

## Oxford Strategic Partnership Steering Group

### Minutes of the Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2010, 10.00am at Oxford Town Hall, St Aldate's, Oxford

#### Steering Group Attendees:

Jackie Wilderspin, NHS Oxfordshire (Chair)  
Mel Barrett, Oxford City Council  
Alison Baxter, Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action  
Debbie Dance, Oxford Preservation Trust  
David Doughty, Oxfordshire Economic Partnership  
Chris Farthing, Government Office for the South East  
Robert Kirtland, Critchleys  
Sarah Maxfield, Oxford Inspires  
Cllr Keith Mitchell, Oxfordshire County Council  
Cllr Bob Price, Oxford City Council  
Warren Ralls, South East England Development Agency

#### Additional Attendees:

Robert Hathaway, Audit Commission  
Clare Buchanan, Audit Commission  
Mark Jaggard, Oxford City Council  
Sebastian Johnson, Oxford City Council  
Val Johnson, Oxford City Council  
Cllr John Tanner, Oxford City Council

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from:

#### Members

Joe Barclay, University of Oxford  
Sally Dickets, Oxford and Cherwell Valley College  
Craig Klafter, Oxford Brookes University  
Andrew Murray, Thames Valley Police

#### Officers

Jan Paine, Oxfordshire County Council

Jackie Wilderspin reported that Andrew Murray has been promoted and will be leaving the Partnership. Amanda Pearson will be taking over as Oxford Area Commander and will be invited to join the Partnership.

Bob Price reported that Craig Klafter will be replaced on the Partnership as he is leaving Oxford Brookes University.

Both Andrew and Craig were thanked for their involvement and commitment to the work of the Partnership.

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

The minutes were agreed as correct.

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **3.1 Destination Management Organisation (DMO)**

Mark Jaggard reported that work towards setting up the DMO is progressing well. The Public Service Board agreed to the bid for £200k of the LAA reward grant to develop the Visitor Economy across Oxfordshire. The City Council CEB is to be asked on 31st March to agree to host the emerging DMO.

It was agreed that future updates will be given through the Public Realm Delivery Group.

### **3.2 Single Conversation Update**

Mark Jaggard reported that he was working to a deadline of the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 to complete the Local Investment Plan (LIP).

A discussion took place about the prioritisation of schemes and it was reported that the list of schemes has already been reduced from 50 to 17.

It was agreed that the single conversation will be discussed further as part of the Affordable Housing report back to the OSP in June 2010.

## **4. Audit Commission and Comprehensive Area Agreement**

Robert Hathaway and Clare Buchanan were introduced and welcomed to the meeting. Robert gave an overview of the role of the Audit Commission and the Comprehensive Area Assessment. In the context of the OSP, Robert outlined that the role is looking at how partnerships are working together to deliver priorities and is focussing on issues around breaking the cycle of deprivation.

## **5. Economy**

David Doughty reported on the sub group meeting that Jackie Wilderspin, Robert Kirtland, Mel Barrett, Craig Klafter and he had held that explored (i) how the economy can be better integrated into the OSPs work and the flagship issue

action plans; (ii) the links and role of the Oxfordshire Economic Partnership; and (iii) any representations that should be made to other bodies.

Following discussion it was agreed that David Doughty would lead on the following:

- Propose a process by which the OSP can have a role in commenting on the city elements of the Economic Assessment and the emerging strategy and action plan;
- Explore how the OSP's "power to convene" could be used to convene a forum of key businesses and employers in the city and the value this could add

David will bring a proposal to the next OSP meeting.

## **6. Public Realm Delivery Group Update**

Jackie Wilderspin reported that Sarah Maxfield is leaving Oxford Inspires and also the OSP and took the opportunity to thank Sarah for her hard work and contribution to the partnership particularly as champion of the work around public realm.

### **6.1 Action Plan Update**

Sarah Maxfield provided an update on the action plan based on the version circulated with the papers. Key updates included:

- Gordon Reid, City Centre Manager, was introduced and talked about the work taking place on a clean and welcoming street scene in the city centre
- The OSP has commented on the Street Scene Manual
- Debbie Dance is helping to improve links to the University of Oxford
- Walking guide to public art now has funding to be published
- Two local distinctiveness projects to be piloted, firstly the Wayfinding project in partnership with the West End Steering Group (with £6k funding secured from Progress through Partnership), and secondly the Blackbird Leys Regeneration Project

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

- Debbie Dance reported that the Delivery Group is the only body that brings together all of the parties leading on the public realm in the city and stated how positive this is and how this is adding real value to the city.
- Keith Mitchell highlighted potential opportunities for Oxford Station and Frideswide Square as part of the major growth from Chiltern Railways. Mark Jaggard supported the view of potential opportunities and asked Keith to ensure Transport Officers were briefed to support positive development opportunities. Chris Farthing reported that he is due to meet with County Officers about the Local Transport Plan and will raise these opportunities for discussion.
- Chris Farthing reported that the Government has announced the launch of an Urban Transport Challenge Fund that may provide a funding opportunity.

## 6.2 Links to Regeneration Projects in Blackbird Leys and Barton

Paul Clark, Major Development Projects Manager, Oxford City Council, presented regeneration and development plans for Barton and Blackbird Leys and the links opportunities for the public realm. A discussion took place and it was noted that the developments will continue to be discussed at the Public Realm Delivery Group to ensure opportunities to improve the public realm are not lost.

## 7. Future Plan and Flagship Issues and Action Planning Updates

Jackie Wilderspin reported that Bob Price will replace Sarah Maxfield as Public Realm Champion and that John Tanner has been co-opted onto the Partnership and will replace Bob Price as the Climate Change Champion.

Sebastian Johnson presented the future plan. Sebastian reported that the panel for the Affordable Housing Select Committee will be meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2010. Therefore, an initial report back from the panel will be taken at the June meeting. A report on the Single Conversation will also be taken in June. An update on the Climate Change Visioning Workshops and next steps will also be taken in June.

It was agreed to cancel the meeting planned for 22nd April.

## 8. OSP Public Event

Jackie Wilderspin reported that she wanted the OSP to hold a public event to provide an opportunity for people to hear more about the work of the OSP. The outline paper was discussed and agreed. All OSP members are encouraged to attend the event to be held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March from 5.30 – 7.30pm.

Debbie Dance reported that the date and time clashed with an event being organised by the Oxford Preservation Trust, and so gave apologies.

## 9. Any Other Business

9.1 Mel Barrett reported that a Regeneration Co-ordinator has been appointed to take forward the work funded by the LAA Reward Money on breaking the cycle of deprivation

9.2 Robert Kirtland highlighted the funding issues and challenges facing the voluntary sector and the priorities of voluntary sector organisations. Alison Baxter commented on the difficulty of evaluating value for money and suggested that a piece of work might be taken forward in partnership about how we measure value for money.

Jackie Wilderspin made the link between this topic and some of the earlier comments made by Robert Hathaway on the role of the Audit Commission and asked Robert if the Audit Commission can help with providing a consistent way of measuring value for money and looking at good / better practice elsewhere. Robert agreed that he would come back to the Jackie and the OSP on this issue.

- 9.3 Debbie Dance reported that she is Chair of the Historic Towns Forum and that the Forum will be holding their AGM in Oxford and working alongside Oxford City Council Climate Change Team to focus the AGM on Climate Change and Historic Towns
- 9.4 Sebastian Johnson distributed leaflets about Venturefest taking place on 22<sup>nd</sup> June at the Kassam Stadium.

## **10. Future Meeting Dates**

Following the cancellation of the meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, the next meeting will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2010, with dates through until the end of 2010 set as follows:

- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2010, 10.00 – 12.00
- 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

The meeting finished at 12.10pm