

To: Future Oxfordshire Partnership

Title of Report: Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership Update - Annual Report 2023-4

Date: 3 October 2024

Report of: Matt Whitney, Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership Manager

Status: Open

Executive Summary and Purpose:

This report presents the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership (OLNP) Annual Report, which gives an overview of OLNP and highlights progress from the last year (August 2023 – August 2024). Of note is the £500,000 of external funding secured by the partnership; the appointment of two new partnership staff focussed on nature finance and health and nature; the work to develop high integrity markets for nature recovery and climate mitigation (including in support of the Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan endorsed by the FOP); and the partnership's role in the development of the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Oxfordshire.

How this report contributes to the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision Outcomes:

Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership exists to radically enhance nature, its positive impact on the climate and the priority its given, helping to make Oxfordshire a place where people and nature thrive. The work outlined in the annual report and continued support for the partnership will contribute to the following outcomes of the strategic vision:

- our natural environment will be in a better state than that in which we found it
- we will already be carbon neutral and moving towards a carbon negative future
- our residents will be happier and healthier, and overall wellbeing will have improved
- our county will be a more equal, fair and inclusive place for everyone

Recommendations:

1. That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership notes the progress described in the annual report.
2. That the Future Oxfordshire Partnership notes the importance of continuing to support the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership, which is aligned to several outcomes of the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership Annual Report 2023-4

Introduction

1. The Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership (OLNP) works to recover our county's diverse ecosystems and habitats, helping to deliver Oxfordshire's nature and climate targets and setting a national example of the positive impact of partnership working on our natural environment.

OLNP's Annual Report

2. OLNP has produced an annual report, Appendix 1, which gives an overview of the OLNP, and highlights progress so far. Of note is the £500,000 of external funding secured by the partnership; the appointment of two new partnership staff focussed on nature finance and health and nature; the development of high integrity markets for nature recovery and climate mitigation (including in support of the Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan endorsed by the FOP); and the partnership's role in the development of the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Oxfordshire.
3. The OLNP's annual report evidences the strength and value of the partnership, which has successfully leveraged additional resources from several sources.

Financial Implications

4. There are no direct financial implications for the Future Oxfordshire Partnership arising from this report.

Legal Implications

5. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Other Implications

6. The risks associated with this report arise if the Future Oxfordshire Partnership decides it no longer supports the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership. This could lead to a reduced ability for the Future Oxfordshire Partnership to achieve the Strategic Vision, most notable the outcomes around the natural environment, climate, and health and wellbeing.

Conclusion

7. The report concludes that the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership is strong and valuable resource which has successfully leveraged additional resources from a number of sources, and recognises continued funding will support nature's recovery in Oxfordshire.

Background Papers

8. None

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