

Oxford Strategic Partnership Key meeting notes and actions

Wednesday 22 May 2024

10:30 to 12:30 In-person at Oxford Town Hall

In attendance		
Paul James (Chair)	PJ	River Learning Trust
Caroline Green	CG	Chief Executive, Oxford City Council
Cllr Alex Hollingsworth	Cllr AH	Cabinet Member for Business, Culture and an Inclusive Economy
Cllr Mohammed Altaf-Khan	Cllr MA-K	Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, Oxford City Council
Cllr Neil Fawcett	Cllr NF	Oxfordshire County Council
Prof Alexander Betts	AB	University of Oxford
Mish Tullar	MT	Head of Corporate Strategy, Oxford City Council
Lucy Cherry	LC	Policy and Partnerships Officer, Oxford City Council
Clayton Lavallin	CL	Economic Development Team Leader, Oxford City Council
Emma Coles	EC	Manager, Oxford Inclusive Economy Partnership
Jeremy Long	JL	OxLEP- OIEP
Rupali Alwe	RA	Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Robin Rogers (virtually)	RR	Oxfordshire County Council
Richard Byard	RB	OxLEP
David Munday	DM	Jerem
Hannah Scott	HS	CEO Greentech
Grant Hayward	GH	Oxford Social Enterprise Partnership
Rosie Jacobs	RJ	Oxford Social Enterprise Partnership & Independent Oxford
Rebecca Iley	RI	Director of Employability, Activate Learning
Apologies		
Cllr Susan Brown	Cllr SB	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Partnership Working, Oxford City Council
Cllr Dr Chris Smowton	Cllr CS	Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, Oxford City Council
Simonetta Manfredi	SM	Oxford Brookes University
Supt Bruce Riddell	BR	Thames Valley Police
Richard Venables	RV	CBRE (and OxLEP)
Ian Green	IG	Oxford Civic Society
Sam Shepherd	SS	Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Dr Olga Kozlova	OK	Oxford University
Brendan Hattam	BH	Landsec
Emily Lewis-Edwards	ELE	Community First Oxfordshire
Nigel Tipple Peter Nolan	NT	OxLEP, Chief Executive

Action	Owner	Target deadline
Follow up conversation to be held (engaging city schools with businesses, etc.)	PJ & RB	
PJ, RB, CG to hold a follow up Apprenticeship Summit conversation	PJ, RB, CG	
Partners are encouraged to sign up to the OIEP Charter (get involved)	ALL	

1. Welcome and apologies

- o Delivered by PJ.

2. Draft minutes of the last meeting & matters arising

- o Minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

3. Oxford City Council update

(Caroline Green – Chief Executive, Oxford City Council)

- o Cllr Susan Brown was attending the [UKREiiF event](#) in Leeds. Alongside colleagues from [OxLEP](#), the [Oxford to Cambridge pan-Regional Partnership](#) and the Fast Growth Cities Group
- o An update was shared, focus items included:
 - Local elections – The Council remains as a no overall control administration; with Labour as the largest group, Liberal Democrats as the second largest.
 - The makeup of the [Cabinet members and their responsibilities](#) had been announced.
 - The Council will carry on the programme of works aligned with the 2024/2025 Budget.
 - Key decisions of interest will continue to be supported and enabled through cross party conversations.
 - Cllr Mike Rowley has been sworn in as [Lord Mayor of Oxford](#) for 2024/2025.
 - Work is progressing on the:
 - ❖ Blackbird Leys Regeneration programme.
 - ❖ Oxford Covered Market and Market Street redevelopment project.
- o Oxford United Football Club – A city centre celebration of the club being promoted to the football league Championship has taken place. An event organised within 48 hours by the Council in partnerships with Blue Light services and the County Council, alongside other key stakeholders.
- o Housing challenges and pressures – A national, as well as local, challenge. The Council has mitigation in place however pressures continue. The Council is continuing to lobby Government.

4. Local Enterprise Partnership Planning

(Robin Rogers – Programme Director Partnerships & Delivery, Oxfordshire County Council)

- o Presentation shared and a follow on discussion on the LEPs:
 - Transition (slide 2)
 - core functions (slide 3)
 - transition phases
 - ❖ Phs 1: 1 April 2024 (slide 4)
 - ❖ Phs 2: 1 April to 30 September 2024 (slide 5)
 - ❖ Phs 3: 1 October 2024 to 31 March 2025 (slide 6)
 - Other issues
 - ❖ Ongoing engagement of Future Oxfordshire partners, business and other stakeholders
 - ❖ Opportunity to look at the skills landscape county-wide
 - ❖ Core focus on inclusive economy and community wealth building.
- o The corporate Director for Environment and Place, Oxfordshire County Council is the County Councils contact for the LEP.

(Richard Byard – Director of Business Development, OxLEP)

- o Provided further insight on the process being taken, transition of the OxLEP team to the LEP.

- Commented that it is important to remember that this is not 'new work'; OxLEP has already been delivering with the County as a partner.
- Partnership for Future Oxford Partnership stakeholders to import corporate knowledge and experience across the wider 'family relationship'.
- A business as usual approach, and delivering community led projects.

Key discussion points:

- Engaging city schools and colleges with businesses (e.g. opportunities for young people to move onto their next best step; 'Education to Economy', 'Skills Landscape')
- a complex and financially restricted skills system
- skills pathways for education (this is where our workforce comes from) to employment
- challenges for schoolwork experience opportunities
- more inclusivity in supporting both ends of the landscape - 'great economy'.
- Level of business support to help businesses survive (pre-start & SME)
- supply chain for local people
- an interest in a 'Brand for Oxford'
- T Levels are growing fast in the further education system. There is a need for Businesses to understand this growth and engage with placements.
- It was noted and welcomed that the County Council was taking on the LEP transition going forward, alongside the well-functioning OxLEP. Both are working well together as part of the transition, whereas nationally it may not be so everywhere.
- The ability to attract and leverage funding is important
- Proposed that the OSP considers delivering a future Apprenticeship Summit.
- Potential for opportunities to bring employment, education, training, knowledge and retention together on the inclusivity front. There are common issues affecting the base family level. Understanding what, where and who to make the best use for targeted resources in the city is important. There is a need to drive this agenda forward as much as possible.

Actions:

- PJ and RB will hold a follow up conversation (e.g. engaging city schools with businesses, etc.)
- PJ, RB, CG to hold a follow up Apprenticeship Summit conversation

5. The local Oxford Economy

(Clayton Lavallin – Economic Development Team Leader, Oxford City Council)

- Presentation shared and a follow on discussion on the Economic Development in Oxford City:
 - What the Economic Development Team do (slide 2)
 - Top 5 deliverables for 2024/2025 (slide 3)
 - Key policies and strategies (slide 4)
 - How the development team are organised (slide 5)
 - Corporate and Service measures (slides 6 & 7)
 - Risks (slides 8 & 9)
- Presentation shared and a follow on discussion on Oxford's Economic Strategy 2022 to 2032:
 - The case for action (slide 12)
 - Delivery Plan and Principles (slides 13 & 14)
 - The Economic Growth Steering Board and work programmes (slides 15 to 21)

6. The Oxford Inclusive Economy Partnership

(Emma Coles – Manager, Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership)

- Presentation shared and a follow on discussion on the OIEP:
 - Governance (slide 1)
 - Areas of focus:
 - ❖ Social value & procurement
 - ❖ Employment
 - ❖ Place shaping
 - ❖ Education
 - ❖ Strategy and delivery plan (slides 4 to 8)
 - ❖ OIEP Charter (slides 9 to 13).

Key discussion points:

- The OIEP Charter
- Place Based Focus Group:
 - Focusing on areas of greater disadvantaged and most challenged communities
 - City project – Community Wealth building in a place based way
- Harnessing resources to get the best outcomes
- Individuals can be hard to reach due to the nature of the communities
- Potential of a new government and a pivot to quite rapidly to meet new expectations of investment, work and provision.
- A future OSP meeting focus might be one based around the skills agenda.

Actions:

- Partners are encouraged to sign up to the OIEP Charter ([get involved](#))

7. Oxford City Council Corporate Strategy 2024/28

(Mish Tullar – Head of Corporate Strategy, Oxford City Council)

- A re-cap of the development process was provided.
- The level of active involvement in developing the strategy meant minimal amendments were required for the post-consultation version.
- A final strategy will be taken to the Cabinet and the Council in July 2024; paused until then due to the Local Elections period.

8. Any other business

- Focus options for future meetings:
 - Health
 - Skills agenda
 - Employment, Education, Training
 - Lobbying plan for the incoming government
- Forward planning items for future meetings can be shared with LC, MT and PJ.

Next meeting date:

Tuesday 23 July 2024, 14:00 to 16:00

Virtual via MS Teams

Meeting ID: 375 447 612 125

Passcode: 8bPv3Y