

To: Council

Date: 13 April 2015

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

Title of Report: Oxfordshire Environment Partnership

Summary and Recommendations

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

Report approved by:

Executive lead member: Councillor John Tanner, Board Member for Cleaner, Greener Oxford

Policy Framework: The Corporate Plan

Recommendation:

1. Council is asked to note the contents of the report.

Background and the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership

1. In April 2014, Council received a partnership report detailing the activities and progress of two county-wide partnerships: the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership (OWP), and the Oxfordshire Environment Partnership (OEP). Both partnership have been long standing
2. A review of the two partnerships found opportunities for greater efficiencies and effectiveness if the two partnerships were merged. Subsequently, members of the partnership agreed on 4th April 2014 to disband the OWP, and migrate actions in to the OEP.
3. In so doing this, member authorities recognised the huge achievements the joint working on waste achieved, but recognised the opportunities for further and greater cross-working to achieve member authorities' collective sustainability goals.
4. The dissolution of the OWP represents a move away from a formal, binding partnership towards an informal model based on collaboration and cooperation.

The Oxfordshire Environment Partnership

5. The OEP brings the county council, and district councils, together to improve environmental performance and quality across the county. The partnership itself

has operated since 2008, and provides a framework to enable joint working between the partner authorities on the matters of the environment, energy, climate change, biodiversity, and now, waste.

6. Statutory responsibilities arising from the Joint Municipal Waste Strategy have been incorporated in to the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership
7. Membership is an informal group comprising the elected members, officers and representatives from appropriate governmental and nongovernmental agencies. The partnership has no formal decision making powers itself, however individual decisions can be made by each authority.

Scope of the partnership

8. The Oxfordshire Environment Partnership focuses upon the priorities identified by the Oxford 2030 Strategic Plan, and deliver the collective commitments made as part of the area's Climate Local commitment. These commitments are based on the following themes:
 - Reduce carbon emissions and improve water and energy efficiency across public sector organisations, and encourage residents and business to do the same
 - Reduce waste and increase reuse and recycling by householders and business
 - Minimise the effects and risk of flooding
 - Ensure new development is built to high standards of sustainability
 - Support individuals, communities and business to respond to climate change
 - Keep Oxfordshire Green and Clean
 - Protect and enhance the biodiversity of the County
 - Reduce the gap between the best and the worst off by targeting our work appropriately

Key achievements of 2014/15

9. In its review meeting of January 2015, the following achievements across the Partnership was recorded:
 - A strategy to manage flood risk across the county was developed and published
 - Business resilience to climate change and extreme weather events have been promoted in partnership with the Environment Agency. 15 events were held across the County to promote the development of business continuity plans and business resilience plan, and were well attend by the business community
 - Aggregate emissions from all six Oxfordshire local authorities reduced by an average year-on-year figure of 4.88%, comparing 2013/14 with 2010/11
 - Oxford City Council utilised Department of Energy and Climate Change pioneer places funding to create a 'Green Deal Plus' network of local suppliers and community representatives. The "Warming Barton" project

for example, which ran in parallel, recruited multiple households in a single area so as to leverage ECO funding. 25 houses were chosen and each received external energy insulation installed.

- A green infrastructure framework covering the county has been developed
- The number of designated Local Wildlife Sites under 'positive management' increased to 64% from 60% in 2012
- The Oxfutures project, grant funded by Intelligent Energy Europe, continues to leverage significant amount of private sector investment in renewables.

Priorities for 2015/16

10. Priorities identified for 2015/16 include:

- Reuse, recycle or compost up to 60% waste, and review the opportunities of reusing or recycling bulky waste collected by authorities
- Continue to reduce carbon emissions from the local authority estate by 3% per year
- Build on the success of the Oxfutures project and attract funding and support for public and community energy efficiency and renewable energy projects across the county
- Assess the potential for replacement of boilers with a biomass equivalent
- Establish a baseline for water consumption against which future performance reductions can be achieved.
- Publish a Green Infrastructure Strategy in October 2015
- Produce an integrated habitat map for Oxfordshire and continue to work to improve the number of designated sites in positive management

Resource and Financial Implications

11. The dissolution of the OWP creates a saving in removing partnership subscription payments. This generates a saving of £1,642 per annum.
12. Actions for Oxford City council contained in the work programme reflect existing, planned and budgeted activity, and are not considered to be additional burdens on the authority.

Name and contact details of author:-
Name: Nathan Vear
Job title: Interim Head of Environmental Development
Service Area: Environmental Development
Tel: 01865 252 067 e-mail: nvear@oxford.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank