

Oxfordshire Environment Partnership.

Notes of meeting on 20 May 2009 at County Hall, Oxford, 10.00am – 12:00pm

In attendance	Robin Buxton John Copley Cllr John Tanner Dave Woodwark Cllr Roger Belson Ian Davies Lan Jenner Nicki Hybert John Parkinson Olly Scholefield Sally Truman Elizabeth Wilson Wayne Lewis Susan Kent Susie Ohlenschlager Chris Cousins Paul James	Chair Oxford City Council Oxford City Council & Chair of OWP Oxfordshire County Council Cherwell District Council Oxfordshire PCT Environment Agency West Oxfordshire District Council West Oxfordshire District Council South Oxfordshire DC Oxford Brookes University Oxfordshire Waste Partnership Oxfordshire County Council Oxfordshire County Council Oxfordshire County Council Oxfordshire County Council (part of meeting)	RBux JC Cllr JT DW DRW Cllr RB ID LJ NH
Apologies:	Paul Spencer Cllr David Harvey Cllr George Reynolds Cath James Simon Hughes Mark Saunders Linda Watson	Oxford City Council West Oxfordshire District Council Cherwell District Council West Oxfordshire District Council Environment Agency Vale of White Horse DC ORCC	

	Summary of decisions and action points	Lead
Governance (Item 3)	Proposals presented to merge the Environment and Waste Partnerships not agreed. Nominated group to meet to develop further options and report progress to 10 June meeting of Public Service Board.	SO
LAA2 report (Item 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide updated figures when available • Present examples to the Partnership of current work and future plans • Invite other organisations such as NHS to present on their work 	SO
Sustainable Community Strategy (Item 5)	Consider strategy for pledge 20 (working with communities) at next meeting of Partnership.	RBux
4 Presentation	Circulate presentation with minutes and to other organisations we need to engage on climate change adaptation issues e.g. Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Working Group & Resilience Forum	SO

Item		Action
2 Minutes of last meeting matters arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous minutes agreed as accurate. • SO is following up funding issue with Jo Hamilton • Outstanding issue re Natural Environment in relation to NIs 	SO RBux
3 Partnership update	<p>Governance review: Paul James summarised the reasons for the PSB recommendation to merge the Oxfordshire Partnership and Environment partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to agreed strategic priorities and targets for county – now set out in Oxfordshire 2030, and to strengthen structure and governance to oversee targets • Need to increase involvement of elected members. <p>PSB has already made a decision about the partnerships; there will be a further report to the PSB on 10 June. The details of the arrangements are up to the Environment Partnership. The proposal is largely about reporting but also about the need for body which can provide a strategic overview and advice: “what’s on the horizon?”</p> <p>Discussion paper: The proposals for a merger of the two partnerships set out in the paper tabled at the meeting were discussed. Serious concerns were expressed including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Waste Partnership is a formal joint committee managing a contract (and dealing with a statutory obligation); it works well and should not be disrupted • Potential conflicts of interest between members on the partnership could be damaging • Duplication of members and officers attending meetings. <p>WL reminded the group of the rationale behind the paper; there are a lot of synergies that could be taken advantage of that could achieve efficiencies, and there are a number of other options; we should present a number of scenarios.</p> <p>Options discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr JT – Keep the partnerships as they are but form a small/virtual “environment and waste strategy group” to deal with strategic and performance issues. • CC – Could simply provide a joint report on LAA2 and other indicators for PSB to satisfy reporting requirements. <p>It was agreed to reject the proposals for merging the Environment and Waste Partnerships set out in the paper presented to the meeting and that there was more work to do to develop options that were practicable and acceptable. A group including: Cllr Roger Belson, Ian Davies, Wayne Lewis, Chris Cousins and Robin Buxton would take this forward. SO to convene this.</p>	SO WL ID CC SK RBux
4 LAA2 report	<p>SO circulated summary of progress on LAA2 targets over the past year. Discussion points and questions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would be useful to know more about the work being done by public sector and others, and to widen out to what’s happening beyond the targets. • Lan Jenner: the NHS would also soon have data to share 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DW : this accounts for only 1% of CO2 emissions in Oxfordshire and the need to consider this how we respond to the government's 80% reduction target. Note the financial difficulties currently facing TOE and climate XChange ID: Report is useful – add the other indicators next time. <p>Agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> circulate the paper with the minutes and to report further data back to the Partnership when this is available present practical examples to next meeting of partnership – from local authorities and others such as NHS 	SO
5 Sustainable Community Strategy progress report	SO introduced a table to show the pledges and targets for which the Environment Partnership is responsible, and associated delivery groups. The Oxfordshire Partnership is reviewing how to report on progress on these, and seeking ideas for headline indicators (eg for biodiversity) and reporting on qualitative issues. Of the four pledges for the EP, Pledge 20 requires specific input from the partnership in developing a strategy for energy and water reduction; this is work in progress which should be followed up at the next meeting.	RBux SO
6 Presentation by Elizabeth Wilson:	<p>Discussion points:</p> <p>DW - How can we share the risk across organisations – where is the budget? We need to consider what are the critical infrastructure issues for the county; this group could take a role and commission that work</p> <p>SK – To invest we need to understand the avoided cost – part of making the business case</p> <p>JT – there has been loss of interest due to few recent floods</p> <p>CC – insurance premiums should reflect the level of risk to enable people to make long-term decisions (in relation to flooding)</p> <p>Agreed need to take this forward; initially use the presentation to engage other groups such as the Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Working Group, and Resilience Forum.</p>	SO All
7 Forward Plan	<p>Suggestions in addition to list from 4 Feb meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are other organisations doing on climate change? Need to concentrate on moving things forward where we can be most effective (eg what no-one else is doing) <p>Agreed to develop an agenda for the meeting on 12 August that will look at both Water Efficiency and contributions from other organisations working on climate change.</p>	RBux SO
8 AOB	There was no other business	
9 Date of next meeting	12 August 2009, 10.00am – 12:00pm. County Hall, Room 1 4 November 2009, 10.00am- 12:00pm. County Hall, Room 2	