

Oxford Strategic Partnership

Minutes of Meeting 5th April 2022

Attendees

Caroline Green, Oxford City Council (Chair)
Councillor Susan Brown, Oxford City Council
Rebecca Cullen, Oxford University Hospitals Trust
Ian Green, Oxford Civic Society
Emily Lewis-Edwards, Oxfordshire Community First
Brendan Hattam, LandSec
Frank Nigriello, Unipart
Phil Southall, Oxford Bus Company
Mish Tullar, Oxford City Council
Richard Venables, VSL & Partners
Stuart Wilkinson, Oxford University
Dani Granito, Oxford City Council

Presenters

Stephen Gabriel, Oxford City Council
Carolyn Ploszynski, Oxford City Council
Aron Wisdom, Oxfordshire County Council

Apologies

Gill Aitken, University of Oxford
Claire Taylor, Oxfordshire County Council
Jeremy Long, OxLEP
Cllr Glynis Phillips, Oxfordshire County Council (County Council meeting currently still going, though may finish in time)
Cllr Tom Hayes, Oxford City Council
Supt Bruce Riddell, TVP

1. Welcome

We are still in a process finding a new Chair for the Partnership. Caroline Green will Chair today's meeting.

2. Draft minutes of the last meeting & matters arising

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as correct. – No actions to follow up.

3. City Council update by Caroline Green

- Living with COVID
- Platinum Jubilee arrangements
- Energy advice summit
- Oxford City Council Equality, diversity and inclusion strategy

Point raised - Jubilee plans may also coincide with the Oxford Pride procession through Oxford Castle and Westgate.

Action MT to check in on the Jubilee plans in relation to Oxford Pride.

4. Stephen Gabriel – Executive Director of Communities and People

Presented an overview of the current situation and plans with the Homes for Ukraine scheme and local response.

- Emily Lewis-Edwards – welcomed the involvement of Asylum Welcome as part of the systemwide coordination group – this will ensure close linkage with the broader delivery of support across the VCS.
- Phil Southall - raised that he was aware of people willing to match to a family but unable to follow through on the online registration process to find a family match.

Action – Phil to directly email SG who will point in the right direction for a resolve.

3. Carolyn Ploszynski/Aron Wisdom - presented the Oxford Transport Plans April 2022

Feedback and Questions from group members

- Phil Southall – Welcome the proposals. Reiterated the importance of the partnership getting behind these plans and the narrative to enable sign of in November, as not to delay the implementation. This links to the Bus Service Improvement Plan with an extra £12.7m from Government together with our own investments. We have only 2 years to get our new buses into service – so a narrow window for slippage.
- Stuart Wilkson – This presents a significant systems change. The details are high level, and very complicated to understand how it comes together:
 - Would like to see this translated into a variety of ‘user cases’ worked through – eg cyclists, people needing to interchange transport modes, people commuting from outside the city, as part of the consultation process.
 - The risk here, is the plans could work against inclusivity rather than support it by placing boundary lines at the edges of where measures are applied.
 - Would like to see this presented in a more accessible way.
 - What’s the purpose of the consultation, How are we going to deliver this consultation, what’s is going to be consulted on and how much is already decided. Needs to be an inclusive consultation model.
- Richard Venables – concerns about the workplace parking levy (WPL). Creating inequity between those premises within the ringroad like Oxford Business Park and those outside like Oxford Science Park. Feels like a new tax for oxford. What are the incentives going to look like?

- Emily Lewis- Edwards – will there be exemptions for community transport?
- Brendan Hatton – concern around employment working patterns in relation to charges. May travel into work during the busy time but may leave during times when bus timetables thin out – weekends, bank holidays, evenings - and we leave people struggling to get home. This needs to be thought about – supports the idea for a ‘user case’ approach.
- Frank Nigriello- Have seen the presentation previously but always presented at such high level, In the same way.
 - Complex piece of work, needs to show more ideas and examples.
 - Needs to show that the City have considered responsible detail, impact assessments on economy. Community impact assessment too.
 - Surprised that travel to School behaviour patterns are not mentioned..
 - Would like to see a form of data to actually discuss with businesses that they will understand.
 - Welcome the investment in buses
- Ian Green – expressed concern about amount of work to achieve in the time line before a summer consultation. Is there enough capacity to actually do this engagement work to feed back to change the design.

Reponses

- There will be extensive exemptions available under the access restrictions, as well as different levels of charge under the ZEZ.
- This is an early stage high level relaunch exercise
- It will be a two way piece. Surveys about to go out to local business to gather some thoughts and feedback.
- Congestion has a big impact on the economy – so doing nothing is not an option
- Steer consultants have been appointed for the next phase, Part of that brief to look at economic impact in detail
- A boundary needed to be established somewhere for the WPL, we already have a big geography, focused on the main areas of congestion concern. But we are listening to feedback and this can be changed in the future. This is our starting point ahead of the consultation.
- Were learning from other areas including Leicester and Nottingham.
- We’re levelling up resource capacity so are hopeful on the timeline.

Summary Caroline Green

- It’s clear we need a lot more understanding of local economic impacts, particularly against the backdrop of the post COVID recovery situation. We will ensure this is available for the consultation.

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5. Next Meeting

The next OSP meeting is on July 12th at 14.30pm. The meeting will be held online.