

Public Document Pack

OXFORDSHIRE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP 22 JUNE 2012 AGENDA ITEMS AND MINUTES

The agenda, reports and minutes are all in this document pack.

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Notice of meeting and Agenda



Listening Learning Leading

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A MEETING OF THE

Oxfordshire Environment Partnership

WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY 22 JUNE 2012 AT 10.00AM

IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, CROWMARSH GIFFORD

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
(deputy: any Cabinet member)

Reg Waite
(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:

Chairman - South Oxfordshire District
Council

Vice-Chairman – Vale of White Horse
District Council

Cherwell District Council

Oxford City Council

Oxfordshire County Council

West Oxfordshire District Council

**Oxfordshire Environment partnership – Currently represented by:
current members**

Oxfordshire Waste Partnership	Wayne Lewis
Cherwell District Council	Ian Davies
Oxford City Council	John Copley
	Tim Sadler
Oxfordshire County Council	Andrew Pau
	Rachel Burns
	Susie Ohlenschlager
	Susan Haliwell
South Oxfordshire and vale of White Horse District Council	Matt Prosser
West Oxfordshire District Council	Trevor Askew
Environment Agency	Lee Horrocks
	Ben Morrish
Oxfordshire Rural Community Council	Linda Watson
BBOWT	Matt Jackson

Agenda items

- 1 Apologies for absence and notification of deputy members attending** 10.00 am

- 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 21 June.

- 4 Minutes, 30 March 2012 (attached to the OWP agenda)**

Purpose: To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Oxfordshire Environment Partnership meeting held on 30 March 2012 and to receive information arising from them.

- 5 South Oxfordshire District Council – presentation of good practice** 10.05 am

Heather Saunders will give a presentation. There is no accompanying report.

Purpose: To report on progress and share good practice in carbon management with other local authorities as agreed by the Partnership at previous meetings and to support the achievement of Oxfordshire 2030 targets.

6 Green Deal

10.25 am

This will be an oral update. There is no accompanying report.

Purpose: To provide an update on action following the report to the last meeting on 30 March, and a workshop being held on 13 June, and decide on any recommendations and next steps following the workshop.

7 The Natural Environment White Paper and role of a local nature partnership for Oxfordshire

10.35 am

Vicky Fletcher, Oxfordshire County Council, and Hilary Philips, Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum, will give a presentation.

Purpose:

(a) To advise the partnership about the implications of new legislation in the White Paper, and how this might influence the issues brought to future meetings.

(b) To decide whether a discussion is needed about how the two partnerships might work together.

8 Chairman's announcements

10.55 am

The meeting should end at 11.00 am.

MARGARET REED

Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Oxfordshire Environment Partnership 22 June 2012

Agenda Item 6: Report of Green Deal seminar

Introduction

1. The March meeting included an introductory presentation on the Green Deal, a new energy efficiency scheme which will be launched by the government this autumn.
2. Because of its complexity, members asked for a special seminar to be organised to give them the opportunity to explore the initiative in more detail. This was held on Wednesday 13 June.

Seminar Summary

3. Speakers included the Energy Saving Trust, who spoke from a national perspective. Three local organisations – the Low Carbon Hub, The Energy Saving Co-operative and United Sustainable Energy Agency (USEA) – gave an overview of Oxfordshire-specific initiatives.
4. The Green Deal is essentially a market framework which enables a householder to have energy saving measures installed at no upfront cost.
5. The scheme will eventually be open to homes, businesses and schools but the launch this autumn will focus on homes.
6. In Oxfordshire, an estimated 71,880 homes need to be refitted to achieve the Government's 2020 targets. This is equivalent to 158 homes per week since 2010, so the scheme represents a potentially significant opportunity for increasing economic activity and job creation.
7. Alongside the Green Deal, the Government is establishing the Energy Company Obligation, or ECO. This will fund energy saving measures through the Green Deal at no cost to the poor. It will also be used to make solid wall insulation financially viable. In addition there will be a funding stream for rural areas.
8. The Government expects local authorities to support the Green Deal. There is a range of options from general promotion through pro-active marketing to acting as a Green Deal provider. The latter involves a major procurement exercise and is only viable at scale (Oxfordshire would need to collaborate with another county to achieve the required scale). A number of authorities are going down this route. They include: Newcastle, West Sussex, Greater London and Birmingham.
9. Locally the Low Carbon Hub and the Energy Saving Co-operative are working with communities. (Oxfordshire has the highest concentration of active community groups in the country.) The Energy Saving Co-operative, which only needs 100 homes a year to be viable, pays the Low Carbon Hub a referral fee. Both organisations feel that the Green Deal is part of the overall picture of saving energy and promoting renewables – '*powering down and powering up*'.
10. USEA is focusing on the Green Deal alone. It will develop a network of suppliers, acting as a broker between them and individual households. It has always worked closely with local authorities and is establishing a Green Deal Community Interest Company which is an investment opportunity for local authorities.
11. A major advantage of local, county based Green Deal providers is that the county is more likely to capture the jobs and the ECO funding from utility companies.

12. USEA described its two investment opportunities:

- To invest as a share-holder in the Community Interest Company with a contribution of £35k. This investment enables the CIC to market the Green Deal actively in the shareholder's area, would offer a payback within 6 years and would give the organisation voting rights on the board.
- To join as a member paying an annual membership fee of £5k per 50,000 dwellings. This enables the CIC to market the Green Deal actively in the member's area.

13. In a side-meeting, the three local organisations established some areas where they could work together. USEA has project management skills which could be useful to the Energy Saving Co-operative. USEA will consider paying referral fees, which would enable it to work with the Low Carbon Hub making connections with communities. Developing the supply chain is a common area for development, where the County Council might be able to contribute.

Options

14. Councils could decide individually to invest in the USEA CIC as shareholders or to participate as members. Councils could also decide as a group to invest through the Environment Partnership.

15. Investing as a partnership would require an appraisal of other investment options, such as the Low Carbon Hub or the Energy Saving Co-operative and perhaps a mini-competition.

16. If asked, the Energy Saving Trust could provide a summary housing stock analysis to assess the potential for housing retrofit across the county together with an assessment of the economic impact.

17. Councils, again individually or in partnership, can promote the Green Deal to complement the Government's own marketing.

18. The Partnership could monitor the supply chain and work with local organisations to tackle any market failures as they become apparent.

Recommendations

19. The Partnership is recommended to consider either:

- a) member authorities look at the USEA offer individually and take forward proposals to their executives; or,
- b) the Partnership explores the possibilities of joint investment in USEA, asking for proposals at its next meeting.

Nick King
Carbon Programme Manager
Oxfordshire County Council

Oxfordshire Nature Partnership

Summary for Oxfordshire Environment Partnership

Date: 22nd June 2012

The Oxfordshire Challenge

Oxfordshire has a wealth of natural resources, including high quality natural green spaces, internationally important habitats, iconic landscapes and the majestic river Thames. We recognise at a high level in our strategies and policies that these resources are important for our communities and that economic success is dependent on environmental sustainability. Yet when it comes to delivery, we are 'punching below our weight'. The challenges are often complex, and require working together, such as:

- Gaining investment for new green infrastructure
- Funding green space with fewer resources
- Communication the value of biodiversity to new audiences
- Showing how greenspace and biodiversity deliver health & social outcomes
- Improving resilience to climate change and extreme weather events
- Meeting the challenges of water - flooding and scarcity

A unique opportunity

Oxfordshire is well-placed to develop a successful nature conservation sector – recognised for innovation and excellence, well-connected, well-respected, and which delivers for health and wellbeing, the economy, as well as for biodiversity. Oxfordshire has the expertise of 2 leading universities, active communities, a strong charitable sector, and political & policy commitments set out in documents such as Oxfordshire 2030. Currently there are issues and challenges facing the sector such as:

- Gaps between policy commitments and delivery against them
- Limited capacity to engage and create change at a strategic level
- Lack of funding, investment and resources
- Coordination and direction to pull together
- Lack of engagement between sectors - e.g. health, businesses, education.
- Engaging with landowners to deliver on-the-ground action.

DEFRA has recently supported the development of a new Oxfordshire Nature Partnership, which would help to address some of these challenges.

White Paper - The Natural Choice

The 2011 Natural Environment White Paper *The Natural Choice* was launched by Caroline Spelman.

A key commitment was governmental support for new Local Nature Partnerships to help organisations in local areas to work in a joined up and strategic way to help manage the natural environment to

We are also supporting the development of Local Nature Partnerships. They will bring together all the interested parties in a local area to deliver environmental goals. They will ideally have strong links with Local Enterprise Partnerships to better inform decision making.

Caroline Spelman, 2011.

produce multiple benefits for people, the economy and the environment.

Local Nature Partnerships are being developed across England, with the aim of bringing together people from different sectors who do not usually have opportunities to work together, such as the education, health and business sectors. The aim is to broaden out participation, and to help organisations in local areas to work together on issues of mutual interest such as supporting economic and social regeneration and improving health and quality of life - recognising that a high quality natural environment is vital to underpin sustainable economic success.

Work on the Oxfordshire Nature Partnership

A series of meetings and events are being organised by the Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum towards developing an Oxfordshire Nature Partnership. Hilary Philips has been employed by ONCF to help organise a series of exploratory workshops and set up an LNP board. ONCF will act as the 'launch' for the LNP, but will retain it's separate identity as a charitable body.

Working with the Oxfordshire Environment Partnership

The Oxfordshire Environment Partnership has a broader environmental remit than an LNP, although it is expected that the LNP will help to deliver some of the pledges set out in the Oxfordshire 2030 strategyⁱ:

4. Grow the economy whilst achieving a sustainable balance between jobs, housing and the environment
13. Promote healthy lifestyles including the increase of physical activity
22. Protect and enhance the biodiversity of the county

Recommendations for the Oxfordshire Environment Partnership

1. To note the launch of an Oxfordshire Nature Partnership
2. That progress is reported back to the OEP on an annual basis, against the aims of Oxfordshire 2030.

ⁱ <http://portal.oxfordshire.gov.uk/content/public/oxfordshirepartnership/oxfordshire2030/2030deliveryplanFINAL.pdf>

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Minutes



OF A MEETING OF THE

Listening Learning Leading

Oxfordshire Environment Partnership

HELD AT 10.00AM ON 22 JUNE 2012

AT 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 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 Mocroft	Oxfordshire Waste Partnership
Mr Ed Potter	Cherwell District Council
Ms J Wines	Environment Agency
Mr I Halliday	Oxford City Council
Mr A Pau	Oxfordshire County Council
Ms R Burns	Oxfordshire County Council
Mr P Robinson	Oxford City Council
Ms S Halliwell	Oxfordshire County Council
Ms V Fletcher	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
Mr R Young	West Oxfordshire District Council
Mr T Askew	West Oxfordshire District Council
Ms L Watson	Oxfordshire Rural Community Council
Ms H Phillips	Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum

Officers attending for part of the meeting

Ms H Saunders	South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils
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Apologies

Councillor N Morris, Cherwell District Council; Mr J Copley and Ms J Colwell, Oxford City Council; and Ms S Ohlenschlager, Oxfordshire County Council, gave their apologies.

1 Declaration of interest

Councillor David Harvey declared a personal interest in the Green Deal (Minute 5) as he was appointed to represent West Oxfordshire District Council as a director on the board of the United Sustainable Energy Agency. He remained in the room and took part in the debate but took no part in decisions relating to that item.

2 Addresses and questions to the partnership

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

3 Minutes, 30 March 2012

The minutes of the meeting of the Oxfordshire Environment Partnership meeting held on 30 March 2012 were approved.

4 South Oxfordshire District Council – presentation of good practice

Ms Heather Saunders, Shared Climate Change Officer for South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils, gave a presentation on good practice in carbon management at both councils.

Both councils had set challenging targets to achieve over five years: South a 30 per cent reduction in carbon emissions from the baseline in 2008/09; and Vale a 20 per cent reduction in carbon emissions from baseline. In 2011/12, South had reduced emissions by 18 per cent and Vale by 14 per cent from baseline.

Key achievements were:

- including carbon management in contract specifications: the waste contract specified a range of measures including low emission vehicles and route management;
- undertaking a wide range of projects, including those used successfully in many councils and more innovative projects such as installing LED lighting at Henley pool;
- successfully managing the carbon reduction programme across two councils; and
- working with contractors to reduce carbon emissions during the life of the contract.

Once the outcomes from these projects were established, a four-year plan to further reduce water use and energy use would be developed. Working across two councils provided immediate benchmarking data.

The partnership thanked Ms Saunders for her presentation.

5 Green Deal

The partnership considered a report from Oxfordshire County Council's carbon programme manager summarising the seminar held on 13 June and the options available to each council to participate in the Green Deal and the options offered by United Sustainable Energy Agency.

The partnership discussed the two recommendations:

1. each member authority would look at the United Sustainable Energy Agency offer individually and take proposals to their executives; or
2. the partnership would explore the possibilities of joint investment in the United Sustainable Energy Agency, asking for proposals at its next meeting

The partnership was generally favourable to joint investment but considered that more work was needed on the details and the commitments from each authority required by the options in the paper.

The partnership **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 decisions relating to investment in the Green Deal.

6 The Natural Environment White Paper and role of a local nature partnership for Oxfordshire

The partnership considered a briefing note about the implications of new legislation in the 2011 White Paper 'The Natural Choice' and about the Oxfordshire Nature Partnership.

Ms Vicky Fletcher, Oxfordshire County Council, and Ms Hilary Philips, Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum's biodiversity and partnerships officer, gave a presentation. There was strong policy support from central government and strong support from community groups in the county for this partnership. The Oxfordshire partnership provided a forum for about 250 groups share and develop ideas and to deliver environmental improvements locally. If the forum received DEFRA's recognition as a Local Nature Partnership it would have the status of a statutory consultee, and have a wider remit to give a strategic overview, provide a means of linking different organisations and statutory bodies, and could apply for funding. The partnership wished to have a local authority representative on its board.



The partnership:

1. welcomed the launch of the Oxfordshire Nature Partnership and welcomed the bid to DEFRA for recognition as a local nature partnership;
2. **agreed** to receive a report on progress with the bid at its next meeting; and
3. thanked Ms Fletcher and Ms Philips for their presentation.

The meeting closed at 11.10am

Chairman

Date