

**Notes of the Oxfordshire Environment Partnership Meeting
17th March 2008, County Hall, Oxfordshire County Council**

1. Attended

Robin Buxton	Chair
Chris West	UK Climate Impacts Programme
Linda Watson	Oxfordshire Rural Community Council
Mark Saunders	Vale of White Horse District Council
Michael Crofton Briggs	Oxford City Council
Olly Schofield	West Oxfordshire District Council
Cllr Roger Belson	Oxfordshire County Council
Chris Cousins	Oxfordshire County Council
Susie Ohlenschlager	Oxfordshire County Council
Rose Bailey	Oxfordshire County Council
Ian Walker	Oxfordshire County Council
Claire Phillips	Oxfordshire County Council (Partnerships Unit)

Apologies

Sally Wilson	South Oxfordshire District Council
Matt Jackson	BBOWT
Cllr David Harvey	West Oxfordshire District Council
Ian Davies	Cherwell District Council

ITEM	ACTIONS
<p>2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising</p> <p>Action to identify areas of joint resilience working to be carried forward.</p>	
<p>3. Report back from planning policy officers' group</p> <p>A group of planning policy officers are considering how to tackle climate change through Local Development Frameworks. A small group has since started a gap analysis and concluded that an overarching strategy should be developed, with planning as one strand. Wider resource issues will need addressing.</p> <p>One overarching strategy will be useful to help co-ordinate work on different strands of climate change for example individual departments' adaptation strategies, to: 1. keep track of changes, and 2. note overlaps. The Environment Partnership needs to deliver on LAA2 targets, but the strategy can address wider issues such as housing, and draw in community organisations already active but not involved in the LAA2. The Environment Partnership could be the project sponsor.</p>	<p>Action: SO and IW to draft proposal and report to next meeting.</p>
<p>4. Structure, purpose and work programme of group and schedule for future meetings</p> <p>RB reported that the key priorities for the group are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Sustainable Community strategy pledges o Meeting LAA2 targets: CO2 reduction from local authority operations and adapting to climate change <p>He introduced a flow-chart illustrating relationships between the various delivery organisations (attached). A concern is how to engage other organisations not engaged in the LAA2 targets, hence an interest in developing a wider climate change strategy involving the community. A separate group working on LAA2 monitoring will report back to the Oxfordshire Climate Change Partnership and Oxfordshire Environment Partnership.</p> <p>Next steps include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Establish a website, in line with the other partnerships, where agendas and papers could be published, and consider on-line forum. o Develop a business plan setting out priorities, activities and future resource 	

<p>requirements. This could be developed in tandem with the project brief for the climate change strategy.</p> <p>Topics for future meetings include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Responding to the Sustainable Community Strategy ○ Planning policy – developing a climate change strategy ○ Mitigation – reducing CO₂ emissions from domestic energy consumption <p>RB underlined the need to be aware of ‘expectation management’, and what can realistically be achieved.</p> <p>The group agreed the proposals outlined in the paper for this item.</p>	
<p>5. Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS)</p> <p>Claire Phillips introduced ‘Oxfordshire 2030’. Key priorities are: A World Class Economy; Healthy and thriving communities; Environment and climate change; and a cross-cutting theme of tackling inequalities and breaking the cycle of deprivation.</p> <p>Key dates: 7th March: Oxfordshire Partnership: discuss and agree draft structure and amended timetable 7th March – 28th April: development of the draft strategy 5th May – 30th May: draft strategy circulated to OP members for comment 2nd June – 9th June: strategy is amended to reflect comments 23rd June: OP meeting – agree draft strategy for consultation 7th July – 22nd September: 12 weeks public consultation period on draft strategy 29th September – 3rd November: Strategy is amended to reflect comments 26th November: OP meeting – final agreement of strategy and delivery plan.</p> <p>The delivery plan includes LAA targets and local targets (no reporting to government). These are monitored and performance-managed on behalf of the partnership by the Public Service Board. Local targets support LAA and achieve overall outcome. The 35 agreed indicators will be signed off on 18th March.</p> <p>The Environment Partnership needs to further develop the actions to achieve the pledges in the SCS. These should be SMART.</p> <p>Find out more at briefing events, 8, 9 & 10 April 2008</p>	<p>Action: Claire to circulate info on April’s briefing events.</p> <p>Action: SO and RB to agree SCS actions with the group via email, by 14th April.</p>
<p>6. LAA2 target proposals (report by SO)</p> <p>SO reported that the Indicator list agreed by Oxfordshire Partnership and Public Service Board includes:</p> <p>1. Reducing CO₂ emission from LA operations:</p> <p>Key targets under negotiation: By 2011</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reduce CO₂ emissions from local authorities in Oxfordshire by 15% (baseline to be agreed) ○ Eco-schools: 70% of schools have an award ○ Achieve level 5 of Government Commerce sustainability Best Practice Guide <p>Potential scope includes: Local authority buildings and offices; Street lighting; Vehicle fleets; Waste from internal operations; Contractors and suppliers; Travel to work. Excluded from scope: municipal waste</p> <p>2. Adapting to Climate Change:</p> <p>Four-level process (Defra guidance):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Level 1: Public commitment and prioritised risk-based assessment ○ Level 2: Comprehensive risk-based assessment and prioritised action in some areas ○ Level 3: Comprehensive action plan and prioritised action in all priority areas ○ Level 4: Implementation, monitoring and continuous review 	

<p>Targets/milestones for each local authority include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Complete a local climate impacts profile, 2) Carry out a service-specific climate impact assessment, 3) Identify at least one priority area for action in each service area, and implementing one project in each service area identified. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Final negotiations with GOSE o Convene meeting of delivery group to agree baselines and targets: April 08 o Develop project plans for each area of activity o First progress report to partnership meeting in July 2008 	
<p>7. Presentation by Chris West: Adapting to cope with climate change – where next for Oxfordshire? (attached)</p> <p>Two approaches to adaptation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scenario approach ('predict and decide'): led by physical scientists, it assumes 'today' is ok, and uncertainty remains a barrier to decision-making. 2. Vulnerability approach: ('manage risks'): led by decision-makers, it focuses on climate risk, assuming 'today' needs attention, and uncertainty is explicit and addressed. <p>An LCLIP has three stages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remember what has happened: evidence gathering 2. Record what does happen: continue to gather evidence (<i>Oxfordshire is here</i>). 3. Plan for what will happen: Use stage 2 to determine critical thresholds, and ask intelligent questions about future <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UKCIP would be willing to provide some advice to Oxfordshire's District Councils, possibly at a joint event <p>Impacts include: agriculture (e.g. a changing world food market); changing biodiversity; buildings (e.g. are they design-tested for an appropriate climate?); higher extreme temperatures; heavy precipitation; fluvial flooding; drought.</p> <p>Local authorities have a duty of care for the community, so need to invest time and effort into adaptation, especially as many actions are required in the present. UKCIP has urged the Treasury to be more encouraging on budgeting for adaptation. A risk-management approach – all managers to consider adaptation as part of their role – is helpful. New adaptation wizard available online.</p> <p>UKCIP08: aims to train people to think about probability not climate science, to understand their vulnerability. See www.ukcip.org.uk</p>	<p>Action : Address any issues from the presentation not already covered in the SCS</p>
<p>8. Any other business</p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>9. Date of next meeting</p> <p>July and November 2008, and early 2009 dates TBC.</p>	<p>SO to circulate</p>