

## Oxford Strategic Partnership Steering Group

### Minutes of the Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2010, 10.00am at Oxford Town Hall, St Aldate's, Oxford

#### Steering Group Attendees:

Jackie Wilderspin, NHS Oxfordshire (Chair)  
Joe Barclay, University of Oxford  
Mel Barrett, Oxford City Council  
Alison Baxter, Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action  
David Doughty, Oxfordshire Economic Partnership  
Chris Farthing, Government Office for the South East  
Anne Gwinnett, Oxford Brookes University  
Amanda Pearson, Thames Valley Police  
Cllr Bob Price, Oxford City Council  
Cllr John Tanner, Oxford City Council  
Kathelene Weiss, Oxford Inspires

#### Additional Attendees:

Martin Chilcott, 2degrees  
Jenny Davidson, Oxford City Council (for item 6)  
James Edwards, Oxford City Council (for item 5)  
Sebastian Johnson, Oxford City Council  
Val Johnson, Oxford City Council  
Gordon Reid, City Centre Manager (City / County Council)

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from:

#### Members

Debbie Dance, Oxford Preservation Trust  
Sally Dickets, Oxford and Cherwell Valley College  
Robert Kirtland, Critchleys  
Cllr Keith Mitchell, Oxfordshire County Council  
Warren Ralls, South East England Development Agency

#### Officers / Others

Robert Hathaway, Audit Commission  
Mark Jaggard, Oxford City Council  
Jan Paine, Oxfordshire County Council

Jackie Wilderspin welcomed Anne Gwinnett, Amanda Pearson and Kathelene Weiss who were all attending their first meeting.

## 2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2010

The minutes were agreed as correct.

### **3. Overview of the new Local and National Government Perspectives**

Bob Price and Chris Farthing reported on changes at local and national government levels. Key points were:

- Government making immediate savings of over £6bn
- SEEDA facing budget reduction of £24m (out of £107m) representing 22%. Possible impact on West End project funding
- HCA looking at similar reduction of around 20%. Possible impact on affordable housing developments at Barton, Oxpens, Blackbird Leys and Rose Hill.
- Arts Council facing 25% reduction. Impact already seen on refusal of grants to projects like Cowley Road Carnival, which the City and County are supplying additional funding for 2010.
- City Council anticipating cuts in budgets and has already reduced costs by £1m per year and undertaking further savings exercises (reducing to one depot, reducing office accommodation) in order to protect core services
- Regional Spatial Strategy to be abolished (regional housing numbers). Possible impact on economy, housing waiting list and homelessness
- Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) abolished. Impact on targets set including those around breaking the cycle of deprivation. No decisions yet on what will replace CAA
- All funding decisions made since January are being reviewed

Jackie Wilderspin reporting the following headlines for the health sector:

- Planning for 30% management cuts (was over three years but now accelerated)
- NHS Oxfordshire £80m savings per year for the next three years
- Strategic Health Authorities going by 2012

Alison Baxter reported that the Migrant Impact Fund is being reviewed by the Minister and she is being told not to commit to any further spending until the result of the review.

Amanda Pearson reported that Thames valley Police will be making an additional £3.4m savings. Details are not worked up yet, but Chief Officers have committed to savings not affecting front line service. Possible reductions in funding for the Community safety Partnership and Prevent work.

It was agreed that a review of local and national government perspectives be on the agenda for the next meeting.

It was also agreed that information should be shared between partners. Any new information should be sent to Sebastian Johnson and he will circulate to all partners.

## 4. Matters Arising

### 4.1 Economy – OSP role in Economic Assessment and “Power to Convene”

David Doughty presented his paper and the following three recommendations were discussed:

- Recommendation one – produce economic dashboard for Oxford.
- Recommendation two – small working group to review economic assessment and make response
- Recommendation three – create a forum involving key representatives from top employers to meet up to three times a year to provide an employers perspective

Recommendations one and two were taken together and it was agreed that:

- i) David would liaise with Champions to define what goes in the dashboard and then OEP would pull it together
- ii) David would circulate the Economic Assessment with a short briefing note highlighting key relevant parts to each Champion. Each Champion would then reply to David with comments and David would prepare a full response to be circulated to Champions and sent as the OSP’s response by 19<sup>th</sup> July.

Recommendation three was welcomed and it was agreed that this would be reviewed again after the completion of the economic assessment and also the budget and comprehensive spending review. A possible large event in the Autumn/Winter that focuses on five key issues that affect business will be looked at.

### 4.2 Public Involvement and Information

Jackie Wilderspin reported on the Information and Networking Event that was held in March 2010 and presented her paper on future public involvement and information.

A discussion took place and the following key points were made:

- A focussed approach needs to be taken that ensures that the OSP can make decisions; current number of members enables that
- It must be remembered that delivery of our joint work is the responsibility of individual member organisations but our work together is to make sure policies are as synergistic as possible
- Other LSP’s hold elections for positions relating to community/voluntary sector and business sector representation – could the OSP explore this?
- Elections in other Oxfordshire LSP’s for voluntary sector representatives carried out via OCVA
- Stronger aspect of “Safer Stronger more Cohesive City” not reflected in the link to the Oxford Safer Communities Partnership and this needs to be addressed
- Having a Stakeholder Forum and more communication about the OSP’s work is good but where is the capacity to deliver this?

The following proposals were agreed:

- The OSP is at a stage of strategic planning over the next 18 months as we develop the next Strategy for 2012. With that in mind we will look at representation in the longer term as part of the strategic planning and review elected aspects of future membership from the community/voluntary sector and business sector
- Jackie Wilderspin and Val Johnson will work up proposals for more public involvement and consultation

#### 4.3 Audit Commission – Value for Money Good Practice

Jackie Wilderspin is leading on liaison with the Audit Commission and will report back at the next meeting.

### 5. Affordable Housing

#### 5.1 Brief update on the re-convened Affordable Housing Select Committee meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> May

Mel Barrett reported that a very positive meeting had taken place and that Elizabeth Paris, Chair of the Select Committee, will be presenting a summary paper and recommendations to the next OSP meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

#### 5.2 Action Plan Update

Mel Barrett presented the update that had been circulated. It was agreed that a fuller discussion will take place as part of Elizabeth's report at the next meeting.

#### 5.3 Single Conversation Update

Mel Barrett reported that following key points:

- The Local Investment Plan had been signed off by all the Local Authority Leaders and was going to the City Executive Board on the 30<sup>th</sup> June.
- Mel also reported that the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has commended the Oxfordshire Single Conversation working to the Department of Communities and Local Government as an exemplar. It was agreed that the OSP should commend Mark Jaggard on his work on the Single Conversation.
- The document has not yet been signed by the HCA

### 6. Climate Change

John Tanner presented the paper on plans for developing a Low Carbon Oxford. The paper and plans were welcomed and the vision outlined in the paper was endorsed by the OSP.

The OSP will continue to receive regular updates and receive a detailed report on the development of the "Pathfinder Group" before the end of the year.

## **7. Future Plan**

Sebastian Johnson presented the future plan. The next meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> July will focus on the Affordable Housing Select Committee report from Elizabeth Paris and a report from the Regeneration Steering Group led by Jackie Wilderspin. The meeting in September will focus on Safer Stronger more Cohesive City and be led by Amanda Pearson.

## **8. City Centre Evening and Night Time Economy and Purple Flag Status**

Gordon Reid presented the paper on the City Centre Evening and Night Time Economy and Purple Flag Status. Gordon reported that submission for Purple Flag Status needed to be completed by the end of June 2010. The OSP endorsed the application for Purple Flag Status.

## **9. Any Other Business**

- 9.1 Following on from the earlier discussion on the local and national government perspective, Bob Price asked Chris Farthing about his experience of working with other LSP's and what they do well. Chris responded by saying he felt that the level of debate and organisation of priorities in Oxford is more advanced than many other LSP's. The Audit Commission published guidance on managing LSP's recently and Sebastian Johnson will look at the document and bring a short paper on its recommendations to the next OSP meeting.
- 9.2 Dates through to the end of December 2011 were agreed using the existing pattern and staying with Thursdays at 10am. Dates are confirmed as:
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2010, 10.00 – 12.00
  - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2010, 10.00 – 12.00
  - Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2010, 10.00 – 12.00
  - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2010, 10.00 – 12.00
  - Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2011, 10.00 – 12.00
  - Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011, 10.00 – 12.00
  - Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2011, 10.00 – 12.00
  - Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2011, 10.00 – 12.00
  - Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2011, 10.00 – 12.00
  - Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2011, 10.00 – 12.00
  - Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2011, 10.00 – 12.00

The meeting finished at 12.00 midday