

Agenda



The Future Oxfordshire Partnership Scrutiny Panel, (formerly the Oxfordshire Growth Board Scrutiny Panel)

Tuesday 23 November 2021 at 6.30 pm
Virtual meeting viewable by weblink

Contact: Kevin Jacob, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Democratic Services Officer

E-mail: futureoxfordshirepartnership@southandvale.gov.uk

Telephone: 07917 088356

Website: www.futureoxfordshirepartnership.org

Members:

Councillor Jabu Nala-Hartley	Oxford City Council
Councillor Katherine Miles	
Councillor Lucy Pegg	
Councillor Adam Nell	Cherwell District Council
Councillor David Hughes	
Councillor Sean Woodcock, (Vice-Chair)	
Councillor Andrew Gant, (Chair)	Oxfordshire County Council
Councillor Brad Baines	
Councillor Liam Walker	
Councillor Peter Dragonetti	South Oxfordshire District Council
Councillor David Turner	
Councillor Victoria Haval	
Councillor Andy Cooke	Vale of White Horse District Council
Councillor Matt Barber	
Councillor Samantha Bowring	
Councillor Derek Cotterill	West Oxfordshire District Council
Councillor Alex Postan	
Councillor Dan Levy	

1. *The quorum is six members, one from each council. Substitutes are allowed and should be notified to the contact above.*
2. *To watch this meeting, follow this link to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership's YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/dgjLUmq30RE> . Arrangements are subject to change at short notice so please refer to the agenda page at <http://democratic.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=636&MId=2981>*

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence, substitutes; declarations of interest, Chair's announcements**
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting** (Pages 5 - 12)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2021.

3. **Public participation** (To Follow)

Members of the public may submit an address or question in writing to the Scrutiny Panel, where full notice of the question or address is given to the secretariat no later than **17:00 on Wednesday 17 November 2021**. Questions and addresses submitted should be no longer than one side of A4 paper in Arial 12 font. The address or question will be circulated to the Panel and public speakers will be invited to speak at the virtual meeting. Written submissions may also be read out by the Chair or Democratic Services Officer where requested or if the person making the request for public speaking is not able to attend the meeting. A response may be given at the meeting or a written answer supplied. Questions and notice of addresses must be submitted to futureoxfordshirepartnership@southandvale.gov.uk

Note: This meeting may be recorded for live broadcast via the Future Oxfordshire Partnership's [YouTube Channel](#) - at the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm the meeting is being filmed. By registering to speak you are consenting to being recorded and to the use of those video and audio recordings for webcasting.

4. **Update from Councillor Liz Leffman, Chair of the Infrastructure Advisory Group and member of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership** (Verbal Report)

Councillor Liz Leffman, Chair of the Infrastructure Advisory Group, member of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership and Leader of Oxfordshire County Council has been invited by the Scrutiny Panel to attend this meeting to give an update on the work of the Advisory Group.

5. **Future Oxfordshire Partnership response to Scrutiny Panel recommendations** (Pages 13 - 15)

To consider the Future Oxfordshire Partnership's response to the recommendations from the Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 13 September 2021.

6. **Housing and Growth Deal Reports**

- (a) **Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Progress Report - Quarter 2, Year 4** (Pages 16 - 24)

To consider a report to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership setting out the Quarter 2, Year 4 progress report for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.

- (b) Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Financial Report Quarter 2, Year 4** (Pages 25 - 31)

To consider a report to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership setting out a financial summary for Quarter 2, Year 4 for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.

- (c) Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Infrastructure Programme - Six Month Review and changes** (Pages 32 - 36)

To consider a paper to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership setting out the outcome of a periodic review by Oxfordshire County Council of the current cost and programme projections for the schemes included with the Housing and Growth Deal Infrastructure Programme and proposed changes to the programme.

- (d) Infrastructure Advisory Group update** (To Follow)

To receive the summary notes from the Infrastructure Advisory Group held on 1 November 2021.

- (e) Housing Advisory Group update** (Pages 37 - 40)

To receive the summary notes from meetings of the Housing Advisory Group held on 1 September 2021, (attached) and 2 November 2021 (to follow).

- (f) Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Advisory Group update** (Pages 41 - 45)

To receive the summary notes from the meeting of the Oxfordshire Plan Advisory Group 2050 held on 14 October 2021.

- (g) Environment Advisory Group update** (Pages 46 - 49)

To receive the summary notes of the meeting of the Environment Advisory Group held on 23 September 2021.

7. Oxford to Cambridge Arc Update (Verbal Report)

To receive any relevant update from the Director of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership concerning developments within the Oxford to Cambridge Arc.

8. Future Oxfordshire Partnership Name Change Update (Pages 50 - 52)

To consider a report to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership setting out an update on the steps that have been taken since the July meeting to transition to the new Future Oxfordshire Partnership name.

9. Work programme for the Scrutiny Panel and action log - November 2021 (Pages 53 - 57)

To discuss the draft work programme for the Panel and status of actions from the previous meeting.

10. Dates of next meetings

The dates of confirmed future Scrutiny Panel meetings are below, all meetings at 6.30 pm. Please refer to <https://futureoxfordshirepartnership.org/meetings/> for the most up to date information.

- Monday 17 January 2022
- Tuesday 15 March 2022
- Tuesday 31 May 2022
- Tuesday 19 July 2022

It is intended to bring provisional dates for meetings between July 2022 and July 2023 to the next meeting.

Councillors' duties on declaring interests

General duty

You must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests when the meeting reaches the item on the agenda headed "Declarations of Interest" or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?

Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to your* employment; sponsorship (ie payment for expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor or towards your election expenses); contracts; land in the council's area; licences for land in the council's area; corporate tenancies; and securities. These declarations must be recorded in each councillor's register of interests which is publicly available on the council's website.

Declaring an interest

Where any matter disclosed in your register of interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest. If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Member's Code of Conduct and public perception

Even if you do not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter, the Councillors' Code of Conduct says that a member "must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself" and that "you must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned". What this means is that the matter of interests must be viewed within the context of the code as a whole and regard should continue to be paid to the perception of the public.

*Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member themselves, but also those of the member's spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.

Minutes

OF A MEETING OF THE



The Future Oxfordshire Partnership Scrutiny Panel, (formerly the Oxfordshire Growth Board Scrutiny Panel)

HELD ON MONDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 6.30 PM
MEETING VIEWABLE BY WEBLINK

Present:

Councillors Andrew Gant (Chair), Brad Baines, Samantha Bowring, Andy Cooke, Peter Dragonetti, Victoria Haval, David Hughes, Dan Levy, Katherine Miles, Jabu Nala-Hartley, Adam Nell, Lucy Pegg, Alex Postan, David Turner, and Sean Woodcock, (Vice-Chair)

Officers contributing to and supporting the Panel:

Andrew Down	Future Oxfordshire Partnership Director
Susan Harbour	Strategic Partnerships Manager – South and Vale District Councils
Kevin Jacob	Democratic Services Officer – Future Oxfordshire Partnership
Stefan Robinson	Manager – Future Oxfordshire Partnership
Paul Staines	Interim Head of Programme - Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal

25. Apologies for absence, substitutes; declarations of interest, Chair's announcements

Apologies were submitted from Councillor Derek Cotterill, West Oxfordshire District Council and Councillor Liam Walker, Oxfordshire County Council.

There were no declarations of interest.

The Chair welcomed Councillor Samantha Bowring, Vale of White Horse District Council, to her first meeting of the Scrutiny Panel.

The Chair proposed changing the order of the agenda to allow for the consideration of agenda item eight prior to item seven. This was agreed to by the Panel.

It was noted that the meeting was being livestreamed and that a recording of the meeting could be found by [clicking on this link](#).

26. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2021 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

27. Public participation

It was noted that there had been no requests for public participation.

28. Future Oxfordshire Partnership response to Scrutiny Panel recommendations

The Chair summarised the responses to the Panel's recommendations to The Future Oxfordshire Partnership from its meeting on 12 July 2021.

29. Oxfordshire Economic Recovery Plan Update

The Panel considered a report – and detailed appendix – setting out an update on the progress of the Oxfordshire Economic Recovery Plan (ERP) and the headline performance of the county's economy as it emerged from the challenges of the pandemic. Ahmed Goga, Director of Strategies & Programmes at OxLEP, highlighted that the report identified the need for a system wide approach to both the recovery and the co-ordination of resources amongst partners. This would help to maximise investment to support local communities and businesses.

The Chair stated his support for the points made within the report regarding the importance of joint working to support the economic recovery within Oxfordshire. He made clear that HM Government should consider and simplify the process for local authority funding to encourage such a system wide approach. These comments were endorsed by the Panel as a recommendation to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership.

In discussion, the Panel raised the following points in summary:

- The report indicated (in paragraph 17) that opportunities for apprenticeships in science remained low. It was felt by members that, in addition to growing the number of science related apprenticeships, it was also important to increase those available in manufacturing (and, thereby, promote careers in this sector). The Panel noted the presence of high-tech manufacturing and related industries within Oxfordshire – e.g., in the automotive sector (Formula 1) and the manufacturing of vaccines.
- Unemployment amongst young people remained a particular concern. The Panel noted that, while unemployment amongst this cohort was generally falling, there was a significant challenge in relation to young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs). Furthermore, although OxLEP was working with community organisations and education providers to help address the issues around NEETs through specialist projects, several of these initiatives were not yet funded.
- The promotion of the job, training and skills opportunities for young people should be made available in a format that was both interesting and engaging. The Panel was informed that OxLEP had produced several short videos tailored and produced by

young people themselves. It was agreed by members that the details of these should be circulated.

- While a system wide approach to tackling the challenges arising from the pandemic was supported, it was suggested that, when monitoring and evaluating the projects within the ERP, data should be tracked in a disaggregated format.
- Several projects within the ERP, such as improvements to visitor coach arrivals, had the potential to contradict with wider environmental and carbon reduction objectives e.g., the promotion of Active Travel. It was also important to promote, where possible, the pedestrianisation of public spaces such as town squares.
- It was felt that the staff shortages and recruitment issues affecting the visitor economy were also impacting other sectors of the Oxfordshire economy e.g., logistics.
- It was agreed that officers would investigate what unemployment and ward level data was available and circulate it to the Panel.
- Members referred to the transport schemes referenced within the ERP appendix as 'Tran 1 to Tran 8'. They requested further information as to how they are broken down by district, with particular emphasis on what cycling schemes existed, or were planned, outside of Oxford City
- As provision of easily accessible and useable infrastructure was critical to the take up of electric vehicles, the Panel expressed concern that the Oxfordshire-wide Park and Charge Project was shown to be experiencing significant issues and delays. It was agreed that an update on its current status would be established.

RESOLVED: To recommend that the Future Oxfordshire Partnership:

1. Request that HM Government consider ways to simplify and rationalise the process by which it considers local authority bids for funding through initiatives such as the Community Renewal Fund and Levelling Up Fund, so as to encourage a system wide approach.
2. Agree recommendation 2 of the ERP report around the need for partners to continue to undertake a whole system response to securing economic recovery and that specifically, this includes, but not be limited to, a system wide approach to town centre renewal and the promotion of manufacturing as a sector.
3. Provides feedback that the Economic Recovery Plan should draw on wider disaggregated data that helps to show how some sections of society may be disadvantaged through the economic recovery, particularly for young people who are not in education, employment, or training. This will be useful to inform targeted interventions.

30. Update on Local Nature Partnership Establishment

The Panel considered a report on the establishment of a Local Nature Partnership (LNP) in Oxfordshire. Andrew Down, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Director, told the Panel that the first meeting of the LNP Board would take place in either October or November rather than in September (as had been previously indicated).

The Chair welcomed the establishment of the LNP. He noted that Oxfordshire was currently the only county within the Arc that did not have such a Partnership in place.

RESOLVED: That the update on the establishment of an Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership be noted.

31. Oxford to Cambridge Arc Update

Andrew Down, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Director, informed the Panel of developments within the Oxford to Cambridge Arc.

The Panel were informed that indications suggested that the Oxfordshire to Cambridge Arc remained a strategic priority for HM Government. It was currently looking to create some form of governance that would be based upon the building blocks of the existing growth boards, with the expectation being that each Board would have a seat in the new structure. The approach taken by HM Government to the development of the new governance body had so far been consultative with partners – which was welcomed.

Finally, it was expected that there could be some announcements relating to the Arc as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review on 27 October.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

32. The Oxford to Cambridge Arc Vision Consultation

The Panel considered a report to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership setting out a proposed response to HM Government's consultation on its draft vision for the Oxford to Cambridge Arc (the findings of which will be used to inform their ambitions for an Arc-wide spatial framework).

Members of the Panel welcomed the proposed response but suggested that it could be further strengthened in terms of the priority of environmental preservation and enhancements, digital connectivity and non-car connectivity between developments, electrification of East West Rail and recognition of particular deprivation within the county. It was also felt that in order to be defensible at a local level, there needed to be a stronger steer in the Vision that quantified which targets would be set in the future.

RESOLVED: That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership be requested to strengthen its draft response to HM Government's Oxford to Cambridge Arc Vision Consultation to emphasise:

1. The importance of environmental preservation and enhancement across all pillars of the proposed Vision and considerations for the future of the Arc.
2. The importance of securing adequate provision of data centres in order to support greater digital connectivity.
3. The need for full electrification of the East West Railway as a current, rather than future, priority.
4. The need to reduce dependency on private cars within developments through good site connectivity and design.
5. The need to ensure that matters of housing viability and affordability are not used as reasons to compromise or weaken environmental building standards.
6. Quantifiable and defensible targets and numbers should be set in order to give the welcome aspirations within the Vision more credibility and robustness.

7. The need to recognise that inequality is not evenly distributed within Oxfordshire and that pockets of serious deprivation do exist within the county.

33. Housing and Growth Deal Reports

(a) Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Progress Report - Year 4, Quarter 1

The Panel considered a report to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership which set out progress at Year 4, Quarter 1 with the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.

Paul Staines, Interim Head of Programme, informed the Panel that figures on the housing delivery forecast trajectory linked to delivering housing from housing infrastructure could be broken down by local authority. He also highlighted that, due to an agreement with Homes England, the trajectory would be revised every six months – the position, however, remained as reported in the previous quarter.

It was also confirmed to the Panel that, in general, infrastructure programmes like Housing from Infrastructure (Hfi) were often backloaded – as delivery tends to take place towards the end of the programme when the heaviest costs are incurred. Under the terms of the Deal, funding for the Hfi programme was released by HM Government on an equal per annum basis, which, in practice, had not reflected the reality of delivery. The challenges that this had created represented a learning point.

In response to questions, Andrew Down, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Director, commented that the improvements to Junction 10 M40 had been included in the list of infrastructure schemes supported by the Deal. This was because they would help accelerate the delivery of housing within the county.

With regards to infrastructure projects in South Oxfordshire, while Mr Down noted that the number of schemes was comparatively few, several that might have been included in the Hfi programme had subsequently been funded through successful Housing Infrastructure Fund bids to HM Government.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(b) Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Financial Report - Year 4, Quarter 1

The Panel considered a report to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership setting out an update on the financial position of the Housing and growth Deal as at Year 4, Quarter 1. This was introduced by Kathy Wilcox, Head of Financial Strategy, Oxfordshire County Council.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(c) Housing Advisory Group Update

The Panel noted the summary notes of the Housing Advisory Group meeting held on 6 July 2021.

RESOLVED: That the summary notes be noted.

(d) Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Advisory Group Update

The Panel noted the summary notes of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 meetings held on 15 July 2021 and 12 August 2021.

RESOLVED: That the summary notes be noted.

(e) Environment Advisory Group Update

The Panel noted the summary notes of the Environment Advisory Group meeting held on 3 August 2021.

RESOLVED: That the summary notes be noted.

34. Work programme for the Scrutiny Panel - September 2021

The Panel's work programme – as set out in the Agenda – was noted.

Councillor Nell suggested a future item on the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Infrastructure Programme reflecting on the potential lessons learnt from the delivery of the current deal. The Chair agreed to follow this up with officers and decide when would be the best time to consider such a report.

35. Draft Scrutiny Panel response to the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Regulation 18 Part 2 Consultation

The Chair reminded the Panel that they had agreed, at their previous meeting, to delegate authority to a smaller group of members to compile a proposed Panel draft response to the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Regulation 18 Part 2 consultation. Following that decision, the Chair, the Vice-Chair, Councillor Nell and Councillor Haval had worked to produce the suggested draft response which has now been circulated to the Panel. The Chair paid tribute to his colleagues' hard work in putting the responses together, and to Kevin Jacob for collating them into one document.

The draft response had been written on the basis of providing comments on each of the five themes of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 consultation document. The Chair encouraged the Panel to discuss any amendments it wished to make, especially any matters that had been omitted or which members could not agree to.

A detailed discussion took place with comments made in the following areas for consideration for inclusion in the final Panel response:

- The need to promote Modern Methods of Construction, as provision of this type of housing needed to be stepped up significantly as a housing type.
- The Green Belt had worked very well to preserve the historic city of Oxford, but this had increased growth pressure on rural areas. Infrastructure needed to be provided to help meet Oxford's unmet housing need and compensation was necessary to meet the cost of providing this infrastructure.
- The Plan should take account of/include provision for the development of new technologies for sustainable energy generation and use, (electricity and transportation) based on 'mirror tech', 'high temperature plasma' technology and storage of energy in synthetic hydrocarbons, (clean petrol and diesel) – linked to an Oxford University sanctioned research study.

- The concept of the loss and damage relating to unchecked climate change did not feature strongly enough in the consultation document, for example the effects of increases in flooding across the UK and rest of Europe.
- The social dimensions/consequences of climate change were not drawn out in the draft consultation document. This needed to be flagged, as the most vulnerable groups in society would be the hardest hit by climate change.
- There needed to be a balance between preservation and reducing emissions in respect of listed buildings.
- Air quality – statements and words within the draft consultation document need to be strengthened. For instance, ‘*where possible* development will be expected to improve air quality’ – remove where possible as it was felt this weakened the intent of the statement.
- Residents needed viable alternatives to private motor cars, particularly in villages. Lack of segregated cycle ways or public transport removes choice, and these facilities needed to be designed into developments.
- Visitor economy – stronger wording needed to prevent coach drop of visitors in the Oxford city centre, ‘discourage’ did not go far enough.
- Specialist housing need – there are policies relating to official University of Oxford and Oxford Brookes accommodation, but nothing to address issues of students displacing potential local residents from local short-term housing – perhaps a cap was required on percentage of student housing.
- Water quality – there was a need to expand the draft response to include the importance of consideration of adequate sewage treatment and that Thames Water act to reduce controlled discharges into rivers.
- Long distance cycle routes between towns should be promoted alongside long-distance walking routes.
- Inclusive Parking – comments in the draft response on cargo bikes were welcomed. However, there should also be reference to inclusive parking within planning rules to ensure that where provision is made on developments for cycle parking this includes facilities for cargo bikes.
- Under environmental quality, nature recovery and biodiversity gain, the response could refer to recovery zones (including areas that are currently of low biodiversity value). If these areas are not also protected, it would be easier for developers to avoid their obligations.
- Biodiversity net gain – the response could be made stronger to ensure that developers comply with their requirements to ensure that a net gain is delivered on each site.
- Electric Vehicles – in order to encourage take up, it is imperative that charging infrastructure is not just accessible geographically, but also user-friendly.
- Electric Vehicles - to encourage electric vehicle take up charging infrastructure that was not just accessible geographically, but also easy to use is needed.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Chair and Vice-Chair be delegated authority to develop a final Panel response to the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Regulation 18 Part 2 consultation taking into account the comments made at the meeting.
2. That a copy of the response as submitted be circulated to members of the Panel.

36. Dates of next meetings

The Panel noted the dates of scheduled meeting as follows:

- ~~Monday 15 November 2021~~ (now 23 November 2021)
- Monday 17 January 2022
- Tuesday 15 March 2022
- Tuesday 31 May 2022
- Tuesday 19 July 2022

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Future Oxfordshire Partnership’s response to recommendations of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership Scrutiny Panel Recommendations made on 13 September 2021

The Future Oxfordshire Partnership is requested to provide a response to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel for decision at its meeting on Day Month Year.

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
<p>Recommendation 1: That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership request that HM Government consider ways to simplify and rationalise the process by which it considers local authority bids for funding through initiatives such as the Community Renewal Fund and Levelling Up Fund, so as to encourage a system wide approach.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Future Oxfordshire Partnership agrees that rationalising the process by which local authorities and businesses can bid for funding would be beneficial. Since this recommendation was made, the Future Oxfordshire Partnership Executive Officer Group has recommended drafting a letter to HM Government on this subject, which is in development at the time of writing.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2: That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership agree recommendation 2 of the ERP report around the need for partners to continue to undertake a whole system response to securing economic recovery and that specifically, this includes, but not be limited to, a system wide approach to town centre renewal and the promotion of manufacturing as a sector.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Future Oxfordshire Partnership agrees that there is a need for a continued whole-system response, through the Economic Task Group, to the economic challenges faced in Oxfordshire. We would add that system wide discussions will need to take a holistic and inclusive approach to recovery which do not focus wholly on the economy, but also consider community recovery and public wellbeing, among other areas, in line with the themes set out in the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision. We continue to offer our strong support for countywide collaboration and partnering to deliver the most effective response to the recovery, whilst recognising the sovereignty of each council to take a tailored local approach to recovery. We anticipate receiving a report on the condition of the Visitor Economy, town centre renewal, and system wide approaches to support it, later this year. With respect to the promotion of manufacturing, we note that this is a central tenet of the Local Industrial Strategy, and that there is a specific project in the ERP report appendix which focuses on manufacturing and supply chain resilience, which is ready, but has not yet secured funding.</p>

<p>Recommendation 3: That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership provides feedback that the Economic Recovery Plan should draw on wider dis-aggregated data that helps to show how some sections of society may be disadvantaged through the economic recovery, particularly for young people who are not in education, employment, or training. This will be useful to inform targeted interventions.</p>	Yes	<p>The Future Oxfordshire Partnership can provide this feedback. It is understood that the Economic Recovery Task Group will work with national agencies and government departments to provide and make use of disaggregated data wherever it is available.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4: That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership be requested to strengthen its draft response to HM Government's Oxford to Cambridge Arc Vision Consultation to emphasise:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The importance of environmental preservation and enhancement across all pillars of the proposed Vision and considerations for the future of the Arc. b. The importance of the securing adequate provision of data centres in order to support greater digital connectivity. c. The need for full electrification of the East West Railway as a current rather than future priority. d. The need to reduce dependency on private cars within developments through good site connectivity and design. e. The need to ensure that matters of housing viability and affordability are not used as reasons to compromise or weaken environmental building standards. f. Quantifiable and defensible targets and numbers should be set in order to give the welcome aspirations within the Vision more credibility and robustness. g. The need to recognise that inequality is not evenly distributed within Oxfordshire 	Yes	<p>The Future Oxfordshire Partnership will delegate responsibility for incorporating these amendments to its Director, in consultation with the Chair. In relation to recommendation 4f, we would have a strong preference that any targets contained within the Vision or the Arc Spatial Framework be an amalgamation of targets decided by local authorities, and not imposed top down.</p>

and that pockets of serious deprivation do exist within the county.

To: Future Oxfordshire Partnership- formerly the Oxfordshire Growth Board

Title of Report: Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Progress Report – Year 4, Quarter 2

Date: 30 November 2021

Report of Paul Staines: Interim Head of Programme

Status: Open

Executive Summary and Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to update the Future Oxfordshire Partnership (The Partnership) on progress, at the end of the second quarter Year 4 (2021/22) with the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal (the Deal).

The report provides a summary of the following strands of the Deal.

- Housing from Infrastructure Programme
- Affordable Housing programme
- Oxfordshire Plan 2050

The fourth strand of the Deal, Productivity, is reported separately to the OxLEP Board whilst this report also updates on progress with the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS)

Oxfordshire County Council, as the Accountable Body, provide a separate assurance statement, detailing the financial position of the Deal elsewhere on this agenda.

How this report contributes to the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision Outcomes:

The Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal has a key role to play in delivering well-designed infrastructure and homes, sufficient in numbers, location, type, size, tenure and affordability to meet the needs of our county, as set out in the Strategic Vision.

Recommendation:

That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership notes the progress as at Quarter 2, 2021/22 towards the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.

Appendices: None

Housing from Infrastructure Programme

- 1) The Homes from Infrastructure Programme (Hfi) is a £150m investment in strategic infrastructure to support the acceleration of already planned housing in Oxfordshire.

- 2) The Hfl programme has two aspects.
 - Firstly, the commitment to spend £30m per annum over 5 years on named strategic infrastructure projects, identified as accelerators for planned housing growth in Oxfordshire.
 - Secondly that this infrastructure expenditure will then accelerate 6,549 planned homes that might not otherwise have come forward at this pace. This is because either the completed infrastructure allows housing to be built earlier than otherwise planned or the investment provides developers with confidence to build out sites faster than they otherwise might.
- 3) The Hfl timeline originally agreed in the Deal was a five-year period from 2018/19 to March 31st, 2022/23. This has been extended for up to two years to March 31st, 2025 to allow schemes to complete and for the relevant housing to be attributed.

Infrastructure

- 4) Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) are the lead delivery partner for the infrastructure element of Hfl which they deliver through their capital projects governance framework.
- 5) The infrastructure element of the Hfl programme comprises 23 infrastructure projects that include road, rail, cycle routes and footpaths, as well as social infrastructure such as schools. A link to a list of the schemes can be found [here](#).
- 6) In the last quarter, in addition to progressing scheme delivery, officers have also been engaged in a review of the infrastructure programme, designed to ensure that the schemes included are both deliverable within the timeframe, that costs are controlled and that the outcomes of the programme-accelerated housing- are both timely and proportionate to the investment. A separate report on the implications of this review, seeking the endorsement of The Partnership forms part of the agenda for this meeting.
- 7) OCC also report that the remaining infrastructure schemes also demonstrate challenges to delivery that are being managed. Consequently, there is an emerging challenge to remain on target for the £30 million spend for this year. Officers are considering mitigations and options that we will discuss with Homes England as appropriate and report back at future meetings.

Risk Management

- 8) The OCC manages each infrastructure project, in conjunction with relevant partners and all risks and issues are identified and mitigated.
- 9) Officers have, as part of their performance management of the programme, identified all relevant risks to each project and supplied a RAG (Red/Amber/Green) rating for each scheme. The Growth Deal Programme Board receive monthly reports of risks alongside any mitigations to ensure that we continue to manage risks appropriately. This also forms part of the quarterly monitoring information provided to Homes England.

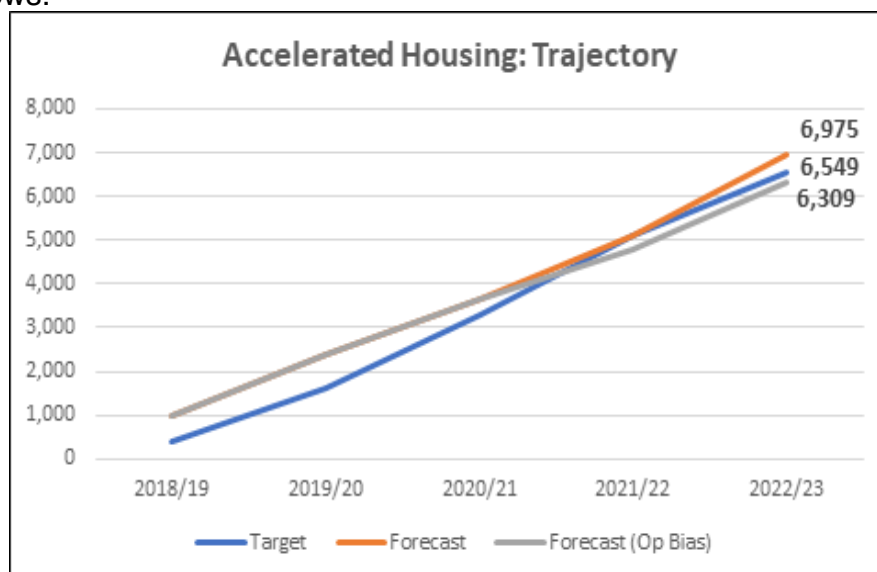
10) At a strategic level, the overall programme also has a Risk Register or RAID Log, updated quarterly, and reported to the Programme Board. This Strategic RAID Log holds the following risks to the Hfl programme together with actions proposed to mitigate.

- The backloading of the programme, an issue compounded by the pandemic that has led to concerns that some schemes may fall outside of the 5-year timeframe of the Hfl programme. Government recognised this issue and have extended the programme for a further two years to enable the completion of delayed infrastructure schemes over this extended period, subject to the approval of revised business cases demonstrating delivery within that timeframe
- The continuing commitment to spend £30m annually on the Hfl programme when this linear financial profile does not reflect the reality of infrastructure project spend, which is typically heavily backloaded to the build phases.
- Managing the impact of the Hfl programme upon the Oxfordshire road network- recognising that there are other significant infrastructure investment programmes in the same timeframe.
- Shortages of both labour and materials causing delays to projects. This is a growing risk to the programme and is a recognised national phenomenon.
- Potential project delays due to the need for some schemes to secure land through adversarial routes such as compulsory purchase.
- Reliance on third parties (developers / network rail, etc) for delivery.

Delivering Housing from Infrastructure

11) The Partnership has agreed with Homes England that the Hfl delivery trajectory will be revised every six months with an interim report including changes only by exception. Accordingly, this report contains the confirmed year end position and projections forward at 30th September 2021

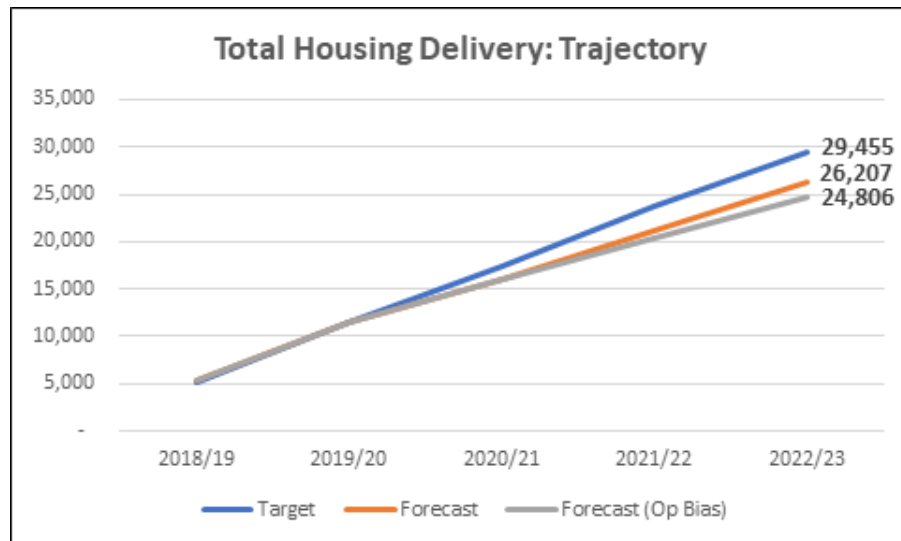
12) The position for the Housing from Infrastructure (Hfl) programme is as follows:



13) The graph shows that we continue to anticipate that accelerated housing trajectory over the original five years of the Deal will be above target at 6,975 homes against a baseline of 6,549. However, when applying the 20%

optimism bias for the remaining years of the Deal the trajectory falls to 6,309.

- 14) The graph demonstrates that the figures for accelerated housing remain robust and above target – before optimism bias adjustments- despite the challenges that the housing sector has faced in the last year. This provides further evidence that the investment in infrastructure continues to bolster market confidence on those sites when compared to the wider housing market.



- 15) The Partnership also reports that overall completions will be 26,207 homes against the target of 29,455 homes and when the optimism bias is applied to the remaining years of the Deal this falls to 24,806. These figures are an improvement on the estimates reported at the last quarter but are still below target.

- 16) Considering the overall completions trajectory, evidence suggests that developers took a pessimistic view of their performance in their in-year estimates when compared to what they were able to develop through the year, perhaps overestimating the effects of the pandemic. Nonetheless a challenge remains to achieve this target in the final years of the Deal

Risk Management

- 17) The risk management of the housing element of the Hfl programme has two elements. Firstly, there is the impact of the related infrastructure programme described in the earlier section but there are also non-infrastructure related risks to housing delivery. The Partnership has developed a two-tier risk assessment process that allows for consideration of both sets of risks and issues, reported monthly to the Programme Board and quarterly to Homes England.

- 18) The Partnership has also developed a Strategic Risk Register or RAID Log that names and addresses the following programme wide risks and issues.

- The pace of infrastructure delivery, particularly the influence of the pandemic and supply side issues that has slowed the pace of

infrastructure schemes identified as crucial to the acceleration of homes and the consequent impact on the pace of the related housing. Government recognised this issue and have extended the programme for a further two years to enable partners to attribute the homes accelerated to the programme.

- Any macroeconomic issues that cause a potential slowdown of housing development.
- Shortages of both labour and materials causing delays to projects. This is a growing risk to the programme and is a recognised national phenomenon.
- The speed of resolution of any planning issues needed to unblock sites.
- Potential impact of external market factors and the health of the economy.

Affordable Housing Programme (OAHP)

- 19) The second quarter of the OAHP secured 50 additional affordable homes, meaning a total of 86 units so far this year and a grant drawdown of £4.8 million
- 20) The achievement of 86 units in the first half of year four reminds us of the challenge of delivery of the final year of the OAHP when compared to the required programme.
- 21) Addressing the challenge of delivery is a constant one for the OAHP and officers use a comprehensive programme management regime involving close engagement with all partners that enables us to track schemes closely and project manage risks and issues where possible to ensure delivery.
- 22) As we approached the half year stage it became apparent through this programme management regime that several of the schemes identified in the pipeline do not yet have planning permission or have other challenges that may impact deliverability within the remaining six months of the programme.
- 23) Consequently, following analysis of the current delivery plan, a bespoke approach has been agreed with Homes England and DLUHC to maximise the number of affordable homes deliverable through the OAHP in the remaining period of the OAHP. This approach will provide flexibility and support to the delivery of schemes this year, and as necessary, into the future.
- 24) Officers will continue to manage the delivery of the identified OAHP programme and secure their delivery, albeit by accessing different funding streams and report progress as we head towards the conclusion of the OAHP in March 2022.
- 25) This agreed approach offers welcome flexibility on start dates for construction, reduces the risk associated with the timing of planning decisions, and will help to deliver much needed affordable homes.

26) There are however several schemes that are either so well advanced through our programme application process, or that are outside of the parameters of the HE programmes such that they need to continue through the OAHP and a budget of £10m for delivery of these schemes through the OAHP has been agreed.

Risk Management

27) The key risks to delivery of individual schemes within the OAHP, are primarily from delays in scheme development, planning and tender processes, together with financial challenges to schemes viability. The partners manage these risks at district/city level.

28) In addition to these site-specific risks, there are more general risks identified for the Programme, these are identified in the RAID Log as:

- The risks to the OAHP of a downturn in the economy, slowing housing completion rates and thence the affordable units developed.
- Shortages of both labour and materials causing delays to projects as well as affecting costs and viability. This is a growing risk to the programme and is a recognised national phenomenon.

Oxfordshire Plan 2050

29) The focus of this workstream in the second quarter has been on firstly finalising the Oxfordshire Plan Regulation 18 document ready for consultation, which then commenced on time on 31st July and secondly ensuring that the consultation was successful in reaching as wide an audience as possible.

30) The consultation ran for 10 weeks, closing on the 8th October and as previously advised, the primary consultation route was a bespoke website, using the Oxfordshire Open Thought platform that was successful for the Part One consultation.

31) To complement this the Team hosted a series of seminar/workshops throughout August and September. These were a mixture of generic workshops for interested residents complemented by a specific themed workshop on the environment. There were also specific by invitation workshops with the CPRE, Neighbourhood Plan Groups and with developers.

32) The team also commissioned a focus group to offer a representative view of local people and seminars with local colleges.

33) Overall, the consultation is considered a success. We received nearly 3000 responses from a range of individuals and some 360 different organisations.

34) There was strong presence on social media for the Plan with regular posts and promotions on all the major platforms. Some additional promotional work had been commissioned via the Facebook platform which had resulted in significant levels of additional engagement and this was considered to represent good value for money in comparison to traditional media. Engagement with younger residents was a particular priority and

Instagram was the social media platform being used for this targeted promotion.

- 35) The last meeting of the Oxfordshire Plan Advisory subgroup (the subgroup) was advised that following the end of the consultation it was intended to brief them at their next meeting, setting out both a demographic break down of respondents and some of the key points emerging from the responses. A report on the consultation will be prepared for the Councils.
- 36) The subgroup also received detailed updates on the progress with the Oxfordshire Plan. There have been three broad areas of reporting in this quarter.

Oxfordshire Plan Policies

- 37) There are some 32 policies in the Oxfordshire Plan, grouped under 5 themes and each of these has been examined through the consultation process. The responses have been and are being logged and recorded throughout November and will be adjusted in the light of these and other developments.
- 38) Responses have highlighted that whilst many of the policies are largely in place others have further development required. One area of response concerned the affordable housing policy and the degree to which a policy at the Oxfordshire Plan level could usefully add value to the policies in each district's local plans, given the collective priority that affordable housing has in Oxfordshire. Following the advice of the subgroup a workshop of planning and housing officers will be convened to ensure this policy is fully scoped and will report back to the subgroup on any changes.

Assessing Spatial options

- 39) A third key plank of the next stage of the Oxfordshire Plan will be looking at the spatial options and considering how these align to the strategic options approach set out in the Regulation 18 consultation, as amended by that consultation.
- 40) The piece of work is being overseen by a working group drawn from across the councils and overseen by the Heads of Planning.

Engagement through Reg 19

- 41) At its last meeting, the subgroup considered engagement of key partners through the next stage of the Oxfordshire Plan in response to a recognition that early communication with members across councils will be vital to ensuring engagement with the emerging Plan. The subgroup discussed various methods of communication and engagement and asked officers to return to a later meeting with a formulated programme of engagement.

Risk Management

- 42) The following key risks to the production of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, previously reported remain important considerations:
- Challenges of being a front-runner, producing a new type of Plan with little bespoke guidance in national policy – this has become more

relevant with the uncertainty over the Government's Planning Reform agenda.

- Challenging timeframe for production of the Plan given the complexities of the topics it will cover and of partnership working.
- Links with external projects, for example the OxCam Arc Spatial Framework.
- Links with and relationship to district Local Plans.

43) Officers have developed a detailed risk register including mitigations to ensure that risks are appropriately managed. Meetings are planned with the Planning Inspectorate and with DLUHC to address some of the issues above.

Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS)

44) The refreshed Oxfordshire infrastructure Strategy was a commitment by Oxfordshire in the Deal.

45) The draft strategy was consulted upon over the summer and consequently several infrastructure schemes that were not in the original long list attached to OxIS were suggested.

46) In addition, officers considered the recently published Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). This is Oxfordshire's plan to deliver the requirements of the National Bus Strategy and includes 13 capital schemes considered necessary to deliver those requirements at an indicative cost of circa £36 million.

47) Both because of the importance of BSIP and the need for this funding to be secured to progress the Plan, it was felt to be remiss not to include its proposals in OxIS.

48) Cumulatively, this has led to the addition of some 25 additional infrastructure schemes being added to the long list that needed to be assessed by our consultants. This has led to a delay in finalising the Stage 1 OxIS report, which will now be considered by the Partnership in January 2022.

49) The second part of the OxIS project concerns the infrastructure implications of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050. This remains on track to deliver against the agreed timeline for the Plan

Deal Governance

50) The Growth Deal Capacity Fund continues to be monitored by the Programme Office with monthly financial statements reported to the Growth Deal Programme Board with reports to the programme Board monthly.

51) An internal audit of the Capacity Fund, by Oxfordshire County Council, is still currently in progress. An update will be shared with the Programme Board once the outcome of the report has been received.

52) The Strategic RAID (Risks, Assumptions, Issues and Dependencies) Log continues to be monitored and reported to the Programme Board on a monthly/quarterly basis. Further detailed work with the risk and issue

owners on the specific actions to lessen the impact and probability of key risks and issues will continue.

53) During Quarter 2, the Programme Office has also been responsible for progressing with the recruitment vacancies within the Oxfordshire Plan team. A new programme Lead for the Oxfordshire Plan joined on 1st November and a principal planner on the 15th. We are now in the process of actively progressing with the recruitment to fill the vacancy for the Project Support Officer role.

Legal Implications

54) None arising from this report.

Other Implications

55) None arising from this report.

Conclusion

56) This report outlines progress against the agreed Growth Deal milestones.

57) The report shows that despite the challenges highlighted in the report Oxfordshire continues to make progress towards meeting our commitments under the Deal and there are continually evolving robust best practice partnership and management arrangements, both within each council and across the partnership to address risks and issues as they arise.

58) The report asks the Future Oxfordshire Partnership to note progress with the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal, as at 30th September 2021, the second quarter of the fourth year of the Deal and the achievement against the milestones committed to.

Background Papers

None

Report Author: Paul Staines, Interim Head of Programme

Contact information: paul.staines@oxfordshire.gov.uk



To: Future Oxfordshire Partnership (formerly the Oxfordshire Growth Board)

Title of Report: Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Financial Report Quarter 2 2021/22

Date: 30 November 2021

Report of: Director of Finance, Oxfordshire County Council (Accountable Body)

Status: Open

Executive Summary and Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to update the Future Oxfordshire Partnership on the 2021/22 financial position at the end of Quarter 2 for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal. The report covers the three grant funding streams:

- Infrastructure programme
- Affordable Housing programme
- Growth Deal Capacity Fund

The report is prepared by the Director of Finance for Oxfordshire County Council in the capacity of Section 151 Officer of the Accountable Body for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal and gives assurance over the grant funding and expenditure.

The fourth strand of the Deal, Productivity is reported through the OXLEP Board under separate arrangements.

How this report contributes to the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision Outcomes:

The Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal contributes towards ensuring that there are energy efficient and affordable homes in the right number, location and tenure to meet people’s needs. The Infrastructure Fund will improve connectivity and support a prosperous and inclusive economy.

Recommendation:

The Future Oxfordshire Partnership are asked to note the 2021/22 Quarter 2 financial report.

Appendices:

- Annex 1: Infrastructure Programme
- Annex 2: Capacity Fund

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This report sets out the financial position for Quarter 2 2021/22 of the following three strands of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal and associated funding streams from Homes England (HE):

- Infrastructure Programme.
- Oxfordshire Affordable Housing Programme.
- Growth Deal Capacity Fund.

1.2 The report is prepared by the Director of Finance for Oxfordshire County Council (the County Council) in the capacity of Section 151 Officer of the Accountable Body for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal and gives assurance over the grant funding and expenditure.

1.3 Funding for the fourth strand of the deal Productivity Programme is managed by the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) and financial performance is reported independently to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership.

2.0 Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Fund Financial Governance

2.1 In accordance with the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Delivery Plan, the County Council is the accountable body for the financial management of the three key financial streams. A quarterly report is provided to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership. Responsibility for the management of each financial stream is held by the programme lead.

2.2 As the Accountable Body, the County Council is responsible for ensuring that:

- Funding is received from Government.
- Recommendations to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership on schemes to be funded are in accordance with the grant conditions.
- Regular monitoring reports are provided to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership.

2.3 The County Council also holds the risk should Government require funding to be repaid if it is unspent or deemed to have been misused.

3.0 Financial Summary Quarter 2 2021/22

3.1 Infrastructure Fund

3.1.1 The Infrastructure Fund totals £150.0m. The grant funding is being paid to the Accountable Body in five equal annual instalments of £30.0m. 2021/22 is the fourth year of the Infrastructure Fund Programme.

3.1.2 The majority of schemes are now progressing through the pre-construction phases with planning submissions expected in 2021/22 and construction and completion from 2022 onwards. This is reflected in the forecasted spend profile for 2022/23 & 2023/24.

- 3.1.3 The full list of schemes and latest profile of spend over the programme is set out in Annex 1. The total forecast expenditure on growth deal schemes reported for 2021/22 is £21.9m with actual spend of £5.8m for Q1 and Q2. The reduction of £2.9m in the forecast spend since the last update reflects a number of schemes where there is a delay entering the construction phase. This includes the Science Transit scheme where the business case is awaiting approval from the Department for Transport.
- 3.1.4 Based on the latest estimated cost plans recently submitted for certain schemes, there have been some minor changes to reflect the reallocation of grant funding. As schemes progress through design to contract let, further variations are anticipated but are expected to be funded from within the total infrastructure fund allocation. Any more significant changes to the cost plans will be submitted to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership for their endorsement and reflected in the next quarterly update.
- 3.1.5 The County Council will continue to use its freedoms and flexibilities as the Accountable Body to ensure that funding is carried forward and is available to support the delivery profile of the programme beyond the original end date of 2022/23.

3.2 Oxfordshire Affordable Housing Programme

- 3.2.1 The Oxfordshire Affordable Housing Programme (OAFP) is expected to provide funding to support the delivery of up to 1,322 units of affordable housing. The programme has continued during the first four years of the Growth Deal following agreement to extend the original three-year programme by a year into 2021/22 in order to deliver against the target.
- 3.2.2 The actual funding claimed is agreed periodically with Homes England (HE) based on the number of affordable housing units that are in contract to be delivered. To support the cashflow of the housing authorities, it has been agreed with Homes England to move from an annual claim to a quarterly claim process. This will also support the in-year monitoring by giving greater visibility of progress to date.
- 3.2.3 Funding of £25.6m was claimed in the first three years of the programme and supported 658 units of affordable housing.
- 3.2.4 Following analysis of the current delivery plan, a bespoke approach has been agreed with Homes England and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) to maximise the number of affordable homes deliverable in the remaining period of the deal. this year, and as necessary, into the future.
- 3.2.5 86 units with combined grant requirement of £4.8m have been delivered in Quarter 1 and 2 of 2021/22. A further 115 units with a combined grant requirement of £5.2m are expected to be delivered in the second half of the year and will be funded from the revised OAFP budget of £10.0m confirmed by DLUHC.

- 3.2.6 The remaining deliverable schemes in the programme will be funded directly through Homes England's Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) and other government funding streams. This combined approach will provide flexibility and support to the delivery of schemes. DLUHC have agreed in principle that all these schemes will be recognised as contributing to the OAHP targets.
- 3.2.7 Some schemes in the original programme are not eligible for HE funding according to their criteria and alternative funding routes are being identified for these.
- 3.2.8 A total of £1.4m grant funding has been requested for the Year 4 Quarter 1 drawdown and was transferred in September 2021. A further request for grant funding of £3.3m for the Year 4 Quarter 2 drawdown was submitted in early November 2021.

3.3 Growth Deal Capacity Fund

- 3.3.1 The Growth Deal Capacity Fund totals £5.0m. The grant has been paid to the County Council in three instalments. The first instalment of £0.5m was paid in 2017/18, followed by £2.5m in 2018/19 and £2.0m in 2019/20.
- 3.3.2 The funding is available to be used over the life of the programme which was originally planned to run from 2017/18 to 2022/23. At year end, funding that has not been spent is carried forward through the County Council's Earmarked Reserves. The budget is split into three elements:
- Housing Delivery: Staff costs for the core Housing and Growth Deal team.
 - Delivery of the Oxfordshire Joint Statutory Spatial Plan including staff costs.
 - Feasibility: costs of feasibility works including Rail Connectivity Study (part funding) and Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS) refresh.
- 3.3.3 Annex 2 sets out the financial position, which includes a carry forward of £2.4m into 2021/22. The future profile of spend remains under review and will be extended into 2023/24. This will be reflected in the next report.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The report sets out the Quarter 2 financial update each of the three strands of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal. Based on the on-going spend and funding position action will need to be agreed as appropriate to ensure that each of the programmes continue to be managed within the funding available.
- 4.2 As noted above the County Council will continue to use its freedoms and flexibilities as the Accountable Body to ensure that funding is carried forward and is available to support the delivery profile of the programme beyond the original end date of 2022/23.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 In accordance with the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Delivery Plan, the County Council is the accountable body for the financial management of the three key financial streams.

5.2 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

6.0 Risk Management

6.1 The financial performance of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Grant funding streams is closely monitored by the Growth Deal Programme Board. This ensures that forecast spend of the Growth Deal period is accurate, based on the knowledge of the programme plans, and actual spend is reported, based on a monthly review of all transactional activity and balanced to the County Council financial systems.

6.2 Any risk identified to the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Funding streams will be reported to the Growth Deal Programme Board for review and appropriate mitigation action will be agreed. Any strategic risk to the overall programme will be reported to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership.

7.0 Conclusion

7.1 This report sets out an update on the actual and forecast spend against the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal funding streams for Quarter 2 2021/22.

7.2 The Future Oxfordshire Partnership is asked to note the 2021/22 Quarter 2 financial report.

Report Author:	Lorna Baxter, Director of Finance
Contact information:	Kathy Wilcox, Head of Financial Strategy
	Tel: 07788 302163

Growth Deal Schemes	Report	Yr 1 - Yr	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total	Capital Allocation	Revenue Allocation
		3	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
GROWTH DEAL SCHEMES									
NW Bicester A4095 Howes Lane / Lords Lane u/bridge	MIBAB	4.837	2.963	-	-	-	7.800	7.800	0.020
NW Bicester A4095 Howes Lane / Lords Lane Road Realignment	MIBAB	0.343	1.400	6.000	8.007	-	15.750	15.750	-
M40 J10 Improvements	MIBAB	16.563	-	-	2.317	-	18.880	18.880	0.140
A422 Hennef Way, Banbury	MIBAB	0.170	0.030	-	-	-	0.200	0.200	0.030
Tramway Road Banbury	MIBAB	0.163	0.750	2.017	0.857	-	3.787	3.787	0.280
A361 Bloxham Rd to A4260 Oxford Rd Link Rd	MIBAB	0.300	-	-	-	-	0.300	0.300	-
Access to Headington	MIOX	3.500	-	-	-	-	3.500	3.500	-
Botley Road Corridor	MIOX	3.250	-	-	-	-	3.250	3.250	-
Oxpens to Osney Mead Cycling and Pedestrian Bridge	MIOX	5.903	0.025	0.072	-	-	6.000	6.000	-
Oxford Citywide Cycle and Pedestrian Routes	MIOX	1.479	0.020	1.286	0.500	-	3.285	3.285	0.470
Banbury Rd Improvements (Banbury Road Corridor)	MIOX	0.108	0.650	1.612	-	-	2.370	2.370	0.030
Woodstock Rd Improvement (Woodstock Road Corridor)	MIOX	0.112	1.275	5.250	5.863	-	12.500	12.500	-
SE Corridors / Connecting Oxford	MIOX	0.210	0.550	0.842	-	-	1.602	1.602	0.440
A4260 and A44 Corridor Improvements	MIOX	0.894	2.000	10.000	1.636	-	14.530	14.530	1.470
North Oxford Corridors - Kidlington	MIOX	0.040	0.750	5.000	0.210	-	6.000	6.000	-
Active Travel P2 - City	MIOX	-	0.479	-	-	-	0.479	0.479	-
Botley Road Bridge	MIOX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.500
Cowley Branch Line	Reserves	-	-	-	-	0.250	0.250	0.250	-
Watlington Edge Road	MICW	0.255	0.725	2.900	3.220	-	7.100	7.100	0.010
Benson Relief Road	MICW	0.486	0.325	0.814	0.175	-	1.800	1.800	-
Millon Enterprise Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge	MICW	0.087	0.150	2.200	0.563	-	3.000	3.000	0.420
Frilford Junction	MICW	0.077	0.200	0.400	0.600	0.223	1.500	1.500	-
Relief to Rowstock	MICW	0.245	0.750	0.700	-	3.005	4.700	4.700	-
Dubilee Way Roundabout & Didcot Central Corridor	MICW	-	0.150	0.250	0.600	-	1.000	1.000	-
Golden Balls Roundabout Junction (A4074/B4015)	MICW	-	0.375	0.600	0.025	-	1.000	1.000	-
40/Minster Lovell West Facing Slips/Access to Carterton	MICW	-	-	-	0.710	-	0.710	0.710	0.120
Oxford Science Transit	MIHIF2	1.476	4.150	3.412	1.938	1.024	12.000	12.000	-
Access to Witney at Shores Green	MIHIF2	-	2.550	3.350	-	-	5.900	5.900	0.020
Thame to Haddenham Cycle Route	n/a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.010
Shrivenham New School	Pupil Places	-	0.600	1.900	-	-	2.500	2.500	-
Ploughley Road / A41 Bicester	MIBAB	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.010
Wantage Eastern Link Road	MICW	-	1.000	-	-	-	1.000	1.000	-
Featherbed Lane Capacity Improvements	n/a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Scheme Spend		40.498	21.867	48.605	27.221	4.502	142.693	142.693	3.970
Staffing		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.303
Programme Contingency/earmarked reserves		-	-	-	-	0.034	0.034	0.034	-
Total Other Send		-	-	-	-	0.034	0.034	0.034	3.303
TOTAL GROWTH DEAL SCHEMES		40.498	21.867	48.605	27.221	4.536	142.727	142.727	7.273
New Schools and Other Transport Schemes - Capital Switches		41.039	-	-	-	-	41.039		
Revenue		7.273	-	-	-	-	7.273		
Prepayments		-	16.500	0.700	5.800	10.000	-		
Overall Total		72.310	22.567	54.405	37.221	4.536	191.039		

	Yr 1 - Yr	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total
Funding	3					
Capital		75.000	30.000	30.000	-	135.000
Revenue		15.000	-	-	-	15.000
Funding Switches		41.039	-	-	-	41.039
Total Funding		131.039	30.000	30.000	0.000	191.039
Revenue C/Fwd		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Capital C/Fwd		58.729	7.433	-24.405	-37.221	0.000

Capacity Fund

Annex 2

	2017/18 Actual Spend £'m	2018/19 Actual Spend £'m	2019/20 Actual Spend £'m	2020/21 Actual Spend £'m	2021/22 Forecast Spend £'m	2022/23 Forecast Spend £'m	2023/24 Forecast Spend £'m	TOTAL £'m
Housing Delivery (Programme Team)	0.044	0.340	0.480	0.390				1.254
Joint Statutory Spatial Plan costs		0.207	1.347	(0.253)				1.301
Feasibility		0.000	0.042	0.000				0.042
Provisional forecast submitted					1.229	1.033	0.141	2.403
Total Spend	0.044	0.547	1.869	0.137	1.229	1.033	0.141	5.000
Grant Received	(0.500)	(2.500)	(2.000)					(5.000)
Grant Carried Forward (-) / Drawn down (+)	(0.456)	(1.953)	(0.131)	0.137	1.229	1.033	0.141	(0.141)
Year End Reserve Balance	0.456	2.409	2.540	2.403	1.174	0.141	0.000	

To: Future Oxfordshire Partnership (formerly the Oxfordshire Growth Board)

Title of Report: Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Infrastructure Programme – Six Month Review and Proposed Changes

Date: 30 November 2021

Report of: Owen Jenkins, Director & Senior Responsible Officer, Infrastructure Programme

Status: Open

Executive Summary and Purpose:

Changes to the Housing & Growth Deal (H&GD) Infrastructure programme have been made at various stages throughout the Deal's existence. These changes follow reviews by OCC of the latest cost and delivery profiles for the Infrastructure schemes and are designed to ensure that -

- the annual Infrastructure spend profile agreed with Homes England as part of the agreement (£30m pa for each of the 5 years of the H&GD) is met
- the housing numbers identified as being attributable to the delivery of the Infrastructure are maximised
- the Infrastructure schemes are deliverable both in terms of
 - their overall budgets as currently allocated (whether that be solely from H&GD or from multiple funding sources)
 - their delivery timescales aligning with the H&GD period (March 2023)

How this report contributes to the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision Outcomes:

The Infrastructure programme contributes towards enhancing connectivity and providing sustainable high quality resilient transport networks which support growth.

Recommendations:

That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership endorse the proposed changes to the H&GD Infrastructure Programme as recommended by Oxfordshire County Council as follows:

- a) the removal of further funding from a scheme currently within the H&GD – the A4095 [Howes Lane] re-alignment
- b) re-allocating this funding, to introduce a scheme presently outside the H&GD – the A34 Lodge Hill interchange.
- c) Increasing funding to Milton Heights Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge to cover a cost pressure.

Introduction

1. The Housing and Growth Deal infrastructure programme is being delivered by Oxfordshire County Council. The programme is reviewed approximately every 6 months to ensure its deliverability. This report reflects the proposed changes required to deliver the obligations within the Housing & Growth Deal.
2. The recommended revisions to the programme have also been assessed within the context of the housing delivery requirements of the deal.
3. The A4095 [Howes Lane] re-alignment was flagged in the latest review due to issues relating to its allocated budget and delivery timescales.
4. This scheme is intended to re-align the A4095 at Howes Lane / Lords Lane with the new underpass near Bucknell Road / Howes Lane junction.
5. A separate but related Infrastructure scheme constructing an underbridge and underpass through the embankment supporting the twin track NAJ2 Marylebone to Aynho line at Bicester was successfully delivered in April 2021, partly funded by the H&GD.
6. The Howes Lane re-alignment is currently allocated £15.75m from the H&GD.
7. The latest review of the scheme indicates that significantly more will be needed to deliver the scheme. This increase in cost estimates includes additional drainage elements as well as a longer construction period.
8. At present, as with all schemes where the land identified as necessary to deliver the infrastructure has not been secured either by private treaty or s106 negotiation (or similar), OCC intend to authorise a CPO to support the necessary acquisitions.
9. Should a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) be necessary to secure the land, the scheme's construction phase would be concluded in Q2 2025 which is significantly past the H&GD 2023 funding window.
10. It has been indicated that a limited further contribution could be provided from CDC to support the scheme but this will not be confirmed until Feb 2022. However, to authorise a CPO, OCC must have full scheme funding in place.

11. Options

12. The 3 options considered to resolve the A4095 [Howes Lane] re-alignment's issues were
 - a) **fully fund the scheme**
 - b) **stop the scheme immediately and re-allocate funding**
 - c) **continue the scheme to the end of current stage and re-allocate funding then**

a) Fully fund the scheme

13. The H&GD Infrastructure total funding is £150m, split between ~£143m for Capital expenditure and the remaining ~£7m as Revenue.
14. Allocating additional Capital to the A4095 [Howes Lane] re-alignment would necessitate removing that sum from other H&GD funded schemes' budgets.
15. Given the substantial additional sums involved in delivering the A4095 realignment and the contracts already in place across other schemes, the 2 viable options to release this sum would be to stop work immediately on either:
 - Woodstock Road corridor
 - NOC A44 Loop Farm to Cassington

Housing implications

16. The latest housing projections indicate 150 houses will be brought forward in the H&GD period on the sites associated with the A4095 [Howes Lane] re-alignment in NW Bicester.
17. This compares with the 446 houses currently forecast for the NOC A44 Loop Farm to Cassington infrastructure.
18. The Woodstock Road corridor contributes to the overall / aggregated Oxford City housing numbers.
19. The latest A4095 [Howes Lane] re-alignment housing projection is also rated Amber in terms of certainty of deliverability, which is consistent with the overall trend for the sites in NW Bicester which had forecast 1000+ homes when the original H&GD allocation was made.

b) Stop the scheme immediately and re-allocate funding

20. The scheme has completed Feasibility and is contract for both the Prelim and Detailed design stages with work underway but with break clauses in place in all contract(s).
21. Given the spend timescales and the housing delivery mandate of the H&GD monies, the proposal is to introduce a scheme into the H&GD Infrastructure programme - the A34 Lodge Hill interchange, a scheme which will provide South facing slips at the Lodge Hill interchange increasing routes around Abingdon and access to the strategic transport network.
22. The A34 Lodge Hill interchange supports the delivers 1673 homes and would add an additional *net* 200 houses to those delivered within the H&GD original period (350 in total) with a high level of confidence in the houses at North Abingdon being delivered. The construction of the interchange will directly release the housing obligations in the s106 agreement.

23. The Lodge Hill interchange scheme is already underway – as any option to deliver within the H&GD period at this point would have to be. Planning is intended to be submitted in Dec 2021 with a clear procurement route identified and construction intended to begin in Summer 2022.

24. This delivery timescale is dependent upon existing externally provided funding allocated to the Lodge Hill interchange remaining in place.

25. The Lodge Hill interchange is also necessary Infrastructure for other strategic sites inc Dalton Barracks

c) Continue the scheme to the end of current stage and re-allocate funding

26. Given that the eventual delivery of this scheme will now potentially be delivered by Developers, it is proposed that the County Council stop work now to avoid any abortive work and release as much as possible to other schemes.

Financial Implications

27. The proposal set out in the report will enabled the Housing from Infrastructure programme to remain deliverable against the profile. Through development of the projects, the estimates have become firmer, but also have been found to be lacking in detail and therefore costs have increase. At this stage in the 5-year programme, there needs to be a level of certainty around deliverability and where the full funding of projects is coming from to commit to delivery. The A4095 project has a substantial deficit, and this would have to be met from within the existing Growth Deal programme as the County Council does not have funding available to cover the shortfall.

Legal Implications

28. It is critical that Oxfordshire can fulfil the obligations in the funding agreement and can spend the £30m per year up until 2023. Therefore, movement in the programme is necessary to deliver on the obligations. The Councils will be asked to demonstrate that the infrastructure delivered is accelerating housing. Therefore, it is critical that projects are regularly reviewed for compliance against the agreement and also state aid.

Other Implications

29. There are some significant risks if the programme is not rebalanced. If the programme is not rebalanced, it could risk the spend of the £30m per year in the final years when the risk is highest for the Council through construction of the schemes.

Conclusion

30. A primary role of the H&GD was to accelerate housing by delivering Infrastructure. It is important that the Infrastructure programme is deliverable both to cost and budget but also that the projects meet the criteria.
31. In the review, the A4095 [Howes Lane] re-alignment project was flagged for issues around deliverability within the H&GD period and the reduction in housing numbers from the start of the H&GD period.
32. Although this means H&GD funding will no longer deliver the A4095 realignment, an alternative delivery model working with developers will be sought.

Report Author:	<i>John McLauchlan & Hannah Battye (Heads of Service, Infrastructure Programme Office and Infrastructure Delivery) on behalf of Owen Jenkins (SRO Infrastructure Programme)</i>
Contact information:	John.McLauchlan@Oxfordshire.gov.uk Hannah.battye@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Notes

OF A MEETING OF THE



Future Oxfordshire Partnership Housing Advisory Group

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 6.30 PM
VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM

Present:

Councillors: Susan Brown (Chair), Robin Bennett, Diko Blackings, Jeff Haine, Judy Roberts and Lucinda Wing

Officers: Kevin Jacob, (Future Oxfordshire Partnership), Yi Li, (Future Oxfordshire Partnership), Megan McFarlane (Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Team) and Paul Staines (Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal)

8 Apologies for absence and notifications of substitutions; declarations of interests; Chair's announcements

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Pete Sudbury, (Oxfordshire County Council).

There were no declarations of interest or Chair's announcements.

9 Notes of the previous meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 6 July 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

10 First Homes Update

It was noted that this update would be deferred to the next meeting due to officer unavailability. The Chair suggested that in the meantime, if officers or members of the group had any new information available regarding the First Home initiative, it should be shared directly outside of the meeting.

11 Quarter 1 Year 4 Housing and Growth Deal Progress Presentation

The advisory group received a presentation setting out key points on progress as of Quarter 1, Year 4 of the Affordable Housing and Homes from Infrastructure Programmes.

Paul Staines, Interim Head of Programme, emphasised the significant emerging risk of national shortages in labour and materials, which was impacting on the delivery of sites and projects across the Homes from Infrastructure programme. Discussions with Homes England regarding this were underway as appropriate.

The advisory group was informed that a number of schemes within the Affordable Housing Programme, (AHP) had been recategorised as having an amber risk rating which was in large part linked to the planning permission status of the individual scheme and the need for this to be in place by March 2022. It was also highlighted that within the context of the Housing and Growth Deal and the AHP, delivery of units was considered to have taken place once contractual start on site was achieved which typically comprised the granting of planning permission and in some instances contracts in place with developers to build the units, not the physical delivery or completion of those units on site.

It was noted that if the revised programme was delivered in full then projected spend for the AHP would be approximately £57m against the budget target of £60m. Progress would continue to be carefully monitored as it was recognised that it was a key priority to achieve full spend against the budget and deliver as many AHP units as possible given the shortage of affordable housing in Oxfordshire. Members of the group explored potential ideas for ways to ensure full spend, noting that Ministry for Communities, Housing and Local Government permission would need to be granted for the addition of any new schemes to the programme and that it was unlikely that any further extension to the AHP would be granted. It was agreed that a list of schemes, broken down by area and type would be supplied to members of the advisory group so that they could be followed up locally once this final list was agreed with Homes England and HM Government.

The Advisory group noted that, within the OAHP, the largest category of tenure of units was shared ownership with delivery expected of 500 units against a target of 228. It was expected that 488 social rent units would be delivered against a target of 704. In discussion, it was noted that the Halo Shared Ownership model had been popular in the Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire with the possibility of extending such schemes into Cherwell District being explored. However, it was felt that there was scope for improvement in the marketing of shared ownership schemes. If this could be achieved, shared ownership schemes could offer a good way for key workers to enter the housing market.

The Advisory group noted the update.

12 Presentation on reflections from the Oxfordshire Affordable Housing Programme to date

The advisory group received a presentation from Paul Staines, Interim Head of Programme setting out key observations around lessons learned from the Oxfordshire Affordable Housing Programme, (AHP) to date including key successes and challenges.

Members of the advisory group discussed the observations made in detail and particularly focussing on whether any lessons could be learned, or adjustments made, if the programme were to be repeated which would increase the likelihood of involvement by Registered Providers of social housing in areas of Oxfordshire where there had been low or no delivery of units under the current programme. It was noted that a number of Registered Providers in different areas of the county already had long-term Strategic Partnership relationships with Homes England which made it more challenging to secure

their participation with the OAHF. More generally it had been challenging to match the levels of Homes England national grant rates through the OAHF, although the commitment of S106 contributions by partner councils to top up the level of grant funding available had assisted with this challenge.

Members commented that there was an ongoing, high level of need for affordable housing within Oxfordshire and the Chair suggested that it was important to continue to work to develop innovative future new proposals to HM Government that would work for all the districts of the county and to seek ways to work differently in order to increase the numbers of affordable housing. Given the county's track record of good delivery through the AHP it was felt that Oxfordshire was in a relatively strong position to negotiate with HM Government.

Members of the group also discussed the potential for self-build through Community Led Housing scheme to deliver more affordable housing, (with appropriate safeguards to ensure ongoing public social good) but acknowledged that self-build units currently fell outside the technical definition of affordable housing within the National Planning Policy Framework for which grant funding could be used.

13 Update on Community Led Housing following local Community Led Housing seminar

It was noted that the Future Oxfordshire Partnership, (formerly the Oxfordshire Growth Board) had in July 2020 considered a report written by the Collaborative Housing Hub on current barriers and opportunities for growing the delivery of Community Led Housing (CLH) in Oxfordshire and had agreed to the establishment of action plans to deliver the report's recommendations. Megan McFarlane, Growth Deal Programme and Projects Officer provided an update on progress in the implementation of the regulations. Since the previous meeting, work had been undertaken to promote the implementation of the report's recommendations in relation to planning policy amongst professional groups across the councils.

In discussion, members discussed the advantages of Community Led Housing and how to better secure funding for these schemes given that HM Government's funding matrix did not include CLH. It was felt that Community Led Housing Associations, who were not Registered Providers, were keener to build CLH in the urban areas but not so much in more rural communities. The concept of cooperative schemes was also considered.

The Chair concluded that ways to provide different and interesting CLH schemes should be explored and that potentially there might be opportunity to involve smaller Registered Providers in CLH schemes as such schemes would not be in direct competition with Homes England based funding.

The Advisory group noted the update.

14 Dates of future meetings

Tuesday 2 November 2021.

Members of the Advisory group confirmed that they were happy to continue to meet virtually.

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm

Notes

OF A MEETING OF THE



The Future Oxfordshire Partnership Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Advisory Group

HELD ON THURSDAY 14 OCTOBER 2021 AT 10.00 AM
VIRTUAL VIA MS TEAMS

Present:

Councillors Emily Smith (Chair), Colin Clarke, Duncan Enright, Jeff Haine, Debby Hallett, Anne-Marie Simpson and Louise Upton

Officers: Adrian Colwell (Oxfordshire Plan 2050), Andrew Down, (Future Oxfordshire Partnership), Giles Hughes (West Oxfordshire District Council), Kevin Jacob, (Future Oxfordshire Partnership), Archie Martin, (Future Oxfordshire Partnership) and Michele Smith (Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Team)

30 Apologies for absence and notifications of substitutions; declarations of interest; Chair's announcements

Apologies were submitted from Councillor Alex Hollingsworth, Oxford City Council, (substituted by Councillor Louise Upton). Councillor Colin Clarke Indicated that he would need to leave the meeting at 11:30.

There were no declarations of interests or Chair's announcements.

31 Notes of the previous meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 16 September 2021 were agreed as a correct summary.

32 Regulation 18 Part 2 Consultation Update presentation

Michelle Smith, Communications and Engagements Advisor for the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Team and Adrian Colwell, Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Team, provided an interim high level update on Regulation 18 Part 2 consultation that had opened on 30th July 2021 and ran until 8th October 2021.

Officers highlighted that:

- Although the consultation had officially closed responses were still being logged. An accurate figure on the exact number of responses could not be given at this stage.

However, over 1,000 responses from over 250 different organisations and individuals have been logged so far. The responses had been from a combination of e-mails and the 'Oxfordshire Open Thought' website.

- The response logging exercise was taking longer than expected. From the information given through the responses a matrix has been produced on the number of responses, policies and spatial options. A process has been put in place to mitigate the duplication of responses. There had been responses from a wide variety of organisations and individuals including public developers, parish and town councils and three of the partner bodies from the Future Oxfordshire Partnership.
- A number of developers had responded to the consultation and a number of potential sites for development promoted. Consideration would be given as to how these sites would be expressed.
- There is now a focus on how the material gathered from the Regulation 18 Part 2 consultation was going to be published.
- The level of activity and engagement about the consultation with the public through social media had been very encouraging, especially in-regards to reaching a larger variety of new and traditionally 'hard to reach' audiences.
- An amalgamation of three website's (The Future Oxfordshire Partnership, the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and the Open Thought consultation site) is being considered. It was hoped that a progress update could be provided at the next meeting on this issue.

Officers gave the Group an overview of the analytics provided by the social media companies on the success of the consultation's digital marketing campaigns, where additional promotional campaigns had been commissioned. Facebook, Twitter and Instagram had proved the most successful in terms of value for money and audience members reached, with up to 5,000 people being reached through one post. There had been a relatively successful targeted campaign across all of the main social media channels by the Communication team to try to attract a younger audience to become engaged in the consultation.

The Group was also informed that as part of the consultation, four public workshops had been undertaken and these had been well attended. The format of these presentations had included a half an hour PowerPoint presentation talking in detail about the five key policy themes and special options which had been followed by an hour Q&A. Two more technical workshops and a focus group had been run relating to the Oxfordshire Growth Needs Assessment (OGNA).

Looking ahead to the next stage in the adoption of the Plan as part of the Regulation 19 process, the Group was provided with a provisional communication timetable.

The Group members were informed that it was expected that a report setting out a summary of the issues raised in the consultation could be published before February 2022, but there was a communication strategy in place to issue a holding statement in November 2021 via the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, Future Oxfordshire Plan websites and posts to social media. This was to inform the public and other key partners that their responses had been received, highly valued and on the progress so far in considering them.

Officers indicated that the consultation summary report would cover three key areas.

1. Reporting on the progress and matrices of the social media and workshop responses.
2. The analysis of the responses, a summary of the key points being made.
3. Providing answers for what the next steps are now the consultation stage is finished.

In discussion, members suggested that this report could form the framework of a note that could be taken to partner authorities as the basis of a separate briefing note/toolkit to all councillors to help raise the profile of the Plan, findings from the Regulation 18 consultation and issues to be considered leading into the selection of preferred options at the Regulation 19 stage of the Plan's development.

33 Work programme beyond the Regulation 18 Part 2 consultation

Giles Hughes, Chief Executive, West Oxfordshire District Council and Adrian Colwell, Oxfordshire Plan Team presented an updated work programme for beyond Regulation 18 Part 2 consultation, leading up the anticipated submission of the Plan in summer 2022.

The following points were highlighted:

- The need for councillors from all the partner councils to be fully engaged in the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 in-order for them to believe in its potential and support its adoption. The full consultation responses report would be circulated to the different council's overview and scrutiny committees, so that more feedback could be gathered at this stage, prior to, and in addition to, engagement with before overview and scrutiny committees on the final Regulation 19 consultation document. This would also give the opportunity for councillors to get a clearer picture of the direction of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 before formal approval was sought from partner councils to go out to statutory consultation.
- There was a need for regular engagement with the Planning Inspectorate and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to keep them abreast of the future direction of the Plan.
- The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 document would be reduced in length from that published at the Regulation 18 Part 2 stage, guided by the findings highlighted in the consultation report and the narrowing down of preferred policy options

In discussion, there was collective support amongst the Group for engagement with council's overview and scrutiny committees as soon as was appropriate and possible.

The Group was informed that a potential Green Belt Review, more details of which had been set out in proposed policy 10 of the Regulation 18 consultation document, could only be commissioned at a county level and not done individually. Members mentioned their desire for this to be brought to the forefront, as a prominent issue. Officers highlighted that if there was to be a Green Belt review, it had to be transparent and robust. Therefore, a specification and remit for this work was being developed carefully. It was agreed by members that this would be discussed in further detail in future meetings.

The Chair asked when the summary report to partners councils' overview and scrutiny committees would be finalised. Officers responded that it was intended to bring a draft of the report back to the Group by no later than the December meeting, together with a

presentation, prior to a final version of the report being submitted to each partner council for consideration through its individual decision making processes.

The Chair concluded the discussion by commenting that the Group had been given a good overview of the Plan's work programme. Officers were asked that the work programme be updated and presented to Group as a standing item.

(Note: Councillor Colin Clarke left the meeting at 11:30)

34 The Arc Vision and Options implications

Giles Hughes, Chief Executive, West Oxfordshire District Council and Andrew Down, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Director provided an update to Group on the Oxford to Cambridge Arc, Arc Vision Consultation, and wider governmental issues:

- Individual and group responses had been submitted in respect of HM Government's public consultation on its proposed Arc Vision. The Future Oxfordshire Partnership had made its own response.
- Officers are waiting for HM Government's response to the consultation, which only recently closed.
- As part of the most recent re-shuffle, the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government had been renamed as the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities with Rt Hon Michael Gove MOP as the new Secretary of State. It was too early to gauge the potential impact of the change.
- Although there had been nothing new from HM Government in respect of the Oxford to Cambridge Arc, there continued to be helpful engagement from civil servants, but contact would be maintained.
- Following on from this there has been some sessions set up with central government to discuss the spatial framework across the Arc and get technical officers from across the arc involved.
- The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 team and the OX-Cam Arc teams are in communication to make sure the two policies align.

Members of the Group asked about the potential impact the Oxford to the Cambridge Arc would have on the Oxfordshire 2050 Plan. Officers responded by saying the Arc spatial framework was being seen as an advisory planning policy such as the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and went on to explain that if there was planning policy within the Arc local planning policy will need to take account of it.

35 Update on team resources and progress with recruitment

Giles Hughes, Chief Executive, West Oxfordshire District Council gave the advisory group an update on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Team and resourcing. It was noted that Philip Wandsworth would lead the team as Plan Lead as of 1 November 2021.

36 Future meetings

The advisory group noted that its future meeting dates as set out in its agenda.

The meeting closed at 11.47 am

Notes

OF A MEETING OF THE



The Future Oxfordshire Partnership Environment Advisory Group

HELD ON THURSDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 10.00 AM
VIRTUAL VIA MS TEAMS

Present:

Councillors; Sue Cooper, David Harvey, Andrea Powell, Dan Sames, Pete Sudbury and Catherine Webber

Officers: Sarah Gilbert, (Oxfordshire County Council), Kevin Jacob (Future Oxfordshire Partnership), Joe Kay, (Oxfordshire County Council), Suzanne Malcolm (Deputy Chief Executive - Place, South and Vale Councils) and Archie Martin (Future Oxfordshire Partnership)

12 Apologies for absence and notifications of substitutions; declarations of interest and Chair's announcements

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Tom Hayes, Oxford City Council. Councillor Dan Sames, Cherwell District Council, indicated that he had to leave the meeting at 11:00.

There were no declarations of interest.

The Chair noted that the agenda for the meeting was comparatively light, but that there would be opportunity to discuss potential future items as part of the discussion around the update from the officer group and future work programme.

13 Notes of the previous meeting

The notes of the meeting held on the 3 August 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

14 Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) Update Paper - September 2021

The advisory group considered an update from the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP), presented by Joe Kay, Transport Lead, Oxfordshire County Council. The following points were highlighted:

- The current LTCP was a statutory local transport plan and an update to the Local Transport Plan Four (which had been published in 2016).
- The LTCP was broken down into two documents, the vision document which was released in February 2021 and the full report that encompassed feedback from the LTCP vision document.
- The advisory group was informed that the LTCP was due to go to Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet on the 19 October 2021 and if approved, would be subjected to public consultation in November 2021. It was highlighted that other documentation would accompany the LTCP to provide context and more in-depth details of specific policies.
- The importance of the decarbonisation chapter in the LTCP paper was stressed. It was outlined as one of the key challenges in the document, and the different transport approaches that would be taken to achieve net zero carbon by 2050.
- Targets were necessary and important to measure the success of these initiatives. These targets were set out in a timeline of a ten-year period or more. For example, a key target was to have moved to a zero- carbon transport network by 2040.
- Oxfordshire County Council was seeking feedback on the LTCP from a wide range of partners and key stakeholders. This would help to inform the paper before it was considered by Cabinet in November 2021.

Members of the advisory group thanked Joe Kay for the introduction and welcomed the LTCP as a positive contribution. In discussion they raised queries regarding the scope of the public consultation and the weight the final LTCP would have in planning decisions. It was confirmed that there was a wide scope for involvement in the consultation including by town and parish councils, and other stakeholders who had engaged in earlier work around a transport vision. The consultation would be accessible online via Oxfordshire County Council's dedicated consultation portal, as well as other methods of receiving responses.

Whilst the LTCP did not carry formal weight in planning terms, officers were working with district and city council colleagues to develop guidelines which would inform the drafting of formal Local Plan policies which would carry planning weight. Officers were also working with colleagues within the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 team and therefore it was considered that there would be a consistent common thread in respect to transport and connectivity across Local Plans and the Oxfordshire Plan 2050.

Members felt that there should be a strong focus on capitalising on the remote working agenda brought forward by the Covid-19 pandemic, in terms of transport planning.

There was a discussion between members around the most effective balance between planning guidance and mandatory planning regulations in supporting moving towards a net zero carbon transport infrastructure. It was felt that unless such requirements were made mandatory rather than guidance, they would not be given due weight and delivered in practice by developers.

A lack of public transport in more rural locations was raised which contributed to car use. Whilst the shift to electric vehicles would help mitigate carbon emissions, it was felt that viable public transport infrastructure also needed to be provided. Discussion included bus stops, in some cases with limited car parking, potentially acting as series of mini-transport

hubs, linked into cycleways and footpaths. Members discussed in particular connecting different modes of transport together, into a seamless system of transport for the general public. This did not necessarily involve a big investment in infrastructure but would help demonstrate to the public that viable alternatives to the car existed.

A number of members commented that adequate maintenance of cycleways and footpaths was important if they were to be an attractive and safe option for residents, but also discussed the positive impact flora and vegetation along footways and cycleways verges could have a positive effect on decarbonisation and limit climate change.

Members also highlighted the importance of rail, in the development of carbon neutral transport/infrastructure.

The Chair thanked Joe Kay for presenting the update and reiterated how the councils within Oxfordshire, individual members of the advisory group and the public could contribute to the LTCP public consultation.

15 Update on officer group to support the Environment Advisory Group

Sarah Gilbert, Climate Action Team Leader, Oxfordshire County Council, provided a verbal update on the establishment of a specialist officer group to help inform and support the work of the Environment Advisory Group, given the need to make the best use of the resources available and to work together. The group was comprised of representatives from across the partner Oxfordshire Councils.

The following items had been discussed and flagged by the officer group as potential future items for the advisory group work programme:

- Pathways to a Zero Carbon Oxfordshire Report, (PAZCO) – 1) creation of a delivery plan, creating deliverables that could be used as benchmarks. 2) consideration of how to engage community voices, key stakeholders, and the general public into the discussions.
- Issues and opportunities around retrofitting of green technologies to existing homes including funding/bids.
- Zero Carbon homes – reference work had been undertaken by Friends of the Earth and Bioregional on what was needed to bring the development of such homes forward.

In discussion, it was suggested that establishing a reference group with representatives in the building industry could be potentially useful in respect of new Zero Carbon homes and the retrofitting of existing homes.

Members agreed that the significant cost of individual retrofitting of properties was inefficient and that the scale of the challenge of meeting the number of retrofits required per annum needed to achieve Net Zero was significant and very challenging. It was noted that a task and finish group established by the joint South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Overview and Scrutiny Committee had recently undertaken a review around retrofitting homes and set out a number of recommend ways forward. It agreed that the report should be circulated to the members of the advisory group.

Members also referred to an acute lack of labour resource and the specialist skills within the building industry to support retrofitting. It was suggested that there was an urgent need to increase and promote apprenticeships and college courses in this area as well as continuing to work with OxLEP on the issue.

In response to a discussion regarding the data sets used by the Oxfordshire local authorities in respect of carbon emissions and the importance of shared approach to their use, Sarah Gilbert indicated that the understanding was that the data sets available to all councils originated from the same national sources, but that the officer group could investigate this further and get back to the advisory group.

The addition of items around PAZCO delivery and retrofitting to the next agenda were supported by members.

(Councillor Dan Sames left the meeting at 11:05)

The Chair thanked the officers and members for their contributions. The update was noted.

16 Future work programme

The advisory group discussed its work programme for future meetings, considering the proposed items discussed under the previous agenda item. Agreed items for the meeting on 26 November 2021 included:

- Pathways to a Zero Carbon Oxfordshire Report, (PAZCO) – 1) creation of a delivery plan, creating deliverables that could be used as benchmarks. 2) consideration of how to engage community voices, key stakeholders, and the general public into the discussions.
- Issues and opportunities around retrofitting of green technologies to existing homes including funding /bids.
- Carbon emissions. Common data sets for authorities and monitoring – provisional.

The Chair raised the importance of communications with the public and wider stakeholders and members discussed communication methods, including the potential for the Future Oxfordshire Partnership to play a central role in this topic of discussion. It was suggested that a strategic communication plan could be developed for the Future Oxfordshire Partnership's work around climate change, through the advisory group. Officers indicated they would seek to obtain high level advice from relevant officers supporting the Partnership on the potential communications role of the advisory group.

Members of the advisory group also commented on the importance of councillors lobbying HM Government on environmental issues such as mandatory building regulations.

17 Dates of future meetings

The dates for future meetings as set out in Agenda was noted.

The meeting closed at 11.25 am



To: Future Oxfordshire Partnership
(Formerly the Oxfordshire Growth Board)

Title of Report: Future Oxfordshire Partnership Name Change Update

Date: 30 November 2021

Report of: Stefan Robinson, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Manager

Executive Summary and Purpose:

As agreed on 19 July 2021, the Oxfordshire Growth Board has been renamed and rebranded as the Future Oxfordshire Partnership. This report provides an update on the steps that have been taken since that meeting to transition to the new name.

How this report contributes to the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision Outcomes:

It is important that the name under which the current Partnership operates remains compatible with the Strategic Vision for the county and suitably articulates its purpose.

Recommendation:

That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership notes this report.

Introduction

1. One of the recommendations emerging from the review of the Growth Board's operating arrangements undertaken during 2019 was to consider a change of name, to better reflect the evolution of work since the Board was formed and named in 2014.¹ Several respondents to the review felt that the name should be changed to better reflect the Board's role and function, which is to coordinate local efforts to manage economic, housing and infrastructure development in a way that is inclusive and maximises local social and environmental benefits.² In light of this feedback, the Oxfordshire Growth Board agreed on 19 July 2021 to adopt a new name – the Future Oxfordshire Partnership. This report provides an update on the steps that have been taken since that meeting to transition to the new name.

Actions taken since 19 July 2021

2. Since the name change was agreed, a task list has been developed to cover a range of actions that must be taken to ensure a smooth transition to the new name. Key actions within that list have been summarised below:

¹ Concluding report presented to the Growth Board in January 2020.

² Growth Board Terms of Reference, 2020.

3. **New website:** On 1 October 2021, the Future Oxfordshire Partnerships went live with its new website – www.FutureOxfordshirePartnership.org. The date of 1 October was intentional to coincide with the last week of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 consultation, to limit any confusion that may have been caused by the name change during the live consultation period. The website has been updated throughout to ensure that all references to the Oxfordshire Growth Board have been changed where appropriate, and the covering page featured a news release drawing attention to the change. Any searches for the previous Oxfordshire Growth Board website now automatically redirected to the new website. The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 website has also been updated to reflect the new name.
4. **Governance and reporting:** All governance documents, including the Partnership’s Terms of Reference, and that of its supporting bodies, have been updated, along with the public participation protocol. A wide range of templates (e.g agendas, minutes, reports, letter heads etc) have reflected the new name since August 2021 and will continue to do so.
5. **Communications:** Each of the constituent councils have been notified of the name change through their Communications and Democratic Services teams. The former has been requested to provide an update concerning the name change to officers and councillors within their organisation, and the latter has been asked to update any relevant live webpages to reflect the change. The Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership has done the same. In September 2021, an update was provided to the Partnership’s Executive Officer Group concerning the name change, and officers noted that the new name had already gained traction and recognition within the Arc. The change has also been made clear to HM Government through a series of letters and the Arc Vision Consultation response, and where relevant, job titles have also been changed to reflect the name change.
6. **Logo:** A new logo has been produced to reflect the name change, as featured in the header of this report, and in key governance documents, including the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.
7. **Contact details:** All general enquiries should now be directed to futureoxfordshirepartnership@southandvale.gov.uk as should any public questions which are to be submitted to meetings of the Partnership. These details are reflected on the website and in published agendas, and any contacts made to the previous email address will be automatically redirected.
8. **Social Media:** All social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram) have been updated with the new name and logo. We have managed to retain all existing followers through this transition. The four social media platforms were used extensively from mid-July to the end of the Oxfordshire Plan consultation period on 8th October, with only a very slight drop in engagement from 8th October, which is linked to the reduction in the number of posts following the closing of the Consultation. Social media pages have proved to be very effective and reached thousands of people across various demographics in Oxfordshire. Over a 3-month period to October 2021, 44,000 ‘impressions’ were made via twitter, with up to 400 impressions per day on LinkedIn. The Instagram

page created during this period proved to be successful in engaging with harder to reach community and younger groups.

Conclusion

9. The administrative process of the name change has now been completed. Those people who regularly or occasionally engage in the Partnership's work are likely to now be aware of the change, either through formal or informal means. Time will be needed however for the new name to become embedded. Efforts will continue to be made through internal and external engagements by officers to raise awareness of the change.

Report Author:	Stefan Robinson, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Manager
Contact information:	Stefan.robinson@southandvale.gov.uk

Future Oxfordshire Partnership Scrutiny Panel Work Plan

The Future Oxfordshire Partnership Scrutiny Panel agrees its own Work Plan, which is reviewed at each meeting. The Panel is encouraged to be strict in prioritising key issues for review, in addition to the entirety of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership’s forthcoming agendas, which will feature as a standard item on the Work Plan. The Panel’s ongoing review of their work plan should be considered in conjunction with the Future Oxfordshire Partnership’s Forward Plan.

Meeting date	Item	Description and rationale	Lead Officer
23 November 2021	Update from Councillor Liz Leffman, Chair of the Infrastructure Advisory Group and member of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership	The Panel agreed to invite Councillor Leffman to attend the November meeting to give an update on the Future Oxfordshire Partnership Infrastructure Advisory Group.	N/A
	Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Progress Report - Quarter 2, Year 4	To consider a report to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership setting out the Quarter 2, Year 4 progress report for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.	Paul Staines, Interim Head of Programme
	Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Financial Report Quarter 2, Year 4	To consider a report to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership setting out a financial summary for Quarter 2, Year 4 for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.	Kathy Wilcox, Head of Financial Strategy, Oxfordshire County Council

	Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal Infrastructure Programme - Six Month Review and changes	To consider a paper to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership setting out the outcome of a periodic review by Oxfordshire County Council of the current cost and programme projections for the schemes included with the Housing and Growth Deal Infrastructure Programme and proposed changes to the programme.	John McLauchlan, Head of Service, Infrastructure Programme Office and Hannah Battye, Head of Service Infrastructure Delivery, Oxfordshire County Council
	The Oxford to Cambridge Arc	To receive any updates in respect of regional developments within the Oxford to Cambridge Arc.	Andrew Down, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Director
	Future Oxfordshire Partnership Name Change Update	To consider a report to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership setting out an update on the steps that have been taken since the July meeting to transition to the new Future Oxfordshire Partnership name.	Stefan Robinson, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Manager

Meeting date	Item	Description and rationale	Lead Officer
17 January 2022	The Oxford to Cambridge Arc	To receive any updates in respect of regional developments within the Oxford to Cambridge Arc.	Andrew Down, Future Oxfordshire Partnership Director
	Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy: Stage 1 Final Report	To consider a report to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership setting out the outcomes of the Stage 1 report for the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy and confirm scope of Stage 2.	John Disley, County Council Infrastructure Manager

	Oxfordshire Connect Rail Programme	To consider a report to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership setting out an update from Network Rail on progress with the Oxfordshire Connect Programme.	John Disley, County Council Infrastructure Manager
	Environment Advisory Group Update (provisional)	To consider a report to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership setting out an update on the work of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership Environment Advisory Group.	Suzanne Malcolm, South and Vale District Councils
	Oxfordshire Strategic Transport Forum Update (provisional)	To consider a report to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership setting out an update from the Oxfordshire Strategic Transport Forum. Wider scope to be reviewed.	TBC
	Feedback from Joint meeting with the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board (provisional)	To consider a report to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership setting out feedback and note any actions arising from a joint meeting between the Future Oxfordshire Partnership and the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board.	TBC

Action Log

This action log sets out requests for information and actions required by the Scrutiny Panel. Any requests for information that do not relate to a specific agenda item will be published on the Future Oxfordshire Partnership website alongside the next available Scrutiny Panel Agenda, except where that information requires the disclosure of exempt information, as set out in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Date raised by the Panel	Action	Lead Member / Officer	Panel Updated/ Discussed on	Progress Notes
13/09/21	1) Economic Recovery Plan: The Panel was informed that OxLEP had produced a number of short videos around careers in Oxfordshire tailored and produced by young people themselves and it was agreed to circulate details of these.	Ahmed Goga – OxLEP	N/A	Link to videos produced by OxLEP for youth engagement to the Panel 24/09/21 https://youtu.be/i5FcJAfeXWc
13/09/21	2) It was agreed that Officers would investigate what unemployment and ward level data was	John Courouble, Oxfordshire County Council	N/A	Explanatory note and attachment setting out data at middle layer super output level distributed to the Panel 12/11/21.

	available and circulate it to the Panel.			
13/09/21	3) Members of the Panel referred to the transport schemes referenced within the ERP appendix as 'Tran 1 to Tran 8' and asked for further information on how they are broken down by district, particularly what cycling schemes existed or were planned outside of Oxford City.	Melanie Graham, Oxfordshire County Council	N/A	Explanatory note distributed to the Panel 12/11/21.
13/09/21	4) Provision of easily accessible and useable electric vehicle infrastructure was critical to the take up of electric vehicles. It was agreed that an update on the current status of the Park and Charge project would be established.	Llewelyn Morgan Oxfordshire County Council	N/A	Explanatory note distributed to the Panel 12/11/21.