

# Agenda



Listening Learning Leading

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Date: 20 June 2013

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## A MEETING OF THE

# Oxfordshire Environment Partnership

WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY 28 JUNE 2013 AT 10.00 AM

COUNCIL CHAMBER, DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES, CROWMARSH  
GIFFORD

### Members of the Oxfordshire Environment Partnership:

Membership is a loose group comprising the elected members of the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership, officers and representatives from governmental and non-governmental agencies. The partnership has no formal decision making powers.

#### Oxfordshire Waste Partnership Councillors

Mr David Dodds (Chairman of the OWP)

Mr Reg Waite (Vice-Chairman of the  
OWP)

Mr Nigel Morris

Mr John Tanner

Mr David Nimmo-Smith

Mr David Harvey

#### Representing:

South Oxfordshire District Council

Vale of White Horse District Council

Cherwell District Council

Oxford City Council

Oxfordshire County Council

West Oxfordshire District Council

Deputies: any Cabinet or Executive member of a member authority notified to the contact officer as attending in accordance with the substitution rules of that authority.

**Oxfordshire Environment partnership – Currently represented by officers and staff including but not limited to:**  
**current member organisations**

Oxfordshire Waste Partnership  
Cherwell District Council  
Oxford City Council

Oxfordshire County Council

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Council  
West Oxfordshire District Council  
Environment Agency  
Oxfordshire Rural Community Council  
BBOWT

Wayne Lewis  
Ed Potter  
John Copley  
Tim Sadler  
Tom Flanagan  
Andrew Pau  
Gavin Hull  
Nick King  
Susie Ohlenschlager  
Susan Haliwell  
Matt Prosser  
Clare Kingston  
Ralph Young  
Jo Wines  
Linda Watson  
Matt Jackson

### Agenda Items

**1 Apologies for absence and notification of deputy members attending**

**2 Declaration of disclosable pecuniary 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 27 June.

**4 Minutes of the previous meeting**

**Purpose:** To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Oxfordshire Environment Partnership meeting held on 22 March 2013 (attached) and to receive information arising from them.

**5 Bicester Eco- town**

**Presentation** **20 minutes**

**Purpose:** to share practice and information about the Bicester eco-town development.

**6 Climate resilience work and climate projections (Pages 5 - 8)**

**Report attached** **20 minutes**

**Purpose:** to give a brief summary of Oxfordshire County Council's weather and climate resilience work during the past year. The report will be accompanied by a short presentation which illustrates some climate projections for Oxfordshire.

**Recommendations:**

1. To note the report;
2. To agree to consider a report about participating in the Severe Weather Monitoring System (SWIMS) at a future meeting of the Partnership.

**7 Update on collective switching** (Pages 9 - 14)

**Report attached**

**20 minutes**

**Purpose:** to report on the outcome of a collective switching scheme undertaken by Cherwell District Council (CDC) and West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC).

**Recommendation:** to note the outcome of the Better Together Oxfordshire collective switching campaign.

**8 Chairman's announcements**

**There will be a break for refreshments before the start of the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership meeting**

*The next meeting is on Friday, 1 November 2013 in the Council Chamber, South Oxfordshire District Council Offices*

MARGARET REED

Head of Legal and Democratic Services

**If you would like a copy of these papers in large print, Braille or audio cassette or have any other special requirements (such as access facilities) please contact the officer named on this agenda. Please give as much notice as possible before the meeting**

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**Oxfordshire Environment and Waste Partnership**

**28 June 2013**

**Oxfordshire County Council's work on weather resilience and climate projections**

**Introduction**

1. This report is a brief summary of Oxfordshire County Council's weather and climate resilience work during the past year. It accompanies a short presentation which illustrates some climate projections for Oxfordshire.

**Background**

2. The County Council's Environment and Energy Strategy Team works across directorates to manage weather and climate risks.
3. Oxfordshire County Council has completed two Local Climate Impact Profiles covering the period 1996 to 2009. These show that during this period there were at least 350 recorded incidents caused by severe weather, costing the council an estimated £21 million.
4. The focus of Oxfordshire County Council's Adaptation action plan is on asset resilience. Key aims and objectives in the 2012-2015 plan are to:
  - Reduce the risk from the impacts of weather events on Oxfordshire County Council services and costs;
  - Ensure that our assets and infrastructure are both resource efficient and resilient to the potentially increasing severity and frequency of weather events;
  - Implement a process for monitoring and recording data about the costs and impacts of severe weather. Recording and reporting this data is a requirement in the contract with the property service provider.

**Resilience review**

5. At the start of this year we conducted a review to find out how well prepared council services are to cope with severe weather. We looked at weather related risks, based on the weather definitions in the Oxfordshire Joint Severe Weather Plan (2013). For each risk identified, we assessed whether there are mitigation plans to address these risks at national, local or directorate level. These are summarised in Appendix 1. We found that:

**a) Emergency response:**

The Oxfordshire Joint Severe Weather Plan has effective responses in place for the main weather risks. The latest version introduces systems which take account of the weather events in 2012. We have not needed to test our

response to heat waves recently, but we can expect more heat waves in future.<sup>1</sup>

**b) Major risks and impacts:**

The greatest impacts from severe weather can be seen in the cumulative damage to our assets and infrastructure, especially highways, but also buildings. This damage is evident after the heavy rain and cold weather last winter. There is a risk that the increasing cost of repairs will reduce the budget available for routine maintenance and for capital investment. This could affect our future resilience to severe weather.

**c) Need for better data analysis**

Services record a large amount of data, but do not yet routinely monitor or report the costs and impacts of severe weather. We need this information to build a stronger business case for investing in resilience to avoid future costs.

6. So the focus of our Adaptation Action plan will continue to be on asset resilience, and we will give priority to monitoring costs. To help services to do this, the county council is taking part in a trial of the Severe Weather Impacts Monitoring System (SWIMS) system developed by Kent County Council.

**Implementing SWIMS**

7. SWIMS is an online portal hosted by the regional partnership Climate South East, with support from DEFRA. The SWIMS database allows individual services and contractors to report and monitor the costs and impacts of weather on a routine basis. This evidence will help to analyse trends and plan for the future.
8. Once the SWIMS system is up and running, we would like to invite other councils and organisations in Oxfordshire to take part. SWIMS is a valuable opportunity for the partnership to work together to improve resilience to the severe weather that we are already experiencing.

**Recommendations**

- a) To note the report;
- b) To consider a report about participating in the Severe Weather Monitoring System (SWIMS) at a future meeting of the Partnership.

**Contact Officer**

Author: Susie Ohlenschlager Tel: 07880 042660  
Email: Susie.ohlenschlager@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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<sup>1</sup> UKCP 09 Climate Projections, and UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2012.

APPENDIX 1

Summary tables

a) Key risks to services

| Weather type                      | Risk/impact   | Key services affected                           |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| <p><b>Flooding</b></p>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• roads blocked leading to road closures and traffic disruption such as school closures</li> <li>• flooding of homes and businesses</li> <li>• weather related damage to roads, bridges, and buildings</li> <li>• increased water flow causing erosion (scour) which can undermine bridge foundations. This is very costly to repair and investigate</li> <li>• damage to buildings/subsidence – rising cost of repairs</li> </ul> <p><b>Recent examples from heavy rain in November/December 2012:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• boats/barges can break loose from moorings and strike bridges (eg Wolvercote in 2012)</li> <li>• ground saturation affecting the stability of embankments and carriageway: this caused collapsed road at Bagley Wood</li> <li>• damage to roof tiles and roofs in schools and community centres; risk of leaking water damaging computer and other equipment</li> </ul> | <p>Transport</p> <p>Property</p> <p>Schools</p> |
| <p><b>Cold weather/storm:</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• disruption and damage to roads</li> <li>• more potholes needing repair</li> <li>• complaints from public</li> <li>• damage to buildings</li> <li>• school closures</li> </ul>  | <p>Transport</p> <p>Property</p> <p>Schools</p> |
| <p><b>Heatwave</b></p>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• road heave, roads cracking or melting</li> <li>• road closures, increased accident risk</li> </ul>   | <p>Transport</p> <p>Property</p>                |

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>increased demand for air conditioning and extra resilience measures, disrupting service delivery</li> <li>emergency response not tested recently</li> </ul> | Schools<br>Social and Community Services |
| <b>Increased frequency of severe weather</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the cost of responding reduces budget available for normal service delivery</li> </ul>  | All service areas                        |

**b) Summary of national and local plans/processes to manage weather risks**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Flooding</b>                          | <p>National and local plans for river and surface water flooding (Flood and Water Management Act 2010)</p> <p>Oxfordshire Flood Risk Management Strategy (draft -2013)</p> <p>SUDs implementation (Oxfordshire County Council Drainage Team)</p> <p><a href="#">Oxfordshire Joint Severe Weather Plan</a></p> |
| <b>Heatwave:</b>                         | <p><a href="#">Department of Health Heatwave Plan for England 2013</a></p> <p>Met Office Heat-Health Watch system</p> <p>Social &amp;Community Services Heat Wave Plan</p> <p>SCS/CEF Major Incident Plan</p> <p>Corporate HR advice for county council staff</p>   |
| <b>Cold weather/ storms:</b>             | <p>Oxfordshire Joint Severe Weather Plan</p> <p>E&amp;E adverse weather plan eg snow desk</p> <p><a href="#">Oxfordshire Waste Partnership Emergency Protocol</a></p> <p>Department of Health Cold Weather Plan for England</p>   |
| <b>All climate related weather risks</b> | <p>UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2012</p> <p><a href="#">National Adaptation Programme</a> to be published November 2013</p> <p><a href="#">Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum Community Risk Register</a></p> <p>Climate Ready – <a href="#">Environment Agency</a></p>                                |

**OXFORDSHIRE ENVIRONMENT & WASTE PARTNERSHIP**

**28 June 2013**

**Collective Switching**

**1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To report on the outcome of a collective switching scheme undertaken by Cherwell District Council (CDC) and West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC).

**2 Background**

- 2.1 On 28<sup>th</sup> January 2013, the Oxfordshire Environment & Waste Partnership meeting considered a report on collective switching; with CDC and WODC choosing to proceed with a scheme.
- 2.2 Collective switching offers residents the opportunity to sign up to a scheme where an intermediary company negotiates with energy suppliers on their behalf in order to secure a lower price for their gas and electricity. This is achieved by the intermediary company grouping residents together into a single customer base and then conducting a reverse auction with energy suppliers.
- 2.3 CDC and WODC appointed Ichoosr as the intermediary company. Ichoosr provided a website through which residents registered with the scheme, it conducted the reverse auction and provided regular progress reports.
- 2.4 CDC and WODC joined up to promote the scheme locally under the “Better Together Oxfordshire” branding developed for the campaign. The Affordable Warmth Network (operated by the Energy Savings Trust) was appointed to provide a telephone registration service. Council customer service teams also provided a “walk-in” registration service at Council offices and service points.
- 2.5 A reverse auction was undertaken on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2013. Oxfordshire registrants were bundled with registrants from a number of other local authority schemes managed by ichoosr to form a single customer base. Bids were obtained for the following tariffs:
- Monthly Electricity
  - Electricity pre-payment meter
  - Monthly Electricity and Gas (Dual fuel)
  - Electricity and Gas pre-payment meters.

The winning bid for the electricity only tariff was from Scottish Power, with Sainsbury's Energy providing the winning tariff for the dual fuel option and British Gas winning the pre-payment tariffs.

- 2.6 Table 1 summarises the overall project results. A total of 1,460 people registered their details with the Better Together Oxfordshire scheme (824 within CDC, 390 from WODC and a further 246 residents that entered an Oxfordshire postcode, but did not select either CDC or WODC as their local council).

Table 1 – Collective switching results

| Council                         | No. of Registrations | % registrants that save | % registrants that save >£50 | % registrants that switched |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Cherwell                        | 824                  | 60%                     | 42%                          | 8%                          |
| West Oxfordshire                | 390                  | 65%                     | 47%                          | 8%                          |
| Better Together Oxfordshire     | 1460                 | 62%                     | 43%                          | 6.5%                        |
| All councils within the auction | 86,986               | 70%                     | 54%                          | 7.5%                        |

- 2.7 More than 60% of registrants could save money through the winning tariffs. Despite this, a very low percentage of registrants chose to switch provider. The low switching rate within Oxfordshire reflects that of the whole group, where only 7.5% (6,524) of the 86,986 registrants changed provider.
- 2.8 The main reason for the low switching rate is believed to be the nature of the winning electricity and dual-fuel tariff offered by Sainsbury’s Energy. The tariff is based on a credit or “cash-back” payment being paid by Sainsbury’s to customers in month twelve of the supply contract. Whilst the deal is cheaper for many over a full year, this saving is not realised until month 12 of the supply agreement. It is likely that registrants found the offer complicated and were also perhaps put off by having to defer any savings for one year.
- 2.9 The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) recognises the role that collective switching schemes can have in encouraging people to engage with the energy market and seek a better deal by switching provider. By working with councils through schemes such as Better Together Oxfordshire, residents can be helped and supported through the switching process. As part of its Retail Market Review (launching later this year), Ofgem will allow energy companies to offer special tariffs for collective switching schemes in addition to their 'core tariffs'. These tariffs will only be open to the registrants of a collective scheme. However, energy companies will be unable to offer 'cash back' or 'Bill credit' offers as part of the tariff scheme in future. This should encourage greater competition between suppliers on tariff rates and more transparent deals for the customer.

**3 Financial, Risk and Staff Implications**

- 3.1 Project expenditure is detailed in appendix 1. Total expenditure was £3,019. CDC and WODC will receive a rebate of £5 per fuel for each resident that switches to the winning provider (£10 for a dual fuel). With 96 confirmed switches, this will provide an estimated income of £720, reducing the overall expenditure to approximately £2,299.

**4 Areas Affected**

- 4.1 The project was delivered by Cherwell D.C and West Oxfordshire D.C.

**5 Effect on Strategic Policies**

- 5.1 The collective switching scheme supports the Oxfordshire 2030 pledge to create healthy and thriving communities. It aims to help reduce fuel poverty. In future collective switching may help to reduce carbon emissions through the inclusion of a green tariff.

**6 Options or Alternatives**

6.1 N/A

**7 Recommendations**

7.1 That the outcome of the Better Together Oxfordshire collective switching campaign is noted.

**8 Reasons for Recommendations**

8.1 To help reduce fuel poverty and save local residents money.

**9 Contact Officer**

9.1 Author: Wayne Lewis Tel: 01295 221903

Email: Wayne.lewis@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Background Papers: OEWP Partnership meeting 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 2013. Agenda item 8 "Collective Switching".

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Appendix 1

Better together Oxfordshire Project Expenditure

| <u>Item</u>  | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>CDC Expenditure</u> | <u>WODC Expenditure</u> | <u>Total Expenditure</u> |
|--|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Communications materials</b>                    |                 |                        |                         |                          |
| Posters  | 500             | £ 24.50                | £ 24.50                 | £ 49.00                  |
| Business cards                                     | 6000            | £ 90.00                | £ 90.00                 | £ 180.00                 |
| Banners  | 6               | £ 150.00               | £ 150.00                | £ 300.00                 |
| Leaflets   | 10000           | £ 217.50               | £ 217.50                | £ 435.00                 |
| Banbury guardian advert                            | 1               | £ 272.00               | £ -                     | £ 272.00                 |
| Purchase of domain name                            | 1               | £ 42.00                | £ 42.00                 | £ 84.00                  |
| <b>sub-total</b>                                   |                 | <b>£ 796.00</b>        | <b>£ 524.00</b>         | <b>£ 1,320.00</b>        |
| <b>Phone line</b>                                  |                 |                        |                         |                          |
| EST phonenumber                                    | 1               | £ 440.00               | £ 440.00                | £ 880.00                 |
| icoosr training for EST                            | 1               | £ 160.00               | £ 160.00                | £ 320.00                 |
| <b>sub-total</b>                                   |                 | <b>£ 600.00</b>        | <b>£ 600.00</b>         | <b>£ 1,200.00</b>        |
| <b>Others</b>                                      |                 |                        |                         |                          |
| ichoosr training day travel costs                  | 6               | £ 101.95               | £ 29.85                 | £ 131.80                 |
| Postage of switching offer to off-line registrants | 267             | £ 202.00               | £ 166.00                | £ 368.00                 |
| <b>sub-total</b>                                   |                 | <b>£ 303.95</b>        | <b>£ 195.85</b>         | <b>£ 499.80</b>          |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>                           |                 | <b>£ 1,699.95</b>      | <b>£ 1,319.85</b>       | <b>£ 3,019.80</b>        |
| Estimated income                                   | 96              |                        |                         | £ 720.00                 |
| Surplus/deficit                                    |                 |                        |                         | <b>-£ 2,299.80</b>       |
| <b>Net cost</b>                                    |                 | <b>CDC total</b>       | <b>WODC Total</b>       | <b>Total</b>             |
|  |                 | <b>£ 1,339.95</b>      | <b>£ 959.85</b>         | <b>£ 2,299.80</b>        |

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# Minutes



OF A MEETING OF THE

Listening Learning Leading

## Oxfordshire Environment Partnership

HELD AT 10.00 AM ON FRIDAY 22 MARCH 2013

COUNCIL CHAMBER, DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES, CROWMARSH  
GIFFORD

### Present

#### Voting members of the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership

|                               |                                      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 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 Ed Potter   | Cherwell District Council                                      |
| Ms R Burns     | Oxfordshire County Council                                     |
| Ms V Fletcher  | Oxfordshire County Council                                     |
| Mr M Prosser   | South Oxfordshire and<br>Vale of White Horse district councils |
| Mrs J Thompson | South Oxfordshire and<br>Vale of White Horse district councils |
| Mr R Young     | West Oxfordshire District Council                              |
| Ms H Page      | Environment Agency   |
| Mr S Kenton    | Community Action Group manager                                 |

#### Apologies for absence

Mr N King, Oxfordshire County Council  
Ms S Ohlenschlager, Oxfordshire County Council  
Ms L Watson, Oxfordshire Rural Community Council

### 24 Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interest

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

### 25 Addresses and questions to the partnership

There were no addresses or questions.

## **26 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the Oxfordshire Environment Partnership meeting held on 25 January 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed as such by the Chairman.

The partnership noted that TOE2's woodfuel project was progressing.

## **27 Green Infrastructure**

Ms Vicky Fletcher, Oxfordshire County Council Historic and Natural Environment Team Leader, gave a presentation on the development of the Green Infrastructure policy or framework.

She explained that the proposed framework was at an early stage and should be complete by March 2014 at the latest. The framework would cover natural environment planning: ensuring that developments included accessible green space; managing existing natural spaces; and planning for their long-term management. It would not replace existing district and county plans but would provide an over-arching county-side policy. Its key use would be as supplementary planning guidance and as to allow new environmental initiatives to be evaluated and targeted as part of an overall strategy.

The partnership:

1. noted the presentation and thanked Ms Fletcher for this;
2. requested a further report to a future meeting as the framework progressed; and
3. suggested that Ms Fletcher discuss a proactive approach on implementing this framework with district and county council senior planning officers.

## **28 Climate Local - update on actions**

The partnership discussed a report setting out the proposed commitments and actions to be included and reported on as part of the Climate Local process.

It was noted that these were drawn from existing commitments and actions undertaken by partner authorities. A more challenging set of commitments could be agreed in future.

The partnership agreed:

1. to note that no additional resource implications arising from implementing this agreement;
2. as individual authorities to agree the Climate Local commitments in the appendix to the report and report this decision to the Environment and Energy Strategy Officer by 30 April;
3. that the commitments agreed by all partner authorities be published on the climate local website as commitments of the whole partnership, and that commitments agreed by some but not all partner authorities be published as such;
4. to ask officers to develop proposals for further actions to add to the commitments in due course

## **29 Chairman's announcements**

There were no announcements.

|   |
|---|
| <b>ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED JOINTLY WITH THE OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP</b> |
|---|

### **30 Oxfordshire Green Schools Contract extension**

The Environment and Waste Partnership members considered a report proposing the extension of the current Oxfordshire Green Schools education service contract with the Groundwork Trust for a further five months from 31 October 2013 to 31 March 2014.

Members discussed the impact on schools of finishing the contract part way through the school year but concluded that this was not significant.

Members of the Waste Partnership agreed:

1. to note the progress of the Oxfordshire Green Schools programme; and
2. to ask the Groundwork Trust to agree to a five month extension to the current contract, taking the agreement through to 31 March 2014.

### **31 Community Action Group Project**

With the agreement of the Chairman, this was considered as a joint Environment and Waste Partnership item.

Mr S Kenton, Community Action Group Manager gave a presentation on the work of the Community Action Groups and their environmental, carbon reduction, and waste reduction work.

He outlined the formal and informal work carried out which involved up to 79,000 people in regular or one-off involvement across the county and aimed to make community groups resilient and self-sustaining. Groups worked on reducing waste, energy use, reusing materials, environmental improvements, and on training and skills. The work tied in well with the county's waste strategy and district strategies. The county council gave funding of £90,000 a year which translated into £500,000 in other funding and volunteer time and aided delivery of other community projects. A community impact tool was in development which would help groups to collect and collate data about the actual impact of their work.

The partnership thanked Mr Kenton for his presentation and congratulated him and the CAG project on the excellent work and the positive impact this had on communities.

The meeting closed at 11.10am

Chairman

Date

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