

# The future for partnerships in Oxfordshire

## New governance proposals

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# Background

- Public Service Board and members requested review.

**Objective of the review :** Robust governance that

- Improves outcomes
- Holds partners to account for delivery
- Includes elected members
- Rationalises partnerships where possible
- Framework for allocating resources
- Better communication / reporting
- Meets Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)

# The review ...

- Audit of 25 current partnerships
- Development of proposals to rationalise partnerships
- Development of detailed proposals for full consultation among partners
- Progress report to November PSB
- Recommendations and implementation in 2009

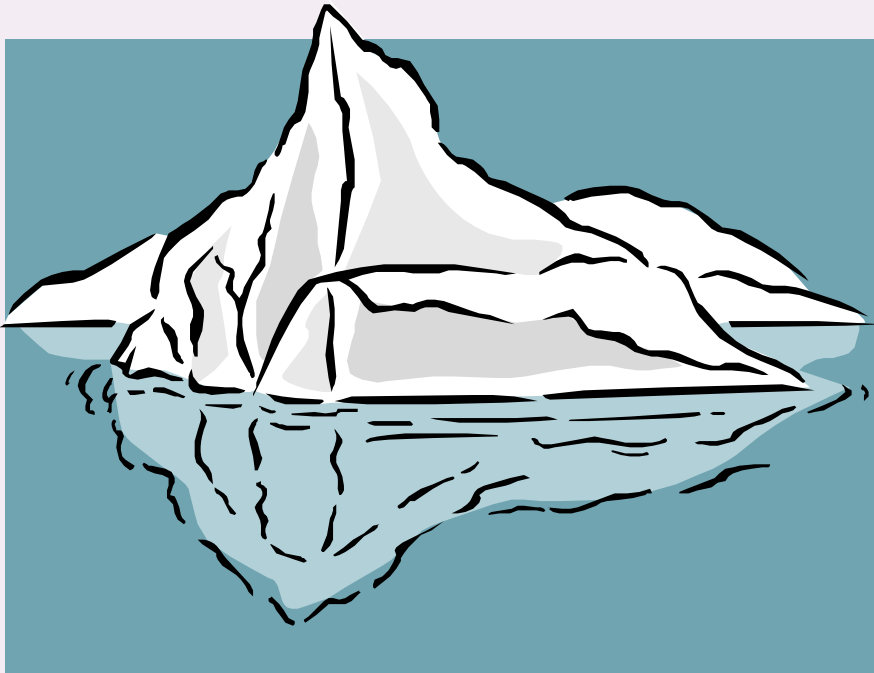
# Review – Key Findings ...

- Some long-established partnerships
  - A belief in and commitment to partnership working
- BUT
- Achievements sometimes unclear
  - Accountability often unclear
  - Many sub-groups
  - Not enough scrutiny
  - Involvement of Elected Members inconsistent
  - Many partnerships without resources.
  - Not enough public access to partnerships.

## Review – Conclusions so far ...

- Maintain **Oxfordshire Partnership Board** – overview of progress / looking ahead.
- Develop **Public Service Board** – decisions about targets and resources / proactive performance management.
- Develop 7/8 key **cross-partnerships** which include Elected Members with authority to tackle strategic issues which cut across boundaries.
- **One size does not fit all.** Partnerships need some freedom to design the support they need.
- **Reduce the burden** on faith, voluntary and business organisations so they can play a full part.,

## Tip of the Iceberg



- Partnership working is only part of what the County Council and its partners organisations deliver in the way of services

# Cross-cutting partnerships ...

Partnership	Agenda
Strategic / Spatial Planning	Regional spatial planning; economic development; major infrastructure/development; transport; housing delivery
Oxfordshire Economic Partnership	As now
Waste Partnership Environment Partnership	Waste Environment; climate change; flooding; biodiversity
Children's Trust Board	As now
Health & Well-Being	As now, plus homelessness and supporting people
Stronger Communities	Voluntary sector development; rural; preventing extremism; social inclusion
Safer Communities	As now

# Cross-cutting partnerships

- Elected Members and senior decision-makers from across organisations and sectors
- Membership to reflect statutory responsibility, financial commitment, key communities of interest
- Likely to meet quarterly/three times a year

# Delivery Groups ...

- Up to the Partnerships themselves
- Likely to include a number of officer support groups – some as now/some amended/some new
- Such groups to be accountable to Partnerships for delivery.

# Other elements of the partnership infrastructure

## District Local Strategic Partnerships

- Understanding local needs and championing these
- Responsible for developing District strategies and partnership working at the local level.

## Partnership Development Group

- Supports partnerships and builds capacity
- Develops frameworks and standards (e.g. performance, project management)
- Promotes best practice

## Reviewing partnerships

- Role of councillors and scrutiny to be developed.

## Risks – feedback so far ...

Potential for

- Dilution of successful Partnerships (eg Waste)
- Hindering development of fledging Partnerships (such as Environment)
- Where does Supporting People partnership sit ?
- Adding more layers of partnership working ?
- Does not recognise the different roles of the voluntary and business sectors ?

# Next Steps

- Develop proposals for each Partnership
- Talk in more detail to all partnerships
- One month full consultation
- Progress report to November PSB
- Adopt new arrangements by March 09

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