

Oxford Strategic Partnership

Minutes of Meeting 11 January 2022

Attendees

Caroline Green, Oxford City Council (Chair)
Ian Brooke, Oxford City Council
Councillor Susan Brown, Oxford City Council
Rebecca Cullen, Oxford University Hospitals Trust
Ian Green, Oxford Civic Society
Jeremy Long, OxLEP
Frank Nigriello, Unipart
Superintendent Bruce Riddell, Thames Valley Police
Phil Southall, Oxford Bus Company
Claire Taylor, Oxfordshire County Council
Mish Tullar, Oxford City Council
Richard Venables, VSL & Partners
Stuart Wilkinson, Oxford University

Apologies

Gillian Aitken, University of Oxford
Councillor Glynis Phillips, Oxfordshire County Council

1. Welcome

We are still in a process finding a new chair for the meeting therefore Caroline Green will lead today's meeting.

2. Draft minutes of the last meeting & matters arising

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as correct.

- Phil Southall highlighted the ongoing issue of significantly reduced levels of bus patronage which were at around 63% of pre-pandemic levels. Could OSP Members please urge their staff to return to bus use.
- Bruce Riddell updated that we were still seeing low level drug dealing in many parts of the city – and there was police action to tackle this.
- Bruce Riddell also provided an update on the increased partnership working between the police, universities and Oxford City Council to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), including use of the £426k Safer Streets funding.
 - There are now regular Gold and Silver level meetings within TVP focused on VAWG, led by Chief Superintendent Katy Barrow-Grint. A number of operational changes were being driven through this work, which will remain a key area of focus for at least the next 2 years.
 - Measures being looked at include work being undertaken by [Commonplace](#) and the use of Apps to help improve personal safety
 - Project Vigilant continues, with its focus on active policing around domestic violence, sexual harassment and indecent exposure
 - The episode of drink spikings and reported physical spikings of women had significantly reduced over the Christmas and New Year period.

3. Proposed OSP work programme 2022

Mish Tullar outlined areas of focus for OSP that had been requested by individual members these included:

- An update on the Council's Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy
- A briefing on the proposed new transport measures for the city including an expanded Zero Emission Zone, introduction of new traffic filters and a Work Place Parking Levy and improvements to bus services and cycling infrastructure
- A stocktake of working groups already looking at key strategic items that affect the City:
 - Zero Carbon Oxford Partnership
 - City Centre Partnership
 - Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Initiative
- Oxford Local Plan 2040 options
- Provision of affordable housing in Oxford and wider housing strategy

Other requests made in the meeting were for:

- A more detailed briefing on measures to address Violence Against Women and Girls.
- A lessons learned session on COVID
- A discussion on Digital Inclusion

Action: Mish Tullar to work with the chair to timetable in for future meetings

4. Oxford Thriving Communities Strategy

Oxford City Council is in the process of developing a Thriving Communities Strategy for the city that takes into account the post-COVID landscape and positive learnings from Oxford's community level response to the pandemic. The Strategy will combine a number of existing strategies that are due to be updated including those covering Children and Young People, Leisure and Wellbeing, Community Centres and Culture. There is an opportunity to create a more joined-up strategy focused on people, place and pride – and an approach based around *Asset Based Community Development*.

- Asset Based Community Development is underpinned by 5 principles:
 1. Citizen-led
 2. Relationship oriented
 3. Asset-Based
 4. Placed-Based
 5. Inclusion focused
- Council officers have been working with Leeds City Council which has implemented this approach, along with York and Gloucester.
- Youth Ambition will remain at the centre of the Council's work with younger people, and there will be a greater focus on health inequalities.
- Next steps will be to hold a series of stakeholder group meetings to get input and feedback, distil what we have found in March/A

Rebecca Cullen: Keen to see this link with OUH work on health inequalities.

Phil Southall: The issue of transport links and isolation should be considered. County officers' view is that people should be within 400m of a bus service.

Claire Taylor: There is an obvious need to join up with the County Council's service provision – and in particular link to its [new Strategic Plan](#) – and the local transport and active travel plans. Also need to ensure good alignment of the City and County level young people and youth offers

Jeremy Long: We need to ensure strong linkage with the work being undertaken by the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership. There are many opportunities for skills development and employment, but they are not distributed evenly. In particular there's a need for mentoring of young people.

Richard Venables: Please engage with [Oxfordshire Youth](#), which has a particular focus on young people in supported accommodation. The work of supporting and mentoring young people needs a reboot given the impact of COVID over the past 2 years. This is particularly important to help get disadvantaged young people into employment. Oxford is prospering through investment in Life Sciences – we need to see a positive benefit from this to the third sector. They are now finding it difficult to find space to operate in the city centre.

Bruce Riddell: Would also like to see the strategy link with the work of the Violence Reduction unit and its work with young people.

Ian Brooke: We are also looking at the opportunity to better link the benefits of our preventative community services operation – eg. leisure centres and promotion of physical activity - to social prescribing and preventative health, to help create more resilient communities.

Action: Mish Tullar to circulate presentation slides on the Thriving Communities Strategy work

5. Next Meeting

The next OSP meeting is at 14:40-16:00 on Tuesday 5 April. The meeting will be held online.