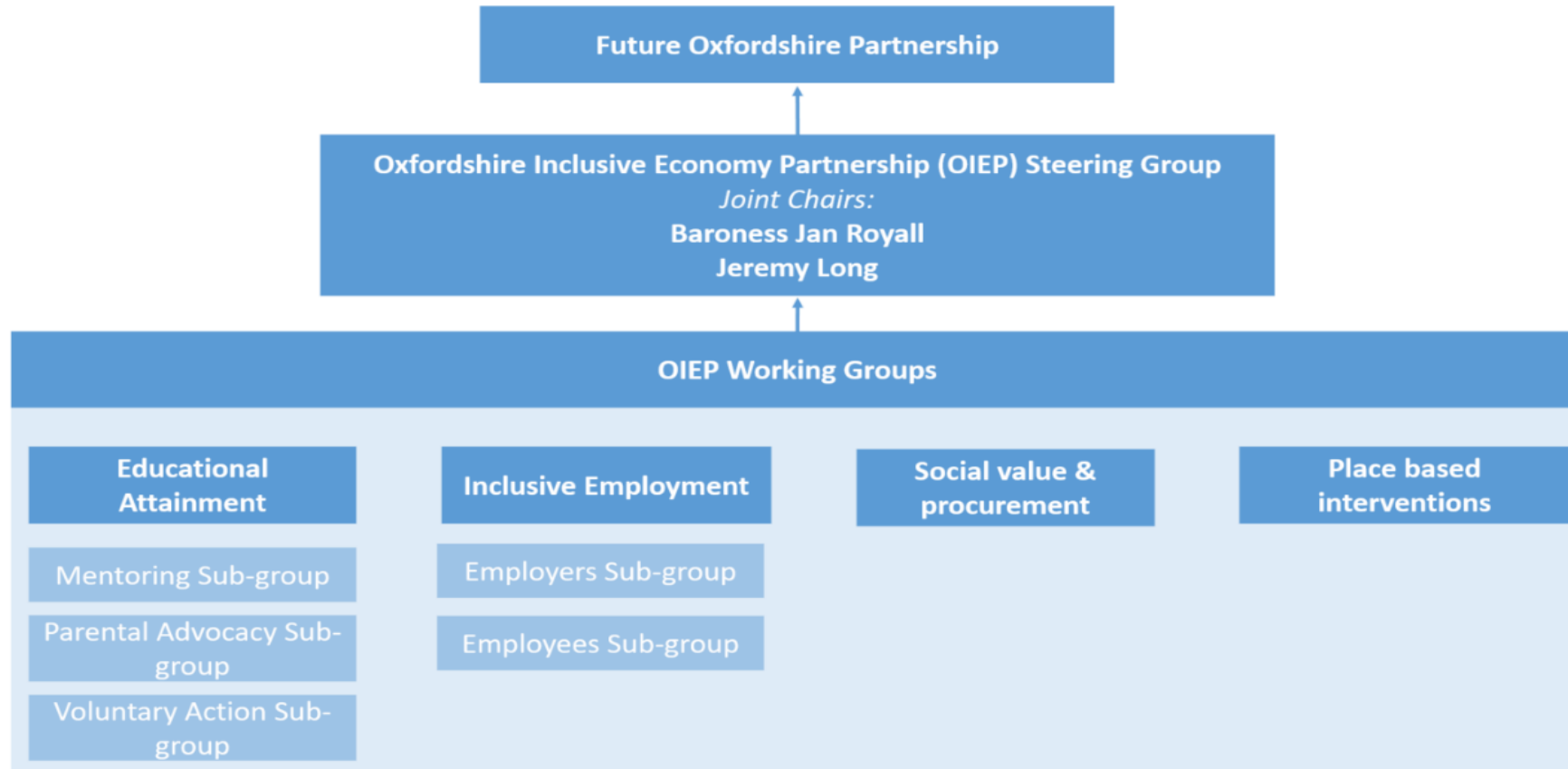
OIEP Progress Report

Future Oxfordshire Partnership

13th June 2023



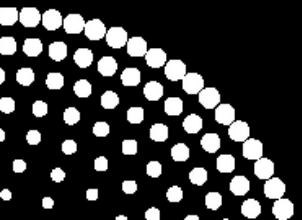
Mission:
"working together to create a more equal region that creates opportunities and benefits for all people within the county"



OIEP Strategy and Delivery Plan



- OIEP Delivery Plan 2023-2024:
 - based on agreed proposals from each working group
 - sets out activity for the next 12 months
- Draft OIEP Strategy 2023-2026 - long term vision and how we will reach our goals and objectives

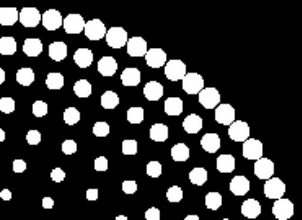


Delivery Plan Updates



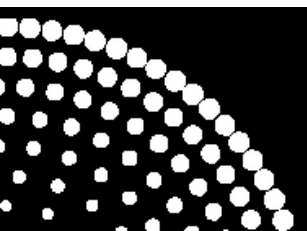
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- Educational Attainment
 - ARCh – (Assisted Reading for Children)
 - Support applying for a grant which
 - 9 organisations that have signed the charter have pledged to provide ARCh volunteers and one has also pledged funding.
 - Parent Power – feasibility study drafted for the implementation of Parent Power in another area of Oxfordshire.
- Inclusive Employment
 - Establishing an OIEP HR network
 - Prison leavers – OIEP will be holding the first HR network in July on the recruitment of prison leavers in Banbury.
 - September - prison open day for employers at Bullingdon Prison
 - Working with partners to develop an employment framework for refugees
- Social Value and Procurement
 - Feasibility project applying for funding for a social value brokerage system for use across Local Authorities
- Place Shaping
 - Working with each of the other working groups to provide data and insight for targeted approach to projects



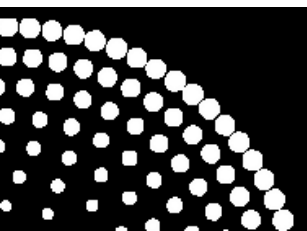


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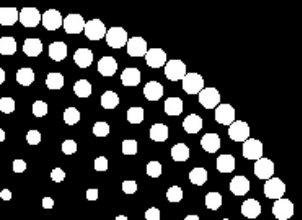


**Oxfordshire
Inclusive Economy
Partnership**



Charter Progress

- Almost 50 organisations signed or in process of signing
- Total number of pledges: approx. 600
- Example of direct impact:
 - Apprenticeship Levy transfer: 5
 - Donation of devices to Getting Oxfordshire On-line: 10
 - Volunteers for ARCh: 9
 - OxGrow mentoring: 5
 - Oxford Living Wage: 17

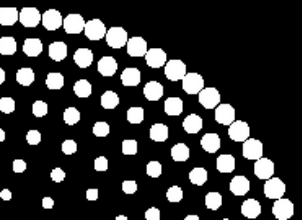


Fundraising

- A fundraising working group has been established with the overarching aims to:
 - Fund and scale the work of the OIEP
 - Ensure the OIEP is sustained as an effective partnership With appropriate secretariat and management resource
 - Seek a variety of funds most appropriate to local needs
 - Seek an element of investment and recyclable funds

Communication

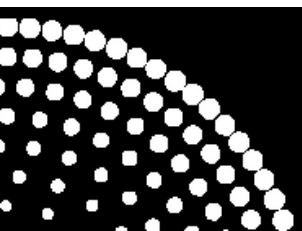
- Raising profile of the charter and engaging more businesses to sign up
- New website - will enable a bespoke approach to how we present and share information for the OIEP and will create a more interactive experience for users.



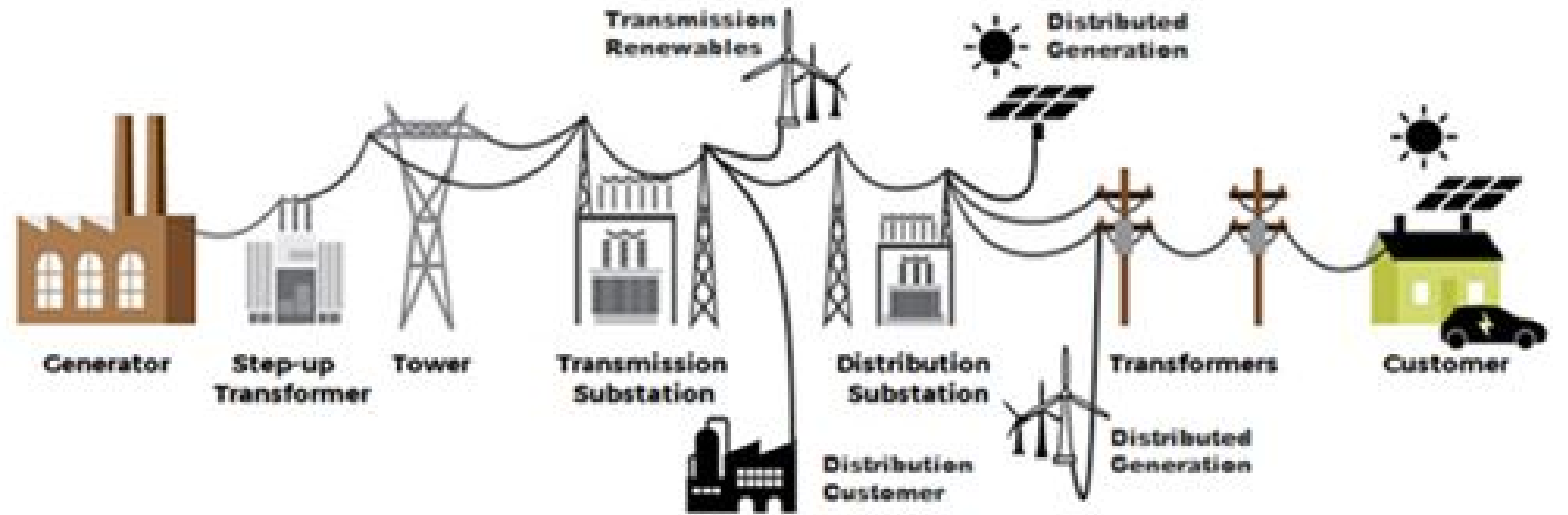
Recommendation

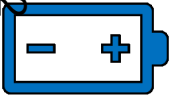


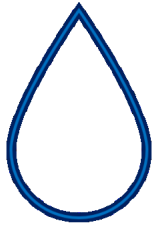
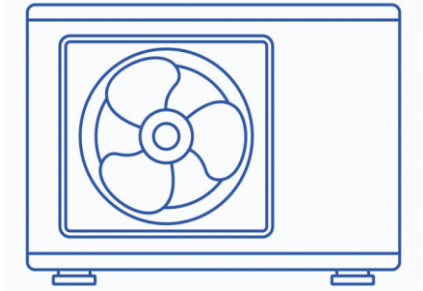
- That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership notes and comments on the update report





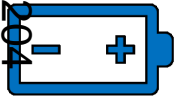








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