

# Notes

OF A MEETING OF THE



## The Future Oxfordshire Partnership Infrastructure Advisory Group

HELD ON MONDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 2.00 PM  
VIRTUAL VIA MS TEAMS

### Present:

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

**Officers:** Harry Barrington-Mountford, Ian Boll, John Disley, Babatunde Ogundele, Beth Wilks, John McLauchan, Kim Hudson, Carolyn Ploszynski and Paul Staines

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

Apologies for absence was submitted by Councillor Pieter-Paul Barker, South Oxfordshire District Council.

There were no declaration of interests.

### 62 Notes of the previous meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 9 January 2023 was agreed to be an accurate record of matters discussed.

### 63 Delivering the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision

The Advisory Group was provided with a presentation by Beth Wilks, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Manager on Delivering the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.

The purpose of the session highlighted in the presentation include:

- Recap on the role of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership and the content of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision for Long Term Sustainable Development

- Detail Work underway to support in identifying additional opportunities for collaborative working which deliver the outcomes of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.
- Group Discussion – Opportunities for collaborative working which deliver the Strategic Vision with a focus on those where there is added value through partnership working
- Next steps, using the insight collated during the group discussion, and other engagement sessions with members and officers involved in the FOP arrangements, re: addition opportunities for collaborative working

The Chair highlighted the need to discuss the role of the Infrastructure Advisory Group moving forward with regards to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership (FOP) and as the Housing and Growth Deal concluded.

Councillors Duncan Enright and Carl Rylett confirmed they had circulated the new council strategic plan priorities which had been updated for Oxfordshire County Council and West Oxfordshire District Council.

Members highlighted the need to think of the remit of the Infrastructure Advisory Group and define what is meant by infrastructure which would be valuable.

Members queried how the Infrastructure Advisory Group can be linked with the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) and delivery by Oxfordshire County Council.

Members pointed out that the Infrastructure Advisory Group has a potential role to play in sharing best practice as various Councils are being represented within the group, which means there are wide ranging views that can be considered.

Members highlighted the need for a broader definition of Infrastructure as opposed to looking at only transport matters and highlighted the need to focus on issues where the Infrastructure Advisory Group can make a concrete deliverable difference.

Members highlighted the need for more investment in energy infrastructure by energy suppliers if a zero-carbon economy is to be achieved. Members also highlighted the need to build on the good work of Project Local Energy Oxfordshire (LEO) and Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire (PAZCO)

Members pointed out the need to be more optimistic about funding available in the future and look at inward investment in Oxfordshire and the need to be ready to go for bids.

Members highlighted the need for the Infrastructure Advisory Group to lead on important issues that are not specifically unique to Oxfordshire i.e the Pan-regional partnership as Councillor Barry Wood, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Chair would be on the shadow Pan-regional Partnership board.

Members highlighted the need for Oxfordshire to have a clear-cut policy on what the County would like to achieve with regards to Water Strategy.

Rachel Wileman, Oxfordshire County Council confirmed that several points raised resonate with her current work areas and would investigate how they link into her current work programmes.

Members highlighted the need to not ignore travel links as this is an important area for collaborative working as part of the overall area travel plans.

Members queried how engagements with large third-party organisations i.e., Thames Water or other utilities could be more productive and be in partnership with the Infrastructure Advisory Group and all authorities in Oxfordshire. Members pointed out that authorities like Buckinghamshire and Berkshire that are facing similar issues can be consulted with.

**Action: Members of the Advisory Group to investigate this**

Members Highlighted suggested that the Infrastructure Advisory Group have a presentation by England Economic Heartland (EEH) on Connectivity Studies as this would help with collaborative working amongst the Councils

**Action: Beth Wilks to get in touch with Abigail Nicholls, EEH to discuss this**

Kim Hudson, West Oxfordshire District Council highlighted the need for a workshop style discussion with several infrastructure providers as opposed to contacting them separately as this would be more efficient as there may be overlap between Infrastructure providers.

Rachel Wileman pointed out that there are several great initiatives in Oxfordshire currently that may be making it difficult to focus and highlighted the need to focus and take opportunities i.e. The Reservoir which is a useful focus to get behind.

Members highlighted the need to look at short-, medium- and long-term priorities by focusing on inputs needed in the local plan and their related infrastructure delivery statements highlighting where developments are in progress.

Andrew Down, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Director highlighted the need to refresh Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxiS) as this was instrumental in securing funding for several infrastructure projects.

Beth Wilks suggested the need to build up a portfolio of ideas and put them through a filtering process with members of the Officer Group playing a key part.

**Action: Beth Wilks Confirmed she would circulate document to Councillors**

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Chair thanked Beth Wilks for her presentation.

## **64 Homes From Infrastructure Programme (HFI) update**

The Advisory was provided with a verbal update by John McLauchlan, Oxfordshire County Council on the Homes from Infrastructure (Hfi) programme.

In summary:

- Subject to the acceptance of the final £30m tranche of funding – and the extension that brings – all schemes currently within the infrastructure programme are projected to spend their Housing and Growth Deal allocations before March 2025.
- Should anything change to put that at risk, the flexibility to alter the programme remains available.

Specific scheme progress updates were also provided regarding each of the individual schemes making up the Hfl programme.

## **65 Chairs's Update From Future Oxfordshire Partnership (FOP)**

The Chair pointed out that a significant number of items covered at the Future Oxfordshire Partnership (FOP) meeting have already been discussed i.e., Energy

The Chair highlighted that development of a planning advisory group was underway, and the Terms of Reference were currently being viewed and amended.

## **66 Forward work programme**

Members highlighted the need to have an update on the reservoir on the Forward Programme

Rachel Wileman confirmed this could be an agenda item post mid-March once the Thames Water Management Plan has been looked upon.

Members pointed out that it may be helpful to have a local plan gap analysis at a future meeting

## **67 Dates of future meetings**

- 17/04/2023 (10.00)
- 03/07/2023

The meeting closed at 4.08 pm