

Future Oxfordshire Partnership response to recommendations of the Partnership Scrutiny Panel made on 13 June 2023

The Future Oxfordshire Partnership is requested to provide a response to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel for decision at its meeting on 6 June 2023.

Recommendation	Comment
<p><u>Item 7: Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership (OIEP) Update</u></p> <p>Recommendation 1:</p> <p>The Panel was pleased to see the good progress made in the development of the OIEP. In continuing to support the work of the OIEP, the Panel would request that the OIEP be asked through the Future Oxfordshire Partnership to consider the following summary feedback of points raised by Panel members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst supporting the expansion of initiatives such as Arch Readers in improving education attainment, problems in recruiting and retaining school staff, (for example Teaching Assistants) be recognised • The importance of the promotion and support of co-operative enterprises as part of the OIEP’s social value and procurement workstream • Importance of adult education and the challenges around adult numeracy and literacy, (for example amongst ex-offenders) in address inequality 	<p>The Future Oxfordshire Partnership is happy to suggest to OIEP that the Chairs of its relevant subgroups should consider the valuable points raised by the Scrutiny Panel when delivering the vision of the partnership through its strategy and delivery plan.</p> <p>In addition, the Future Oxfordshire Partnership notes ongoing work between OxLEP and the OIEP to seek to address the issues raised by the Scrutiny Panel, for instance through the ‘Social Contract’ programme and the Local Skills and Improvement Plan.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The importance of developing skills of young people in the emerging green sector such as retrofit and insulation as well as capturing skills and knowledge in traditional areas for the future• The importance of access to low cost and local travel solutions for disadvantaged groups including young people.• Higher rates of youth unemployment• The importance of understanding and taking account of the needs of Oxfordshire’s diverse urban and rural communities• The role of placemaking and the value to be added by the support of local community start-ups in instilling a sense of community pride• That factors relating to gender be recognised in the context of inequality, for example numbers of women and girls studying STEM subjects, menopause, and lower rates of educational attainment amongst some male cohorts.	
<p><u>Item 9: Delivering the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision for Long Term Sustainable Development</u></p> <p>Recommendation 2:</p> <p>The Scrutiny Panel welcomed the update on work being undertaken to map and identify possible areas for joint working to deliver the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision and noted the progress made.</p> <p>The Panel requests that the Future Oxfordshire Partnership agree to add to the factors taken into consideration in filtering and selecting the list of future opportunities for joint working ‘acting in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’ as referenced in a motion agreed by Oxfordshire County Council 28 March 2023</p>	<p>The needs of future generations are a key consideration in Oxfordshire’s Strategic Vision for Long Term Sustainable Development which looks ahead for the period up to 2050, and the Future Oxfordshire Partnership therefore agrees with this recommendation.</p>

Item 10: Key Partnership Activity in the Energy Space

Recommendation 3:

The Panel supported the recommendations as set out in report. In addition, it requests:

- a) That through the Green Finance workstream of the Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan, consideration be given to funding opportunities which support a decarbonised energy system; the Scrutiny Panel wishes for the workstream to consider [Bristol City Council's success in securing £1bn of investment to support its net zero ambitions as a potential example and model of this.](#)
- b) That opportunities for the application of heat transfer technologies to energy management be investigated, for example use of heat generated from data centres.
- c) That barriers and opportunities to community led projects and a demand side perspective be considered as part of activity in the energy space. For example, the Panel was concerned that the costs and complexity of the planning system could be acting as a barrier to community led solar energy applications.
- d) Clarify how a land use framework or strategic land use principles could be developed and considered to support local area energy planning, and more generally, where it could sit as part of delivering the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision for Long Term Sustainable Development. In the Panel's view this was a matter of urgency.

The Panel also reiterated its view that provision of rooftop solar on new and existing properties should be prioritised over provision on previously undeveloped land.

We support the recommendation that the Green Finance workstream of the Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan consider opportunities which support energy decarbonisation, and will consider how Bristol City Council successfully secured investment in support of net zero ambitions.

Different methods for achieving decarbonisation e.g., heat pumps, battery storage, a decentralised system etc. will be explored through the local area energy planning workstream.

The Future Oxfordshire Partnership (FOP) is happy to learn from examples of good practice elsewhere, while recognising that local area energy planning must take account of specific local circumstances. For example, rural and urban environments may require different approaches. We would expect that our local area energy planning process will take these points into account, seeking to overcome barriers wherever possible and to advocate for change where appropriate.

We recognise the need for improved thinking re multi-functional land use, given increasing pressures on finite land. Local Planning Authorities are currently working on developing their respective local plans, and associated policies, recognising their statutory functions within this space. A new Planning Advisory group will however allow the sharing of information and best practice re multi-functional land use, so to ensure we continue to embed learning as appropriate.

	<p>FOP members are agreed that opportunities for rooftop solar should be maximised but that on its own this will not meet the whole of the need for renewable energy.</p>
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