

Oxford Strategic Partnership

Minutes of Meeting 11TH October 2022

Attendees

Paul James, River Learning Trust (Chair)	PJ
Cllr Susan Brown, Oxford City Council	Cllr Brown
Dani Granito, Oxford City Council	DG
Caroline Green, Oxford City Council	CG
Ian Green, Oxford Civic Society	IG
Brendan Hattam, Land Securities	BH
Emily Lewis-Edwards, Oxfordshire Community First	ELE
Professor Simonetta Manfredi	SM
Frank Nigriello, Unipart Group	FN
Supt Bruce Riddell, Thames Valley Police	Supt Riddell
Robin Rogers County Council	RR
Cllr Chris Smowton, Oxford City Council	Cllr Smowton
Mish Tullar, Oxford City Council	MT
Stuart Wilkinson, University of Oxford	SW

Guests

Stephen Gabriel, Oxford City Council	SG
James Baughan, Oxford City Council	JB
Amanda Ford Oxford City Council	AF
James Slagel County Council	JS
Leanne Cooper Oxford City council	LC

Apologies

Gill Aitken, Oxford University
 Rebecca Cullen, Oxford University Hospitals Trust
 Jeremy Long OXLEP
 Peter Nolan, OcQuila Therapeutics
 Cllr Glynis Phillips, Oxfordshire County Council
 Claire Taylor, Oxfordshire County Council
 Richard Venables VSL and Partners

1. Welcome and apologies

PJ: Welcome to Simonetta on joining OSP.

Thank you to all for your time given to have a one to one catch up. Once I've met with everyone, feedback at next meeting.

2. Draft minutes of the last meeting & matters arising

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Actions and updates

- Bring back Housing on the Forward Plan for OSP - Will be on a future agenda.
- Bid for the Shared Prosperity Fund has been submitted – waiting a response.
- Short survey of members to identify appetite for face to face meetings - Short poll completed – a couple of outstanding replies. So far - enable some face to face/hybrid.

Action All – PJ requested a response from those that have not as yet please

3. Oxford City update (Caroline Green)

- Ongoing work with partners to provide support to communities impacted by the Cost of living crisis (covered by separate agenda item) – and impact on Council's own budget
- Black History Month – exhibition at Museum of Oxford and offers opportunity to get businesses and organisations to sign up to the [Anti-Racism Charter](#)
- [Covered Market Masterplan consultation](#) open until 24th October
- OxWED – planning application submitted for a mixed usage development around the ice rink.
- [County traffic filters consultation](#) open until 13th October
- Oxford City Council staff will vacate main office (St Aldate's Chambers) and relocate to Oxford Town Hall December.

Discussion

SM – Would like to share the appointment of the actor Patterson Joseph as the new Chancellor of Oxford Brookes University.

BH – Requested timelines for OXWED plans.

CG – hoped planning application will be agreed in next couple of months and out to partner consultation early 2023.

4. Oxford Local Plan 2040 Preferred Options (see slides)

Amanda Ford – Planning Policy Team Leader Oxford City Council.

- Consultation live until 14th November ([short version](#) and [long version](#)).
- Oxford residents and all organisations should have received a leaflet with links to more detailed information.
- This will be followed by a consultation on housing need in Feb/Mar 2023 and the final public consultation on proposals in autumn 2023, with expected adoption in 2025.
- It is clear we cannot meet all of Oxford's housing need in the city; infrastructure is needed to support new developments and there remain viability challenges for new housing around affordability, low carbon and car-parking.
- Currently neighbouring districts have designated 'unmet housing need' sites – though we now lack an Oxfordshire 2050 Plan to set an approach to updating these.
- City Council and Cherwell District Council are commissioning a Growth Needs Assessment that will look at housing sites.
- City Council is also producing an Employment Land Availability Assessment – with a view to protecting key employment sites.
- City Council wants to link with the University, Colleges and other land holders to bring forward potential sites for development in the city in the 2040 Local Plan. There is more flexibility around change of use.
- Three principles guiding the Local Plan 2040:
 - 15 minute city – creating neighbourhoods served by key amenities within 15 minutes walk. Need to create stronger and healthier communities.
 - Tackling climate change – new housing to be zero carbon. Putting downward pressure on parking. Expecting to see a requirement for 10%

biodiversity net gain around new developments brought forward under the recent Environment Act – some of this can only be delivered outside the city.

- Reducing inequalities – setting requirements around delivery of affordable employment sites, as well as focus on health and affordable housing.

Questions

Supt Riddell - What's a 15 minute neighbourhood?

AF - walk from your front door to a facility within 15 minutes – such as health care/food/leisure.

ELE – What plans are there in the approach for Community led housing?

AF – This is covered within the more detailed preferred options paper. This will be considered.

IG – Is densification being considered? Are we anticipating there is going to be a review of green belt, possibility of utilising that?

AF – We have a policy in place about density and it's already high – 110 dwellings per hectare around district centres. This will be reviewed. A green belt review is a national decision, however we will be reviewing the unmet need sites and considering if at this time there would be less impact. Should note that many of the remaining green belt sites in the city are in the flood zone.

Cllr Brown – Future Oxfordshire Partnership has discussed what can be done to support community led housing. It's a challenge in the city due to financial viability of sites. We will look to take the learning for the Vale pilot. Re density – we are very densely housed in the City already, and we are constrained by restrictions on tower blocks due to the view cones. It is disappointing that partners walked away from the Oxfordshire 2050 Plan but we are continuing to work with those who are willing.

IG – Great shame that the 2050 plan fell through – hope that all the good work is not lost.

CG – The duty to cooperate between councils on local plans remains in place

PJ – What opportunity to develop some sites attached to schools? Would like a discussion.

AF – Some sites have been allocated – typically these belong to the County Council. United Learning Trust had a proposal that was rejected

Action: AF + PJ discuss potential schools sites for development in local plan

4. Cost of Living Crisis – Leanne Cooper (verbal) – Locality hub coordinator Oxford City Council

City Council focused on a number of areas to provide support:

- Warm spaces – discussions with partners and plan for communicating these by website and non-digital channels
- Household Support Fund – new tranche of govt funding coming – will target those most in need, distributed through advice centres and directly through Council localities team
- Low cost cooking courses – free slow cooker at the end
- Advice to vulnerable residents being planned during possible blackout.

Action: DG – send out the cost of living leaflet with minutes.

Feedback on the Cost of Living round table event hosted by County Council (6 Oct) – Robin Rogers

- Summary note to be circulated shortly
- Looking to support existing infrastructure such as libraries and community groups for warm spaces
- Have given £200,000 to the voluntary and community sector
- Looking at longer term system work
- County considering its broader role in the work on poverty and deprivation

Action: DG – circulate Cost of Living round table summary note with minutes

TVP – Supt Riddell

- Not witnessing any behaviours just yet but concerned about increasing crime – eg. people not paying for petrol
- Seeing anxiety within communities (similar to pandemic panic buying times)
- Living allowance for TVP staff has been increased from £2,000 to £3,000 to support.

Community First Oxfordshire – Emily Lewis-Edwards

- Seeing colleagues and clients actively turning hot water temps down and not having heating on
- Comms are important to get information out to help people find support and manage anxiety

Cllr Brown – Need to present warm spaces as a community offer that everyone feels they have a right to use, not charity.

5. Oxford Thriving Communities Strategy – James Baughan

General update on progress – we have held dozens of individual meetings and workshops with many stakeholders and community members. These are the top 10 emerging themes:

1. Need for community involvement in decision-making
2. Need to measure outcomes
3. Want unambiguous objectives
4. Next step – an action plan to set out delivery programme
5. Collaborative partnership working approach wanted
6. Keep language simple
7. Data and insight-led approach
8. Inclusion is key – need to understand how this will be underpinned
9. Need more support to community and voluntary organisation on seeking national funding
10. Access to green spaces is key

Please provide any further feedback you may have to jbaughan@oxford.gov.uk

Discussion

PJ – It's good to note that points made in the workshop event I attended have been picked up. There is a lot of overlap with work that is going on within the Community Impact Zone (CIZ) in the east of the city and work with Lankelly Chase Foundation - how has Oxford Hub which is coordinating the CIZ work been involved?

JB – Oxford Hub attended the in-person event at Rose Hill Community Centre and discussed the overall approach for the Thriving Communities Strategy.

SG – we also discussed with Oxford Hub the need for a meaningful approach to measurement.

6. Any other business

If you have any feedback to help shape future meetings, please email the chair, [Paul James](#)

Next meeting date is 17th January 2023.