

**To:** Council

**Date:** 14 November 2018

**Report of:** Councillor Susan Brown, Leader and Board Member for Economic Development and Partnership

**Title of Report:** The Oxford Strategic Partnership

## Summary and Recommendations

**Purpose of report:** To inform members of the work of the Oxford Strategic Partnership and to answer questions about the work of the Partnership

**Executive lead member:** Councillor Susan Brown, Leader and Board Member for Economic Development and Partnership

**Policy Framework:** The Corporate Plan

**Recommendation:** Council is asked to note the contents of the report

## Background

1. The Oxford Strategic Partnership (OSP) was founded in 2003 and brings together senior representatives from the public, business, community and voluntary sectors. The OSP helps to provide direction for the city's future, respond to local priorities and engage more effectively with local concerns. This partnership for the city promotes collaboration and openness and provides opportunities to access funding and share resources more easily.
2. The OSP is an influencer, not an operational organisation. It brings organisations together to work in partnership, identifying strategic city challenges that will benefit from collaboration, and prioritising them based on where the partnership can add most value. However, this year the OSP has sponsored a number of 'task and finish' programmes, focused on delivering specific outcomes.
3. The OSP is made up of a Steering Group and four sub-groups: Economic Growth, Low Carbon City, Stronger Communities and Safer Communities. A further body, the City Centre Partnership, has recently been created under the auspices of the Economic Growth sub-group. More information on the sub-groups can be found [here](#).
4. The partnership is funded and managed by Oxford City Council.

## **The Vision & Mission**

5. The vision of the OSP is that it seeks to facilitate, through effective collaboration between local agencies and partners, a thriving city and surrounding area where everyone enjoys a good quality of life - environmentally, economically and socially, and where long standing inequalities are addressed.

## **The Aims**

- a) Identify current major issues and concerns that will benefit from collective intervention
- b) Identify and engage relevant partners, and facilitate their working together to develop and implement collaborative interventions
- c) Empower partners and communities to take action
- d) Evaluate outcomes to inform future issues and concerns

## **The Steering Group**

6. Steering group members are drawn from the statutory services (Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Health and Police), businesses, universities and colleges and community groups. A list of members is available on the Oxford Strategic Partnership website [here](#)
7. Anne Gwinnett stepped down as Chair in January 2018. Jackie Wilderspin (Vice Chair) chaired meetings while discussions with a new Chair person was taking place from February to September 2018.
8. Baroness Royall (Jan Royall) Principal of Somerville College, Oxford, recently took on the role of Chair and chaired her first meeting on 23 October 2018.
9. The Vice Chair is Jackie Wilderspin, Public Health Affairs Specialist, and Oxfordshire County Council.

## **Highlights of 2018**

10. Following the OSP review in 2017 a number of changes were agreed including from January 2018 using a “task and finish” approach to research and identify solutions to key challenges. The Task and Finish programmes bring together appropriate individuals, with the knowledge and passion to engage the right partners in pursuit of creative solutions. The following task & finish proposals have been initiated since January 2018:
  - One Planet Living: Proposed by the Low Carbon City sub-group. Encouraging and supporting partners for faster delivery of strategic aspirations against each of the One Planet Living principles, including the aim of rapidly reducing carbon emissions and reinforcing the plans already in place to achieve the city’s target of reducing carbon emissions by 40% by 2020. The emerging Oxfordshire partnership will join three other international city and city-regions to pilot a county wide One Planet Action Plan. OSP members are engaged with this; for example the CCG have met with Oxford City Council to discuss sustainability and several events have been run including training and a workshop to develop the action plan.
11. Making Every Contact Count: In March 2018 it was proposed that the Stronger Communities sub-group promote and enable training for a wide range of public

sector workers, local employers and local residents on Making Every Contact Count (MECC). This is a primary prevention initiative and will target people of all ages. MECC includes

- Identifying opportunities for people to initiate conversations about healthy lifestyles in a range of places
- Training people face to face and on-line then supporting them as they put MECC into practice.
- Adding training and awareness of “health literacy” as appropriate to ensure that conversations are effective.
- Using up to date resources/directories to help people find relevant and appropriate support or services e.g. to stop smoking, lose weight, get exercise.
- This approach dovetails with other MECC initiatives, for example, training of NHS staff, Fire and Rescue staff, librarians, Council front line staff and others. It gives a local community focus in areas where some people experience poor health outcomes. There is good evidence that people need several “nudges” and opportunities to think about behaviour change before they decide to take action, so Making Every Contact Count in a wide range of settings make more opportunities available.

Examples of activities so far include; a half day workshop was held in Barton in March 2018 linked to the Barton Healthy New Town Programme and an introductory/awareness session was held in Wood Farm in April 2018. A further training session for all locality areas and partners/stakeholders took place in July 2018.

12. Inclusive Economy: In June 2018 the Oxford Economic Growth Board, which reports to the Oxford Strategic Partnership, agreed to set up a task and finish group, to consist of influential public and private sector employers, to pilot practical and innovative actions with the aim of supporting a fairer local economy. The two main areas of focus include:

- Making Oxford a Living Wage City - a pilot initiative being developed in conjunction with the Living Wage Foundation. An event promoting this was held on 8 November, during Living Wage Week.
- Widening access to employment - working specifically with organisations such as Aspire and others to develop an ‘Inclusive Recruitment Charter’ to recognise employers who recruit more inclusively. Evidence indicates that reducing barriers to adequately paid employment will benefit workers, firms, and the local economy.

13. Alternative Giving: Proposed by Safer Communities Partnership Sub-Group and led jointly by the City Council and the Interim Steering Group of the City Conversation on Rough Sleeping.

- The City Council is developing a web-based platform for public donations, while the Interim Steering Group is looking at wider funding challenges including governance on how funds are distributed and building wider support among stakeholders for alternative giving.

OSP members are keen to support the development of alternative giving where possible.

14. The success of the task and finish programme approach will be reviewed in early 2019 and a decision made on whether the outcomes meet the aims of the OSP.

15. With a new Chair now in place, work has started on the forward plan for 2019.

### Resources

16. The work of the Oxford Strategic Partnership Steering Group is supported by the Policy & Partnerships Officer (Shelley Ghazi) and other members of the Policy and Partnership Team. This includes organising meetings, producing briefings, meeting papers, arranging speakers, venues, forward planning and supporting the Chair.

17. The four sub-groups are supported by a City Council Officer as shown below.

Priority Area	Champion	City Council Lead
Economic Development, Growth and Regeneration	Cllr Susan Brown, Oxford City Council	Samuel Kabiswa, Principle Economic Development Officer
Safer Communities	Superintendent Joe Kidman, Thames Valley Police	Richard Adams, Service Manager, Community Services
Stronger Communities	Jackie Wilderspin, Public Health, Oxfordshire County Council	Dani Granito, Policy and Partnership Team Manager
Low Carbon City	Cllr Tom Hayes, Oxford City Council	Jo Colwell, Service Manager, Environmental Sustainability

### Financial Implications

18. Total controllable spend for 2017/18 was £21,373. The approved budget for 2019/20 is £19,320.

### Legal Implications

19. There are no legal implications

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#### List of background papers:

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

<https://www.oxford.gov.uk/oxsp/site/index.php>