

Oxfordshire Partnership and Oxfordshire 2030: future direction

Purpose of report:

This report sets out:

- The high level medium term priorities that support the delivery of Oxfordshire 2030 objectives.
- Options for discussion on how the Oxfordshire Partnership could operate in the future.

Background:

The context in which local partnerships operate has changed significantly since the election of the coalition government in May 2010. The national framework which influenced the shape of local partnerships has been substantially pruned. The comprehensive spending review and the government's deficit reduction strategy have strengthened the case for local collaboration but may force agencies back into their silos. Reductions in public expenditure have also focussed attention on the costs of partnership working.

No specific policy statements have been made to date on the future role and responsibilities of Local Strategic Partnerships. Their role in co-coordinating and bringing together local public services has been acknowledged, and supported, in publications such as the Health White Paper.

In this new context, many Local Strategic Partnerships are reviewing how they work, including

- streamlining and re-focusing of sub-groups and thematic partnerships
- rethinking work programmes and moving more to a 'task and finish' approach

Sustainable Community Strategies are no longer statutory but it is suggested that we shall still be committed to Oxfordshire 2030 as it is important that we have an agreed long-term countywide vision in place which all partners are a part of.

Oxfordshire 2030 Refresh:

Last year the Oxfordshire Partnership initiated work to refresh the medium term priorities that support delivery of Oxfordshire 2030 objectives:

- World Class Economy
- Healthy & Thriving Communities
- Climate Change & Environment
- Reducing Inequalities & Breaking the Cycle of deprivation

This work was put on hold due to the number of policy changes but has now resumed with the detail delegated to the Countywide Chief Executives group. The aim of refreshing the medium term priorities is to move towards a lighter touch approach to performance monitoring and reporting, take into account developments in policy

The Chief Executives group agreed in February 2011 that the focus until 2014/15 should be on the following 7 areas:

- Housing and Infrastructure
- Breaking the Cycle of deprivation
- Economy (skills/educational attainment/NEETS/infrastructure)
- Health & Social Care (the preventative/public health agenda – delayed transfer, getting people back into their homes)
- Public service cost reduction (asset management)
- Community Safety
- Big Society

The 7 thematic partnerships were asked to identify 3 to 4 priorities which would support these areas of focus and progress the Oxfordshire 2030 objectives until 2014/15. The high level priorities are attached in annex 1.

- **Do you have any comments on the high-level priorities proposed?**

Oxfordshire Partnership: future direction

The current partnership structure was designed to deliver the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and Sustainable Communities Strategy, and it has been successful in doing that. It is now timely to review the future role of the partnership.

The Partnership has been critical in terms of developing a shared evidence base with a clear long term countywide vision. We have brought together a wide range of people who have found the networking opportunities and the ability to be involved in a wide range of forums incredibly helpful.

We don't want to lose the good work that has been established, but at the same time we don't want meetings for meetings sake and want to make the best use of everyone's time.

We propose to remove the thematic partnership hierarchy that has become rather burdensome. We envisage that the following Oxfordshire partnerships will still continue to meet as they are adding value in terms of driving forward progress on key countywide priorities

- Local Enterprise Partnership (Business led)
- Health and Wellbeing Board (Statutory – the Children's Trust will be part of this)
- Safer Communities
- Spatial Planning and Infrastructure
- Oxfordshire Stronger Communities Alliance
- Environment and Waste

Day to day partnership business will carry on through the internal meetings of the Oxfordshire Chief Executive's group, and other task and finish groups as required (for example the Olympics)

The following **options** are proposed for discussion at the meeting:

1. That the Oxfordshire partnership meets annually as a wider stakeholder forum to set a broad direction of travel and bring together strands of partnership working with minimal bureaucracy.

To:

- Provide a forum for a strategic review of issues facing Oxfordshire and the need for coordinated actions to address these
 - Provide continued support for the development of integrated data sharing and intelligence through the Oxfordshire Data Observatory
 - Act as a county-wide information sharing and consultative body
 - Be a joint voice enabling more effective lobbying on the key issues affecting Oxfordshire.
- ***Do members agree with the proposal of a wider annual forum rather than meeting 3 times a year?***
2. “Future briefings” could be scheduled throughout the year that would focus on the big countywide issues e.g. Big Society, Census information including data and evidence (quality of life indicators), updates on new arrangements in health and wellbeing, work of the Oxfordshire partnerships e.g. Local Enterprise Partnership, and a focus on district local strategic partnerships
- ***Do you support this idea?***
 - ***What topics would you find useful to have briefings on?***
3. The Oxfordshire Partnership newsletter would continue to be circulated three times a year and the website would be updated with progress on the thematic partnerships.
- ***Do you use the website? How could it be improved?***
 - ***How helpful is the partnership newsletter? Is it covering the right items? What else would you like to see included?***
4. How do we (as partners who have signed up to Oxfordshire 2030) monitor progress to ensure Oxfordshire 2030 objectives are being met?

It is proposed that the following steps should be in place – do you agree?

- ***An annual check on progress reported to the Oxfordshire Partnership Forum***
- ***Six monthly performance reports to the Chief Executives group with an annual report to the Oxfordshire Partnership***
- ***Updates on progress via the Oxfordshire Partnership newsletter***

Next steps:

If agreed these changes would be implemented immediately and the next meeting of the Partnership would take place in the autumn of 2012.

Recommendation

- To discuss the proposed options and agree a way forward.

Annex 1:

Annex 1

Medium Term focus	Oxon 2030 Theme	Partnership	Medium Term Priority
Housing and Infrastructure	World Class Economy	Spatial Planning & Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing the supply of homes Contributing to meeting strategic objectives Supporting economic growth and inward investment Ensuring new development that minimises the use of resources
Breaking the Cycle of deprivation	Reducing Inequalities & Breaking the Cycle of Deprivation		<p>Priority is currently being delivered through a range of initiatives focused on Banbury and Oxford. The following initiatives have been identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of early intervention programmes Access to training and employment opportunities Focus on NEETS
Economy (skills/educational attainment/NEETS/infrastructure)	World Class Economy	Oxfordshire Local Enterprise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing the number of successful businesses in the Oxfordshire economy Improving the education and skills of the workforce Increasing inward investment in Oxfordshire Improving business support services in Oxfordshire Improving Broadband infrastructure
		Children & Young People's Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keeping all children and young people safe Raising Achievement for all Narrowing the gap for our most vulnerable groups
Health & Social Care (the preventative/public health agenda – delayed transfer, getting people back into their homes)	Healthy & Thriving Communities	Health & Wellbeing	<p>In the short term the following priorities are process focused in order to help improve health and wellbeing structures. These will be re-visited once the Health and Wellbeing board is established.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> establish a new Health and Wellbeing Board publish a new Joint Strategic Needs Assessment produce a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy
Public service cost reduction (asset management)	World class Economy	Chief Executives Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smarter procurement procedures Reduction of energy use in public buildings
Community Safety	Healthy & Thriving Communities	Safer Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tackling community safety concerns in our communities. Supporting victims/preventing perpetrators of anti-social behaviour Implementing measures to deal with individuals at risk of committing crime or anti-social behaviour
Big Society	Healthy & Thriving Communities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the military covenant and work together with the military to support service personnel, service families and veterans

Medium Term focus	Oxon 2030 Theme	Partnership	Medium Term Priority
			<p>and veterans in Oxfordshire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with communities to encourage them to get involved in local decision making and improve quality of life e.g. increasing levels of volunteering • Work together with the voluntary sector, including town and parish councils, to address community needs and aspirations and build their capacity to get involved in providing services • Support local communities to make the most of the opportunities brought through the localism bill so that they can have more control over things like housing, services and future of communities in their local areas • Use the opportunities presented by the localism bill as a catalyst for putting citizens in control of their own lives and getting more involved in spending decisions
	Climate Change & Environment	Environment & Waste	<p>Environment focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the risk and effects of flooding • Ensure Oxfordshire organisations are resilient and preparing for the impacts of climate change • Reduce greenhouse gas emissions • Protect and enhance the biodiversity of the county <p>Waste focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the overall amount of waste generated • Increase levels of waste reuse and recycling • Reduce the amount of waste landfilled • Improve street and environmental cleanliness