Agenda

The Future Oxfordshire Partnership Scrutiny Panel

Tuesday 22 November 2022 at 6.30 pm
Virtual meeting viewable by weblink

Contact: Kevin Jacob, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Senior Democratic Services Officer
E-mail: futureoxfordshirepartnership@southandvale.gov.uk
Telephone: 07917 088356
Website: www.futureoxfordshirepartnership.org

Members:

Councillor Tiago Corais	Oxford City Council
Councillor Katherine Miles	
Councillor Emily Kerr	
Councillor John Broad	Cherwell District Council
Councillor Sandy Dallimore	
Councillor Sean Woodcock	
Councillor Richard Webber	Oxfordshire County Council
Councillor Brad Baines	
Councillor Liam Walker	
Councillor Peter Dragonetti	South Oxfordshire District Council
Councillor David Turner	
Councillor Victoria Haval	
Councillor Andy Cooke	Vale of White Horse District Council
Councillor Nathan Boyd	
Councillor Samantha Bowring	
Councillor Richard Langridge	West Oxfordshire District Council
Councillor Julian Cooper	
Councillor Charlie Maynard	

1. *The quorum is six members, one from each council. Substitutes are allowed and should be notified to the contact above.*

2. *To watch this meeting, follow this link to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership's YouTube channel at https://youtu.be/ewm6mwu4ezE Arrangements are subject to change at short notice so please refer to the agenda page at http://democratic.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=636&MId=3105*

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence, substitutes; declarations of interest, Chair's announcements**

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting** (Pages 6 - 14)

   To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2022.

3. **Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership Update** (Pages 15 - 20)

   To consider a report to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership providing an update on the progress of the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership, highlighting areas of focus for the Partnership moving forward and setting out points for the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

4. **Public participation** (To Follow)

   Members of the public may submit an address or question in writing to the Scrutiny Panel, where full notice of the question or address is given to the secretariat no later than **17:00 on Wednesday 16 November 2022**. Questions and addresses submitted should be no longer than one side of A4 paper in Arial 12 font. The address or question will be circulated to the Panel and public speakers will be invited to speak at the virtual meeting. Written submissions may also be read out by the Chair or Democratic Services Officer where requested or if the person making the request for public speaking is not able to attend the meeting. A response may be given at the meeting or a written answer supplied. Questions and notice of addresses must be submitted to futureoxfordshirepartnership@southandvale.gov.uk

   Note: This meeting may be recorded for live broadcast via the Future Oxfordshire Partnership's YouTube Channel - at the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm the meeting is being filmed. By registering to speak you are consenting to being recorded and to the use of those video and audio recordings for webcasting.

5. **Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership Update** (Pages 21 - 30)

   To consider a paper to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership setting out an update on the progress of the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership, (OIEP) and the development and launch of the OIEP Charter and associated pledges on 24 January 2023.

6. **Delivering the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision** (Pages 31 - 40)

   To consider a report to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership setting out an update on work underway to map out activity aligned to the agreed outcomes of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision; opportunity for discussion and input.

7. **Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Financial Report Quarter 2, Year 5** (Pages 41 - 46)

   To consider a report to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership setting out a financial summary for Quarter 2, Year 5 for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.

8.   Future Oxfordshire Partnership response to Scrutiny Panel recommendations (Pages 47 - 49)

To consider the Future Oxfordshire Partnership's response to the recommendations from the Scrutiny Panel meeting held on **20 September 2022**.

9.   Work programme for the Scrutiny Panel and action log - November 2022 (Pages 50 - 53)

To discuss the draft work programme for the Panel and status of actions from the previous meeting.

10.   Advisory Group Updates

(a)   Infrastructure Advisory Group update (Pages 54 - 61)

To receive the summary notes from the Infrastructure Advisory Group meetings held on 5 September 2022 and 15 September 2022.

(b)   Housing Advisory Group update (To Follow)

To receive an update from the Housing Advisory Group meeting on 1 November 2022.

(c)   Environment Advisory Group update (Pages 62 - 67)

To receive the summary notes of the meeting of the Environment Advisory Group held on 20 September 2022.

11.   Dates of next meetings

The dates of confirmed future Scrutiny Panel meetings are below. Please refer to https://futureoxfordshirepartnership.org/meetings/ for the most up to date information on times and locations.

- Wednesday 18 January 2023
- Monday 13 March 2023
- Tuesday 6 June 2023
- Tuesday 18 July 2023

Councillors' duties on declaring interests

General duty
You must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests when the meeting reaches the item on the agenda headed "Declarations of Interest" or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?
Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to your* employment; sponsorship (ie payment for expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor or towards your election expenses); contracts; land in the council's area; licences for land in the council's area; corporate tenancies; and securities. These declarations must be recorded in each councillor's register of interests which is publicly available on the council's website.

Declaring an interest

Where any matter disclosed in your register of interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest. If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Member's Code of Conduct and public perception

Even if you do not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter, the Councillors' Code of Conduct says that a member "must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself" and that "you must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned". What this means is that the matter of interests must be viewed within the context of the code as a whole and regard should continue to be paid to the perception of the public.

*Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member themselves, but also those of the member's spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.

Minutes
OF A MEETING OF THE

The Future Oxfordshire Partnership Scrutiny Panel

HELD ON TUESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 6.30 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING VIEWABLE BY WEBLINK

Present:

Councillor Katherine Miles (Chair), Councillor Brad Baines, Councillor Nathan Boyd, Councillor John Broad, Councillor Andy Cooke, Councillor Julian Cooper, Councillor Tiago Corais, Councillor Sandy Dallimore, Councillor Peter Dragonetti, Councillor Victoria Haval, Councillor Emily Kerr, Councillor David Turner, Councillor Richard Webber, Councillor Catherine Webber and Councillor Sean Woodcock

Officers contributing to and supporting the Panel:

Andrew Down	Future Oxfordshire Partnership Director
Alex Jeffery	Asst. Democratic Services Officer, Future Oxfordshire Partnership
Susan Harbour	Strategic Partnerships Manager – South and Vale District Councils
Giles Hughes	Senior Responsible Officer, Oxfordshire Plan 2050
Kevin Jacob	Senior Democratic Services Officer – Future Oxfordshire Partnership
John McLauchlan	Head of Service, Infrastructure Programme Office – Oxfordshire County Council
Babatunde Ogundele	Asst. Democratic Services Officer - Future Oxfordshire Partnership
Paul Staines	Interim Head of Programme - Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal
Kathy Wilcox	Head of Financial Strategy – Oxfordshire County Council

Other councillors: Councillor Emily Smith, Chair of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Advisory Group

12. Apologies for absence, substitutes; declarations of interest, Chair's announcements

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillor Samantha Bowring, Vale of White Horse District Council, (substituted by Councillor Catherine Webber), Councillor Richard

Langridge, West Oxfordshire District Council, and Councillor Liam Walker, Oxfordshire County Council.

Councillor Katherine Miles and Councillor John Broad both declared non-pecuniary interests in Item 3, on the grounds that they were members of the Oxford Civic Society. The Society had submitted a public question which neither Councillor Miles nor Councillor Broad had had any involvement with.

It was noted that the meeting was being livestreamed and that a recording would be available here for a period of 12 months.

13. Election of Vice-Chairman for the 2022/2023 year

Councillor Julian Cooper proposed, and Councillor Charlie Maynard seconded, Councillor Richard Langridge as Vice-Chair of the Panel. There being no other nominations, the choice was agreed after being put to a vote.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Richard Langridge be elected as Vice-Chair of the Future Oxfordshire Scrutiny Panel for the 2022/2023 year.

14. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2022 were approved as a correct record.

15. Public participation

The Scrutiny Panel considered two questions and one address from members of the public.

Ian Green, on behalf of the Oxford Civic Society, referred to the ending of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 programme. The Society's view was that a lot of good work had been undertaken before its cessation and that this now needed to be utilised/deployed within the Local Plans. The Panel was asked whether it agreed that a public discussion should be held by the Future Oxfordshire Partnership on making the best use of the work developed to date as part of the creation of Local Plans.

In order to update the Local Plans, the Civic Society was of the opinion that the district and city councils would have to come to a mutually acceptable position on both growth rates and distribution if they were to achieve compliance with the statutory Duty to Cooperate. In order to achieve this each local authority would have to be clear on the levels of employment, housing growth and affordable housing it wanted. Mr Green enquired as to whether the Panel believed that the Future Oxfordshire Partnership should continue to seek agreement across Oxfordshire on growth and also if the Partnership should – at a draft stage – look at the strategic infrastructure implications of all of the Local Plans.

The Society felt that some of the principles of the previous Oxfordshire Plan 2050 programme could still be used, alongside links to other strategies, to assess the environmental and social implications of proposed levels of growth.

John Hill stated to the Panel that there was a continued need for full transparency around the Oxfordshire Growth Needs Assessment (OGNA). In his view, this remained, despite the end of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 programme, an extremely relevant document. Mr Hill

referred to answers that had previously been provided to him following questions that he had asked at the Future Oxfordshire Partnership meeting in June 2022. Those queries had related to the assumptions behind the employment forecasts/projections by seeking clarity about their reliability/validity in light of the changed economic circumstances (he had also sought an explanation about which items were forecasts and which were projections). The responses provided had not in his opinion adequately addressed the issues raised.

The Scrutiny Panel was asked to consider whether it thought that proper answers had been provided to Mr Hill's questions and to enquire as to whether the Partnership intended to rely on evidence gathered as part of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 (and if so, why it had not adequately addressed the points he had raised in June).

Councillor John Fouweather, Oxford City Council, made an address to the Panel in reference to Agenda item 11 – the Review of the Housing from Infrastructure Programme (HfI) – which was due to be considered by the Future Oxfordshire Partnership on 27 September. He commented that for bodies such as the Panel to perform their scrutiny function, papers needed to come before decisionmakers in good time and be publicly available. Councillor Fouweather highlighted the fact that although documents on the proposed changes outlined in the review had been considered by the Infrastructure Advisory Group on 15 September, nothing had been added to the Scrutiny Panel's agenda by morning of the meeting. This not only meant that members had not been afforded the opportunity to read the papers, but also that the public and other stakeholders had not had the time or chance to register to speak on this matter. In his view, this had prevented the Panel from effectively exercising its scrutiny function and removed the opportunity for democratic oversight prior to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership meeting.

Councillor Fouweather set out several detailed points in favour of the retention of both the Milton Heights pedestrian and cycle bridge scheme, the expansion of the Kidlington roundabout proposal and the retention of the original Woodstock Road project. He also laid out arguments for the removal of the Oxpens Bridge scheme from the HfL programme. Councillor Fouweather asked the Panel whether they agreed that the scrutiny of the HfL proposals had been inadequate and not in the spirit of collective decision making. He also enquired as to whether they thought that the case for the Osney Mead/Oxpens Road scheme had not been made.

At the conclusion of Councillor Fouweather's address, the Chair thanked him, Ian Green and John Hill for their attendance. She also welcomed their contributions and commented that these would be considered by the Panel as part of the wider agenda items they related to.

Following an invitation from the Chair to make an initial response to the questions from Ian Green and John Hill, Giles Hughes, Senior Responsible Officer for the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, commented that the issues that they had raised were touched upon within the substantive agenda report – in particular, the principles around future joint working by the councils and the retention of evidence developed through the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 work. Mr Hughes also stated that OGNA (which had been a consultation draft and not agreed policy) was not, in light of the position reached with regards to housing need and the ending of the Plan, going to be taken forward. Instead, local councils would need to come to their own decision about the evidence base needed to support their Local Plans (they would, nevertheless, have to be mindful of the Duty to Cooperate).

In answer to enquiries from the Panel as to whether the demise of the OGNA meant a return to the previous Oxfordshire Strategic Market Assessment and the consultant who produced it, Mr Hughes clarified that each individual council would not only need to come to their own view on housing need and requirements, but also commission work to inform and evidence their conclusions.

16.   Update on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Programme

The Panel considered a report to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership providing an update on the cessation of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and the transition to a process focused on Local Plans. Giles Hughes, Senior Responsible Officer for the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, introduced the paper and, alongside Councillor Emily Smith, Chair of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Advisory Group, answered the Panel's questions.

Mr Hughes highlighted the statement made by the leaders of the respective councils in August 2022 setting out the circumstances that had made it impossible for a consensus to be reached on a single approach to planning for housing. The report contained proposals on how alternative arrangements and principles could be put in place to retain the valuable work and evidence completed as part of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050. It also set out how the councils might put in place a new framework – potentially involving both the renaming of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Advisory Group and the development of new terms of reference – to discuss spatial planning matters of mutual interest beyond the Duty to Cooperate. In 2021, all of Oxfordshire's councils had agreed a Strategic Vision which consisted of a series of high-level objectives – this Vision remains in place.

The Panel, while acknowledging the concerted efforts to reach a consensus on the issue of future housing need, regarded the ending of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 programme with deep regret and disappointment. It was, in their view, a regressive step which will negatively impact on the delivery of sustainable development in Oxfordshire. The Panel also noted the good work that had been achieved by the Oxfordshire 2050 programme and expressed their concerns that, unless the councils across Oxfordshire went beyond their legal obligations under the Duty to Cooperate, this was at risk of being lost.

The Panel strongly supported recommendations 2,3 and 4 as set out in the Update on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Programme report to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership. Furthermore, in the spirit of these proposals:

RESOLVED: That the Panel recommends to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership that it agree the principle that the districts, city and county council should continue to cooperate and collaborate on county wide future spatial planning matters related to the former Oxfordshire Plan 2050 work programme, with the support of a planning advisory group. In doing so, they should aspire to achieve policy coherence and coordination in respective local plans. These topics for collaboration should include, but are not limited to, the Green Belt, carbon reduction, nature recovery, housing density and proximity of housing to employment sites, and active travel infrastructure connecting housing to urban centres.

17.   Future Oxfordshire Partnership response to Scrutiny Panel recommendations

The Chair referred to the response of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership to the recommendations made by the Panel at its June meeting which was noted.

18.   Work programme for the Scrutiny Panel and action log - September 2022

The Panel considered its work programme as set out in the Agenda.

The Chair highlighted the Action Log. This included updates on previously agreed actions, including a full written response from officers to the Panel's request for data on whether occupants for new build housing originated from inside or outside of Oxfordshire. Attention was also drawn to the update regarding the Chair, Councillor Neil and Councillor Hicks liaising with OxLEP and the University of Oxford around innovation. It was recommended to the Panel that it close this action as OxLEP was leading on this area.

In relation to the schedule for future meetings, Councillor Cooke suggested that the large number of items on the Panel's agenda was making it difficult for them to effectively deliver in their role. As a consequence, there might be a need for additional meetings to accommodate the necessary business in sufficient depth. While the Chair commented that the large number of agenda items was primarily influenced by the Future Oxfordshire Partnership's work programme, she did acknowledge the points made and stated that they would be considered in future agenda planning.

RESOLVED: The Panel noted its work programme and updated action log.

19.   Update following the Joint Workshop between the Health & Wellbeing Board and the Future Oxfordshire Partnership

The Panel considered a paper to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership providing an update on actions to address common areas of concern between the Future Oxfordshire Partnership and the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board which had been highlighted at their joint workshop on 9 March 2022. Rosie Rowe, Healthy Place Shaping Lead, Oxfordshire County Council, introduced the report and answered questions from the Panel.

In discussion, members of referred to the update on retrofit in housing and the Pathways to a Zero Carbon Oxfordshire project (PaZCO). It was felt that this was an important area of activity – due to its links to multiple issues besides the cutting of greenhouse gas emissions e.g. the cost of living – and should be given a high priority. Ms Rowe responded that the significance of this issue was fully recognised, especially in relation to the county's existing housing stock. All of Oxfordshire's councils had contributed a total of £210,000 of additional funding for the Health and Care System Fund via the Better Health Service to provide telephone and home visits to people with housing issues. It was hoped that through this money, support could be provided to approximately 10.0 per cent of those living in fuel poverty within Oxfordshire over the next twelve months (it was, nevertheless, also recognised that more needed to be done). The service aims to maximise the income of its clients by both investigating options such as grant entitlements for retrofitting and analysing bills to identify changes that could save money. In addition, more broadly the link was also being made between housing, health and climate change. Ms Rowe agreed that a stretch target in this area could potentially be helpful and that this would be looked into.

Members also raised the issue of air quality and Air Quality Action Plans. While they welcomed the work already undertaken, they questioned the value of additional data gathering given that the locations/roads with poor air quality – and the underlying causes – were well known. They stated that significant investment and action was required to

reduce the level of traffic using these roads was required. The Panel was informed that the details of the actions being taken were set out within the individual council's Air Quality Action Plans. It was, however, recognised that many of these activities consisted of transport policy and highway infrastructure improvement (alongside behavioural changes such as the promotion of cycling and walking). The public health sector was, therefore, seeking to do all that it could to facilitate a joined-up approach between Oxfordshire's local authorities in addressing these issues (and to improve the alert system at times when air quality levels were poor). It was, though, recognised that this would be a difficult and long-term task.

The Panel referred to the need to consider the connectivity of new developments in the round when considering planning applications. This should not just be restricted to an assessment of the road safety of a proposed scheme but should also its cumulative effects on air quality. Members also reiterated their view that building standards needed to be strengthened. Ms Rowe confirmed that the Public Health Team did comment on the impact of major planning applications from a public health perspective and that around issues around connectivity formed part of this. She also mentioned that the rollout of Health Impact Assessments as part of the planning process would assist in this work.

Concerns were expressed by some members of the Panel that too much reliance was being places on the transition to electric vehicles as a way of improving air quality. While this shift could help to reduce noxious gases, it was necessary to recognise that air particulates were probably more dangerous to public health. There also remained the issue of poor quality inside dwellings and public buildings, with the situation potentially being made worse by people cutting back on their heating due to the costs. The Panel were informed that new guidance was going to be issued and targeted campaign launched on this topic.

RESOLVED: The Panel noted the report.

20.   Housing and Growth Deal Reports

(a)   Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Progress Report - Year 5, Quarter 1, 2022/23

The Panel considered a report to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership updating them on the progress of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal at the end of the first quarter of the fifth and final year (2022/23) – it also incorporated the position at the end of 2021/22.

In presenting, Paul Staines, Interim Head of Programme, highlighted that the two targets for the Housing from Infrastructure programme (HfI) had not been achieved as of the end of the 2021/22 financial year when measured against the original five-year period of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal. The Panel was reminded that there was still the possibility of an extension to HfI programme which, if confirmed, would allow for the measurement and inclusion of additional homes within the data. It would not, however, be possible to calculate what this might be at the present time.

Various members expressed their disappointment that the targets for the housing elements of the Deal had not been achieved. They highlighted that this would have significant consequences for individuals and families in need of housing. In response to a question regarding the potential reputational damage that the missing of targets would have with HM Government and future funding opportunities, the Panel was informed that while it was acknowledged that the position was disappointing, it needed to be considered

in the context of the pandemic and the economic slowdown. It was also emphasised that it was important to recognise the fact that even if a scheme was not completed within a specific time period, it did not mean that it would not be delivered at all – the overall ambition to for 100,000 homes to be built by 2031, as set out within the Local Plans, was also a pertinent background consideration.

In relation to how developers could be incentivised to deliver homes as quickly as possible on major sites, this was the function of the HfI programme. Its aim was to facilitate housing delivery by funding the provision of strategic infrastructure designed to unlock major site delivery.

With regards to affordable housing, Councillor Cooke requested further information about the 936 affordable housing units referred to as delivered within the report. Officers were asked to clarify the definition of 'affordable homes' in this context, what the average price paid was for shared ownership homes and what were the interquartile ranges of prices – officers undertook to provide a written response.

RESOLVED: The Panel noted the report but expressed its disappointment that the HfI targets had not been achieved to date.

(b)   Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Financial Report Year 5, Quarter 1, 2022/23

The Panel considered a report to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership setting out the financial position for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal. The report covered the period to the end of Q1 2022/23 – it also incorporated the position as at the end of 2021/22. Kathy Wilcox, Head of Financial Strategy, Oxfordshire County Council, highlighted the following points:

- As of 2021/22 financial year end, the spend from the Housing from Infrastructure fund (HfI) was £110.5m.
- The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, (DLUHC) was reviewing the implications of the decision to end the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 programme along with the final £30m instalment of HfI grant funding.
- It was expected that this would be the final reported update on the Oxfordshire Affordable Housing Programme financial position. This was because future funding streams would not be part of the Housing and Growth Deal and, therefore, not within the county council's purview as the responsible authority.
- £1.8m remained within the Housing and Growth Deal Capacity Fund as of the end of the 2021/2022 financial year.

Members expressed their concerns – in light of the cessation of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 programme – regarding the uncertainty over the final instalment of £30m from HM Government and sought reassurance around what was likely to happen.

In response, Andrew Down, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Director, stated that a meeting was to be held with relevant civil servants later in that week. While it was recognised that owing to ministerial changes there had been some delay, the intention was to emphasise that – despite the ending of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 workstream – the district and city councils had delivered on their obligation to support the delivery of 100,000 new homes within Oxfordshire up to 2031 through their Local Plans. The HfI was about putting in place the infrastructure to help make the delivery of this commitment a reality and, therefore, the

withholding of the final funding instalment by HM Government would be counterproductive. It was, however, stressed that it was impossible to give any guarantees.

RESOLVED: That the Panel noted the report.

(c)   Infrastructure Advisory Group update
The Panel noted the update from the Infrastructure Advisory Group and that an additional urgent item had been added to the Agenda regarding proposed changes to the Housing from Infrastructure (HfI) programme.

(d)   Housing Advisory Group update
The Panel noted the update as set out in the Agenda.

(e)   Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Advisory Group update
The Panel noted the update as set out in the Agenda.

(f)   Environment Advisory Group update
The Panel noted the update as set out in the Agenda.

21.   Dates of next meetings

The dates of future meetings were noted.

22.   Review of Homes from Infrastructure Programme

The Panel considered a presentation setting out suggested changes to the Housing from Infrastructure programme (HfI). The item had been urgently added to the agenda, as the Panel's views needed to be sought prior to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership considering the proposals on 27 September 2022.

Andrew Down, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Director, apologised both for the lateness in the circulation of the presentation slides to members and for the item only being published earlier that day. Unfortunately, it had not been possible to circulate them any earlier due to the significant necessary work that had to be undertaken and the need to obtain the necessary approvals. It was, however, fully recognised that what had occurred was not best practice.

In relation to the proposals regarding Oxpens Bridge – and in light of the comments made about this scheme earlier in the meeting – Mr Down informed the Panel that it was his understanding that Oxford City Council saw the project as a priority because it would unlock the highest number of new homes.

John McLauchlan, Head of Service, Infrastructure Programme Office, Oxfordshire County Council, presented the review of the HfI and answered questions from members of the Panel. He highlighted that:

- Total Capital allocation for Infrastructure £142.7m
- Present programme had £149.2m allocated against it
- This was a result of a short-term imbalance to the programme as endorsed by Future Oxfordshire Partnership on 13th June (including the additional £5m for the NOC

Cassington scheme, and £1.495m for Benson). This had been since approved by Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet.

- Other scheme changes endorsed by the Future Oxfordshire Partnership in June were paused (pending the wider Oxfordshire County Council Capital Review)
- To achieve a balanced programme an overall net reduction of £6.495m was needed to cover decision already implemented.

In discussion, members commented that while they understood and acknowledged the complex challenges involved in bringing this item forward, they were, nevertheless, very disappointed to receive the slides relating to the presentation/review at such late notice. The Panel stated that they regarded this as unacceptable and highlighted that it was incompatible with their role of reviewing and scrutinising plans, proposals and decision related to the discharge of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership's functions and the delivery of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal. It was also not conducive with general principles applicable to the relationship between scrutiny bodies and executives.

The Panel also requested that further information be provided on the methodology and criteria used in determining the revised HfI programme. This would include how the criteria had been applied to specific schemes (in particular, a breakdown of the estimate of housing units that would be accelerated by the proposals in the revised programme compared to those that had been revised/scaled back as part of the review). In the absence of these details, the Panel did not feel that there was either sufficient information or time for it (and for that matter the Partnership) to come to an overall judgement on review of the HfI programme – the Panel also requested specifics on who signed off on the proposed revisions and who will make the final decision on the list.

RESOLVED: That the Panel recommends to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership that it:

1. That the Partnership respond to the concerns of the Panel and requests for further information.

2. That in addition to the consideration of the housing units accelerated by a particular scheme within the period of the Housing and Growth deal, the Partnership give higher priority to consideration of Active Travel factors, as a theme to determine the revised Hal programme. This is to ensure in the absence of existing infrastructure, there is the creation of new safe walking and cycling infrastructure linking developments to nearby settlements.

3. That where a scheme is proposed to be removed from the HfI programme and linked development has already taken place (e.g., Milton Heights), the Partnership reconsider its prioritisation weighting to include it in the HfI programme or else do all it can to encourage.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

FUTURE
OXFORDSHIRE
PARTNERSHIP

To: **The Future Oxfordshire Partnership**

Title of Report: **Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership Update**

Date: **29 November 2022**

Report of: **Matt Whitney, Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership Manager**

Status: **Open**

Executive Summary and Purpose:

The Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership has been established to radically enhance nature, its positive impact on the climate and the priority it is given, helping to make Oxfordshire a county where people and nature thrive. This paper provides an update on the progress of the partnership. It shines a light on the three main areas of focus for the Partnership, which are nature recovery, natural capital investment, and people and nature.

The paper makes some specific points regarding the process for developing the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and seeks support from the Future Oxfordshire Partnership for our proposed approach.

How this report contributes to the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision Outcomes:

Our proposals for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy will directly contribute towards the achievement of the first outcome (*Our nature environment will be in a better state than that in which we found it*) by acting as a spatial and theoretical framework to guide nature recovery activities.

Our natural capital investment focus will contribute towards achievement of the second Outcome (*We will already be carbon neutral and accelerating towards a carbon negative future*)

Our people and nature focus will contribute towards achievement of the third and fifth outcomes (*Our residents will be healthier and happier, and overall wellbeing will have improved* and *Our county will be a more equal, fair and inclusive place for everyone*).

Recommendations:

1. That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership endorses our strategic approach, including the development of a county-wide framework of natural capital investment.
2. That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership provides its endorsement for Oxfordshire County Council taking on the responsible authority role for the production of Oxfordshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy
3. That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership provides its endorsement to proceed with the work of an Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy considering the information provided, under the proposed governance arrangement.

Introduction

1. Public awareness of the value of our natural environment and public knowledge of our need to restore nature has never been higher. Implementation of the Environment Act 2021 will unlock new tools and funding to empower counties to put nature's recovery at the heart of their ambitions for the next decade and beyond. Oxfordshire is a thriving hub of environmental ambition with a cornucopia of NGOs, nature friendly farmers, sustainable landowners and business, AONBs, world renowned Universities and local authorities all driving forward plans to protect and enhance the natural world.

2. The new Local Nature Partnership ("LNP") brings together all these partners, to utilise new tools and funding, creating an impactful partnership that is greater than the sum of its parts. The purpose of the LNP is **to radically enhance nature, its positive impact on our climate and the priority it is given, helping to make Oxfordshire a county where people and nature thrive.** The LNP will work towards its purpose by developing strategies and plans; influencing relevant local and national government policy and legislation; establishing voluntary working groups and task and finish groups as required; levering resources into the sector and through LNP members and others using LNP outputs to guide their work and influence others.
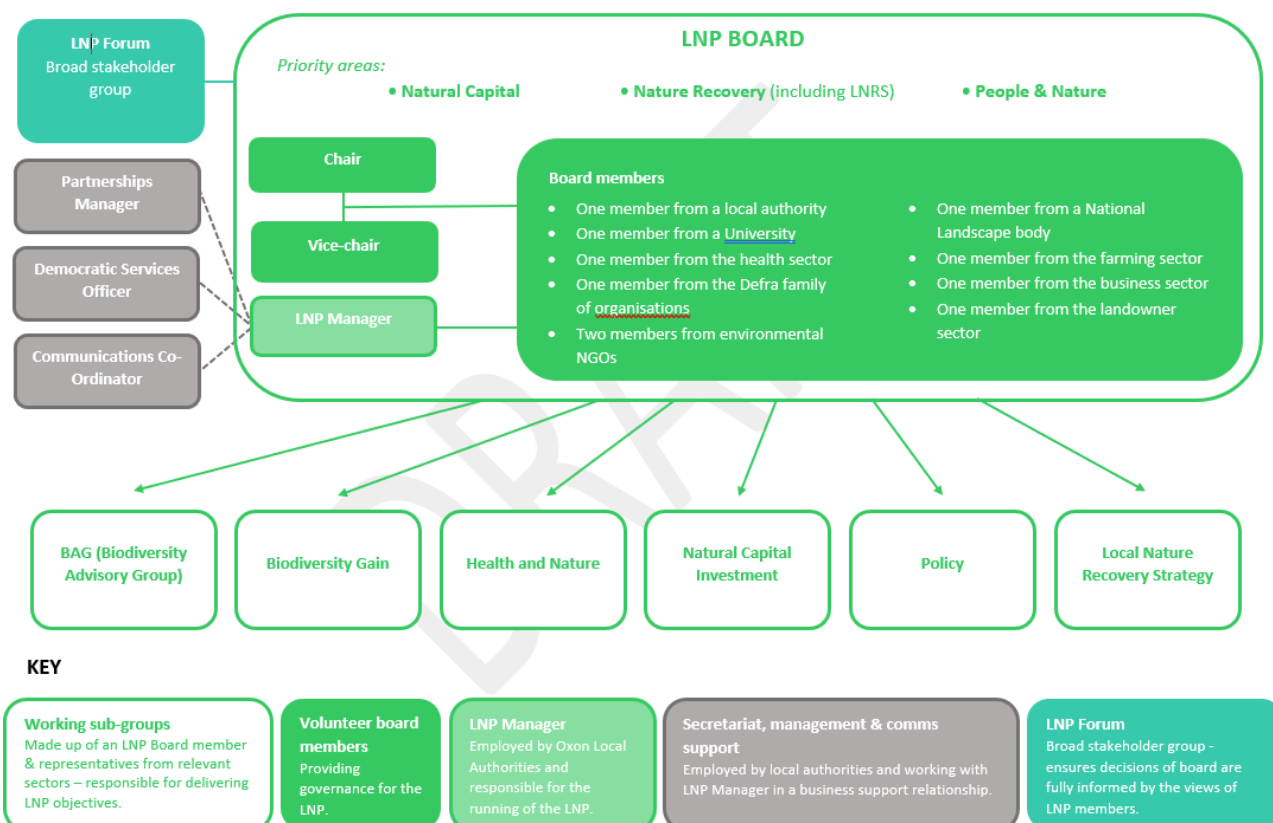

Figure 1. Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership governance structure

3. The LNP has a board, which meets quarterly and is independently Chaired. Councillor David Rouane represents the local authorities on this board, in his position as Chair of the Environmental Advisory Group of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership (FOP). The board is supported by the LNP manager, who has prepared this report. The LNP is developing its strategic direction, which is

focussed around three pillars: nature recovery, natural capital investment and people and nature. The LNP also has a forum, which is a wider stakeholder group to ensure the decisions of the board are guided by the broad range of partners.

4. The forum's inaugural event in October was well attended. Consensus at the forum was strong endorsement of the proposed strategic approach, with a particular emphasis on the need for broad engagement, high ambition, and spatial planning.

Natural Capital Investment

5. The [Finance Gap for UK Nature report](#) revealed £56 billion in investment above current public sector commitments is required for the UK to meet nature-related outcomes in the next ten years. Natural capital investment seeks to leverage private finance to deliver nature recovery. This investment can be repaid in different ways. In some cases, the natural capital benefits of investment, such as flood risk relief, will be sufficient to attract investment. In other cases, investment will flow from corporate social responsibility commitments. Perhaps the greatest opportunity for investment at scale come from selling credits resulting from the nature recovery work, chiefly for Oxfordshire biodiversity net gain credits and carbon credits.

6. Oxfordshire already has a strong history in this area. A local carbon credit deal worth £1million is currently in delivery phase. And Oxfordshire has already been applying principles and policies of biodiversity net gain through the planning system, way ahead of most other counties. The LNP hopes to leverage this experience and expertise to establish Oxfordshire as a leading county in natural capital investment.

7. The LNP is mindful of the risks and opportunities in this area. Large-scale private capital can drive serious nature-recovery efforts. On the other hand, there is scope for greenwash, or even environmental damage. A high-integrity approach, based on clearly defined standards (covering carbon, nature and social aspects) is necessary to ensure that private markets genuinely contribute to environmental recovery.

8. Now is the right time to press ahead with developing a county-level framework and plan for high-integrity natural capital investment. Not only would this help to secure private money to deliver nature recovery; it may also help to smooth the transition to mandatory biodiversity net gain legislation by developing a 'pipeline of projects', whilst simultaneously providing much needed clarity on standards and promoting best practice approaches. **We are therefore seeking FOP's endorsement of the LNP developing a natural capital plan and framework for Oxfordshire.**

Preparation of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy

9. The production of an Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) provides a key opportunity to agree shared priorities for nature recovery across a wide range of stakeholders in Oxfordshire.

10. Oxfordshire County Council have informally accepted Department for the Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs' (DEFRA's) nomination as provisional

responsible authority for the Oxfordshire LNRS. This is a non-binding agreement made at DEFRA Officer level on the understanding that DEFRA have yet to confirm what funding will be available and local authorities within Oxfordshire have yet to formally consider and agree which body would become the responsible authority. More recently it is understood that DEFRA intend to appoint Responsible Authorities directly. However, OCC Cabinet will need to consider the implications of agreeing to take on the role of Responsible Authority once further information on regulations and funding is available from DEFRA.

11. In advance of formal appointment of the Responsible Authority, it would strengthen and allow progress on the LNRS, if Local Authorities confirm they are in agreement to OCC continuing in this provisional Responsible Authority role. **We are therefore seeking FOP's endorsement for Oxfordshire County Council to continue in the role of responsible authority.**

12. Whist originally expected in Spring 2022, we still await the publication of secondary legislation and guidance on LNRS. Therefore, formal production of the strategy has not yet begun. The timetables for local plans drive a need for work on an Oxfordshire LNRS to start soon, to form part of the evidence base in this process. Having an LNRS may also smooth the roll out of mandatory biodiversity net gain in Autumn 2023 and help to ensure that investments are targeted most efficiently. Early work on an LNRS may also help give confidence for natural capital investment, guide improvements for nature in the farmed landscape, and inform work to connect people with nature in more nature-deprived areas, contributing to the delivery of the LNP's wider strategic objectives. At the LNP's forum event in October the eagerness of stakeholders to proceed with the production of an LNRS as soon as possible was apparent.

13. This must be balanced by some caution against investing time and resource into development of a strategy that may not be compliant with the awaited guidance and secondary legislation. Other than an initial £12,000 DEFRA 'seedcorn' funding received by Oxfordshire County Council, government funding for the additional burden of LNRS production has yet to be announced, so resources to invest in LNRS production are limited. We are also conscious of not pre-empting the LNRS process through development of interim nature recovery mapping work to inform local plans and recommend that this is considered as a separate process to LNRS production since it cannot be guaranteed to be compatible with future LNRS regulations and guidance.

14. Nevertheless, there are certain areas where we can start to progress (eg revising baseline data), and others where this is the best time to act (such as engagement with farmers). **We would therefore like to seek FOP's endorsement for proceeding with work on an Oxfordshire LNRS considering the above.**

15. Consideration is being given to the structure and governance for production of the Oxfordshire LNRS, and how this will relate and interact with the Local Nature Partnership. Currently, it is proposed that an LNRS steering group is formed which is a Local Nature Partnership group led by Oxfordshire County Council as provisional Responsible Authority. This approach is aligned to the governance arrangements of most of the LNRS DEFRA pilot areas. It will help ensure the LNRS is produced in a collaborative way. If the County Council is confirmed as

Responsible Authority approval of the plan will be subject to usual County Council cabinet reporting and approval processes. **FOP is asked to note and support this proposed governance arrangement.**

People and Nature

16. The Health and Nature Working Group recognises that human health and wellbeing for current and future generations is intrinsically connected to nature.
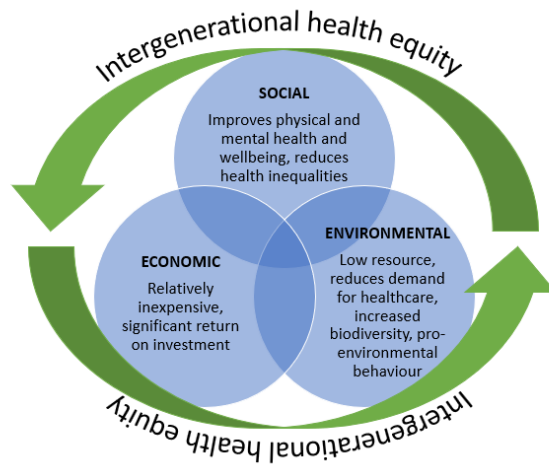

Image 1 Improving access to greenspace for social, economic and environmental sustainability

17. The purpose of the Health and Nature Working Group is to facilitate cross-sectoral collaboration to support delivery of aspects of the LNPs aims and objectives relating specifically to the relationship between nature and health and wellbeing. This includes ensuring that opportunities to engage with and value nature are equitably distributed.

Financial Implications
18. The Local Nature Partnership is funded equally by each of the local authorities. This funding has been agreed for a period of two years, which ends 31 March 2024.

Legal Implications
19. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Other Implications
20. The risk arising from this report arises from the recommendation to begin work on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy prior to the release of secondary regulations and guidance. This risk is mitigated by a) our proposal to treat the spatial work intended to guide and inform the local plans' approach to nature recovery as separate to the LNRS and b) only to begin work that is not dependent upon the guidance and is useful in its own right.

21. The LNP is clear that the risk from NOT proceeding with this work in the cautious but pro-active way outlined herein, exceeds that arising from our proposed course of action.

Conclusion

22. This paper has provided an update on the progress of the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership. It has outlined the three priority areas for action: nature recovery, natural capital investment, and people and nature. And it has sought the FOP's views on some specific aspects relating to the preparation of an Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Background Papers

23. There are none relating to this report.

Report Author:	Matt Whitney, Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership
Manager	
Contact information:	matt.whitney@southandvale.gov.uk

To: **Future Oxfordshire Partnership**

Title of Report: **Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership (OIEP) Update**

Date: **29 November 2022**

Report of: **Emma Coles, OIEP Manager**

Status: **Open**

Executive Summary and Purpose:
This report is an update on the progress of the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership (OIEP) and to update Future Oxfordshire Partnership members on the development and launch of the OIEP Charter and associated pledges 24th January 2023.

How this report contributes to the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision Outcomes:
The OIEP contributes to the delivery of the following outcomes of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision:

Outcome: Our residents will be healthier and happier, and overall wellbeing will have improved The outcomes of the planned work of the OIEP will contribute to this priority enabling people to have better skills and education attainment to access employment opportunities etc.

Outcome: Our local economy will be globally competitive, sustainable, diverse and inclusive: The aim of the OIEP is to create an environment and communities that can adapt to change, a region that is resilient in the face of shocks in the economy and a workforce that responds to different needs and different kinds of work in the future. The education and inclusive employment working groups will contribute to this priority.

Outcome: Our vibrant historic and cultural offer will be rich, diverse and enhanced
The OIEP's aim is to work together to create a more equal and sustainable region that creates opportunities and benefits for all people within the county.
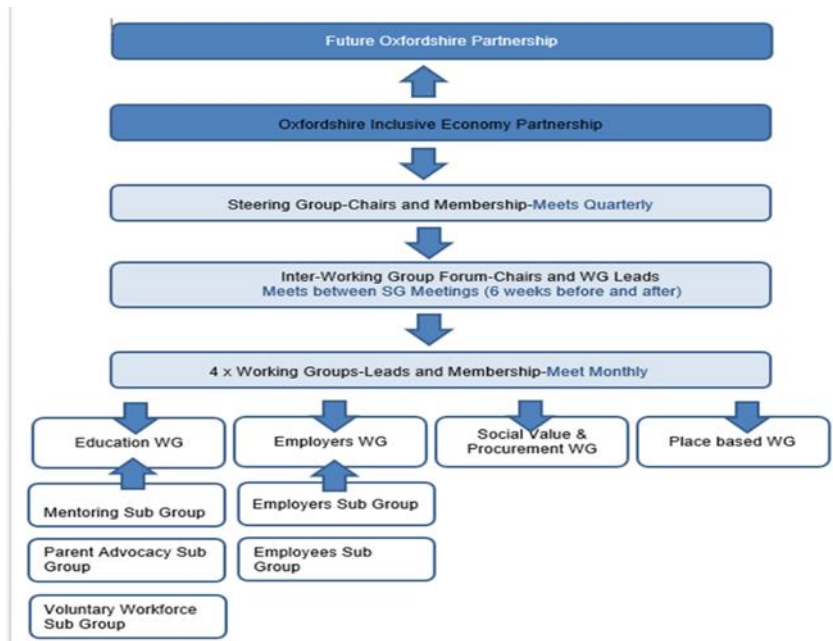
Recommendations:
1. That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership notes and comments on the update report
2. That members of Future Oxfordshire Partnership support and promote the launch of the OIEP Charter and engage local businesses and partners to commit to the pledges of the charter.

Appendices:
Appendix A - OIEP Charter

Introduction

1. The Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership is a county-wide group that brings together over a hundred organisations - employers, business, education, community groups and local government – to share knowledge, expertise and resources, and create links between different areas of work. Our aim is to work together to create a more equal and sustainable region that creates opportunities and benefits for all people within the county. Our focus is on tackling areas that really need attention, which will have impact and will really make a difference.

2. Our Mission: 'The Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership is working together to create a more equal and sustainable region that creates opportunities and benefits for all people within the county. We are working to tackle some of our region's biggest problems to create a fairer environment where everyone can contribute and share in our success'

3. Oxfordshire is home to significant inequalities. It is one of only three regions that contributes a surplus to the UK economy, but despite its global position and perceived affluence, its wealth and opportunities are not evenly distributed. The city of Oxford is the second most unequal place in the UK, in terms of income, housing affordability and life expectancy. Education attainment is below average, affecting all generations. These problems extend beyond the city and exist across the whole of Oxfordshire; 17 of 61 wards in Oxfordshire are the most deprived in England, with Northfield Brook in the 10% most deprived. The OIEP is working together in partnership to tackle these inequalities and are working to create opportunities for all people in Oxfordshire, making use of everyone's potential, so that we can all benefit from Oxfordshire's success.

4. We have set up 4 action focused working groups to deliver our vision – education, employment, social value and procurement and place shaping which are looking at working with projects across Oxfordshire that the partnership can support, grow or amplify their work as well as creating a repository of case studies, information and signposting related to the inclusive economy. The working groups have been established with members of the partnership who have a particular knowledge and experience in that particular area. The working groups are currently developing their work programme proposals, seeking to find, and build upon, specific initiatives or specialise organisations who are already successful in tackling some of the issues of inclusivity. The delivery plans are most likely to be focused on how we can grow capacity or reach of such programmes by gaining support (whether in kind, in funding, or by way of making connections) of our Membership, and others. The proposals will be reviewed and signed off by the Steering Group in December.

5. The partnership is co-chaired by Baroness Jan Royall (Somerville College) and Jeremy Long (OxLEP) with input from countywide partners from the private, public (including district, city and county authorities) education and Voluntary and Community Sectors. In September a full time Partnership Manager began in role to support the partnership, providing secretariat and programme support.

6. **Governance**
    The governance of the OIEP is set out below, with the Future Oxfordshire Partnership providing oversight to the work of the OIEP.

7. **Website**

   The OIEP now has a section on the FOP website where people can find out more about the work of the partnership and over time will be a place where we will be able to signpost organisations to practical resources on how to implement different elements of the inclusive economy agenda, such as how to become an inclusive employer.

8. **Charter**

   OIEP have developed a Charter which is a statement of our shared commitment to creating a more inclusive local economy and reflects the ambitions of the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership. The Charter is aimed at both individual people and organisations to pledge to for 12 months and demonstrates commitment to Oxfordshire's inclusive economy work.

   The Purpose of the Charter is to:
   o   To mobilise support for an Oxfordshire inclusive economy and raise awareness and profile
   o   To publicly state commitment with individuals, businesses and organisations signing of an online pledge
   o   To set and raise standards around inclusive economy
   o   To encourage residents and businesses to work together to help protect Oxfordshire's economy with an aim to prevent money leaving the county

9. **Pledges**

   The Priorities of the Charter are to promote action via pledges which will be based around our 4 key areas of focus – education, employment, social value and procurement and investing in places that need it most. There will be case studies and videos for each of the pledges so people will be able to see the impact on their organisation or as an individual of committing to that pledge for 12 months.

   The charter and pledge scheme will be published on our webpages and this will be where businesses and residents can sign up to pledge commitments.

Page 23

10. **Charter Launch**
   The OIEP will be holding a launch event to for the Charter 24th January 2023, 10am-2pm at the Old Fire Station in Oxford. By hiring the space at the Old Fire Station, we're supporting a local charity and social enterprise, and the work that they do with homeless people. Catering is provided by Damascus Rose Kitchen, a social enterprise supporting refugee women in Oxford.

   At the event you will hear about the inclusive economy Charter and find out how you can get involved in making it happen in your organisation or community as well as the work of the partnership. There will be practical presentations, inspiring case studies, and learn how others are already succeeding as well as an opportunity to network with the other delegates.

Financial Implications
11. For 2022/23 and 2023/24, a Partnership Manager and communications support is provided through contribution from a shared Partnership budget.

Legal Implications
12. There are no immediate legal implications associated with the content of this report.

Other Implications
13. There are no other immediate implications associated with the content of this report

Conclusion
14. The OIEP has successfully established its structure, membership and governance as a partnership. Our next steps are to complete the working group proposals so we can build our delivery plan to deliver our vision and to launch the inclusive economy charter to build momentum across the county to create a more equal and sustainable region that creates opportunities and benefits for all people within the county.

Background Papers
15. Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Charter – see Appendix A

Report Author:	*Emma Coles, Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership Manager – on behalf of: Baroness Jan Royall and Jeremy Long – Joint Chairs Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership*
Contact information:	*ecoles@oxford.gov.uk*
	Tel: 01865 252097

The Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Charter

About this Charter

Oxfordshire, despite its perceived affluence, global position and role as 1 of only 3 regions that contributes a surplus to the UK economy, is home to significant inequalities. 17 of 61 wards in Oxfordshire are the most deprived in England, with Northfield Brook in the 10% most deprived. The city of Oxford is the second most unequal place in the UK, in terms of income, housing affordability and life expectancy. Education attainment is below average affecting all generations. These problems extend beyond the city and exist across the whole of Oxfordshire.

Our mission is to create more opportunities for all people in Oxfordshire, making use of everyone's potential, so that we can all benefit from Oxfordshire's success.

The Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership[1] has created an 'inclusive economy charter' (The Charter). This allows organisations and individuals to pledge their support to this important work and to make commitments to actions they will take. The Charter is a statement of our shared commitment to creating a more inclusive local economy and reflects the ambitions of the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership.

The Charter is aimed at both individual people and organisations. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Why sign the charter?

Actively supporting inclusion across Oxfordshire's economy will generate real benefits for your organisation. Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors are increasingly being considered by employees, customers, funders, investors, and partners. Participating in the work of the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership, through the pledges you make within this Charter, provides a way of demonstrating your commitment to social issues -

- Promoting your role in Oxfordshire's inclusive economy work will help you to attract people to work with you.

- Accessing the widest pool of talent will support growth and productivity within your company or organisation.

---

[1] In March 2021, a range of partners from public, private, voluntary and community sectors across Oxfordshire came together to collaborate on launching an Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership. The partnership agreed that a Charter would be an effective tool to mobilise support for and secure commitment to further an inclusive economy countywide. The partnership was formed following a series of workshops and seminars in 2019/20 looking at the state of the inclusive economy, findings here: https://www.oxford.gov.uk/oxsp/downloads/file/528/oxfordshire_inclusive_economy_seminar_series_report

- Purchasing from local suppliers and supporting your staff to undertake volunteering activities within the community will contribute to well-being and a sense of loyalty among your employees, differentiating your organisation from competitors.

Joining the work of the Partnership is not only a good thing to do, but it will make a difference to your business too.

By signing this Charter, you are demonstrating your support for and commitment to making Oxfordshire a fairer and more inclusive place to live and work.

When you sign the charter, you are pledging to support the work of the Partnership for the next calendar year. After a year, we will ask you to renew/update your pledges.

About the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership

The Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership brings together over a hundred organisations – including employers, business, education, community groups and local government.

We are working to create opportunities for all people in Oxfordshire, making use of everyone's potential, so that we can all benefit from Oxfordshire's success. Our aim is to create an environment and communities that can adapt to change, a region that is resilient in the face of shocks in the economy and a workforce that responds to different needs and different kinds of work in the future.

We are a county-wide group, working to share knowledge, expertise and resources to address some of our greatest challenges. This is not a short-term initiative, but a long-term endeavour. Our vision is an Oxfordshire that creates opportunities and benefits for all communities and people within our region.

We take good practice and are looking for ways to amplify or scale these activities so that they have the greatest level of impact. We are focusing on 4 areas - inclusive employment; educational attainment; social value and procurement; and place-based interventions – investing in places that need it most.

Pledge your support by signing the Charter

I pledge my support to the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership:

Name of individual	
Name of Organisation (if relevant)	
Address of Organisation (if relevant)	
I am signing on behalf of…. (Please select one option only)	Myself ☐ My Organisation ☐ Myself and My Organisation ☐
Preferred E mail for contact	
I am happy to be contacted by Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership.	Yes ☐ I consent to information contained in this Charter being used by the Inclusive Economy Partnership in its communication activities ☐

Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Pledges

There are many ways for you to support the work to create an inclusive economy in Oxfordshire. In this table, we provide the thematic areas of the work of the Partnership. Please consider including your own pledge and tell us what you will do to support/ show commitment in your organisation or as an individual to further an inclusive economy in Oxfordshire.

In developing your pledge, please refer to information from the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership working groups. Each group has created a set of recommendations and an action plan. We are keen to receive support and commitment to implement and deliver these action plans.

The pledges are a way to publicly share the commitment you have made to further an inclusive economy in Oxfordshire, and we will share these on the Future Oxfordshire Partnership website to raise awareness and inspire action from others. In no more than 50 words please include your own pledges as either an individual, organisation (or both).

Educational Attainment	Social Value & Procurement
• As an organisation we will… *Example: pledge to provide work placements/apprenticeships for young people.* • As an individual I will… *Example: pledge to support colleagues and/or those I manage to develop their skills in the workplace.*	• As an organisation we will… *Example: pledge to proactively procure from local sustainable, inclusive and socially purposeful businesses to increase social value.* • As an individual I will… *Example: pledge to "buy local" wherever possible*
Inclusive Employment	Place based interventions
• As an organisation we will… *Example: work on our recruitment practices to ensure they are inclusive and proactively support the recruitment of a diverse workforce.* • As an individual I will… *Example: pledge to question and challenge unintended bias or prejudice when selecting/recruiting new members of staff.*	• As an organisation we will… *Example: pledge to work in partnership to deliver place-based interventions that help to foster a healthy place for all.* • As an individual I will… *Example: pledge to reduce congestion and pollution by investing in an electric bike fleet for our workforce.*

Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership - Data Protection Statement

As part of our support to you, Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership (Overseen by Future Oxfordshire Partnership will collect and process personal data relating to you/your organisation in order to communicate with you about the work and activities of the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership. We are committed to being transparent about how we collect and use that data and to meeting our data protection obligations. This statement is in compliance with current requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation 2018.

What information do we collect?

We collect the following information about you:-

-Your name

-Name of your organisation (if applicable)

-Contact details

-Address/location

Data will be stored in the following location:

Centrally on our main spreadsheet and saved on a secure, password protected drive

Why do we process personal data?

We will process your data only where you have provided your consent for us to do so and only for the purposes of supporting you in relation to the Charter and the work/activities of the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership.

Who has access to data?

Your information may be shared internally for the purposes of support and administration of the Charter but will be accessible only by individuals providing administrative support to the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership.

How long will we keep your information?

We will hold your data on file throughout the work of the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership, in order to complete any evaluation/monitoring required.

Providing personal data, data protection and your rights

As a data subject you have number of rights. Please refer to our main privacy notice for details of your rights and how we protect your data: https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20141/data_protection/560/data_protection_and_privacy

Further information/Questions:

For any further questions about you data as part of the Charter scheme please contact the data processor: Emma Coles, Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership Manager – ecoles@oxford.gov.uk

I hereby consent to my data being processed as outlined above:

Yes ☐

No ☐

Name:_____

Organisation: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

FUTURE OXFORDSHIRE PARTNERSHIP

To:	**Future Oxfordshire Partnership**
Title of Report:	**Delivering the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision**
Date:	**29 November 2022**
Report of:	**Beth Wilks, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Manager**
Status:	**Open**

Executive Summary and Purpose:

This report provides the Future Oxfordshire Partnership (FOP) with an update on progress to identify new opportunities for joint working which help to deliver the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision. Next steps are proposed within the report, building upon the work completed to date, for consideration and endorsement by the FOP. A secondary report will be presented to the FOP in 2023, and will detail a selection of projects/activity identified through stakeholder engagement, which support delivery of the Vision. This will provide the FOP with the opportunity to consider and endorse the projects/activity which it deems appropriate to proceed with.

How this report contributes to the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision Outcomes:

This report provides an update on current activity to proactively identify opportunities for joint working by the FOP, to support in delivering the nine outcomes of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.

Recommendations:

That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership:

1. Note progress made to identify opportunities for joint working aligned to the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision, which also supports delivery of individual organisation corporate plans.
2. Endorse and encourage participation in proposed engagement sessions, to support in identifying opportunities for joint working aligned to the outcomes of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.
3. Support wider socialisation of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision with partners and a broader group of stakeholders, to raise awareness of the Vision, and encourage buy in and support for its delivery.

Appendices:

1. Table summarising the corporate priorities of the 6 Oxfordshire Local Authorities and OxLEP as described within published Corporate Plans.
2. FOP Filter Tool

Introduction

1. For the past four years, a significant part of the FOP's focus has been on providing oversight to the Housing and Growth Deal, which secured significant investment from Central Government in 2018 to advance housing delivery and boost economic productivity within Oxfordshire. With key elements of the Housing and Growth Deal coming to a close, it is opportune for the FOP to proactively develop its work programme to support delivery of the outcomes of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision, to ensure the County continues to benefit from joined-up collaborative working.

2. The Oxfordshire Strategic Vision, which was formally endorsed by the FOP in March 2021, and subsequently approved by each of the Oxfordshire Councils, sets out the FOP's long term ambition for what the county will be like in 2050, recognising that positive sustainable change takes time. The Vision is a non-statutory document, instead providing an overarching framework which can be used to inform a range of different plans, strategies, programmes, and projects, to drive improvements in environmental, social, and economic well-being; it further complements plans and strategies already in place, and approved by the FOP and partner organisations.

3. The nine outcomes (Figure 1) within the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision are ambitious, and delivering them will require long-term collective commitment and investment by the partners that make up the FOP, but also crucially, by a wider set of strategic stakeholders and partners who make future decisions about investment and placemaking across Oxfordshire; there is an important role for residents and business leaders to play in delivering the Vision. A range of plans, strategies, and programmes are required to operationalise delivery which is aligned to the outcomes of the Strategic Vision.

Our natural environment will be in a better state than that in which we found it

We will already be carbon neutral and accelerating towards a carbon negative future

Our residents will be healthier and happier, and overall wellbeing will have improved

Our local economy will be globally competitive, sustainable, diverse and inclusive

Our county will be a more equal, fair and inclusive place for everyone

Our vibrant historic and cultural offer will be rich, diverse and enhanced

We will have energy efficient and affordable homes in the right number, location and tenure

Our county's connectivity will be transformed in ways that enhance wellbeing

Our diverse and vibrant communities will thrive with a strong sense of identity
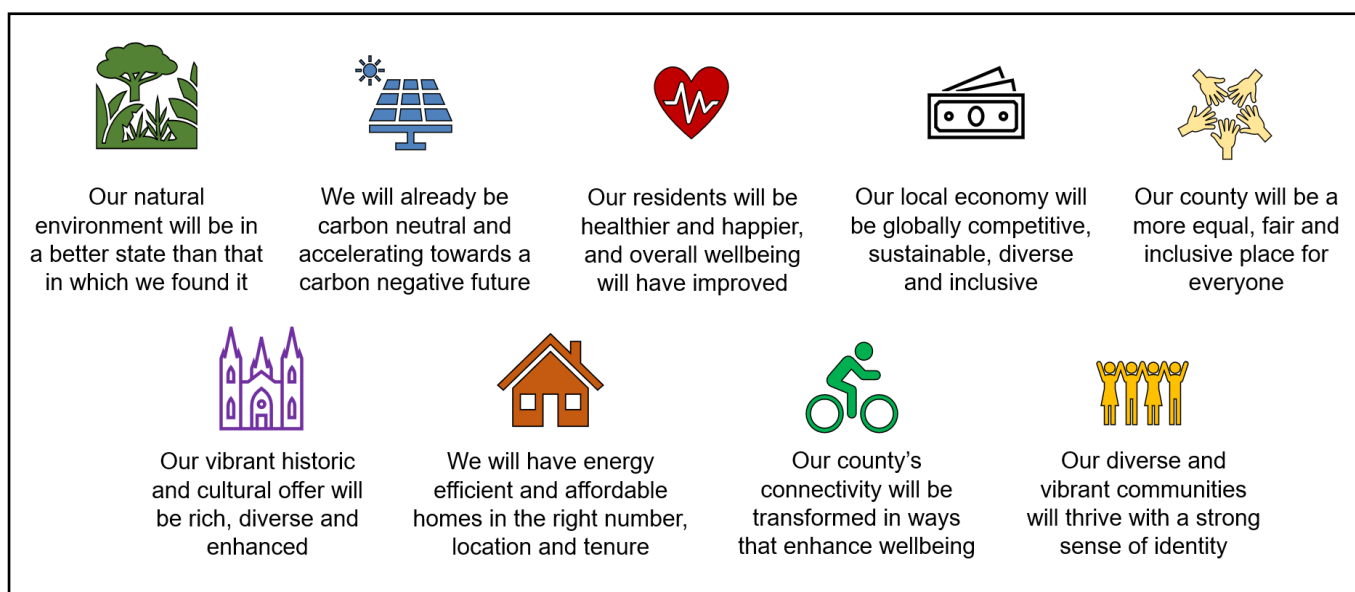
Figure 1: Nine outcomes of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision

4. As an initial exercise in identifying opportunities for joint working which support delivery of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision, we sought to understand how the priorities within the current corporate plans of the six local authorities and OxLEP aligned to the nine outcomes of the Vision, as delivery of partnership visions and plans is sometimes considered secondary to the delivery of corporate versions, with them perceived as resulting in additional work, in an environment where the demands on staffing resource is ever increasing. Whilst on initial observation, the corporate plans described several different high level priorities (Appendix A), which do not all directly align with the outcomes of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision, a more detailed analysis of the content within the seven corporate plans revealed that each plan does in fact align to all nine outcomes of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision (Table 1); strength of alignment does vary according to plan and Vision outcome. Such a conclusion means that collaborative work across the local authorities and OxLEP to deliver the Strategic Vision, would in turn support delivery of individual corporate plans. This exercise can be further developed to include the corporate plans/strategies of other key strategic partners as deemed appropriate. Please note, West Oxfordshire's Corporate Plan is currently being refreshed.

5. Subsequent to this, activity/areas of focus from the seven corporate plans has been mapped against each of the nine outcomes of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision; table 2 provides a snapshot example of this mapping. This offers the opportunity to consider potential areas for collaborative working under the FOP arrangements, which help to deliver both the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision and individual Corporate Plans, benefiting from shared knowledge and resource, and creating a consistent approach across the county, where appropriate to do so.

6. We have begun to identify several potential pieces of work where there is perceived value in collaborative delivery through the FOP, such as a refresh of the Oxfordshire Energy Strategy in line with the development of a local area energy plan. Sessions have been scheduled with Local Authority Chief Executives, representatives of the FOP Executive Officer Group, and with officers supporting the FOP advisory groups, to aid in mapping of opportunities aligned to the Vision.

    We ask that the FOP note progress made to identify opportunities for joint working aligned to the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision, which also supports delivery of individual organisation corporate plans.

Oxfordshire Strategic Vision Outcomes	Corporate / Business Plan						
	Cherwell	West Oxfordshire	Vale of White Horse	South Oxfordshire	Oxford City	Oxfordshire County Council	OxLEP
We will have energy efficient and affordable homes in the right number, location & tenure	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
We will already be carbon neutral and accelerating towards a carbon negative future	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Our natural environment will be in a better state than that in which we found it	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Our residents will be healthier and happier, and overall wellbeing will have improved	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Our local economy will be globally competitive, sustainable, diverse and inclusive	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Our county will be a more equal, fair and inclusive place for everyone	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Our vibrant historic and cultural offer will be rich, diverse and enhanced	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Our county's connectivity will be transformed in ways that enhance wellbeing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Our diverse and vibrant communities will thrive with a strong sense of identity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Table 1: *Assessing alignment between Corporate Plans and the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision. It is important to note, West Oxfordshire's Corporate Plan is currently being refreshed.*

Oxfordshire Strategic Vision	Focus & Activity Captured Within Corporate/Business Plans
We will already be carbon neutral and accelerating towards a carbon negative future *"have achieved carbon neutral status, and be accelerating towards a carbon negative future, removing more carbon than it emits each year. Energy production will be sustainable."* Our natural environment will be in a better state than that in which we found it *"be the first generation to leave the natural environment in a better state than that in which we found it. The natural environment will be more biodiverse, support social, economic and ecological resilience and have the capacity to adapt to change."*	• Green Economy; encourage and enable further innovation and investment in green technology. • Carbon neutral councils - Decarbonisation of council assets (buildings (commercial & housing) & vehicles); electric charging points in council car parks / expand electric charging capacity across the county. Reduce travel to work for council employees; identify energy saving opportunities in council buildings and fleets. • Emission reduction targets for major suppliers. • Carbon neutral districts - Supporting local communities, both business and residential, to reduce their carbon footprint and waste, and support nature recovery and recycling - design and building of sustainable, low-carbon communities. • Behavioural change re: green agenda through information dissemination and leading by example. • Annually approved Climate Emergency programme which is adequately financed. • Increase biodiversity (e.g., habitat banks) and tree cover, rewilding initiatives, wildlife corridors, restoration of nature including within urban areas, connect urban communities with local green spaces/improve access to green space; develop a tree-planting strategy and work with partners to plant more trees. • Use the Council's planning powers to ensure that new developments deliver a net gain in biodiversity. • Promote rural areas for tourism, leisure, and personal wellbeing. • Work in partnership to support ambitions re: biodiversity increases and tackling the climate crisis; implement PAZCO route map (a comprehensive plan for decarbonising Oxfordshire). • Contribute to a Nature Recovery Network for Oxfordshire and call for a LNP; promote an ambitious nature recovery programme. Support the preparation and delivery of a Nature Recovery Strategy for Oxfordshire. • Promote in depth mapping and surveying of ecosystems, planning for restoration of the natural world and working closely with landowners and specialist agencies. • Influence local and national policy development within the substantiable growth / climate / biodiversity space, identifying environmental policy gaps; campaign for the Government to introduce more rigorous energy efficiency standards on new build and bring forward the end of petrol and diesel vehicle sales. • Reliable broadband enabling more home working to reduce travel.

Table 2: *An example of content taken from Local Authority and OxLEP corporate plans which align to two of the outcomes of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.*

7. We are proposing a series of engagement sessions with the following groups, to support in further identifying potential areas of collaboration which support delivery of the outcomes of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision. At the point of hosting these sessions, several suggestions for delivery aligned to the Vision will have been mapped, to support and guide thinking. The exact format of these sessions is yet to be defined, but will be designed to maximise output.

- Members of the FOP
- FOP Scrutiny Panel
- FOP Advisory Groups

We ask that the FOP endorse the proposed engagement sessions, to support in identifying opportunities for joint working aligned to the outcomes of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision, and encourage engagement in the process.

8. It is anticipated that the described stakeholder engagement will generate a wealth of ideas relating to projects, programmes, and strategies, which could help to deliver the outcomes of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision. However, a robust filtering process will be required to support in identifying which of the suggestions to take forward into the design and delivery phase, with consideration to be given to factors including, resources available, anticipated impact, and added value of delivering the work through the FOP arrangements. The exact filtering methodology is yet to be developed; however, it is important to note officers supporting the FOP are currently trialling a 'FOP Filter' tool (appendix B), which endeavours to ensure items currently included on the forward work programmes for the FOP and supporting advisory groups are appropriate, and are able to demonstrate a clear purpose for consideration within the FOP arrangements. Development of this tool may be appropriate for the filtering of new projects, programmes, and strategies suggested via the proposed stakeholder engagement.

9. As highlighted in point 3, we recognise that the ambitious nature of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision requires sustained commitment by not only the organisations that make up the FOP, but by a wider set of strategic stakeholders and partners. It is therefore critical that we socialise the Vision more widely, and engage more proactively with both existing partners and other stakeholders, with regards to opportunities for joint working which deliver the outcomes of the Vision; identification of opportunities for collaboration needs to be an ongoing and live process. A communications officer has recently joined the core partnerships team supporting the FOP, and is currently developing a communications plan, factoring in the need to improve awareness and engagement with the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.

    We ask that the Future Oxfordshire Partnership support wider socialisation of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision with partners and a broader group of stakeholders, to raise awareness of the Vision, and encourage buy in and support for its delivery.

10. Work is also underway to map the different strategies and plans operating within the space of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision, to establish if the appropriate guiding documents are in place to support delivery, and to identify opportunities for further integration of the Vision within relevant strategies and plans, at both a

local and regional level. Further to this, we have begun to map how other partnerships, for example, the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership (OIEP), and the Local Nature Partnership, contribute/plan to contribute to the Strategic Vision for Oxfordshire, to ensure we maximise outputs through these relationships, and prevent duplication. A critical next step as part of this will be in understanding the relationship between the FOP and its Strategic Vision for Oxfordshire, and the newly forming place-based partnership, brought in under the statutory Integrated Care System (ICS) arrangements.

11. Alongside identifying new opportunities for collaborative working across Oxfordshire, a key focus for future work will be the development of performance measures and/or a qualitative narrative to enable the FOP to monitor the direction of travel against the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision. This will be considered in 2023.

Financial Implications

1. There are no immediate financial implications associated with the content of this report. Potential collaborative projects/programmes/activity identified through stakeholder engagement will be considered in a secondary paper in 2023, at which point financial implications will be outlined.

Legal Implications

2. There are no immediate legal implications associated with the content of this report. Potential collaborative projects/programmes/activity identified through stakeholder engagement will be considered in a secondary paper in 2023, at which point legal implications will be considered and outlined where identified.

Other Implications

3. There are no other immediate implications associated with the content of this report. Potential collaborative projects/programmes/activity identified through stakeholder engagement will be considered in a secondary paper in 2023, at which point implications relating to equalities, and the environment etc. will be outlined.

Conclusion

This report has provided the FOP with an update on progress to proactively identify new opportunities for joint working which help to deliver the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision, whilst supporting delivery of corporate plans. Several recommendations are presented to the FOP for consideration. A secondary report will be presented to the FOP in 2023, and will detail a selection of projects/activity identified through stakeholder engagement, which support delivery of the Vision. This will provide the FOP with the opportunity to consider and endorse the projects/activity which it deems appropriate to proceed with.

Background Papers

1. There are no background papers associated with this report.

Report Author:	*Beth Wilks, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Manager*
Contact information:	*Beth.Wilks@southandvale.gov.uk*

Appendix A: *Table summarising the corporate priorities of the 6 Oxfordshire Local Authorities and OxLEP as described within published Corporate Plans. It is important to note, West Oxfordshire's Corporate Plan is currently being refreshed.*

Authority	Period	No. of Priorities	Priorities / Strategic Objectives
Cherwell	2022 - 2023	4	• Housing that meets your needs • Supporting environmental sustainability • An enterprising economy with strong and vibrant local centres • Healthy, resilient, and engaged communities
West Oxfordshire *To be updated*	2020 - 2024	6	• Climate action • Healthy towns and villages • A vibrant district economy • Strong local communities • Meeting the housing needs of our changing population • Modern council services and sustainable finance
Vale of White Horse	2020 - 2024	6	• Providing the homes people need • Tackling the climate emergency • Building healthy communities • Building stable finances • Working in partnership • Working in an open and inclusive way
South Oxfordshire	2020 - 2024	6	• Protect and restore our natural world • Openness and accountability • Action on the climate emergency • Improved economic and community well-being • Homes and infrastructure that meet local needs • Investment and innovation that rebuilds our financial viability
Oxford City	2020 - 2024	4	• Enable an inclusive economy • Deliver more affordable housing • Support thriving communities • Pursue a zero carbon Oxford
Oxfordshire County Council	2022 - 2025	9	• Put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work • Tackle inequalities in Oxfordshire • Prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents • Support carers and the social care system • Invest in an inclusive, integrated and sustainable transport network • Preserve and improve access to nature and green spaces • Create opportunities for children and young people to reach their full potential • Play our part in a vibrant and participatory local democracy • Work with local businesses and partners for environmental, economic and social benefit
OxLEP Corporate Plan 2022-2024	2022 - 2024	4	• People (Skills) • Place (Housing, the Environment and Employment Space) • Enterprise (Business and Innovation) • Connectivity (Road, Rail, Cycle ways, Utilities, Telecoms & Broadband)

Appendix B: *FOP Filter*

Future Oxfordshire Partnership - Project / Programme / Activity Filter	
Name of Project/Programme/Activity	
Responsible Authority	
Brief Summary of Project/Programme/Activity	
How does it contribute to the outcomes of the Strategic Vision for Oxfordshire?	
What would be the value in it being considered at the advisory group or FOP?	
How can the advisory group or wider FOP influence the project/programme/activity? What role would the advisory group/FOP play?	

FUTURE OXFORDSHIRE PARTNERSHIP

To: The Future Oxfordshire Partnership

Title of Report: **Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Financial Report: Update at the end of Quarter 2 2022/23**

Date: **29 November 2022**

Report of: **Director of Finance, Oxfordshire County Council**

                (Accountable Body)

Status: **Open**

Executive Summary and Purpose:
The purpose of this report is to update the Future Oxfordshire Partnership on the financial position for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal. The report provides updates on the following funding streams as at the end of Quarter 2 2022/23:

- Housing from Infrastructure (HfI) programme
- Growth Deal Capacity Fund

The report is prepared by the Director of Finance for Oxfordshire County Council in the capacity of Section 151 Officer of the Accountable Body for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal and gives assurance over the grant funding and expenditure.

How this report contributes to the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision Outcomes:
The Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal has a key role to play in delivering well-designed infrastructure and homes, sufficient in numbers, location, type, size, tenure, and affordability to meet the needs of our county, as set out in the Strategic Vision here.

Recommendation:
The Future Oxfordshire Partnership are asked to note the financial position as at the end of September 2022.

Appendices:
Annex 1: Housing from Infrastructure (HfI) Programme

1.0   Introduction

1.1   This report sets out the financial position for the remaining two strands of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal as at the end of September 2022.

- Housing from Infrastructure (HfI) Programme.
- Growth Deal Capacity Fund.

1.2   The report is prepared by the Director of Finance for Oxfordshire County Council (the County Council) in the capacity of Section 151 Officer of the Accountable Body for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal and gives assurance over the grant funding and expenditure.

1.3   Funding for a further strand of the deal, the Productivity Programme is managed by the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) and financial performance is reported independently to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership.

2.0   Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Fund Financial Governance

2.1   In accordance with the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Delivery Plan, the County Council is the accountable body for the financial management of the remaining two financial streams. A quarterly report is provided to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership. Responsibility for the management of each financial stream is held by the programme lead.

2.2   As the accountable body, the County Council:

- Receives grant funding from the government.
- Ensures that recommendations to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership on schemes to be funded are in accordance with the grant conditions and within the funding available.
- Provides regular monitoring reports to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership.

2.3   The County Council also holds the risk should Government require funding to be repaid if it is unspent or deemed to have been misused.

3.0   Financial Summary as at the end of Quarter 2 2022/23

3.1   Housing from Infrastructure Programme

3.1.1   Grant funding supporting the Housing from Infrastructure Programme was expected to total £150.0m. The investment in infrastructure was expected to accelerate at least 6,549 planned homes that might not otherwise have come forward at this pace. The programme comprises schemes covering road, rail, cycle routes and footpaths, as well as a school. Schemes may be either fully or part funded via the programme.

3.1.2   The grant funding was expected to be paid to Oxfordshire County Council in five equal annual instalments of £30.0m. 2022/23 is the fifth and final year for the receipt of funding towards the Infrastructure Fund Programme. £120m has been received so far and the remaining £30m was expected to be received in 2022/23. On that basis £142.7m of the grant funding is being used to support capital

expenditure and £7.3m has been used to fund revenue costs associated with the Housing from Infrastructure programme.

3.1.3 A revised programme was considered and supported by the Future Oxfordshire Partnership in September 2022 with proposals for individual scheme budget allocations adjusted to remain within the overall parameters of the programme and within the original funding of £150m.

3.1.4 The scheme allocations agreed by the Future Oxfordshire Partnership in September 2022 are shown in Annex 1. Total expenditure up to 31 March 2022 was £110.5m. On the basis of the current programme, forecast spend is £47.5m in 2022/23 with actual spend of £9.5m as at the end of Quarter 2. This includes a prepayment of £4.1m to National Highways in respect of the A34 Lodge Hill scheme. Prepayments made up to the end of 2021/22 include £16.0m for Upper Heyford M40 Junction 10 and £5.4m for Oxpens Bridge in Oxford City.

3.1.5 Almost half of the expenditure in 2022/23 relates to two schemes, North Oxford Corridor (Loop Farm) and Oxford Science Transit. Both these schemes are in the construction stage.

3.1.6 No further schemes will be agreed to enter the construction stage until confirmation of receipt of the final £30m is received. This increases the risk of significant delays to programme delivery due to the ongoing uncertainty.

3.2   Growth Deal Capacity Fund

3.2.1 The Growth Deal Capacity Fund totals £5.0m. The first instalment of £0.5m was paid in 2017/18, followed by £2.5m in 2018/19 and £2.0m in 2019/20.

3.2.2 The ringfenced funding was expected to be used over the life of the programme which was originally planned to run from 2017/18 to 2022/23. At each year end, funding that has not been spent has been carried forward through the County Council's earmarked reserves. Costs expected to be met from the Capacity Fund were:

- Housing Delivery: Staff costs for the core Housing and Growth Deal team.
- Delivery of the Oxfordshire Joint Statutory Spatial Plan including staff costs.
- Feasibility: costs of feasibility works including Rail Connectivity Study (part funding) and Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS) refresh.

3.2.3 £1.8m of the fund remained available as at the end of 2021/2. Actual spend at the end of Quarter 2 of 2022/23 was £0.230m.

3.2.4 Following the decision to end the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 work programme, a transition plan is continuing to be developed. An update on the availability and use of the remaining funding to meet the costs arising from that plan will be provided in the next update.

4.0   Financial Implications

4.1   The report sets out the financial update at the end of Quarter 2 for the remaining two strands of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal. Based on the on-going

spend and funding position action will need to be agreed as appropriate to ensure that the Housing from Infrastructure programme can be managed within the funding available.

4.2 The County Council will continue to use its freedoms and flexibilities as the Accountable Body to ensure that funding for the Housing from Infrastructure Programme is carried forward and is available to support the delivery profile of the programme beyond the original end date of 2022/23.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 In accordance with the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Delivery Plan, the County Council is the accountable body for the financial management of the two remaining key financial streams.

5.2 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

6.0 Risk Management

6.1 The financial performance of these funding streams is monitored by the Growth Deal Programme Board. This ensures that forecast spend for the Growth Deal period is accurate, based on the knowledge of the programme plans, and actual spend is reported, based on a monthly review of all transactional activity and balanced to the County Council financial systems.

6.2 The availability of workforce and materials and inflationary increases in contract prices are increasing the risk to the deliverability and cost of capital schemes. Since a significant number of schemes are still to enter contract let, the overall financial risk to the programme remains high but this is being monitored and further changes to manage the overall programme will be considered as necessary.

6.3 Any risk identified to the programme will be reported to the Growth Deal Programme Board for review and appropriate mitigation action will be agreed. Any strategic risk to the overall programme will be reported to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership.

7.0 Conclusion

7.1 This report sets out an update on the actual and forecast spend against the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal funding streams at the end of Quarter 2 2022/23.

7.2 The Future Oxfordshire Partnership is asked to note the financial update set out in the report.

Report Author:	Lorna Baxter, Director of Finance
Contact information:	Kathy Wilcox, Head of Financial Strategy
	Tel: 07788 302163

Housing from Infrastructure Programme

Growth Deal Schemes	Report	Yr 1 - Yr 4 £m	Adjustments	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 + £m	Total £m	Capital Allocation £m	Revenue Allocation £m
GROWTH DEAL SCHEMES									
NW Bicester A4095 Howes Lane / Lords Lane u/bridge	MIBAB	4.837 -	0.537	-	-	-	**4.300**	4.300	0.020
NW Bicester A4095 Howes Lane / Lords LaneRoad Realignment	MIBAB	1.352	-	0.001	-	-	**1.353**	1.353	-
M40 J10 Improvements	MIBAB	16.654 -	10.100	-	-	2.146	**8.700**	8.700	0.140
A422 Hennef Way, Banbury	MIBAB	0.200	-	-	-	-	**0.200**	0.200	0.030
Tramway Road Banbury	MIBAB	0.796	-	0.500	4.824	-	**6.120**	6.120	0.280
A361 Bloxham Rd to A4260 Oxford Rd Link Rd	MIBAB	0.300	-	-	-	-	**0.300**	0.300	-
Access to Headington	MIOX	3.500	-	-	-	-	**3.500**	3.500	-
Botley Road Corridor	MIOX	3.250	-	-	-	-	**3.250**	3.250	-
Oxpens to Osney Mead Cycling and Pedestrian Bridge	MIOX	5.920	-	0.080	2.000	0.800	**8.800**	8.800	-
Oxford Citywide Cycle and Pedestrian Routes	MIOX	1.498	-	0.725	0.968	-	**3.191**	3.191	0.470
Banbury Rd Improvements (Banbury Road Corridor)	MIOX	0.569	-	0.194	0.800	0.807	**2.370**	2.370	0.030
Woodstock Rd Improvement (Woodstock Road Corridor)	MIOX	0.732	-	0.268	1.000	2.000	**4.000**	4.000	-
SE Corridors / Connecting Oxford	MIOX	0.527	-	0.900	0.175	-	**1.602**	1.602	0.440
A4260 and A44 Corridor Improvements	MIOX	2.520	-	15.000	3.210	-	**20.730**	20.730	1.470
North Oxford Corridors - Kidlington	MIOX	0.459	-	3.000	0.541	-	**4.000**	4.000	-
Active Travel P2 - City	MIOX	0.479	-	0.140	-	-	**0.619**	0.619	-
Botley Road Bridge	MIOX	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	-	0.500
Cowley Branch Line	Reserves	-	-	-	-	0.250	**0.250**	0.250	-
Watlington Edge Road	MICW	0.583	-	2.350	4.000	0.167	**7.100**	7.100	0.010
Benson Relief Road	MICW	0.784	-	2.966	-	-	**3.750**	3.750	-
Milton Enterprise Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge	MICW	0.185	-	0.053	-	-	**0.238**	0.238	0.420
Frilford Junction	MICW	0.278	-	0.375	0.600	0.247	**1.500**	1.500	-
Relief to Rowstock	MICW	0.474	-	0.650	-	3.676	**4.800**	4.800	-
Jubilee Way Roundabout & Didcot Central Corridor	MICW	0.091	-	0.750	0.159	-	**1.000**	1.000	-
Golden Balls Roundabout Junction (A4074/B4015)	MICW	0.009	-	0.400	0.591	-	**1.000**	1.000	-
A40/Minster Lovell West Facing Slips/Access to Carterton	MICW	-	-	-	0.710	-	**0.710**	0.710	0.120
Oxford Science Transit	MIHIF2	4.562	-	7.438	-	-	**12.000**	12.000	-
Access to Witney at Shores Green	MIHIF2	1.696	-	5.100	8.000	2.204	**17.000**	17.000	0.020
Thame to Haddenham Cycle Route	n/a	-	-	-	-		**-**	-	0.010
Shrivenham New School	Pupil Places	0.501	-	1.999	-	-	**2.500**	2.500	-
Ploughley Road / A41 Bicester	MIBAB	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	-	0.010
Wantage Eastern Link Road	MICW	1.000	-	-	-	-	**1.000**	1.000	-
A34 Lodge Hill	MICW	0.462	-	4.594	6.944	-	**12.000**	12.000	-
A4095 Road Roundabout Improvements	MIBAB	-	-	-	2.000	3.200	**5.200**	5.200	-
Featherbed Lane Capacity Improvements	n/a	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	-	-
Total Scheme Spend		54.218 -	10.637	47.483	36.522	15.497	**143.083**	143.083	3.970
Staffing		-	-	-	-	-	**-**	-	3.303
Programme Contingency/earmarked reserves		-	-	-	-	-	**-**	-	-
Total Other Send		-	-	-	-	-	**-**	-	3.303
TOTAL GROWTH DEAL SCHEMES		54.218 -	10.637	47.483	36.522	15.497	**143.083**	143.083	7.273
New Schools and Other Transport Schemes - Capital Switches		49.022		-	-	-	49.022		
Revenue		7.273		-	-	-	7.273		
UTILISATION OF GROWTH DEAL FUNDING		110.513 -	10.637	47.483	36.522	15.497	199.378		0.356

	Yr 1 - Yr 4	Adjustments	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total
Accounting Adjustments: Prepayments	-	16.393	5.800	10.000	0.593	-
Accounting Adjustments: Prepayments		-	-	-	-	-
Control Total	**94.120**	**-** **10.637**	**53.283**	**46.522**	**16.090**	**199.378**

Funding	Yr 1 - Yr 4	Adjustments	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total
Capital	105.000		30.000	-	-	135.000
Revenue	15.000		-	-	-	15.000
Total Growth Deal Grant Funding	**120.000**	**0.000**	**30.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**150.000**
Funding Switches	49.022		-	-	-	49.022
Total Funding	**169.022**	**0.000**	**30.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**199.022**
Revenue C/Fwd	**0.000**		**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
Capital C/Fwd	**74.902**	**10.637**	**-23.283**	**-46.522**	**-16.090**	**-0.356**
Cummulative Capital C/Fwd	**74.902**		**62.256**	**15.734**	**-0.356**	

Future Oxfordshire Partnership response to recommendations of the Partnership Scrutiny Panel made on 20 September 2022

The Future Oxfordshire Partnership is requested to provide a response to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel for decision at its meeting on 27 September 2022.

Recommendation	Comment
Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Update Whilst acknowledging the concerted efforts to reach consensus on the issue of future housing need, the Panel noted the ending of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 programme with deep regret and disappointment and regards this as a regressive step. In the Panel's view the ending of the Programme will negatively impact on the delivery of sustainable development in Oxfordshire The Panel noted the good work already achieved as part of the programme and expressed concern that this is at risk of being lost unless councils across Oxfordshire go beyond their legal obligations under the Duty to Cooperate. The Panel therefore strongly supports the recommendations 2,3, and 4 set out in Update on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Programme report to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership and in the spirit of those proposals recommends to the Partnership that it: 1. Agree the principle that the district, City and County Councils should continue to cooperate and collaborate on county wide future spatial planning matters related to the former	*The Scrutiny Panel's support for the recommendations in the report is noted and welcomed.* *It is important that the District, City and County Councils continue to cooperate and collaborate on County wide spatial planning matters, and the proposed Planning Advisory Group would be a useful forum to help facilitate that.*

Oxfordshire Plan 2050 work programme, with the support of a planning advisory group. In doing so, they should aspire to achieve policy coherence and coordination in respective local plans. These topics for collaboration should include, but are not limited to, the Green Belt, carbon reduction, nature recovery, housing density and proximity of housing to employment sites, and active travel infrastructure connecting housing to urban centres.	*The specific topics for collaboration mentioned by the Scrutiny Panel are relevant to the work of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership as well of that of the Councils, and we agree that they should be considered in developing the work programmes of the revised Planning Advisory Group and of the Environment, Infrastructure and Housing Advisory Groups.*
Review of Homes from Infrastructure Programme The Panel understands and acknowledges the complex challenges in bringing the item forward and need for appropriate sign off. However, the Panel was very disappointed to receive the slides regarding the item on the afternoon of its meeting. It regards this as unacceptable and incompatible with the Panel's role to review and scrutinise plans, proposals and decisions related to the discharge of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership's functions and the delivery of the agreed Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal. It is also not conducive with general principles applicable to the relationship between scrutiny and executives. The Panel has also requested that further information be provided to it on the methodology and criteria used in determining the revised HfI programme. This to include how the criteria has been applied to specific schemes, in particular a breakdown of the estimate of housing units that would be accelerated, (unlocked) by each scheme now recommended to be part of the revised programme versus schemes recommended to be removed or scaled back from the programme. In the absence of this information, whilst a number of members had grave individual concerns regarding the prioritisation of particular schemes over others, the Panel did not feel there was sufficient information and time for it and the Partnership to come to an overall judgement on the proposals. In terms of process, the Panel also requested	*This was a joint proposal from Districts, City and County Councils which necessitated a very thorough sign-off process.* *Nevertheless, we acknowledge the lateness of what was presented for discussion at Scrutiny and we echo the Scrutiny Panel's disappointment.*

information on who signed off the proposed revised list and who will agree and make the final decision on the list.

Recommendations to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership:

2. That the Partnership respond to the concerns of the Panel and requests for further information as set out above.

3. That in addition to the consideration of the housing units accelerated by a particular scheme within the period of the Housing and Growth deal, the Partnership give higher priority to consideration of Active Travel factors, as a theme to determine the revised HfI programme. This is to ensure in the absence of existing infrastructure, there is the creation of new safe walking and cycling infrastructure linking developments to nearby settlements.

4. That where a scheme is proposed to be removed from the HfI programme and linked development has already taken place (e.g., Milton Heights), the Partnership reconsider its prioritisation weighting to include it in the HfI programme or else do all it can to encourage and facilitate the identification of replacement funding.

2. The estimated housing numbers were provided by the City and District Councils and can be shared with the Scrutiny Panel.

The proposed programme was agreed by senior officers and shared with the FOP's Infrastructure Advisory Group. Now the proposals have been through the FOP they go finally to the OCC Cabinet.

3. This has been factored into the consideration and many of the schemes on the programme are either exclusively Active Travel schemes or those with significant ActiveTravel / modal shift objectives.

However, the key criterion, particularly as we are in year 5 of the original programme, is the acceleration of housing units, as agreed with national government at the start of the housing and growth deal.

4. Where any scheme is removed from the HfI programme the identification of replacement funding becomes a key priority for all Councils. All schemes which have been within the programme over the past 5 years are infrastructure projects which are needed to support housing delivery. The need to amend funding allocations to maintain a balanced programme does not alter that.

Future Oxfordshire Partnership Scrutiny Panel Work Plan

The Future Oxfordshire Partnership Scrutiny Panel agrees its own Work Plan, which is reviewed at each meeting. The Panel is encouraged to be strict in prioritising key issues for review, in addition to the entirety of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership's forthcoming agendas, which will feature as a standard item on the Work Plan. The Panel's ongoing review of their work plan should be considered in conjunction with the Future Oxfordshire Partnership's Forward Plan.

Meeting date	Item	Description and rationale	Lead Officer
22 November	Delivering the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision	To receive an update on work underway to map out activity aligned to the agreed outcomes of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision ; next steps are proposed for consideration and endorsement by the FOP.	Beth Wilks, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Manager
	Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership	To consider a paper setting out an update on the progress of the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership, (OIEP) and the development and launch of the OIEP Charter and associated pledges on 24 January 2023.	Emma Coles, Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership Manager
	Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership Update	To consider a paper providing an update on the progress of the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership, highlighting areas of focus for the Partnership moving forward and setting out points for the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.	Matt Whitney, Local Nature Partnership Manager
	Q2 Housing and Growth Deal Financial Report	To receive the financial summary for Quarter 2 Year 5 (2022/2023) for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.	Lorna Baxter, Oxfordshire County Council
	Reports of Advisory Group Chairs	To receive updates from the Chairs of the advisory groups and summary notes from these meetings if available.	Chairs of the Advisory Groups

	Reports from key strategic partnerships supporting delivery of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision	To receive reports from other partnerships supporting the delivery of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.	Appointed member or representative of the partner organisation.

Meeting date	Item	Description and rationale	Lead Officer
23 January	Pathways to a Zero Carbon Oxfordshire Route Map Update	To receive a report from City Science on the Oxfordshire Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan.	Suzanne Malcolm, Deputy Chief Executive Place, South and Vale Councils
	Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and West Berkshire ICB Update	To receive an update on the Buckingham, Oxfordshire and West Berkshire Integrated Care Board, (ICB).	Daniel Leveson, Executive Director for Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and West Berkshire ICB
	Reports of Advisory Group Chairs	To receive updates from the Chairs of the advisory groups and summary notes from these meetings if available	Chairs of the Advisory Groups
	Reports from key strategic partnerships supporting delivery of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision	To receive reports from other partnerships supporting the delivery of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.	Appointed member or representative of the partner organisation.

Action Log

This action log sets out requests for information and actions required by the Scrutiny Panel. Any requests for information that do not relate to a specific agenda item will be published on the Future Oxfordshire Partnership website alongside the next available Scrutiny Panel Agenda, except where that information requires the disclosure of exempt information, as set out in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Date raised by the Panel	Action	Lead Member / Officer	Panel Updated/ Discussed on	Progress Notes
07/06/22	Production of a summary briefing note covering the history and current position of the Oxford to Cambridge Arc	Andrew Down, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Director		Ongoing
20/09/22	Request from Cllr Andy Cooke for 1) more information on the definition of 'affordable housing. 2) the average price paid by owners of shared ownership home and what the interquartile range of prices were.	Paul Staines, Interim Head of Programme		Ongoing – request to be considered by the newly established Housing Advisory Officer Group for report back to the Panel by the 18 January 2023 meeting.

| 20/09/22 | Request for further information on the methodology and criteria used in determining the revised HfI programme. This to include how the criteria has been applied to specific schemes, in particular a breakdown of the estimate of housing units that would be accelerated, (unlocked) by each scheme now recommended to be part of the revised programme versus schemes recommended to be removed or scaled back from the programme. | John McLauchlan, Head of Infrastructure Planning Office, Oxfordshire County Council | | Ongoing – an up to date response will be provided once there is certainty on the status of the final £30m Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal payment from HM Government. |

Notes
OF A MEETING OF THE

The Future Oxfordshire Partnership Infrastructure Advisory Group

HELD ON MONDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 2.00 PM
VIRTUAL VIA MS TEAMS

Present:

Members: Councillors Liz Leffman (Chair), Pieter-Paul Barker, Ian Corkin, Duncan Enright, Alex Hollingsworth, Judy Roberts and Carl Rylett

Officers: John Disley (Oxfordshire County Council), Babatunde Ogundele (Future Oxfordshire Partnership), Paul staines (Oxfordshire County Council), Abigail Nichols (England's Economic Heartland) and James Gagg (Oxfordshire County Council)

42   Apologies for absence and notification of substitutions; declaration on interests; Chair's announcements

Apologies for absence were submitted by Phil Southall, Oxfordshire Strategic Bus Forum

There were no Chair's announcements

There were no declaration of interests

43   Notes of the previous meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 25 May 2022 were agreed to be an accurate record of matters discussed.

Councillor Duncan Enright confirmed he is the acting leader of West Oxfordshire District Council, however he confirmed he will still be representing Oxfordshire County Council at the Infrastructure Advisory Group.

44   England's Economic Heartland (EEH) Update

The Advisory Group was provided with a presentation by Abigail Nichols, England Economic Heartland on an update of the England Economic Heartland Connectivity Studies.

Abigail Nichols confirmed England's Economic Heartland (EEH) is a subnational transport body that covers the regions of Cambridgeshire to Swindon, Northamptonshire to Hertfordshire and the entirety of Oxfordshire.

Abigail Nichols confirmed that two connectivity studies have been worked on with officers for 18 months and they are concluding shortly. Members of the IAG had had a briefing at the early stages of the studies, and this update gives an overview of key areas of work undertaken to date. It was also pointed out that 3rd Study had commenced which will cover Swindon, Didcot, and Oxford.

The presentation to the group highlighted a 5-point plan of action which underpins EEH work in line with their transport strategy, including the connectivity studies:

- Decarbonisation of the transport system by harnessing innovation and supporting solutions which create green economic opportunities
- Investment in digital infrastructure as a means of improving connectivity
- Transformation of our strategic public transport network
- Increased Investment in local connectivity
- Ensure that our Freight and Logistics needs continue to be met

The presentation highlighted that the outputs from the connectivity studies will help inform iterations of EEH investment Pipeline.

The presentation to the Advisory Group also highlighted the following packages which would work as one to enhance connectivity within each area:

- Digital and Demand Management (to be tailored to local requirement)
- Making best use of reallocated road space
- Supporting rail to provide fast, reliable strategic connectivity
- Supporting mode shift to active and sustainable modes
- Enabling sustainable planned development and a decarbonised fleet
- Sustainable and efficient freight solutions

Councillors queried what the priorities are in these schemes factoring in the possibility of budget constraints. It was confirmed that in the final report there will be a section on the reality of the situation and funding sources. It was also confirmed that there is some work underway in the EEH Work Programme that will look at financing and funding solutions.

Members confirmed the work currently done in relation to freight solutions is consistent with Local Transport and Connectivity Plan, (LTCP) where it is planned to move freight off non-strategic routes. Members asked whether a similar view was held by other authorities within the EEH region. It was pointed out that EEH will invite Local Authorities to work with them on any commission taken forward relating to freight.

Members queried if any work has been done as to whether these routes link with ones that come from the surrounding areas. It was confirmed that work is currently in progress particularly for the Oxfordshire (Swindon-Didcot-Oxford) study.

Members queried why West Oxfordshire District Council was not included in the Swindon – Didcot study as there are connectivity issues which local
residents have issues with. It was confirmed that the connectivity studies geographies were developed via evidence led approach and agreed as part of the Transport Strategy

(published in 2021). Each study geography has been agreed with the study steering groups. A conversation between EEH and North Cotswolds Taskforce has been had which may lead to further discussions on how these connecting services can be included over time.

Action: Abigail Nichols to circulate copy of freight report, which can be found at the link below. EEH to work with local authorities on any freight commissioned work moving forward.
Strategic connectivity: freight - England's Economic Heartland (englandseconomicheartland.com)

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Chair thanked Abigail Nichols for her presentation and confirmed that the connectivity studies will be going to the EEH Board for review/ agreement in due course.

45   Oxford-Cambridge Arc

The Advisory Group was provided with a presentation by James Gagg, Principal Infrastructure Planner, Oxfordshire County Council on the Oxford-Cambridge Arc Infrastructure Principle. It was pointed out that the update was based on work that was developed from the Arc Infrastructure group. This was a collection of representatives from organisation across the Arc area (Oxford-Cambridge) including Infrastructure representatives.

The following principles were highlighted in the presentation:

- Principle 1: Put sustainability at the forefront of infrastructure considerations
- Principle 2: Plan infrastructure collaboratively, flexibly, and efficiently
- Principle 3: Plan infrastructure in community facing and inclusive manner
- Principle 4: Use strong infrastructure R&D capability of the Arc to support both local and national growth

Councillors suggested that Principle 4 should be Principle 1 due to the need to give the relevant government department a reason why the infrastructure is needed, the R&D capability and the growth this might bring.

Members queried how the Arc with a slightly reduced membership and EEH can be presented as being separate as they shared a similar geography and are doing very similar things. It was also pointed out that there needs to be a strong alignment between EEH and the Arc which is something currently being work on.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Chair thanked James Gagg for his presentation and suggested an update on this at the next meeting.

46   Oxford Infrastructure Strategy (OxiS) Next Steps

The Advisory Group was provided with a presentation by James Gagg, Principal Infrastructure Planner, Oxfordshire County Council on the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy, (OxIS) next steps

It was highlighted that in terms of OxIS Stage 1, Oxfordshire County Council are now using OxIS Multi Criteria Assessment (MCA) framework to help develop a pipeline assessment tool for potential transport schemes. This tool may also be able to be developed for use in other areas. It was also pointed out that OxIS Stage 2 is currently under review given the recent decision not to progress with the Oxfordshire Plan 2050

Members of the Advisory Group expressed their desire for the work currently done on OxIS to be retained and built on going forward and suggested the need for a countywide framework for matters like Social and Affordable Housing and praised the fact that OxIS is currently being used as a basis for this.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Chair thanked James Gagg for his presentation.

47   Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) Update

The Advisory Group was provided with a presentation by John Disley, Head of Transport Policy Environment and Place, Oxfordshire County Council on the Bus Service Improvement Plan.

The presentation highlighted:

- Government has confirmed funding of £12.70m (£8.74m capital, 3.96m revenue) over period 2022-2025
- An 'Enhanced Partnership' Board being set up with bus operators and district partners to provide strategic oversight of the BSIP and related projects/commitments
- Finalisation and approval of the EP Document needed to release funds (expected in next 2-3 months)
- Infrastructure funded from the BSIP allocation would include Oxford traffic filters and Banbury Cherwell St bus lane

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Chair thanked John Disley for his presentation.

48   Reappointment of a co-opted representative from the Oxford Strategic Transport Forum

Members of the Advisory Group agreed to reconfirm Phil Southall as a member of the Infrastructure Advisory Group.

Action: John Disley confirmed he would follow up on this with Phil Southall

49   Dates of Future Meetings and Forward Programme

Meetings at 14:00 unless otherwise stated.

- 31/10/2022
- 09/01/2023
- 27/02/2023
- 17/04/2023 (10.00)
- 03/07/2023

The Chair pointed out the need to have a special Infrastructure Advisory Group Meeting on 15/09/2022 to discuss pressures on the Capital Programme.

The meeting closed at 3.50 pm

Notes
OF A MEETING OF THE

The Future Oxfordshire Partnership Infrastructure Advisory Group

**HELD ON THURSDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 11.30 AM
VIRTUAL VIA MS TEAMS**

Present:

Members: Councillors Liz Leffman (Chair), Pieter-Paul Barker, Ian Corkin, Duncan Enright, Alex Hollingsworth, Judy Roberts, Carl Rylett and Phil Southall

Officers: Owen Jenkins (Oxfordshire County Council), Babatunde Ogundele (Future Oxfordshire Partnership), Paul Staines and Beth Wilks (Future Oxfordshire Partnership)

50   Apologies for absence and notification of substitutions; declaration of interests; Chair's announcements

There were no apologies for absence and notification of substitutions.

The Chair confirmed the meeting was scheduled to go over the Housing and Growth Deal Homes from Infrastructure, (HfI) budget due to significant cost pressures. The Chair also pointed out the need to manage the budget as effectively as possible as the purpose of these funds is to bring forward housing projects and support growth.

There were no declaration of interests.

51   Capital Programme - HFI Elements Update

The Advisory Group was provided with a presentation by John McLauchlan, Head of Service Infrastructure Programme Office, Oxfordshire County Council on the Housing and Growth Deal Infrastructure Scheme Review.

The presentation highlighted the following:

- Total capital allocation for Infrastructure is £142.7m
- Present Programme has allocated £149.2m

- This is a result of a short-term imbalance to the programme as endorsed by the Future Oxfordshire Partnership (FOP) on 30th June by agreeing the additional £5m for the NOC Cassington Scheme and £1.495m for Benson, and since approved by OCC
- The following scheme changes were endorsed by FOP in June, but paused (pending capital review)
  - Tramway
  - Access to Whitney
  - NOC Kidlington
  - Woodstock Road
  - Banbury Road
- To achieve a balanced programme an overall reduction of £6.495m must be achieved to cover the already implemented decision, in addition to the pressure in the programme of between £30m and £50m
- Plan to present for a decision to be made at FOP on 27th September 2022, followed by OCC Cabinet endorsement in October 2022.

John McLauchlan confirmed that any figures highlighted in the presentation were a snapshot in time due the changing nature of the programme and the cost pressures attached to it.

John McLauchlan pointed out that the Milton Heights Bridge which funding would be removed from is yet to be discussed at a political level by South Oxfordshire and Vale Of White Horse District Councils Officers.

Members queried why Woodstock Road and Banbury Road Corridors were included in the presentation as it was thought they would be better suited to Central Oxfordshire Travel Plan (COTP) It was pointed out that fundamentally they will still be moving into COTP and there was no actual funding for COTP now.

Members enquired if the £2m from North Oxford Corridor – Kidlington Roundabout would be reassigned to the design work as it will show that there are intentions to move on and get the development of Homes in A4095 Northwest Bicester. It was pointed out that the £2m from Kidlington had been reallocated across programmes and a further reduction in an existing scheme would need to be made to achieve this. It was also pointed out that a business case is currently in progress by Cherwell District Council Officers to understand the number of housings that will be unlocked for the design work going on.

Members queried why the Banbury Road Roundabout scheme was reintroduced and if there is an order of priority for these schemes. It was however pointed out that Banbury Road Roundabout had a good level of maturity, met Housing and Growth Deal criteria, and could be delivered in the time available. It was also confirmed that there was no order of priority with these schemes, however there is a scoring matrix which does not impact decision making.

Member agreed for this presentation to go forward to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership (FOP) meeting on 27 September 2022 for consideration and pointed out the need for more details in the presentation when it goes to the FOP.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Chair thanked John McLauchlan for his presentation to the Advisory Group.

52   Dates of Future Meetings and Forward Programme

Meetings at 14.00 unless otherwise stated.

31/10/2022
09/01/2023
27/02/2023
17/04/2023 (10.00)
03/07/2023

The meeting closed at 12.15 pm

Public Document Pack

Notes
OF A MEETING OF THE

**FUTURE
OXFORDSHIRE
PARTNERSHIP**

The Future Oxfordshire Partnership Environment Advisory Group

**HELD ON TUESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 10.00 AM
VIRTUAL VIA MS TEAMS**

Present:

Councillors: David Rouane (Chair), Sue Cooper, Sally Povolotsky, Andrew Prosser and Imogen Thomas

Officers: Ian Boll, (Corporate Director Communications, Cherwell District Council), Inga Doherty, (Energy Insight Lead, Oxfordshire County Council), Alex Jeffery, (Future Oxfordshire Partnership), Suzanne Malcolm, (Senior Responsible Officer), Mish Tullar, (Head of Corporate Strategy, Oxford City Council).

Guests: Laurence Oakes-Ash (City Science) and Heather Watkinson (City Science)

50 Apologies for absence and notification of substitutions; declarations of interest and Chair's announcements

Apologies were received from Councillor Pete Sudbury, Oxfordshire County Council and Councillor Andrea Powell, South Oxfordshire District Council. Councillor Sue Cooper substituted for Councillor Powell.

There were no declarations from Members.

The Chair welcomed Members, Officers and Guests to the meeting.

51 Notes of the previous meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 21 June 2022 were agreed to be an accurate record of matters discussed.

52 Oxfordshire Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan briefing paper

The Environment Advisory Group considered a report and received a presentation from City Science on the Oxfordshire Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan. The presentation was given by Laurence Oakes-Ash and Heather Watkinson.

<u>Introduction</u>
City Science have built on the existing Pathways to a Zero Carbon Oxfordshire (PaZCO) work by using the baseline evidence previously produced by the University of Oxford and other partners. The goal of the project is to translate that into a programme of actions to make meaningful progress to delivering net zero.

At present there are 15 proposed actions for inclusion in the action plan. Consultation sessions will now ensure that any additional feedback is considered before the action plan is finalised.

<u>Baseline Emissions</u>
The scope of the baseline emissions data covers 4 main areas: transport, domestic, industrial & commercial and energy supply.

Transport – 44% of Oxfordshire's total emissions are from the transport sector and it is also the sector where emissions have declined the least since 2008. Councillors especially noted the contribution of 'through traffic' in Oxfordshire to transport emissions.

Domestic – 25% of Oxfordshire's total emissions are from the domestic sector and there has been a 35% decline in emissions in this sector since 2008 largely due to a change in grid intensity. Currently 53% of Oxfordshire homes are in EPC Band D and below. On this point, Councillors raised the issue of heritage buildings facing difficulties in trying to increase their energy efficiency, but this was not yet a detail that City Science have explored.

Industrial & Commercial – 26% of Oxfordshire's total emissions are from the industrial and commercial sectors and emissions in the sector have declined by 44.5% since 2008. Councillors questioned what constitutes industry and commerce? Laurence responded that any business operating from a business site will be classed in this category. A company operating from a home however would be classed as domestic.

Energy supply/renewable generation – 2014-2015 saw a large increase in Oxfordshire's annual renewable generation and Laurence noted that targeted funding can make a significant difference.

Councillors discussed the data and questioned whether it is solely based on carbon emissions or whether the date considers other pollutants which have an impact cost on the budget with regards to health? Laurence responded that the data is carbon emissions and greenhouse gas emissions which have been converted into carbon equivalents. There is not a separate exercise for looking at particulate matter or pollutants that are associated with air quality, but Laurence noted that many of the actions will have a knock-on benefit in order to address air quality and actions in the route map will capture such co-benefits.

<u>The Route Map</u>
The goal of the route map is to break down what needs to be done by 2025, 2030, 2040 and 2050, and also provides wider concepts of what is happening at a national level as well as locally.

Transport – The transport sector route map targets reaching net zero by 2040 in line with emerging local transport connectivity plan. The key areas of focus in the transport route map are reducing trip demand, shifting to sustainable modes and then residual emissions are covered by widespread electrification across the remainder of trips.

Mish Tullar (Oxford City Council officer) questioned how transport targets can be achieved when around half of emissions are produced by through journeys and would these targets be met by actions affecting local journeys? Laurence responded that the local connectivity transport plan is broadly targeted at reducing the number of trips which originate in Oxfordshire, and in order to reduce total emissions there does need to be a reduction in local trip miles. On through trips, Laurence recommended that closer working with partners will be required and actions that do not reduce trip miles need to be catered for by increases in electrification for example.

Councillors noted on the transport route map that hydrogen sources are out of scope of the work but questioned this decision bearing in mind the Central Government roadmap is pushing vehicles above 3 tonnes to hydrogen. Councillor Rouane asked that City Science take this in mind for the next stage of their work and also view the Zero Carbon Oxford Partnership (ZCOP) roadmap for transport which goes into detail on hydrogen.

Domestic – The key objective in the domestic sector is performance of the housing stock. By 2030, 23% of existing properties are at a minimum in EPC B and by 2050 this increased to 100%. Also in the route map is a continued tightening of standards for new developments beyond the future home's standards, moving to Passivhaus Plus by 2030.

Ian Boll (Cherwell District Council officer) posed a question about funding, specifically the 17,000 homes retrofitted to >EPC B, requiring £10-£15 million of revenue per annum. Laurence reassured the group that there is good news in this space, a "wall of money" willing to lend, noting more green mortgages being offered and British lenders wanting to lend for the purposes of supporting homes to become more energy efficient.

Industrial and commercial – The key objective in this route map is to retrofit buildings and de-carbonise industrial processes.

Energy supply – The goals of the energy supply route map are increasing the contribution of solar alongside Oxfordshire Leading the Way which was part of the original PaZCO work and set a goal for Oxfordshire to deliver 6% of the UKs solar energy. The route map sets a goal of 4.1% by 2030.

Councillors questioned consultees and data, specifically were Harwell EnergyTec Cluster consulted as they could provide a roadmap of the technology and investment coming into Oxfordshire which could make the data more personalised to the county. They were not consulted but City Science worked closely with Oxfordshire County Council on who the 1-1 consultations should be allocated to. On the question about data, Laurence noted that the baseline data fed into a model which was tested with stakeholders against the previous targets.

Councillors noted a desire to be more ambitious with regard to the 'easier to decarbonise' sectors, noting that Oxfordshire was is an innovative county and the pathway to net zero would be challenging but striking the balance between achievability and ambition is imperative.

The Actions & Next Steps
Actions were generated during the thematic workshops which covered the themes of freight, rural transport, finance, industrial, commercial & business and retrofit/domestic. Prior to the focus groups, three actions were emailed to attendees to pre-vote on their top

two priority actions which were then discussed during the focus group. Councillors expressed an interest in what would happen to actions rejects during focus group sessions. Laurence responded that although 15 actions felt appropriate, the action plan is an evolving document and on occasion actions were merged where they were interdependent so that all three could be taken through to the action plan development.

Mish Tullar (Oxford City Council officer) asked for a list of the organisations that participated in the workshops to cross reference with organisations that are already engaged with and to identify any gaps in the consultation.

In terms of gap analysis, City Science acknowledged that Oxfordshire has already mobilised a range of successful carbon emission projects and now needs to scale up those existing projects to deliver the ambitions of the route map. For example, 120,000 private electric vehicles, 15,000 electric LGVs and 900 electric HGVs on Oxfordshire's roads by 2030. Councillors expressed concern that rural areas were under-represented, and the targets for transport do not accurately reflect the challenges of rural communities. The representatives from City Science reassured the group that rural transport had been a theme of the thematic workshops and a focus throughout the process is to support improvements to rural transport.

The final focus group to take place is around 'finance' and Councillors questioned whether this meant funding? Laurence confirmed that 'finance' was in two parts, the first was engagement with the Council finance divisions to make sure they are bought-into anything that may need to be funded post the delivery of this work but also discussing how Oxfordshire can be more innovative in terms of how it gets the money to deliver these actions.

A general theme emerged during the discussion: Councillors noted that there is already work underway in this field and plenty of the actions proposed by City Science are already captured by the ZCOP work. Councillors expressed a need avoid the duplication of work and effort and also not to hinder or halt those actions that are already underway, such as the Local Nature Partnership leading on the delivery of habitat restoration. Councillors also raised concerns around pitfalls in some of the actions namely the roll out of EV charging points and heritage properties and there was also a call from Councillor Cooper for more information for towns and parishes if they were to invest in EV charging points themselves. Councillors noted some concern as to whether the appropriate bodies have been consulted specifically FarmED on the issue of land use and carbon sequestration.

Next steps
Actions will be presented at the action plan consultation session as business cases with details such as owners & champions and clearly identifying how the action aligns with the route map as well as funding requirements. This is a high-level overview, and a more detailed outline will go into the final report. Councillor Povolotsky raised the importance of 'connecting the gaps' of independent work already underway and engaging industry to ensure these actions are deliverable. Laurence suggested that another section could be added to the action plan to note what groups or companies are already working in that space, but this was not done originally to avoid a conflict of interest in terms of companies being involved in the governance of actions. Councillor Povolotsky did not consider this would be a conflict of interest and such investment from and engagement with industry would be required to fund the proposed actions.

Following the update to the EAG there will be the action plan consultation session on 21st September and a draft action plan and report will be presented to Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) on 3rd October with feedback expected by 2nd November. 16th November is the final draft route map and action plan submission date to OCC. Between November and January the route map and action plan will go through the relevant Future Oxfordshire Partnership (FOP) groups (EOG, EAG, FOP Scrutiny Panel) before reaching the meeting of the Partnership on 23rd January 2023. Responding to a question from Ian Boll (Cherwell District Council officer), Suzanne Malcolm confirmed that individual Councils would have the opportunity to take the report through an informal sign-off process and there was work ongoing in the EAG Officer Group to populate a table showing a timeline for this.

There was a final point from Councillors for clarification more generally on how each Local Authority is defining net zero. Laurence responded that aligning with the ZCOP definition is outlined in the report. Laurence concluded the presentation by noting that there would be a chapter in the final report stitching together all of the actions and key themes emerging from the work.

Councillor Rouane closed the discussion by commending the imminent delivery of the action plan and route map.

Action: Alex Jeffery to circulate slides to Members with the meeting notes.

53   Work programme

The agenda for the meeting on 12 December 2022 already has a number of items therefore it was suggested that the talk on the work of the Local Nature Partnership could be deferred to the first EAG meeting in 2023.

Action: Alex Jeffery to contact Matt Witney to defer LNP agenda item.

Suzanne Malcolm noted with regard to the OxLEP item for the forward programme on page 10 of the agenda pack, an update was not possible at this meeting due to OxLEP's prior meeting being cancelled on 19.09.2022 due to the unforeseen Bank Holiday.

Action: Alex Jeffery to re-arrange for item to be on the agenda for the next meeting of the Environment Advisory Group.

Regarding the talk from a business, Ocado have been approached but no response has yet been received to that invitation. Suzanne Malcolm asked whether Councillor Povolotsky could 'nudge' Duncan Russell as she had originally provided his contact details.

Action: Councillor Povolotsky to contact Duncan Russell with regard to responding to EAG invite to talk.

Councillor Povolotsky proposed an update following the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty national conference however it was felt that this falls within the scope of the Local Nature Partnership.

Councillor Rouane suggested that EAG should have a joint meeting with the proposed planning sub-group (name to be decided) on solar farms to discuss who should take this

Environment Advisory Group notes - 20 September 2022

forward. Once the advisory group has been established this agenda item can be added to the forward programme.

54   Future meetings

The advisory group noted the date of the next meeting as 12th December 2022 at 10am.

The meeting closed at 11.45 am