

## Future Oxfordshire Partnership response to recommendations of the Partnership Scrutiny Panel made on 22 November 2022

The Future Oxfordshire Partnership is requested to provide a response to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel for decision at its meeting on 29 November 2022.

Recommendation	Comment
<p><u>Local Nature Partnership</u> The Scrutiny Panel welcomed the update and supported the recommendations set out in the report. It also wished to highlight the following matters to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership, and requests that they recommend to the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership that such matters be considered by it as the partnership develops.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The need for continued joint working and coordination with organisations in neighbouring counties given the cross border nature of biodiversity corridors.</li> <li>2. The need for the introduction of a performance matrix to set a base line by which to monitor and assess the natural economy effectiveness of the outcomes of the Local Nature Partnership.</li> <li>3. That ways of leveraging in the involvement of youth organisations as part of the Local Nature Partnership's work be fully explored.</li> </ol>	<p><i>The Future Oxfordshire Partnership supports the recommendations from the Scrutiny Panel and is happy to pass on the following remarks from the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership (OLNP):</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>OLNP is convening a multi-stakeholder steering group which includes representation from key sectors and partners for developing this work. It is a member of the Southeast Nature Partnership (SENP) which is a grouping of seven Local Nature Partnerships in its geography and which is actively seeking to address cross-boundary issues. The OLNP will address these also through its active engagement with the protected landscapes (Cotswolds, Chilterns, North Wessex Downs).</i></li> <li>2. <i>OLNP works closely with the Thames Valley Record Centre, which is the county's environmental data management provider. There is a habitat baseline already, which is constantly being worked upon and improved. OLNP also works with University of Oxford, which has developed baseline</i></li> </ol>

4. That it recognise the challenges around the independence of consultants commissioned to undertake Biodiversity Net Gain assessments.
5. The need for adequate funding to support the high level of aspiration of the Local Nature Partnership, whilst recognising the importance of not competing with partners for limited funds.

*ecosystem service mapping, demonstrating where environmental benefits such as flood risk mitigation are delivered by habitat. As part of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, (LNRS) work the OLNP will jointly develop these baselines, and design methodologies for assessing and quantifying change.*

3. *The LNRS steering group, and the OLNP's People and Nature working group, will take this issue away to consider how best to lever in youth involvement. In OLNP's inaugural Forum event, a desire to facilitate involvement from the 'seldom-heard voices' was noted and will be developed.*
4. *OLNP is aware of shortcomings within the policy of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). The 'DEFRA Metric', which is used to calculate losses and gains of habitat in new developments, incentivises the generation of low-distinctiveness habitat and does not reward connectivity between sites (so-called 'wildlife corridors'). Oxfordshire is lucky to have Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE) as a respected, independent BNG broker. TOE – like other reputable BNG providers – works hard to ensure that BNG is applied in a way which ensures that high value habitat is created, where possible on a large scale and joined up with other areas of high value for wildlife. These are often referred to as the 'Lawton Principles' for effective nature recovery – bigger, better, more joined up.*
5. *OLNP is grateful to the Local Authorities for the funding they have provided for this, and next, financial year, but is conscious of the limitations of its capacity and resource when compared to the scale of the challenge. Successful partnerships facilitate joint working by partners, resulting in delivery of outcomes over and above the levels of the individual organisations. Successful partnerships also leverage funding to support delivery. In this case, OLNP has one third of its strategic approach devoted to bringing in green*

	<p><i>finance and private investment into our natural environment so as not to place added burden on local partners. There is no doubting that increased resource would result in an increased capacity to deliver, and OLNP will assess resource requirements on an ongoing basis.</i></p>
<p><u>Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership</u>  The Scrutiny Panel welcomed the update and supported the recommendations set out in the report. In addition, it recommended to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Future Oxfordshire Partnership members, (particularly local authorities and their sub-contractors) should be ambitious in their response to the OIEP and set measurable targets around its work, for instance around the promotion of inclusive ownership models such as co-operatives and the use of purchasing power through social procurement strategies.</li> <li>2. It recognise the importance of improving work force diversity within the county by the encouragement of employers inside and outside the OIEP to set and disclose work force diversity targets.</li> <li>3. Encourage the OIEP take steps to seek age diversity of the attendees at the launch event.</li> </ol>	<p><i>The Future Oxfordshire Partnership notes and supports the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership’s (OIEP) update and supports its recommendations.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>The Future Oxfordshire Partnership members agree that it is important to lead by example and will work with the OIEP to review the Charter pledges. The setting of measurable targets is a matter for the OIEP and/or its individual members rather than the FOP.</i></li> <li>2. <i>The Future Oxfordshire Partnership notes and supports the OIEP’s development of proposals that aim to contribute to improving work force diversity across employers in Oxfordshire.</i></li> <li>3. <i>The Future Oxfordshire Partnership would encourage the OIEP to seek a diversity of attendees at the launch event.</i></li> </ol> <p><i>The Future Oxfordshire Partnership notes and supports the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership’s decision to incorporate Countywide examples of inequalities as well as City examples in the opening statement of the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership Charter.</i></p>

### Delivering the Strategic Vision

The Scrutiny Panel welcomed the report and supported the recommendations set out in the report, particularly the plans for further engagement sessions with it around identifying opportunities for joint working aligned to the outcomes of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision (e.g. on the topic of solar farms and energy planning). The Panel recommended to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership in its consideration of the report that it:

1. Remain cognizant of the need for commonly agreed and understood definitions of the desired outcomes of the Strategic Vision across the Partnership, as a prerequisite to its success.
2. Consider the need to link the high level outcomes of the Strategic Vision with more specific, deliverable outputs.
3. Monitor and evaluate the outputs via a results framework.

1. *We recognise that whilst the high level outcomes of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision have been agreed and endorsed by the FOP (and the respective six local authorities), we need to remain cognizant of how this translates into commonly agreed and understood priorities and deliverable activity. Programmes of work will not be taken forward without agreement and endorsement by voting members of the FOP.*
2. *The work we are currently undertaking in identifying opportunities for collaborative working across district boundaries is aiming to identify activity which will deliver more specific outputs, aligned to the outcomes of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.*
3. *We have already started to explore a system of measurement which will help us in understanding how we are collectively progressing towards the nine outcomes of the strategic vision, enabling us to identify further activity which will help to deliver the Vision, as we move towards 2050. A system of measurements will be further explored within 2023 and presented for consideration.*

### Advisory Group Updates

1. The panel recommends to the FOP that it requests that the Infrastructure Advisory Group (IAG) co-opts a representative from Active Travel England or a delegated

*This request can be considered by the Infrastructure Advisory Group.*

nominee to IAG in order to provide active travel expertise to the group.