

Minutes



OF A MEETING OF THE

Listening Learning Leading

Oxfordshire Environment Partnership

HELD AT 10.00 AM ON FRIDAY, 25 JANUARY 2013

AT THE SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES,
CROWMARSH GIFFORD

Present

Voting members

Councillor D Dodds (Chairman)	South Oxfordshire District Council
Councillor D Harvey	West Oxfordshire District Council
Councillor H Hibbert-Biles	Oxfordshire County Council
Councillor N Morris	Cherwell District Council
Councillor J Tanner	Oxford City Council
Councillor R Waite	Vale of White Horse District Council

Officers attending for the whole of the meeting

Mr W Lewis	Oxfordshire Waste Partnership
Mr P Mcroft	Oxfordshire Waste Partnership
Mr Ed Potter	Cherwell District Council
Ms R Burns	Oxfordshire County Council
Mr N King	Oxfordshire County Council
Mr T Flanagan	Oxfordshire County Council
Ms S Ohlenschlager	Oxfordshire County Council
Ms F Upton	Oxfordshire County Council
Ms C Kingston	South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils
Mrs J Thompson	South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils
Mr R Young	West Oxfordshire District Council
Ms C Locke	West Oxfordshire District Council
Mr G Browne	Environment Agency

Officers attending for part of the meeting

Mr G Hunt	Oxfordshire County Council
Mr J Copley	Oxford City Council

Apologies

Ms L Watson, Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, gave her apologies.

16 Addresses and questions to the partnership

There were no addresses or questions from members of the public to the partnership.

17 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Oxfordshire Environment Partnership held on 26 October 2012 were approved and signed as such by the Chairman.

18 TOE2 Woodfuel programme funding

The partnership considered a report from Oxfordshire County Council's Environment and Energy Strategy Team and a funding application from TOE2 for support for a project to develop the management of the county's woodlands by providing woodfuel for biomass burners.

The partnership broadly supported the project on environmental grounds and noted that:

- the Waste Partnership's new initiatives fund could not support this project because it did not reduce waste which would otherwise be collected by the local authorities;
- the environment partnership had no funding of its own;
- individual partner authorities could contribute to the project;
- a number of woodfuel projects existed in the county and some overview and co-ordination would benefit all projects;
- support would only be practical if after the initial start-up period the project was self-funding and self-sustaining.

Oxfordshire Environment Partnership agreed:

- (a) that the woodfuel project proposed by TOE2 had their support but funding could not be provided by the partnership;
- (b) to request officers to organise a joint meeting between TVEnergy, TOE2, and local authority officers to discuss how to progress this project, establish links between existing groups, and to recommend next steps to the next meeting;
- (c) to invite officers to develop a funding strategy for the Environment Partnership for review at a future meeting.

19 Sharing good practice - Oxfordshire County Council

Mr G Hunt, County Drainage Engineer, gave a presentation on Oxfordshire County Council's work under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. He explained flood prevention measures, the work carried out by each local authority in partnership, and the use of man-made drainage features to control water flow and reduce the risk of flooding to the highway and property.

The partnership thanked Mr Hunt for his presentation and congratulated his team and the other agencies involved on their work to prevent further flooding in the county.

20 Climate Local commitment and work programme

Mr D Harvey reminded the partnership that he was appointed by West Oxfordshire District Council as a director of the United Sustainable Energy Agency.

The partnership considered the report of the Environment and Energy Strategy Team setting out the requirements of the Local Government Association's Climate Local commitment and the resource requirements and current work programmes of each authority.

The six local authority executive members of the partnership agreed to sign the climate local commitment as 'Climate Local Oxfordshire' on behalf of both the Environment and Waste partnerships.

The partnership agreed to consider within six months a report on the commitments to be included and reported under this initiative.

21 Collective switching project

The partnership considered a report by the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership Coordinator setting out details of a collective energy switching project led by Cherwell District Council.

The partnership discussed the merits and risks of the project, but although broadly supportive of the principles of the project individual members did not wish to commit their local authorities to the project. The partnership co-ordinator reminded members that the project would start on 1 April 2013.

The partnership members agreed to discuss the project within their local authority and to decide on an individual basis whether to participate in and provide resources for the collective energy switching project led by Cherwell District Council.

22 Oxfordshire Total Retrofit

Mr N King, Oxfordshire County Council Environment and Energy Strategy Team, gave a presentation on the Oxfordshire Total Retrofit project. He explained the funding sources, the work with the Low Carbon Hub, and community and large-scale projects.

23 Chairman's announcements

There were no announcements.

The meeting closed at 11.10 am

Chairman

Date