

# Spatial Planning & Infrastructure Partnership Full Partnership Meeting

## Minutes

28 September 2010

<b>Attendee:</b>	<b>Organisation:</b>
Cllr Ian Hudspeth (Chairman)	Oxfordshire County Council
Huw Jones	Oxfordshire County Council
Martin Tugwell	Oxfordshire County Council
Ian Walker	Oxfordshire County Council
John Disley	Oxfordshire County Council
Cllr Barry Wood	Cherwell District Council
John Hoad	Cherwell District Council
Mel Barrett	Oxford City Council
Mark Jaggard	Oxford City Council
Cllr Ann Ducker	South Oxfordshire District Council
Cllr Tony de Vere	Vale of White Horse District Council
Anna Robinson	Vale of White Horse District Council and South Oxfordshire District Council
Cllr Barry Norton	West Oxfordshire District Council
Andrew Tucker	West Oxfordshire District Council
Jodee Katalanos	Homes & Communities Agency
Ken Glendinning	Homes & Communities Agency
Nicki Richards	Environment Agency
Andrew Smith	Oxfordshire Rural Housing Partnership
<b>Apologies</b>	
<i>Cllr Bob Price</i>	<i>Oxford City Council</i>
<i>Cllr Angela Lawrence</i>	<i>Vale of White Horse DC (OHP lead)</i>
<i>Mary Harpley</i>	<i>Cherwell District Council</i>
<i>Warren Ralls</i>	<i>SEEDA</i>
<i>David Edwards</i>	<i>HCA</i>
<i>Chris Woolf</i>	<i>GOSE</i>
<i>Anthony Powell</i>	<i>HA</i>
<i>Catherine Mountford</i>	<i>PCT</i>

**1. Minutes of meeting 28 June 2010**

The minutes of the meeting were agreed.

**2. Matters arising**

None

**3. Local Investment Agreement: Jodee Katalanos (HCA).**

The final version of the Local Investment Agreement (LIA) was circulated with the agenda following minor drafting changes.

**AGREED:** That the LIA be circulated for signing by the Chairman and Leaders (**Ian Walker**)

#### **4. Local investment Plan – next steps: Jodee Katalanos (HCA).**

Jodee Katalanos introduced a report on local investment planning and the HCA funding process and said the HCA may come back to SPIP for further guidance on the allocation of funds. Barry Wood sought reassurance that pilot status for the Oxfordshire LIP had given Oxfordshire some priority in the funding process. Jodee Katalanos confirmed that because of the LIP and LIA and particularly a strong partnership the HCA were able to business plan in a more effective way and that Oxfordshire was ahead of other areas.

Discussion covered the need for a regular report to SPIP on where money is going and how we are progressing with delivering against the LIP, so that members know the impact of funding issues and are given early warnings of problems. In response to questions about the HCA process Jodee Katalanos said that although in general HCA wouldn't be giving funding to S106 schemes they would need to be flexible to reflect the circumstances of individual cases.

**ACTION:** Regular reports be made to the Partnership on the monitoring of the LIP. (**SPIP Exec**)

#### **5. Responding to the Coalition Agenda : Ian Hudspeth (OCC)**

Ian Hudspeth introduced the item by referring to uncertainty around the planning agenda, the proposals for tariffs and incentives and the importance of forward thinking to respond to changes to the planning system. In discussion the importance of positioning SPIP to influence the debate both at national level and in other organisations (linked to the narrative in the LEP proposal) and for SPIP to place itself to respond flexibly were emphasised. Funding in the round was identified as a key area including the need to get smarter to join up public sector funding

There was discussion also about an Oxon wide infrastructure plan developed from the LIP, which could inform the development of a tariff and the potential need for gap funding e.g. in locations such as Science Vale; although it was suggested that the LIP was already sufficient as a strategic level infrastructure plan and that future effort should be on the evidence needed locally to support the LDF and the planning application process. It was noted that it was important to see what we achieve from infrastructure investment which unlocks both housing delivery and more importantly economic development; and that we need to develop knowledge and learning about tariffs and an implementation timetable collectively.

**ACTION:** That the SPIP Executive map the implications of the Decentralisation Bill and report to SPIP on how work on infrastructure planning and funding and other matters related to the terms of reference for the Partnership should be taken forward (see also item 7) (**SPIP Exec**)

#### **6. Local Enterprise Partnership : Martin Tugwell (OCC)**

Martin Tugwell introduced the item by emphasising the strength of engaging with the private sector and that the partners should pursue the agenda in the proposal whether the bid is accepted by government or not. Points from the discussion included building on structures that are in place, stripping out duplication, the importance of the skills agenda, focusing on

support for existing business that is in Oxfordshire and the need to develop partners understanding about the issues and complexity around infrastructure provision.

**ACTION:** That the SPIP Executive map out a plan of ongoing dialogue with Government and report back to the SPIP. **(SPIP Exec)**

## **7. SPIP - Priorities for the year ahead Martin Tugwell (OCC)**

Martin Tugwell introduced the item by saying there was a need for a conversation about what is localism and what needs to be brought to SPIP, as opposed to district /local level issues, linked to an understanding of what are different levels and requirements for infrastructure and how it might be funded. There was also a need to keep an eye on some of the structural issues e.g. relationships to other groups. He reported that the SPIP Executive are to hold an officer workshop to review both the SPIP terms of reference and emerging issues and that a report would be brought back to the SPIP on a proposed work programme.

**ACTION:** That the SPIP Executive report back on the outcome of the officer workshop on the future role and work of the Partnership **(SPIP Exec)**

## **8. Local Transport Plan LTP3; John Disley (OCC)**

John Disley introduced a background paper on LTP3. In discussion the need to explain the link between the LTP and LIP to maintain coherence was stressed and further prioritisation questioned. John Disley said there were issues about what we can afford, what opportunities can be brought forward earliest, what other agencies are involved and the views of the public /stakeholders to be taken into account. It would help if progress and explanation of the transport infrastructure priorities were tracked. More explanation of the LTP prioritisation process, i.e. on what basis decisions will be made, was also needed.

Barry Norton asked how comfortable were OCC that had picked up on the impact of past and existing commitments. Huw Jones said the LTP is a strategy not a funding document and John Disley reinforced the message that funding and priorities would be geared towards enabling new development, not dealing with historic deficits. There was discussion about S106 contributions, potential shortfalls and the possibility of pooling of contributions through the Partnership. Ann Ducker asked if OCC were going to share information on S106 monies as SPIP needs to work collectively to ensure that money is not lost.

### **AGREED:**

- John Disley was thanked for his presentation and his report noted. There will be a further report to the next meeting, including more detail on progress / timescales on the priority transport schemes in the LIP. **(John Disley)**
- The report on S106 contributions that went to OCC Cabinet in July is to be circulated to the SPIP **(Ian Walker)**

## **9. Oxfordshire Rural Housing Partnership: Andrew Smith (OHRP)**

Andrew Smith introduced his report on the work of OHRP. Issues raised in discussion were around how OHRP were improving efficiency the use of a single constructor and the need to look at the the context in which OHRP are operating i.e. what is being achieved outside of OHRP. Andrew Smith accepted there was a need to review the single constructor issue; and in response to a point that rural schemes were not as expensive as suggested said OHRP were looking to benchmark across the country. John Hoad suggested potential inefficiencies

in site search and a need to be more focused on land owner opportunities and where there is parish support.

**AGREED:** The Partnership thanked Andrew Smith for his report and presentation and agreed the recommendations in the report

#### **10. Any Other Business.**

Ian Hudspeth asked whether district councils could help with information from developers about recycling of construction materials.

**ACTION:** The Environment Agency will investigate what information they hold and report back (**Nicki Richards**)

#### **11. Date of Next meetings :**

18<sup>th</sup> November at about 3.30 to 4.00 pm to follow the Oxfordshire Leaders Group meeting at West Oxfordshire District Council offices

20<sup>th</sup> January a.m (time and venue to be confirmed)