

**Law and Governance**

Direct Line: 01865 252214

E-mail: [fullcouncil@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:fullcouncil@oxford.gov.uk)

**St. Aldate's Chambers**

St. Aldate's

Oxford OX1 1DS

[www.oxford.gov.uk](http://www.oxford.gov.uk)



Central Number: 01865 249811

10 April 2014

Dear Councillors

**COUNCIL - MONDAY 14 APRIL 2014**

Attached are additional papers for the above meeting as follows. Please bring these with you to the meeting

Yours sincerely

Mathew Metcalfe

Democratic and Electoral Services Officer

**Agenda No Item**

**11. City Executive Board Minutes (Pages 3 - 6)**

(1) Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2014

**15. Outside organisation/Committee Chair reports and questions (Pages 7 - 12)**

Report of the Board Member, Cleaner Green Oxford, Councillor John Tanner on the Oxfordshire Environment and Waste Partnership



INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE



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## CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD

Wednesday 9 April 2014

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT:** Councillors Price (Leader), Brown, Cook, Kennedy, Lygo, Rowley, Seamons and Tanner.

### **162. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Curran and Turner

### **163. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received

### **164. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None

### **165. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

### **166. COUNCILLOR ADDRESSES ON ANY ITEM FOR DECISION ON THE BOARD'S AGENDA**

None

### **167. FUSION LIFESTYLE - ANNUAL SERVICE PLAN 2014/15**

The Head of Leisure and Parks submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) that presented for endorsement Fusion's Annual Service Plan for the management of the Council's leisure facilities for 2014/2015.

Ian Brooke, Head of Leisure and Parks, presented the report to the Board and provided some background and context to it. He drew the Board's attention to the notable increase in usage (40%) of the Council's leisure facilities, along with significant savings. Usage by target groups has also increased pleasingly. There is a challenge to maintain the uplift in usage, which has now reached a plateau. Free sessions for young people at the Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre have proved successful, and are now being widened to include a cultural aspect.

Tim Sadler, Executive Director Community services, added that there was a reward scheme for the young called "Bounce" through which participants can gain points for attendance which can then be spent on various goods and prizes. The Council wanted to encourage more young people to take part in this.

Councillor Mike Rowley, Board Member for Leisure, commented that the Fusion contract was important for the future of the Council's leisure services, and in particular its aspiration to produce a world class leisure service for everyone. He intended to meet with all leisure service user groups and to look at ways by which leisure participation could be increased. He thanked Officers for all their hard work on this matter, and for facilitating useful meetings with Fusion.

Councillor Susan Brown observed that there were weaknesses in the ways by which feedback on service was received, and that there should be greater clarity around the whole feedback process. Fusion should be encouraged to do everything it could to increase and obtain feedback.

Councillor Rowley proposed the following amendments to the submitted report which he felt would strengthen the Council's commitment to continued improvement to its leisure services:-

(1) Add new paragraph 1.3 to read "*Nevertheless, the Council remains committed to continuous improvement in order to maintain Oxford's leisure facilities as a world-class affordable public leisure service for the people of the City*";

(2) Add to paragraph 2.1 the following sentence: "*The Council will look at ways to encourage and increase user participation in the Board [Leisure Partnership Board]*";

(3) Add new paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 which will say:-

*"4.2: The Council will step up its regular programme of unannounced inspections of all leisure facilities managed by Fusion and will ensure regular Council attendance at all user groups"*

*"4.3: Working with Fusion, the Council will seek to ensure that scheduling is optimised in order to avoid any capacity issues as usage continues to increase, with particular focus on activities aimed at target groups"*

Resolved to endorse Fusion Lifestyle's Annual Service Plan for 2014/15, with the amendments to the report detailed above.

## **168. OXFORD STADIUM, SANDY LANE - DESIGNATION AS A CONSERVATION AREA**

The Head of City Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) concerning the proposal to designate Oxford Stadium as a Conservation Area. Councillor Colin Cook, Board Member for City Development, presented the report to the Board and provided some background to it. He thanked Officers for all their hard work on this matter. The community value of this site was enormous, and he was proud to think that it could be designated as a conservation area.

Nick Worlledge, Heritage and Specialist Services Team Leader, added that Oxford City Council had been quite progressive in recognising areas of the City that were valued locally. There had been a public consultation on this matter, but

there was nothing in the responses that would lead officers to make a different recommendation from the one that was currently before the Board.

Resolved to designate Oxford Stadium, Sandy Lane, as a Conservation Area.

## **169. SAVING COMMUNITY PUBLIC HOUSES**

The Head of City Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) concerning a range of measures and actions to help preserve community public houses in Oxford. Councillor Colin Cook, Board Member for City Development, presented the report to the Board and provided some background to it.

Councillor Cook explained that the report before the Board had come about as a result of various motions on this issue that had been presented at Council. Community pubs can be great community assets; they can also be buildings with a considerable heritage attached. The proposals contained in the report would allow greater clarity for applicants when applying for a change of use for one of these building. The Technical Advice Note proposed would support policy RC18 as well.

Michael Crofton Briggs, Head of City Development, added that the Council already worked with the local community to add to the City's assets of local worth and local interest; and it was intended to continue with this work. It was of particular value outside Conservation Areas, as such buildings could be difficult to protect.

Resolved to:-

- (1) Approve the preparation and publication of a Technical Advice Note to support Policy RC18 on public houses;
- (2) Support officers in working with amenity bodies and the local community to ensure public houses of heritage significance are included on the Local Heritage Assets Register, and to increase awareness of listing public houses as Assets of Community value;
- (3) Support Kirklees submission under the Sustainable Communities Act;
- (4) Note that Officers will also continue to monitor and review the operation of the Sustainable Communities Act's effectiveness in bringing forward new proposals for measures that would help to protect community public houses in other local authority areas;
- (5) Ask officers to circulate all Members and ask them to identify any public houses that they believe are worthy of listing.

## **170. FUTURE ITEMS**

Nothing was raised under this item.

**171. MINUTES**

Resolved to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

**172. MATTERS EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION**

None

**The meeting started at 5.00 pm and ended at 5.33 pm**

**To:** Council

**Date:** 14th April 2014

**Report of:** Councillor John Tanner, Board Member for Cleaner, Greener Oxford

**Title of Report:** **Oxfordshire Environment and Waste Partnership**

## **Summary and Recommendations**

**Purpose of report:** To inform members of the work of the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership and Oxfordshire Environment Partnership.

Report approved by:

**Executive lead member:** Councillor John Tanner

**Policy Framework:** The Corporate Plan

**Recommendation:**

1. Council is asked to comment on and note the contents of the report.

## **The role of the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership**

1. The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership (OWP) is a partnership of county and district councils in Oxfordshire who are working together to continuously improve waste management services within the county. The partnership has operated as a statutory joint committee since April 2007, meaning that the partner councils have made a legally binding commitment to work together on waste management issues.
2. OWP provides a framework to enable joint working between the partner authorities on waste matters. The purpose of the Joint Committee is to carry out the strategic, financial and operational functions set out below and in doing so to discharge, on behalf of the partner authorities, their statutory responsibilities for waste management.
3. The OWP Joint Committee meets four times per year and is chaired by Cllr David Dodds (South Oxfordshire District Council), with chairmanship rotating between partners on an annual basis.

4. The OWP Joint Committee is supported by two employed officers and an officer group structure as outlined below:



5. In Oxfordshire, responsibility for waste management is shared between the county council, which is responsible for waste disposal and the district councils, which have responsibility for collecting household waste. The Joint Committee is responsible for approving and overseeing delivery of actions associated with the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) which was agreed in 2007 and updated 2013.
6. Further information on the partnership can be found in the link below: <http://www.oxfordshirewaste.gov.uk/cms/content/home-page>

### **The role of the Oxfordshire Environment Partnership**

7. The Environment Partnership and Oxfordshire Waste Partnership (OWP) were brought together in 2009 following the review of partnership governance in Oxfordshire. The two partnerships remain distinct but work closely together.
8. The Environment Partnership was formed in 2008 to lead on environmental priorities for the Oxfordshire Partnership.
9. Membership is a loose group comprising the elected members of the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership, officers and representatives from governmental and nongovernmental agencies. The partnership has no formal decision making powers but individual decisions can be made by each authority's representative.



## Oxfordshire Waste Partnership Delivery and Priorities

10. A key responsibility of the OWP Joint Committee has been to oversee the delivery of an Oxfordshire JMWMS. This sets out Oxfordshire's vision for the future of municipal waste management in the county:

*A society where everyone tries to prevent waste and see waste materials as a potential resource. Oxfordshire is pursuing a clear vision for sustainable waste management and resource efficiency:*

*"We will work in partnership to reduce waste and to maximise reuse, recycling and composting. We will treat residual waste before disposal to further recover value and to minimise the environmental impact of managing our waste streams"*

11. The JMWMS articulates a number of policies that contribute to the delivery of the vision.

- i. Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will encourage the efficient use of resources, reduce consumption and take responsibility for the waste that they produce.
- ii. Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will lobby central government to focus on waste as an integral part of sustainable resource management.
- iii. Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will help households and individuals to reduce and manage their waste in order to ensure zero growth or better of municipal waste per person per annum.
- iv. Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will provide an integrated system of collection and processing of household waste which will achieve, as a minimum:  
By 31st March 2020: recycle or compost at least 65% of household waste;  
By 31st March 2025: recycle or compost at least 70% of household waste.
- v. Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will ensure that recycling facilities and services are available to all residents.
- vi. Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will encourage businesses to reduce, reuse and recycle by providing good quality recycling services, information and advice.
- vii. Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will minimise waste to landfill and recover energy from non-recyclable waste through the operation of the Ardley Energy from Waste facility. We will seek to landfill no more than 5% of non-recyclable household waste.
- viii. Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will provide waste management services for specialised, potentially polluting material streams such as hazardous waste and waste electrical and electronic equipment, which as a minimum meet legislative requirements.
- ix. Oxfordshire Waste Partnership, working with the Waste Planning Authority, will ensure that waste facilities are suitably sized and distributed with the aim of minimising the transport of waste. Facilities will be well related to areas of the population, given the environmental and amenity constraints, and the availability of suitable sites.
- x. Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will assist the development of local markets for recovered materials.

- xi. Oxfordshire Waste Partnership councils will work together, with local communities, and with our service providers to reduce the environmental and financial costs of waste management.
- xii. Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will seek to improve local environmental quality through effective communications and enforcement activity.

12. To date, OWP's achievements include:

- Reducing the amount of household waste generated by 8%;
- Increasing the amount of household waste recycled and composted from 38.5% in 2006/07 to over 60% in 2011/12;
- Reducing the amount of household waste sent to landfill from 61.4% in 2006/7 to 38% in 2011/12; and
- Obtaining more than £1 million in Performance Reward Grant from Government and working collaboratively to reinvest funds in new waste management services (through the establishment of the OWP New Initiatives Fund).

## Funding

13. The OWP has historically been allocated funding through partner contributions from county and district councils, with the majority share of funding coming from the county council. Funding has supported delivery of the JMWMS through employment of two full time officers, along with a programme of environmental education, communications and support for home composting. Table below provides a breakdown of the funding allocation from each authority in 2013/14:

| Cherwell District Council | Oxford City Council | Oxfordshire County Council | South Oxfordshire District Council | Vale of White Horse District Council | West Oxfordshire District Council | <b>Total partner contributions</b> |
|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| £27,492                   | £27,492             | £137,460                   | £27,492                            | £27,492                              | £27,492                           | <b>£274,920</b>                    |

14. Oxfordshire County Council informed the OWP chairman in December 2013 that it proposed to cease funding to the partnership from March 2015. County Council contributions makes up 50% of the OWP annual revenue budget and removal of this funding would hence make the agreed OWP budget unaffordable.

15. The withdrawal of funding for OWP was formally agreed at a meeting of Oxfordshire County Council on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

16. At a meeting of the Oxfordshire Leaders Group on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014, leaders recognised the good work of the OWP over the years and the sustained culture change that had been delivered across the county. However there was a strong view that the formal partnership arrangements through a Joint Statutory Committee are no longer required. It was agreed to:

xiii. Disband the Waste Partnership as a Joint Statutory Committee as soon as possible - this requires all members of the committee to agree this via a report to Cabinet or Executive Board. The annual grant to the partnership will cease from April 2014.

17. In light of the budget cut agreed by County Council on the 18 February 2014 it was formally decided to terminate the agreement under which the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership is constituted and close down the partnership at the OWP Joint Committee on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

18. It was agreed that informal arrangements to ensure partnership working should continue as follows:

- the officers' strategy group shall continue to meet regularly;
- the Cabinet/Executive members with responsibility for waste and environmental matters shall continue to meet at least twice per year.

### **Recycling Credits**

19. Oxfordshire County Council remains as the disposal authority. In order to incentivise sustainable behaviour and avoid landfill of valuable waste streams Recycling Credits are provided to collections authorities such as the City Council. The County Council will continue to distribute recycling credits to districts and the City Council. In 2013/14 the approximate value of these £550k.

### **Oxfordshire Environment Partnership Future**

20. Following on from the decisions of the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2014, the environment Partnership resolved:

- that the six local authorities continue to work together in partnership to reduce waste and carbon dioxide emissions;
- that the Environment Partnership be maintained in its existing format;
- that the waste commitments drawn from the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy be included within its remit;
- that the Environment Partnership meet at least every six months.

21. There remains the potential for a co-ordinating and campaigning role between the district councils to ensure efficient use of resources to ensure non duplication of campaign material, for example, such as 'love food, hate waste' and 'Refashion'. However, this work has no resources provided to it at present.

22. It has been agreed to draw up a new agreement as to how the revised Environment Partnership will function. It is expected this will be presented at its next meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

**Name and contact details of author:-****Name:**Jo Colwell**Job title:**Environmental Sustainability Service Manager**Service Area:** Environmental Development**Tel:** 01865 0 252188**e-mail:**jcolwell@oxford.gov.uk**List of background papers:**

Further information can be found on the web site link below.

<http://www.oxfordshirewaste.gov.uk/cms/content/home-page>

**Version number: 1****Annex 1****Oxfordshire Waste Partnership Joint Committee members:**

|                                |                                      |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Chair – Councillor David Dodds | South Oxfordshire District Council   |
| Councillor David Harvey        | West Oxfordshire District Council    |
| Councillor Nigel Morris        | Cherwell District Council            |
| Councillor David Nimmo-Smith   | Oxfordshire County Council           |
| Councillor John Tanner         | Oxford City Council                  |
| Councillor Reg Waite           | Vale of White Horse District Council |