

Supplementary Papers

The Future Oxfordshire Partnership

held in the Council Chamber, Cherwell District Council, Bodicote House,
Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA
on Monday, 23 January 2023 at 2.00 pm

3. **Public participation** (Page 2)

The response of the Partnership to the public question submitted is attached.

4. **Future Oxfordshire Partnership Scrutiny Panel update** (Pages 3 - 4)

The response of the Partnership to the recommendations made by the scrutiny panel is attached.

Public speakers

23 January 2023

1. Helen Marshall has asked the following questions on behalf of CPRE Oxfordshire

CPRE Oxfordshire is pleased to note that the Environment Advisory Group (Agenda Item 9b – [Minutes of EAG meeting, 12 December](#)) is starting to consider a piece of work on solar development within the county. At the moment, solar energy proposals in the county – from the agglomerations around Tetsworth and Nuneham Courtenay to the 10km² Botley West (Blenheim) proposal - are being driven by what is effectively speculative development, sacrificing greenfield sites and with little benefit to the local community.

Even the most ambitious route within the Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire (PaZCo) report suggested that only 1% of Oxfordshire's land area is needed for solar energy production, and therefore there are clear choices to be made about its location. It could be accommodated on existing roofs without touching undeveloped land at all and in particular there is no justification for allowing solar development on designated landscape like Green Belt and AONB, locally valued landscape, or best value agricultural land.

We believe that a county-wide strategy for renewable energy is now needed as a matter of urgency, to ensure we get what is needed quickly and in the most appropriate and least damaging locations, prioritising brownfield sites and rooftop renewables. We would expect the public to be fully engaged at all stages in the development of this strategy - not 'once the actions are agreed a communications piece should follow to "bring the public along"' (as started in the EAG Minutes with regards to the PaZCo Action Plan).

Will the Future Oxfordshire Partnership now commit to:

- a) The development of a county-wide strategy for renewable energy (if necessary, delivered by embedding in individual Local Plans)?
- b) Full public engagement in the development of this strategy?
- c) An ambitious timetable to put these actions in place as quickly as possible?

Response

The councils are currently developing a route map of realistically achievable actions arising from the PaZCO report. We plan to bring an update to the FOP meeting in March in which we expect to provide more detail on the councils' approach to renewable energy.

Future Oxfordshire Partnership response to recommendations of the Partnership Scrutiny Panel made on 18 January 2023

The Future Oxfordshire Partnership is requested to provide a response to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel for decision at its meeting on 18 January 2023.

Recommendation	Comment
<p><u>Environment Advisory Group notes</u> The Scrutiny Panel was pleased to note that the Environment Advisory Group had begun to examine the issues around the provision of solar farms. It was agreed to recommend to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Partnership write to HM Government asking that it strengthen the National Planning Policy Framework, (NPPF) so as to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Make the provision of solar panels a NPPF requirement in all new domestic or commercial developments unless there are strong technical reasons not to do so. b) Prioritise the use of existing space, (for instance through using warehouse roofing or the addition of canopies above car parks) for the provision of new solar panel installations over previously undeveloped land. 2. Encourage Partnership members to submit individual responses to the current national consultation review of the NPPF concerning the provision of solar panels and other 	<p>FOP members support the use of solar panels and welcome the proposed paragraph 161 in the consultation draft NPPF which promotes the installation of solar panels on existing buildings. FOP members also noted that this measure on its own would be unlikely to provide sufficient renewable electricity to meet demand, and further expressed concerns about the capacity to connect local power generation schemes into the National Grid.</p> <p>Members expect that each partner will wish to make its own submission in response to the consultation, enabling specific local priorities to be addressed.</p>

zero carbon energy technologies in domestic and commercial development.