

# Agenda



Listening Learning Leading

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## A MEETING OF THE

# Oxfordshire Environment Partnership

WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY 17 JANUARY 2014 AT 10.00 AM

COUNCIL CHAMBER, SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OFFICES

### 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

**to:**  
Wayne Lewis  
Ed Potter  
John Copley  
Tim Sadler  
Tom Flanagan  
Andrew Pau  
Gavin Hull  
Nick King  
Sarah Gilbert  
Matt Prosser  
Clare Kingston  
Ralph Young  
Lucy Bee  
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 (the day before the meeting).

**4 Minutes of the previous meeting (Pages 5 - 8)**

**Minutes attached**

**5 minutes**

**Purpose:** To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Oxfordshire Environment Partnership meeting held on 1 November 2013 and to receive information arising from them.

**5 Ox futures project (Pages 9 - 12)**

**Report attached**

**30 minutes**

This report on the progress of the Ox Futures project will be accompanied by a presentation by Mairi Brookes, Ox futures Project leader, Oxford City Council and Anthony Simpson from the Low Carbon Hub.

**6 Update on Climate resilience and SWIMs** (Pages 13 - 16)

**Report attached**

**15 minutes**

**Purpose:** To give an update on Oxfordshire County Council's progress toward recording and monitoring the impact of severe weather events on properties and services, and outlines opportunities to work with the county's Community Action Groups to build community resilience to weather events.

**7 Chairman's announcements**

**ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED JOINTLY WITH THE OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP**

**8 Community engagement and education on environmental impact - Contract Procurement update**

**Report attached to the agenda for the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership meeting.**

**15 minutes**

**Purpose:** To give an update on the procurement of community engagement and environmental education services.

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

*The next meeting is on Friday, 21 March 2014 in the Council Chamber, South Oxfordshire District Council Offices*

MARGARET REED

Head of Legal and Democratic Services

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# Minutes



OF A MEETING OF THE

Listening Learning Leading

## Oxfordshire Environment Partnership

HELD AT 10.00 AM ON FRIDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2013

COUNCIL CHAMBER, DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES, CROWMARSH  
GIFFORD

### Voting members of the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership attending

Councillor D Dodds (Chairman)	South Oxfordshire District Council
Councillor D Harvey	West Oxfordshire District Council
Councillor N Morris	Cherwell District Council
Councillor D Nimmo-Smith	Oxfordshire County 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
Ms R Lake	Oxfordshire Waste Partnership
Ms M Nielsen	Oxford City Council
Mr G Bagordo	Oxfordshire County Council
Mr T Flanagan	Oxfordshire County Council
Ms S Gilbert	Oxfordshire County Council
Mr M Watson	Oxfordshire County Council
Mr G Hull	Oxfordshire County Council
Mr M Prosser	South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils
Mrs J Thompson	South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils
Ms L Croot	West Oxfordshire District Council
Ms K Holt	Environment Agency
Ms K Woolley	Chair of TOE2 and trustee of ORCC

### Apologies for absence

Mr E Potter	Cherwell District Council
Mr N King	Oxfordshire County Council
Ms L Bee	Environment Agency
Ms L Watson	ORCC

## 8 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 and was a trustee of the Energy Foundation.

## **9 Addresses and questions to the partnership**

There were no addresses or questions.

## **10 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the Oxfordshire Environment Partnership meeting held on 28 June 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed as such by the Chairman.

## **11 Towards A Biomass Strategy For Oxfordshire**

Dr Keith Richards from Thames Valley Energy gave a presentation on the use of woodfuel and biofuel, the supply and demand in Oxfordshire, and the development of a strategy to make better use of the supply, and answered questions.

In summary, the supply of woodfuel, especially chippings, is plentiful and the supply chain good but the demand within the county is less than the supply. While there are large-scale projects to use wood to generate electricity which could utilise some of the supply, local small scale heat or heat and power schemes would make best use of the supply, economically and environmentally. Pelleted wood was easier to store and manage for heating systems than chippings, but chippings were easier and cheaper to manufacture and could be used in many locations.

The partnership agreed that:

- each council should consider the opportunities for using chipped woodfuel in their own estate.
- each council should work on encouraging residents and businesses to use local supplies; encourage suppliers to meet the 'Oxlogs' standard, and encourage more planting of trees for woodfuel.

## **12 Report on Carbon Emissions**

The partnership considered the report setting out progress against the Oxfordshire Climate Local commitment to reduce carbon emissions by three per cent year on year against a 2010/11 baseline.

Members noted that measurements of CO<sub>2</sub> and greenhouses gases were not directly comparable and that the figures reported across years and between councils were not like-for-like. Clear standards for measurement and reporting should be agreed and used by all partner councils to allow comparisons.

Members were pleased to see an overall reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions close to or at the target across the partner councils over the two years.

The partnership agreed:

1. to request details of how South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse district council had reduced their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions;
2. to agree a standard method of calculation and measuring CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gas emissions across the county to allow direct comparisons;
3. to note the report and progress made.

### **13 Progress report on DECC funded Green Deal projects**

The partnership considered a report setting out progress on the Oxfordshire Green Deal projects that received funding from the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

There was interest in the green deal scheme but low take up as there were cheaper and easier means of financing improvements. Oxford City Council was working with North-East Energy in Barton and was looking at how to encourage landlords to make improvements to their properties. The Green Deal companies would be left with the hard to improve properties as the energy companies were picking up much of the easier work.

The partnership noted the report.

### **14 Chairman's announcements**

There were no announcements.

### **15 Green Schools Programme**

The partnership considered a report setting out the work of the Green Schools programme, the use of the mobile classroom, and options for the future operation of the programme.

Members noted that Groundwork South were fulfilling their contract and receiving good feedback from schools. The bus used as a mobile classroom was back in use as the licensing issues had been resolved. Members discussed the options for extending and re-tendering the contract.

The partnership noted that the difficulties surrounding the usage of the Green Schools bus have been resolved;

and resolved:

1. to note the summary Annual Report from Groundwork South;
2. to retender the Environmental Education Service alongside the OCC CAG service; and
3. in the light of a decision to retender alongside the CAG service (2), to agree a short term extension in contract with Groundwork South until the end of July 2014 to enable continuity in service for schools.

The meeting closed at 11.10 am

Chairman

Date

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## OxFutures update for OEP

17<sup>th</sup> January 2014

This report accompanies a presentation by Mairi Brookes, Oxfutures Project leader, Oxford City Council and Anthony Simpson, Low Carbon Hub.

### Background

- Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council were awarded a grant by the Intelligent Energy Europe programme of the EU. It covers 75% of the costs towards a £1.3m programme to mobilise local energy infrastructure. The funded period started on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012 and lasts for three years and has the following key targets:

Leveraging investment in energy projects	£20m
Renewable generation capacity	8.4 MW
Demand reduction energy savings	13,330, 000 kWh
Carbon emissions reductions	7,900 tCO <sub>2</sub> p.a.

- The grant is formally titled 'Oxfordshire Total Retrofit' but following work on the communications plan a public-facing brand of 'OxFutures' was adopted as this is more accessible and can be used as an umbrella for future projects that also aim to deliver the city and county's carbon targets over the next 20 years.
- Local community interest company Low Carbon Hub is the major partner to the two councils in delivering the four programme strands:
  - The OxFutures Fund
  - Investment on the public estate
  - Community energy: powering up
  - Domestic retrofit: community powering down

### Progress

- Options for a private sector OxFutures Fund were explored but the current economic climate is not supportive for this. Instead we plan to develop the Low Carbon Hub's financial and business structures to investment readiness with a goal of securing a £5m revolving construction finance fund for powering up projects.
- Investment in the public estate will focus on community-facing assets for which councils have a choice of raising funds themselves, or partnering with the community.
- Low Carbon Hub have launched the Solar Energy for Schools programme and undertaken a scoping exercise for solar PV on car parks. Oxford City Council is working to leverage Energy Company Obligation funding for energy efficiency improvements to tower blocks and other social housing.
- The community and business powering up project pipeline is strong and likely to meet our investment target on its own. 140kWp of solar PV have been installed at

Oxford Bus Company, Osney Lock Hydro is under construction with Abingdon and Goring hydro projects at the planning submission stage.

8. The Warming Oxfordshire and Warming Barton programmes have delivered over 300 energy assessments following community engagement events and leafleting. In Barton 25 houses have been installed with external wall insulation which was part funded by ECO investment. Despite this success, policy uncertainty combined with difficulties in fully funding measures through ECO mean that our immediate next steps will be to develop a better financial model for funding domestic retrofits before expanding the offer to householders further.

### Event

9. OxFutures is running an event on Friday 24th January at the Said Business School in Oxford, to gather senior decision-makers and influencers in Oxfordshire who wish to help the transition to a low carbon and more sustainable society (see Annex 1).
10. The event aims to create a high-level and effective network of Oxfordshire leaders to take action on energy locally. The event will explore how “low carbon economy thinking” can be a driver for social and economic benefit.

### Recommendations

11. Councillors consider whether there are opportunities for projects on the public estate or within their wider communities that might benefit from the Oxfutures programme.
12. Councillors note the “Oxfutures: Action on Energy” event on Friday 24th January. Further information is available from Mairi Brookes.

### Contacts

<u>Name</u>	<u>Role</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Mairi Brookes	OxFutures Project Leader	mbrookes@oxford.gov.uk	01865 252212
Nick King	OxFutures lead at Oxfordshire County Council	Nick.King@oxfordshire.gov.uk	01865 815702
Anthony Simpson	Solar Energy for Schools, Low Carbon Hub	anthony.simpson@lowcarbonhub.org	01865 246099

**Annex 1:**

# OxFutures **ACTION ON ENERGY**

**24 January 2014** **2.30 – 5pm**  
Saïd Business School, Oxford OX1 1RQ Followed by drinks reception until 6.30pm

**Key speakers:**

	<b>Jonathon Porritt CBE</b> Co-founder Forum for the Future
	<b>Leo Johnson</b> Co-author of <i>Turnaround Challenge</i>
	<b>Catherine Bottrill</b> CEO Pillo
	<b>Caroline Mason CBE</b> Chief Executive Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
	<b>Tim Stevenson OBE</b> Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire

			 Co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme of the European Union
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**Oxfordshire Environment and Waste Partnership**

**17 January 2014**

**Update on Oxfordshire County Council's weather resilience monitoring**

**Introduction**

1. This report gives a short update on Oxfordshire County Council's progress toward recording and monitoring the impact of severe weather events on properties and services. It also outlines opportunities to work with the county's Community Action Groups to build community resilience to weather events. Members are asked to support this initiative.

**Background**

2. The County Council's Environment and Energy Strategy Team works across directorates to monitor and 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. We are now implementing a system to routinely record the impact and cost to OCC of severe weather events. This will help develop the business case to invest in resilience measures that will in turn reduce the impact on services and costs, a key aim of the County Council's Adaptation action plan for 2012-2015.
5. Local climate projections suggest that severe weather events are likely to become more frequent. OCC (through Resource Futures) is exploring opportunities to link the county's Community Action Groups and flood and resilience groups to help build community resilience to these events.

**Monitoring the costs of severe weather**

6. The Severe Weather Impact Monitoring System, 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.
7. The system is still under development, although most technical issues have now been resolved. Trials will be conducted with officers across OCC services during January to March with a view to embedding SWIMS in 'business as usual' as soon as possible. The storms and flooding over the past few weeks will provide a good test for the system.
8. In tandem with the SWIMS work, Carillion have developed a system for recording the impact of severe weather on OCC properties. Data for the past year show that Carillion received 152 calls to the helpdesk following severe weather events (mostly rainfall and flooding events). Initial figures indicate a cost of just over

£46,000 to resolve immediate weather related impacts and a further £680,000 in follow up projects. The overall cost to OCC properties was just under £726,000.

9. OCC will now add these impacts and costs to SWIMS to provide a better indication of the overall cost of weather events to OCC.
10. 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.

### **Community resilience**

11. Recent events highlight the impact of severe weather on communities across the county. With such events expected to become more frequent there is a clear need to consider options to build local resilience to climate extremes.
12. Oxfordshire is fortunate to have one of the most active community networks in the country. Currently there are 55 Community Action Groups focussing on issues of waste reduction, food, energy, transport and biodiversity / conservation. One group, South Oxfordshire Sustainability (a consortium of all the CAGs in South Oxfordshire) has already held two public meetings on water issues in Oxfordshire attended by the Environment Agency, Thames Water, OCC, and the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology. They have also facilitated a meeting between Thames Water and South Oxfordshire District Council.
13. With most CAGs having a strong interest in sustainability and resilience and it needs only a small step to link with flood and resilience groups. This would bring a number of benefits: increasing the number of volunteers available; help facilitate greater understanding of possible causes and effects of severe weather conditions; strengthen each network.
14. To initiate the programme, Resource Futures have contacted District Council flood group coordinators with a view to making links with the CAGs. They have also held initial discussions with OCC Emergency Planning Officers to explore opportunities for working together. As a first step they have mapped out where CAGs are located and which of these areas have flood / resilience plans in place. The list is given in Annex 1. Further work on the project is on hold pending award of the new CAG tender in the new financial year.

### **Recommendations**

- a) Members are asked to support this initiative through their local contacts;
- b) To consider a report about participating in the Severe Weather Monitoring System (SWIMS) at a future meeting of the Partnership.

Contact officer for this report:

Inga Doherty,

Environment & Energy Strategy Officer

Environment, Energy & Travel Team, Oxfordshire County Council

Annex 1 Community Action Group areas, Flood plans and Parish Plans

Community Action Group	Flood plan	Parish Plan
· Abingdon Carbon Cutters	Y	N
· Abundance	N/A	N/A
· Appleton with Eaton CAGE	Y	N
· Barracks Lane Community Garden	Y	N
· Bicester BabyStore	N/A	N/A
· Bicester Green	N	Y
· Broken Spoke Bike Co-op	Y?	N
· CAGLeys - Blackbird Leys	N	N
· Canalside Environment Group	Y?	N
· Chalgrove Environment Network	Y	N
· Charlbury Green Hub	Y	N
· Cultivate	N/A	N/A
· Dean Court CAG	Y?	N
· DinnerTime	N/A	N/A
· Duns Tew Community Action Group	N	Y
· East Oxford Farmers' & Community Market	Y?	N
· Grassroots Bicester	N	Y
· Great Milton Freecycle Live	N	Y
· Green Broom	N	N
· Greening Chinnor	N	N
· Hendreds Environment Group	N	N
· Hook Norton Low Carbon	N	N
· Kidlington vs Climate Change	Y	N
· LEN - Longworth Environmental Network	N	N
· Living Lightly in Dorchester, Burcot and Clifton Hampden	Y (CH)	Y (Dorchester)
· Low Carbon Barton	N	N
· Low Carbon East Oxford	Y ?	N
· Low Carbon Headington	N	N
· Low Carbon Oxford North - LCON	N	N
· Low Carbon South Oxford - LCSO	N	N
· Low Carbon West Oxford - LCWO	Y	N
· Orinoco	N	N
· Oxford Food Justice	N/A	N/A
· Oxfordshire Chilterns Community Action	N	Y
· OxGrow	Y?	N
· Rose Hill and Iffley Low Carbon	Y?	N
· Sustainable Blewbury	N	Y
· Sustainable Didcot	Y	Y
· Sustainable Faringdon	N	N
· Sustainable Kirtlington	N	N
· Sustainable Stonesfield	N	Y
· Sustainable Wallingford	N	N
· Sustainable Wantage	Y	N
· Sustainable Witney	Y	N
· Sustainable Woodstock	N	N
· Talking Shop Sandford	N	Y
· Thame Environment Group	N	N
· Transition Chipping Norton	N	N
· Transition Eynsham Area - TEA	N	N
· Westmill Sustainable Energy Trust	Y	N
· Wheatley Community Action Group	N	N
· Wolvercote Farmers' Market	Y	N
· Woodcote Community Acton Group	N	N

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