

**To:** Council

**Date:** 24 April 2017

**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 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.
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. It also provides information on the review of the OSP's aims and priorities currently being undertaken.

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

6. The current 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.

### **The Steering Group**

7. 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.
8. 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 on the Oxford Strategic Partnership website at [https://www.oxford.gov.uk/oxsp/info/1/about\\_us/3/membership](https://www.oxford.gov.uk/oxsp/info/1/about_us/3/membership)
9. 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.
10. The Partnership aims at encouraging closer working between agencies to deliver responsive services across the city.

### **The OSP's Priorities and Focus in the last two years**

11. Over the last two years the focus of the OSP has been on four key priorities:
  - Economic Development, Growth and Regeneration
  - Stronger Communities
  - Low Carbon Oxford
  - Safer Communities

#### Economic Development, Growth and Regeneration

12. 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. Oxford has seen the sixth fastest rate of growth out of any UK city. The strong employment rate has been accompanied by strong private sector jobs growth. Oxford is one of the Fast Growth Cities that has seen higher business starts than closures over the last ten years.
13. The Partnership adopted the Oxford Economic Growth Narrative and Strategy in 2013, and the action plan was developed in early 2014. The OSP's Oxford Economic Growth Steering Group (OEGSG) oversees delivery of the action plan. It includes representatives from businesses, network groups, universities and public sector organisations. The Group is co-chaired by Richard Venables (the Oxford Business Representative on the Local Enterprise Partnership) and Cllr Bob Price (Leader of Oxford City Council). The Economic Growth Strategy and Action Plan can be downloaded from

[https://www.oxford.gov.uk/oxsp/info/3/our\\_vision/6/economic\\_development\\_growth\\_and\\_regeneration](https://www.oxford.gov.uk/oxsp/info/3/our_vision/6/economic_development_growth_and_regeneration).

14. A refreshed Economic Narrative for Oxford is currently being written that reflects the growth of the economy, new and emerging sectors and the challenges faced in and around Oxford – housing and transport pressures, lack of office space in the city centre, skills and labour shortages. When completed this Narrative will be published on the OSP and Oxford City Council websites. A first draft has been reviewed by the OEGSG.
15. The steering 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 and premises supply for employment, housing, infrastructure, supporting retail and tourism, a low carbon economy and Smart City.
16. The steering group has overseen the development of the Smart Oxford partnership. Smart Oxford is the strategic programme of a wide range of city partners working together to develop and promote Oxford as a smart city. By 'smart' we mean creating an environment and infrastructure that engages with the current step-change in digital technologies to support the generation & sharing of city information and to facilitate the development of innovative city-related solutions more effectively, cheaply, sustainably, fairly and inclusively. More details about Smart Oxford and some of the projects being developed can be found at <http://oxfordsmartcity.uk>.
17. The OSP was a founding partner and sponsor of Business in Oxford. Business in Oxford brings together businesses and organisations supporting business from across the city and wider city region to network and learn about developments in and around Oxford – to engage, inspire and inform. This year's event is taking place on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017. More details can be found at <http://businessinoxford.com>.
18. In 2016 the OSP's Economic Growth Steering Group oversaw Oxford's bid to be European Capital of Innovation 2016/17. Oxford was one of the shortlisted cities alongside Paris, Milan, Turin, Berlin, Eindhoven, Glasgow, Vienna and the winner Amsterdam. More details and our video promoting innovation and collaboration in Oxford can be found at [http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index\\_en.cfm?section=icapital](http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm?section=icapital).
19. The OSP and the Economic Growth Steering Group have been key bodies for consultation on the Local Plan as it is being developed.

#### Stronger Communities

20. The Stronger Communities programme of work is made up of five “themes” which all link together through the Stronger Communities Steering Group. These are:
  - Health Inequalities
  - Aging Successfully
  - Educational Attainment
  - Youth Ambition
  - Employment and Skills

21. The common feature of this work is that it is targeted at the areas of Oxford with the worst outcomes – whether these are for health, educational attainment, income or life expectancy. The aim of this work is to work together to improve those outcomes. The group oversees and supports delivery of five strands of work, working alongside other delivery groups where they exist.
22. Work focussed on Educational Attainment was completed in 2016 and an independent report presented to the OSP in January 2017. The report can be found at [http://mycouncil.oxford.gov.uk/documents/s32208/Final%20OCC%20EAP%20Report\\_June.pdf](http://mycouncil.oxford.gov.uk/documents/s32208/Final%20OCC%20EAP%20Report_June.pdf).
23. The OSP meeting held on 14th March 2017 focussed on Adult Social Care and the challenges facing Oxford and Oxfordshire. One key area of interest to the OSP is loneliness and this is emerging as a potential theme for more focussed work by the partnership.
24. A copy of the report and presentation given on behalf of the Stronger Communities Steering Group in March 2016 can be found at [https://www.oxford.gov.uk/oxsp/downloads/5/meetings\\_in\\_2016](https://www.oxford.gov.uk/oxsp/downloads/5/meetings_in_2016). A further report will be given later in 2017.

#### Low Carbon Oxford

25. The work around Low Carbon Oxford and the Low Carbon Oxford Partnership has been led by the City Council's Environmental Sustainability Team. More details about Low Carbon Oxford can be found at <http://lowcarbonoxford.org/>. The OSP receives an annual report from the Low Carbon Oxford team on the priorities and work of the Low Carbon Oxford Partnership.
26. Low Carbon Oxford started in 2010 and now has over 40 pathfinders. In 2011 pathfinders adopted the target of reducing city emissions by 40% by 2020 against a 2005 baseline.
27. The OSP has supported and provided funding to the Low Carbon Oxford week in 2015, 2016 and has committed to support the newly rebranded Green Week in June 2017. The week includes a wide range of events that profiles and promotes the City's Low Carbon projects and aspirations and engages with thousands of people (estimated 40,000 in 2016) through talks, workshops and gatherings. More details can be found at <http://lowcarbonoxford.org/oxford-green-week/>.
28. A copy of the report and presentation given in January 2016 can be found at [https://www.oxford.gov.uk/oxsp/downloads/file/16/presentation\\_item\\_6\\_-\\_low\\_carbon\\_oxford\\_update](https://www.oxford.gov.uk/oxsp/downloads/file/16/presentation_item_6_-_low_carbon_oxford_update). An annual report for 2016/17 will be received later this year after Oxford Green Week.

#### Safer Communities

29. The work around Safer Communities has been driven by the Safer Communities Partnership (led by the Police and supported by the City Council's Community Safety Team). The OSP has received annual reports from the Oxford Area Commander on the priorities of the Safer Communities Partnership and the progress against the action plan they are working to deliver.
30. The Community Safety Plan focussed on three broad areas of work:

- Activities that tackle problems affecting the whole community;
- Activities that support victims or prevent a person from becoming a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour;
- Activities that target those who commit, or are at risk of committing, crime and anti-social behaviour.

31. Priorities for 2015/16 included:

- Inter-personal abuse, including domestic abuse and sexual abuse, human trafficking, sex working, child sexual exploitation and other models of exploiting the vulnerable.
- Violent crime, including alcohol related disorder, serious youth violence, hate crime and robbery.
- Tackling the threat of terrorism and radicalisation by supporting the Government's Prevent programme.
- Tackling serious and organised crime within the community.
- Anti-social behaviour, including neighbourhood nuisance, environmental concerns, drugs misuse.

32. A copy of the report and presentation for 2015/2016 November 2015 can be found can be found at

[https://www.oxford.gov.uk/oxsp/downloads/download/28/oxford\\_strategic\\_partnership\\_meeting\\_-\\_19\\_november\\_2015\\_agenda\\_and\\_papers](https://www.oxford.gov.uk/oxsp/downloads/download/28/oxford_strategic_partnership_meeting_-_19_november_2015_agenda_and_papers) . The Annual report for 2016/17 will be given later this year.

### **Review of Vision, Aims and Priorities**

33. The OSP's existing vision, aims and priorities are currently being reviewed. The review is being undertaken by a sub group led by Anne Gwinnett, Chair of the OSP. Other members of the group include Cllr Bob Price (Leader of Oxford City Council), Caroline Green (Assistant Chief Executive, Oxford City Council), Richard Venables (OSP member and Oxford business representative on the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership), Sebastian Johnson (OSP Manager) and Shelley Ghazi (Policy Officer, Oxford City Council).

34. The following draft vision and mission statement was presented to the OSP at the meeting on 14th March 2017. This is work in progress.

35. "The vision of the OSP is that, through effective collaboration between local agencies and partners, we will have achieved a city and surrounding area where all individuals and communities enjoy a good quality of life - environmentally, economically, and socially - and where long standing inequalities have been addressed."

36. As part of the review process the sub group has considered the draft visioning document "Oxford 2050: A vision for a successful and sustainable city for everyone". This document is being developed to set a long term and ambitious new vision for a successful and sustainable future for the city, with the intention of providing a framework for the future development of key council policies including the Corporate Plan, the Local Plan and the Sustainability Strategy. The document will be considered by the City Executive Board and when finalised it will be presented to the OSP Steering Group for consideration and endorsement.

37. A long term partnership vision for the city will be of value to all partners.

38. Next steps in the review include:

- Agree OSP mission and aims and priorities – May 2017
- Review membership and agree any required changes - July 2017
- New membership operational from September 2017
- Formal launch of ‘refreshed’ OSP – September/November 2017

39. A public event will be held towards the end of the year to re-launch the OSP and promote the revised mission, aims and priorities.

## Resources

40. The work of the Oxford Strategic Partnership is supported by the Policy and Partnership Team. There is 0.4 FTE to manage, 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.

41. The Manager of the Oxford Strategic Partnership is Sebastian Johnson and the Policy Officer lead is Shelley Ghazi. OSP Champions and City Council staff leads for each of the current 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 Joe Kidman, 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

42. The Oxford Strategic Partnership also draws upon the work of the Social Research Officer, within the Policy and Partnership Team, so that its 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 other data and statistics relating to the city are the basis of this work. These can be found at <http://www.oxford.gov.uk/oxfordstats>.

43. A “State of City” report will be produced by the Social Research Officer and presented to the OSP and a wider OSP event at the time of relaunch.

## Financial Implications

44. Total controllable spend for 2015/16 was £21,358 and approved budget for 2016/17 is £21,373 and 2017/18 is £21,373.

## **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/>

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