

Minutes



OF A MEETING OF THE

Listening Learning Leading

Oxfordshire Environment Partnership

HELD AT 10.00AM ON 22 JUNE 2012

AT COUNCIL OFFICES, CROWMARSH GIFFORD

Present:

Voting members

Councillor D Dodds (Chairman)	South Oxfordshire District Council
Councillor D Harvey	West Oxfordshire District Council
Councillor H Hibbert-Biles	Oxfordshire County Council
Councillor J Tanner	Oxford City Council
Councillor R Waite	Vale of White Horse District Council

Officers attending for the whole of the meeting

Mr W Lewis	Oxfordshire Waste Partnership
Mr P Mocroft	Oxfordshire Waste Partnership
Mr Ed Potter	Cherwell District Council
Ms J Wines	Environment Agency
Mr I Halliday	Oxford City Council
Mr A Pau	Oxfordshire County Council
Ms R Burns	Oxfordshire County Council
Mr P Robinson	Oxford City Council
Ms S Halliwell	Oxfordshire County Council
Ms V Fletcher	Oxfordshire County Council
Mr M Prosser	South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils
Mrs J Thompson	South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils
Mr R Young	West Oxfordshire District Council
Mr T Askew	West Oxfordshire District Council
Ms L Watson	Oxfordshire Rural Community Council
Ms H Phillips	Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum

Officers attending for part of the meeting

Ms H Saunders	South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils
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Apologies

Councillor N Morris, Cherwell District Council; Mr J Copley and Ms J Colwell, Oxford City Council; and Ms S Ohlenschlager, Oxfordshire County Council, gave their apologies.

1 Declaration of interest

Councillor David Harvey declared a personal interest in the Green Deal (Minute 5) as he was appointed to represent West Oxfordshire District Council as a director on the board of the United Sustainable Energy Agency. He remained in the room and took part in the debate but took no part in decisions relating to that item.

2 Addresses and questions to the partnership

There were no addresses or questions from members of the public.

3 Minutes, 30 March 2012

The minutes of the meeting of the Oxfordshire Environment Partnership meeting held on 30 March 2012 were approved.

4 South Oxfordshire District Council – presentation of good practice

Ms Heather Saunders, Shared Climate Change Officer for South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils, gave a presentation on good practice in carbon management at both councils.

Both councils had set challenging targets to achieve over five years: South a 30 per cent reduction in carbon emissions from the baseline in 2008/09; and Vale a 20 per cent reduction in carbon emissions from baseline. In 2011/12, South had reduced emissions by 18 per cent and Vale by 14 per cent from baseline.

Key achievements were:

- including carbon management in contract specifications: the waste contract specified a range of measures including low emission vehicles and route management;
- undertaking a wide range of projects, including those used successfully in many councils and more innovative projects such as installing LED lighting at Henley pool;
- successfully managing the carbon reduction programme across two councils; and
- working with contractors to reduce carbon emissions during the life of the contract.

Once the outcomes from these projects were established, a four-year plan to further reduce water use and energy use would be developed. Working across two councils provided immediate benchmarking data.

The partnership thanked Ms Saunders for her presentation.

5 Green Deal

The partnership considered a report from Oxfordshire County Council's carbon programme manager summarising the seminar held on 13 June and the options available to each council to participate in the Green Deal and the options offered by United Sustainable Energy Agency.

The partnership discussed the two recommendations:

1. each member authority would look at the United Sustainable Energy Agency offer individually and take proposals to their executives; or
2. the partnership would explore the possibilities of joint investment in the United Sustainable Energy Agency, asking for proposals at its next meeting

The partnership was generally favourable to joint investment but considered that more work was needed on the details and the commitments from each authority required by the options in the paper.

The partnership **agreed**:

1. to refer the options paper and the two recommendations proposed to the officers working group to finalise proposals and make further recommendations to the partnership at its next meeting or earlier.
2. to inform the United Sustainable Energy Agency of the partnership's favourable view of their proposals; and
3. that officers should agree a timetable for making decisions relating to investment in the Green Deal.

6 The Natural Environment White Paper and role of a local nature partnership for Oxfordshire

The partnership considered a briefing note about the implications of new legislation in the 2011 White Paper 'The Natural Choice' and about the Oxfordshire Nature Partnership.

Ms Vicky Fletcher, Oxfordshire County Council, and Ms Hilary Philips, Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum's biodiversity and partnerships officer, gave a presentation. There was strong policy support from central government and strong support from community groups in the county for this partnership. The Oxfordshire partnership provided a forum for about 250 groups share and develop ideas and to deliver environmental improvements locally. If the forum received DEFRA's recognition as a Local Nature Partnership it would have the status of a statutory consultee, and have a wider remit to give a strategic overview, provide a means of linking different organisations and statutory bodies, and could apply for funding. The partnership wished to have a local authority representative on its board.

The partnership:

1. welcomed the launch of the Oxfordshire Nature Partnership and welcomed the bid to DEFRA for recognition as a local nature partnership;
2. **agreed** to receive a report on progress with the bid at its next meeting; and
3. thanked Ms Fletcher and Ms Philips for their presentation.

The meeting closed at 11.10am

Chairman

Date