

# Delivering the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision for Long Term Sustainable Development



**FUTURE  
OXFORDSHIRE  
PARTNERSHIP**

# Delivering the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision

## Key Question

What additional opportunities are there to work collaboratively to support delivery of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision for Long Term Sustainable Development?

Local authority corporate plans



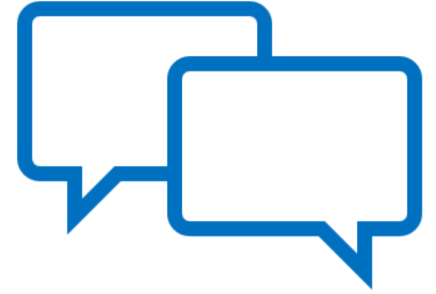
Two main sources of information



Stakeholder engagement



# Progress Update June 2023



## Completed:

- Corporate plan mapping exercise.
- One to one sessions with officers from the FOP Executive Officer Group.
- One to one sessions with the Chief Executives Group.
- Groups sessions with the officers supporting the Advisory Groups for housing, infrastructure, and the environment.
- Three sessions with the FOP Scrutiny Panel members.
- Session with the Infrastructure Advisory Group and the Housing Advisory Group.

## Pending:

- A session with officers supporting the new Planning Advisory Group.
- A session with the new Planning Advisory Group.
- Session with Environment Advisory Group still to be considered → Development of the Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan placed them in a different position during the Strategic Vision engagement sessions.
- Session with FOP members to be scheduled → anticipated September 2023.

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Two main sources of information



Stakeholder engagement

Learning to inform improvements:

- FOP Induction
- Bi-monthly Highlights Report
- Officer groups & ToR
- Improved forward plans
- Updates to AG and FOP ToR

Generated ideas + learning

Additional Opportunities:

Over 50 additional opportunities for collaborative working aligned to the outcomes of the Strategic Vision were identified

Existing Workstreams:

Inclusion of existing workstreams in the FOP and AG work programme: e.g., strategies and delivery plans emerging from the Local Transport & Connectivity Plan

# Progress Update June 2023

- Over **50 opportunities** for collaborative working aligned to the outcomes of the Strategic Vision were identified and captured through a combination of the corporate plan mapping exercise and stakeholder engagement.

## Examples include:



Development of a workstream to explore water resilience across the county, with consideration given to tackling water quality and availability, sewage, flood risk management and drainage, and river pollution.



Commission a piece of work to explore innovative funding options e.g., land value capture, social bonds to support in financing infrastructure ambitions, as well as other workstreams which support delivery of the Strategic Vision.



Establish an Oxfordshire climate champions network, bringing together the resident community of Oxfordshire with business, public sector, academia etc., to identify opportunities to work collectively together to support the net zero transition.



Explore opportunities for enhanced planning support and incentives for developers, community-led housing groups, self-build groups etc., which encourages and enables a faster rate of delivery of new homes which meet the affordable housing definition/criteria.

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- Taken forward into delivery:
- Scoping next phase of OxIS (IAG)
  - Development of a LAEP approach (IAG)
  - Upscale of domestic retrofit (EAG) etc.

Ideas portfolio:  
Officer input and shaping → assess duplication, grouping of ideas, priority, etc. to produce a refined list (EOG & CE group sense check)

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# Progress Update June 2023

- Opportunities for joint working are now with officers supporting the advisory groups for input → the ideas captured are high level, with officer groups key to shaping and developing them.
- We recognise that some ideas may be better grouped into a single project or workstream e.g., energy training and local area energy planning. The officer group supporting the HAG has already started to look at this.

5. **Exploring Innovative Funding Options:** Commission a piece of work to explore innovative funding options to support in financing infrastructure ambitions, as well as other workstreams which support delivery of the Strategic Vision e.g., upscale of domestic retrofit, with a focus on those in fuel poverty. Consideration to be given to different financing methods including bonds (social, green, and sustainability), land value capture, UK and regional infrastructure bank. As part of this, there was a desire for consideration to be given to the development on an investment prospectus. It must be noted that a prioritised action emerging from the endorsed Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan is the development of a green finance workstream to support in identifying new funding sources and models, critical to the delivery of net zero targets and full implementation of the joint action plan.

One of the core purposes of FOP is to seek to secure funding in the pursuit of its aims. Where appropriate to do so, coordinate bids as opposed to competing against one-another, which is likely to reduce the chances of securing funding.

6. **Grant uplifts:** Develop a grant uplift mechanism that rewards infrastructure schemes with wider social and environmental benefits, linked to the refreshed OxIS multicriteria selection tool.

7. **Strategic Infrastructure Project Delivery Map:** Document summarising strategic infrastructure projects being delivered across Oxfordshire, with details of how they support the ambitions of the Strategic Vision.

8. **Infrastructure Strategy Map:** Produce an updated infographic, which maps the different strategies, plans, and policies (including the scale at which they operate) within Oxfordshire, which relate to infrastructure (both directly and indirectly); the published [Local Transport and Connectivity Plan](#) already lists some of the key strategies and plans. Such visual aid would support increased awareness of the different guiding documents in place, and encourage their incorporation within practise and activity, whilst helping to identify gaps in our strategic approach to delivery of the Vision, this will in turn aid the identification of opportunities for collaborative working. As part of this, consideration to be given to how the different strategies, plans, and policies interact.

9. **Water Security in Oxfordshire:** Development of a workstream to explore water resilience across the county, with consideration given to tackling water quality and availability, sewage, flood risk management and drainage, and river pollution. Recognition that water security is fundamental for human wellbeing, the maintenance of different ecosystems, and sustained economic activity and development. Initial work to scope the influence and impact local authorities can have within the water security space. Products from this workstream may include the development of a water security and resilience strategy for Oxfordshire. Consideration to be given to potential investment schemes for OxIS. Collaborative working with Thames Water, and environmental groups is critical to this workstream. Oxfordshire to have a more prominent voice with regards to national water security management.

10. **NOW BEING PROGRESSSED - Development of a Local Area Energy Planning Approach for Oxfordshire:** Explore the development of a Local Area Energy Planning approach for Oxfordshire. Local Area Energy Plans map out the changes required to transition a localities' energy system to net zero carbon within a defined timeframe. As part of this, there is consideration of the most cost efficient technologies to achieve net

zero for different carbon emitting assets and processes e.g., the installation of pumps, increase in EV charging facilities, development of district heat networks in embedded generation to reduce transmission losses etc. LAEP was identified as a **priority area for joint action in the Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan**, endorsed in **March 2023**. A multi-agency steering group, which brings together representatives (planning, climate action, economic development), Distribution Operators (DNOs) both electricity and gas, and other key strategic partners to the Low Carbon Hub, requires initiation in order to scope out the scale of LAEP in Oxfordshire.

11. **Refreshed Energy Strategy for Oxfordshire:** Development of a refreshed energy strategy for the Oxfordshire to sit alongside Local Area Energy Plans, recognising the current version is outdated in not reflecting the sum of present challenges. The need to consider if it would duplicate content within Local Area Energy Plans; as suggested that a decision about whether to proceed with a refresh of the energy strategy be made once preliminary work has begun on the Local Area Energy planning and the scope of this work is clearer.

**Building on the Work of Project Local Energy Oxfordshire (LEO):** March 2023 see the end of Project LEO, one of the UK's most ambitious, wide-ranging and innovative trials. There is a desire to explore opportunities to build on the innovative work as part of Project LEO, in exploring how a local de-centralised energy solution is balancing energy in the local electricity network, to support in managing demand on electricity, as we look to decarbonise heating, transport, industry

**Local Energy Market:** As identified through the Pathways to a Zero Carbon Energy (PAZCO) report, and made more pertinent through spiralling energy prices, a suggestion to ask for more powers from HM Government to intervene by piloting joint funded neighbourhood heating systems at a local level. We have a strong local narrative around Project LEO and **Culham**, and the need to set up neighbourhood scale heat systems. We could pitch for secure decarbonised heat systems can be managed at a local level. This work is undertaken exemplar work in this area and would be a

**Travel Connectivity:** Development of a workstream, and Connectivity Plan, to explore how we can deliver different modes of public transport and active travel across the county as a whole, in support of our collective ambition to become a net zero county. Amongst several participants that the focus for other substantial urban areas, as opposed to rural areas, is expressed to consider and deliver a single mass transport system. Within

# Progress Update June 2023

- There may be some ideas suggested which some councils would not want to be involved in, either having been identified as already being delivered elsewhere, and/or deemed unfeasible due to costs etc.; this is key to filtering which ideas to progress forward.
- In filtering, we want to get to a stage where the potential ideas for collaborative working reflect opportunities where the councils as a collective see added value in the work being taken forward in partnership.

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**Local Energy Market:** As identified through the Pathways to a Zero Carbon Oxfordshire (PAZCO) report, and made more pertinent through spiralling energy prices, we have a strong local narrative around Project LEO and Culham, which is to pilot joint funded neighbourhood heating systems at a local level. Currently, councils have limited powers to intervene in the local energy market. We could pitch for a local energy market as undertaken exemplar work in this area and would be a

**Travel Connectivity:** Development of a workstream, to explore how we can improve the county as a whole, in support of our collective transport strategy. Amongst several participants that the focus for the workstream is on other substantial urban areas, as opposed to rural areas. Desire expressed to consider and develop a single mass transport system. Within



Ref	Workstreams	Activity	Resources	Priority	Quick Win	All Councils	Comments
1	<b>Private Rented Sector (PRS) Standards</b>  Explore and assess opportunities to improve standards within the PRS at a countywide scale - to address fuel poverty, living standards, & wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is there any opportunity to promote more heat efficient homes in the PRS by pilot licensing /enforcement schemes to accelerate the requirements for improved energy performance ratings?</li> </ul>	<i>Consideration of the resources needed to enable this activity – <u>some activity may require central government intervention.</u></i>	<i>Level of priority</i>	<i>Yes / No</i>	<i>Is this something all Oxfordshire councils are looking to achieve?</i>	<i>Consideration given to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>- Is this already being delivered elsewhere?</i></li> <li><i>- Added value of delivery in partnership?</i></li> <li><i>- Resource availability etc.</i></li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What possible controls might be applied to limit the proliferation of short-term lets, which reduces available housing for those wishing to live in the county?</li> </ul>					
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Could FOP seek enhanced powers from HMG to lengthen PRS security of tenure in some circumstances?</li> </ul>					
2	<b>(Existing) Social Housing Availability</b>  Explore innovative solutions to increase the availability of affordable tenure homes, to reduce housing need, increasing the range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engaging Registered Providers (RP) using a collective countywide voice – Would a countywide RP forum be useful?</li> </ul>					
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To continue to flag barriers to regeneration to Central Government &amp; Homes England (e.g., grant conditions can fund net gain additional homes only).</li> </ul>					



Snapshot  
from officer  
group  
supporting  
the Housing  
Advisory Group

# Progress Update June 2023

- It is important to note that whilst over 50 opportunities have been identified to date, there is no commitment to delivery of them at this stage, with the exception of those already progressing e.g., scoping what a local area energy planning approach might look like for Oxfordshire.
- Through filtering we are aiming to support the identification of a couple of impactful projects to sit alongside other programmes of work already in delivery through FOP.
- There is currently some limited capacity funding remaining, such that if some of the ideas have funding implications, there may be the opportunity to request funding to support a project.

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Refined list to be explored in FOP offline workshop; anticipated September 2023 → Agree programmes of work to progress

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