

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