

Oxfordshire Partnership 11th October 2012 City and District Local Strategic Partnerships Update

Cherwell Local strategic Partnership (LSP)

Cherwell District is committed to maintaining its LSP. With leaner staffing and greater demands on time and budgets, the partnership has reviewed its arrangements to ensure continued effectiveness.

The Board agreed the following recommendations at its July meeting:

1. Management Group is merged into the Board. Management Group member organisations not already represented on the Board are invited to join the Board.
2. Six Board meetings per year are held and one reference group/conference meeting a year (no change).
3. Project focused steering groups to meet as required. Each led by a board member.
4. Basis of any future LSP project, work programme or report is to be at least one of the objectives of the Cherwell Sustainable Community Strategy.
5. Detailed quarterly monitoring reports to be replaced by quarterly "highlight and exception" reports.
6. Production and scrutiny of medium term LSP strategies and detailed Sustainable Community Strategy delivery plans is ceased.

Oxford Strategic Partnership (OSP)

Following consultation with partners and stakeholders it was agreed that the Oxford Strategic Partnership (OSP) should continue. A review of the vision, aims, priorities and structure has been undertaken through 2012. The vision remains as *Oxford: A world class city for everyone*. A new vision statement outlining our aims and measures has been drafted with partners and the final draft will be agreed at the OSP meeting in November 2012.

Four key priority work areas have been agreed:

- Economic Development, Growth and Regeneration
- Stronger Communities – Breaking the cycle of deprivation; educational attainment; and participation and engagement
- Low Carbon City
- Safer Communities

Low Carbon City (through Low Carbon Oxford) and Safer Communities (through the Oxford Safer Communities Partnership) are mature areas of work and will continue to be supported by the OSP. The projects have well managed governance arrangements so the OSP view these areas of work as business as usual.

Current focus is in the development of a new Economic Growth Strategy and Action Plan for the City Region and work to strengthen our communities

through a partnership programme to improve educational attainment in city schools, continued work on breaking the cycle of deprivation and work to improve participation and engagement across all communities in the city.

The OSP is holding a public event on 19th November, 5pm-7pm at the Town Hall where we will be profiling our work over the last few years and launching our new vision and priorities.

South Oxfordshire Partnership (SOP)

As local strategic partnerships are no longer a statutory requirement the district council carried out a review of the strategic partnership with SOP board members in Spring 2012. There was agreement at the July SOP meeting that the partnership would no longer meet formally but would hold a more informal networking meeting to discuss topical issues, to update partners on current work and share future plans.

The newly formed SOP Networking Group will consist of the same members as SOP and will meet before the end of 2012 provide a short update to highlight their work with a particular focus on whether they can add value to each others work. All members will provide their own updates, and there will be no formal 'agenda' or written minutes. . Following this meeting a review to take place to see if another should be scheduled for Spring 2013.

Vale Partnership review 2012

Local strategic partnerships are no longer a statutory requirement. The government has abolished the statutory requirement to publish a Sustainable Community Strategy. A number of partners are facing significant reductions in funding and/or are currently being restructured and some partners have ceased to attend board meetings for these reasons. The level of support the council needed to provide to the partnership has become unsustainable if it is to continue with its work to support community led planning in the district.

The district council carried out a review of the strategic partnership with Vale Partnership board members in Spring 2012. There was agreement at the July Vale Partnership meeting to disband the partnership and instead of formal meetings to keep in touch informally. Partnership members will keep a database of partners' contacts' for the purpose of sharing information and partners strategic plans. The district council will explore the idea of an online 'bulletin board' for partnership members. If this is viable all partners will be responsible for adding to the page and making links with other partners.

West Oxfordshire Local Strategic Partnership (WOSP)

The West Oxfordshire Strategic Partnership was disbanded in Spring 2012.

Please see Cabinet Paper detailing the back ground to this:

<http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/files/reports/11707.pdf>

WODC maintains a continued commitment to partnership working, however, with a focus on four priority areas of activity:-

- Empowering local communities to be more resilient and proactive at addressing local issues
- Supporting and nurturing a strong community and voluntary sector for West Oxfordshire
- Improved communication and networking locally
- Shared intelligence and best practice in partnership activity

A list of partnership projects which WODC has a commitment to has been circulated to external partners inviting involvement in these, and for partners to submit new projects requiring a partnership approach - either through the involvement of WODC or other external agencies. At present the identified projects are:-

- Refresh of the West Oxfordshire Economic Development Strategy and associated Draft Project Action Plan
- Establish a West Oxfordshire Credit Union
- Continued delivery of the Older Peoples Network
- Health and Wellbeing Interest Group
- Health and Dementia Conference
- Update of Housing Strategy and Homelessness Strategy
- Windrush in Witney and Lower Windrush Valley Projects
- Witney market square refurbishment
- Collaboration with external agencies to mitigate the impacts of Welfare Reform
- Delivery of a Census seminar to disseminate what the data tells us about West Oxfordshire in order to consider changing pressures for the.
- Local area working – delivering localism through Town and Parish Council liaison and Town Partnership working including training workshops on planning reform and regular Town and Parish Council Forum.