

Notice of meeting and Agenda



Listening Learning Leading

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A MEETING OF THE

Oxfordshire Environment Partnership

WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY 26 OCTOBER 2012 AT 10.00 AM

IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT
COUNCIL OFFICES

Membership

Membership is a loose group comprising the elected members of the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership, officers and representatives from governmental and non-governmental agencies.

Oxfordshire Waste Partnership Councillors

David Dodds (Chairman of the OWP)
(deputy: any Cabinet member)

Reg Waite (Vice-Chairman of the OWP)
(deputy: any Cabinet member)

Nigel Morris
(deputy: any Cabinet member)

John Tanner
(deputy: any other Executive Board member)

Hilary Hibbert-Biles
(deputy:)

David Harvey
(deputy: Barry Norton or Mark Booty)

Representing:

South Oxfordshire District Council

Vale of White Horse District Council

Cherwell District Council

Oxford City Council

Oxfordshire County Council

West Oxfordshire District Council

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Oxfordshire Environment partnership – | |
| Current member organisations | Currently represented by: |
| Oxfordshire Waste Partnership | Wayne Lewis |
| Cherwell District Council | Ian Davies |
| Oxford City Council | John Copley |
| Oxfordshire County Council | Tim Sadler |
| | Andrew Pau |
| | Rachel Burns |
| | Susie Ohlenschlager |
| | Nick King |
| | Matt Prosser |
| South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Council | Trevor Askew |
| West Oxfordshire District Council | Lee Horrocks |
| Environment Agency | Ben Morrish |
| Oxfordshire Rural Community Council | Linda Watson |
| BBOWT | Matt Jackson |

Agenda items

- 1 Apologies for absence and notification of deputy members attending**
- 2 Declaration of interest**
- 3 Addresses and questions to the partnership**

Members of the public wishing to speak to the partnership for up to five minutes must register with the committee clerk named above by noon on Thursday 25 October.

- 4 Minutes, 22 June 2012 (attached to the OWP agenda)**

Purpose: To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Oxfordshire Environment Partnership meeting held on 22 June 2012 and to receive information arising from them.

An update on the Local Nature Partnership will be given.

- 5 Low Carbon Hub**

Wendy Twist of the Low Carbon Hub will give a presentation. 10:05
There is no accompanying report.

Purpose: To highlight work being done to support by local communities through the Low Carbon Hub launched in December 2011 with support from Oxford City and Oxfordshire County Council and to identify opportunities and potential for collaboration or support.

6 Green Deal update (Pages 1 - 6)

Report attached. 10:20

Purpose: To consider in further detail options and recommendations developed on the basis of previous meetings and discussions and to endorse the recommendations in report.

7 Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Pages 7 - 8)

Report attached 10:40

Purpose: to provide an annual report to the partnership summarising the reports from all six local authorities in Oxfordshire to show progress against the agreed target of a 3% reduction in carbon emissions year on year.

8 Chairman's announcements

Ten-minute break for refreshments 10:50

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED JOINTLY WITH THE OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

9 Local Government Association's Climate Local Commitment (Pages 9 - 12)

Report attached. 11:00

Purpose: to inform the Partnership about the launch and aims of Climate Local, and the potential benefits of signing up.

Recommendation: the Environment and Waste Partnership consider signing the commitment as Climate Local Oxfordshire, and to bring forward pledges to subsequent meeting.

10 Oxfordshire Green Schools end of year report: Groundwork Trust (Pages 13 - 16)

Report attached. 11:10

There will be a presentation by the Groundwork Trust

Purpose: to report on performance in the first year of the new joint contract awarded by the partnership and to recommend any action which may need to be taken as a result of issues highlighted in the report.

MARGARET REED

Head of Legal and Democratic Services

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Agenda Item 6

Oxfordshire Environment Partnership

26 October 2012

Agenda Item 6: Green Deal update

Summary

1. In order to respond to the Government's request to local authorities to promote the Green Deal and to help prepare for the March HECA report next year, the Partnership is asked to endorse the following:

Recommendation

- i. In order to promote the Green Deal across the county, District Councils (other than Oxford City) are recommended to consider becoming individual shareholder members of the USEA CIC, subject to their own decision making processes.

To note

- ii. In preparing for the HECA report next year, Councils will want to recognise that the Green Deal, even with ECO funding, is not a panacea, despite being the Government's flagship scheme. Depending on individual policy objectives, it will probably form part of a wider strategy.
- iii. Oxfordshire County Council has enabled the release of £200k to the Low Carbon Hub to promote community-based energy efficiency and renewable energy measures.
- iv. Oxford City Council is supporting the Low Carbon Hub and the Energy Saving Co-op with a grant of £50k to implement the first area-based pilot of the Green Deal in the county.
- v. USEA have been informed of the outcome of the last meeting of the Partnership as part of further discussions;
- vi. Officers will bring further reports on the Green Deal and other energy saving measures as appropriate.

Introduction

2. At its meeting in June, the partnership considered a report on the Green Deal seminar and agreed:
 1. to refer the options paper and the two recommendations proposed to the officers working group to finalise proposals and make further recommendations to the partnership at its next meeting or earlier.

2. to inform the United Sustainable Energy Agency of the partnership's favourable view of their proposals; and
 3. that officers should agree a timetable for making the decision relating to investment in the Green Deal.
3. This paper summarises the subsequent work by officers and other subsequent developments.

Update

4. In July, the Government published new guidance for reporting under the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA)¹. The Secretary of State requires local authorities with housing responsibilities to report on their energy efficiency plans by 31 March 2013. The reports should include an overview of those measures which are likely to result in significant improvement, in particular schemes such as the Green Deal, ECO and the Renewable Heat Incentive as well as roll out by community groups.
5. Cherwell District Council has agreed to invest as a shareholder in the USEA Community Interest Company (USEA CIC). West Oxfordshire District Council will also be considering a recommendation to invest.
6. Oxford City Council has recently announced that it is supporting the Low Carbon Hub and the Energy Saving Co-op in a Green Deal Go-early scheme in Barton with a grant of £50k. This will pilot the area-based approach in the county.
7. Oxfordshire County Council has enabled the release of £200k to the Low Carbon Hub to support its work with community groups across the whole county. The Low Carbon Hub's ambition is to 'Power up/ power down' Oxfordshire to generate or save sufficient electricity as an alternative to replacing the Didcot A power station which closes in 2015.
8. USEA have confirmed that it is not able to provide any discounts for joint-membership of its CIC. Otherwise its proposals have not changed. Therefore there does not seem to be any advantage in jointly investing in the USEA CIC as a partnership. By investing individually, Councils will get the full benefit of USEA's promotional activities and the grants to be made from the Trust Fund which will be set up with the CIC.

¹ DECC (2012) Guidance to English Energy Conservation Authorities issued pursuant to the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995

9. The Energy Saving Co-op has provided more details of its investment offer. They are similar in principle to those from USEA but the details differ.

Comparison of USEA and Energy Saving Co-op proposals

10. Table 1 compares the schemes proposed by USEA and the Low Carbon Hub/Energy Saving Co-op.

11. USEA's proposal is essentially a continuation of its previous ways of working. It will promote the Green Deal through its website and other marketing activities. When contacted by a householder, it will act as a broker, linking the householder to suppliers and to finance. It will cover the whole of each member's district but with a lower conversion rate than an area based approach.

12. The Energy Saving Co-op has teamed up with the Low Carbon Hub to offer an area-based approach, working through community groups. This partnership builds on the strengths of community groups in Oxfordshire. Its coverage will be less than the USEA approach but as an area-based approach, its conversion rate should be higher in those communities where it is active.

13. USEA will promote only the Green Deal. The Energy Saving Co-op will promote a range of energy saving options, including the Green Deal. It takes the view that the Green Deal, even when combined with ECO funding, will only be suitable for a proportion of the total housing stock. When considering whether and how best to invest, Councils will wish to take into account the characteristics of the local housing stock and their own policy objectives.

14. The investment options provided by both organisations have broadly similar risks and rates of return. They are, in reverse order of attractiveness:

- **Project finance:** Investing in bonds at scale to provide finance for Green Deals is at present a purely financial decision. It might be worth considering from an environmental perspective in the future were the availability of funds to limit the uptake of the Green Deal.
- **Revenue options:** Paying an annual membership fee to USEA is less attractive than making an investment which will be paid back with a potential profit. Making a grant to the Energy Saving Co-op may be attractive to encourage greater take-up or to release other grant funding. Oxford City is piloting this approach and other authorities will want to learn from its experience as they develop their own strategies.
- **Investment option:** From an investment perspective, the two opportunities are broadly similar and would require further investigation. From an environmental perspective, the opportunities are different. USEA offer wide-spread promotion in each member's area while the Energy Saving Co-op offers a more intense promotion through community groups in a localised area.

Given that two District Councils have decided to support the USEA option,

encouraging the remaining two to do the same and so secure county wide coverage to promote the Green Deal in its early stages is attractive. It does not preclude investing in the community-based option at a later date when the Partnership will be able to learn from the Barton pilot.

Conclusion

15. By supporting a mixed economy of county- wide and area-based approaches, the county's authorities can secure benefits for residents and support the Government's energy saving and fuel poverty objectives. At the same time it can explore the relative strengths of the different approaches to help inform future strategy.

Recommendation

16. In order to promote the Green Deal across the county, District Councils (other than Oxford City) are recommended to consider becoming individual shareholder members of the USEA CIC, subject to their own decision making processes.

Contact Officer

Nick King Tel: 01865 815792 Email: nick.king@oxfordshire.gov.uk

**Table 1 – Comparison of the proposals from USEA and Low Carbon Hub/
Energy Saving Co-op**

| | USEA | Low Carbon Hub/ Energy Saving Co-op |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Structure | Local authority owned Community Interest Company, active in much of the Thames Valley. | Pairing of the Low Carbon Hub – a Community Interest Company supporting community groups in Oxfordshire and the Energy Saving Co-op – a co-operative society active in Oxfordshire, the West Midlands (and the East Midlands from September). |
| Overall approach | Wide spread promotion and delivery of the Green Deal. | Community-focused promotion and delivery of domestic energy saving including the Green Deal. |
| Possible impact | Spread across the county. | Significant in localised areas. |
| Investment option | £35,000 to invest in the USEA Community Interest Company, paid back within six years, giving voting rights and the active marketing of the Green Deal in the member's area. | £30,000 - £100,000 investment in loan or equity funding. Equity funding gives voting rights and a share of the dividend. Loan funding attracts 5% to 10% over base rate depending on instrument. |
| Revenue option | Annual membership fee of £5,000 per 50,000 dwellings to cover marketing of the Green Deal actively in the member's area. | Approx. £50,000 supports an intensive community led promotion and support scheme in one community. |
| Project finance | Investment in Green Deal Finance Company (GDFC) secures a return, currently around 7% and priority allocation of Green Deal Finance to the member's area. | Possible bond issues at bond offer rate – probably similar to GDFC |

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Agenda Item 7

Oxfordshire Environment Partnership

26 October 2012

Agenda Item 7: Report of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Introduction

1. For the last two years, the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has asked local authorities to publish data on their Greenhouse Gas emissions each July. The reports are made available on each Council's website and copies are sent to DECC.
2. Last January, the Partnership asked for an annual return summarising the reports from all six local authorities in Oxfordshire to show progress against the agreed target of a 3% reduction in carbon emissions year on year.

Report

3. The table below compares the total gross emissions from all six local authorities in Oxfordshire for the year 2011/12 with the baseline year 2010/11.
4. Reductions in gross emissions range from 5% to 15% - well above the 3% target.

Table 1 – Gross emissions tonnes of CO₂e for 2010/11 and 2011/12

| Council | Cherwell | Oxford City | Oxfordshire County | South Oxfordshire | Vale of White Horse | West Oxfordshire |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Revised 2010/11 baseline | | | | | | |
| Scope 1 | 2,487 | 4,114 | 25,543 | 2,659 | 2,904 | 2,810 |
| Scope 2 | 2,493 | 3,402 | 37,913 | 1,551 | 1,529 | 1,183 |
| Scope 3 | 901 | 88 | 4,497 | 721 | 737 | 596 |
| Total Gross Emissions | 5,881 | 7,604 | 67,953 | 4,931 | 5,170 | 4,589 |
| 2011/12 | | | | | | |
| Scope 1 | 2,302 | 3,799 | 17,797 | 2,522 | 2,687 | 2,477 |
| Scope 2 | 2,342 | 3,090 | 36,681 | 1,406 | 1,520 | 1,088 |
| Scope 3 | 880 | 69 | 3,292 | 688 | 702 | 532 |
| Total Gross Emissions | 5,524 | 6,958 | 57,770 | 4,616 | 4,909 | 4,097 |
| Reduction | 357 | 646 | 10,183 | 315 | 261 | 492 |
| % reduction | 6.1% | 8.5% | 15.0% | 6.4% | 5.0% | 10.7% |

Notes

5. In the table, Scope 1 refers to direct emissions from heating Council properties and from fuel used in Council owned vehicles. Scope 2 refers to indirect emissions from producing electricity used in Council buildings while Scope 3 refers to emissions from business travel in private vehicles.

6. The emissions have been calculated in accordance with guidance published by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)¹ using the latest emission factors². Because some of the factors for 2010/11 have changed, the baseline has also been updated.
7. As well as reductions from investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy, the figures capture the impact of the warmer winter and in some cases, changes in workforce numbers and building disposals. A colder winter could partially reverse the reductions.

Recommendation

8. The Partnership is asked to note the report.

Nick King

Interim Environment and Energy Strategy Manager

Oxfordshire County Council

¹ DEFRA (2009) Guidance on how to measure and report your greenhouse gas emissions
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13309-ghg-guidance-0909011.pdf>

² DEFRA (2012) Greenhouse gas conversion factors for company reporting
2012 guidelines <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13773-ghg-conversionfactors-2012.pdf>

Agenda Item 9

Oxfordshire Environment and Oxfordshire Waste Partnership 26 October 2012

Agenda Item J1: Report on LGA's Climate Local Commitment

Introduction

- 1 Climate Local is an initiative which was launched this summer by the Local Government Association (LGA) in partnership with other national organisations including the Environment Agency.

This report provides a brief summary about Climate Local, and recommends that the Environment and Waste Partnership consider signing the commitment as Climate Local Oxfordshire.

What is Climate Local?

- 2 Climate Local replaces the Nottingham Declaration, which was launched in 2000 and signed by most UK local authorities including those in Oxfordshire. The aim of Climate Local is to help drive and support council action to reduce carbon emissions and develop resilience to the effects of a changing climate and extreme weather. Climate Local has strong central government backing and is a key part of the Memorandum of Understanding between the LGA and government.

Signing up to Climate Local involves a four-stage process:

- 1) **Sign up/refresh:** the first stage is to sign the commitment (shown in Annex 1) as a local authority or group of authorities, who will then be added to the list of signatories on the website.
 - 2) **Declare targets and action:** the next step is to set out – within 6 months, the commitments the partnership intends to make.
 - 3) **Share learning and experiences:** once signed up, the partnership will be expected to share practice with other organisations, communities and stakeholders.
 - 4) **Report on progress:** the partnership will be asked to share progress on commitments once a year.
- 4 Climate Local can be signed by individual authorities or groups of authorities. The Climate Local process outlined above reflects closely the work of the Environment and Waste Partnership, in which good practice is shared and published, and regular progress reports are submitted to the Oxfordshire Partnership. The partnership has already signed up to targets and priorities in Oxfordshire 2030, about which it provides regular reports. This means that targets submitted to Climate Local would be those which have already been agreed within the Oxfordshire 2030 framework.

The potential benefits to the Partnership of signing Climate Local

- 5 The added value of this initiative is the opportunity to raise the profile of our work in Oxfordshire by sharing practice with other local authorities and partners at a national level, and benefit from additional resources and support – new web-based resources, a new online Community, and opportunities for peer learning.

Participation in Climate Local would not require new targets to be developed, but could provide an additional stimulus for the Partnership to commit to some more specific and measurable actions which demonstrate progress in delivering its Oxfordshire 2030 priorities. The Local Authority working group has started to consider options for further development, and it is suggested that their initial proposals are presented to the next meeting of the Partnership in January 2013, together with an assessment of resource requirements, and potential funding sources.

- 6 The Climate Local initiative fits with the aims and objectives of both the Environment and Waste Partnerships - waste is one of the key topics listed in the menu of commitments. It represents an additional opportunity for the Environment and Waste Partnership to publish its aims and ambitions, and to show collective leadership.

Recommendation

- 7 That the Environment and Waste Partnership agree:
 - a) to sign Climate Local, as "Climate Local Oxfordshire";
 - b) as stage two of the process, to agree within six months the commitments to be included and reported on, drawn from the Oxfordshire 2030 priorities
 - c) to invite the Local Authority Working group to present options for further development to the next meeting of the Partnership in January 2013, along with an assessment of resource requirements.

Contact Officer

8 Author Susie Ohlenschlager Tel: 07880 042660

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Climate Local [insert council(s) name]:

Our commitment to taking action in a changing climate

We recognise that our councils have an important role to help our residents and businesses to capture the opportunities and benefits of action on climate change. These include saving money on energy bills, generating income from renewable energy, attracting new jobs and investment in 'green' industries, supporting new sources of energy, managing local flood-risk and water scarcity and protecting our natural environment.

We will progressively address the risks and pursue the opportunities presented by a changing climate, in line with local priorities, through our role as:

- Community leader – helping local people and businesses to be smarter about their energy use and to prepare for climate impacts;
- Service provider – delivering services that are resource efficient, less carbon intensive, resilient and that protect those who are most vulnerable to climate impacts;
- Estate manager – ensuring that our own buildings and operations are resource efficient, use clean energy, and are well prepared for the impacts of a changing climate.

In signing this commitment, **we will**:

- **Set locally-owned and determined commitments** and actions to reduce carbon emissions and to manage climate impacts. These will be specific, measurable and challenging;
- **Publish our commitments, actions and progress**, enabling local communities to hold us to account;
- **Share the learning from our experiences and achievements** with other councils; and
- **Regularly refresh our commitments and actions** to ensure they are current and continue to reflect local priorities.

[Date]

Environment and Waste Partnership

[Signature of Chair of Partnership]

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Agenda Item 10

Oxfordshire Environment and Oxfordshire Waste Partnership Joint Committees **26 October 2012**

Agenda Item J2: Oxfordshire Green Schools – end of year report

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To report on the performance of the Oxfordshire Green Schools programme at the end of its first year of operation.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Oxfordshire Environment and Waste Partnership let a joint contract for environmental education in September 2011. The contract was awarded to Groundwork Thames Valley (GTV), which delivers the Oxfordshire Green Schools programme across the county. The programme aims to raise understanding of sustainable waste and energy management practices for school children at Key Stages 1-3. The contract is for two years, plus an optional two year extension.

- 2.2 The Oxfordshire Green Schools programme replaces the two previously separate “Wild Waste Show” and “Energy Busters” programmes; providing a simpler, more joined up environmental education offering to local schools. The Green Schools programme comprises of two main elements:

- i. One day in-school workshops
- ii. Hub schools programme

The one day workshops are a lighter touch approach, visiting a high number of schools, whereas the hub schools programme is a more in depth approach focussing on a smaller number of schools. Approximately 10 days are spent with each hub school.

- 2.3 In addition to these two main elements of the programme, GTV have also delivered a popular “Green Schools Roadshow” that visited some 29 schools during the summer term of 2012 and have recently held the inaugural “Oxfordshire Green Schools Conference”. The conference celebrated the achievement of the first tranche of schools to go through the Hub Schools programme and also saw the culmination of a countywide schools competition with a “Dragons Den” style pitch by the finalist schools.

- 2.4 Table 1 sets out performance against some of the key contract performance measures.

| Key Performance Indicators | Target Yr1 | Actual performance yr 1 |
|--|------------|-------------------------|
| No. of school visits | 150 | 170 |
| Total no. of individual classes/activities delivered | 300 | 330 |
| Total no. of individual workshops (50 minutes) | 180 | 230 |
| Total no. of hub school visits. | 90 | 80 |
| Total no. of individual roadshow visits | 30 | 29 |
| No. of different schools attended | 100 | 100 |
| External Funding obtained | 16.5K | 18K |
| No. of Hub Schools recruited | 8 | 8 |

OXFORDSHIRE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP AND OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

From table 1 it can be seen that a number of performance indicators, such as the number of school visits and workshops delivered, were exceeded in the first year of the contract. Some difficulty was encountered in recruiting hub schools, with 8 out of a planned 20 recruited in year 1. The remaining 12 are to be recruited in year 2 of the contract. Performance measures for year 2 are currently being finalised.

- 2.5 Further information on year 1 performance and plans for year 2 of the contract will be provided by a presentation at the Environment and Waste Partnership meeting on 26th October.

3 Financial, Risk and Staff Implications

- 3.1 Oxfordshire Waste Partnership provides £80,100 of revenue funding per annum for waste education. Oxfordshire County Council provides an additional £30,000 per year for energy education.
- 3.2 The Oxfordshire Green Schools Programme has been successful in gaining corporate funding to grow the programme. In year one funding has been awarded by Viridor Waste Management to make improvements to the Green schools bus and towards the Green Schools conference and competition. Npower and Thames Water also provided funding for the conference and competition. In all, £14,000 of external funding was obtained over the first year of the contract.

4 Areas Affected

- 4.1 The Oxfordshire Green Schools programme operates countywide.

5 Effect on Strategic Policies

- 5.1 The Environmental Education Service supports a number of aims within the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy by promoting waste reduction, reuse and recycling. The service also delivers lessons and activities on litter, supporting OWP's local environmental quality agenda.
- 5.2 The service particularly supports Policy 3 - The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will help householders and individuals to reduce and manage their wastes through the provision of advice and appropriate services.
- 5.3 In addition, the service contributes to the Schools Carbon Reduction Strategy overarching outcome that "schools are able to measure, understand and take action to reduce their overall carbon footprint". Specifically it addresses outcome 6: "schools use their own carbon footprint to integrate energy efficiency and climate change into the curriculum" through the lessons on energy efficiency, where energy comes from and general climate change messages.

6 Options or Alternatives

- 6.1 N/a

7 Recommendations

- 7.1 That the progress of the Oxfordshire Green Schools programme is noted.

OXFORDSHIRE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP AND OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

8 Reasons for Recommendations

- 8.1 i. To promote waste reduction and energy efficiency initiatives to Oxfordshire schools and communities; helping everyone reduce waste and energy usage.

ii. To work together through the provision of co-ordinated services to maximise the efficient use of resources within Oxfordshire.

9 Contact Officer

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Background Papers:

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