

To: Council

Date: 23 March 2026

Report of: Director of Law, Governance and Strategy and Transition Director

Title of Report: Outside organisation report – The Oxford Strategic Partnership, 2024 to 2025

Summary and recommendations	
Decision being taken:	To note the annual update on the Oxford Strategic Partnership, 2024 to 2025
Key decision:	No
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Susan Brown, Leader, and Cabinet Member for partnership Working and Inclusive Economic Growth
Corporate Priority:	All
Policy Framework:	The Council Strategy 2024 to 2028

Recommendation(s): That Council resolves to:
1. Note the update outside organisation report on the work of the Oxford Strategic Partnership, 2024 to 2025.

Information Exempt From Publication	
State in here what information is to be exempt from publication – where it is, attach it as an appendix and name the appendix as you describe it here	None

Appendix No.	Appendix Title	Exempt from Publication
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Appendix 1	Outside Organisation report – Oxford Strategic Partnership, 2024	No
Appendix 2	Oxford Strategic Partnership – Membership	No

Purpose

1. The planned 2024/2025 update to Council was paused to enable the organisation to prioritise capacity for its Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) submission and associated workstreams.
2. This report provides a high-level summary of the Oxford Strategic Partnership’s (OSP) work during 2024 to 2025. Full detail is contained in Appendix One and supporting appendices. A report on OSP’s work during 2025/2026 will be provided to a future Council meeting.

Introduction and background

3. The [Oxford Strategic Partnership](#) (OSP) brings together senior leaders from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors to address major challenges facing the city. Established in 2003, the partnership acts as an influencer and convenor, providing strategic insight, fostering collaboration, and enabling collective action on shared priorities.

Strategic Vision and Aims

4. The partnership aims to support a thriving, inclusive, and sustainable city, tackling long-standing inequalities and strengthening quality of life.
 Aims:
 - Identify major issues where collective action is needed
 - Bring partners together to design and deliver joint solutions
 - Empower organisations and communities to act
 - Review progress and inform future priorities.

Key Strategic Themes - 2024 to 2025

- i. Economic resilience and transition
- ii. National policy change and local implications
- iii. Inequality and community wellbeing
- iv. Skills, employment and inclusive growth
- v. Climate, net zero and place-shaping
- vi. Global and local engagement – Oxford University.

Sub-Group Overview

5. Economic Development - The Economic Growth Steering Board oversees Oxford's Economic Strategy and leads work on infrastructure, investment, skills, innovation and inclusive growth.
6. Stronger Communities - Activity was paused pending decisions on an internal organisational structure review.
7. Zero Carbon Oxford Partnership (ZCOP) - For this reporting period, this was a city-based partnership leading work on net-zero by 2040, industrial decarbonisation, adaptation planning, retrofit, sustainable travel and energy infrastructure. ZCOP has now become the Zero Carbon Oxfordshire Partnership with a full countywide remit, the secretariat functions for which is still provided by Oxford City Council.
8. Safer Communities - The Oxford Safer Communities Partnership delivers priorities on serious violence, Anti-Social Behaviour, modern slavery and exploitation, violence against women and girls, preventing extremism and multi-agency problem-solving.

Summary of progress - 2024/2025

9. Across 2024/2025, the OSP has:
 - Provided collective leadership on long-term city challenges
 - Strengthened collaboration across major institutions
 - Supported major programmes on economy, inequality, climate and safety
 - Responded to national policy shifts
 - Helped coordinate citywide priorities and cross-county alignment.

Interim progress summary - 2025/2026

10. The next full annual update - covering the OSP activity during 2025/2026 - is expected to be presented to Council in the first quarter of the 2026/2027 Council year.
11. During 2025/2026, the Oxford Strategic Partnership focused on:
 - i. **Citywide coordination on LGR-related planning**, overview updates of government expectations, ensuring alignment between partners on governance, future service models, and shared priorities, progress on the Council's engagement and preparatory work.
 - ii. **Oxford Growth Commission (OGC)**, The OGC Chair led a discussion on key themes including transport and connectivity, infrastructure, housing delivery and regeneration, and innovation, skills, and employability.
 - iii. **Strategic Planning across Oxfordshire**, including an Oxfordshire County Council briefing on its strategic planning work and shared priorities.
- iv. **Education, Apprenticeships, Training, Employment and Skills Gaps** including an introduction to ongoing skills work, a skills study and inequality study update, discussion on consultancy work and prompts for partnership action.

Implications of Local Government Reorganisation

12. There are no Local Government Reorganisation implications arising from this report.

Financial implications

13. The OSP is funded and facilitated by Oxford City Council with a 2024/2025 assigned budget of £6,320. The contribution facilitates secretariat responsibilities for the partnership, and the agreed priorities and set objectives for specific areas of work.

Legal issues

14. There are no legal implications arising from this report. (EG/13700/2/3/26)

Level of risk

15. This report is simply providing an update to the Council on the work completed by the OSP and so it is not appropriate for an assessment of risk to be carried out.

Equalities impact

16. The structure and membership of the OSP and its sub-groups is intended to reflect a common commitment among participating organisations to equality. The areas of focus of the OSP and four sub-groups are very much focused on tackling inequality and building inclusivity.

Carbon and Environmental Considerations

17. There are no carbon or environmental implications arising from this report. The OSP has a strategic aim in relation to net zero which directly supports the Council's targets to achieve net zero as a city by 2040.

Report author	Lucy Cherry
Job title	Policy and Partnerships Officer
Service area or department	Law, Governance and Strategy
Telephone	07483 010 323
e-mail	lcherry@oxford.gov.uk

Background Papers:
1 None