

OXFORDSHIRE PARTNERSHIP – 25 FEBRUARY 2009

DEPRIVATION AND PLACE

**UPDATE AND DISCUSSION, OXFORDSHIRE PARTNERSHIP,
FEBRUARY 2009**

Background

The Annual Report of the Director of Public Health published in 2008 drew attention to the need to tackle deprivation in two places in Oxfordshire. All statutory organisations agreed in principle to find a way to make this happen. Work to build on this agreement has made progress, focussing on parts of Oxford City and Banbury. This paper sets out an update on action taken and a brief analysis of some difficulties in making further progress.

This work is important for improving opportunities and outcomes for people who live in our most deprived localities. Long term, multi agency approaches are essential to improve health, to increase prosperity, to improve social cohesion and to ensure better value for money for public services.

The following factors are also important:

- The current Credit Crunch will make things worse.
- Some good preparatory work has been achieved but this has not yet been translated into action.
- Good use has been made of District LSPs and bilateral meetings, but further progress would benefit from challenging current systems and structures, none of which were specifically established to enable place shaping work.

Progress has been made in both the City and Banbury within a county wide approach, including:

- Analysis of neighbourhood level information in Banbury highlighting the localities with the worst inequalities. They are within the four wards of Grimsbury & Castle, Hardwick, Neithrop and Ruscote. This analysis will enable planning and coordination of actions appropriate to the specific needs of each neighbourhood, building on work already being delivered by all partner agencies. This includes educational attainment, teenage conceptions, life expectancy, smoking and obesity rates, crime, skills and worklessness.
- Oxford City Council has put together the initial draft of a Regeneration Framework and, together with the County Council and other partners, are engaged in action planning. The framework covers three major areas of Place and Infrastructure, Opportunities for People and Enterprise and Competitiveness.

Next steps

The next major phase of work will be to translate our strategic agreement into focussed joint action plans with management support. This is proving a delicate step to take. This may be because there is no standing forum or process where we can talk about Place Shaping. The work so far has been using existing structures such as bilateral meetings, district -LSPs etc. to take things forward. We are likely to need a bespoke or modified mechanism to take the next steps forward.

RECOMMENDATION

The Oxfordshire Partnership is asked to discuss this analysis and consider the next steps.

Jonathan McWilliam, Director of Public Health for Oxfordshire.