

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 CO₂ 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 CO₂ 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 CO₂ emissions;
2. to agree a standard method of calculation and measuring CO₂ 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