

To: Climate and Environment Panel
Date: 09 March 2023
Report of: Head of Corporate Strategy
Title of Report: Zero Carbon Oxford Partnership (ZCOP)

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To update the Panel on the work of ZCOP.
Key decision:	Yes
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Anna Railton, Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford and Climate Justice
Corporate Priority:	Pursue a zero carbon Oxford
Policy Framework:	Council Strategy 2020-24

Recommendation: That the Panel resolves to:

- Note the report** and to consider any recommendations it wishes to make to Cabinet.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – ZCOP’s two year forward plan

- The Zero Carbon Oxford Partnership (ZCOP)¹, brings together Oxford’s most influential organisations including both universities, the health trusts, both City and County Councils and large businesses such as BMW, Lucy Group, LandSec, SEN and Unipart. The purpose of the partnership is to work together to support the city in its journey to net zero carbon emissions by 2040, ten years ahead of the UK’s Government’s legal targets.
- Following its formation, the partnership developed a science-based Roadmap and Action Plan with the Carbon Trust. It sets out a comprehensive and ambitious pathway to net zero carbon emissions for the city, with 5-yearly carbon budgets, sectoral roadmaps and 25 cross cutting actions required over the short and mid-term. This work follows on from the mandate established by the Oxford Citizens Assembly on Climate Change held in 2019².

¹ Oxford City Council, 'Zero Carbon Oxford Summit'. Available from:

https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20291/climate_emergency/1431/zero_carbon_oxford_summit

² https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20011/environment/1343/oxford_citizens_assembly_on_climate_change

3. Although Oxford aims to be a net zero carbon city in 2040, it is expected that there may be residual emissions, e.g. from hard to decarbonise sectors and the electricity grid. ZCOP's agreed approach is to minimise emissions as far as is possible before implementing a carbon offsetting strategy from 2030, focusing first on local insetting– with offsetting only coming in as a last resort.
4. ZCOP is an important and innovative delivery organisation in the city, building on decades of partnership on climate change, in particular Low Carbon Oxford. It is unique compared to many other City and regional climate change partnerships, in its 2040 ambition - around which all the city's major private and public organisations collaborate via "sprint groups". ZCOP's membership and action plan enables it to cut across multiple sectors and focus on projects that require cooperation and coordination between partners - unlocking key interventions that would otherwise be impossible.
5. ZCOP is working with Future Oxfordshire Partnership (FOP) to ensure alignment between ZCOP sprints and the emerging Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire (PaZCO) Route Map and Action Plan. This is being done on a case by case basis for sprints, to ensure their scope and timescales complement the work of FOP.

Progress to date

6. Since its launch, ZCOP has delivered across numerous action areas by focusing on collaborative projects that accelerate city wide mitigation across sectors, businesses and communities. Partners support progress in the city by championing and participating in a range of 'sprint groups' through contributions of time, expertise and funding.
7. For example, Lucy Group is championing a Sprint Group on tenure and architype agnostic retrofit, with support from Oxford City Council officers. The understanding of local requirements for scaled retrofitting developed within this group set the ground work for two recent funding bids, enabling us to submit complex project concepts under tight funding deadlines. First, ZCOP was recently awarded funding of £75,000 (plus match contributions) from Innovate UK. The purpose of the project is to deliver a feasibility study to find a route to delivering building retrofit at scale in the city via a Future Fit One Stop Shop (FOSS). The study understand how to support the supply chain move towards a smart and flexible 'FutureFit' method. The project consortium (praised by Innovate UK assessors as 'enviable') involves five ZCOP partners and letters of support, required by the funding requirements, were submitted by several other partners.
8. Second, a separate award of £20,000 from the MCS Foundation and £20,000 match funding provided by ZCOP partners will translate findings to an area specific (e.g. Rose Hill) residential retrofit pilot project, to test the delivery model FOSS for future replication and expansion in Rose Hill and the rest of Oxford.
9. ZCOP sprint groups have also:
 - a) Established innovative 'area-based insetting' (ABI) trial in the city, which will aim to show that ABI can act as a mechanism for bridging funding gaps in local carbon reduction projects;

- Established buy-in from partners and other key private stakeholders (e.g. delivery companies) to participate in pilot freight consolidation project;
- b) Engaged partners in flexibility energy capacity trading trials;
- c) Scoped the potential for collaborative investment in onshore wind and solar PV across the County;
- d) Hosted a meeting with Lord Deben, former Environment Minister and Chair of the Committee on Climate Change;
- e) Consulted the RAF and Defence Infrastructure Organisation on onshore wind/ radar issues
- f) Workshop to share best practice on corporate scope 3 emissions;
- g) Participated in successful funding bids (MCS; SIF; UKRI and others);
- h) Informed local activities and policy:
 - i. Contributed Oxford's 2040 Local Plan insights and experiences on embodied carbon and defining a Net Zero building;
 - ii. Responded to Oxfordshire County Council's core transport schemes consultation.

Current Activity and Future Priorities

10. Delivering net zero by 2040 requires ambitious approach. Therefore, the partnership is pursuing both innovative and established work streams to facilitate the delivery of cost effective carbon emissions reductions for Oxford. Therefore, ZCOP's two year forward plan (see full list of actions in appendix 1) includes plans to:

- a) Develop a climate change adaptation risk assessment and action plan;
- b) Further feasibility in Rose Hill to develop a costed and scalable retrofit plan;
- c) Consult with partners on Local Plan policies in next phase of the plan's development;
- d) Hosting working group and workshop series with energy managers from NHS Trusts, local councils and both Universities to develop quick win energy saving measures before prices increase in April;
- e) Designing campaign to increase number of SMEs to set net zero target by offering tailored support package;
- f) Hold an event to bring car sharing/ car club organisations to ZCOP members to run pilots;
- g) Develop advice for businesses on EV to simplify ability to private landowners/ landlords to deliver EV infrastructure;
- h) Work with live projects to explore best approach to assessing grid power capacity for EV charging;
- i) Potential collaboration with ZCOP Partners and FOP on asset mapping for low carbon projects;
- j) Monitor and scope further funding and lobbying opportunities, including on grid limitations and renewable energy policy.

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