

Minutes

OF A MEETING OF THE



Listening Learning Leading

Oxfordshire Environment Partnership

HELD AT 10.00 AM ON FRIDAY, 26 OCTOBER 2012

AT THE SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES,
CROWMARSH GIFFORD

Present:

Voting members

Councillor D Dodds (Chairman)
Councillor D Harvey
Councillor H Hibbert-Biles
Councillor N Morris
Councillor J Tanner
Councillor R Waite

South Oxfordshire District Council
West Oxfordshire District Council
Oxfordshire County Council
Cherwell District Council
Oxford City Council
Vale of White Horse District Council

Officers attending for the whole of the meeting

Mr W Lewis
Mr P Mocroft
Mr Ed Potter
Mr J Copley
Ms R Burns
Mr N King
Mr A Pau
Ms S Ohlenschlager
Mr M Prosser

Oxfordshire Waste Partnership
Oxfordshire Waste Partnership
Cherwell District Council
Oxford City Council
Oxfordshire County Council
Oxfordshire County Council
Oxfordshire County Council
Oxfordshire County Council
South Oxfordshire and
Vale of White Horse district councils
South Oxfordshire and
Vale of White Horse district councils
West Oxfordshire District Council
West Oxfordshire District Council
Environment Agency

Mrs J Thompson

Mr R Young
Mr T Askew
Ms J Wines

Officers attending for part of the meeting

Wendy Twist
Richard Pollock

Low Carbon Hub
Groundworks Trust

Apologies

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

7 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.

8 Addresses and questions to the partnership

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

9 Minutes, 22 June 2012

The minutes of the meeting of the Oxfordshire Environment Partnership meeting held on 22 June 2012 were approved.

The partnership noted that further to minute 6, the Local Nature Partnership has gained formal partnership status from DEFRA, formed a board, and has funding for a co-ordinator until December 2012. The partnership is looking for projects to demonstrate its work. There is now a website, a community guide, and a proposal to develop a wood fuel depot.

10 Low Carbon Hub

Wendy Twist of the Low Carbon Hub gave a presentation.

She explained the work of the Low Carbon Hub and some of the projects supported. There were over 60 local community low carbon groups in the county. The hub was funded from grants and income from revenue-generating projects. The hub encouraged community groups to replicate successful work elsewhere, start projects, and engage their local communities. There was a long-term target to reduce demand create renewable energy equivalent to saving the output of Didcot A power station – a tough but realisable goal.

The partnership noted the presentation and the work of the Hub and thanked Ms Twist for her presentation.

11 Green Deal update

The partnership considered a report from Oxfordshire County Council's carbon programme manager summarising the current position with the Green Deal and the options offered by United Sustainable Energy Agency.

Companies can register and households can sign up from 1 October 2012 and work can start at the end of January 2013.

DECC have launched a bidding round for grants to be spent by March 2013 and councils were invited to bid.

The partnership notes that Cherwell District Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council, and West Oxfordshire District Council

have signed or have agreed to sign a deal with United Sustainable Energy Agency and that Oxford City Council have separate arrangements for the Green Deal.

12 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The partnership considered the annual report to the partnership summarising the reports from all six local authorities in Oxfordshire to show progress against the agreed target of a 3% reduction in carbon emissions year on year. The reductions had been achieved in a variety of ways including reducing assets, reducing business mileage, encouraging reductions in contractors' energy use, and energy reduction schemes in council buildings.

The partnership:

- noted good progress in achieving the target reductions;
- asked that officers provide the Low Carbon Hub with a summary of the report for their website;
- agreed that the partnership and the Waste Partnership publicise the reductions.

13 Chairman's announcements

There were no announcements.

MATTERS CONSIDERED JOINTLY WITH THE OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

14 Local Government Association's Climate Local Commitment

The Environment Partnership and the Waste Partnership considered a report summarising the Climate Local initiative launched by the Local Government Association.

The partnerships agreed there was a positive presumption among partner authorities to sign Climate Local as a partnership and to draw the commitments from the Oxfordshire 2030 priorities, but that each authority should establish their ability to commit the resources required before signing.

The Environment Partnership and the Waste Partnership agreed to invite the Local Authority Working Group to present options for further development to the next meeting of the Partnership in January 2013, along with an assessment of resource requirements, with a view to signing Climate Local as "Climate Local Oxfordshire", subject to availability of resources.

15 Oxfordshire Green Schools end of year report: Groundwork Trust

Richard Pollard gave a presentation on the work of the Groundwork Trust in schools during 2011/12. The Oxfordshire Green Schools programme had delivered 330 activities over 170 visits, and 18 schools were either established or being recruited as green hub schools. The Trust had run a very successful green entrepreneur competition. There were good opportunities to share good practice across schools and through community and school events. Schools were audited to measure

reductions in energy use and visits, workshops and projects were evaluated and feedback from schools was very positive.

The Environment Partnership and the Waste Partnership noted the report of the Groundwork Trust and the work it was undertaking in schools.

The meeting closed at 11.00 am

Chairman

Date