

# Agenda



## The Future Oxfordshire Partnership

**Wednesday 20 March 2024 at 2.00 pm**  
**The Long Room, Oxford City Council, Town Hall, St Aldate's,**  
**Oxford, OX1 1BX**

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### Members

Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council  
Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council  
Leader of Cherwell District Council  
Leader of Oxford City Council  
(which holds the Chair)  
Leader of Oxfordshire County Council  
(which holds the Vice-Chair)  
Leader of West Oxfordshire District Council  
Chair, OxLEP  
OxLEP Universities representative  
OxLEP business representative - Bicester  
OxLEP business representative – Oxford City  
OxLEP business representative – Science Vale  
Homes England representative  
Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West  
Integrated Care Board  
Environment Agency representative

Councillor David Rouane  
Councillor Bethia Thomas  
Councillor Barry Wood  
Councillor Susan Brown

Councillor Liz Leffman

Councillor Andy Graham  
Professor Alistair Fitt  
Professor Irene Tracey  
Miranda Markham  
Peter Nolan  
Angus Horner  
Neil Hook  
Dan Leveson

Emma Hill

### Notes:

1. [To watch the meeting, follow this link to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership YouTube Channel](#)
2. [Arrangements are subject to change at short notice so please refer to the agenda page](#)
3. *One member, one vote for each constituent local authority member only.*

# AGENDA

- 1 **Apologies for absence; declarations of interest and Chair's announcement**
- 2 **Minutes** (Pages 6 - 14)

To adopt as a correct record the minutes of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership meeting held on 30 January 2024.

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

### **Asking a question and addressing the Partnership**

Questions or requests to make an address (in full and in writing) must be received by **5pm on Thursday 14 March 2024** three clear working days before the Future Oxfordshire Partnership meeting.

Questions and addresses should be no longer than one side of A4 paper in Arial 12 font. The address or question will be circulated to the Partnership and public speakers will be invited to speak at the 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. The Chair will have discretion to manage the public participation procedure as they see appropriate. Questions and notice of addresses must be submitted to [futureoxfordshirepartnership@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:futureoxfordshirepartnership@southandvale.gov.uk)

Note: This meeting may be recorded for live broadcast. 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 **Future Oxfordshire Partnership Scrutiny Panel update** (To Follow)

**For action:** To receive any recommendations from the Future Oxfordshire Partnership Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 11 March 2024.

- 5 **Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal: Update at the end of Quarter 3 2023/2024** (Pages 15 - 21)

**For information:** To receive the Quarter 3 2023/2024 progress report for the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal and endorse any amendments to the programmes of work as necessary.

- 6 **Local Enterprise Partnership Functions: Transition Arrangements** (Pages 22 - 24)

**For action:** To consider a report which provides an overview of the approach to LEP transition following the verbal update to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership in January 2024.

## 7 **Advisory Group updates**

To receive updates from the Chairs of the advisory groups and summary notes from these meetings if available.

### 7a **Infrastructure Advisory Group update** (To Follow)

**For information:** To receive an update from the Infrastructure Advisory Group. Summary notes from the meeting held on 17 January are attached and a verbal update will be given on the meeting to be held on 12 March 2024

### 7b **Planning Advisory Group update** (Pages 25 - 29)

**For information:** To receive the formal notes of the meeting of the Planning Advisory Group held on 15 December 2023 and to receive a verbal update on the meeting scheduled for 15 March 2024.

### 7c **Environment Advisory Group update** (Pages 30 - 34)

**For information:** To receive the formal written notes of the Environment Advisory Group held on 18 January 2024.

## 8 **Future Oxfordshire Partnership Forward Plan** (Pages 35 - 38)

**For information:** To note and comment on the Future Oxfordshire Partnership's Forward Plan.

## 9 **Updates on matters relevant to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership** (Verbal Report)

Future Oxfordshire Partnership members and officers may verbally update the Board on progress on matters previously before the Partnership for consideration, listed in the forward plan, or relevant to the Partnership's future decisions. This is for the sharing of information and no decisions will be taken.

## 10 **Updates from key strategic partnerships supporting delivery of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision** (Verbal Report)

**For information:** To receive updates from other partnerships supporting the delivery of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.

## 11 **Dates of next meetings**

Please refer to <https://futureoxfordshirepartnership.org> for the most up to date information on times and locations.

Proposed meeting dates for June 2024 to June 2025:

- Tuesday 25/06/24
- Tuesday 30/07/24
- Thursday 03/10/24
- Tuesday 26/11/24
- Tuesday 28/01/25

- Tuesday 18/03/25
- Tuesday 24/06/25

**Recommendation:** That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership notes the dates of the proposed meetings June 2024 to June 2025

## **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

HELD ON TUESDAY 30 JANUARY 2024 AT 2.00 PM  
THE LONG ROOM, OXFORD CITY COUNCIL, TOWN HALL, ST ALDATE'S,  
OXFORD, OX1 1BX

### Present:

**Members:** Councillor Susan Brown (Chair), Sian Carter, (Homes England), Professor Alistair Fitt, (OxLEP Universities representative), Councillor Andy Graham, (West Oxfordshire District Council), Angus Horner, (OxLEP business representative), Councillor Liz Leffman, (Oxfordshire County Council), Daniel Leveson, (Bucks, Oxfordshire and West Berks ICB), Dean Lusby-Gordan, (Environment Agency), Miranda Markham, (OxLEP business representative), Peter Nolan, (OxLEP business representative), Councillor David Rouane, (South Oxfordshire District Council), Councillor Bethia Thomas, (Vale of White Horse District Council), and Councillor Barry Wood, (Cherwell District Council).

**Officers:** Ian Boll (Cherwell District Council), Becky Chesshyre, (Future Oxfordshire Partnership), Andrew Down, (Future Oxfordshire Partnership), Caroline Green (Oxford City Council), Giles Hughes (West Oxfordshire District Council), Kevin Jacob, (Future Oxfordshire Partnership), Amber Lyford, (Future Oxfordshire Partnership), David Munday, (Future Oxfordshire Partnership), Martin Reeves (Oxfordshire County Council), Rosie Rowe, (Oxfordshire County Council), Paul Staines (Future Oxfordshire Partnership), Nigel Tipple (Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership) and David Yates, (Future Oxfordshire Partnership).

**Other councillors:** Councillor Katherine Miles, Chair of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership Scrutiny Panel.

### 57. Apologies for absence; declarations of interest and Chair's announcement

Apologies for absence were submitted by Emma Hill, (substituted by Dean Lusby-Gordon) and Neil Hook, (substituted by Sian Carter).

It was noted that Councillor Bethia Thomas was joining the meeting remotely and therefore did not count towards the meeting's quorum.

There were no declarations of interest.

[It was noted the meeting was being live streamed and that a recording would be available for a period of 12 months.](#)

## **58. Minutes**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2023 be approved as a correct record.

## **59. Public participation**

**Ian Green on behalf of the Oxford Civic Society** submitted the following written address, but was not present at the meeting.

### The Planning Advisory Group

The Oxford Civic Society notes that, in discussion, a number of members of the Scrutiny Panel expressed significant concerns and scepticism around the role and additional value that the Planning Advisory Group could bring by seeking to look at matters at Future Oxfordshire Partnership level, over and above existing informal and formal arrangements around planning cooperation which it was felt would still happen whether the advisory group existed or not.

This was felt to be particularly important within the overall context of the general pressures on council budgets and resources and that the case for Future Oxfordshire Partnership level work on planning related matters needed to be compelling.

May we suggest that the most obvious compelling need is the establishment of a spatial development plan for the county which provides a foundation for good growth in the county to 2050 and beyond. This would require the PAG to consider ways in which the reasons for the failure of the Oxfordshire 2050 Plan can be overcome.

It could also assess the value of a spatial development plan oriented to 2050 and beyond, in terms of how it would enable integrated infrastructure development planning linked to the distribution of employment and housing growth across the county. This, surely, is highly compelling.

The PAG would not need to address this compelling need alone – there are many potential private sector, academic and third sector collaborators who would be willing and eager to work with the PAG on this. The Oxford Civic Society has a Group called the Oxfordshire Futures Group which is dedicated to this and we will be more than happy to meet the PAG to discuss it further.

In the absence of Mr Green, the Chair indicated that a written response would be provided to him.

## **Response**

Thank you for your comments on this issue.

The work programme for the Planning Advisory Group is still under development, as this is a relatively new group. The focus will be on covering issues where this group can add value to the work of individual Councils.

Local Plans are the key vehicle for spatial planning in Oxfordshire. I would encourage the Oxford Civic Society to engage in the Local Plan processes of the various Councils.

## **60. Future Oxfordshire Partnership Scrutiny Panel update**

The Chair invited Councillor Katherine Miles, Chair of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership Scrutiny Panel, to present the recommendations from the Panel's meeting held on 22 January 2024.

Councillor Miles explained that the Panel's meeting had focussed on two areas with five associated recommendations:

- A report on Healthy Place Shaping update and the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Oxfordshire prior to its consideration by the Partnership.
- The role and remit of the Scrutiny Panel following the Partnership's response to the Panel's previous recommendations and the consideration of Monitoring Officer advice.

In its consideration of the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy the Panel had focussed its efforts on how the Strategy as approved would be implemented and delivered. The Panel made recommendations related to its monitoring and evaluation framework, financial and commissioning structures, the importance of Street Design Codes, coordination between councils and the NHS regarding social care and expressed concern regarding what was felt to be a lack of provision of primary health care facilities to support healthy placemaking.

Regarding the Panel's discussions regarding its role and remit, Panel members had expressed a diversity of opinions based on a broad or more narrow interpretation of the Panel's Terms of Reference in the context of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision. It had been felt that a review of the Panel's Terms of Reference did need to be undertaken prior to the new municipal year in May.

Councillor Miles brought up the previous recommendation around Vision Zero and reiterated the recommendations and strongly held reasons the Panel provided regarding implementing Vision Zero into the work of the Partnership through the Infrastructure and Planning Advisory Groups.

In response to the recommendations, the Chair responded that the Partnership was happy to accept and support the Panel's recommendation to endorse the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and noted the Panel's additional comments.

The Partnership also welcomed a review of the Terms of Reference of the Scrutiny Panel as it agreed that clarification of the Panel's scope and remit was needed.

The Partnership had not changed its previous view about Vision Zero. Although individual members of the Partnership might support the aims and aspirations of Vision Zero and that the County Council would work in partnership with district councils, this did not mean that it was part of the work of the Partnership itself. It was felt important not to confuse lines of governance.

[A full copy of the Panel's recommendations and the Partnership's response to them can be found here.](#)



## **61. Healthy Place Shaping Update and the new Health & Wellbeing Board Strategy for Oxfordshire**

The Partnership considered a report that provided an update on healthy placemaking across Oxfordshire and the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Oxfordshire. Rosie Rowe, Head of Healthy Place Shaping and David Munday, Deputy Director of Public Health, Oxfordshire County Council gave a detailed presentation summarising the report and strategy.

In summary, members of the Partnership raised the following issues:

- That it was appropriate that the Partnership be a primary partner for facilitating the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. It was important that this was a strategy that was delivered on the ground not just drafted.
- As referred to in Paragraph 11 of the report, the lack of capacity of the NHS to engage with planning authorities on estate issues and problems in bringing forward primary care facilities including GP surgeries across the county was a matter of serious concern, particularly engagement with the current round of Local Plan reviews. This needed to be addressed in the future.
- It was noted the Planning Advisory Group, (PAG) was looking into the issues around planning for health infrastructure and had at its December meeting received presentations on planning for health from a public health perspective and from representatives from the BOB Integrated Care Board setting out from its perspective, the challenges, and constraints in providing primary care infrastructure.
- The emphasis within the basic building blocks of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy on prevention of ill health and in supporting people to live longer in their homes was acknowledged and welcomed. Comment was also made that this did impact on local planning considerations as issues such as easy access to doctors, access to green space etc were all related and interconnected.
- The reference to the principles of 'Start Well', 'Live Well' and 'Age Well' within the Strategy were acknowledged and welcomed, but it was suggested that there was tendency from a local government place making perspective to focus upon the Live Well aspects and perhaps not consider enough issues related to Starting Well and Aging Well. Ensuring children started out well in life was known to be particularly important for their future health and wellbeing and challenges included child poverty, overcrowding and access to quality green space – all planning related issues.
- Members commented that emphasis was also needed on preparing for palliative and end-of-life care.

Dan Leveson on behalf the BOB Integrated Care Board referred to the links and joint working between the Integrated Care Strategy, the ICB Five Year Forward View and Health and Wellbeing Strategy in terms of access to services. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy would provide the references to hold the NHS to account for delivery and attention was also drawn to the draft Primary Care Strategy.

Responding to the point on NHS engagement with the planning process he stated the ICB was doing all it could to engage on planning issues and he commented that it would not be possible to build new GP practices where existing ones existed. Adapting and developing GP practices for modern models of service delivery, finding ways to share estate and developing digital health systems would be important.

In conclusion, the Chair commented that it was clear that the issue of planning for health infrastructure was crucial and access to GP services remained an outstanding issue of significant concern to residents, particularly in light of new housing growth across the county. It was therefore very important that local authorities worked closely with the health system in order to plan in adequate health facilities and access to health. She asked that the results of further discussion at the Planning Advisory Group around planning for health continue to be feedback to Partnership and that the issue be pursued as a priority.

As Chair of the Planning Advisory Group, Councillor Andy Graham responded that he was happy to take this forward and to seek to come back to the Partnerships after further discussion and work by officers.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership endorses the new Health & Wellbeing Board Strategy for Oxfordshire.
2. That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership continues to support healthy place shaping as a strategic priority in enabling the regeneration of existing communities and the development of new communities which promote health and wellbeing.

## **62. Advisory Group updates**

### **(a) Environment Advisory Group update**

Councillor David Rouane referred to the notes of the Environment Advisory Group held on 9 November 2023 as included in the agenda and provide a verbal update of the meeting held on 18 January 2024. Councillor Rouane highlighted that the group had considered reports relating to:

- Monitoring the progress of the Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan, (NZRMAP).
- The Local Nature Partnership and the role of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy in delivering networks of nature recovery and introduction of Biodiversity Net Gain obligations for developers.
- County wide CO<sub>2</sub> emissions – transport emissions were a major proportion of overall emissions, but local councils had little or no influence on major roads such as the M40 and A34.
- Domestic retrofit – it was disappointing that many new homes were still being built to insufficient standards and would require retrofitting, but building standards were set nationally.
- Climate Change and Health – and the positive impact that access to quality green space could have on people’s mental and physical health.
- Green Finance and the 100 Together: Financing Oxfordshire’s Green Future

At the invitation of Councillor Rouane, Martin Reeves, Chief Executive of Oxfordshire updated the meeting on the first annual [100 Together: Financing Oxfordshire's Green Future](#) conference which had taken place on 11 January 2024. The conference had been very well attended and had brought together attendees from a broad range of sectors including academia, green practitioners, investment banking and politics to debate how Oxfordshire could lead nationally and internationally on ways of rethinking and reimagining the types of financing that would be required for a safe transition to Net Zero. Feedback on the event had been positive and the focus now was to move to delivery focussing upon existing partnerships.

**RESOLVED:** That the update be noted.

**(b) Planning Advisory Group update**

Councillor Andy Graham provided a verbal update on the meeting of the Planning Advisory Group held on 15 December 2023.

Councillor Graham highlighted that the group had considered reports relating to:

- Presentations on planning for health infrastructure, (as touch upon during the Place Shaping and Health and Wellbeing Strategy item)
- Biodiversity Net Gain, (BNG) – the advisory group had considered proposals for joint working between the councils around the introduction of planning BNG requirements.
- The monitoring of the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan, (LTCP) and its relationships with Local Plans.

**RESOLVED:** That the update be noted.

**(c) Infrastructure Advisory Group update**

Councillor Liz Leffman provided a verbal update on the meeting of the Infrastructure Advisory Group held on 17 January 2024.

Councillor Leffman highlighted that the group had considered reports relating to:

- Homes from infrastructure Programme – delivery of the programme of schemes was progressing well and the confirmation of additional funding for the A34 Lodge Hill junction improvement had released funding for use on other schemes within the programme in north Oxford. The recently completed Cassington Link Road upgrade was an example of the type of scheme being delivered.
- Oxfordshire Strategic Travel Network including the Oxford Green Ways Project which aimed to find ways of linking new developments, particularly though the city centre using green rather than concrete pathways.
- Monitoring delivery of the electric vehicle, (EV) infrastructure and energy planning workstreams of the Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan – It was felt that progress to date on EV infrastructure need to be accelerated.
- Local Area Energy Planning – this included investigating ways in which electricity could be generated, distributed and stored within the county, moving forward and building on [Project LEO](#) whilst taking account of issues such as difficulties in projects obtaining grid connections.

**RESOLVED:** That the update be noted.

## **64. Future Oxfordshire Partnership Forward Plan**

Kevin Jacob, Future Oxfordshire Democratic Services Officer introduced the Forward Programme as set out in the Agenda.

**RESOLVED:** That the Forward Programme be agreed.

## **65. Updates on matters relevant to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership**

Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership Integration

Nigel Tipple, Chief Executive of the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, (OxLEP) and Martin Reeves, Chief Executive of Oxfordshire County Council provided a verbal update on preparations for the transfer of functions from OxLEP to the county council following HM Government's announcement that the functions of all local enterprise partnerships would pass to upper tier authorities.

It was noted that it was expected that a framework for the proposed future governance arrangements would be considered by County Council's Cabinet in February with a further report to the Partnership in March.

Professor Alistair Fitt, the Chair of OxLEP referred to the power and effectiveness of the current OxLEP board and the need to retain board members throughout the transition process. Councillor Leffman referred to the objective of building on what already existed, but to also broaden thinking in terms of the county's [Strategic Economic Plan](#).

#### Place Narrative for Oxfordshire

Councillor Leffman and Martin Reeves provided a verbal update on the development of a place narrative for Oxfordshire. Points raised included:

- Thinking Place – the consultants commissioned had undertaken an extensive programme of consultation and engagement around what Oxfordshire meant as a 'place' from the perspective of all the key stakeholders. Thinking Place had reported they had received some of highest levels of consultation and engagement feedback of any such exercises they had undertaken before.
- Next steps were to work through the feedback and for the working group set up to govern the process to start to consider what the evidence was indicating and what would be the emerging key chapters of the place narrative. The group would also consider how a document for public consumption could be put together.
- It was expected that the next stage of the process would take around six weeks and outputs considered the Partnership's Executive Officer Group initially before being shared more formerly.
- It was anticipated that by the start of the new municipal year, this stage of the work would be completed and important conversations around how the products of the exercise could begin.

Professor Alistair Fitt commented that as member of the steering group he had been impressed by the innovative nature of Thinking Place's approach to the consultation and engagement process. Angus Horner echoed these comments and added that consideration of how to obtain endorsement of minority and hard to reach groups was being considered to ensure that as the place narrative was developed further all residents felt this was being done with them and not to and at them. In his view, this was an important area for the Partnership itself.

**RESOLVED:** The updates were noted.

## **66. Updates from key strategic partnerships supporting delivery of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision**

#### Oxford to Cambridge Pan-Regional Partnership, (PRP)

Councillor Susan Brown provided an update on a meeting between members of the PRP and Lord Harrington around foreign investment. Lord Harrington had previously been commissioned by HM Government to undertake a review of the government's approach to

attracting direct foreign investment. Lord Harrington had indicated that he had found it useful to learn about the regional perspective on foreign investment.

The meeting's discussion had included the potential for foreign investment within the Oxford to Cambridge PRP's geography, what might be done to attract investment/ engage with foreign governments and investors, what any investments might be used for and any limits on that use.

Professor Alistair also provided an update on meetings of the PRP Universities Group:

- Dipesh Shah, the Chair of the PRP was shortly to visit the area to learn more about the Oxfordshire system.
- It was expected that the Oxford to Cambridge PRP would have a presence at [UKREiif 2024](#), which was the UK's real estate investment and infrastructure forum.
- Consideration was being given as to how the PRP could work with together with other organisations such as the Universities Group, England's Economic Heartland, East West Rail etc to deliver at scale collectively.
- The PRP was considering how it might engage with potential future decision makers.

Councillor Rouane spoke to the importance of protecting intellectual property in the event of inward foreign investment and whether this had been reflected in Lord Harrington's review. The Chair responded that attracting foreign investment to grow a company would be the focus of activity rather than investment that resulted in a company being taken over and the loss of intellectual property.

#### England's Economic Heartland, (EEH)

Councillor Liz Leffman provided a verbal update on recent meetings of England's Economic Heartland. Issues considered had included:

- East West Rail – this was on schedule to connect to Oxford by the end of 2024, early 2025.
- First Mile/Last Mile journey – consideration across the EEH system and how it could work with local authorities.
- Mobility Hubs – work to support local councils to bring forward mobility hubs considering work undertaken on supporting buses, particularly in rural areas and in home to school transport using a range of tools including single ticketing. A paper was expected in September 2024.
- Direct train services between Oxford and Bristol were due to restart on a trial basis in early 2024. If successful, this could impact positively on other initiatives such as provision of a station at Grove.
- Freight Strategy and freight routes, including movement of freight from roads to rail.

#### Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West Integrated Care Partnership, (ICP)

Councillor David Rouane provided an update on a recent meeting of the ICP. A key focus for the meeting had been the draft Primary Care Strategy. Physical access to primary care services had been a major focus of the meeting, but discussion had also considered access to systems such as appointment booking.

## **67. Dates of next meetings**

The date of the next meeting was noted.

The meeting closed at 3.45 pm



**To:** The Future Oxfordshire Partnership

**Title of Report:** Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal: Update at the end of Quarter 3 2023/24

**Date:** 20 March 2024

**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 progress and spend for schemes included as part of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal. The report provides updates on the following funding streams as at the end of Quarter 3 2023/24:

- Housing from Infrastructure (Hfi) 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.

**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 the county, as set out in the Strategic Vision [here](#).

**Recommendation:**

The Future Oxfordshire Partnership are asked to note the financial position as at the end of December 2023.

**Appendices:**

- Annex 1: Housing from Infrastructure (Hfi) Programme. (finance)
- Annex 2: Schemes status & milestones, including overall housing numbers

## 1.0 Introduction

1.1 This report sets out the financial position for the remaining two strands of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal as at the end of December 2023.

- Housing from Infrastructure (Hfi) Programme.
- Growth Deal Capacity Fund.

1.2 Housing numbers were shared in the report to FOP in September and an update of the latest figures provided by the district and city councils has been prepared for this reporting cycle. (Annex 2)

1.3 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.

## 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 remaining two 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 The Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Understanding for the Future Oxfordshire Partnership have been updated to reflect the conditions set out by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities ([DLUHC](#)) in [December 2022](#).<sup>1</sup> Specifically in relation to the Homes from Infrastructure programme, being the remainder of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal, Oxfordshire County Council shall:

- make all decisions on the allocation of the remaining grant funding agreed by Government.
- prioritise and allocate funding and be accountable for the delivery of projects funded by this funding stream.
- act reasonably and in good faith, modelling positive partnership behaviour specifically by making no changes to the programme without careful consultation with affected district partners, and by not seeking to remove schemes from the programme or to reduce their scope as long as they remain on track for delivery on time and within budget.

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.

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<sup>1</sup> See Item 6 of the agenda for the Future Oxfordshire Partnership on 20 March 2023.



### **3.0 Financial Summary as at the end of Quarter 3 2023/24**

#### **3.1 Housing from Infrastructure Programme**

- 3.1.1 £150.0m grant funding supporting the Housing from Infrastructure Programme was agreed on the basis it would accelerate the provision of at least 6,549 planned homes that might not otherwise have come forward at this pace. The programme comprises schemes covering road, rail, cycle routes and footpaths, as well as a school. Schemes may be either fully or part funded via the programme.
- 3.1.2 £120.0m of the grant funding was received by the end of 2021/22. The remaining £30m will need to be claimed retrospectively and is subject to the conditions set out by [DLUHC in December 2022](#).<sup>2</sup> In response to this letter, and following discussions with the Future Oxfordshire Partnership, Oxfordshire County Council wrote to DLUHC and Homes England in March 2023 confirming acceptance of the final funding and agreement to the associated governance and reporting requirements.
- 3.1.3 Grant funding of £143m is expected to be used to support capital expenditure and £7m has been used to fund revenue costs associated with the Housing from Infrastructure programme.
- 3.1.4 In accordance with the new conditions, funding already received along with amounts available as a result of previous funding switches have to be utilised before the remaining £30m growth deal funding can be claimed. These switches, for which alternative funding sources were in place, amount to £49m. This means that spend of £169m in total must be demonstrated before any further funding can be claimed.
- 3.1.5 Annex 1 sets out the total expenditure on the capital element of the Growth Deal programme up to 31 March 2023 (excluding previous funding switches) of £66m compared to the capital funding received to date of £113m (£120m less £7m revenue funding). Expenditure to the end of Quarter 3 for 2023/24 was £14.3m (up from £9.2m at end of Quarter 2 2023/24).
- 3.1.6 On the basis of the current programme, forecast spend is £21.1m in 2023/24. A further £54.1m is needed to be spent in 2024/25 with an additional £1.5m retained for safety audits after 31 March 2025 to utilise all of the grant funding.
- 3.1.7 Grant funding will be prioritised towards schemes entering construction phase that can meet the grant deadline and have other funding sources that can be utilised after the grant deadline.
- 3.1.8 Annex 1 sets out the grant allocation against each scheme. To maximise the use of the grant funding the overall programme is currently over-profiled by £1.6m compared to the available capital grant funding of £142.727m.

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<sup>2</sup> See Item 6 of the agenda for the Future Oxfordshire Partnership on 20 March 2023.

## **3.2 Growth Deal Capacity Fund**

- 3.2.1 The Growth Deal Capacity Fund totals £5.0m. The first instalment of £0.5m was received in 2017/18, followed by £2.5m in 2018/19 and £2.0m in 2019/20.
- 3.2.2 The funding was expected to be used over the life of the programme which was originally planned to run from 2017/18 to 2022/23. Costs expected to be met from the Capacity Fund were:
- 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.
- 3.2.3 At each year end, funding that has not been spent has been carried forward through the County Council's earmarked reserves.
- 3.2.4 £1.3m remained available as at 31 March 2023. Actual spend up to quarter 3 of 2023/24 was £0.081m.
- 3.2.5 Approximately half of the remaining balance is currently committed towards Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OXIS), staffing costs and the Net Zero Route Map & Action Plan. Plans for the remaining balance need to be determined.

## **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The report sets out the financial update at the end of Quarter 3 of 2023/24 for the remaining two strands of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.
- 4.2 On the basis that all existing and recycled funds need to be fully utilised before any further grant funding can be claimed, Annex 1 sets out the forecasted spend position with the expectation that the remaining grant allocation of £30m will be required in 2024/25.
- 4.3 Since no funding will be available beyond the 2024/25 financial year, action is being taken by Oxfordshire County Council as the Accountable Body, in consultation with the relevant district as appropriate, to manage the programme to ensure that any increases in project/programme spend can be met within the available funding and that there is no unfunded spend after 31 March 2025. Also, as the funding is currently overprogrammed, changes to grant funding allocations will have to be determined to bring the programme to a balanced position.

## **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 two remaining key financial streams.
- 5.2 Revised Terms of Reference and the Memorandum of Understanding were endorsed by the Future Oxfordshire Partnership on 13 June 2023 and approved by all of the constituent local authorities during July 2023.

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

## **6.0 Risk Management**

6.1 As noted in previous updates the availability of workforce and materials and inflationary increases in contract prices have increased risks around the deliverability and cost of capital schemes.

6.2 Additional funding to complete the Lodge Hill scheme has been secured via BIL (Brownfield Infrastructure Levy). This additional funding, coupled with the current programme of delivery, means that a reduced amount of Housing and Growth Deal funding is now required to deliver the scheme. The surplus has been reallocated across the remainder of the programme.

6.3 Additional information obtained through surveys and ground investigations has increased some of the delivery risks associated with the Tramway Road scheme. To account for some of these risks an additional Housing and Growth Deal allocation has been made to support the scheme.

6.4 To allow construction to begin and for the programme to conclude before March 2025, additional Housing and Growth Deal funding has been allocated to the Banbury Road Roundabout scheme in Bicester.

6.5 The residual funding after completion of feasibility on Banbury Road Corridor (Oxford) has been reallocated to the Central Oxfordshire Movement and Place project.

6.6 Since the last report, construction has now started on Benson Relief Road, Wantage Eastern Link Road, Kidlington Roundabout and Banbury Road Roundabout (Bicester).

6.7 After taking account of these previously reported changes, and as shown in Annex 1, the Growth Deal programme is currently over-profiled by £1.594m.

## **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 at the end of Quarter 3 2023/24.

7.2 The Future Oxfordshire Partnership is asked to note the updates set out in the report.

Report Author:	Lorna Baxter, Director of Finance & S151 Officer
Contact information:	Kathy Wilcox, Head of Financial Strategy
	Tel: 07788 302163

GROWTH DEAL SCHEMES	Year 5 Expenditure 2022/23	Total Expenditure Year 1 - Year 5	2023/24 Planned Expenditure	2024/25 Planned Expenditure	£1.5m Retention (safety audits) - spend beyond March 2025	Proposed Capital Allocation	Current Capital Allocation	Variance to Current Capital Allocation
A361 Bloxham Rd to A4260 Oxford Rd Link Rd	£0	£300,000	£0	£0	£0	£300,000	£300,000	£0
A4095 Underbridge NW Bicester Howes Lane / Lords Lane	£0	£3,832,000	£0	£468,000	£0	£4,300,000	£4,300,000	£0
Access to Headington	£0	£3,500,000	£0	£0	£0	£3,500,000	£3,500,000	£0
Botley Road Corridor	£0	£3,250,000	£0	£0	£0	£3,250,000	£3,250,000	£0
Connecting Oxford /SE Corridors	£1,075,000	£1,602,000	£0	£0	£0	£1,602,000	£1,602,000	£0
Oxford Citywide Cycle and Pedestrian Routes	£903,000	£2,878,000	£1,000	£795,000	£0	£3,674,000	£3,810,000	£-136,000
Thame to Haddenham Cycle Route	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
A40 Minster Lovell West Facing Slips/Access to Carterton	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£710,000	£-710,000
A4074 Golden Balls Roundabout Junction (A4074/B4015)	£110,000	£119,000	£50,000	£431,000	£0	£600,000	£1,000,000	£-400,000
Cowley Branch Line	£0	£54,000	£50,000	£146,000	£0	£250,000	£250,000	£0
Didcot Central Corridor & Jubilee Way Roundabout	£523,000	£614,000	£251,000	£20,000	£0	£885,000	£1,000,000	£-115,000
Milton Enterprise Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge	£53,000	£238,000	£0	£0	£0	£238,000	£238,000	£0
A4095 Realignment NW Bicester Howes Lane / Lords Lane Road	£18,000	£1,370,000	£30,000	£0	£0	£1,400,000	£1,312,000	£88,000
Access to Banbury (A422 Hennef Way, Banbury)	£0	£200,000	£300,000	£0	£0	£500,000	£200,000	£300,000
Banbury Rd Improvements (Banbury Road Corridor)	£129,000	£698,000	£2,000	£0	£0	£700,000	£2,370,000	£-1,670,000
Firilford Junction	£166,000	£444,000	£150,000	£156,000	£0	£750,000	£750,000	£0
Woodstock Road Corridor	£46,000	£778,000	£230,000	£2,992,000	£0	£4,000,000	£4,000,000	£0
A4110 Steventon Lights	£198,000	£672,000	£950,000	£3,178,000	£0	£4,800,000	£4,800,000	£0
A40 Access to Witney at Shores Green	£873,000	£3,046,000	£2,000,000	£11,954,000	£0	£17,000,000	£17,000,000	£0
Former RAF Upper Heyford M40 J10 Improvements	£720,000	£981,000	£570,000	£7,149,000	£0	£8,700,000	£8,700,000	£0
Oxford to Osney Mead Cycling and Pedestrian Bridge	£15,000	£5,935,000	£0	£2,865,000	£0	£8,800,000	£8,800,000	£0
Tringway Road Banbury	£444,000	£1,240,000	£750,000	£7,727,000	£0	£9,717,000	£6,117,000	£3,600,000
Wallington Edge Road	£723,000	£1,306,000	£1,600,000	£4,194,000	£0	£7,100,000	£7,100,000	£0
A4095 - B4100 Banbury Road Roundabout Improvements NW Bicester	£677,000	£677,000	£1,000,000	£4,223,000	£0	£5,900,000	£5,200,000	£700,000
A40 Science Transit	£7,438,000	£12,000,000	£0	£0	£0	£12,000,000	£12,000,000	£0
Benson Relief Road	£444,000	£1,228,000	£900,000	£2,122,000	£0	£4,250,000	£4,250,000	£0
NOC Cassington -A4260 and A44 Corridor Improvements	£10,972,000	£13,492,000	£9,500,000	£138,000	£0	£23,130,000	£23,130,000	£0
North Oxford Corridors - Kidlington	£812,000	£1,271,000	£1,800,000	£1,429,000	£0	£4,500,000	£4,500,000	£0
Shrivenham New School	£1,999,000	£2,500,000	£0	£0	£0	£2,500,000	£2,500,000	£0
Wantage Eastern Link Road	£0	£1,000,000	£0	£0	£0	£1,000,000	£1,000,000	£0
A34 Lodge Hill	£316,000	£778,000	£650,000	£6,572,000	£0	£8,000,000	£12,000,000	£-4,000,000
COMPF			£340,000	£635,000		£975,000	£0	£975,000
<b>Scheme Spend</b>	<b>£28,654,000</b>	<b>£66,003,000</b>	<b>£21,124,000</b>	<b>£57,194,000</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£144,321,000</b>	<b>£145,689,000</b>	<b>£-1,368,000</b>
£1.5m Retention (safety audits) - spend beyond March 2025 (will be allocated to schemes in next update)				£-1,500,000	£1,500,000	£0		
<b>Total Scheme Spend</b>	<b>£28,654,000</b>	<b>£66,003,000</b>	<b>£21,124,000</b>	<b>£55,694,000</b>	<b>£1,500,000</b>	<b>£144,321,000</b>	<b>£145,689,000</b>	<b>£-1,368,000</b>
				<b>H&amp;GD Funding</b>		<b>142,727,000</b>		
				<b>Over-profiling</b>		<b>1,594,000</b>		





**To:** Future Oxfordshire Partnership

**Title of Report:** Local Enterprise Partnership Functions: Transition Arrangements

**Date:** 20 March 2024

**Report of:** Bill Cotton, Corporate Director for Environment and Place, Oxfordshire County Council

**Status:** Open

### **Executive Summary and Purpose:**

The report provides an overview of the approach to LEP transition following the verbal update to FOP in January 2024.

**Recommendation:** That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership notes the approach to LEP transition

### **How this report contributes to the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision Outcomes:**

The delivery of effective strategic economic planning and related business support, skills and employment programmes supports all of the outcomes in the Future Oxfordshire Partnership's strategic vision, in particular by 2050 Oxfordshire will: be a globally competitive economy which is sustainable, diverse and inclusive; have a healthier and happier population with better physical and mental health; be a more equal place, supported by inclusive growth that gives everyone a chance to prosper, and; have achieved a carbon neutral status.

## **Introduction**

1. Government has announced that from 31 March 2024. Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) will cease to have official recognition and that existing LEP functions will transfer to upper tier local authorities or combined authorities where they exist.
2. Following this announcement, it is important to establish a new governance framework to ensure local arrangements continue to meet government guidance. In order to maintain continuity of service delivery and comply with guidance, on 27 February 2024 the County Council agreed to take a controlling interest in OxLEP Ltd. To enable this to happen the OxLEP Ltd Board will need to agree to amend its Articles of Association to enable the County Council to become the sole member of the company, exercising its membership functions through Cabinet.

3. The approach seeks to maintain broad engagement at board level. This will preserve the legacy expertise, experience and engagement of the current LEP, as far as possible, and if agreed, this will provide the structure for the council to demonstrate that the appropriate future governance is in place.
4. OxLEP is a key strategic partner of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership and is represented on the joint committee by six co-opted associate members (Chair, Chair of Skills Board, Universities Representative, and 3 Business Representatives). As such, OxLEP forms part of the whole system approach to economic development. This includes OxLEP engaging FOP in developing strategies such as the Strategic Economic Plan, Destination Management Plan, and the Pathways to a Zero Carbon Oxfordshire (PAZCO) report. The county council envisages continuing this arrangement through future governance arrangements.
5. Following the change of ownership, there will be an opportunity in conjunction with the FOP and local stakeholders to review the local framework of economic planning, business engagement and partnerships and the system's capacity and capability requirements for the future. This will form part of phase 2 (as set out below) and proposals will be brought to FOP for consideration as they are developed.
6. The proposals for LEP transition are due to be considered by OxLEP Board on 12 March 2024 and this report will be updated ahead of FOP to reflect the outcome from the OxLEP Board.

### **Proposed Approach**

7. To ensure an orderly transfer of functions and then subsequent development and design to support the delivery of future strategy, a three-phased approach to transition has been developed to cover the transition, implementation, and establishment. This is set out below:
  - a. **Phase 1 – Transition (By 1 April 2024)**

During this phase, interim governance arrangements will be put in place, to be agreed in consultation with the current LEP board, but to establish Council control as per government guidance, demonstrating that the functions move to the County Council. The Corporate Director of Environment and Place will have day to day responsibility for the LEP functions (within the company arrangements to be agreed) and company registered office address (if relevant) will be amended to County Hall.
  - b. **Phase 2 – Implementation (1 April – 30 September 2024)**

During the first six months there will be a review of purpose and economic planning, including updates to the Strategic Economic Plan. A medium-long term business plan will be developed along with ongoing review of operational alignment with existing council economic and related functions. The medium-term approach to business engagement and broader partnership bodies will also need review in-line with the new operating model and strategy. Alignment of policy and processes, ensuring optimum operational efficiency with the County Council will also form part of this

review. The current board will be asked to continue to serve to support the implementation process.

**c. Phase 3 – Establishment (1 October 2024 – 31 March 2025)**

Having developed a new medium-long term business plan we would expect revised operating model, structure and governance to be fully implemented during this period. The revised links and interactions with wider economic development resources within the Oxfordshire system will be reviewed.

8. OxLEP Ltd sits within a wider economic partnership landscape that includes the economic development function within the city and district councils, the Future Oxfordshire Partnership, and the wider economic role of FOP partners. As part of the transition a review of how the new operational arrangements relate to these partnerships will be undertaken to ensure continued positive engagement within the wider system.

**Financial Implications**

9. There are no direct financial implications to FOP from the recommendations of this report.

**Legal Implications**

10. There are no legal implications to FOP from the recommendations of this report.

**Conclusion**

11. The paper recommends that the Future Oxfordshire Partnership notes the approach to LEP transition.

Report Author: *Chloe Taylor, Head of Economy, Oxfordshire County Council*

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# Notes

## OF A MEETING OF THE



# The Future Oxfordshire Partnership Planning Advisory Group

**HELD ON FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER 2023 AT 10.00 AM  
MEETING ROOM 1, ABBEY HOUSE AND HYBRID VIA TEAMS**

### Present:

**Members:** Councillor Andy Graham (Chair), Councillor Diana Lugova, Councillor Charlie Maynard, Councillor Anna Railton, Peter Redman, Councillor Judy Roberts, Councillor Dan Sames and Councillor Anne-Marie Simpson.

**Officers:** David Butler, (Oxford City Council), Susan Harbour, (Future Oxfordshire Partnership), Chris Hargraves, (West Oxfordshire District Council), Giles Hughes (West Oxfordshire District Council), Kevin Jacob, (Future Oxfordshire Partnership). Lucy Murfett, (South and Vale Councils), David Peckford, (Cherwell District Council), Nick Perrins, (Oxfordshire County Council) and David Yates, (Future Oxfordshire Partnership).

## 16. Apologies for absence and notification of substitutes; declaration of interests; Chair's announcements

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Louise Upton, Oxford City Council, (substituted by Councillor Anna Railton).

There were no declarations of interest. The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

## 17. Notes of previous meetings

The notes of the previous meeting held on 15 September 2023 were agreed as a correct record subject to:

- Susan Harbour to be shown as an officer representative of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership at PAG meetings.
- Minute 11, page 6, first sentence under the heading 'Opportunities for joint working in the planning space' to be amended to read: 'Giles Hughes introduced ~~✗ a number of~~ suggestions in the planning space.'
- Minute 11, pages 6- 7, last sentence at top of page 7 under the heading 'Viability' to be amended to read 'There was also concern that local councils might have to make difficult decisions around seeking to secure contributions. ~~in one area instead of~~

~~another~~ It was also pointed out that local councils must individually make the difficult decisions around what kind of contributions they want to prioritise e.g. affordable housing, net zero, zero carbon, biodiversity net gain.'

## 18. Planning for Health Infrastructure

The advisory group received two presentations relating to planning for health and health infrastructure.

Rosie Rowe, Head of Healthy Place Shaping, Oxfordshire County Council spoke to the aim of healthy place shaping to:

- Develop health and sustainable communities
- Reduce health inequalities
- Work together to improve health and wellbeing
- Support climate action
- Strengthen the building blocks of health

The advisory group was informed that public health comment was provided to local authorities and developers at pre-application and planning application stage relating to strategic development sites and advice was provided on the use of Health Impact Assessments, (HIA) which were now required by the majority of the Oxfordshire councils. A detailed break down of the HIA evaluation was provided.

Information provided included the provision of relevant local health and wellbeing data within the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment that would show how a particular development might impact on existing health inequalities. This included factors such as levels of air pollution, housing factors including affordability, walking and cycling infrastructure plans and access to local services.

Regular monthly meetings took place between the public health team and planning policy managers within the Oxfordshire district councils and the public health team also commented if there was a need for primary care facilities linked to new housing. It was important to maintain these links between health and planning professionals and to broaden them to increase liaison with council development managers.

In discussion, members asked how air pollution was measured and whether concerns around pollution had led to any recommendation to councils that they refuse planning permission on a specific site. Officers responded that there was not an Oxfordshire wide approach, but strategic level sites were looked at in terms of what the impact on health might be, (including from additional pollution) and whether any mitigations were necessary.

In discussion, a number of advisory group members referred to challenges the councils faced in seeking to plan for future health needs and in facilitating the health infrastructure needed to support development. The advisory group was informed that the Integrated Care Board was responsible for decisions around the provision of primary care NHS facilities, but that public health did look at applications to assess whether it was appropriate to request a developer contribution towards health. It was for the NHS to determine how that contribution could best be used.

It was suggested that a webinar to refresh planning policy officers and planning development managers on public health considerations could be useful. Giles Hughes

indicated that he would consider a potential webinar and the best to deliver it outside of the meeting.

The advisory group then received a detailed presentation from Peter Redman, Senior Programme Manager - Primary Care Estates, Julie Dandridge, Head of Primary Care Infrastructure and Jeffery NG, Senior Primary Care Estate Manager, NHS Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board, (ICB). The presentation covered the constraints and challenges in delivering new primary care estate including:

- funding arrangements for GP premises
- the limited ability of the ICB to own estate which currently meant that the ICB did not own any estate including GP accommodation
- the limited nature of the procurement method for new estate
- a general lack of funding
- the complexity around the use of developer contributions
- The possible partial solution offered by Section 2 of the NHS Act 2006 which allows for agreements between a Local Authority and NHS England.

In discussion, the Chair and various members of advisory group whilst acknowledging the scale of the challenges expressed the view that there did not appear to be a long vision from the NHS as to how the challenges in providing NHS estate, particularly primary care and GP surgeries might be overcome. Access for residents of new developments to GP surgeries and pressure from development on existing facilities was felt to be an issue across the county.

The advisory group was informed of the work being undertaken as part of the development of the ICB's new draft Primary Care Strategy which was shortly to be published. The strategy was intended to set out primary care including general practice, community pharmacy, optometry and dentistry services would be transformed in the future.

Although a document primarily aimed at setting how primary care services needed to change and be reshaped in the way they worked, the draft strategy would give some direction around on estate issues and this could be feedback to the advisory group at a future meeting in spring 2024.

Co-operation between local authorities and the ICB through the One Public Estate initiative and through co-development were also potential opportunities rather than provision of health estate through third party developers.

Giles Hughes commented that planning for health infrastructure was a complex issue, but that councils were well placed to know the needs of the populations they served and to feed into a longer-term strategy. He indicated that further consideration was needed of the issues by the council officers supporting the advisory group.

## **19. Proposals for joint working on Biodiversity Net Gain**

David Yates, Policy and Projects Officer introduced a report that set out proposals for how and where the councils in Oxfordshire might work together most effectively to promote Biodiversity Net Gain, (BNG). This followed the approval by the Future Oxfordshire Partnership at its meeting on 28 November 2023 of a project in this area under the sponsorship of the Planning Advisory Group.

It was noted that (BNG) was an approach to development and land management that hopes to leave biodiversity in a measurably better state than it was before. In England, BNG was at the time of the meeting due to come into legal effect in January 2024. As local planning authorities, councils would be required to decide whether to approve biodiversity gain plans that developers were required to submit. Councils would also be required to check any significant on-site enhancements or off-site gains were appropriate, legally secured and that a maintenance and monitoring plan would be in place for 30 years.

It was stressed that the suggested recommendations which had been previously discussed by the officer group supporting the advisory group were based around the principles of sharing best practice and cooperation where it was felt there would be added value and nothing was proposed that might duplicate with the individual powers and responsibilities of the councils as sovereign local planning authorities.

After detailed discussion, it was agreed to:

1. Request that officers look into the provision of BNG training options for both Members and relevant council officers.
2. Requests that officers arrange for key Planning and Development Management Officers (as appropriate) from each council to meet with Legal colleagues from each local authority to work on the development of a S106 template for BNG, based on the Planning Advisory Service best practice examples from other areas and best practice of work already undertaken by Oxfordshire Local Planning Authorities.
3. Request that council officers compile a comprehensive inventory of in-house and contracted biodiversity officer capacity across the councils. This with a view to highlighting shortfalls and available capacity and facilitating the potential sharing of resources where councils think this would be of mutual benefit. It is noted that endorsement of this recommendation does not constitute an agreement by any council to share any staff or other BNG resource
4. Request that council officers explore the option of a shared resource across councils for onsite BNG spot-checking.
5. Request that council officers explore the creation of a local register of available offsite BNG credits.
6. Request that council officers investigate options to support the provision of offsite BNG in our districts.

## **20. Oxfordshire Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP)**

Nick Perrins, Head of Strategic Planning and John Disley, Head of Transport Policy, Oxfordshire County Council presented a report and summary presentation that provided an overview of the Oxfordshire Local Transport and Connectivity Plan, (LTCP) and how it might be used by the district councils as local planning authorities to inform the development of Local Plans and the determination of planning applications in respect of transport issues. The LTCPs Monitoring Report 2022-2023 was also included.

Members' attention was drawn to a table setting out progress against LTCP targets. It was noted that the target to increase the number of cycle trips in the County from the 2019 baseline of 600,000 to 1 million was not being met following a significant decline during Covid, but that another target on bus patronage had been met with some 33.6m bus trips in 2022/2023 against a target of 31.4m.

In discussion, members raised the following points in summary:

- The data on the number of bus journeys was disappointing but needed to be seen in the context of the pandemic. It would be useful to compare Oxfordshire's data with the other areas.
- It was felt that there was a strong relationship between the LTCP and other County Council strategies for walking and cycling parking standards lacked sufficient teeth. In response officers commented that they were constantly checking at the national parking standards to ensure local requirements were as robust as possible.
- It would be useful to know the impact of Area Travel Plans, (ATPs) by district and timelines for the integration of ATPs into all Oxfordshire Local Plans.
- Further clarification was needed of the legal status of the LTCP in the context of Local Plans and the determination of individual planning applications by local planning authorities.
- The need to consider the impact of speed limits on bus viability when planning development.

Officers agreed to consider the above actions.

## **21. Forward work programme**

Giles Hughes commented that it was intended to bring an item about potential opportunities for joint working between the councils with regard to responding to developer challenges on grounds of viability to the advisory group's next meeting.

## **22. Update on Local Plan Progress**

Each member presented an update on the progress of their council's Local Plan.

## **23. Future Oxfordshire Partnership Advisory Group meeting notes for information**

The notes of the following advisory groups were received:

- Environment Advisory Group 8 September 2023 and 9 November 2023
- Housing Advisory Group 12 September 2023
- Infrastructure Advisory Group 4 September 2023

## **24. Any other business or updates**

No other business was raised.

## **25. Dates of Future meetings**

The dates of future meetings as set out in the Agenda were noted.

## Notes

OF A MEETING OF THE



# The Future Oxfordshire Partnership Environment Advisory Group

HELD ON THURSDAY 18 JANUARY 2024 AT 2.00 PM  
VIRTUAL VIA MSTEAMS

### Present:

**Councillors:** David Rouane (Chair), Sue Cooper, Andrew McHugh, Andrew Prosser, Anna Railton, Pete Sudbury and Bethia Thomas

**Officers:** Ariane Crampton, (Oxfordshire County Council), Kevin Jacob, (Future Oxfordshire Partnership), Tom Layzell, (Oxfordshire County Council), Glenys Lemming-Bott, (Future Oxfordshire Partnership), Rosie Rowe, (Oxfordshire County Council),

**Other councillors:** None

### 113 Apologies for absence and notification of substitutes; declaration of interests; Chair's announcements

Apologies were received Councillor Andrea Powell, (substituted by Councillor Sue Cooper).

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

### 114 Notes of the previous meeting

The notes from the previous meeting held on 9 November 2023 were agreed to be an accurate record of matters discussed.

### 115 Forward work programme

No update from the members.

### 116 Director of Public Health Annual Report: Climate and Health

Rosie Rowe (RR), Head of Healthy Place Shaping, Oxfordshire County Council spoke to members on this agenda item.

RR introduced her colleague Louisa Chenciner, Public Health Registrar, Oxfordshire County Council who presented a report and gave a presentation on the Director of Public Health Annual Report: Climate and Health. The main focus of the report was based on climate change and the impact on the health of Oxfordshire residents. Current themes for the wider communities included: Energy efficient homes and health; travel and clean air; community green health; healthy diets for family communities and accessible green and blue spaces. (Report sent via e-mail to members).

Members suggestions on this item included:

#### Health

- Reaching out to those communities and districts that due to wider community circumstances were unaware of these health risks.
- A 'podcast' was suggested for local communities.
- Anchor partnering was suggested with the NHS, GP practices, schools, local communities and local government parish councils.
- Emphasis on local approach to communities and get to know communities/best practice for the area.
- Promote a walk to school approach and use of pathways in local communities for healthy lifestyles.
- Reach out to those with social deprivation issues.
- Promote healthy food options and their benefits; reduce food waste in communities. Need a waste management of foods. Repurpose food waste to stop poverty.
- County/City teams to support communities.

#### Climate

- Planting trees for green spaces and community enjoyment. Additionally, this promotes improved mental health.
- Approach local communities on the risks of overheating, flooding, potential fires, droughts and what could be done to reduce these dangers.
- Air quality map within Oxford and local communities? <https://www.oxonair.uk/>
- Adopt a resilience Cornwall approach. <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/fire-and-rescue-service/keeping-safe/emergency-management/cornwall-community-resilience-network/>
- Regenerative farming i.e. farm Ed. <https://www.farm-ed.co.uk/>
- Risk from care facilities i.e. NHS/care homes causing over heating events. Suggested spatial mapping across the county.

#### Flooding

- Water running into rivers causing impurities.
- Quality and testing needed due to flooding and sewage overflow.
- How manage farming due to contaminates run into rivers?

Members were informed that it was important that once the strategy had been approved there was a need for councillors at all levels to engage with officers around embedding consideration of health benefits in the development of green policies. Local GPs also had a key role in promoting the health benefits of green policies as they knew their communities well and there was already a good level of interest from GPs through groups such as the Greener Oxfordshire GP's Network and Climate Health Resilience Network.

'Anchor' institutions such as significant employers like the NHS foundation Trusts also had a role to play around inclusivity and climate change.

The report was noted.

## **117 Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan Progress Overview**

This agenda item was reported via sections in combination with the programme tracker for the prioritised workstreams.

- a. Buildings decarbonisation – The Future Fit Oxfordshire Project Phase 2 bid had unfortunately not fully been successful, but a lower level of funding had been secured. Mish Tullar, Oxfordshire City Council and Vikki Robins, Oxfordshire City Council and other partners were working on a new Future Fit Area Based Insetting (FABI) project. This was a 17-month project which commences February 2024.
- b. Zero Carbon Energy Systems- No further update to that set out in the report.
- c. Transport decarbonisation – Members' attention was drawn to the launch event for the first fully electric buses in Oxford coming into service.
- d. Nature recovery and carbon sequestration- No update to that set out in the report.
- e. Cross Cutting Themes - No update to that set out in the report

## **118 Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan Spotlight Focus: Green Finance**

Ariane Crompton, Oxfordshire County Council gave a presentation and update on the 100 Together Green Finance Conference held at Oxford Brookes University on Thursday 11 January 2024. The event had been very well attended and a number of members who had taken part spoke to how useful and encouraging it had been, particularly around the potential role of pension funds in providing funds towards retrofit.

Further details could be found at <https://www.100together.org.uk/>

Members commented on the infrastructure of new business with reference to this subject, the comparative success of EV charging roll out, but also the need to reduce the overall number of vehicles as all vehicles, whether electric or not, produced particulates and contributed towards congestion.

The Chair suggested that there should be communications or a bulletin of some kind to highlight the next steps and actions resulting from the conference.

## **119 Climate adaptation and resilience evidence base and strategy**

Tom Layzell, Climate Adaptation Policy and Project Lead, Oxfordshire County Council presented a briefing paper on Climate adaptation and resilience evidence base and strategy and slides on Climate Adaptation and Resilience in Oxfordshire. Reports included stakeholder engagement and input from University of Exeter.



The paper and slide presentation focused on updating the EAG on the development of Oxfordshire Climate Vulnerability Assessment (OCVA) and future projects and plans to support climate change. It was highlighted that 41 key climate change related risks had been identified.

Members were impressed with the presentation and discussed issues around variable data in Oxfordshire and evidence-based materials moving forward.

From this discussion, members noted the impact of climate change on the health and safety of residents and the risks to critical infrastructure which would be at a high risk over the next 20-30 years in respect of flooding worsening and overheating from south facing housing. It was suggested that this needed to be given a higher priority within corporate risk registers for climate teams and that councillors through their roles in reviewing registers could influence this.

Members of the group supported the proposed use of the remaining reserve of £14,000 from the Pathways to a Zero Carbon Oxfordshire work as a contribution towards the next phase of the OCVA workstream as set out in the report.

## **120 Horizon Scanning**

Pete Sudbury highlighted to members, the latest Berkeley/NASA finite graph 2040-2050 on weather effects. This demonstrated that the increase in world temperatures was no longer increasing on a straight line basis.

Andrew McHugh commented on the potential possibilities of hydrogen based fuel to the economy and mitigating climate change, whilst it was also noted there were challenges and downsides to also consider.

## **121 Chairs update from the Future Oxfordshire Partnership**

The Chair provided an update on the meeting of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership held on 28 November 2023.

The future of OxLEP had been discussed as HM Government had decided to withdraw funding for local economic partnerships, (LEPs) and to transfer LEP functions to upper tier authorities.

The Future Oxfordshire Partnership meeting had also considered items on the Oxfordshire's Strategic Economic Plan which had been drafted by OxLEP and underspends on infrastructure projects which had allowed those funds to be reallocated to other schemes.

## **122 Dates of future meetings**

Members noted the proposed meeting dates for 2024.

Future meeting arrangements:

- 7 March 2024 (14:00-16:00)
- 4 July 2024 (14:00-16:00)

The meeting closed at 15.25pm

## Future Oxfordshire Partnership Forward Plan

The Forward Plan sets out all forthcoming issues scheduled for meetings of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership. The Plan will be updated and published on the Partnership’s website each month. Where matters for consideration are likely to require the disclosure of exempt information, and the exclusion of the press and public (pursuant to Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972) this will be made clear in the Forward Plan.

### 20 March 2024 – Town Hall, St Aldate's, Oxford, OX1 1BX

Item	Description	Contact
Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal: Update at the end of Quarter 3 2023/24	The purpose of this report is to update the Future Oxfordshire Partnership on progress, spend and housing delivery for schemes included as part of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal. The report provides updates on the Housing from Infrastructure (Hfi) programme and Growth Deal Capacity Fund.	John McLauchlan, Head of Infrastructure Delivery/Lorna Baxter, Section 151 Officer Oxfordshire County Council
OxLEP Integration	To note the approach being taken by Oxfordshire County Council for the integration of LEP functions.	Chloe Taylor, Interim Head of Strategy, Oxfordshire County Council
Reports of Advisory Group Chairs	To receive updates from the Chairs of the advisory groups and summary notes from these meetings if available.	Chairs of the Advisory Groups
Updates on matters relevant to the Future	Future Oxfordshire Partnership members and officers may verbally update the Board on progress on matters previously before the Partnership for consideration, listed in the	Appointed member or representative of

Oxfordshire Partnership	forward plan, or relevant to the Partnership's future decisions. This is for the sharing of information and no decisions will be taken.	the partner organisation.
Updates from key strategic partnerships supporting delivery of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision	To receive updates from other partnerships supporting the delivery of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.	Appointed member or representative of the partner organisation.

**25 June 2024 – date and venue to be confirmed**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Progress update on activity withing the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership delivery plan.	To consider a paper setting out an update on the progress of the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership (OIEP) priorities and the launch and uptake of the OIEP Charter	Jeremy Long Co-Chair/Emma Coles OIEP Manager
Updates on matters relevant to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership	Future Oxfordshire Partnership members and officers may verbally update the Board on progress on matters previously before the Partnership for consideration, listed in the forward plan, or relevant to the Partnership's future decisions. This is for the sharing of information and no decisions will be taken.	Appointed member or representative of the partner organisation
Reports of Advisory Group Chairs	To receive updates from the Chairs of the advisory groups and summary notes from these meetings if available.	Chairs of the Advisory Groups
Updates from key strategic partnerships supporting delivery of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision	To receive updates from other partnerships supporting the delivery of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.	Appointed member or representative of the partner organisation.

**30 July 2024 – date and venue to be confirmed**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Updates on matters relevant to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership	Future Oxfordshire Partnership members and officers may verbally update the Board on progress on matters previously before the Partnership for consideration, listed in the forward plan, or relevant to the Partnership's future decisions. This is for the sharing of information and no decisions will be taken.	Appointed member or representative of the partner organisation
Reports of Advisory Group Chairs	To receive updates from the Chairs of the advisory groups and summary notes from these meetings if available.	Chairs of the Advisory Groups
Updates from key strategic partnerships supporting delivery of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision	To receive updates from other partnerships supporting the delivery of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.	Appointed member or representative of the partner organisation.

**Items to be scheduled**

	<b>Description</b>	
Developing a Place Narrative for Oxfordshire	To consider a further report setting out the opportunity to develop a place narrative for Oxfordshire and to give the Future Oxfordshire Partnership a more developed view of the project and its purpose.	Bill Cotton, Corporate Director for Place/ Robin Rogers, Programme Director (Partnerships and Place) Oxfordshire County Council
Draft Future Oxfordshire	To receive a further update on the development of the 2023/2024 work programme.	Andrew Down, FOP Director/David Yates FOP Projects and Delivery

Partnership Work Programme 2023/2024		Officer/Paul Staines Interim Head of Programme
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