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, 25 July 2023 at 2.00 pm

3. **Public participation** (Page 118)

A public question from Mr Ian Ashley on behalf of Need Not Greed Oxfordshire is attached.

4. **Future Oxfordshire Partnership Scrutiny Panel update** (Pages 119 - 123)

For action: To receive the recommendations from the Future Oxfordshire Partnership Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 18 July 2023.

9. **Refreshing the Strategic Economic Plan - June 2023 update** (Pages 124 - 150)

For information: To consider a revised presentation setting out an update on the refreshment of the Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan.

Public speakers

25 July 2023

1. Ian Ashley on behalf of Need Not Greed Oxfordshire

Ref Agenda Item 9: Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan

Given the significant concerns about the approach to the emerging Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan, raised by NNGO and now FOP scrutiny, will you now recommend a pause and a full review of the process and approach?

In asking questions about the opaque approvals process for the SEP, we have also been informed that, on the OxLEP Board, council leaders are obliged to vote in the interests of OxLEP, not necessarily in the best interests of their Councils. This seems to us to be a conflict of interest and anti-democratic. Does the FOP understand why members of the public might think this completely inappropriate?

Our local authorities say funding for the SEP comes from the FOP and is not a matter for them. The FOP says it is not a decision-making body. Does this mean that OxLEP alone can agree the SEP, even though the SEP will go on to have a significant influence on emerging Local Plans?

Is that why the SEP is due to go to the OxLEP Board in September, but only be discussed by FOP in November?

Can the FOP please help the public to understand the exact decision-making process and time-table for the SEP and explain where the democratic scrutiny takes place?

Future Oxfordshire Partnership response to recommendations of the Partnership Scrutiny Panel made on 25 July 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 July 2023.

Recommendation	***Comment***
<u>Item 4: Update from Cllr Leffman on the work of the Infrastructure Advisory Group (IAG)</u> The Panel welcomed the comprehensive verbal update from Cllr Leffman on the background and future orientation of the IAG. Specifically, the panel had requested information on the relationship between the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS), to the Strategic Action Travel Network (SATN), Vision Zero, and the county's Local Connectivity and Transport Plan (LCTP). The Panel welcomed the acknowledgement of the interlinkage between these items, and the indication of the imminent refresh of the OxIS bringing together these different strands of policy within an updated version including indicative timelines. Arising from the discussion between the Panel and Councillor Leffman and the Panel, the FOP is asked to: **Recommendation 1:**	

a. Request that Oxfordshire County Council produce a map or visually based infographic to summarise the relationships between key Oxfordshire wide strategies, plans and policies which relate to infrastructure, (both directly and indirectly), including, but not limited to, the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS), the Strategic Active Travel Network, (SATN), the County's Local Connectivity and Transport Plan (LCTP) including its supporting Active Travel Strategy, Oxfordshire's Vision Zero commitments, the Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan and Oxfordshire County Council's policy for future generations. b. Request that Oxfordshire County Council apply the traffic user hierarchy within the LCTP, a future generations lens, Net Zero Carbon and Vision Zero considerations within any future prioritisation of infrastructure within the OxIS update. c. That following the conclusion of the current District and City Local Plan review process and building on the refresh of OxIS, Oxfordshire County Council consider the development of an Active Travel 'Toolkit' which District and City councils could use if they wished to assist in considering the active travel implications of major developments. It is suggested that the Cambridgeshire Active Travel Design Guide is one example of such a document. d. To bring forward a paper setting out potential options for the use of alternative and innovative sources of infrastructure funding to expediate the delivery of the prioritises within the updated OxIS outside of HM Government, Community Infrastructure Levy or Section 106 sources. e. To encourage the use by all the District and City councils of the current OxIS multi-criteria assessment tool as well as supporting the OxIS refresh.	

Item 6: Refreshing the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) The Panel recognised and was cognisant that the slides presented to it regarding the SEP presented a narrative update on the progress of the development of the SEP and not the final formalised Plan. Nevertheless, the majority of members expressed significant concerns regarding the SEP's current direction based on the information available to them, related to the theoretical framing which currently excludes a broader focus on wellbeing and the environment despite the panel's view that they are of critical importance for a sustainable economy. It was asserted that there is no hierarchy of outcome areas and to achieve sustainable development. Moreover, that the economy is dependent on ecosystem services and that nature is an asset to be accounted for. Additionally, concerns were raised regarding development process including democratic oversight by districts of the SEP, and the evidence base used to inform the SEP content. Finally, it was noted that the economy is dependent on natural capital and ecosystem services and that nature restoration is needed to support the economy. **Recommendation 2:** a) Request that that OxLEP ensure that: the policy framework underpinning the SEP include all of the outcomes of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vison for Long Term Sustainable Development; and equal focus is applied to them including wellbeing and the environment b) That the SEP acknowledge and take account of the foundational economy, food security, infrastructure and architecture, small and medium businesses and the concepts of equitable redistribution of the economic growth across the country through the principles of 'levelling up.' Although minded because of the significance of its concerns to recommend to the FOP that the Plan be referred back to OxLEP	

and to individual council scrutiny committees, the Panel acknowledged that it was not within the remit and powers of the FOP to do so. However, it was noted that a number of individual council scrutiny committees were due to or had already considered the Plan and it was felt that the addition of the consideration of the SEP was a matter individual members of the Panel might wish to raise with their respective Scrutiny Chairs as a potential addition to their work programmes.	
<u>Item 5: Developing a Place Narrative for Oxfordshire</u> There was a lack of unanimity within the panel on whether or not to recommend the FOP endorse a place narrative for Oxfordshire, but a significant number of concerns and questions were raised regarding the plan to develop a narrative, including the cost and resourcing of its development. Conversely, others noted that it could be a positive opportunity as a communications tool for the county to attract external investment. Content-related remarks were made on the purpose and the process of its development. **Recommendation 3:** That the FOP requests further clarification on the following matters below to satisfy the concerns raised by the Panel: a) That further information is needed of the purpose and added value of the narrative and that it will not duplicate, replace, or contradict the Oxfordshire Vision for Long Term Sustainable Development. b) That the FOP note that each local planning authority may wish to seek its own advice to verify the statement in the report that there are no legal implications arising from it. c) That further information on the resource implications for the Districts and City Council of participation in the development of the narrative is required.	

d) That in the future, if any narrative is developed then it considers drawing on the doughnut economic framework to support framing communications about sustainable economic development. **Recommendation 4:** That FOP request that Oxfordshire County Council sets out the different types and source of investments that the place narrative is intended to be used to attract, and the pros and cons of these different types of finance.	
<u>Item 8.c: Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership Update – Annual Report and Nature Finance Strategy</u> The panel welcomed the Nature Finance Strategy and acknowledged the important work of the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership. **Recommendation 5:** a. The Panel strongly supported the recommendations to the FOP as set out in the report including the endorsement by the FOP of the Nature Finance Strategy. b. That the detailed comments and suggestions made by the Panel relating to matters within the remit of the vision of the Nature Finance strategy and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy be fed back and taken into account in its development.	

oxfordshirelep.com

Strategic Economic Plan Development - Draft

July 2023

HM Government

SQW

OxLEP
driving economic growth

1: Introduction

Our new Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) updates and replaces Oxfordshire's previous economic strategies. Informed by a county-wide conversation, it provides a post-pandemic statement of economic priorities for Oxfordshire. It charts a positive economic future for the county, and it sets out our strategy to 2033.

The SEP has been developed through

- an Independent Economic Review – which included an open call for evidence and has focused on key themes for Oxfordshire
- a participative process which has involved stakeholder engagement through a series of workshops which were held during spring 2023.

The preparation of the SEP has been supported by a Working Group – with representation from Oxfordshire's local authorities, Universities, Health, colleges, and DLUHC/B&T – which meets monthly to steer the plans development.

2: Strategic context (1/3)

Within Oxfordshire, the **strategic context** for the new SEP is provided by the **Strategic Vision developed by the Future Oxfordshire Partnership (FOP):**

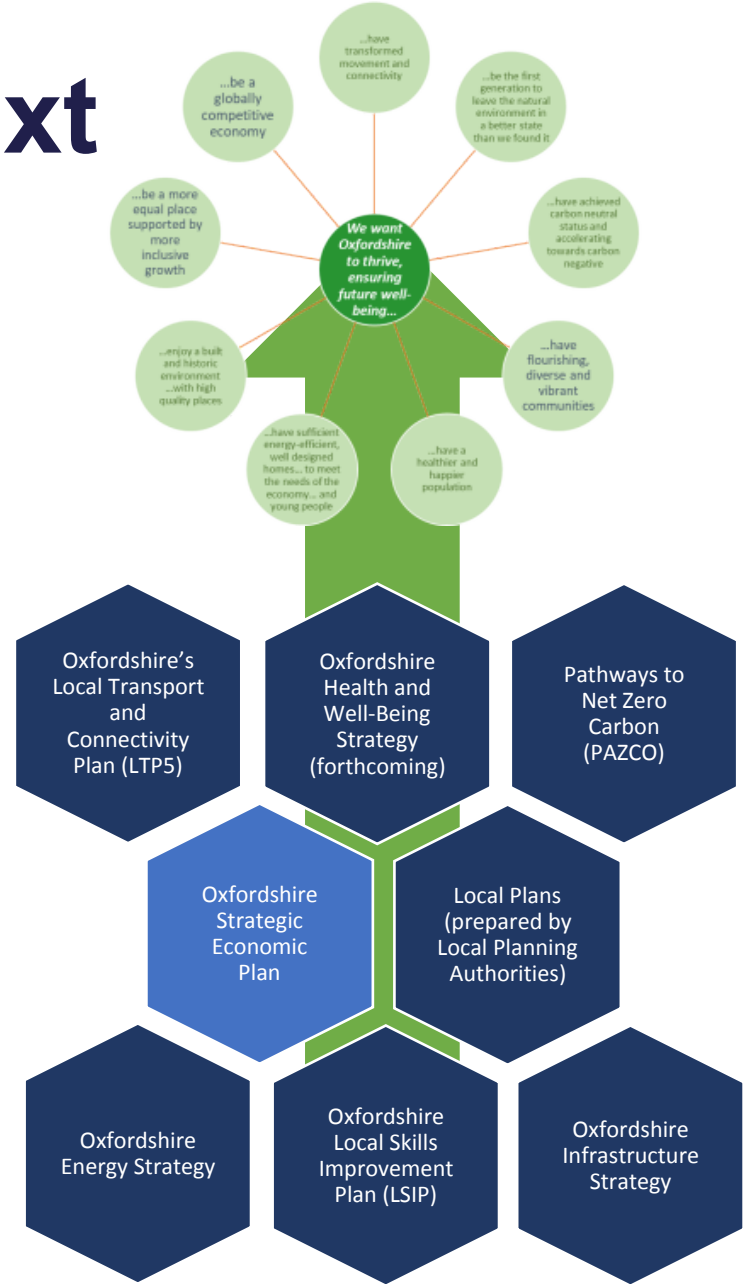
'We want Oxfordshire's people, places and environment to thrive so that the lives of current and future generations are enhanced'

This Vision is supported by **nine objectives** (and eleven accompanying guiding principles).

2: Strategic context (2/3)

The SEP is one of a suite of Oxfordshire strategies which support the nine objectives of the Strategic Vision.

Together, these strategies will deliver the Strategic Vision agreed by the Future Oxfordshire Partnership.



SQW

OxLEP driving economic growth

2: Strategic context (3/3)

The SEP has also been **informed by broad national priorities**, particularly those that have medium-long term currency and cross-party support.

Key national priorities of relevance include:

- using science and innovation assets and capabilities well
- enhancing productivity, including through the use of digital technologies
- supporting clusters and place/area-based economic assets
- achieving net zero and green growth
- addressing the housing crisis
- opportunities for devolution
- levelling up, and addressing spatial disparities across the UK
- redefining the UK's role and profile internationally.

3: Understanding Oxfordshire's Economy (1/3)

Oxfordshire has a **world class innovation ecosystem**, and its knowledge economy is of international renown. But its effectiveness is linked to a wider foundational economy – and this accounts for the majority of jobs across the county. **The foundational economy is therefore critical in terms of the extent to which Oxfordshire thrives.** It is key to the future prospects of many people and businesses across Oxfordshire.

Within this context:

- Oxfordshire has seen **sustained jobs growth** – slightly above national rates
- Its **business stock** has grown, and the incidence of **high-growth firms** is high. Oxfordshire has a concentration of employment in **scientific R&D and education**

3: Understanding Oxfordshire's Economy (2/3)

- The county's economic activity rate has been high but it has declined by five percentage points since 2019 – and unemployment rates are low… the inference is **labour shortages**, particularly in the foundational economy
- Among full time employees, **earnings are relatively high** (on average)…
- …however there are significant **inequalities**, and Oxford in particular is identified as one of the most unequal places in the UK
- Overall Oxfordshire's performance in terms of **productivity** is below the UK average

In economic terms, **Oxfordshire has significant strengths, linked to our key economic assets.** But it also has **economic weaknesses and risks associated with our Foundational Economy**. These will need to be addressed if Oxfordshire's overall Strategic Vision is to be achieved.

3: Understanding Oxfordshire's Economy (3/3)

Figure 3-1: Key insights from the 'Deep Dives'

Progression and inclusive growth	Economic sustainability and net zero	Foundational economy	Innovation and diffusion
• Opportunities for inclusive growth was limited through the pandemic, with those 'more at risk' being more vulnerable to job loss. The cost of living crisis has accentuated the issue. • Flexibility of work is critical to getting people back into the workforce • Labour market shortages are critical across many of Oxfordshire's sectors – this links to migration patterns, retaining students post-graduation and high cost of living in Oxfordshire relative to the rest of the UK	• PAZCO provides the starting point for thinking about Oxfordshire's transition to net-zero and the implications • The general consensus is that net zero and wider environmental limitations must be a priority – this will mean there will be a need to prioritise environmental sustainability of Oxfordshire • There are opportunities to increase the uptake of green innovation, building on the strengths of the existing innovation ecosystem • Energy infrastructure is a major challenge holding back the transition to cleaner and greener energy projects	• The foundational economy is critical to the success of Oxfordshire (SME's including Agriculture and Food production and public services) • Oxfordshire's challenges – tightness of the labour market, high cost of living and access to business space – highlight potential for new approaches to key worker housing • Links between employers and the 'health economy' are recognised • Increasing demand for/ awareness of 'social value' • Across micro and small businesses, take-up of established/ existing technologies and systems is often limited.	• Oxfordshire's assets are world class – and there has been significant recent investment • The flow of spin-out businesses has grown and the commercialisation infrastructure surrounding has developed substantially • Evidence of wider innovation and diffusion continues to be relatively limited – in part because major buyers in Oxfordshire are very risk averse • The shift to working from home is causing diffusion 'by stealth' – but the implications are unknown

4: Approaching 2033: Key trends and drivers (1/3)

Looking ahead over the next decade, there are **wider trends and drivers** – particularly social, technological, economic and environmental – which will **affect businesses and communities across all parts of Oxfordshire**. These help to define a series of opportunities and threats to which the SEP must respond.

From both the Independent Economic Review and feedback from the stakeholder workshops, critical trends and drivers include the following:

- **Social drivers** – relating to people and communities
  - cost of living pressures, particularly issues linked to the affordability of housing
  - the continuing challenges of labour market progression for many
  - changing lifestyles, and the aspirations of Gen Z in particular
  - overall population ageing

4: Approaching 2033: Key trends and drivers (2/3)

- **Technological drivers**
  - the wide ranging implications of AI, data, data security, digital connectivity… including with regard to automation
- **Economic drivers**
  - the 'war for talent' and the skills/labour shortages facing many different employers
  - the changing relationship between economic activity and employment/housing provision
  - the increasingly globally competitive knowledge economy, and changing patterns of international trade
- **Environmental drivers**
  - the imperatives around transitions to net zero, including with regard to energy infrastructure
  - the criticality of resource use efficiency, with particular implications for the use of agricultural land

4: Approaching 2033: Key trends and drivers (3/3)

- **Political drivers**

Key national priorities of relevance include:

- using science and innovation assets and capabilities well
- enhancing productivity, including through the use of digital technologies
- supporting clusters and place/area-based economic assets
- achieving net zero and green growth
- addressing the housing crisis
- opportunities for devolution
- levelling up, and addressing spatial disparities across the UK
- redefining the UK's role and profile internationally.

5: SEP Ambition, Objectives and Themes (1/4)

Consistent with the overall Strategic Vision, our **ambition** is that through the SEP…

…by 2033, **people and communities** across Oxfordshire will be benefitting from **new opportunities** which are **created sustainably, supporting the journey to Net Zero** through investment in **local enterprise and innovation**. These will enhance further their **well-being** in an **outstanding local environment**. They will also underpin, complement and support a wider **innovation ecosystem** which will continue to be of **global significance**, transforming for the better the lives of people across the world.

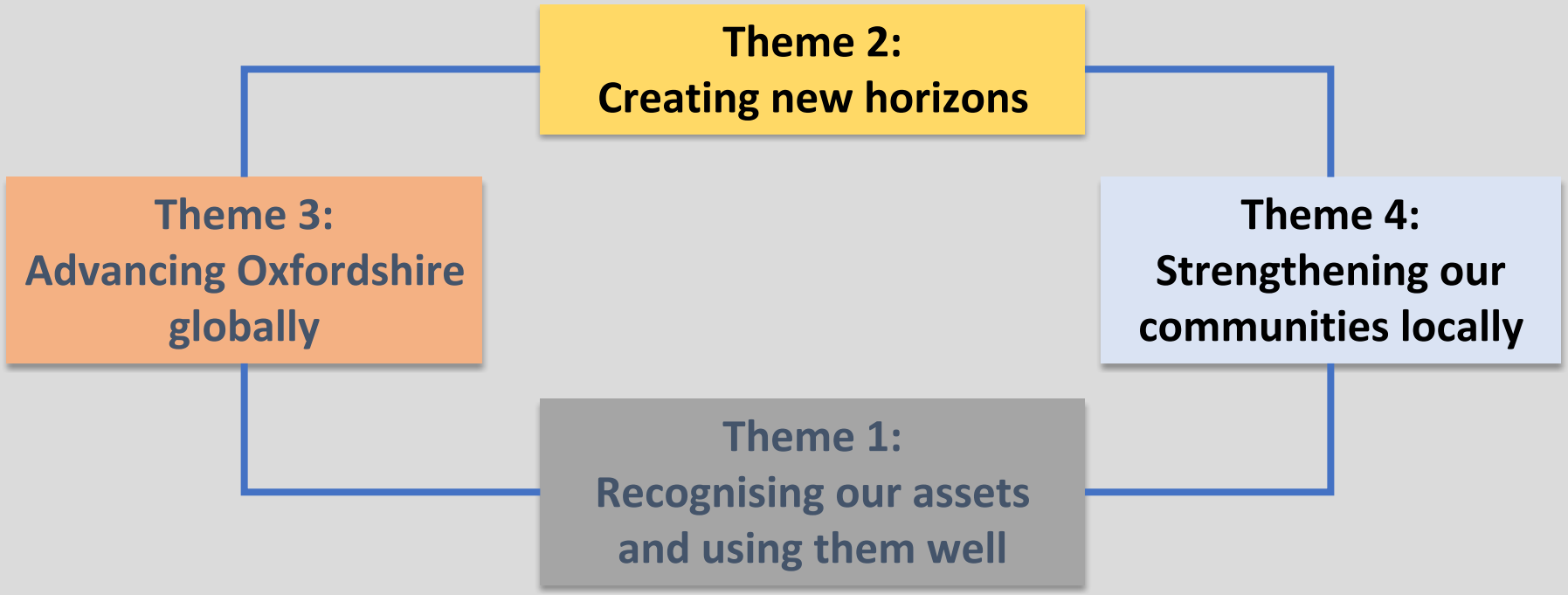
5: SEP Ambition, Objectives and Themes (2/4)

In order to achieve our ambition, we have identified **four key Objectives**:

1. Enable Oxfordshire's **businesses to thrive**, and encourage **pervasive innovation**
2. **Widen access** to current opportunities and **equip people and places** as jobs change over the next decade
3. **Secure resilient infrastructure** for planned growth, consistent with Oxfordshire's commitment to net zero carbon by no later than 2050
4. Ensure that Oxfordshire's **places are sustainable, distinctive and inclusive**, and that **local communities flourish**

5: SEP Ambition, Objectives and Themes (3/4)

These objectives will be shaped and delivered through **four cross-cutting Themes**. The Themes will help to avoid siloed thinking and ensure that progress is made.



5: SEP Vision, Objectives and Themes (4/4)

Through the Objectives and Themes, **the delivery of the SEP** will support all nine objectives of **the FOP Strategic Vision.**

Theme 2: Creating new horizons

1. Enable Oxfordshire's businesses to thrive, and encourage pervasive innovation
2. Widen access to current opportunities and equip people and places as jobs change over the next decade
3. Secure resilient infrastructure for planned growth, consistent with Oxfordshire's commitment to net zero carbon by 2050
4. Ensure that Oxfordshire's places are sustainable and inclusive, and that local communities flourish

Theme 3: Advancing Oxfordshire globally

Theme 4: Strengthening our communities locally

Theme 1: Recognising our assets and using them well

6: Theme 1 – Recognising our assets and using them well (1/2)

Theme 1 is concerned with **productivity in Oxfordshire**.

There is a strong link between productivity and standards of living – albeit increased productivity *must* be achieved sustainably and in a way that improves overall well-being (linked, for example, to reduced inequality and greater economic inclusion).

In focusing on productivity we are encouraging better, smarter and cleaner growth to benefit both current and future generations within Local Plan commitments.

Progress will be made in relation to Theme 1 by advancing the following action areas (each of which links to one of the SEP objectives):

- support Oxfordshire's SMEs to navigate the transition to net zero and enhance productivity, particularly through the use of digital solutions (Obj 1)

6: Theme 1 – Recognising our assets and using them well (2/2)

- learn about the relationships between productivity, innovation and remote working, and disseminate best practice (Obj 1)
- work with partners to improve social mobility for young people and ensure that they have greater access to career pathways within Oxfordshire (Obj 2)
- provide better coordinated support for people getting (back) into the labour market (Obj 2)
- raise awareness of the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership's Charter, and encourage more employers in Oxfordshire to commit to it (Obj 1, 2 and 4)
- work with partners to facilitate sustainable travel to major employment locations (Obj 3)
- work with partners to use existing employment land well, recognising different sectoral needs and acknowledging links to housing (Obj 4)
- work with partners to address Oxfordshire's housing crisis through innovative solutions within the framework provided by local plan-making processes (Obj 4)
- recognise the importance of Oxfordshire's rural economy and links to both food production and land use (Obj 4)

7: Theme 2 – Creating new horizons (1/2)

Theme 2 is concerned with **innovation**. This includes innovation linked to the commercialisation of science, but it also needs to be understood more broadly. Innovation relates to both products and processes. It is important across all sectors, and in relation to the delivery of key services, many of which define the core of the foundational economy.

Progress will be made in relation to Theme 2 by advancing the following action areas (each of which links to one of the SEP objectives):

- advance a series of Oxfordshire 'living labs' – with foci including:
  - digital transformations
  - well-being in later life
  - transformation in service delivery
  - transitions to sustainable energy (Obj 1)

7: Theme 2 – Creating new horizons (2/2)

- develop an integrated response – particularly in relation to start-up and move-on space, and appropriate workforce skills – to support the formation and scale-up of high growth potential businesses (Obj 1)
- work with R&I partners to advance cluster strategies linked to emerging and low carbon technologies and actively seek to secure wider impacts at different scales; these should include evidence of tangible progress regarding pathways to net zero carbon, including through low carbon innovation and low carbon energy (Obj 1)
- work with partners to support students and young people across the county to develop business propositions and forge connections across the innovation ecosystem (Obj 1)
- through Oxfordshire's LSIP and more generally:
  - work with employers and providers to equip people for a working life in which job roles will change (through automation, etc.) (Obj 2)
  - instigate a wider 'future skills' initiative involving key Oxfordshire employers, further education colleges and higher education institutions (Obj 2)
- develop a county-wide response to the sectoral possibilities surrounding retrofit (Obj 3 and 4)

8: Theme 3 – Advancing Oxfordshire globally (1/2)

Theme 3 is defined in recognition of Oxfordshire's globally (and nationally) significant assets, profile and role – and the responsibilities that come with them. These assets range from its historic buildings (e.g. Blenheim Palace) and natural environment , through to its research and learning institutions.

Progress will be made in relation to Theme 3 by advancing the following action areas (each of which links to one of the SEP objectives):

- encourage more of Oxfordshire's entrepreneurs and business leaders to achieve international prominence and impact (Obj 1)
- welcome responsible international investors and investment to Oxfordshire (Obj 1)

8: Theme 3 – Advancing Oxfordshire globally (2/2)

- support the responsible growth of the Visitor Economy (Obj 1)
- support local businesses as they develop export markets (Obj 1)
- welcome international workers, including those in skills shortage areas (Obj 1 and 2)
- collaborate with areas Nationally (Levelling-Up) and Internationally (Global Markets) , by capitalising on our Innovation Ecosystem (R,D and I) capability for wider business ,community and societal benefit (Obj 1 and 4)
- work with regional partners to secure appropriate infrastructure particularly to support our Net Zero ambitions by 2050 and enhance our competitiveness (Obj 2,3)

9: Theme 4 – Strengthening our communities locally (1/2)

Theme 4 recognises the **character and potential of communities** across Oxfordshire – whether in Oxford itself, in the surrounding towns (Bicester, Banbury, Witney, Didcot, Abingdon, etc.), or in Oxfordshire's villages. It also recognises that Oxfordshire is changing, and that new places and communities are being formed. The links between old and new will be very important looking ahead.

Progress will be made in relation to Theme 4 by advancing the following action areas (each of which links to one of the SEP objectives):

- support local authorities, universities and developers to advance the network of innovation hubs across different places in Oxfordshire (Obj 1)
- support social enterprise across Oxfordshire, particularly through the work of the Oxfordshire Social Enterprise Partnership (Obj 2 and 4)

9: Theme 4 – Strengthening our communities locally (2/2)

- support the work of the voluntary and community sector, recognising critical links to Oxfordshire's foundational economy (Obj 2 and 4)
- recognise and nurture the distinctive economic roles and contributions of all of Oxfordshire's places (Obj 4)
- facilitate initiatives linked to community wealth-building (Obj 4)
- advance community employment plans for new developments, and encourage healthy place shaping (by bringing together planning for housing, infrastructure and the economy with planning for residents' health and wellbeing) (Obj 4)
- encourage the growth of the circular economy and measures to influence economic behaviour consistent with the transition to net zero (Obj 4)
- support the delivery of the Oxfordshire Food Strategy (Obj 4)

10: Delivering the SEP

There are **four main routes** to delivering the SEP over the next decade. These focus on::

- attracting **private sector investment**
- **working collaboratively** across (and beyond) Oxfordshire and through wider partnerships
- **leveraging** the development processes
- **bidding** effectively for funding when opportunities present themselves.

In terms of **governance and oversight:**

- OxLEP's Board will oversee the SEP and Action Plan delivery
- Provide regular updates to the FOP on progress

11: Measuring progress in delivering the SEP

Through the SEP, **we will deliver economic growth more efficiently and more equitably** – and *within existing county-level ambitions with regard to net jobs creation whilst enabling progress towards net zero carbon.*

Within this context, the **progress of the SEP** will be measured in terms of:

- increasing effective labour supply by returning to pre-pandemic activity rates; and
- raising median earnings compared to mean earnings across Oxfordshire (on a residence-based measure); and
- achieving productivity levels that exceed the national average; and
- achieving wider knowledge economy impacts of global significance.
- *Businesses adopting Net Zero targets (including procurement and supply chain)**

For contextual purposes, we will track progress in relation to a broader basket of indicators, linked to the wider themes within the FOP Strategic Vision.

12: Timetable for finalising the SEP

July / August

- Prepare the SEP and Action Plan
- Update Presentation to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership (25/07/23)

September

- Present draft Final SEP to LEP Board for endorsement (19/09/23)
- Present draft Final SEP to FOP for consideration (26/09/23)

October

- Final SEP to Board for approval in October* via Written Procedures/Special Meeting (TBC)

* Noting FOP feedback

Oxfordshire's Strategic Economic Plan, 2023-33

Theme 2: Creating new horizons

1. Enable Oxfordshire's businesses to thrive, and encourage pervasive innovation
2. Widen access to current opportunities and equip people and places as jobs change over the next decade
3. Secure resilient infrastructure for planned growth, consistent with Oxfordshire's commitment to net zero carbon by 2050
4. Ensure that Oxfordshire's places are sustainable and inclusive, and that local communities flourish

Theme 3: Advancing Oxfordshire globally

Theme 4: Strengthening our communities locally

Theme 1: Recognising our assets and using them well