

OXFORDSHIRE PARTNERSHIP - 25 NOVEMBER 2009

UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITIES TEAM FOR THE OXFORDSHIRE PARTNERSHIP

Introduction:

The Partnerships and Communities Team is part of the Partnership Working Unit within the strategy division of Corporate Core in the County Council and provides a range of support services to Oxfordshire Partnership. The team is responsible for the Oxfordshire Partnership, Oxfordshire Public Service Board, partnership governance, development and management of the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement. In addition it leads on the County Council's policy and approach to community engagement and place shaping at a corporate level.

This report summarises key activities since June 2009, and upcoming activities.

Oxfordshire 2030: The Countywide Sustainable Community Strategy

- We are working to ensure that appropriate measures are set against the pledges and realistic and measurable targets are agreed to deliver these. The County Council's performance team are also involved and provide a liaison officer for each partnership.
- We have prepared a progress report on the first year of Oxfordshire 2030 which is available at this meeting.

Local Area Agreement

We are managing:

- The grant claim for our first Local Area Agreement for those targets we delivered successfully. We anticipate claiming in excess of £9 million in 2010 which will be payable over two years;
- The process for allocating money to partnerships and projects for the Public Service Board for projects which support partnerships' strategic priorities;
- Renegotiation of the economically affected indicators in our latest Local Area Agreement with Government.

Partnership working

- **Implementing the partnership governance review** - We now have a revised partnership structure of seven county-wide thematic partnerships each with their own delivery arrangements. We have developed a handbook which sets out our partnership approaches to issues such as communications and performance issues. We are providing support to partnerships to ensure these changes are implemented.
- **Management of the Partnership development group** - The Partnership Development Group supports the development of partnership working in Oxfordshire and the effective delivery of the Oxfordshire 2030 strategy through its thematic partnerships. The aims of the group are to share learning

and experience on common partnership issues and develop partnership approaches and review progress taking a cross-partnership view.

- **Developing the self assessment** - toolkit to assess governance and effectiveness of thematic partnerships (which will be rolled out in February 2010). This will feed into the development of the Partnership Development Plan that will identify the development needs of the thematic partnerships.
- We are working to improve our **partnership communications** by developing a strategy and building on our website resource and quarterly partnership newsletter.
- **Progress through Partnerships (PtP)** - The team are currently undertaking the annual Audit Commission self-assessment, as required by PtP in order to bid for funding in 2009/10. Following the success of the PtP-funded development work in 08/09, the team are also in discussions with the district LSP Chairman and Officers to make the most effective use of the potential joint funding available.
- We are running an “**Oxfordshire Partnerships information sharing event**” on the 14th December 12.30-2.30 at County Hall. The aim of this is to:
 - To provide partnerships the opportunity to network and share good practice with each other;
 - Celebrate key successes of the last year;
 - Engage partnerships in key cross-partnership issues;
 - Strengthen the Oxfordshire Partnership identity.
- Supporting the **Countywide LSP Officers Group** which brings together officers supporting LSPs across the County. We are working to build relationships between district LSPs and thematic partnerships and the workshop event in September was a very successful start in doing this.
- **Quarterly partnership report to Oxfordshire County Council** – available on the partnership website www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk
- We are establishing relationships with **neighbouring LSPs** e.g. Hampshire, Gloucestershire and Buckinghamshire from which we hope to share experiences and best practice in partnership working.
- **Community led planning** and its contribution to Oxfordshire 2030 - The Partnership has pledged to increase the number of plans in the county, as well as the actions implemented, over the next 3 years. With the encouragement and support of Oxfordshire Rural Community Council and partners, communities are taking up this challenge: since April 2009, 11 communities have been getting started on the process and another 35 plans are in development (some starting before April). This in addition to over 40 already published in recent years.

With the support of partners, Oxfordshire Rural Community Council has also secured regional funding for launching a new community-led planning web-based resource and database. It should help monitor progress implementation of local action plans, Look out for the launch event in early 2010 which will be of interest both to Oxfordshire communities and everyone providing services to them.

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November 2009