

# Agenda



## The Future Oxfordshire Partnership Scrutiny Panel

**Monday 11 March 2024 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](mailto:futureoxfordshirepartnership@southandvale.gov.uk)

Telephone: 07917 088356

Website: [www.futureoxfordshirepartnership.org](http://www.futureoxfordshirepartnership.org)

### Members:

Councillor Tiago Corais	Oxford City Council
Councillor Katherine Miles	
Councillor Lois Muddiman	
Councillor John Broad	Cherwell District Council
Councillor Lynn Pratt	
Councillor Sean Woodcock	
Councillor Richard Webber	Oxfordshire County Council
Councillor Charlie Hicks	
Councillor Yvonne Constance	
Councillor Leigh Rawlins	South Oxfordshire District Council
Councillor David Turner	
Councillor Jo Robb	
Councillor Andy Cooke	Vale of White Horse District Council
Councillor Emily Smith	
Councillor Debby Hallett	
Councillor David Cooper	West Oxfordshire District Council
Councillor Julian Cooper	
Councillor Michael Brooker	

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](#)*
3. *[Arrangements are subject to change at short notice so please refer to the agenda page by following this link](#)*

# AGENDA

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

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting** (Pages 6 - 12)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2024.

**3. 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 **10:00 on Monday 11 March 2024**. 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](mailto: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.

**4. Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal: Update at the end of Quarter 3 2023/2024** (Pages 13 - 19)

To consider a report to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership setting out the Quarter 3 2023/2024 progress report for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.

**5. Local Enterprise Partnership Functions: Transition Arrangements** (Pages 20 - 22)

To consider a report to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership setting out an overview of the approach to the transition of the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, (OxLEP) which the Partnership is asked to note.

**6. Future Oxfordshire Partnership response to Scrutiny Panel recommendations** (Pages 23 - 25)

To consider the Future Oxfordshire Partnership's response to the recommendations from the Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 22 January 2024.

**7. Advisory Group updates**

**(a) Planning Advisory Group update** (Pages 26 - 30)

To receive the summary notes from the meeting of the Planning Advisory Group 2050 held on 15 December 2023.

**(b) Infrastructure Advisory Group (To Follow)**

To receive the notes of the Infrastructure Advisory Group held on 17 January 2024.

**(c) Environment Advisory Group update (Pages 31 - 35)**

To receive the summary notes of the meeting of the Environment Advisory Group held on 18 January 2024.

**8. Work programme for the Scrutiny Panel (Pages 36 - 39)**

To discuss the draft work programme for the Panel.

**9. Dates of next meetings**

Please refer to <https://futureoxfordshirepartnership.org/meetings/> for the most up to date information on times and locations.

Proposed meeting dates for June 2024 to June 2025 are:

- Tuesday 18/06/24
- Tuesday 23/07/24
- Wednesday 25/09/24
- Tuesday 19/11/24
- Monday 20/01/25
- Wednesday 12/03/25
- Tuesday 17/06/25

**Recommendation:** That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership Scrutiny Panel notes the dates of the proposed meetings June 2024 to June 2025

## **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 MONDAY 22 JANUARY 2024 AT 6.30 PM  
VIRTUAL MEETING VIEWABLE BY WEBLINK

### Present:

Councillor Katherine Miles (Chair), Councillor John Broad, Councillor Michael Brooker, Councillor Andy Cooke, Councillor Debby Hallett, Councillor Charlie Hicks, Councillor Lois Muddiman, Councillor Leigh Rawlins, Councillor Jo Robb and Councillor Sean Woodcock

### Officers contributing to and supporting the Panel:

Becky Chesshyre	Communications Coordinator - Oxfordshire Partnerships
Andrew Down	Future Oxfordshire Partnership Director
Glenys Lemming-Bott	Temporary Democratic Services Administrator- Future Oxfordshire Partnership
Susan Harbour	Strategic Partnerships Manager – South and Vale District Councils
Kevin Jacob	Democratic Services Officer – Future Oxfordshire Partnership
David Munday	Deputy Director of Public Health - Oxfordshire County Council
Rosie Rowe	Head of Healthy Place Shaping – Oxfordshire County Council
Paul Staines	Interim Head of Programme - Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal
David Yates	Policy and Project Officer - Future Oxfordshire Partnership

**Other councillors:** Councillor David Roane, Chair of the Environment Advisory Group

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

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillor Yvonne Constance, Oxfordshire County Council, Councillor Tiago Corais, Oxford City Council, Councillor Lynn Pratt, Cherwell District Council, Councillor Emily Smith, Vale of White Horse District Council and Councillor David Turner, South Oxfordshire District Council.

There were no declarations of interest.

## **52. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2023 were agreed as a correct record subject to amend the resolved action at the end of the minute 39 to include reference to the Panel's comments made the item as follows:

### **'RESOLVED:**

1. That the update on the Planning Advisory Group from Councillor Andy Graham and Giles Hughes be noted.
2. That the comments and issues raised by the Panel during its discussion of the update be noted as feedback to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership.

Under this item the Chair also reminded members of the Panel of the importance of treating guest attendees and speakers in a respectful way.

## **53. Public participation**

It was noted that on this occasion no public speakers had registered.

## **54. Role and remit of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership Scrutiny Panel**

The Panel considered a report from Andrew Down, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Director which set out advice from the Monitoring Officer of Oxfordshire County Council regarding the role and remit of the Panel as set out in its current Terms of Reference. The advice had been sought by officers following discussions by members at previous meetings.

The Panel was informed that the advice had confirmed that the Panel did not have the same statutory powers as a Scrutiny Committee in any of the councils represented on it to commission its research work and that the Panel's remit should be interpreted narrowly and linked solely to the actions and deliberations of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership, (FOP).

It was highlighted that the terms of refence of the FOP would continue to evolve as its role and remit changed. This would have a consequential impact on the terms of reference and remit of the Panel.

A summary of points and questions raised by members during discussion:

- Flagging of items not in scope - Was there a way in which agenda items to the Panel which could only be investigated by the individual authority scrutiny committees were flagged in advance? A note could also be made in the Panel's minutes so it was clearer when the Panel could not take an issue further and was referring it to a scrutiny committee/s. Officers indicated that they could be clearer regarding which items were or were not in the Panel's scope.
- Duty to Cooperate – What was the role of the FOP in facilitating this, particularly around the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision? Officers confirmed that the FOP had no formal role or status in the Duty to Cooperate, but it was an environment where best practice could be shared between the councils and strong relationships maintained.

- Purpose and scope of the Panel and use of resources – a member of the Panel commented that they were disappointed with the response of the Monitoring Officer as in their view, the language used within paragraph 1.1 of the Panel’s Terms of Reference around its role was broad did allow for a fuller Panel role. Taking the Monitoring Officer’s interpretation, the Panel had very limited teeth. It was also felt that officers had a conflict in that they were deciding the scope and constraints of the Panel, contrary to overview and scrutiny best practice. Agenda setting powers were a key component of good scrutiny practice without which scrutiny on behalf of taxpayers was effectively being constrained.
- If the role of Panel was to partly assist in the coordination between the district and the county council, the interpretation of the Panel’s scope limited its ability to fulfil this aim. A considerable amount of officer and member time had already been spent on issues such as Vision Zero which officers had initially said was in scope.
- Future of the Panel – a member commented that if the Panel did not have the powers it needed to undertake its role, one solution could be to transfer its role to the County Council’s Place Scrutiny Committee which did have statutory powers and that advice from the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny should be sort on how the Panel could best deliver its role for taxpayers. Officers agreed that it was sensible to look at future development options going forward and to seek appropriate scrutiny best practice advice and to also seek the collective views of the Monitoring Officer Group.
- Ability to make recommendations- a member of the Panel commented that they were clear that the Panel could respond to the papers it considered and could if it was so minded make recommendations to the FOP.
- End of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal – a members commented that it was clear that the Panel had been set up as part of the governance around the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal with its remit linked to the Deal.
- Meeting virtually – comment was made that meeting virtually limited the remit of the Panel, but it was noted that that the Panel’s powers were the same whether it met virtually or not.
- The FOP was also not a formal committee. Officers responded that the FOP had been established as formal Joint Committee under local government legislation. It was able to take formal decisions if those decisions were delegated to it by the partner local authorities. In practice, this power had not been exercised but it could be.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Chair suggested that given the concerns raised by members regarding what was considered to be some inconsistency between advice received on the Panel’s remit and its terms of reference the terms of reference should be reviewed in time for the new municipal year.

**RESOLVED:** That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership notes that the Panel has asked Officers to initiate a review of the Terms of Reference of the Scrutiny Panel prior to the first meeting of the 2024/2025 municipal year. The review to take account of:

1. The evolving role of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership and impact of this on the scope and role of the Panel, and the Panel’s Terms of Reference.
2. Appropriate professional advice on overview and scrutiny best practice.



## 55. Healthy Place Shaping Update and the new Health & Wellbeing Board Strategy for Oxfordshire

The Panel considered a report to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership which set out an update on progress with delivery of healthy place shaping across Oxfordshire and which presented the new Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy for Oxfordshire.

Rose Rowe, Head of Healthy Place Shaping and David Munday, Deputy Director of Public Health, Oxfordshire County Council presented the report, a summary presentation and responded to member questions.

Member questions and comments included:

- Monitoring of the delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy – a member asked how progress and performance would be managed in order to identify the impact of specific schemes? Members were informed that a draft delivery plan and outcomes framework including high level metrics would be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board in March 2024.
- Healthy Place Shaping and supporting ongoing work between health and planning – a member expressed concern regarding what was felt to be a lack of coordination between the County and districts councils around responsibility for street design guides. It was felt street design code were preferable as they made clear what developers had to do to help deliver healthier outcomes. Officers indicated this could be followed up, but there was a preference for codes where possible.
- Supporting models of care and community activation in healthy place shaping – a member commented that his observation was that there appear to be significant levels of duplication between the NHS and adult social care. It was important to do everything possible to improve integration with the Bucks, Oxon and West Berks ICB in order to get better outcomes and value for money. Officers responded that the best opportunity for coordination was around early intervention work, for example through the mapping of social prescribing and community connections.
- Finance and commissioning linked to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy – were the finance and commission targets aligned to outcomes-based commissioning being considered? Officers responded that the Health and Wellbeing Board had responsibility for the sign off and utilization of the [Better Care Fund](#) which represented the intersection of health and social care spending.
- Provision of primary health care facilities – a member commented that there was a lack of primary care facilities in communities despite funds generated from Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy being earmarked for this use because the ICB had very limited powers to own estate. This was a major issue which did not appear to be addressed within the Strategy. Officers commented that they shared many of these frustrations. It was a topic that was being looked into by the Planning Advisory Group.
- Coordination between the delivery of healthy place shaping, delivery of Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the FOP and individual councils' local planning responsibilities – a member questioned how duplication and conflict would be avoided. Officers responded that one of the objectives of monthly discussions between public health representatives and planners from around the county was to mitigate this risk. Responses were given to Local Plan consultations and councils were encouraged to include a requirement for developers to undertake Health Impact Assessment as part of major planning applications.
- People and activation programmes- the Chair asked whether programmes to encourage healthy lifestyles and modes of travel were also being promoted within

NHS organisations. Officers confirmed that they were, and they had regular contact to promote this with NHS colleagues.

- Problems with shared ownership homes – the Chair made the point that although poor standards of maintenance and the impact of this on health had been recognised within the Strategy in terms of issues for social housing, it was an issue that faced shared ownership as well as social renters.
- Climate change and health - the Chair asked whether things like cool rooms as part of climate adaptation were being factored into future plans. Officers confirmed that this was considered as part of heatwave and community resilience planning.

In response to a number of common points around delivery, the Panel was informed there had been good levels of engagement and agreement across, the public, voluntary and private sectors and it was expected that this co-production would help with delivery.

After further discussion it was

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership be recommended to endorse the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Oxfordshire.
2. That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership be recommended to continue to support healthy place shaping as a strategic priority in enabling the regeneration of existing communities and the development of new communities.
3. That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership note the feedback of the Panel to officers, which is that as next steps and the delivery plan for the Strategy are developed:
  - a. A robust monitoring and performance framework needs to be put in place.
  - b. There is a need to review commissioning structures to ensure commissioning is aligned to the outcomes and KPIs set out in the performance framework, (i.e., around use of the Better Care Fund and pooled budgets perhaps using an output based approach).
  - c. That the importance of street design in encouraging healthy lifestyles should be recognised and foregrounded. The Panel would like to highlight the potential for street design codes rather than guides, in promoting high standards in design.
  - d. There is a need to ensure a high degree of coordination between local authority and NHS partners as part of the financing of infrastructure to support healthy place making.
  - e. That the potential impact of issues around the delivery and provision of primary care facilities such as local health centres and new GP surgeries on the delivery of the strategy be noted.

## **56. Future Oxfordshire Partnership response to Scrutiny Panel recommendations**

The Panel considered the Future Oxfordshire Partnership's response to the Panel's recommendations arising from the meeting on 22 November 2023. The Chair drew members' specific attention to the feedback of the FOP to the recommendations made by the Panel relating to Vision Zero which had not been agreed by the FOP and suggested that the Panel might wish to consider directing to the recommendations to a FOP advisory group rather than the FOP itself.

In discussion, various members of Panel reiterated their concerns and disappointment made earlier in the meeting that the recommendations had not been agreed on the basis that Vision Zero did not fall within the FOP remit and suggested that the FOP should be asked what it felt its own role was in relation to Vision Zero in light of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.

Officers commented that the paper on Vision Zero had previously been brought to the Panel at its request, but it had not been on a FOP agenda. It was accepted that the issue was complex, but even if an issue did involve joint working between the County Councils and districts, this did not automatically make it an issue within FOP's remit.

The view was also expressed that in future it was important in terms of agenda planning that the Chair and officers worked together to only put forward items within the FOP and the Panel's remit.

After further discussion it was:

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. The Scrutiny Panel noted with regret the response of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership: that it declined to comment on the Panel's recommendations regarding Vision Zero on the basis that Vision Zero did not fall within its remit. In the Panel's view, there is a relationship between Vision Zero and the delivery of the outcomes within the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision. As such, Vision Zero can be seen to fall within the spirit of the Partnership's general scope and remit. There are multiple opportunities for the sharing and coordination of best practice around Vision Zero between Oxfordshire local authorities. Working towards its objectives, the FOP could play an important part in making Vision Zero a success.
2. The Panel recommends that the Future Oxfordshire Partnership asks the Infrastructure Advisory Group and Planning Advisory Group to consider adding Vision Zero to their work programmes so that the Panel's recommendations to the Partnership relating to Vision Zero can be considered.

## **57. Environment Advisory Group update**

The Panel considered the notes of the Environment Advisory Group, (EAG) which were introduced by Councillor David Rouane as its Chair.

Councillor Rouane commented that the focus of the advisory group was around carbon reduction aspects of environment and therefore the group confined itself to matters linked to the Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan, (NZRMAP), and did not consider issue linked to nature and nature recovery which were in the remit of the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership. Regular monitoring of the NZRMAP was a central part of its work as referred to in the notes.

In discussion, members raised a number of points:

- Transport emissions and pollution – a member commented that the links between spatial planning, the distances that residents needed to travel and the impact of this travel on transport emissions were not being considered by any of the advisory groups

as a top priority despite this being identified in the Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire study and it being the top source of emissions across all the district council areas. Councillor Rouane responded that it was his understanding that the NZRMAP was being taken account of by all the district councils as part of their Local Plan development.

- Local Area Energy Planning Function – a member commented on the reference in the EAG notes to the establishment of governance arrangements for a local area energy planning function through an Executive Steering Board and Energy Planning Working Group and asked for the names of the members of those groups where known. He expressed concern that the membership might have a narrow energy focus and become siloed and suggested that other organisations such as environmental or community groups should also be involved and that this would increase buy-in within a community for green energy projects. Councillor Rouane responded that the work being undertaken was of a technical nature, but that the groups did report back to the advisory group.

**RESOLVED:** The Panel received the notes of the Environment Advisory Group.

## **58. Work programme for the Scrutiny Panel**

The Panel received the work programme for forthcoming meetings.

## **59. Dates of next meetings**

The dates of future meetings were noted as set out in the agenda.

The meeting closed at 8.28 pm



**To:** The Future Oxfordshire Partnership

**Title of Report:** Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal: Update at the end of Quarter 3 2023/24

**Date:** 22 February 2024 - EOG

**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 progress and spend for schemes included as part of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal. The report provides updates on the following funding streams as at the end of Quarter 3 2023/24:

- 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 the 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 December 2023.

**Appendices:**

- Annex 1: Housing from Infrastructure (Hfi) Programme. (finance)
- Annex 2: Schemes status & milestones, including overall housing numbers

## 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 December 2023.

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

1.2 Housing numbers were shared in the report to FOP in September and an update of the latest figures provided by the district and city councils has been prepared for this reporting cycle. (Annex 2)

1.3 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.

## 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 The Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Understanding for the Future Oxfordshire Partnership have been updated to reflect the conditions set out by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities ([DLUHC](#)) in [December 2022](#).<sup>1</sup> Specifically in relation to the Homes from Infrastructure programme, being the remainder of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal, Oxfordshire County Council shall:

- make all decisions on the allocation of the remaining grant funding agreed by Government.
- prioritise and allocate funding and be accountable for the delivery of projects funded by this funding stream.
- act reasonably and in good faith, modelling positive partnership behaviour specifically by making no changes to the programme without careful consultation with affected district partners, and by not seeking to remove schemes from the programme or to reduce their scope as long as they remain on track for delivery on time and within budget.

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.

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<sup>1</sup> See Item 6 of the agenda for the Future Oxfordshire Partnership on 20 March 2023.

### **3.0 Financial Summary as at the end of Quarter 3 2023/24**

#### **3.1 Housing from Infrastructure Programme**

- 3.1.1 £150.0m grant funding supporting the Housing from Infrastructure Programme was agreed on the basis it would accelerate the provision of 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 £120.0m of the grant funding was received by the end of 2021/22. The remaining £30m will need to be claimed retrospectively and is subject to the conditions set out by [DLUHC in December 2022](#).<sup>2</sup> In response to this letter, and following discussions with the Future Oxfordshire Partnership, Oxfordshire County Council wrote to DLUHC and Homes England in March 2023 confirming acceptance of the final funding and agreement to the associated governance and reporting requirements.
- 3.1.3 Grant funding of £143m is expected to be used to support capital expenditure and £7m has been used to fund revenue costs associated with the Housing from Infrastructure programme.
- 3.1.4 In accordance with the new conditions, funding already received along with amounts available as a result of previous funding switches have to be utilised before the remaining £30m growth deal funding can be claimed. These switches, for which alternative funding sources were in place, amount to £49m. This means that spend of £169m in total must be demonstrated before any further funding can be claimed.
- 3.1.5 Annex 1 sets out the total expenditure on the capital element of the Growth Deal programme up to 31 March 2023 (excluding previous funding switches) of £66m compared to the capital funding received to date of £113m (£120m less £7m revenue funding). Expenditure to the end of Quarter 3 for 2023/24 was £14.3m (up from £9.2m at end of Quarter 2 2023/24).
- 3.1.6 On the basis of the current programme, forecast spend is £21.1m in 2023/24. A further £54.1m is needed to be spent in 2024/25 with an additional £1.5m retained for safety audits after 31 March 2025 to utilise all of the grant funding.
- 3.1.7 Grant funding will be prioritised towards schemes entering construction phase that can meet the grant deadline and have other funding sources that can be utilised after the grant deadline.
- 3.1.8 Annex 1 sets out the grant allocation against each scheme. To maximise the use of the grant funding the overall programme is currently over-profiled by £1.6m compared to the available capital grant funding of £142.727m.

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<sup>2</sup> See Item 6 of the agenda for the Future Oxfordshire Partnership on 20 March 2023.

## **3.2 Growth Deal Capacity Fund**

- 3.2.1 The Growth Deal Capacity Fund totals £5.0m. The first instalment of £0.5m was received in 2017/18, followed by £2.5m in 2018/19 and £2.0m in 2019/20.
- 3.2.2 The funding was expected to be used over the life of the programme which was originally planned to run from 2017/18 to 2022/23. 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 At each year end, funding that has not been spent has been carried forward through the County Council's earmarked reserves.
- 3.2.4 £1.3m remained available as at 31 March 2023. Actual spend up to quarter 3 of 2023/24 was £0.081m.
- 3.2.5 Approximately half of the remaining balance is currently committed towards Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OXIS), staffing costs and the Net Zero Route Map & Action Plan. Plans for the remaining balance need to be determined.

## **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The report sets out the financial update at the end of Quarter 3 of 2023/24 for the remaining two strands of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.
- 4.2 On the basis that all existing and recycled funds need to be fully utilised before any further grant funding can be claimed, Annex 1 sets out the forecasted spend position with the expectation that the remaining grant allocation of £30m will be required in 2024/25.
- 4.3 Since no funding will be available beyond the 2024/25 financial year, action is being taken by Oxfordshire County Council as the Accountable Body, in consultation with the relevant district as appropriate, to manage the programme to ensure that any increases in project/programme spend can be met within the available funding and that there is no unfunded spend after 31 March 2025. Also, as the funding is currently overprogrammed, changes to grant funding allocations will have to be determined to bring the programme to a balanced position.

## **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 Revised Terms of Reference and the Memorandum of Understanding were endorsed by the Future Oxfordshire Partnership on 13 June 2023 and approved by all of the constituent local authorities during July 2023.



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

## **6.0 Risk Management**

6.1 As noted in previous updates the availability of workforce and materials and inflationary increases in contract prices have increased risks around the deliverability and cost of capital schemes.

6.2 Additional funding to complete the Lodge Hill scheme has been secured via BIL (Brownfield Infrastructure Levy). This additional funding, coupled with the current programme of delivery, means that a reduced amount of Housing and Growth Deal funding is now required to deliver the scheme. The surplus has been reallocated across the remainder of the programme.

6.3 Additional information obtained through surveys and ground investigations has increased some of the delivery risks associated with the Tramway Road scheme. To account for some of these risks an additional Housing and Growth Deal allocation has been made to support the scheme.

6.4 To allow construction to begin and for the programme to conclude before March 2025, additional Housing and Growth Deal funding has been allocated to the Banbury Road Roundabout scheme in Bicester.

6.5 The residual funding after completion of feasibility on Banbury Road Corridor (Oxford) has been reallocated to the Central Oxfordshire Movement and Place project.

6.6 Since the last report, construction has now started on Benson Relief Road, Wantage Eastern Link Road, Kidlington Roundabout and Banbury Road Roundabout (Bicester).

6.7 After taking account of these previously reported changes, and as shown in Annex 1, the Growth Deal programme is currently over-profiled by £1.594m.

## **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 3 2023/24.

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

Report Author:	Lorna Baxter, Director of Finance & S151 Officer
Contact information:	Kathy Wilcox, Head of Financial Strategy
	Tel: 07788 302163

GROWTH DEAL SCHEMES	Year 5 Expenditure 2022/23	Total Expenditure Year 1 - Year 5	2023/24 Planned Expenditure	2024/25 Planned Expenditure	£1.5m Retention (safety audits) - spend beyond March 2025	Proposed Capital Allocation	Current Capital Allocation	Variance to Current Capital Allocation
A361 Bloxham Rd to A4260 Oxford Rd Link Rd	£0	£300,000	£0	£0	£0	£300,000	£300,000	£0
A4095 Underbridge NW Bicester Howes Lane / Lords Lane	£0	£3,832,000	£0	£468,000	£0	£4,300,000	£4,300,000	£0
Access to Headington	£0	£3,500,000	£0	£0	£0	£3,500,000	£3,500,000	£0
Botley Road Corridor	£0	£3,250,000	£0	£0	£0	£3,250,000	£3,250,000	£0
Connecting Oxford /SE Corridors	£1,075,000	£1,602,000	£0	£0	£0	£1,602,000	£1,602,000	£0
Oxford Citywide Cycle and Pedestrian Routes	£903,000	£2,878,000	£1,000	£795,000	£0	£3,674,000	£3,810,000	£-136,000
Thame to Haddenham Cycle Route	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
A40 Minster Lovell West Facing Slips/Access to Carterton	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£710,000	£-710,000
A4074 Golden Balls Roundabout Junction (A4074/B4015)	£110,000	£119,000	£50,000	£431,000	£0	£600,000	£1,000,000	£-400,000
Cowley Branch Line	£0	£54,000	£50,000	£146,000	£0	£250,000	£250,000	£0
Didcot Central Corridor & Jubilee Way Roundabout	£523,000	£614,000	£251,000	£20,000	£0	£885,000	£1,000,000	£-115,000
Milton Enterprise Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge	£53,000	£238,000	£0	£0	£0	£238,000	£238,000	£0
A4095 Realignment NW Bicester Howes Lane / Lords Lane Road	£18,000	£1,370,000	£30,000	£0	£0	£1,400,000	£1,312,000	£88,000
Access to Banbury (A422 Hennef Way, Banbury)	£0	£200,000	£300,000	£0	£0	£500,000	£200,000	£300,000
Banbury Rd Improvements (Banbury Road Corridor)	£129,000	£698,000	£2,000	£0	£0	£700,000	£2,370,000	£-1,670,000
Firilford Junction	£166,000	£444,000	£150,000	£156,000	£0	£750,000	£750,000	£0
Woodstock Road Corridor	£46,000	£778,000	£230,000	£2,992,000	£0	£4,000,000	£4,000,000	£0
A4110 Steventon Lights	£198,000	£672,000	£950,000	£3,178,000	£0	£4,800,000	£4,800,000	£0
A40 Access to Witney at Shores Green	£873,000	£3,046,000	£2,000,000	£11,954,000	£0	£17,000,000	£17,000,000	£0
Former RAF Upper Heyford M40 J10 Improvements	£720,000	£981,000	£570,000	£7,149,000	£0	£8,700,000	£8,700,000	£0
Oxford to Osney Mead Cycling and Pedestrian Bridge	£15,000	£5,935,000	£0	£2,865,000	£0	£8,800,000	£8,800,000	£0
Tramway Road Banbury	£444,000	£1,240,000	£750,000	£7,727,000	£0	£9,717,000	£6,117,000	£3,600,000
Wotton Edge Road	£723,000	£1,306,000	£1,600,000	£4,194,000	£0	£7,100,000	£7,100,000	£0
A4095 - B4100 Banbury Road Roundabout Improvements NW Bicester	£677,000	£677,000	£1,000,000	£4,223,000	£0	£5,900,000	£5,200,000	£700,000
A40 Science Transit	£7,438,000	£12,000,000	£0	£0	£0	£12,000,000	£12,000,000	£0
Benson Relief Road	£444,000	£1,228,000	£900,000	£2,122,000	£0	£4,250,000	£4,250,000	£0
NOC Cassington -A4260 and A44 Corridor Improvements	£10,972,000	£13,492,000	£9,500,000	£138,000	£0	£23,130,000	£23,130,000	£0
North Oxford Corridors - Kidlington	£812,000	£1,271,000	£1,800,000	£1,429,000	£0	£4,500,000	£4,500,000	£0
Shrivenham New School	£1,999,000	£2,500,000	£0	£0	£0	£2,500,000	£2,500,000	£0
Wantage Eastern Link Road	£0	£1,000,000	£0	£0	£0	£1,000,000	£1,000,000	£0
A34 Lodge Hill	£316,000	£778,000	£650,000	£6,572,000	£0	£8,000,000	£12,000,000	£-4,000,000
COMPF			£340,000	£635,000		£975,000	£0	£975,000
<b>Scheme Spend</b>	<b>£28,654,000</b>	<b>£66,003,000</b>	<b>£21,124,000</b>	<b>£57,194,000</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£144,321,000</b>	<b>£145,689,000</b>	<b>£-1,368,000</b>
£1.5m Retention (safety audits) - spend beyond March 2025 (will be allocated to schemes in next update)				£-1,500,000	£1,500,000	£0		
<b>Total Scheme Spend</b>	<b>£28,654,000</b>	<b>£66,003,000</b>	<b>£21,124,000</b>	<b>£55,694,000</b>	<b>£1,500,000</b>	<b>£144,321,000</b>	<b>£145,689,000</b>	<b>£-1,368,000</b>
				<b>H&amp;GD Funding</b>		<b>142,727,000</b>		
				<b>Over-profiling</b>		<b>1,594,000</b>		





**To:** Future Oxfordshire Partnership

**Title of Report:** Local Enterprise Partnership Functions: Transition Arrangements

**Date:** 20 March 2024

**Report of:** Bill Cotton, Corporate Director for Environment and Place, Oxfordshire County Council

**Status:** Open

### **Executive Summary and Purpose:**

The report provides an overview of approach to LEP transition following the verbal update to FOP in January 2024.

**Recommendation:** That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership notes the approach to LEP transition

### **How this report contributes to the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision Outcomes:**

The delivery of effective strategic economic planning and related business support, skills and employment programmes supports all of the outcomes in the Future Oxfordshire Partnership's strategic vision, in particular by 2050 Oxfordshire will: be a globally competitive economy which is sustainable, diverse and inclusive; have a healthier and happier population with better physical and mental health; be a more equal place, supported by inclusive growth that gives everyone a chance to prosper, and; have achieved a carbon neutral status.

## **Introduction**

1. Government has announced that from 31 March 2024. Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) will cease to have official recognition and that existing LEP functions will transfer to upper tier local authorities or combined authorities where they exist.
2. Following this announcement, it is important to establish a new governance framework to ensure local arrangements continue to meet government guidance. In order to maintain continuity of service delivery and comply with guidance, on 27 February 2024 the County Council agreed to take a controlling interest in OxLEP Ltd. To enable this to happen the OxLEP Ltd Board will need to agree to amend its Articles of Association to enable the County Council to become the sole member of the company, exercising its membership functions through Cabinet.

3. The approach seeks to maintain broad engagement at board level. This will preserve the legacy expertise, experience and engagement of the current LEP, as far as possible, and if agreed, this will provide the structure for the council to demonstrate that the appropriate future governance is in place.
4. OxLEP is a key strategic partner of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership and is represented on the joint committee by six co-opted associate members (Chair, Chair of Skills Board, Universities Representative, and 3 Business Representatives). As such, OxLEP forms part of the whole system approach to economic development. This includes OxLEP engaging FOP in developing strategies such as the Strategic Economic Plan, Destination Management Plan, and the Pathways to a Zero Carbon Oxfordshire (PAZCO) report. The county council envisages continuing this arrangement through future governance arrangements.
5. Following the change of ownership, there will be an opportunity in conjunction with the FOP and local stakeholders to review the local framework of economic planning, business engagement and partnerships and the system's capacity and capability requirements for the future. This will form part of phase 2 (as set out below) and proposals will be brought to FOP for consideration as they are developed.
6. The proposals for LEP transition are due to be considered by OxLEP Board on 12 March 2024 and this report will be updated ahead of FOP to reflect the outcome from the OxLEP Board.

### **Proposed Approach**

7. To ensure an orderly transfer of functions and then subsequent development and design to support the delivery of future strategy, a three-phased approach to transition has been developed to cover the transition, implementation, and establishment. This is set out below:
  - a. **Phase 1 – Transition (By 1 April 2024)**

During this phase, interim governance arrangements will be put in place, to be agreed in consultation with the current LEP board, but to establish Council control as per government guidance, demonstrating that the functions move to the County Council. The Corporate Director of Environment and Place will have day to day responsibility for the LEP functions (within the company arrangements to be agreed) and company registered office address (if relevant) will be amended to County Hall.
  - b. **Phase 2 – Implementation (1 April – 30 September 2024)**

During the first six months there will be a review of purpose and economic planning, including updates to the Strategic Economic Plan. A medium-long term business plan will be developed along with ongoing review of operational alignment with existing council economic and related functions. The medium-term approach to business engagement and broader partnership bodies will also need review in-line with the new operating model and strategy. Alignment of policy and processes, ensuring optimum operational efficiency with the County Council will also form part of this

review. The current board will be asked to continue to serve to support the implementation process.

**c. Phase 3 – Establishment (1 October 2024 – 31 March 2025)**

Having developed a new medium-long term business plan we would expect revised operating model, structure and governance to be fully implemented during this period. The revised links and interactions with wider economic development resources within the Oxfordshire system will be reviewed.

8. OxLEP Ltd sits within a wider economic partnership landscape that includes the economic development function within the city and district councils, the Future Oxfordshire Partnership, and the wider economic role of FOP partners. As part of the transition a review of how the new operational arrangements relate to these partnerships will be undertaken to ensure continued positive engagement within the wider system.

**Financial Implications**

9. There are no direct financial implications to FOP from the recommendations of this report.

**Legal Implications**

10. There are no legal implications to FOP from the recommendations of this report.

**Conclusion**

11. The paper recommends that the Future Oxfordshire Partnership notes the approach to LEP transition.

Report Author: *Chloe Taylor, Head of Economy, Oxfordshire County Council*

Contact information: [chloe.taylor@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:chloe.taylor@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## Future Oxfordshire Partnership response to recommendations of the Partnership Scrutiny Panel made on 22 January 2024

The Future Oxfordshire Partnership is requested to provide a response to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel for decision at its meeting on 30 January 2024.

Recommendation	Comment
<p><u>Role and Remit of the Scrutiny Panel</u></p> <p>1. That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership notes that the Panel has asked Officers to initiate a review of the Terms of Reference of the Scrutiny Panel prior to the first meeting of the 2024/2025 municipal year. The review to take account of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The evolving role of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership and impact of this on the scope and role of the Panel, and the Panel's Terms of Reference</li> <li>b. Appropriate professional advice on overview and scrutiny best practice.</li> </ul>	<p>The Partnership notes and welcomes the review of the Panel's Terms of Reference as it share's the Panel's view that clarification is needed.</p>
<p><u>Healthy Place Shaping Update and the new Health &amp; Wellbeing Board Strategy for Oxfordshire</u></p> <p>2. That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership be recommended to endorse the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Oxfordshire.</p>	<p>The Partnership was happy to accept this recommendation and endorse the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Oxfordshire.</p>

3. That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership be recommended to continue to support healthy place shaping as a strategic priority in enabling the regeneration of existing communities and the development of new communities.
4. That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership note the feedback of the Panel to officers, which is that as next steps and the delivery plan for the Strategy are developed:
  - a. A robust monitoring and performance framework needs to be put in place.
  - b. There is a need to review commissioning structures to ensure commissioning is aligned to the outcomes and KPIs set out in the performance framework, (i.e. around use of the Better Care Fund and pooled budgets perhaps using an output based approach).
  - c. That the importance of street design in encouraging healthy lifestyles should be recognised and foregrounded. The Panel would like to highlight the potential for street design codes rather than guides, in promoting high standards in design.
  - d. There is a need to ensure a high degree of coordination between local authority and NHS partners as part of the financing of infrastructure to support healthy place making.
  - e. That the potential impact of issues around the delivery and provision of primary care facilities such as local health centres and new GP surgeries on the delivery of the strategy be noted.

The Partnership was happy to accept this recommendation and to continue to support healthy place shaping as a strategic priority in enabling the regeneration of existing communities and the development of new communities.

That the Partnership noted the Panel's feedback to officers.



Future Oxfordshire Partnership response to Scrutiny Panel recommendations 21 November

The Scrutiny Panel noted with regret the response of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership: that it declined to comment on the Panel's recommendations regarding Vision Zero on the basis that Vision Zero did not fall within its remit. In the Panel's view, there is a relationship between Vision Zero and the delivery of the outcomes within the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision. As such, Vision Zero can be seen to fall within the spirit of the Partnership's general scope and remit. There are multiple opportunities for the sharing and coordination of best practice around Vision Zero between Oxfordshire local authorities. Working towards its objectives, the FOP could play an important part in making Vision Zero a success.

5. The Panel recommends that the Future Oxfordshire Partnership asks the Infrastructure Advisory Group and Planning Advisory Group to consider adding Vision Zero to their work programmes so that the Panel's recommendations to the Partnership relating to Vision Zero can be considered.

The Partnership does not agree this recommendation. It notes the Panel's strength of feeling on the subject of Vision Zero but has not changed its view that whilst members of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership support the aims and rationale of Vision Zero, it does not form part of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership's or advisory group's current work programmes.

## Notes

### OF A MEETING OF THE



# The Future Oxfordshire Partnership Planning Advisory Group

HELD ON FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER 2023 AT 10.00 AM  
MEETING ROOM 1, ABBEY HOUSE AND HYBRID VIA TEAMS

### Present:

**Members:** Councillor Andy Graham (Chair), Councillor Diana Lugova, Councillor Charlie Maynard, Councillor Anna Railton, Peter Redman, Councillor Judy Roberts, Councillor Dan Sames and Councillor Anne-Marie Simpson.

**Officers:** David Butler, (Oxford City Council), Susan Harbour, (Future Oxfordshire Partnership), Chris Hargraves, (West Oxfordshire District Council), Giles Hughes (West Oxfordshire District Council), Kevin Jacob, (Future Oxfordshire Partnership). Lucy Murfett, (South and Vale Councils), David Peckford, (Cherwell District Council), Nick Perrins, (Oxfordshire County Council) and David Yates, (Future Oxfordshire Partnership).

## 16. Apologies for absence and notification of substitutes; declaration of interests; Chair's announcements

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Louise Upton, Oxford City Council, (substituted by Councillor Anna Railton).

There were no declarations of interest. The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

## 17. Notes of previous meetings

The notes of the previous meeting held on 15 September 2023 were agreed as a correct record subject to:

- Susan Harbour to be shown as an officer representative of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership at PAG meetings.
- Minute 11, page 6, first sentence under the heading 'Opportunities for joint working in the planning space' to be amended to read: 'Giles Hughes introduced ~~X~~ a number of suggestions in the planning space.'
- Minute 11, pages 6- 7, last sentence at top of page 7 under the heading 'Viability' to be amended to read 'There was also concern that local councils might have to make difficult decisions around seeking to secure contributions. ~~in one area instead of~~

~~another~~ It was also pointed out that local councils must individually make the difficult decisions around what kind of contributions they want to prioritise e.g. affordable housing, net zero, zero carbon, biodiversity net gain.'

## 18. Planning for Health Infrastructure

The advisory group received two presentations relating to planning for health and health infrastructure.

Rosie Rowe, Head of Healthy Place Shaping, Oxfordshire County Council spoke to the aim of healthy place shaping to:

- Develop health and sustainable communities
- Reduce health inequalities
- Work together to improve health and wellbeing
- Support climate action
- Strengthen the building blocks of health

The advisory group was informed that public health comment was provided to local authorities and developers at pre-application and planning application stage relating to strategic development sites and advice was provided on the use of Health Impact Assessments, (HIA) which were now required by the majority of the Oxfordshire councils. A detailed break down of the HIA evaluation was provided.

Information provided included the provision of relevant local health and wellbeing data within the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment that would show how a particular development might impact on existing health inequalities. This included factors such as levels of air pollution, housing factors including affordability, walking and cycling infrastructure plans and access to local services.

Regular monthly meetings took place between the public health team and planning policy managers within the Oxfordshire district councils and the public health team also commented if there was a need for primary care facilities linked to new housing. It was important to maintain these links between health and planning professionals and to broaden them to increase liaison with council development managers.

In discussion, members asked how air pollution was measured and whether concerns around pollution had led to any recommendation to councils that they refuse planning permission on a specific site. Officers responded that there was not an Oxfordshire wide approach, but strategic level sites were looked at in terms of what the impact on health might be, (including from additional pollution) and whether any mitigations were necessary.

In discussion, a number of advisory group members referred to challenges the councils faced in seeking to plan for future health needs and in facilitating the health infrastructure needed to support development. The advisory group was informed that the Integrated Care Board was responsible for decisions around the provision of primary care NHS facilities, but that public health did look at applications to assess whether it was appropriate to request a developer contribution towards health. It was for the NHS to determine how that contribution could best be used.

It was suggested that a webinar to refresh planning policy officers and planning development managers on public health considerations could be useful. Giles Hughes

indicated that he would consider a potential webinar and the best to deliver it outside of the meeting.

The advisory group then received a detailed presentation from Peter Redman, Senior Programme Manager - Primary Care Estates, Julie Dandridge, Head of Primary Care Infrastructure and Jeffery NG, Senior Primary Care Estate Manager, NHS Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board, (ICB). The presentation covered the constraints and challenges in delivering new primary care estate including:

- funding arrangements for GP premises
- the limited ability of the ICB to own estate which currently meant that the ICB did not own any estate including GP accommodation
- the limited nature of the procurement method for new estate
- a general lack of funding
- the complexity around the use of developer contributions
- The possible partial solution offered by Section 2 of the NHS Act 2006 which allows for agreements between a Local Authority and NHS England.

In discussion, the Chair and various members of advisory group whilst acknowledging the scale of the challenges expressed the view that there did not appear to be a long vision from the NHS as to how the challenges in providing NHS estate, particularly primary care and GP surgeries might be overcome. Access for residents of new developments to GP surgeries and pressure from development on existing facilities was felt to be an issue across the county.

The advisory group was informed of the work being undertaken as part of the development of the ICB's new draft Primary Care Strategy which was shortly to be published. The strategy was intended to set out primary care including general practice, community pharmacy, optometry and dentistry services would be transformed in the future.

Although a document primarily aimed at setting how primary care services needed to change and be reshaped in the way they worked, the draft strategy would give some direction around on estate issues and this could be feedback to the advisory group at a future meeting in spring 2024.

Co-operation between local authorities and the ICB through the One Public Estate initiative and through co-development were also potential opportunities rather than provision of health estate through third party developers.

Giles Hughes commented that planning for health infrastructure was a complex issue, but that councils were well placed to know the needs of the populations they served and to feed into a longer-term strategy. He indicated that further consideration was needed of the issues by the council officers supporting the advisory group.

## **19. Proposals for joint working on Biodiversity Net Gain**

David Yates, Policy and Projects Officer introduced a report that set out proposals for how and where the councils in Oxfordshire might work together most effectively to promote Biodiversity Net Gain, (BNG). This followed the approval by the Future Oxfordshire Partnership at its meeting on 28 November 2023 of a project in this area under the sponsorship of the Planning Advisory Group.

It was noted that (BNG) was an approach to development and land management that hopes to leave biodiversity in a measurably better state than it was before. In England, BNG was at the time of the meeting due to come into legal effect in January 2024. As local planning authorities, councils would be required to decide whether to approve biodiversity gain plans that developers were required to submit. Councils would also be required to check any significant on-site enhancements or off-site gains were appropriate, legally secured and that a maintenance and monitoring plan would be in place for 30 years.

It was stressed that the suggested recommendations which had been previously discussed by the officer group supporting the advisory group were based around the principles of sharing best practice and cooperation where it was felt there would be added value and nothing was proposed that might duplicate with the individual powers and responsibilities of the councils as sovereign local planning authorities.

After detailed discussion, it was agreed to:

1. Request that officers look into the provision of BNG training options for both Members and relevant council officers.
2. Requests that officers arrange for key Planning and Development Management Officers (as appropriate) from each council to meet with Legal colleagues from each local authority to work on the development of a S106 template for BNG, based on the Planning Advisory Service best practice examples from other areas and best practice of work already undertaken by Oxfordshire Local Planning Authorities.
3. Request that council officers compile a comprehensive inventory of in-house and contracted biodiversity officer capacity across the councils. This with a view to highlighting shortfalls and available capacity and facilitating the potential sharing of resources where councils think this would be of mutual benefit. It is noted that endorsement of this recommendation does not constitute an agreement by any council to share any staff or other BNG resource
4. Request that council officers explore the option of a shared resource across councils for onsite BNG spot-checking.
5. Request that council officers explore the creation of a local register of available offsite BNG credits.
6. Request that council officers investigate options to support the provision of offsite BNG in our districts.

## **20. Oxfordshire Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP)**

Nick Perrins, Head of Strategic Planning and John Disley, Head of Transport Policy, Oxfordshire County Council presented a report and summary presentation that provided an overview of the Oxfordshire Local Transport and Connectivity Plan, (LTCP) and how it might be used by the district councils as local planning authorities to inform the development of Local Plans and the determination of planning applications in respect of transport issues. The LTCPs Monitoring Report 2022-2023 was also included.

Members' attention was drawn to a table setting out progress against LTCP targets. It was noted that the target to increase the number of cycle trips in the County from the 2019 baseline of 600,000 to 1 million was not being met following a significant decline during Covid, but that another target on bus patronage had been met with some 33.6m bus trips in 2022/2023 against a target of 31.4m.

In discussion, members raised the following points in summary:

- The data on the number of bus journeys was disappointing but needed to be seen in the context of the pandemic. It would be useful to compare Oxfordshire's data with the other areas.
- It was felt that there was a strong relationship between the LTCP and other County Council strategies for walking and cycling parking standards lacked sufficient teeth. In response officers commented that they were constantly checking at the national parking standards to ensure local requirements were as robust as possible.
- It would be useful to know the impact of Area Travel Plans, (ATPs) by district and timelines for the integration of ATPs into all Oxfordshire Local Plans.
- Further clarification was needed of the legal status of the LTCP in the context of Local Plans and the determination of individual planning applications by local planning authorities.
- The need to consider the impact of speed limits on bus viability when planning development.

Officers agreed to consider the above actions.

## **21. Forward work programme**

Giles Hughes commented that it was intended to bring an item about potential opportunities for joint working between the councils with regard to responding to developer challenges on grounds of viability to the advisory group's next meeting.

## **22. Update on Local Plan Progress**

Each member presented an update on the progress of their council's Local Plan.

## **23. Future Oxfordshire Partnership Advisory Group meeting notes for information**

The notes of the following advisory groups were received:

- Environment Advisory Group 8 September 2023 and 9 November 2023
- Housing Advisory Group 12 September 2023
- Infrastructure Advisory Group 4 September 2023

## **24. Any other business or updates**

No other business was raised.

## **25. Dates of Future meetings**

The dates of future meetings as set out in the Agenda were noted.

## Notes

OF A MEETING OF THE



# The Future Oxfordshire Partnership Environment Advisory Group

HELD ON THURSDAY 18 JANUARY 2024 AT 2.00 PM  
VIRTUAL VIA MSTEAMS

### Present:

**Councillors:** David Rouane (Chair), Sue Cooper, Andrew McHugh, Andrew Prosser, Anna Railton, Pete Sudbury and Bethia Thomas

**Officers:** Ariane Crampton, (Oxfordshire County Council), Kevin Jacob, (Future Oxfordshire Partnership), Tom Layzell, (Oxfordshire County Council), Glenys Lemming-Bott, (Future Oxfordshire Partnership), Rosie Rowe, (Oxfordshire County Council),

**Other councillors:** None

### 113 Apologies for absence and notification of substitutes; declaration of interests; Chair's announcements

Apologies were received Councillor Andrea Powell, (substituted by Councillor Sue Cooper).

There were no declarations of interest or Chair's announcements.

### 114 Notes of the previous meeting

The notes from the previous meeting held on 9 November 2023 were agreed to be an accurate record of matters discussed.

### 115 Forward work programme

No update from the members.

### 116 Director of Public Health Annual Report: Climate and Health

Rosie Rowe (RR), Head of Healthy Place Shaping, Oxfordshire County Council spoke to members on this agenda item.

RR introduced her colleague Louisa Chenciner, Public Health Registrar, Oxfordshire County Council who presented a report and gave a presentation on the Director of Public Health Annual Report: Climate and Health. The main focus of the report was based on climate change and the impact on the health of Oxfordshire residents. Current themes for the wider communities included: Energy efficient homes and health; travel and clean air; community green health; healthy diets for family communities and accessible green and blue spaces. (Report sent via e-mail to members).

Members suggestions on this item included:

#### Health

- Reaching out to those communities and districts that due to wider community circumstances were unaware of these health risks.
- A 'podcast' was suggested for local communities.
- Anchor partnering was suggested with the NHS, GP practices, schools, local communities and local government parish councils.
- Emphasis on local approach to communities and get to know communities/best practice for the area.
- Promote a walk to school approach and use of pathways in local communities for healthy lifestyles.
- Reach out to those with social deprivation issues.
- Promote healthy food options and their benefits; reduce food waste in communities. Need a waste management of foods. Repurpose food waste to stop poverty.
- County/City teams to support communities.

#### Climate

- Planting trees for green spaces and community enjoyment. Additionally, this promotes improved mental health.
- Approach local communities on the risks of overheating, flooding, potential fires, droughts and what could be done to reduce these dangers.
- Air quality map within Oxford and local communities? <https://www.oxonair.uk/>
- Adopt a resilience Cornwall approach. <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/fire-and-rescue-service/keeping-safe/emergency-management/cornwall-community-resilience-network/>
- Regenerative farming i.e. farm Ed. <https://www.farm-ed.co.uk/>
- Risk from care facilities i.e. NHS/care homes causing over heating events. Suggested spatial mapping across the county.

#### Flooding

- Water running into rivers causing impurities.
- Quality and testing needed due to flooding and sewage overflow.
- How manage farming due to contaminates run into rivers?

Members were informed that it was important that once the strategy had been approved there was a need for councillors at all levels to engage with officers around embedding consideration of health benefits in the development of green policies. Local GPs also had a key role in promoting the health benefits of green policies as they knew their communities well and there was already a good level of interest from GPs through groups such as the Greener Oxfordshire GP's Network and Climate Health Resilience Network.



'Anchor' institutions such as significant employers like the NHS foundation Trusts also had a role to play around inclusivity and climate change.

The report was noted.

## **117 Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan Progress Overview**

This agenda item was reported via sections in combination with the programme tracker for the prioritised workstreams.

- a. Buildings decarbonisation – The Future Fit Oxfordshire Project Phase 2 bid had unfortunately not fully been successful, but a lower level of funding had been secured. Mish Tullar, Oxfordshire City Council and Vikki Robins, Oxfordshire City Council and other partners were working on a new Future Fit Area Based Insetting (FABI) project. This was a 17-month project which commences February 2024.
- b. Zero Carbon Energy Systems- No further update to that set out in the report.
- c. Transport decarbonisation – Members' attention was drawn to the launch event for the first fully electric buses in Oxford coming into service.
- d. Nature recovery and carbon sequestration- No update to that set out in the report.
- e. Cross Cutting Themes - No update to that set out in the report

## **118 Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan Spotlight Focus: Green Finance**

Ariane Crompton, Oxfordshire County Council gave a presentation and update on the 100 Together Green Finance Conference held at Oxford Brookes University on Thursday 11 January 2024. The event had been very well attended and a number of members who had taken part spoke to how useful and encouraging it had been, particularly around the potential role of pension funds in providing funds towards retrofit.

Further details could be found at <https://www.100together.org.uk/>

Members commented on the infrastructure of new business with reference to this subject, the comparative success of EV charging roll out, but also the need to reduce the overall number of vehicles as all vehicles, whether electric or not, produced particulates and contributed towards congestion.

The Chair suggested that there should be communications or a bulletin of some kind to highlight the next steps and actions resulting from the conference.

## **119 Climate adaptation and resilience evidence base and strategy**

Tom Layzell, Climate Adaptation Policy and Project Lead, Oxfordshire County Council presented a briefing paper on Climate adaptation and resilience evidence base and strategy and slides on Climate Adaptation and Resilience in Oxfordshire. Reports included stakeholder engagement and input from University of Exeter.

The paper and slide presentation focused on updating the EAG on the development of Oxfordshire Climate Vulnerability Assessment (OCVA) and future projects and plans to support climate change. It was highlighted that 41 key climate change related risks had been identified.

Members were impressed with the presentation and discussed issues around variable data in Oxfordshire and evidence-based materials moving forward.

From this discussion, members noted the impact of climate change on the health and safety of residents and the risks to critical infrastructure which would be at a high risk over the next 20-30 years in respect of flooding worsening and overheating from south facing housing. It was suggested that this needed to be given a higher priority within corporate risk registers for climate teams and that councillors through their roles in reviewing registers could influence this.

Members of the group supported the proposed use of the remaining reserve of £14,000 from the Pathways to a Zero Carbon Oxfordshire work as a contribution towards the next phase of the OCVA workstream as set out in the report.

## **120 Horizon Scanning**

Pete Sudbury highlighted to members, the latest Berkeley/NASA finite graph 2040-2050 on weather effects. This demonstrated that the increase in world temperatures was no longer increasing on a straight line basis.

Andrew McHugh commented on the potential possibilities of hydrogen based fuel to the economy and mitigating climate change, whilst it was also noted there were challenges and downsides to also consider.

## **121 Chairs update from the Future Oxfordshire Partnership**

The Chair provided an update on the meeting of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership held on 28 November 2023.

The future of OxLEP had been discussed as HM Government had decided to withdraw funding for local economic partnerships, (LEPs) and to transfer LEP functions to upper tier authorities.

The Future Oxfordshire Partnership meeting had also considered items on the Oxfordshire's Strategic Economic Plan which had been drafted by OxLEP and underspends on infrastructure projects which had allowed those funds to be reallocated to other schemes.

## **122 Dates of future meetings**

Members noted the proposed meeting dates for 2024.

Future meeting arrangements:

- 7 March 2024 (14:00-16:00)
- 4 July 2024 (14:00-16:00)

The meeting closed at 15.25pm

## 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
11 March 2024	Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal: Update at the end of Quarter 3 2023/24	The purpose of this report is to update the Future Oxfordshire Partnership on progress, spend and housing delivery for schemes included as part of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal. The report provides updates on the Housing from Infrastructure (Hfi) programme and Growth Deal Capacity Fund.	John McLauchlan, Head of Infrastructure Delivery/Lorna Baxter, Section 151 Officer Oxfordshire County Council
	OxLEP Integration	To note the approach being taken by Oxfordshire County Council for the integration of LEP functions.	Chloe Taylor, Interim Head of Strategy, Oxfordshire County Council
	Reports of Advisory Group Chairs	To receive summary notes from these meetings if available.	Chairs of the Advisory Groups

Meeting date	Item	Description and rationale	Lead Officer
18 June 2024 (tbc)	Progress update on activity within the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership delivery plan.	To consider a paper setting out an update on the progress of the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership (OIEP) priorities and the launch and uptake of the OIEP Charter	Jeremy Long Co-Chair/Emma Coles OIEP Manager
	Updates on matters relevant to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership	Future Oxfordshire Partnership members and officers may verbally update the Board on progress on matters previously before the Partnership for consideration, listed in the forward plan, or relevant to the Partnership's future decisions. This is for the sharing of information and no decisions will be taken.	Appointed member or representative of the partner organisation
	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
	Updates from key strategic partnerships supporting delivery of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision	To receive updates 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 July 2024 (tbc)	Updates on matters relevant to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership	Future Oxfordshire Partnership members and officers may verbally update the Board on progress on matters previously before the Partnership for consideration, listed in the forward plan, or relevant to the Partnership's future decisions. This is for the sharing of information and no decisions will be taken.	

	Reports of Advisory Group Chairs	To receive updates from the Chairs of the advisory groups and summary notes from these meetings if available.	
	Updates from key strategic partnerships supporting delivery of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision	To receive updates from other partnerships supporting the delivery of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.	

**Items to be scheduled**

<b>Items to be scheduled</b>		
	<b>Description</b>	
Developing a Place Narrative for Oxfordshire	To consider a further report setting out the opportunity to develop a place narrative for Oxfordshire and to give the Future Oxfordshire Partnership a more developed view of the project and its purpose.	Bill Cotton, Corporate Director for Place/ Robin Rogers, Programme Director (Partnerships and Place) Oxfordshire County Council
Draft Future Oxfordshire Partnership Work Programme 2023/2024	To receive a further update on the development of the 2023/2024 work programme.	Andrew Down, FOP Director/David Yates FOP Projects and Delivery

		Officer/Paul Staines Interim Head of Programme
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