

Notes

OF A MEETING OF THE



The Future Oxfordshire Partnership Infrastructure Advisory Group

**HELD ON MONDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 2.00 PM
VIRTUAL VIA MS TEAMS**

Present:

Members: Councillors Liz Leffman (Chair), Councillor Pieter-Paul Barker, Councillor Neil Fawcett, Councillor Alex Hollingsworth, Councillor Lynn Pratt and Phil Southall

Officers: John Disley (Oxfordshire County Council), Susan Harbour (South and Vale District Councils), Kevin Jacob and Babatunde Ogundele (Future Oxfordshire Partnership)

29 Apologies for absence and notifications of substitutions; declarations of interests; Chair's announcements

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Judy Roberts, Vale of White Horse District Council, Councillor Jeff Haine, West Oxfordshire District Council and Councillor Duncan Enright, Oxfordshire District Council.

Councillor Neil Fawcett substituted for Councillor Judy Roberts and Councillor Pete Sudbury substituted for Councillor Duncan Enright.

There were no declaration of interests or Chair's announcements.

30 Notes of the previous meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 12 January 2022 were agreed to be an accurate record of matters discussed.

31 Infrastructure Programme, Quarter 3 Delivery and Housing Update

The Advisory group was provided with a chart presentation by Tom Parson, Project Manager Growth Deal Team on Housing Projections (Growth Deal + Extension), Accelerated Housing Projections (Growth Deal + Extension) and the Oxfordshire Housing Forecast to 2031.

Members queried whether the extension highlighted in the chart into 2024/2025 would have an impact on any potential new deal. Members also queried how the projections in the chart will be delivered and asked if it would carry on as previously.

Hannah Battye, Head of Infrastructure Delivery Growth Deal Capital Programme highlighted that several sites have been delayed due to Covid-19, hence pointing out the fact that this were existing sites linked to the housing and growth deal which were the previous local plan sites meaning this should not have an impact on the next local plan, however she confirmed this will be reviewed.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Chair thanked Tom Parson for the chart presentation.

32 Bus Service Improvement Plan and Enhanced Partnership

The Advisory Group was provided with a presentation by Phil Southall, Chair of the Oxfordshire Strategic Transport Forum on an update from the forum.

Phil Southall confirmed he had given the same presentation in more detail at the last Infrastructure Advisory Group meeting and confirmed there were a few updates which include:

- The Oxfordshire County Council was expecting feedback with regards to funding at the end of February, however this has not materialised due to delays.
- DFT has broadly split the 79 local transport authorities nationally into 4 broad categories
 - Transformational
 - Improvement
 - Additional Support
 - None
- Transformational areas have now had an initial interview with the DFT to discuss the deliverability of BSIP

The Advisory Group expressed concerns as to why Oxfordshire has not heard on funding and is not on the Transformational funding yet, for areas like Brighton and Hove and Nottingham that are regularly compared to Oxfordshire have received the Transformational Funding.

Councillors queried what the future would be for the Enhanced Partnership and the BSIP if funding was not received. It was however, confirmed that the Enhanced Partnership would carry on regardless of funding because the Government has made it clear that any future funding opportunities relied on the Enhanced Partnership being in place

Members queried the extent of the linkage between the BSIP and the Enhanced Partnership to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership, (FOP) as it was thought that they were the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council. It was however confirmed that the FOP provides more of an overseeing role in the process and strategic approach.

Members made mention of the current low usage of buses now. It was however confirmed that bus usage was at 75% of pre-covid levels with an upward forecast.

Members also queried whether the 75% pre-covid numbers were because of a quarter of journeys not being made due to factors like working from home or people using alternatives other than buses.

Members suggested the need to put together a bus summit that could be held with local businesses, health partners etc as this needed to be a joint effort.

Members suggested that all the good practice, (particularly regarding Covid prevention methods) by bus operators should be at the forefront of advertisements to give bus users more confidence

Members queried the proposed voting arrangements for the Enhance Partnership as it was felt that there needed to more than one representative from district councils.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Chair thanked Phil Southall for his presentation and requested that the slides be circulated to members of the advisory group.

33 Dates of Future Meetings and Forward Programme

- 25/04/2022
- 4/07/2022
- 5/09/2022
- 31/10/2022
- 9/01/2023
- 27/02/2023
- 17/04/2023 (10:00)
- 3/07/2023

The Advisory Group suggested that when plan items are brought forward there should be clarity on who should be executing them and its purpose.

The Advisory Group suggested the Gap Analysis for OxIS to be a future item.

The meeting closed at 3.22 pm