

Oxford Strategic Partnership Steering Group

Minutes of the meeting held on 19th June 2018

Attendees:

Sharon Barrington, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group
Simon Bennett, Oxford City Council
Alison Bond, Oxford Brookes University
Cllr Susan Brown, Oxford City Council
David Clark, Oxfordshire County Council
Cllr Andrew Gant, Oxford City Council
Caroline Green, Oxford City Council
Anne Gwinnett, Oxford Civic Society
Cllr. Tom Hayes, Oxford City Council
Kim James – Oxfordshire County Council
Samuel Kabiswa – Oxford City Council
Tom McCulloch, Community First Oxfordshire
Anthony Mtitimila, University of Oxford
Katie Read, Oxfordshire County Council
Cllr Linda Smith, Oxford City Council
Mish Tullar, Oxford City Council
Richard Venables, VSL and Partners
Jackie Wilderspin, Oxfordshire County Council (Chair)

Apologies:

Ian Green, Oxford Civic Society
Brendan Hattam, Land Securities
Andrew Hearne, Land Securities
Joe Kidman, Thames Valley Police
Stuart Wilkinson, University of Oxford
Gordon Mitchell, Oxford City Council
Frank Nigriello, Unipart Group
Cllr Ian Hudspeth, Oxfordshire County Council
Maggie Scott, Oxfordshire County Council

1. Introductions

Jackie Wilderspin (JW) opened the meeting with introductions and apologies and informed the meeting that, as requested, she had sent a letter of thanks to former Council Leader Bob Price for his contribution to the OSP over many years.

2. Draft minutes of the last meeting

JW updated on actions taken. Anne Gwinnett (AG) raised a point on the city centre strategy action and asked for a holistic view of planning for the city centre including arrangements for the new station linking to Frideswide Square, Osney Mead, Oxpens. It was highlighted that this would be looked at in more detail as agenda item at October's meeting.

Katie Read gave an update on partnership arrangement with Cherwell District Council with in principle agreement to some joint working arrangements with Oxfordshire County Council. The two Councils are to discuss the appointment of a joint chief executive.

Draft minutes of the last meeting held on 22nd March 2018 were agreed as correct.

3. Alternative Giving Task & Finish update (item bought forward)

Simon Bennett (SBe) gave a brief highlight of his task & finish report. The following discussion points have been noted:

- The timetable was queried and a discussion followed about the need to have the Rough Sleeper Charter and board in place to lead this work.
- Cllr Susan Brown (SBr) raised concerns about cost-effectiveness and potential resource duplication – and risk of impacting existing fundraising. Also highlighted work of OxPat and recommended they were involved in this process.
- It was noted that further meetings were planned with Greater Change – which has links to University of Oxford – to see if the initiatives could be combined or aligned.
- AG asked if the concept could be simplified to running an awareness campaign together with established charities in the field.

Action – To consider and where appropriate incorporate comments and feedback from the partnership into the future work including linking with OxPat (SBe)

Action – Bring update and revised timetable to October OSP meeting (SBe)

4. Educational Attainment and Schools Partnership Board.

David Clarke (DC), Deputy Director for Education and Learning and Kim James, Head of Service for Learning and School Improvement updated the partnership on Oxford city schools attainment (presentation attached). There has been a 9% improvement in early learning achievement and an 11% improvement in outcomes for KS2 since 2016. Writing remains a key issue – with work ongoing with the Oxfordshire Strategic Schools Partnership Board and the Teaching Schools Alliance to address this. New, unvalidated data will be available in October 2018.

However half of Oxford's primary schools are in the bottom quartile nationally for attendance and 24/31 Oxford primary schools have a level of persistent absence above that of Oxfordshire as a whole. Attendance therefore is a strategic focus and a Learner Engagement Group is being formed to develop knowledge on this.

An application has been made for a Strategic School Improvement Fund to improve outcomes in writing for students in primary schools in Oxford. Rising levels of Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) issues was also a key issue. Also highlighted plans for future working together particularly in relation to the east Oxford Community Impact Zone (CIZ), attendance, and data sharing. A new Ofsted assessment framework will be introduced in Oct 19.

In the discussion that followed;

JW asked for data to show what city looks like compared with Oxfordshire. The variation in different areas is important to note.

DC highlighted key issue of recruitment in Oxford linked to the cost of housing. There was a bulge in secondary school numbers – creating pressure for places, yet falling numbers in primary.

SBr asked if there would be more support from county regarding absenteeism and if more resource will be put in as it not just about exposure to learning but also has crime and safeguarding aspects.

KJ highlighted the need to attract Pupil Premium – applied for by parents – as it brings additional funding for SEND or SEMH. There will be a conference on inclusion for school governors on 28th June.

Action – consider and follow up points raised by the partnership and report back at a later meeting (DC)

Action – follow up issue of support to Oxford schools on absenteeism, crime and safeguarding and raise with learner engagement group (DC)

Action – feedback on school attainment data, compared to Oxford and England, to the partnership in November following updated figures (DC)

Action – consider specific measures for consideration as part of the east Oxford CIZ (DC + MT)

5. Update on Local Government and the Growth Deal

Cllr Brown gave a presentation on the Growth Deal (presentation attached). Key points from the presentation;

- Infrastructure delivery – with a focus on transport needs of the county and delivery of housing associated with specific infrastructure projects
- Affordable housing – including key worker housing, working with the Universities and innovative housing construction such as modular buildings.
- Joint Strategic Spatial Plan and planning freedoms & flexibilities – discussion at an early stage but committed to engagement and partnership
- Productivity – a new local industrial strategy will have a focus on developing skills locally. There will be opportunities for funding for this work.
- Governance and accountability – creation of three advisory sub-groups, a scrutiny committee and membership from across all councils.

In Autumn 2018 we expect Government to confirm if a further £300 million of transport infrastructure investment will be made available to help bring forward Didcot Garden Town and West Oxfordshire Garden Village. We will also hear about the planned Oxfordshire Rail Corridor Study to establish the priorities for rail investment (including the Cowley Branch Line). Further information can be found via the Growth Board website:

www.oxfordshiregrowthboard.org

In the discussion that followed these points were raised;

AG said that road and rail need to work together and asked that we look at an integrated approach for the Oxford Cambridge corridor rail and road proposal and that if we don't integrate the two we could have conflicted maps for both. Cllr Brown said that the City Council is making this case to the Department of Transport and it is part of ongoing discussions.

Tom McCulloch (TM) asked what is being considered in terms of integrating newer and existing communities? Cllr Brown responded that getting local planning right in the first place is crucial and they will be considering how best to integrate new development with old, and new communities with existing communities – as is the focus at Barton Park

AG said that Oxford University are investing £1.4 million in key worker housing and is there a chance to discuss expanding that beyond university key worker housing?

Action – to consider and feedback comments from the partnership to the Growth Board and follow up at the next OSP meeting (SBr)

6. OSP Sub group updates & Task & Finish update (agenda item combined)

Economic Growth

Samuel Kabiswa gave a verbal update on the Economic Growth sub-groups annual report. He highlighted the task and finish work on; inclusive growth, city centre

The Economic Growth sub-group has been focusing on engagement with businesses and have attracted new members to the group. They have held a number of successful business engagement events with good feedback with the next business forum in September looking at Inclusive Growth. Work to establish a City Centre Partnership is underway and potential members have been invited. They are developing a Terms of Reference which will be shared when completed.

- AG offered support and advice on the city centre work from the Oxford Civic Society.
- JW said to expect a task and finish update at the next meeting.

Action – arrange presentation on City Centre Partnership at next OSP meeting (Shelley Ghazi - SG)

Action – follow up offer of help from Oxford Civic Society (SK)

Stronger Communities

Jackie highlighted that the sub-group prioritised communities affected by multiple factors which lead to poorer outcomes. Their aim is to make access to services and outcomes more equitable, and to promote cohesion in those areas. Each area has good partnerships, resourced through City Council Communities Team.

Jackie also updated on the task and finish proposal to roll-out training for making every contact count (MECC) which is going well and achieving outcomes.

In the discussion that followed;

AG – asked how to ensure the knowledge and expertise of the stronger communities group has about the kinds of problems that exist, get into the framework of plans for future developments, in a way that can help us avoid the problems we've had in the past? Cambridge have examples of creating a development charter, could we look at other communities are doing?

TM – explained the work of Communities First in Oxfordshire in developing a "Place Making Charter" and suggested this could be circulated to the OSP members.

SBr – commented on the need for the Stronger Communities steering group to provide the strategic leadership needed by the local Community Partnerships and Health& Wellbeing Groups as there is less capacity at very local level to do this.

JW – Health and Well-Being groups are being encouraged to be aware of how they can get the data on their own community so they can explore and resource themselves with the data. We have new overarching analyses that have inequality indicators across wards and therefore keep an overview of all these areas.

Cllr Linda Smith (LS) –Community partnerships don't comprise residents or housing associations. Can we look at some more input from residents?

CG – Take this to the City Council Communities Team and Stronger Communities Steering Group. There are also opportunities to link in the local work being implemented in response to recommendations from the Health Inequalities Commission.

Action - Circulate Place Making Project and Place Making Charter to the OSP and the Growth Board (TM & SG).

Action – Communities Team and Stronger Communities Steering Group to pick up the comments and suggestions made during this discussion (JW & SG)

7. Forward plan

JW updated the group on the new dates over a 12 month period and that the meetings are now 30 minutes longer. Baroness Jan Royall, Principal of Somerville College, will be chairing the meeting from October. Baroness Royall is keen to see much tighter alignment between the University of Oxford and the city and is working hard to engage more directly with civic stakeholders. She is a strong choice to take us through the period ahead.

Jackie will stay in post as vice-chair. MT thanked JW for excellent chairmanship over the past year which was echoed by those attending.

Action - new venues booked (SG)

OSP Meeting Date	Draft Agenda Items
23rd October 2018 10:30-13:00 Venue tbc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure Growth Fund update • City Centre partnership update • Local Plan /Joint Strategic Spatial Plan • OSP sub-group reports – Low Carbon Oxford annual update, Safer Communities bi-annual update • OSP Task & Finish updates – Low Carbon Oxford & Stronger Communities
15th January 2019 10:30-13:00 Venue tbc	
12th March 2019 10:30-13:00 Venue tbc	
2nd July 2019 10:30-13:00 Venue tbc	