

Draft Notes from the Oxford Economic Growth Steering Group Meeting held on 17th June 2014

Attendees:

Zelga Anderson, Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship, Saïd Business School, University of Oxford
Caroline Bucklow - Knowledge Transfer Officer, University of Oxford
Dr Phil Clare, University of Oxford
Lucie Coussmaker - Manager Student Hubs
Roberto Daniele, Oxford Brookes Social Enterprise Programme Lead
David Edwards, Oxford City Council
David Hartley, Oxford Brookes University
Grant Hayward, Network Navigator, Oxfordshire LEP
Robert Hetherington, Oxford City Council
Bill Imlah, Oxford Internet Institute
Giles Ingram, Experience Oxfordshire
Sebastian Johnson, Oxford Strategic Partnership
Llewelyn Morgan Oxfordshire County Council
Tom Morris, Oxford City Council
Helen Payne, Shared Intelligence
Cllr Bob Price, Oxford City Council (Chair)
Chris Rocks, Shared Intelligence
Richard Rosser, The In Oxford Group / B4
Richard Venables, ProOxford Group and VSL & Partners
Dave Waller, Oxfordshire County Council (Invest in Oxfordshire) and Oxfordshire LEP
Dr Stuart Wilkinson, University of Oxford
Jeff Wilmore, Oxford Brookes University

Apologies:

Simon Cox, Centrica
Michael Crofton-Briggs, Oxford City Council
Prof Alistair Fitt, Oxford Brookes University
Dr Tom Flanagan, Oxfordshire County Council
Ian Francis, City of Oxford College
Mark Jaggard, Oxford City Council
Nigel Tipple, Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership

1. Minutes of the last meeting

The following amendment was agreed:

Top of page 6 – New buildings at City of Oxford College Oxpens campus will be completed by September 2015

It was noted that Laurie-Jane Taylor has been appointed as the City Centre Manager and she will start in post on 30th June 2014.

2. Social Enterprise in Oxfordshire

Roberto Daniele, Oxford Brookes University Social Enterprise Programme Lead provided a presentation (attached) that outlined the HEFCE / UNLTD's Social Enterprise Awards. Funding has been secured to

provide awards to social entrepreneurs. Try it Awards, up to £500; Do it Awards, up to £5,000; and Build it Awards, up to £15,000. Awards are combined with a comprehensive training and mentoring programme. To date, 62 projects funded to a total of £127,000.

The Oxfordshire Social Entrepreneurship Partnership (OSEP) has been established that brings together both universities, students hubs and other key partners. The Partnership has secured further funding to enable them to deliver the awards to the wider Oxfordshire community.

The wider programme will be launched on 10th September and all present will be invited to attend. OSEOP are asking all organisations to support the programme by promoting the opportunities to communities across the County.

3. Business Engagement Update

3.1 Business Engagement Framework

Tom Morris provided an outline of the context of this research funded by the Local Government Association. The principal focus of the project was to develop a Business Engagement Strategy and explore the need for an Account Management System.

Helen Payne presented the findings in detail that were set out in the report circulated with the agenda papers. A copy of the presentation is attached for information.

The report was well received and during a discussion the following key points were made:

- Weakness on network groups and sector groups and how these feed into the LEP
- Oxford seems to compare favourably with other areas with respect to business engagement on the whole – there is a rich diversity of businesses and feedback from businesses spoken to which was positive. However, do businesses feel they are able to “set the agenda”
- Need to identify a more systematic way of gathering the intelligence gained from these meetings and business events – the City Council has an important role to play in bringing all this work together
- The Steering Group should have a business person as co-chair or vice-chair
- A common CRM system should be explored through the LEP

The report’s key recommendations to broaden the terms of reference of the Oxford Economic Growth Steering Group; work to increase business representation on the group; and develop the leader’s discussion into a twice yearly leader’s summit were agreed.

Revised Terms of Reference for the Steering Group will be brought to the next meeting.

3.2 Leaders Discussion, 3rd March 2014 – key issues and next steps

Sebastian Johnson reported on the Leaders discussion and outlined the key issues that had come out of it as detailed in the paper circulated. Richard Venables who was one of the attendees stated that it was a good format and very successful evening.

Sebastian reported that the group is being re-convened to meet again in October to review progress on the key issues – skills and recruitment: employment growth and inward investment; infrastructure; and links with the LEP.

3.3 Business in Oxford 2014 – debrief and plans for 2015

Richard Rosser was thanked for his and his team's work in producing such a successful event in April with over 250 attendees.

Richard outlined plans for repeating the event in 2015 with lessons learnt from this year's event – these include a requirement for more networking and some presentations being too much of a sales pitch.

Discussion on the possible date for the event in June 2015 will be carried forward between Richard, Dave Waller and others as required to ensure that this event and Venturefest can work alongside and complement each other.

4. Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) update

Dave Waller presented the report provided by the Chief Executive of the LEP that had been circulated with papers. The report provided an update on the key projects being developed by the LEP including those in the City Deal and Strategic Economic Plan.

Dave outlined the plans to pull together support services in Oxfordshire and the nine network navigators who have been appointed to help signpost those seeking support.

5. Smart City – Opportunities and options

Sebastian Johnson presented the Smart City report that had been circulated with the papers and outlined the projects already being developed in partnership and the significant economic opportunities that could come from partners developing a smart city vision, strategy and road map for Oxford.

Llewelyn Morgan and Bill Imlah have been working with Sebastian on the paper and projects and both stated their support and the value of having a smart city vision and strategy for Oxford.

Phil Clare commented that this is the most important item on the agenda and highlighted that a large amount of smart city technology is coming out of Oxford and the universities and this provides an opportunity for us to set Oxford and Oxfordshire up as a centre for controlled experiments. The premise of the City Deal and Strategic Economic Plan is that people come to Oxford to innovate – developing a partnership smart city vision and strategy for Oxford will support innovation.

Giles Ingram supported the initiative and also raised the need for a forum for smart city ideas to be taken to, somewhere for people to go when they have an idea.

It was agreed that a request for £10,000 funding from the City Council via the Oxford Strategic Partnership to support the development of a vision, strategy and road map and other partners – universities, County Council and LEP – will look at how they can support and resource this. Llewelyn commented that the County may be able to contribute funding. A target date to develop the vision and strategy was set for the end of the year.

A small task and finish group of Sebastian Johnson, Llewelyn Morgan, Bill Imlah, Phil Clare, Stuart Wilkinson and David Hartley will lead on this.

6. Oxford Economic Growth Strategy Action Plan –update and overview

Robert Hetherington presented the summary paper outlining the key achievements made against the 11 elements of the Oxford Economic Growth Strategy. It was noted that good progress is being made and all partners were thanked for their considerable input and efforts. The recommendation to refresh the Strategy was agreed and it was suggested that the refresh ties into the Local Growth Deal and picks up on sector specific issues. Target date for completion of the strategy refresh was agreed as January 2015.

The proposal for a future plan for the meetings was agreed and the next meeting will focus on the review of Oxfordshire's low carbon economy and the Oxford Transport Strategy (including the Oxford Transport Laboratory project).

7. AOB and Future meeting dates

7.1 Venturefest 2014

Dave Waller reported that Venturefest is taking place on Tuesday 8th July at Said Business School and encouraged all to attend – details and registration can be found at www.venturefestoxford.com

7.2 Future meeting dates

Future meeting dates are set for 10th September 2014 and 11th December 2014. Both meetings will begin at 10.00am and finish no later than 12.00 midday. Venues to be confirmed and partners were invited to host the meetings.

Jeff Wilmore and his colleagues from Oxford Brookes University were thanked for their generosity in hosting the meeting.