

4th December 2008, 10.00am

Saïd Business School, Executive Education Centre, Egrove Park,
Kennington, Oxfordshire

Minutes

Steering Group Attendees: Jackie Wilderspin (Chair), Alison Baxter, Joe Barclay, Mel Barrett, Warren Ralls, Rex Knight, Sarah Maxfield, Andrew Murray, Oliver O'Dell, Cllr Bob Price and Cllr Keith Mitchell

Additional Attendees: Sebastian Johnson (Minutes), Mark Jaggard, Val Johnson, Dawn Pettis, and Julie Higgs

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from, Sally Dicketts, Debbie Dance, Chris Farthing, Peter Sloman and David Doughty

Jackie Wilderspin welcomed all those attending the meeting for the first time and those who had come to present to the meeting.

It was noted that this is the second meeting that Sally Dicketts had been unable to attend. Sebastian Johnson will contact Sally to confirm that she will be attending future meetings and if not to work with Jackie Wilderspin to find an alternative new member with a skills and education expertise.

2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 16th October 2008

The minutes were agreed as correct.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Membership Review and Terms of Reference

Jackie Wilderspin updated on progress and reported that new terms of reference and membership proposals will be brought to the March meeting for discussion.

3.2 Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) Summary

The final version of the summary was noted. It will form the centre spread in the March 2009 edition of *Your Oxford*.

It was agreed that an Economy Action Plan should be developed and presented at a future meeting.

3.3 Affordable Housing Select Committee Report

A discussion took place about circulation and promotion of the report. The following actions were agreed:

- Sebastian Johnson to follow up initial article published on IDeA website
- Interest in running a similar select committee has been expressed by Bristol City Council – Sebastian to liaise with contact in Bristol
- Copy of the report to be sent out to all City Council Members – Sebastian to co-ordinate
- Report to be distributed and discussed at the Strategic Housing Delivery Group – Mel Barrett to co-ordinate
- Mel Barrett to meet with representative from the National House Builders Federation and discuss the report
- Report to be disseminated to key private sector development agencies – Mel Barrett to co-ordinate
- Homes and Communities Agency to be engaged – Mel Barrett to liaise
- Val Johnson reported that the report will be on a future Oxfordshire Partnership agenda. Elizabeth will be invited to present the report to the Oxfordshire Partnership with Mel Barrett.

3.4 Core Strategy

Sebastian reported that he and Mark Jaggard will conclude the outstanding action on confirming that the Core Strategy has due regard to the issues in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

4. Health and Social Inclusion Action Plan

Julie Higgs presented details about the Health and Social Inclusion Sub Group and the key themes and challenges of the action plan. A discussion then took place.

The following key points were made:

- Mental health was acknowledged as a gap in the action plan
- The City's ranking against key targets in the South Central Regional Health Authority is either poor (bad) or average. In no target shown was the ranking good
- It was noted that within the rankings there are areas of the City that are very poor (bad)
- Skills and education – links to the Oxfordshire Learning and Skills Partnership were discussed and it was suggested that links be developed. Dawn Pettis volunteered to be a link between the Health and Social Inclusion Group and the Oxfordshire Learning and Skills Partnership

- It was suggested that the area of focus for the action plan should be on the targets where the City ranks as poor

It was agreed that the Health and Social Inclusion Group will develop the action plan further and come back to the OSP with ideas on how best to use the members/organisations of the OSP in taking the work forward.

5. Update on Action Planning

5.1 Climate Change

Bob Price updated on progress with the Climate Change action plan to be presented to the OSP in January 2009.

Sebastian Johnson will circulate the papers discussed in January 2008 and request updates on progress against the actions agreed at that time.

5.2 Safer, Stronger more Cohesive City

Sebastian Johnson reported that he is working with the Safer Communities Partnership to provide an overview of their current action plans for presentation in March 2009.

5.3 Public Realm

Sarah Maxfield reported that initial work on developing an action plan was progressing and that Sebastian and Sarah were meeting with Professor Georgia Butina-Watson of Oxford Brookes University's School of the Built Environment to explore how they might be able to be involved in the work.

6. Regeneration Framework

Mel Barrett presented the draft document "Towards a Regeneration Framework for Oxford City". It was noted that the document had evolved from discussions held between key partners including the City Council, County Council, Police and PCT.

The document was widely welcomed and positively received. The following key points were made:

- It was acknowledged that some areas need strengthening (e.g. community safety, visitor economy promotional opportunities, differences across age groups)
- The action plan is deliberately incomplete at this stage so that all partners can be involved in further development and ownership of the action plan
- Social and economic regeneration must go hand in hand and we should acknowledge the strong role that culture plays in regeneration
- The city is a collection of villages/communities and each is different with different challenges and needs

· Regeneration and the actions in the action plan need to be owned by communities

The following next steps were agreed:

- OSP members to send any comments on this draft to Mel Barrett as soon as possible
- Mel Barrett to co-ordinate the wider distribution of the draft to partners and seek comments
- A revised version of the document will be brought back to the OSP for further discussion in the Spring of 2009

7. Any Other Business

7.1 Economy

Bob Price asked Dawn Pettis to give a brief outline of the state of the Oxford economy from the Oxfordshire Economic Partnership's perspective.

Dawn reported that the OEP is monitoring the situation and it was agreed that Dawn will send OEP's monthly update to Sebastian for circulation to OSP members.

It was noted that the effects of the economic downturn were being seen in the extended closure of the BMW Mini plant over Christmas and the termination of agency staff contracts.

It was noted that all partners should be supporting small and local businesses in any ways they can during this time.

8. Future meeting Dates

Future meeting dates were noted. It was suggested that a new date be found for the meeting due to be held on 4th June as this clashes with European and Council elections. Sebastian to co-ordinate finding a new date.

The meeting finished at 12.00 midday.