

STRATEGY & PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
22 JULY 2010

**OXFORDSHIRE'S THEMATIC PARTNERSHIPS : REVIEW OF
PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE**

Background

1. Last year we put new partnership governance arrangements in place. We are now reviewing whether these are effective and assessing strengths, areas for improvement and what the change of government might mean for partnerships. Scrutiny wishes to be involved in this work.
2. Overall we have created the conditions for people to work together on shared priorities. However joint working is not easy and there will always be areas where things are not going as well as we would like. The schedule attached identifies the issues which are being addressed.

Key issues

3. It is likely that the government will (in time) modify the statutory framework for partnerships. Currently we are obliged to have a local strategic partnership, a Children's Trust and partnership for safer communities.
4. At this stage it is difficult to anticipate how the Government will seek to change the nature of partnership working although the following are possible :
 - More local choice about what partnerships are required (regionally and locally) to get things done in the county.
 - Changes to the economic development functions with the removal of the regional development agency (SEEDA) and creation of new Local Enterprise Partnerships.
 - Local Area Agreements to be abandoned after 2010/11.
 - Possibly some form of 'Total Place' initiative requiring partnership working to secure joined up action and pooling/rationalisation of resources at a local level.
 - Health White Paper proposals to move public health responsibility to local councils and strengthen the role of the Health and Well-being partnership.

Paul James
Head of Partnership Working

July 2010

Children's Trust	
Performance	Response
<p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 LAA targets of which (at Q3 2009/10) 2 are on track, 7 are not on track, and items not on track subject of action within CYP&F. There are 8 targets where we do not currently have enough to make a judgement. Targets linked to safer communities have performed well (youth justice system) • GCSE attainment target missed but performance has improved in the last year. Compared to others our performance is at the national average. • Safeguarding – Increased caseload during the year to protect children at risk. Some improvement in procedures required. • New Children & Young People's Plan in place with plans for partners monitoring. • Breaking the Cycle of Deprivation project making progress. <p>Partnership working</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues about partner engagement to be addressed • New statutory guidance for Children's Trust Boards now being implemented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal Cabinet updated on performance off target • <i>Class of 2010</i> project, results of GCSE's Aug 2010. • Trust, Safeguarding Board and CYP&F working on continuous improvement. • New Director committed to improving engagement within OCC and with partners. • Trust has proposals for statutory guidance and partner attendance is being addressed.
Oxfordshire Economic Partnership	
Performance	Response
<p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good response to recession – e.g: jobs clubs. • More ownership and action required on 'deprivation' issues e.g. low end skills/NEETs • 3 LAA targets of which (at Q4 2009/10) 1 is on track to meet target, and 2 where we do not currently have enough to make a judgement (problems with data quality which are being addressed). • Economic Assessment progressing (led by OCC). • Skills strategy needed. • Uncertainty of future economic development role with abolition of SEEDA. <p>Partnership working</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Govt arrangements for economic development likely to require changes during 2010/11 • <u>Learning & Skills</u> : Relationship with/ support for Learning & Skills Partnership needs development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan Paine leading work in this area • Skills strategy work underway. • David Robertson appointed as Vice Chairman of the Board to strengthen local authority input/influence • Joanna Simons active involvement

Environment and Waste Partnership	
<p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good performance on waste generally. • 7 LAA targets of which (at Q4 2009/10) 6 on track and 1 with not enough information to make a judgement (data quality problem). • Less attention given to climate change/ carbon management and wider environmental concerns. <p>Partnership Working</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good partnership arrangements on waste but weaker engagement on environment / climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problems with data quality being addressed. • Partnership being challenged to address carbon management • Chairmanship coming to OCC in June. • Review environment representation.
Health and Well-being partnership	
Performance	Response
<p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good performance with 5 LAA targets of which (at Q3 2009/10) 1 is off track, 3 on track and 1 where we do not currently have enough to make a judgement. • Performance on delayed transfers has improved by 20%. • Attention turning to ageing population strategy agreed but needs to be implemented. <p>Partnership Working</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong NHS/OCC partnership with successful pooled funding arrangements • Working with Districts is improving as all partners recognise their importance for the health and well being agenda. Three Districts have produced own health strategies. • 'Creating a Healthy Oxfordshire' programme underway. • Partnership has not really addressed wider thriving/stronger communities agenda. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broaden the role around thriving communities?
Safer Communities Partnership	
Performance	Response
<p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good performance on 5 LAA targets (at Q3 2009/10) 4 are on target, with 1 where we do not currently have enough information to make a judgement. • Crime statistics positive but fear of crime still high. • Anti social behaviour (proxy data) still perceived to be a problem. • No overarching countywide strategy/priorities for community safety (left to district CDRPs). <p>Partnership Working</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More attention to best use of resources needed i.e. reducing administration and increasing resources for sharp end activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OCC will promote the need for a countywide strategy during 2010/11

Spatial Planning & Infrastructure Partnership	
Performance	Response
<p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Single Conversation</i> work has been challenging but progressing well despite resource limitations for delivery. Local Investment Plan agreed. • Focus on wider spatial planning issues inevitably limited in 2009/10. • 5 LAA targets of which (at Q3 2009/10) 2 on track, and 3 will not be achieved (however, these have been subject to renegotiation with GOSE). <p>Partnership Working</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new partnership which has developed well • May be subject to change in response to government guidance on Local Enterprise Partnerships. 	
Oxfordshire Stronger Communities Alliance	
Performance	Response
<p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good performance on LAA volunteering target. • OSCA Strategy 2011 onwards under review . <p>Partnership working</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has only been meeting as OSCA since 2009. Useful VCS engagement/ sector collaboration . • Scope for closer working between infrastructure organisations (such as the OCVA and ORCC) and public sector leaders. • Attention turning to issues around thriving communities as part of revised strategy eg. Community Self help / Community Pride. • More attention needed on how OSCA works with and challenges other thematic partnerships on thriving communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised strategy needs to pick up wider role and better engagement between the sector and key public sector partners in particular.