

Spatial Planning & Infrastructure Partnership Full Partnership Meeting

South Oxfordshire District Council offices, 11.00 am

Minutes

20th January 2011

Attendees	Organisation:
Cllr Ian Hudspeth (Chairman)	Oxfordshire County Council
Martin Tugwell	Oxfordshire County Council
John Disley	Oxfordshire County Council
Gerri Beekmeyer	Oxfordshire County Council
Phillip Clarke	Cherwell District Council
Mark Jaggard	Oxford City Council
Cllr Tony de Vere	Vale of White Horse District Council
Cllr Angela Lawrence	Vale of White Horse DC (OHP lead)
Cllr Anne Ducker	South Oxfordshire District Council
Anna Robinson	South Oxfordshire District Council
Cllr Barry Norton	West Oxfordshire District Council
Andrew Tucker	West Oxfordshire District Council
Nicola Bateman	Environment Agency
Ken Glendinning	Homes & Communities Agency
Apologies	
<i>Anthony Powell</i>	<i>Highways Agency</i>
<i>Cllr Barry Wood</i>	<i>Cherwell District Council</i>
<i>John Hoad</i>	<i>Cherwell District Council</i>
<i>Cllr Ed Turner</i>	<i>Oxford City Council</i>
<i>Sally Coble</i>	<i>Environment Agency</i>
<i>Warren Ralls</i>	<i>SEEDA</i>
<i>Catherine Mountford</i>	<i>PCT</i>
Observer	
<i>Cllr Stewart Lilly</i>	<i>Oxfordshire County Council</i>

1. Minutes of meeting 18th November 2010

The minutes of the meeting were agreed.

2. Matters arising:

Oxfordshire City-Region Enterprise Partnership – The Enterprise Partnership's Executive Board is up and running. The Enterprise Partnership consists of representatives from private, academic and public sectors. It is chaired by Dr Martin Dare-Edwards: Vice-Chairmen are: Adrian Shooter CBE (private sector), Cllr David Robertson (public sector) and Ian Walmsley (academic sector). The Executive Board is meeting monthly for the first six months of operational and bi-monthly thereafter. A formal launch date is scheduled mid/late March.

ACTION – regular update on the work of the Enterprise Partnership to be provided at future meetings of the SPIP.

Regional Growth Fund – media reports suggested that the number of bids submitted across the country would be substantial. Deadline for bids to be submitted was 21st January. Private sector led bids had been strongly encouraged, although private/public sector led bids were also permissible. The Enterprise Partnership had agreed to actively support two bids: one to secure the development funds required to take the East West Rail project to the next stage, the other to develop access improvements in support of Science Vale UK. The Partnership was in the early stages of developing a bid for a future round of the Fund centred on the development of an apprentice programme.

Localism Bill – there was general agreement that the proposals in the Bill raised issues that need to be considered by the Partnership.

ACTION - Officers were tasked with identifying the key issues and preparing a discussion paper for the next meeting of the SPIP.

New Homes Bonus – it was acknowledged that the key issue was the extent to which the bonus would act as an incentive; more specifically how best to ensure its allocation was transparent and accountable. Cllr Ian Hudspeth noted that the Government's proposed split in two-tier areas – 20:80 strategic:local – failed to properly take into account the fact that new development can give rise to significant service pressure at both levels (e.g. transport, education, social services). It was accepted that the development of an infrastructure framework that covered Oxfordshire could provide the appropriate framework for determining the contribution of individual funding streams towards the delivery of infrastructure.

ACTION - It was agreed that a copy of each council's response to the Coalition Government's consultation on New Homes Bonus would be circulated with these minutes.

High Speed 2 – Cherwell had requested that this item be included on the agenda: in the absence of their principle representatives discussion on this item was postponed.

ACTION – Officers to check with Cherwell if they wish item to be carried forward to next meeting.

3. Infrastructure Planning and preparation for CIL.

Martin Tugwell set the context for the paper and outlined the case for developing an infrastructure framework for Oxfordshire. He highlighted the shared ambition of the Partnership to deliver sustainable communities. The importance of having a common understanding of what is meant by specific terms was noted.

Key functions of the proposed framework would be to set out the infrastructure requirements arising from existing and new development; align investment decisions and so possibly free up monies to be used sooner rather than later (linked to the 'flexible' use of monies collected); and, to assist local planning authorities in determining the appropriate level for future levy/tariffs; Cllr Ian Hudspeth emphasised the importance of understanding the cumulative impacts of windfall sites.

It was noted that the Partnership's work on the Local Investment Plan provided a template for developing a framework approach that tied in Government agencies to support local investment priorities. It was accepted that the LIP would form one of a number of building blocks upon which the Infrastructure Framework would be developed.

ACTION – Officers to bring an outline of the proposed Infrastructure Framework to a future meeting of the SPIP.

The 'flexible' use of money collected was welcomed in principle. It was agreed that officers needed to develop governance and arrangements that ensured transparency and confidence in such an approach.

ACTION – Officers to develop a proposal for governance and working arrangements for consideration by a future meeting of the SPIP.

Anna Robinson confirmed that South Oxfordshire would be starting work on developing their proposals for introducing Community Infrastructure Levy: she expressed a willingness to work with the County Council to ensure that this work took into account the 'strategic' service needs. Mark Jaggard noted that the City had recently had their core strategy approved: this provided them with the basis for taking forward their work on Community Infrastructure Levy. He too expressed a willingness to work with the County Council in this endeavour.

Cllr Tony de Vere noted that individual planning authorities would have slightly different timescales for their work on Community Infrastructure Levy: he noted that the SPIP provided the opportunity to share experience throughout this process. Ultimately it may enable generic guidance to be produced however he stressed the importance of respecting the need for individual authorities to take forward their work at their own pace.

It was AGREED that the Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Partnership:

- a) **Reaffirms its commitment to produce the Infrastructure Plan for Oxfordshire as the overarching framework for strategic investment needs;**
- b) **Commits to having an initial draft of the Infrastructure Plan prepared by late summer 2011;**
- c) **Makes a commitment to introduction the Community Infrastructure Levy in Oxfordshire at the earliest possible opportunity;**
- d) **Supports the commitment of the County Council to provide the district/city councils with advice on the contribution that needs to be sought through the Levy towards the strategic services and infrastructure;**

ACTION – Officers from South Oxfordshire/Vale of White Horse/City Council to invite County Council officers to feed in advice on 'strategic' service needs into the development of Community Infrastructure Levy charging schedules.

4. Homes and Communities Agency: Update.

Ken Glendinning outlined the Agency's new role which would be focused on enabling investment and managing the affordable rent programme (ARP). The new programme replaces the previous National Affordable Housing Programme.

The new programme had about £2bn to deliver 100,000 homes: it was noted that this was substantially down on the previous programme reflecting the substantial reduction in funding available to the Agency. The framework for the delivery of the ARP would be available by the end of January. The emphasis was now on providers to deliver.

Ken Glendinning indicated that the LIP would continue to provide the context within the Agency's investment priorities was determined. Members expressed concern about the

implication that the switch to the ARP may have on other aspects of the housing market including benefits. In addition there was considerable concern that a failure to deliver sufficient affordable housing would be a constraint on realising the ambition for Oxfordshire's economy (as set out in the City-Region Enterprise Partnership).

ACTIONS:

- **Ken Glendinning to give a presentation on the new Affordable Rent Model at the next meeting of the SPIP;**
- **Officers to consider the wider implications that the change in Agency delivery model may have on other aspects of the housing market.**

5. Local Transport Plan 3.

John Disley said responses to the Plan's consultation stage had been positive. The task now was to produce a deliverable programme. A draft programme would be presented to the County Capital Investment Board at the end of January. Members stressed the importance of ensuring that in preparing the investment programme proper account had been given to the housing priorities identified by the SPIP.

ACTION - It was agreed that SPIP would have an opportunity to input into the report on the Local Transport Plan to be presented to County Council's Cabinet in March. It was accepted that an initial round of involvement would take place electronically, with a final discussion to take place at the next SPIP meeting; this would be reported to the County Council's Cabinet the following day.

6. Date of Next meeting:

Monday 14th March 2011, 2.00pm County Hall, Room 4