

Supplementary Papers

The Future Oxfordshire Partnership

held in the The Long Room, Oxford City Council, Town Hall, St Aldate's,
Oxford, OX1 1BX
on Tuesday, 13 June 2023 at 2.00 pm

4. **Public participation** (Pages 185 - 186)
Response to the question submitted by Ian Green, Chair of the Oxford Civic Society
5. **Future Oxfordshire Partnership Scrutiny Panel update** (Pages 187 - 190)
Response to the Panel's recommendations
9. **Progress Report from the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership**
(Pages 191 - 199)

Slides presented at the meeting
12. **Key Partnership Activity and Delivery in the Energy Space** (Pages 200 - 210)

Slides presented at the meeting

Public speakers

13 June 2023

1. Ian Green, Chairman Oxford Civic Society

Planning Advisory Group Draft Terms of Reference

Oxford Civic Society is very pleased to see this Draft Terms of Reference – we have been looking forward to it. Our five comments are as follows:

1. **Purpose and objectives:** we are delighted that a Planning Advisory Group is proposed to provide a forum in which local authority members can discuss county-wide strategic planning matters.

We suggest much more emphasis on the provision of a wide-ranging strategic planning forum. The forum provided by the Group would be enriched with the inclusion of business interest groups, community interest groups, academic interests and strategic planning expertise.

A wide-ranging strategic planning forum could provide stimulating ideas from all quarters and could be extremely useful to the local planning authorities and the county council.

2. **Membership and Appointments:** paragraph 2.5 is welcome as it acknowledges that partnerships, with wider partners and experts are expected. But it is unnecessarily qualified in that wider participation will be as the agendas of meetings require.
3. **Meeting Arrangements and Structure:** paragraph 6.2 stipulates that the Group will meet in private. Why? The future of the county is of great public interest.
4. **Work Plan:** one of the gaps in strategic planning in the county is infrastructure investment planning – how do we overcome the massive infrastructure funding shortfall? Could the Planning Advisory Group take this on, with a specialist sub-group looking at innovative funding sources?

This is consistent with one of the suggestions made by FOP for the work of FOP – ‘commissioning a piece of work to explore innovative funding options e.g., land value capture, social bonds to support in financing infrastructure ambitions, as well as other workstreams which support delivery of the Strategic Oxfordshire Vision’.

This is very consistent with an Oxford Civic Society report of July 2022¹ which emphasised the importance of integrated development planning.

¹ Oxfordshire in 2050 – Linking Oxfordshire’ development policies and strategies – a briefing note. Oxford Civic Society, July 2022

5. **Challenge:** the Oxfordshire 2050 Plan largely failed because agreement could not be reached on the rate, pace and distribution of employment and housing growth. Why did it fail? Does the design of the Planning Advisory Group address the reasons for the failure?

Response:

The support from the Oxford Civic Society for a strategic planning forum is welcome. The purpose of the proposed Planning Advisory Group is to provide a forum in which local authority members can discuss county wide strategic planning matters, and this will help delivery of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision for Long Term Sustainable Development.

The proposed terms of reference make clear that Local Plans for the City and District Councils now provide the framework for long term planning across Oxfordshire. The individual councils maintain sovereignty over the content of local plans through their own internal processes, as local planning authorities. The Planning Advisory Group offers a mechanism through which to work cooperatively and constructively in developing respective Plans and other key strategies.

Each of the City and Districts set out in their respective Statements of Community Involvement how they will engage with the community and wider interest groups in developing their Local Plans. The Local Plan engagement and consultation processes provide the best place to hear stimulating ideas from all quarters and to influence Local Plan policy.

The Future Oxfordshire Partnership advisory group meetings are not formal decision taking meetings, they are there to encourage informal discussion and to help identify areas of common agreement. Therefore, they are not public meetings. Updates are given to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership in public, and summary notes are published.

The Planning Advisory Group if established may wish to work closely with the Infrastructure Advisory Group on the review of the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy . The point made about exploring innovative funding options is worth considering.

Each Local Plan will have to consider the future level of housing and employment need and be tested through an independent examination. The City and Districts will engage with each other on those questions, and the Planning Advisory Group will provide a useful forum for discussion supporting the Duty to Cooperate.

Future Oxfordshire Partnership response to recommendations of the Partnership Scrutiny Panel made on 13 June 2023

The Future Oxfordshire Partnership is requested to provide a response to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel for decision at its meeting on 6 June 2023.

Recommendation	Comment
<p><u>Item 7: Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership (OIEP) Update</u></p> <p>Recommendation 1:</p> <p>The Panel was pleased to see the good progress made in the development of the OIEP. In continuing to support the work of the OIEP, the Panel would request that the OIEP be asked through the Future Oxfordshire Partnership to consider the following summary feedback of points raised by Panel members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst supporting the expansion of initiatives such as Arch Readers in improving education attainment, problems in recruiting and retaining school staff, (for example Teaching Assistants) be recognised • The importance of the promotion and support of co-operative enterprises as part of the OIEP’s social value and procurement workstream • Importance of adult education and the challenges around adult numeracy and literacy, (for example amongst ex-offenders) in address inequality 	<p>The Future Oxfordshire Partnership is happy to suggest to OIEP that the Chairs of its relevant subgroups should consider the valuable points raised by the Scrutiny Panel when delivering the vision of the partnership through its strategy and delivery plan.</p> <p>In addition, the Future Oxfordshire Partnership notes ongoing work between OxLEP and the OIEP to seek to address the issues raised by the Scrutiny Panel, for instance through the ‘Social Contract’ programme and the Local Skills and Improvement Plan.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of developing skills of young people in the emerging green sector such as retrofit and insulation as well as capturing skills and knowledge in traditional areas for the future • The importance of access to low cost and local travel solutions for disadvantaged groups including young people. • Higher rates of youth unemployment • The importance of understanding and taking account of the needs of Oxfordshire’s diverse urban and rural communities • The role of placemaking and the value to be added by the support of local community start-ups in instilling a sense of community pride • That factors relating to gender be recognised in the context of inequality, for example numbers of women and girls studying STEM subjects, menopause, and lower rates of educational attainment amongst some male cohorts. 	
<p><u>Item 9: Delivering the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision for Long Term Sustainable Development</u></p> <p>Recommendation 2:</p> <p>The Scrutiny Panel welcomed the update on work being undertaken to map and identify possible areas for joint working to deliver the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision and noted the progress made.</p> <p>The Panel requests that the Future Oxfordshire Partnership agree to add to the factors taken into consideration in filtering and selecting the list of future opportunities for joint working ‘acting in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’ as referenced in a motion agreed by Oxfordshire County Council 28 March 2023</p>	<p>The needs of future generations are a key consideration in Oxfordshire’s Strategic Vision for Long Term Sustainable Development which looks ahead for the period up to 2050, and the Future Oxfordshire Partnership therefore agrees with this recommendation.</p>

Item 10: Key Partnership Activity in the Energy Space

Recommendation 3:

The Panel supported the recommendations as set out in report. In addition, it requests:

- a) That through the Green Finance workstream of the Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan, consideration be given to funding opportunities which support a decarbonised energy system; the Scrutiny Panel wishes for the workstream to consider [Bristol City Council's success in securing £1bn of investment to support its net zero ambitions as a potential example and model of this.](#)
- b) That opportunities for the application of heat transfer technologies to energy management be investigated, for example use of heat generated from data centres.
- c) That barriers and opportunities to community led projects and a demand side perspective be considered as part of activity in the energy space. For example, the Panel was concerned that the costs and complexity of the planning system could be acting as a barrier to community led solar energy applications.
- d) Clarify how a land use framework or strategic land use principles could be developed and considered to support local area energy planning, and more generally, where it could sit as part of delivering the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision for Long Term Sustainable Development. In the Panel's view this was a matter of urgency.

The Panel also reiterated its view that provision of rooftop solar on new and existing properties should be prioritised over provision on previously undeveloped land.

We support the recommendation that the Green Finance workstream of the Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan consider opportunities which support energy decarbonisation, and will consider how Bristol City Council successfully secured investment in support of net zero ambitions.

Different methods for achieving decarbonisation e.g., heat pumps, battery storage, a decentralised system etc. will be explored through the local area energy planning workstream.

The Future Oxfordshire Partnership (FOP) is happy to learn from examples of good practice elsewhere, while recognising that local area energy planning must take account of specific local circumstances. For example, rural and urban environments may require different approaches. We would expect that our local area energy planning process will take these points into account, seeking to overcome barriers wherever possible and to advocate for change where appropriate.

We recognise the need for improved thinking re multi-functional land use, given increasing pressures on finite land. Local Planning Authorities are currently working on developing their respective local plans, and associated policies, recognising their statutory functions within this space. A new Planning Advisory group will however allow the sharing of information and best practice re multi-functional land use, so to ensure we continue to embed learning as appropriate.

	<p>FOP members are agreed that opportunities for rooftop solar should be maximised but that on its own this will not meet the whole of the need for renewable energy.</p>
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OIEP Progress Report

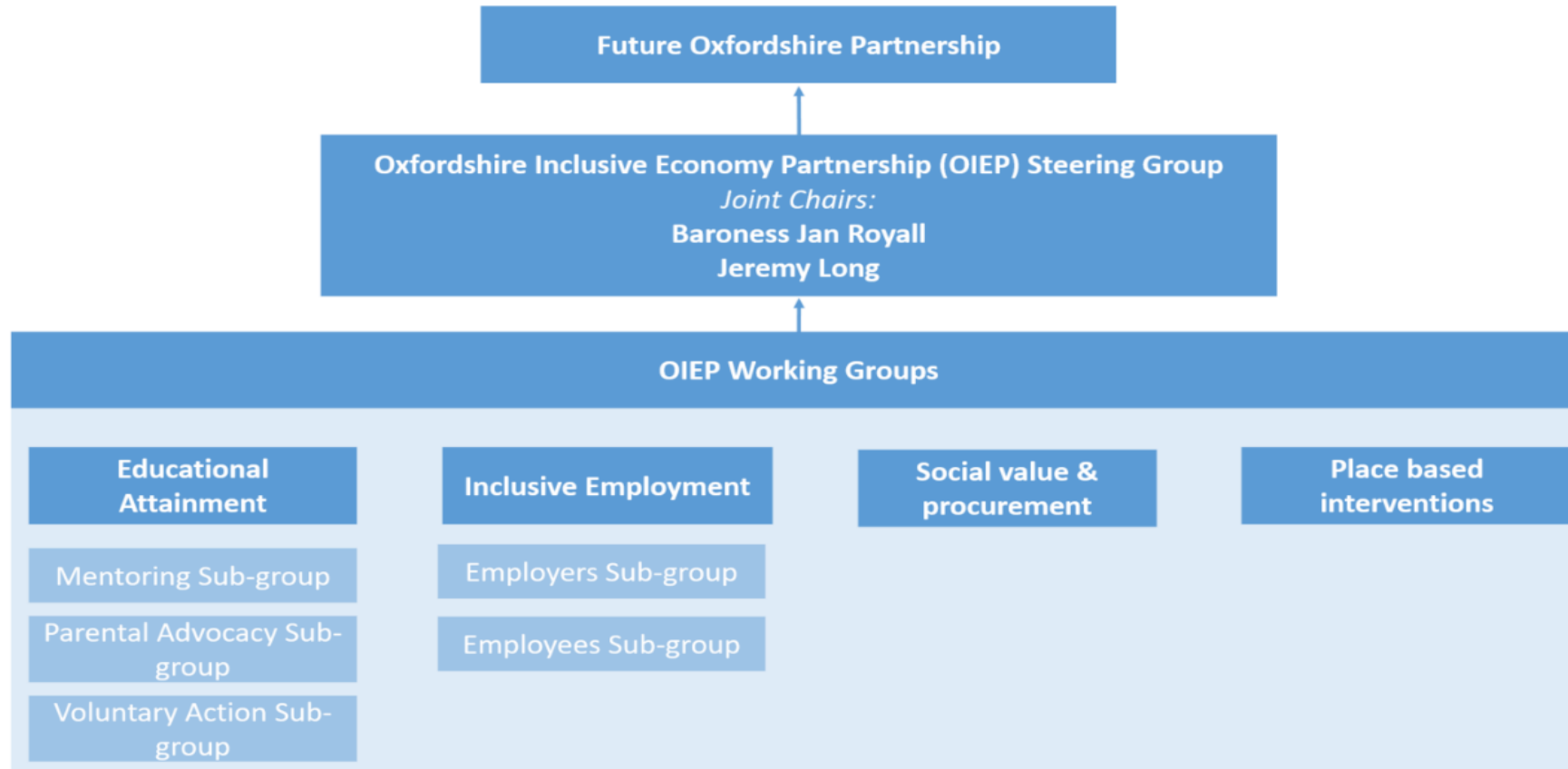
Future Oxfordshire Partnership

13th June 2023

Mission:
“working together to create a more equal region that creates opportunities and benefits for all people within the county”



**Oxfordshire
Inclusive Economy
Partnership**



OIEP Strategy and Delivery Plan



- OIEP Delivery Plan 2023-2024:
 - based on agreed proposals from each working group
 - sets out activity for the next 12 months
- Draft OIEP Strategy 2023-2026 - long term vision and how we will reach our goals and objectives

Delivery Plan Updates



- **Educational Attainment**

- ARCh – (Assisted Reading for Children)
 - Support applying for a grant which
 - 9 organisations that have signed the charter have pledged to provide ARCh volunteers and one has also pledged funding.
- Parent Power – feasibility study drafted for the implementation of Parent Power in another area of Oxfordshire.

- **Inclusive Employment**

- Establishing an OIEP HR network
- Prison leavers – OIEP will be holding the first HR network in July on the recruitment of prison leavers in Banbury.
- September - prison open day for employers at Bullingdon Prison
- Working with partners to develop an employment framework for refugees

- **Social Value and Procurement**

- Feasibility project applying for funding for a social value brokerage system for use across Local Authorities

- **Place Shaping**

- Working with each of the other working groups to provide data and insight for targeted approach to projects

Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Charter

Actively supporting inclusivity across Oxfordshire's economy will generate real benefits for your organisation. Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors are increasingly being considered by employees, customers, funders, investors, and partners. Participating in the work of the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership, through the pledges you make within this Charter, provides a way of demonstrating your commitment to social issues:

- Promoting your role in Oxfordshire's inclusive economy work will help you to attract people to work with you.
- Accessing the widest pool of talent will support growth and productivity within your company or organisation.
- Purchasing from local suppliers and supporting your staff to undertake volunteering activities within the community will contribute to well-being and a sense of loyalty among your employees, differentiating your organisation from competitors.

Joining the work of the Partnership is not only a good thing to do, but it will make a difference to your business too.

By signing this Charter, you are demonstrating your support for and commitment to making Oxfordshire a fairer and more inclusive place to live and work.

Charter pledges

As a group of employers, we recognise the importance and value of supporting an inclusive Oxfordshire. We are committed to improving all aspects of social mobility and increasing shared prosperity for both our communities and residents by taking action on these pledges:



Improve training and educational attainment

Creating workplaces where employees can thrive and grow and supporting educational programmes for children

Recruit inclusively

Making jobs accessible for all residents and hiring from diverse communities



Offer opportunities into work

Supporting those furthest from the labour market on their journey towards secure employment

Support local and social economy

Using our buying power to support the local economy and maximise social value



Provide fair wages

Ensuring employees have a fair and decent wage

Sharing resources, skills and assets

Practical ways to ensure goods and services are accessible to all



Oxfordshire
Inclusive Economy
Partnership



Abingdon and Witney College Activate Learning Amey Blenheim Palace and Blenheim Estate
 CBRE Ltd Cherwell District Council Community First Oxfordshire Ellison Oxford Limited Flexicare
 Jessop & Cook Architects Learn with Cognitive Analytic Therapy Oxfordshire
 Mental Health Natters Mills and Reeves Old Fire Station Oxentia Ltd
 Oxford Human Capital incorporated Oxford University Hospitals Foundation Trust Oxford University Innovation
 Oxford Wood Recycling Oxfordshire County Council Oxfordshire Play Association
 Pegasus Theatre Prorus RAW SOFEA St Johns College Voi Technology

Charter Progress

- Almost 50 organisations signed or in process of signing
- Total number of pledges: approx. 600
- Example of direct impact:
 - Apprenticeship Levy transfer: 5
 - Donation of devices to Getting Oxfordshire On-line: 10
 - Volunteers for ARCh: 9
 - OxGrow mentoring: 5
 - Oxford Living Wage: 17

Fundraising

- A fundraising working group has been established with the overarching aims to:
 - Fund and scale the work of the OIEP
 - Ensure the OIEP is sustained as an effective partnership With appropriate secretariat and management resource
 - Seek a variety of funds most appropriate to local needs
 - Seek an element of investment and recyclable funds

Page 197

Communication

- Raising profile of the charter and engaging more businesses to sign up
- New website - will enable a bespoke approach to how we present and share information for the OIEP and will create a more interactive experience for users.

Recommendation



Oxfordshire
Inclusive Economy
Partnership

- That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership notes and comments on the update report

Key Partnership Activity & Delivery in the Energy Space



Page 199

Agenda Item 12

Net Zero Ambitions & Challenges in the Electricity Network



The Oxfordshire Strategic Vision for Long Term Sustainable Development articulates the Future Oxfordshire Partnership's (FOP) net zero ambitions, with the desire that by 2050 Oxfordshire will have achieved carbon neutral status, and be accelerating towards a carbon negative future, removing more carbon than it emits each year. Significant activity and programmes of work are underway across Oxfordshire to support the transition to net zero.



In order to achieve collective net zero ambitions, whilst maintaining inward investment within the county, a sustainable, decarbonised energy system is required. Grid constraints in both the transmission and distribution elements of the electricity network are resulting in delays to deliver renewable energy projects, and decarbonisation activity.

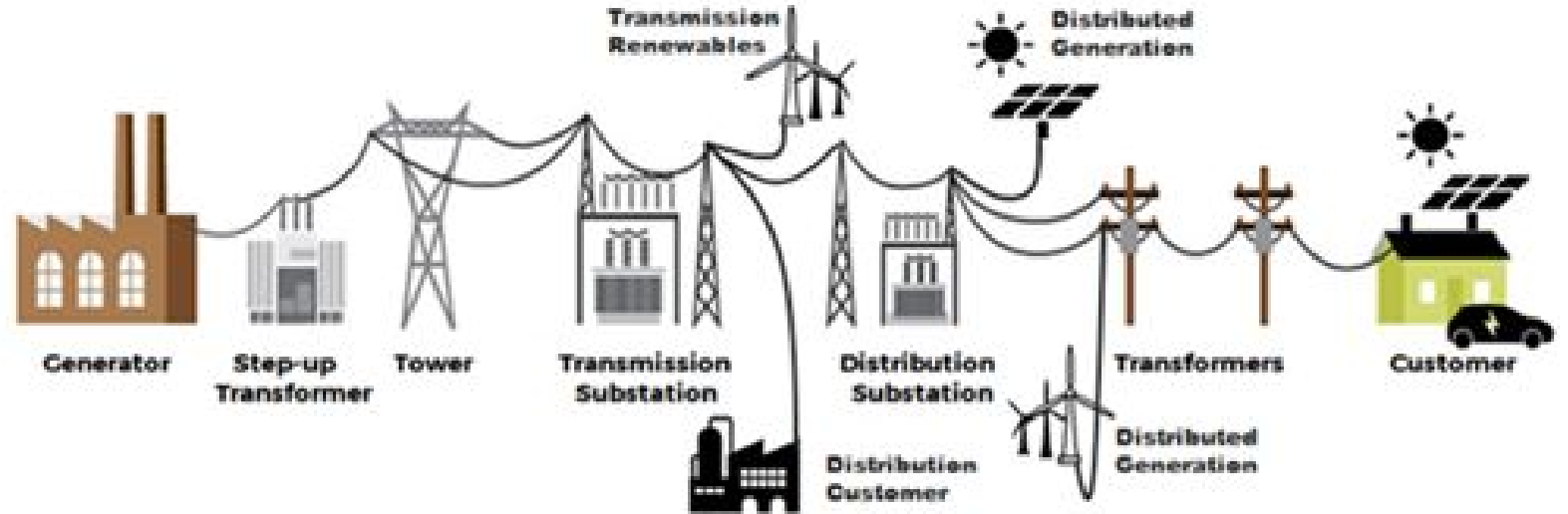


Whilst tackling national constraints in the electricity network will require significant investment and action by Central Government, Oxfordshire partners are working collaboratively to identify local solutions and activity which support in addressing network challenges → the report highlights several key partnership projects and programmes of work within Oxfordshire, aimed at realising net zero ambitions, and/or supporting to tackle local grid constraints.

Snapshot of the Electricity Network

The current electricity network with distributed electricity generation; image taken from National Grid.

Transmission Network: Most of us commonly call the transmission system “the National Grid”. It’s the high-voltage system designed to move electricity from large power stations around the country to where it is needed. It is made up of transmission lines, pylons and substations.



Distribution Network: This part of the electricity network reduces the higher voltage energy that is delivered to your area by the Transmission Network and uses power lines and other infrastructure to send it to homes and businesses where it is needed. The Distribution Network is also playing an increasingly important role in connecting local distributed energy resources (DERs) to the network.

Distribution Network Operators: Three Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) cover Oxfordshire – Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN), National Grid Electricity Distribution (NGED), UK Power Networks (UKPN).

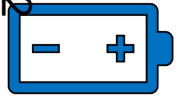
Project Local Energy Oxfordshire



One solution for managing the increased demand for electricity as we transition to net zero would be to rely on large generators to provide more energy, however such reliance would require costly upgrades to both the transmission and distribution networks, which can take many years to deliver.

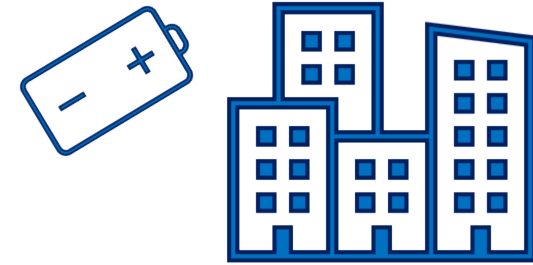
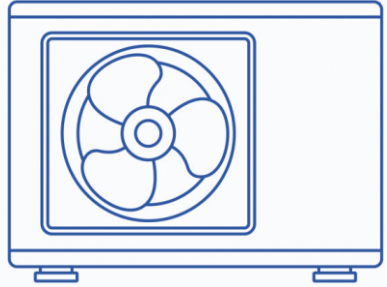


Project Local Energy Oxfordshire (LEO) instead sought to understand how decentralised, local energy solutions, where energy is balanced (supply meets demand) at the grid edge closest to consumers, as opposed to in the transmission network, could accelerate the transition to a zero-carbon energy system



The project ran a series of trials across Oxfordshire to investigate how new technologies and flexibility services could balance energy in the local network → delivery of local energy solutions such as those trialled through LEO could support in reducing the scale of costly, significant network upgrades.

Project Local Energy Oxfordshire



Page 203

Smart Flex Heat Pump Trial:

Aimed to explore whether domestic heat pumps, controlled using smart technology, could deliver flexibility to the local energy network, whilst delivering cost-savings to homeowners.

Sandford Hydro Trials:

Aimed to explore how energy generated by the Sandford hydroelectric power plant could be stored by building up excess water upstream.

Buildings as Batteries: Sought to understand whether buildings such as Oxfordshire County Library, could be used as a battery to deliver flexibility to the energy network, by altering electricity usage during grid congestion.

Project Local Energy Oxfordshire

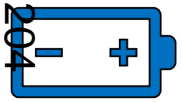


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Page



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In addition to place based and energy asset trials, a data mapping tool referred to as LEO LAEP+ (LAEP: Local Area Energy Planning) has been developed and trialled through Project LEO to identify, triage and model deployment locations for low carbon technologies e.g., public electric vehicle charge points, retrofit, heat pumps, and solar PV.

Local Area Energy Planning



The Oxfordshire Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan and Project LEO have both highlighted the critical need for a local area energy planning approach to be developed in Oxfordshire, in order to ensure net zero ambitions can be realised.



Local area energy planning is a data driven, whole system approach, which maps out the changes required to transition a localities' energy system to net zero carbon within a defined timeframe, and includes consideration of the most cost efficient technologies to achieve net zero for different carbon emitting assets and processes.



The LEO LAEP+ mapping tool developed through Project LEO, provides key data and insight to inform local area energy planning, whilst insights from the various LEO trials offer ideas for innovative decentralised, local energy solutions, which can be incorporated.

Local Area Energy Planning



In March 2023, local authority and Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) representatives came together for an initial exploratory session, to explore the role and need for local area energy planning in Oxfordshire, and considered different options regarding scales of delivery, and associated pros and cons.

Following the exploratory session, a multi-agency working group, which brings together council representatives (planning, climate action etc.), Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) both electricity and gas, and other key strategic partners, is in the process of being formed, in order to better scope out the scale and approach for local area energy planning in Oxfordshire; it is anticipated this group will convene for its first meeting in June 2023.



Recommendation: *The FOP is asked to ensure respective organisations are actively engaged in work alongside key stakeholders to develop and deliver a local area energy planning approach for Oxfordshire, to support in realising net zero ambitions, as outlined in the endorsed Oxfordshire Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan.*



Energy Superhub Oxford

Energy Superhub Oxford (ESO), which completed in March 2023, was developed to eliminate 10,000 tonnes of CO² emissions annually. Since its inception in April 2019, the project has focussed on the deployment of innovative technologies which deliver greener energy solutions in the pursuit of reducing carbon, and improving air quality.

- Developed Europe's most powerful electric vehicle charging hub, located at Redbridge Park & Ride. The site is connected directly to the National Grid transmission network, relieving local pressures on the constrained distribution network. The charging hub delivers up to 10MW of power, enough to charge up to 400 cars at once. A connection has also been installed at Oxford Bus Company's Watlington Road depot, ready to support the electrification of the city's bus fleet.

Installed the UK's first transmission-connected battery storage (EDF Renewables), located at National Grid's Cowley Substation. The battery will enable increased renewables into the system, and improve grid resilience and energy balancing, creating a more flexible energy system.

- Implemented low carbon heating in over 60 homes across Blackbird Leys, with the installation of innovative ground source heat pump systems combined with smart controls and dynamic energy pricing (developed by Kensa Contracting), providing a renewable heating solution, which delivers cost savings to the occupier.

Recommendation Snapshot



Note the report, and take advantage of opportunities to proactively raise awareness of activity currently underway in the energy space within Oxfordshire, to support collaboration and join-up, and prevent duplication.



Page 208

Ensure respective organisations are actively engaged in work alongside key stakeholders to develop and deliver a local area energy planning approach for Oxfordshire, to support in realising net zero ambitions, as outlined in the endorsed Oxfordshire Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan.



Ensure respective organisations are contributing to annual Distribution Future Energy Scenarios (DFES), to ensure Distribution Network Operator (DNO) modelling of generation, storage, and demand, takes into account planned housing and business development, as well as decarbonisation plans and ambitions.

Key Partnership Activity & Delivery in the Energy Space

Page 209