

Notes

OF A MEETING OF THE



The Future Oxfordshire Partnership Infrastructure Advisory Group

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25 MAY 2022 AT 2.30 PM
VIRTUAL VIA MS TEAM**

Present:

Members: Councillor Liz Leffman (Chair), Councillor Pieter-Paul Barker, Councillor Ian Corkin, Councillor Judy Roberts Councillor Louise Upton, Councillor Liz Brighthouse and Phil Southall

Officers: John Disley (Oxfordshire County Council), John McLauchlan (Oxfordshire County Council) and Babatunde Ogundele (Future Oxfordshire Partnership)

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

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Alex Hollingsworth, Oxford City Council and Councillor Duncan Enright, Oxfordshire County Council.

Councillor Louise Upton substituted for Councillor Alex Hollingsworth and Councillor Liz Brighthouse substituted for Councillor Duncan Enright.

The Chair confirmed she would also be representing West Oxfordshire District Council in the meeting.

There were no declaration of interests.

35 Notes of the previous meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 28 February 2022 were agreed to be an accurate record of matters discussed.

36 Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Infrastructure Programme Update

The Advisory Group was provided with a report by John McLauchlan, Head of Service Infrastructure Programme Office on the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Infrastructure Programme Update.

John McLauchlan confirmed the report focused on schemes that are due for full construction within year 5 of the Homes from Infrastructure programme and the need to offset some existing budget pressures and some inflationary budget pressures.

John McLauchlan highlighted that the recommendation put forward was to remove the current funding allocated to Woodstock and Banbury Road corridor and move both projects to be considered as part of COTS (Central Oxfordshire Transport Strategy) a wider more holistic review of transport in Oxford City. It was confirmed that if approved by the Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet the reallocation of funding will be used in several schemes like North Oxford Corridor – Kidlington Roundabout, North Oxford Corridor – Cassington to Loop Farm, Banbury Tramway, Benson Relief Road and Access to Witney.

John McLauchlan confirmed that there is a second stage to this report, however this report focuses on schemes that need funding more urgently.

Members expressed concerns with the reallocation of funding from the Woodstock and Banbury Road corridors, but commented they were reassured that consideration was being given to the inclusion of the schemes into the COTS. Members also expressed the need for Stage 2 of this funding to cover for shortfalls.

Members queried if funding is also going into COTS and where funding for this will come from in terms of budget.

Members queried the increase in costs in Tramway Improvements, North Oxford Corridor – A44 Cassington to Loop Farm, North Oxford Corridor – Kidlington Roundabout and Access to Witney by more than a third in cost. It was however pointed out that there has been a significant spike in the cost of material, there are also several complexities that were not factored in previously and the initial budget was put together 4 years ago.

It was confirmed the report will go forward to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership Meeting on 13 June 2022 for consideration.

Action: John McLauchlan and John Disley to make amendment to report for clarity on what is being proposed on Woodstock and Banbury Road Corridor.

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

37 Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal infrastructure Lessons Learnt

The Advisory group was provided with a report by John McLauchlan on behalf of Paul Staines, Interim Head of Programme

John McLauchlan confirmed the purpose of this report was to inform the Future Oxfordshire Partnership of the findings of a recent lessons learnt review of the Growth Deal Homes from Infrastructure Programme and how things can be done better going forward.

Members pointed out the need for future deals to be scrutinised thoroughly before any deal is agreed upon.

Members highlighted the need to retain some of the clear benefits derived from the Councils working together as a result of the Housing and Growth Deal.

Members pointed out the need for revenue to support staff teams who support projects to be factored in when putting in bids for items.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Chair thanked John McLauchlan for presenting the report on behalf of Paul Staines.

38 Strategic Bus Planning

The Advisory Group was provided with a report by John Disley, Infrastructure Strategy and Policy Manager, Oxfordshire County Council.

John Disley confirmed the purpose of this report was to:

1. Set out the updated proposals for Enhanced Partnership (EP) governance, including consideration of how District/City Councils (at officer) level are proposed to be represented on the partnership board.
2. Update the Advisory Group on the proposed measures to be prioritised for BSIP funding, following the confirmation of Oxfordshire's indicative funding allocation, for inclusion in the Enhanced Partnership Scheme

In conclusion the EP proposals, including Governance and BSIP funding priorities, put together represented the next stage in taking forward a new approach to secure a much better future for buses in Oxfordshire. Continued involvement of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership and its constituent authorities will be essential in finalising the EP proposals and making the partnership work.

39 Enhanced Partnership

The Advisory Group was provided with a paper by John Disley on the Enhanced Partnership.

John Disley pointed out that a new Enhanced Partnership Board will be created with 10 voting members – 5 officers from the public sector and 5 from the private sector.

Members commented that a problem with having a single representative for all the Districts was that each District had a very different circumstance and ask with regards to the bus services.

Members pointed out the fact that Oxford City and the Districts both jointly have 2 votes on the Board will allow for flexibility in management.

Members agreed for this to go forward to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership Meeting.

40 Bus Service Improvement Plan

The Advisory Group was provided with a paper by John Disley on the Bus Service Improvement Plan, (BSIP).

John Disley pointed out that the purpose of the paper was to provide high-level summary of Oxfordshire County Council's plan for investing in buses, being funded through BSIP.

Members queried the Hollow Way traffic filter for it has been opposed by people in the local area as they have not been consulted on that bus filter. It was also highlighted that this may affect some people especially the elderly from getting to their GP surgery that is on Hollow Way.

Members pointed out that real rail time information needs to be upgraded and highlighted the need for disability to be touched upon in the Bus Strategy as it has not been currently taken into consideration.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Chair thanked John Disley for his report presented to the Advisory Group.

41 Dates of Future Meetings and Forward Programme

- 4/07/2022
- 5/09/2022
- 31/10/2022
- 9/01/2023
- 27/02/2023
- 17/04/2023
- 3/07/2023

The meeting closed at 4.10 pm