

**To: Council**

**Date: 20 July 2015**

**Report of: Councillor Bob Price, Leader and Board Member for Corporate Strategy and Economic Development**

**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 Bob Price, Leader and Board Member for Corporate Strategy and Economic Development

**Policy Framework:** The Corporate Plan

**Recommendation:**

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

## **Background**

1. The Oxford Strategic Partnership (OSP) was founded in 2003. It brings together key representatives from the public, business, community and voluntary sectors who share a clear and ambitious vision for the city.
2. The ambition of the Partnership is that 'Oxford should be a city in which all our citizens feel happy to live and experience a high quality of life. We want Oxford to be a world-class city for everyone'.
3. The partners on the OSP recognise that many issues in the city cannot be addressed by organisations working alone, but only by working in partnership.
4. The partnership is managed and co-ordinated by Oxford City Council.

## **Work towards our vision**

5. The Partnership's Report *Oxford: A world-class city for everyone* outlines the aims, challenges and priorities for 2013–2018. This report provides an overview of planned work in our four priority areas. The Oxford Strategic

Partnership Annual Report 2014 provides more detailed information on the Partnership's work and outcomes. This can be found in the following link - <http://www.oxfordpartnership.org.uk/PDF/2014/OSPAnnualReport2014web.pdf>

### **The aims of the Oxford Strategic Partnership**

6. The aims of the Oxford Strategic Partnership are:
  - To provide a clear and ambitious vision for the future of Oxford, developing its environmental, economic and social life in a positive and sustainable way;
  - To improve the quality of life of all sections of the community, to reduce inequalities, and support the needs and aspirations of citizens in their local areas;
  - To foster and promote closer working between local agencies to deliver responsive and high quality services across the city.

### **How these aims will be delivered**

7. Oxford Strategic Partnership will seek to deliver these aims by providing a focused approach to identifying and realizing clear improvements across the City, targeting in particular those areas of greatest need. This approach has been set out in a Vision and Priorities document with associated action plans. The Partnership will deliver these actions by pooling expertise, knowledge, resources, research, and good practice. It will build a long-term, city-wide vision, alongside more immediate support to foster and encourage sustainable, partnership-based development.
8. A dynamic and long-term perspective is vital if we are to secure lasting improvements to the local quality of life for future generations. We will work to ensure that the overall environmental, social and economic impacts of our work are understood and addressed.

### **The Steering Group**

9. The Steering Group provides strategic guidance and input to developing the vision for Oxford, identifies partnership priorities to meet that vision and champions the development of action plans.
10. Core members are drawn from the statutory services (Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Health and Police), businesses, universities and colleges and community groups. A complete list of members is available within the Annual Report 2014 or on the Oxford Strategic Partnership website at [www.oxfordpartnership.org.uk/](http://www.oxfordpartnership.org.uk/)
11. The Steering Group is Chaired by Anne Gwinnett, Director of Corporate Affairs at Oxford Brookes University. The Vice Chair is Jackie Wilderspin, Public Affairs Specialist, Oxfordshire County Council.
12. The Partnership aims at encouraging closer working between agencies to deliver responsive services across the city.

## The Four Priorities

### a) Economic Development and Growth.

13. Oxford's economy is a national asset and the engine of the Oxfordshire economy. It provides over one-third of the county's jobs, and almost half of those who work in the city live elsewhere. The Partnership aims to promote economic vitality and renewal.

#### **Oxford Economic Growth Steering Group**

14. The Partnership adopted the *Oxford Economic Growth Strategy* in 2013, and the action plan was developed in early 2014. The Oxford Economic Growth Steering Group oversees delivery of the action plan. It includes representatives from businesses, network groups, universities and public sector organisations. The Group is co-chaired by the Oxford Business Representative on the Local Enterprise Partnership and by the Leader of Oxford City Council. The Economic Growth Strategy and Action Plan can be downloaded from <http://www.oxfordpartnership.org.uk/vision-priorities-2013.asp> and reports and papers from the Economic Growth Steering Group can be found at <http://www.oxfordpartnership.org.uk/OEGSG/index.asp>

#### **Key areas of work**

15. The group oversees the delivery of the action plan with a particular focus on the Oxford growth ambitions and engagement with businesses in and around the city. It also focuses on progress with land for employment and housing, transport, supporting retail and tourism, a low carbon economy and Smart City.
16. The Group is a supporter of the [Business in Oxford](#) event and launched the first [Oxfordshire Business Festival](#) in June 2015.
17. In June the OSP co-sponsored an event with the Local Enterprise Partnership and the Oxford Civic Society called the Oxford Sustainable Future Symposium. The symposium was targeted at local businesses, large employers, key officers and politicians from all local authorities and community representatives to explore the housing and transport issues facing Oxford and sustainable solutions. A report will be published over the summer.
18. The Oxford Economic Growth Steering Group jointly commissioned a business survey carried out by Ipsos MORI in March 2015. The results were published in June 2015 and are available in the form of an executive summary, full report and presentation at [http://www.oxford.gov.uk/PageRender/decB/Economic\\_Profile\\_of\\_Oxford\\_occw.htm](http://www.oxford.gov.uk/PageRender/decB/Economic_Profile_of_Oxford_occw.htm)

### b) Oxford Safer Communities

19. We are working through the Oxford Safer Communities Partnership (OSCP) to tackle people's concerns about crime, and to reduce crime and prevent people from becoming victims of crime.

#### **Oxford Safer Communities Partnership**

20. The partnership, made up of a wide range of agencies, is responsible for producing and delivering action plans that tackle Oxford's community safety

priorities. More details about the work and membership of the Oxford Safer Communities Partnership can be found at <http://www.saferoxford.org.uk/>

21. It represents the city on the Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership and works closely with the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

#### **Key areas of work**

22. Each year, OSCP reviews its performance and produces an action plan that sets out the priorities for the coming year. For 2014/15 our priorities are:
- inter-personal abuse and exploitation (including domestic and sexual abuse, human trafficking, child sexual exploitation and other exploitation)
  - violent crime (including alcohol-related disorder, serious youth violence, hate crime and robbery)
  - anti-social behaviour (including neighbourhood nuisance, environmental concerns, drug misuse, rough sleeping)
  - priority theft offences (including burglary from homes, car theft).

#### **c) Stronger Communities**

23. Developing stronger communities is an important part of delivering on the Partnership's overall vision. We aim to support the delivery of improved services on a multi-agency basis for targeted groups and communities.

#### **Stronger Communities Steering Group**

24. The aim of the Stronger Communities Steering Group is to bring together key organisations that contribute towards the development of stronger communities.
25. The group oversees and supports delivery of five strands of work, working alongside other delivery groups where they exist.

#### **Key areas of work**

26. The five strands of work focus on:
- Breaking the Cycle of Deprivation, including work to reduce poverty and health inequalities and to increase access to employment and skills
  - Educational Attainment (a fixed term programme until 2015/16)
  - Youth Ambition Programme, working closely with Oxfordshire County Council, which is the Local Education Authority and also responsible for children's social services
  - Older People, working with the Ageing Successfully in the City Group
  - Participation and engagement across all of the Partnership's priorities

#### **d) Low Carbon City**

27. Low Carbon Oxford was established in 2010 by the Partnership to collaborate on Oxford's transformation to a sustainable and inclusive low carbon economy.

#### **Low Carbon Oxford (LCO)**

28. Low Carbon Oxford is a network of organisations with a shared vision of Oxford as a low carbon city. Members of LCO, including over 40 organisations, have committed to a set of principles to help make this happen.

### Key areas of work

29. LCO drives progress on the shared goal of reducing Oxford's carbon emissions by 40% by 2020, acting as a catalyst on three themes – energy, people and food:
- Supporting local businesses to develop local renewable energy projects with community benefit (e.g. Oxford Bus Company and Low Carbon Hub)
  - Catalysing a sustainable food system with local people and organisations via Good Food Oxford (part of the national Sustainable Food Cities network)
  - Public engagement and awareness of Oxford as a low carbon city through the June *Low Carbon Oxford Week* festival
  - Strengthening communities and creating training and employment opportunities for young people
  - Working with the universities and local businesses on the business case for the Oxfordshire city-region to become a low carbon innovation pioneer

### Resources

30. The work of the Oxford Strategic Partnership is supported by the Policy and Partnership Team. There is one FTE to support and facilitate the work of the Partnership and Sub Groups. This includes organising events, undertaking research and coordinating and developing a range of activities.

31. The Manger of the Oxford Strategic Partnership is Sebastian Johnson and the Policy Officer lead is Sadie Paige. OSP Champions and City Council staff leads for each of the four priority areas are listed below:

Priority Area	Champion	City Council Lead
Economic Development, Growth and Regeneration	Cllr Bob Price, Oxford City Council	Sebastian Johnson, OSP Manager and Principal Economic Development Officer
Safer Communities	Superintendent Christian Bunt, Thames Valley Police	Richard Adams, Service Manager, Community Services
Stronger Communities	Jackie Wilderspin, Public Health, Oxfordshire County Council	Val Johnson, Policy and Partnership Team Leader
Low Carbon City	Cllr John Tanner, Oxford City Council	Jo Colwell, Service Manager, Environmental Sustainability

32. The Oxford Strategic Partnership also draws upon the work of the Social Research Officer, within the Policy and Partnership Team, so that it's priorities and plans are based upon evidence to support the needs of the City. Use of population forecasts and economic and social trends are used to steer our vision for the future of Oxford. The Oxford Profile and 'Our Changing City' is the basis of this work (these are available in the links below).

<http://www.oxford.gov.uk/oxfordstats>

<http://www.oxford.gov.uk/Library/Documents/Statistics/OCCOSPsocialtrendsw eb.pdf>

## **Financial Implications**

There are no additional financial implications as a result of this report. In addition to the staffing resources outlined to support the partnership, a supplies and services budget of £21k is in place for 2015-16.

## **Legal Implications**

There are no legal implications

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### **List of background papers:**

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

<http://www.oxfordpartnership.org.uk/>