

Notes

OF A MEETING OF THE



The Future Oxfordshire Partnership Infrastructure Advisory Group

HELD ON MONDAY 17 APRIL 2023 AT 10.00 AM

Present:

Members: Councillor Liz Leffman (Chair), Ian Corkin, Duncan Enright, Alex Hollingsworth, Judy Roberts, and Carl Rylett

Officers: Harry Barrington-Mountford, John Disley, Beth Wilks, Inga Doherty, Kim Hudson, Babatunde Ogundele, Carolyn Ploszynski and Paul Staines

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

There were no apologies for absence and notification of substitutions

There were no Chair's announcements

There were no declaration of interests

69 Notes of the previous meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 27 February 2023 was agreed to be an accurate record of matters discussed.

Members however suggested that the Future Oxfordshire Partnership (FOP) work in partnership with England Economic Heartland (EEH) and have a discussion on how various corridor studies done are linked and how they would affect the transport plan for the FOP.

70 Oxfordshire Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan

The Advisory Group was provided with a presentation by Inga Doherty, Climate Policy, and Programmes Team Leader on an update on the Oxfordshire Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan.

Inga Doherty confirmed that following the publication of Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire (PAZCO) in 2021 the Future Oxfordshire Partnership (FOP) requested officers to develop a route map and identify areas for joint working between FOP members in line with evidence in the “Oxfordshire leading the way” scheme.

The resulting Net Zero Route Map and Joint Action Plan details:

- The emission reductions necessary to achieve net zero by 2050
- The key milestones in 2025, 2030 and 2040
- Carbon budgets of maximum emissions that can be emitted to maintain this pathway (including the provision of data at a scale available to Districts)
- KPIs to track progress
- Recommended areas for FOP members to work on jointly to accelerate action

Inga Doherty confirmed that on the 20th of March 2023 the FOP agreed the report and a phased delivery of the identified joint actions. Five actions were agreed for the first delivery phase, including two which the FOP recommended sitting within the remit of the Infrastructure Advisory Group (developing a Local Area Energy Planning approach and collaboration with town and parish councils to roll out a publicly accessible EV charging Infrastructure)

It was highlighted that the Oxfordshire Net Zero Carbon Route Map and Action Plan provides detailed pathway modelling and a series of route maps identifying the carbon emission reductions necessary to achieve net zero by 2050, with milestones in 2025, 2030, and 2040. It was pointed out that this can be used to support a monitoring framework that can be utilised to continually drive the reduction in carbon dioxide emissions in Oxfordshire.

Priority actions detailed in the City Science report commissioned by Officers to develop a route map and action plan to identify areas and actions for collaborative working focused on the powers of FOP members include:

- Buildings Decarbonisation
- Net Zero Energy
- Cross Cutting Actions
- Transport (EV CP)
- Net Zero Transport
- Nature Recovery and Carbon Sequestration
- Circular Economy
- Councils

Members highlighted that issues on Infrastructure in rural areas is important. Members also pointed out the close link between carbon sequestration and biodiversity net gain and suggested that the two work in tandem.

Members queried if there was currently a geography setup that highlights where electricity substations cover and how that can be implemented. It was however confirmed that this is available on the map.

Members queried the composition of the steering groups for the Local Area Energy Plan. It was confirmed that it is yet to be formed, however work is in progress.

Councillor Carl Rylett pointed out that West Oxfordshire District Council intend to hit net zero by 2030 as opposed to 2050 as highlighted in the map. He also highlighted the need for councils to be more ambitious with hitting net zero targets.

Members queried if climate resilience is being considered. It was confirmed that a report outlining an emerging workstream to develop a climate adaptation and resilience evidence base would be considered by the Environment Advisory Group (EAG) at its July meeting.

At the conclusion of the discussion the Chair thanked Inga Doherty for her presentation to the Advisory Group

Action: The Chair suggested this item should be reconsidered at a future meeting and suggested the need for a collaborative discussion with EAG

71 Project Local Energy Oxfordshire (LEO) Update

The Advisory Group was provided with a presentation by Inga Doherty, Climate Policy, and Programmes Team Leader on an update on Project Local Energy Oxfordshire (LEO)

The presentation to the Advisory Group highlighted the following:

- Project LEO is one of 3 national demonstrator projects that has run for the past 4 years.
- It is a collaboration led by Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN)
- Project partners include the County and City Councils
- It is part funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)

The presentation to the Advisory Group also highlighted the following 5 Key Messages on Project LEO:

- Distribution systems operator market development
- Investible business models
- Skilled community of people
- Trialling flexibility
- Mapping for Local Area Energy Plans (Local Area Energy Plans are vital to achieve Net Zero)

The following Next Steps were highlighted:

- Completion of Project LEO, 31 March 2023
- Net Zero Living Pathfinder Places project starts 1 April 2023
- Funding bid submitted to build on Project LEO
- Development of new local area energy planning workstream

Members acknowledged the good work done on Project LEO and highlighted the importance to build on work done.

Members queried what areas would be focused on for Local Area Energy Planning. It was confirmed that work on this is still in progress and that Members would be updated in due course.

Members queried what would be required to get Project Local Energy Oxfordshire (LEO) to run on its own and how many rounds of funding is required before this can be in effect i.e., Households and Electricity energy supply companies being self-sufficient. It was however confirmed that work on this is still in progress.

Members queried where Oxfordshire would fit in with infrastructure nationally, countywide and district wide. It was however pointed out that this is where the Local Area Energy Planning approach is important as it would set up the means for such issue to be discussed between local authorities Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) and Major Stakeholders. The Chair also confirmed there would be a meeting with DNOs on 17 April 2023 to further discuss this.

Members highlighted the need for current data to be kept up to date for evidence and data to be used in dialogue with households, Infrastructure providers, DNOs and National Distribution Companies.

At the conclusion of the discussion the Chair thanked Inga Doherty for her presentation and suggested the need for solar farms and how they relate to the local community to be incorporated in local plans.

72 Updated Infrastructure Advisory Group Terms Of Reference

The Advisory Group was provided with the Infrastructure Advisory Group (IAG) terms of reference by Beth Wilks, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Manager.

Beth Wilks confirmed all the terms of reference for Advisory Groups are currently being refreshed and she confirmed that reference has now been made to Oxfordshire Strategic Vision and Long-Term Sustainable Development and the scope of the Terms of Reference has been broadened to look past the Growth Deal.

Members endorsed the updated terms of reference however queried how the terms of reference for the Planning Advisory Group may affect that of the IAG. It was confirmed that the Planning Advisory Group Terms of Reference is still in progress, and it is anticipated that it will be ready by the 13 of June 2023 FOP meeting.

73 Chair's Update from Future Oxfordshire Partnership (FOP) Meeting

The Chair confirmed there will be a meeting between Leaders and Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) on 17 April 2023

The Chair confirmed that the terms of reference put forward by Homes England with regards to the final £30m funding for the infrastructure programme would be agreed upon.

The Chair confirmed that the Chief Executive of Oxfordshire County Council has written to Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to accept the terms proposed.

74 Forward work programme

Members suggested that there should be a section on Community Bus Provision under the Bus Improvement Plan (BSIP) item.

Members suggested that rail infrastructure should be considered as a potential agenda item.

75 Dates of future meetings

Meeting at 14:00 unless otherwise stated.

- 03/07/2023
- 04/09/2023
- 06/11/2023
- 15/01/2024 (10:00 and a week later to allow for Christmas)
- 04/03/2024

01/07/2024

The meeting closed at 11.52 am