

Oxford Strategic Partnership Steering Group

Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th November 2012, 10.00am at Oxford Town Hall, St Aldate's, Oxford

Steering Group Attendees:

Jackie Wilderspin, NHS Oxfordshire (Chair)
Alison Baxter, Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action (OCVA)
Debbie Dance, Oxford Preservation Trust
Sally Dicketts, Oxford and Cherwell Valley College
Anne Gwinnett, Oxford Brookes University
Robert Kirtland, Critchleys and ProOxford Group
Cllr Bob Price, Oxford City Council
Cllr Rodney Rose, Oxfordshire County Council
Chris Sharp, Thames Valley Police
Michael Sibly, University of Oxford
Peter Sloman, Oxford City Council
Cllr John Tanner, Oxford City Council

Additional Attendees:

Phil Clare, University of Oxford
David Edwards, Oxford City Council
Tom Flanagan, Oxfordshire County Council
Cllr Jean Fooks, Oxford City Council
Sebastian Johnson, Oxford City Council
Val Johnson, Oxford City Council
Patrick McVeigh, Shared intelligence
Margaret Ounsley, University of Oxford
Gordon Reid, Oxford City Council / Oxfordshire County Council
Lee Shostak, Shared Intelligence
Joanna Simons, Oxfordshire County Council
Anna Wright, Education Adviser, Oxford City Council
Charles Young, Magdalen College

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Members

Susi Golding, Visit Oxfordshire
Cllr Ian Hudspeth, Oxfordshire County Council

Officers

Michael Crofton-Briggs, Oxford City Council
Mark Jaggard, Oxford City Council
Maggie Scott, Oxfordshire County Council

Those attending for the first time were welcomed to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 13th September 2012

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Update

Cllr Bob Price gave a verbal update on the LEP and reported that:

- the Board has received presentations on the Oxford Economic Growth Strategy and opportunities through the City Deal
- LEPs are to receive funding from Government of £250k to develop and support the partnership
- The LEP has identified some work required around collating details of business space available in the county for business expansion
- The second round of bids to the Growing Places Fund will be launched shortly – more details can be found at www.oxfordshirelep.org.uk

3.2 Urban Broadband Fund Bid Update

Sebastian Johnson reported that the bid for £5m funding had been submitted and thanked the City Council, County Council and LEP for committing £750k capital funding and £75k revenue funding if the bid is successful. He also thanked other partners, particularly the universities, for their support with the bid. Successful bids will be announced as part of the Autumn Statement on 5th December 2012.

4. Economic Growth Strategy for Oxford

Lee Shostak and Patrick McVeigh were welcomed and Lee gave a presentation on the draft Oxford Economic Growth Strategy and the 11 recommendations and actions that are outlined in the document.

A discussion took place and the following key points were made:

- Need to be more forthright on carbon footprint and reduction
- Lots of interconnection outside of city boundary - sensitivities and difficulties exist with neighbouring districts (e.g. green belt and planning)
- Starting point is expanding the knowledge economy and supporting this
- If we agree we want to grow and want more jobs then growth in the knowledge economy is key – this growth needs to be close to Oxford and the academic centre (or it will be lost to London and other competing places)
- We need to move forward quickly. Are there things we can do now? Can we break an action plan into three stages – immediate, medium term and long term – so that we can start delivering?
- Biggest question is “do we want to grow”. Prior to the recession there was a sense that growth wasn’t needed; since the recession there is a greater recognition that cities are the engines of growth.

- We need to add to any action plan how we grow the wider community understanding of the need for growth.
- We need to take people with us but can't afford to wait.
- Key issue is creating a single delivery team – collaboration, leading, facilitating and doing
- Move quickly and recognise what is already happening and how we can build on this (e.g. Visit Oxfordshire, Town Team)
- Need to commit ourselves to the 11 priorities
- We cannot stand still – this is not an option if we are to compete globally. Growth for the University of Oxford in volume of research activity and therefore employment
- Its an excellent report and business will welcome it greatly
- Recognise that there needs to be a balance of housing growth in the city and the growth towns across the county

The following actions were agreed:

- i) There will be a four week consultation period where all stakeholders will be invited to comment on the draft strategy
- ii) A report on comments received will be presented to the next OSP meeting in January together with any proposed revisions to the draft strategy for agreement and adoption and proposals on some short term actions for immediate implementation
- iii) The City Council is tasked with leading conversations and discussions on developing “single team” delivery (recommendation 11)
- iv) Shared Intelligence to have further discussions with Sally Dicketts on skills issues
- v) Shared Intelligence will be asked to carry out an audit of progress in 12 months

5. City Deal – The opportunity for Oxford and Oxfordshire

David Edwards reported that Oxford and Oxfordshire (through the City Council, County Council and Local Enterprise Partnership) has been invited by Government to bid for a City Deal. Initial discussions are taking place with partners including district councils and the two universities. Unlike Wave 1 City Deals with larger cities, the Wave 2 City Deals will focus on one single issue that is a barrier to economy growth and job creation. Alongside the City Deal there will be a Core Package of powers and measures available to the successful cities.

20 smaller cities (and their functioning economic areas) have been invited to bid, 14 of which are the next largest cities after the Wave 1 cities and six of which are the fastest growing cities (of which Oxford is one).

The process requires the completion of an Expression of Interest (working to a set template) by 15th January 2013. Successful cities will be informed in February 2013 and will work up a full bid by November 2013.

David will report on progress at the next OSP meeting.

6. OSP Draft Vision Statement, Aims, Measures and Structure

Cllr Bob Price presented the revised draft vision statement, aims, measures and structure that had been circulated with the papers for the meeting.

It was noted that that the measures could be further reviewed and the following suggestions were made under “natural environment and biodiversity, heritage and urban design”:

- Retaining green space is referenced in the Core Strategy and this could be used as a measure
- Better measures on heritage may evolve from the work being carried out on the Heritage Plan and these will be explored

The vision statement, aims, measures and structure were agreed and formerly adopted by the Partnership.

7. Short Reports for Information

7.1 Educational Attainment Strategy for Oxford

Anna Wright gave a short verbal update which included the following key points:

- Following a tender process and two preferred providers have been identified to implement programmes designed to raise attainment in the schools.
- A range of engagement activities has taken place to familiarise schools with the offer which included a one day conference; individual sessions in each school; a half day workshop which included videos of lessons and video conferencing with a London school implementing one of the programmes
- As of 8th November five schools have confirmed that they wish to participate in the KRM reading and numeracy programme with a number of schools still deciding
- 10 schools have so far indicated that they would like to participate in the World Class Leadership Programme
- A number of secondary schools attended the conference and following this they confirmed their interest in undertaking the KRM programme and have submitted a partnership bid for Education Endowment Funding

7.2 Town Team

Gordon Reid presented the paper on the development of a Town Team for Oxford following work relating to the Portas Review of high streets. Gordon will be acting as the interim Chair and will be providing executive resource to the Team.

It was noted that retail is a key element of the Economic Growth Strategy. Peter Sloman reported that the City is an under-performer in the retail hierarchy and if we slightly over-performed this could result in 3000 additional jobs in the city.

If any members of the Steering Group would like to nominate additional members for the Town Team then they should forward the name and contact details to Gordon Reid.

8. Forward Plan

8.1 OSP Public Event

Sebastian Johnson presented the Forward Plan for agreement. It was noted that the OSP public event will be taking place on 19th November at 5pm – 7pm at Oxford Town Hall. We will be reporting on achievements over the last few years and presenting the new vision and aims. All members of the OSP Steering Group were encouraged to attend.

8.2 Stronger Communities – draft Brief for work on Participation and Engagement theme

Val Johnson presented the draft Brief that had been circulated with the papers for the meeting. Alison Baxter agreed that an independent expert should be brought in to help us take this work forward. £3,000 has been allocated but it was noted that this is a very limited amount and if more resource can be found this would be welcomed.

Future updates will be provided to the Group.

8.3 Forward Plan

The Forward Plan was agreed. The next meeting on 17th January 2013 will include reports and/or presentations on the Economic Growth Strategy; Educational Attainment Strategy (including County presentation of Validated School Results); Urban Broadband Fund bid; Public Event and Leaders Dinner; and Participation and Engagement work.

10. Any Other Business and Future Meeting Dates

Sebastian reported that the next meeting will be on Thursday 17th January 2013 at 10am.

Proposed dates through to March 2014 were set as follows (all 10.00am – 12.00midday followed by a sandwich lunch):

- Thursday 14th March 2013
- Thursday 16th May 2013
- Thursday 18th July 2013

- Thursday 19th September 2013
- Thursday 14th November 2013
- Thursday 16th January 2014
- Thursday 20th March 2014

All were asked to note these dates and insert into calendars.

The meeting finished at 12.15pm