

## Bicester Strategic Delivery Board

Date of meeting: 18 March 2021	<b>AGENDA ITEM NO:</b>  <b>5</b>
Report title: Oxfordshire Greentech - update	
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### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To update and raise awareness of the work of Oxfordshire Greentech, a countywide business network to support and champion a low carbon future, since CDC led on its creation.
- 1.2. To highlight how Oxfordshire Greentech can support Cherwell District Council, for example, assisting towards the target of net-zero carbon district-wide emissions by 2030 as part of CDC's Climate Emergency Declaration.
- 1.3. To explain how Oxfordshire Greentech fits into the wider work of OxFutures, and CDC's role within this for the next two years as a 'delivery partner'.

### 2. Oxfordshire Greentech - background

- 2.1. Oxfordshire Greentech was originally created by the Bicester Delivery Team and Bioregional (a local sustainability consultancy charity) following a successful collaborative bid to MHCLG in 2017 for European Regional Development Funds (ERDF). Following its launch in February 2019, Oxfordshire Greentech attracted a wide range of members wanting to respond positively to the climate emergency. Its annual "Clean Growth" conference and regular workshops/webinars have enabled delegates access to the latest information on best practice as well as a valuable place to interact and share ideas with like-minded companies.
- 2.2. ERDF funding for CDC's direct delivery against set targets came to an end in March 2020, allowing Oxfordshire Greentech to become a not-for-profit company, limited by guarantee. Cherwell District Council joined its growing membership, at Founder-level so as to access ongoing support and continue to have a seat at the steering group to help provide direction and ensure its continued success.
- 2.3. In a press release, published on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020, Councillor Lynn Pratt, Cherwell's lead member for Economy, Regeneration and Property was quoted as saying: "Cherwell

District Council has been instrumental in the development of Oxfordshire Greentech from the outset and having declared a climate emergency, it is only right that Cherwell nails its colours to the mast and signs up to projects like these. Whilst it is clearly possible and advantageous to have a thriving economy alongside a responsible approach to climate change, navigating that pathway can be difficult. By becoming a founder member of Oxfordshire Greentech Ltd, we will be able to play a pivotal role in supporting and promoting green innovation in the region, helping businesses to flourish in the low carbon era.”

2.4. Please see attached “Oxfordshire Greentech – a year in review” for an overview of impact delivered in the first year of operation.

### **3. Synergy with CDC’s strategies**

3.1. All members of Oxfordshire Greentech are automatically members of sister company, Cambridge Cleantech, providing strong links at both ‘nodes’ of the [OxCam Arc](#) or ‘Knowledge Spine’. With a long-term investment in the area, the Arc represents unrivalled opportunity for sustainable, innovative growth, building on existing assets of international significance. It is our ambition that Cherwell District benefits from such low-carbon investment and growth, such as via planned developments for Bicester (Arrival being one such example with their contract to build e-delivery vans for UPS: please see the following website for more information: <https://www.electrive.com/2020/03/20/arrival-moves-into-new-bicester-factory/>).

3.2. Having declared a Climate Emergency in June 2019, a Zero Carbon Action Plan has been produced, providing a roadmap to achieve net-zero carbon emissions from both internal operations and district-wide by 2030. Businesses clearly have a key role to play in this, and Oxfordshire Greentech Ltd under the structure of a number of ‘special interest groups’ facilitates action to assist in the transition to a sustainable future where we are able to operate within the available resources available, prompting climate and ecological recovery for future generations to come.

3.3. The Bicester Delivery Team work closely with the Economic Growth Team who are tasked with production of the Cherwell Industrial Strategy (CIS). It is anticipated that this will provide a pathway to action, for which Oxfordshire Greentech would be able to assist. For example, an offer of organising a launch event for the CIS, providing exposure to a wider range of businesses and key stakeholders, facilitated networking opportunities, speaker slots and a launchpad for action has been made.

3.4. Oxfordshire Greentech Ltd operates out of Cherwell’s Eco Business Centre in Bicester, the first non-residential Passivhaus Plus building in the UK offering zero carbon offices and coworking space (a contribution of £350,000 towards this asset was received via another ERDF programme that the Bicester Delivery Team have managed, ending more recently in December 2020). The team assists in the promotion of the development and opportunity afforded to other potential occupiers.

### **4. Wider work of OxFutures**

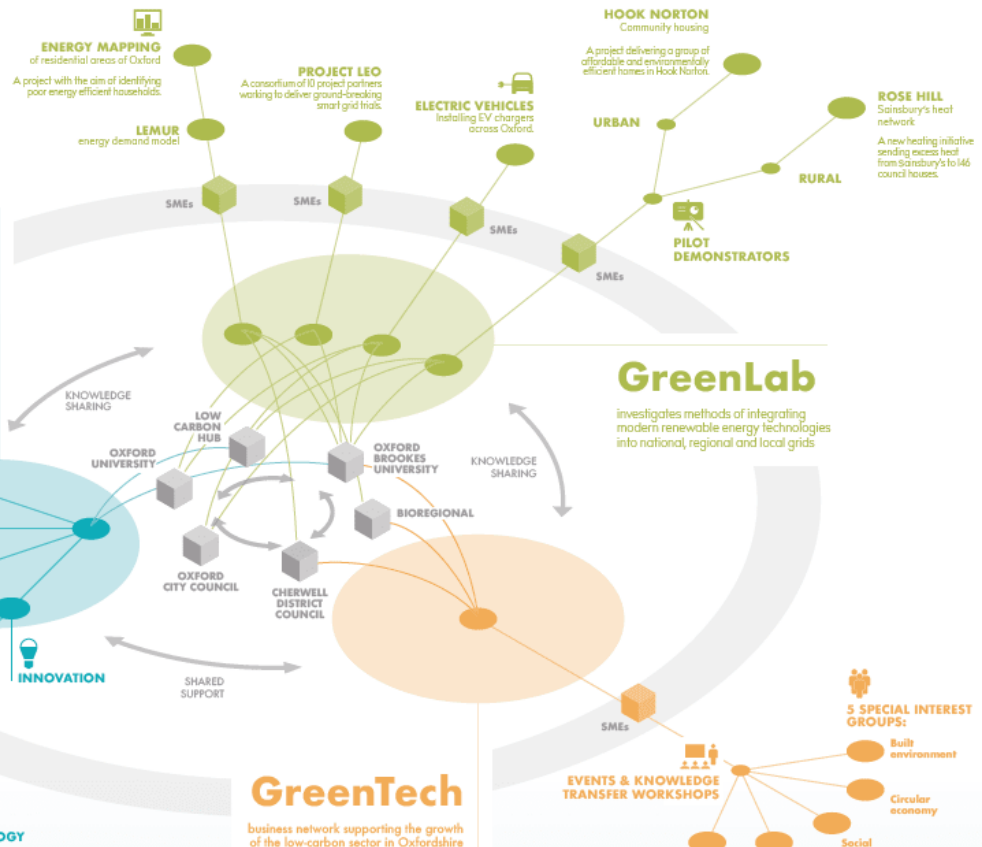
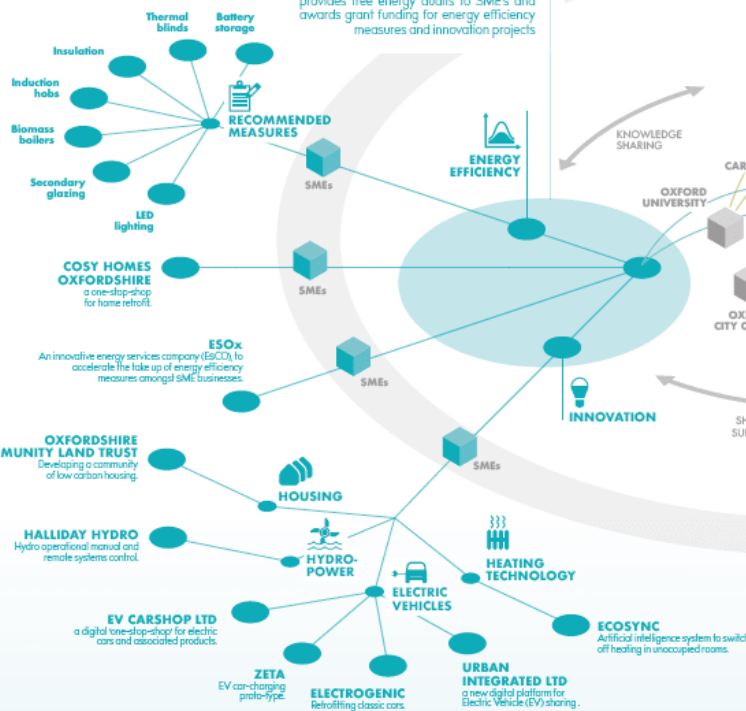
4.1. OxFutures is the £3.2million umbrella programme, comprising of three delivery arms:

- GreenFund – the grant giving side of the programme, providing energy audits and grants to incentivise installation of energy efficiency measures, and funding for innovative low-carbon projects.
- GreenLab – researching methods of integrating modern low-carbon solutions and energy technologies into national, regional and local grids
- GreenTech – the business network for a low-carbon future (as discussed above)



## GreenFund

provides free energy audits to SMEs and awards grant funding for energy efficiency measures and innovation projects



4.2. The Bicester Delivery Team continues to have (paid) involvement in Oxfutures, with the Team Leader sitting on both the Oxfutures Board, and the Grant Assessment Panel for GreenFund.

4.3. During the three years of CDC involvement as a 'delivery partner', the following impact has been achieved by the ERDF programme:-

**136**

FREE ENERGY AUDITS

**907**

MEASURES RECOMMENDED

**£2,500**

AVERAGE ANNUAL ENERGY SAVING

**£265,617**

AWARDED IN GRANT FUNDING

**13**

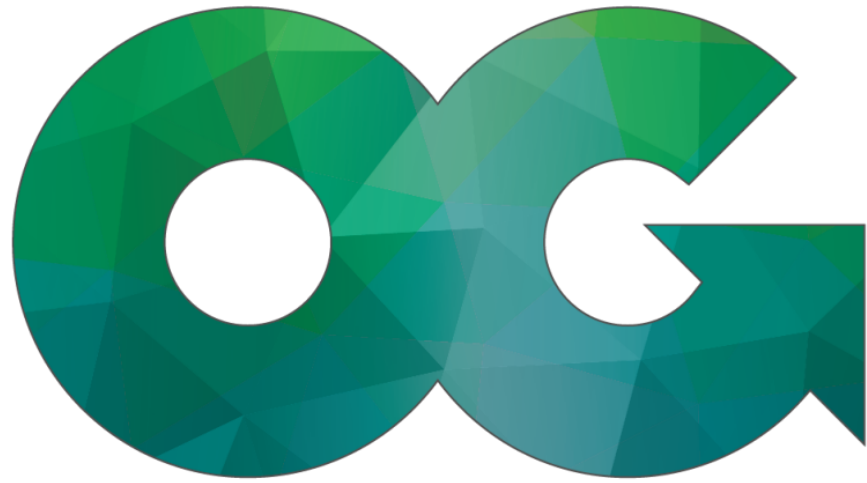
FEASIBILITY GRANTS HAVE BEEN  
AWARDED TO FUND INNOVATION  
PROJECTS

**648**

SMALL BUSINESSES SUPPORTED

**Dale Hoyland, March 2021**

# Powering the Clean Growth Era



OXFORDSHIRE  
**GREENTECH**

## A year in review





# 18

**EVENTS DELIVERED**

Last year, we delivered 18 events around a range of topics: first/last mile delivery, circular economy, sustainability for social enterprises, eBikes, the future of built environment, and much more. We hosted at a range of fabulous venues across Oxfordshire, including the Said Business School, Oxford Town Hall, the University of Oxford, the Eco Business Centre in Bicester and more...

We're proud to have close to 100 members of our network within the first year of operation. We're a broad church, looking to transition all sectors to a low/zero-carbon economy, so we have EV dealers, architects, lawyers, business advisors, printers, estate agents, and even furniture sellers!

# 100

**GREENTECH MEMBERS**

# 250+

**DELEGATES AT OUR LAUNCH**

Oxfordshire Greentech officially launched in the prestigious Said Business School last February, where we had 250+ delegates in attendance, and 30 new member sign-ups. We heard from Barbara Hammond OBE of the Low Carbon Hub, Cllr Tom Hayes of Oxford City Council, and Ahmed Goga, Director of Strategy & Programmes at OxLEP

To give events focus and members a chance to share their expertise, we have 5 special interest groups (SIGs): Low Carbon Mobility, Built Environment, Access to Finance, Social Enterprise, and Circular Economy. We've delivered high quality events around all of these topics, attracting diverse audiences across Oxfordshire

# 5

**SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

# 15,000

**VISITORS TO THE COUNTY'S LARGEST STATIC EV SHOW**

We supported Oxford City Council and one of our associate founder members (Go Green Autos) to deliver the county's largest ever static electric vehicle show in the heart of Oxford, recording a footfall of 15,000 people on the day. We had a range of manufacturers and EV owners, and even showcased the world's fastest EV: the Nio EP9 electric supercar...

The Cleantech Venture Day, run by our sister network Cambridge Cleantech and sponsored by Oxfordshire Greentech and others, saw three of our members selected through the highly competitive process to pitch! The day is hosted in the prestigious surrounds of KPMG's Number Twenty in Mayfair, London and takes the form of a Dragons Den-esque event where SMEs pitch to panels of investors

# 3

**MEMBERS SELECTED TO PITCH AT CLEANTECH VENTURE DAY**

# 70%

## IDENTIFIED NEW PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

More than two-thirds (70%) of surveyed members cited the networking opportunities offered as having helped identify new partners and collaborators



# 70%

## FELT PART OF A WIDER MOVEMENT

More than two-thirds (70%) of surveyed members said that being part of Oxfordshire Greentech benefits them by making them feel part of a wider movement, with 100% of respondents having joined to network and collaborate with other sustainable businesses

"I'd like Oxfordshire to be the most sustainable place on planet earth. We've got the knowledge, the skills and the passion, so why not?"

Gareth Dinnage, MD at Seacourt Printing and Founder of Oxfordshire Greentech



"I met several inspirational people at the Town Hall event... We've recruited a consultant already through the network and can see ourselves doing a lot more work with her."

Chris Williams, Commercial Manager of Jennings of Garsington Ltd and member of Oxfordshire Greentech



"It's the only one of its kind in Oxfordshire and it has been needed for years. Oxfordshire Greentech is filling a strong demand to bring the sustainable business community together. Nobody else is doing it and they're doing a good job."

Karen David, Co-Founder of TechTribe Oxford and member of Oxfordshire Greentech

"For us, joining was about raising our profile locally. We're very positive about Oxfordshire Greentech and we'll certainly renew our membership."

John O'Brien, Founder and MD of LCMB Building Performance Ltd and Associate Founder of Oxfordshire Greentech





# Want to get involved?



Join Oxfordshire's rapidly growing low-carbon business network today for our member benefits:



- Free attendance at our frequent events
- Receive email alerts with grant funding and investment opportunities
- Profile your organisation by exhibiting at one of our events
- Post your news, jobs and events on our website/in our newsletter
- Initiate and champion new Special Interest Groups, or immerse yourself in an existing one
- Enjoy excellent networking opportunities with others in the low-carbon economy

To become a member, email us: [info@oxfordshiregreentech.co.uk](mailto:info@oxfordshiregreentech.co.uk)



@Ox\_Greentech  
#oxfordshiregreentech



Oxfordshire Greentech



[www.oxfordshiregreentech.co.uk](http://www.oxfordshiregreentech.co.uk)



"I believe we're on a groundswell of a fundamental paradigm shift in the role of the environment and climate change going forward. That's the big message, so the local message is, 'I should be investing in networks like Oxfordshire Greentech.'"

Bev Hindle, Director of the Oxfordshire Growth Board and Oxford to Cambridge Arc Leaders and CEX groups