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ITEM OP4

OXFORDSHIRE PARTNERSHIP - 25 NOVEMBER 2009

OXFORDSHIRE 2030 PROGRESS REPORT

Foreword

In November 2008 we, the Oxfordshire Partnership, agreed our long-term vision for the County's future in the Oxfordshire 2030 strategy. Our vision is an ambitious one:

“By 2030 we want Oxfordshire to be recognised for its economic success, outstanding environment and quality of life; to be a place where everyone can realise their potential, contribute to and benefit from economic prosperity and where people are actively involved in their local communities”

One year on we are seeing the impact of the recession on our economy and communities that was developing when we were finalising our strategy in 2008. It has been a challenging year because we have had to react to the changing situation, support our communities through it and plan for the future, one of reduced public finances. The recession is obviously a priority for us but we must not lose sight of our ambitious long term aims.

This report provides the opportunity, one year into Oxfordshire 2030, to reflect on how we are doing and where our future challenges lie.

Cllr Keith R Mitchell CBE
Chairman of the Oxfordshire Partnership

Introduction

This report shows how we as a partnership are making progress towards our vision for the County as set out in *Oxfordshire 2030*. We have illustrated the headline indicators that show us what Oxfordshire is like today and whether we are moving in the right direction to improve the quality of life. These indicators reflect the key measures of success that we identified in *Oxfordshire 2030*.

Improving the governance of partnerships

During 2009 the Oxfordshire Partnership has updated its governance arrangements to ensure that it is best organised to deliver the vision. There are now seven thematic partnerships responsible for delivery of the strategy;

- Children's Trust
- Oxfordshire Economic Partnership
- Environment and Waste Partnership
- Health and Well-being Partnership
- Safer Communities Partnership
- Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Partnership
- Stronger Communities Alliance.

A new performance management framework was developed alongside the governance review. Thematic partnerships now have responsibility for managing performance and they are accountable to the Public Service Board for the delivery of their partnership targets.

While the five district Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) all have their own sustainable community strategies their priorities support those of *Oxfordshire 2030*. We work hard to avoid any duplication between partnerships and the past year has seen partnerships working closer together. Where it makes sense for us to do so we have jointly funded events on improving communications and performance management.

About this report

This report draws on the achievements of the thematic partnerships over the past year and presents them by the four strategic objectives of the *Oxfordshire 2030* strategy:

- World Class economy;
- Healthy and thriving Communities;
- Environment and Climate change and;
- Reducing inequalities and breaking the cycle of deprivation.

Thematic partnerships are working on the measures in the *Oxfordshire 2030* delivery plan to ensure that they reflect the *Oxfordshire 2030* pledges and that stretching targets are set. The revised delivery plan will be taken to the Public

Service Board in February 2010. This report therefore focuses on thematic partnerships' main areas of activity during 2009.

More information on the activity of the thematic partnerships is available in the report on the Partnership that is produced three times a year. The report can be found on the Oxfordshire Partnership website www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk and is also reported to the county council.

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Meeting our objectives

This section provides an overview of some of the key 'Quality of Life' indicators for Oxfordshire. Quality of Life indicators were developed by the Audit Commission to give a rounded picture of an area. We are using them to illustrate how we are doing in the issues we have prioritised in Oxfordshire 2030. The following section also provides some achievements and progress made by partnerships in the past year.

Please note: the most recent full year data has been used in the *How are we doing* sections to ensure consistency. In some cases this means data for the year 2007 has been used.

World Class Economy

Our aim is to build on Oxfordshire's vibrant economy and make sure that everyone has an opportunity to be included in that success. While we face challenging economic times our vision for Oxfordshire's economy remains ambitious and we have proved to be more resilient than many areas in coping with the recession.

How are we doing?

Science Vale UK is an area of world class science and innovation. In 2007, 12% of all jobs in Oxfordshire were in the knowledge intensive business sector which is just above the average of 11.7% across the South East (10.7% across England). A further 10% of Oxfordshire employees worked in other high tech industries or Information and Computer Technology.

Gross Value Added per person (a measure of income earned by business and individuals) ranked in the top 10% nationally in 2006 and is consistently above the South East average. Oxfordshire contributed £15 billion to the UK economy in 2006.

Oxfordshire has a well-qualified population. In 2008, 57% of working age people in Oxfordshire were qualified to NVQ3 (equivalent to two A levels) or above in 2008, which is well above the average for England (47%), and close to the top 10% nationally. While many parts of Oxfordshire are above average on education, skills and training compared to other parts of the UK, 13 areas of the county were ranked among the 5% most deprived areas nationally for this indicator.

51% of pupils in Oxfordshire gained 5 GCSEs at A*-C grade (including English and maths) in 2008. This is just above average for England (50.4%, maintained schools).

16% of the working age population was economically inactive in 2008 but only 10% were not actively seeking a job (the fourth lowest rate in England). In 2008/09, 6.3% of people aged 16-18 years were not in employment, education or training, which is higher than our statistical neighbours and up from the pre-recession level of 4.2% in 2007/08.

House prices remain among the highest in the country although they dropped slightly in the recession. Only 18% of the Oxfordshire housing stock was classed as affordable in 2008, compared to the national average of 26%. In 2008, the median house price in Oxfordshire (£238,500) was 8.5 times greater than the median salary (£26,786), a slight improvement on the previous year (8.9) but well above the national average (6.8).

Transport infrastructure affects our economy. In 2008, 43% of people in Oxfordshire who responded to the National Highways and Transport network satisfaction survey said they were satisfied overall with traffic levels and congestion. Oxfordshire ranked poorly on this measure, 23rd of 24 counties. In 2008/09, 76% of rural households could get to a town centre within 30 minutes by public transport.

Partnerships' achievements

Educational achievement and skills

The ***Children's Trust*** has seen GCSE results rise again reflecting the priority given to this key issue to improve Oxfordshire's performance which has not been as good as it should be compared with other similar areas. In improving achievement in schools we now have four outstanding secondary schools in Oxfordshire compared with 2008 when we had none.

Growing the economy

Job Clubs are an innovative partnership, initiated by Tony Baldry MP between Cherwell District Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford and Cherwell Valley College, Job Centre Plus, Oxfordshire Economic Partnership, local employers and local learning providers. They are designed to help people back into work. Bicester Job Club was launched in June using the successful Banbury Job Club model.

The ***Oxfordshire Economic Partnership's (OEP)*** has built on its new ambitious brand (Horizons & Futures) as Oxfordshire's leading public/private partnership delivering strategic programmes that will not only contribute to meeting economic development targets but make a difference to the county's wealth generators and how they do business in Oxfordshire and beyond.

Over the past year OEPs four key strategic areas of work have been:

- **Inward Investment** – promoting the county nationally and internationally and attracting the right kind of inward investment.
- **Best Place to Learn** – making sure that Oxfordshire's businesses have access to local residents with the right skills now and in the future.
- **Science Innovation & Technology** – building on the strength of Oxfordshire's high technology and science cluster.
- **Oxfordshire Means Business** – supporting businesses and engaging them in OEP thinking and activity.

Oxfordshire has recently been successful in bidding to the Department for Work and Pensions Future Jobs Fund. The partnership has funding to create 60 jobs with a community benefit for young people between 18 and 24 who are not in employment. Potential employers from the public, private and voluntary sector are being recruited now.

Tackling congestion

The 'Access to Oxford' project focuses on the improvement of the northern and southern approaches to Oxford to reduce congestion into and around the city.

Non-construction initiatives include working closely with the bus operators and forming a bus quality partnership looking at easing bus congestion and encouraging greater bus use and, consequently, less reliance on the car.

The county council has also developed a Network Management Plan, showing how well placed we are to tackle congestion by dealing with what is happening on the roads. The plan also sets out how real-time information is being developed to react to incidents on the highway and provide up-to-date travel information to road users, using Variable Message Signs, local radio and the web. Through these projects we are seeking to address the low levels of satisfaction with the highway network.

The third local transport plan is currently in development with considerable input from partners. The plan will focus on attracting and supporting economic investment, growth, delivering transport infrastructure, services to tackle congestion, improving quality of life. It covers all forms of transport.

Sustainable development

The new ***Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Partnership*** is leading on Oxfordshire's 'single conversation' with the Homes and Communities Agency. The aim of the conversation is to produce a shared framework at the local level for the delivery of housing, infrastructure, regeneration and community objectives.

The Oxfordshire Long Term Flooding Issues Group provides a strategic overview of activity across the county to minimise the risk of flooding. The group is working to locate businesses at risk and is working with them to promote business continuity and encourage the take-up of property flood resistance and resilience. The group is also working with the Environment Agency to collate and map the main flood risk management and drainage assets and implement local flood schemes.

Healthy and Thriving Communities

The Partnership has acknowledged that Oxfordshire is a great place to live for most but not all. We need to tackle crime, anti-social behaviour, health inequalities, lack of housing and congestion and respond effectively to the demographic challenges we face over the next 20 years. We want our City, market towns and villages to be communities with a heart.

How are we doing?

Oxfordshire is the most rural county in the South East region. Over 50% of the people in Oxfordshire live in settlements of less than 10,000 people, while around one-third of the population lives in our market towns. Our largest settlement is Oxford city with a population of 153,900, with 42,500 students attending either Oxford University or Oxford Brookes University.

92% of people in Oxfordshire who responded to the Place Survey, 2008/09, felt safe when outside in their local area during the day. This is above the rate for England (88%). 63% of people who responded said that they feel safe when out in their local area after dark (compared with 51% across England), with just under one quarter (22%) saying they feel unsafe.

The number of domestic burglaries and car-related crime in Oxfordshire in 2008/09 was below the national average but the rate of violent crimes was above the national average (17.5 crimes per 1,000 people in Oxfordshire compared with 16.4 per 1,000 people nationally).

In 2007, life expectancy at birth in Oxfordshire was 79.2 years for males and 83.2 years for females, above the national average (England) of 76.9 years for males, and 81.1 years for females. However there are wide variations across Oxfordshire with a 17 year difference in life expectancy between the ward with the highest life expectancy, Bicester South (90.7 years), and the lowest, Carfax in Oxford (73.0 years) which is likely to reflect the high homeless population in that area.

In 2008/09, 26% of adults (age 16 and over) in Oxfordshire participated in the equivalent of 30 minutes of moderate intensity sport and active recreation on 3 or more days per week, the second highest rate in the English counties (highest rate in Buckinghamshire, 25.6%, lowest in Norfolk, 19.6%). In 2007, Didcot Ladygrove ward had the longest healthy life expectancy (86 years) of all wards in England and Wales.

The number of people in Oxfordshire who gave unpaid help to one or more groups, clubs or organisations at least once a month is above the national average, 29% compared with 23% (Place Survey 2008/09). An increasing number of communities across Oxfordshire have or are developing community-led plans. As at June 2009 three communities were monitoring and reviewing existing plans, 40 were implementing plans and a further 46 were developing plans.

Partnerships' achievements

Young People

Children in Oxfordshire now have a better chance of a good start in life because Oxfordshire's 14-19 children's services have consecutively been rated as "good" by government (having been judged as "inadequate" in the 2007 Joint Area Review). We have also been praised for our rapid improvements to our Safeguarding Board as the protection of vulnerable children is of utmost importance to the partnership.

Health and Well-being

Physical activity among adults in Oxfordshire has increased. It is anticipated that, in the long term, this is likely to keep people healthy for longer. There is evidence that activity is even more important than weight reduction in reducing risk of cardiovascular disease.

The ***Health and Well-being Partnership*** is leading on the greater use of a common evidence base, the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (an annual analysis of evidence and data), is used to understand the future health, care and well-being needs of the community. It informs commissioning decisions and has resulted in good ratings for the PCT from World Class Commissioning (the national approach to transforming the way health and care services are commissioned) and praise in the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Area Assessment. We are now making better decisions about the services we commission bringing benefits to our customers and clients.

The number of people experiencing a delay in being transferred from hospitals to another care setting has fallen consistently over the past year, thereby improving quality of care and securing efficiencies across the system.

Stronger Communities

The ***Oxfordshire Stronger Communities Alliance*** (OSCA, the new voluntary, community and faith sector thematic partnership) is leading research on 'Building better communities' through a project to map faith communities in the county. This research will enable us to work more effectively with faith communities in the future.

The Oxfordshire Compact sets standards for how the public sector works with and commissions services from voluntary and community sector organisations. The Alliance is taking this forward through the development of the draft Equalities and Diversity Code and other work to ensure that the Compact is understood and followed by all partners.

The Partnership has pledged to increase the number of community led plans in the county, as well as the actions implemented, over the next three 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 started on the process and another 35 plans are in development.

Safer communities

Oxfordshire has seen an 8% reduction in all crime from 1 April to 31 August 09 compared with the same period last year. This includes a 9% reduction in the LAA target on assault with less serious injury (which is often linked to the night time economy); a 23% reduction in stolen cars and 14% reduction in thefts from cars

The **Safer Communities Partnership** is currently leading a four-month alcohol awareness campaign and has been involved in commissioning new and extended countywide alcohol services.

The partnership is supporting vulnerable elderly people in their homes through the Oxfordshire Distraction Burglary Group, Nominated Neighbour Schemes and the joint assessment programme.

In the **South Oxfordshire Partnership**, partners are working with the local community, including young people, to tackle the problem of the anti-social use of moto-cross and mini-moto bikes in Berinsfield which is a key community concern.

The hate crime multi-agency steering group is developing a reporting and recording system for incidents of hate crime for all six equality strands. The system will help identify community tensions and target resources.

Rural domestic abuse outreach services are providing support to victims across all rural areas in the County.

In Cherwell, community television has been launched to keep communities informed of community safety work and youth activators are working with 11-16 year olds across the district delivering fun alternative sports to increase participation in sports and physical activity.

Environment and Climate Change

We will respond to the challenges of climate change by minimising the effects of flooding, looking after our environment, reducing waste and use of energy, to improve the quality of life for all

How are we doing?

Oxfordshire is a beautiful place to live. As at June 2009, 94% of the area in Oxfordshire covered by sites of special scientific interest was in favourable or recovering favourable condition, up from 89% in 2008. In 2007, just over half of the agricultural land in the county (386 square miles or 99,988 hectares) was being managed under agri-environment schemes. Of this, 87% is managed under entry level stewardship which encourages farmers to deliver simple yet effective environmental management. A small percentage is covered by a higher level scheme which encourages delivery of significant environmental benefits in high priority situations and areas. Biodiversity, as measured by the farmland bird index, improved slightly from 2006 to 2007, but remains below the 1997 baseline.

Oxfordshire has a rich built heritage, including Blenheim Palace world heritage site, over 1,000 listed buildings and a wide range of Scheduled Ancient Monuments. In 2009, just 3 of the nationally important buildings and 56 Scheduled Ancient Monuments in Oxfordshire are included on the Heritage at Risk register.

Climate change presents a major challenge. In recent years flooding, has affected more homes and businesses and schools and offices have experienced over-heating. Carbon dioxide emissions from Oxfordshire fell from 8.2 tonnes per person in 2006 to 7.9 tonnes per person in 2007 but are still above the South East average (6.63 tonnes) and national average (7.34 tonnes). Just under one third (32%) of emissions in 2007 were from domestic use. Domestic emissions vary across the county: Oxford (1.95 tonnes per person per year) is among the ten lowest emitting local authorities in England (lowest Tower Hamlets, 1.69 tonnes per person); South Oxfordshire (2.93 tonnes) is among the ten highest emitting local authorities (highest South Buckinghamshire, 3.09 tonnes).

Domestic energy use in Oxfordshire in 2007 was also above the regional and national averages but this varied by district, with gas consumption in Cherwell and electricity use in Oxford below the regional and national averages. Household electricity use increased by 6.3% from 2006 to 2007 while gas consumption fell by 1.3%.

In 2007/08 the amount of household waste collected per person in Oxfordshire (just under a ton or 487.8 kg) was lower than in all other English counties except Norfolk (474.5 kg). Municipal waste collection in Oxfordshire was just over half a ton (528.4 kg) per person in 2007/08 (this includes household waste and similar wastes from commercial and industrial sources) which was below the European average of 538.5 kg per person. Oxfordshire's

municipal waste collection fell to 506.1 kg per person in 2008/09, a 5% reduction from 2006/07. In comparison, the greatest reduction in municipal waste collection over a two year period (2005 to 2007) in European countries was only 4%. 40.7% of the municipal waste that was collected in Oxfordshire was recycled in 2008/09. This is an improvement from 37.5% in 2007/08, and compares favourably with the highest recycling rates in Europe (the highest was Germany at 44.1% in 2007).

Partnerships' achievements

Waste and recycling

The ***Oxfordshire Waste Partnership*** (OWP) has awarded a contract to provide food waste treatment facilities for Oxfordshire which will help to improve recycling rates and has identified £20,000 of savings per year from improved waste management at partner councils' offices.

By actively working with communities 40 volunteer "master composters" have been recruited, the number of Community Action Groups has grown to 26 groups and a 26% increase in the number of primary schools visited by the OWP-funded Wild Waste Show. These activities support the Partnership's climate change and waste/recycling priorities.

The ***South Oxfordshire Partnership*** (SOP) has produced a carbon action plan resource sheet with information on how to get a free energy audit, grants for renewable energy technologies, running local climate change projects to help partners to deliver their commitments in SOPs carbon action plan. Other district Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) have also been working hard in this area including the ***Oxford Strategic Partnership*** which has been working with key businesses in the city on the Low Carbon Oxford project to develop the vision for a low carbon city and reduce emissions across sectors.

Cleaner and Greener

The number of reported fly-tips was reduced by 1951 last year to a countywide total of 4393. And over 100 community led litter picks were supported by the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership last year.

Climate Change

The ***Environment Partnership*** has secured Local Area Agreement reward funding to deliver a £500,000 programme of work to provide a single, high profile service which improves access to energy efficiency advice and a countywide energy incentive grant scheme, supported by a programme of community engagement which targets communities in need. Projects are currently in development.

Reducing inequalities/ Breaking the cycle of deprivation

The Partnership will work together to reduce inequalities and narrow the gap between the least and most deprived individuals and communities in Oxfordshire.

How are we doing?

Oxfordshire has generally low levels of deprivation, ranking 137th out of 149 counties in the 2007 index of multiple deprivation (unchanged from the previous index published in 2004). There are no areas in the county which are among the 10% most deprived areas nationally for the overall index of multiple deprivation but a number of areas within Oxfordshire are ranked in the worst 10% in the country for particular aspects of deprivation, including education, skills and training (20 areas) and barriers to housing and services (39 areas).

Partnership achievements

Over the past year the strategic priority to reduce inequalities and break the cycle of deprivation has been one of the primary areas of focus for the Oxfordshire Partnership. Commitments have been secured from leaders across the county to proposals for sustained investment to break the cycle of deprivation and this work is now led by the Chief Executives of the County Council, Oxford City Council, Cherwell District Council, the PCT and the Area Commander of Police for the county. This partnership is focusing its attention on the most deprived areas of Banbury and Oxford which will serve as a pilot for future deprivation work. A range of approaches are being used and are led by a steering group for each area. The Public Service Board has awarded the programme £1million of Local Area Agreement (LAA) reward grant funding to progress this work and this will be taken forward over the coming year.

The ***Vale Partnership*** has formed a task group to co-ordinate public and voluntary sector activity in South Abingdon. The group wanted a good understanding of the issues and needs of residents and organised a community fun day where residents were encouraged to give their views about their neighbourhood. This information is helping the group build a local community infrastructure that is able to support community planning and engagement with the public and voluntary sectors.

Going forward

We are still in the early days of the *Oxfordshire 2030* strategy and there is much for us to do ensure we can deliver this vision. Between now and February 2010 thematic partnerships will be working on the delivery plan to ensure that it reflects our priorities and has appropriate measures with challenging but realistic targets. The Public Service Board will agree the revised delivery plan in February 2010 and thematic partnerships will be responsible for delivering it. The Public Service Board will continue to performance manage the delivery plan on behalf of the Oxfordshire Partnership.

An annual partnership report to be produced in the summer will provide a comprehensive report on the achievements of thematic partnerships and our progress against our Oxfordshire 2030 objectives.

You will also be able to keep up to date with the work of the thematic partnerships through the thrice-yearly report on partnerships as well as attending events we have planned to bring all those involved in partnership working in the County together. Our website and quarterly newsletter continue to provide comprehensive information about the work of the partnership.

Key issues for the partnership to continue to focus attention on include supporting businesses and communities through the recession and breaking the cycle of deprivation in our most deprived areas.

Other areas of work in the coming months are the 'refresh' of the Local Area Agreement economic targets and the allocation of LAA reward grant funding and the delivery of those projects. In the coming year we will also be focusing on partnerships and district LSPs' delivery role.

For more information about this report please contact the Oxfordshire Partnership team or for more details on the thematic partnerships visit www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk

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