

Notice of a Meeting

Strategy & Partnerships Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 4 October 2012 at 10.00 am County Hall

Membership

Chairman - Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale
Deputy Chairman - Councillor Ray Jelf

Councillors:

David Turner	Liz Brighouse OBE	Larry Sanders
Marilyn Badcock	Tim Hallchurch MBE	David Wilmshurst
Norman Bolster	Caroline Newton	

Notes:

Date of next meeting: 29 November 2012

What does this Committee review or scrutinise?

- Corporate and community leadership; corporate strategies; regional issues
- Local strategic partnerships and District Council liaison
- Social inclusion & equality; services for members
- Finance; procurement; property
- Culture change and customer focus; human resources; communications strategy; information and communications technology
- The elections and appointments functions of the Democracy & Organisation Committee
- The functions of the Pension Fund Committee

How can I have my say?

We welcome the views of the community on any issues in relation to the responsibilities of this Committee. Members of the public may ask to speak on any item on the agenda or may suggest matters which they would like the Committee to look at. **Requests to speak must be submitted to the Committee Officer below no later than 9 am on the working day before the date of the meeting.**

For more information about this Committee please contact:

Chairman	-	Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale E.Mail: lorraine.lindsay-gale@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Committee Officer	-	Julia Lim, Tel: (01865) 816009 julia.lim@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Peter G. Clark
County Solicitor

September 2012

About the County Council

The Oxfordshire County Council is made up of 74 councillors who are democratically elected every four years. The Council provides a range of services to Oxfordshire's 630,000 residents. These include:

schools	social & health care	libraries and museums
the fire service	roads	trading standards
land use	transport planning	waste management

Each year the Council manages £0.9 billion of public money in providing these services. Most decisions are taken by a Cabinet of 9 Councillors, which makes decisions about service priorities and spending. Some decisions will now be delegated to individual members of the Cabinet.

About Scrutiny

Scrutiny is about:

- Providing a challenge to the Cabinet
- Examining how well the Cabinet and the Authority are performing
- Influencing the Cabinet on decisions that affect local people
- Helping the Cabinet to develop Council policies
- Representing the community in Council decision making
- Promoting joined up working across the authority's work and with partners

Scrutiny is NOT about:

- Making day to day service decisions
- Investigating individual complaints.

What does this Committee do?

The Committee meets up to 6 times a year or more. It develops a work programme, which lists the issues it plans to investigate. These investigations can include whole committee investigations undertaken during the meeting, or reviews by a panel of members doing research and talking to lots of people outside of the meeting. Once an investigation is completed the Committee provides its advice to the Cabinet, the full Council or other scrutiny committees. Meetings are open to the public and all reports are available to the public unless exempt or confidential, when the items would be considered in closed session

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named on the front page, giving as much notice as possible before the meeting

A hearing loop is available at County Hall.

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for Absence and Temporary Appointments**
- 2. Declarations of Interest - see guidance note on the back page**
- 3. Minutes** (Pages 1 - 6)

To approve the minutes of the Strategy & Partnerships meeting held on 26th July 2012.

- 4. Speaking to or petitioning the Committee**

- 5. Director's Update**

10.10

The Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer will give a verbal update on key issues.

- 6. Partnership Working in Oxfordshire** (Pages 7 - 26)

10.25

As part of the Committee's remit for partnerships and community leadership this item provides an opportunity to identify partnership issues which the Committee may wish to return to in more depth later in the year. Alexandra Bailey (Senior Performance and Improvement Manager) will present.

- 7. Voluntary, Community & Faith Sector Infrastructure Support** (Pages 27 - 30)

10.40

Alexandra Bailey (Senior Performance and Improvement Manager) will update the committee on recent changes to the way in which Oxfordshire County Council supports the voluntary and community sector.

- 8. Corporate Plan Performance and Risk Management Report Quarter 1 2012** (Pages 31 - 52)

11.00

The Committee considered the draft Corporate Plan in January 2012 and it was agreed that the Committee would receive regular monitoring information on the plan once launched in April 2012. Alexandra Bailey (Senior Performance and Improvement Manager) will present this report on performance in the first quarter.

- 9. Financial Monitoring Overview** (Pages 53 - 68)

11.20

Commentary by Cabinet Member for Finance.

This report provides a commentary on the Council's financial monitoring during the first

four months of 2012/13.

Contact officer: Kathy Wilcox, Principal Financial Manager 01865 323981

10. The New Look Local Government Pension Scheme from April 2014

(Pages 69 - 74)

11.40

Sue Scane (Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer) and Sean Collins (Service Manager – Pensions, Insurance and Money Management) will update the Committee on planned changes to the local government pension scheme. This item provides an opportunity for scrutiny to comment ahead of the government's formal consultation process.

11. Feedback from Governance Working Group

12.00

An update from Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale on progress with the Strategy & Partnerships Governance Working Group.

12. Forward Plan

12.10

The Committee is asked to suggest items from the current Forward Plan on which it may wish to have an opportunity to offer advice to Cabinet before any decision is taken.

The current Forward Plan can be found on the Council's website:

<http://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?&RPID=115&bcr=1>

13. Close of Meeting

Declarations of Interest

The duty to declare.....

Under the Localism Act 2011 it is a criminal offence to

- (a) fail to register a disclosable pecuniary interest within 28 days of election or co-option (or re-election or re-appointment), or
- (b) provide false or misleading information on registration, or
- (c) participate in discussion or voting in a meeting on a matter in which the member or co-opted member has a disclosable pecuniary interest.

Whose Interests must be included?

The Act provides that the interests which must be notified are those of a member or co-opted member of the authority, **or**

- those of a spouse or civil partner of the member or co-opted member;
- those of a person with whom the member or co-opted member is living as husband/wife
- those of a person with whom the member or co-opted member is living as if they were civil partners.

(in each case where the member or co-opted member is aware that the other person has the interest).

What if I remember that I have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest during the Meeting?

The Code requires that, at a meeting, where a member or co-opted member has a disclosable interest (of which they are aware) in any matter being considered, they disclose that interest to the meeting. The Council will continue to include an appropriate item on agendas for all meetings, to facilitate this.

Although not explicitly required by the legislation or by the code, it is recommended that in the interests of transparency and for the benefit of all in attendance at the meeting (including members of the public) the nature as well as the existence of the interest is disclosed.

A member or co-opted member who has disclosed a pecuniary interest at a meeting must not participate (or participate further) in any discussion of the matter; and must not participate in any vote or further vote taken; and must withdraw from the room.

Members are asked to continue to pay regard to the following provisions in the code that *“You must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself”* or *“You must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned.....”*.

Please seek advice from the Monitoring Officer prior to the meeting should you have any doubt about your approach.

List of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

Employment (includes *“any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain”*.), **Sponsorship, Contracts, Land, Licences, Corporate Tenancies, Securities.**

For a full list of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and further Guidance on this matter please see the Guide to the New Code of Conduct and Register of Interests at Members’ conduct guidelines. <http://intranet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wps/wcm/connect/occ/Insite/Elected+members/> or contact Rachel Dunn on (01865) 815279 or Rachel.dunn@oxfordshire.gov.uk for a hard copy of the document.

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STRATEGY & PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on Thursday, 26 July 2012 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 12.10 pm

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale – in the Chair

Councillor Ray Jelf (Deputy Chairman)

Councillor David Turner

Councillor Marilyn Badcock

Councillor Norman Bolster

Councillor Liz Brighthouse OBE

Councillor Tim Hallchurch MBE

Councillor Larry Sanders

Councillor Patrick Greene (In place of Councillor Caroline Newton)

Councillor Carol Viney (In place of Councillor David Wilmshurst)

Other Members in Attendance: Councillor Hudspeth (for Agenda Items 5, 6 and 9)

By Invitation:

Officers:

Whole of meeting Sue Scane, Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer
Julia Lim, Senior Policy Officer

Part of meeting

Agenda Item

7 **Officer Attending**
Peter Clark Monitoring Officer and Head of Law and Governance

8 Lorna Baxter Deputy Chief Finance Officer

The Scrutiny Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting [, together with a schedule of addenda tabled at the meeting/the following additional documents:] and agreed as set out below. Copies of the agenda and reports [agenda, reports and schedule/additional documents] are attached to the signed Minutes.

46/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS
(Agenda No. 1)

Apologies were received from Councillor Wilmshurst (Councillor Viney substituting) and Councillor Newton (Councillor Greene substituting).

47/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - SEE GUIDANCE NOTE ON THE BACK PAGE

(Agenda No. 2)

None.

48/12 MINUTES

(Agenda No. 3)

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 31st May 2012 were approved.

The Chairman asked Julia Lim to follow up actions agreed on page 5 in relation to the county's Health and Wellbeing Strategy with Jackie Wilderspin Assistant Director of Public Health.

49/12 SPEAKING TO OR PETITIONING THE COMMITTEE

(Agenda No. 4)

None.

50/12 DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

(Agenda No. 5)

The Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer, Sue Scane, gave an update on current issues within the Chief Executive's Office of relevance to the committee.

Local Government Finance

The government has released more detail of its plans for local business rate retention in a recent consultation document. This along with other changes to local government funding (including the Community Infrastructure Levy) place increasing emphasis upon the importance of the county / district relationship in future. Discussions on financial interrelationships are being taken forward via the Oxfordshire Leaders' Group. The Group has recently agreed that the option of pooling business rates across the county should be explored.

LGA national analysis has demonstrated that funding for social care in future will become increasingly stretched. Therefore the council continues to look at how to deliver services differently in order to use our funding most effectively.

Sue also highlighted that the government has also released a consultation on future funding for Academy schools. The council is due to receive a refund payment for some school related funding removed from budgets by the Department for Education that the government has since reviewed and found to be disproportionate.

Councillor Hudspeth stressed the importance of all Oxfordshire local authorities being aware of the interdependencies between authorities and actively working together.

Local government finance was covered again in more detail later in the agenda.

51/12 UPDATE FROM THE STRATEGY & PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP

(Agenda No. 6)

Councillor Lindsay-Gale (Chairman of the working group) gave an update on progress so far. Councillor Hudspeth joined the table.

The working group is particularly focusing on how Members can be more engaged in policy development, how scrutiny can have more 'teeth' / influence and how decision making can be improved.

A Member survey has been circulated to gather views on current governance structures within the council. To enable more responses the deadline for this survey has been extended to 20th August 2012.

Councillor Hudspeth stressed the importance of Members across the council putting forward ideas for improvements to the current system.

Councillor Bolster explained he had done some internet research on alternative scrutiny models and found a limited range of alternatives.

The progress of the working group will be picked up again at future meetings.

52/12 BRIEFING ON THE LOCALISM ACT 2011

(Agenda No. 7)

Peter Clark (Head of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer) and Julia Lim (Senior Policy Officer) provided an overview of the Localism Act 2011 and its implementation.

Members of the committee were unsure to what extent the provisions for community rights within the Localism Act would be taken up or would have a discernable impact (i.e. appetite in local communities to take up community right to challenge and community right to bid).

The Committee expressed some concern regarding the level of future funding it will be possible to raise through the Community Infrastructure Levy. It was another issue where Members felt relationships between the County Council and District Councils would be crucial going forward.

53/12 UPDATE ON THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESOURCE REVIEW & CHANGES TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

(Agenda No. 8)

Lorna Baxter (Deputy Chief Finance Officer) gave a presentation on what is currently known about the future funding environment for local government; focusing particularly on council tax benefit and the localisation of business rates.

The 10% saving required nationally through the new council tax benefit scheme, (to be known as a discount in future) will create a funding shortfall for the county council of £2m next year.

The new council tax discount scheme must be agreed by 31 January 2013. The county's districts decide the final scheme, which must not disadvantage the elderly or the vulnerable.

It is possible that districts could change the way in which discounts are given to address some of the funding shortfall, however this level of detail is still to be decided. Districts currently plan to consult on maintaining the existing scheme but changes may be made in future.

Councillor Turner asked how changes to council tax benefit will impact on districts. Lorna Baxter explained that there will be significant impacts, this is something the district councils are working with parishes on.

Councillor Greene asked whether increases in the tax base in future might offset some of the potential losses. Lorna Baxter explained that increases in the tax base had already been built into the medium term financial plan and therefore there would be no positive impact.

Business rates retention

The Government have issued a consultation which proposes 50% of business rates raised locally are retained by the local area and 50% given to central government. This plus some revenue support grant will be how local government is funded from 2013 onwards. Revenue support grant is due to reduce over time so that eventually none is received.

80% of the business rates retained locally will go to district councils with 20% given to the County Council plus some top up funding. As changes to the tax base are difficult to predict it will be important for the council to maintain contingency funding to help manage variations in business rates.

The Committee were informed that a Member Briefing is being held on 19 September to ensure all Members are aware of the new system and its implications.

It was **AGREED** that it would be helpful for the committee to return to financial interdependencies and the new finance system in future.

54/12 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT - REVENUE & CAPITAL OUTTURN OVERVIEW

(Agenda No. 9)

Councillor Hudspeth presented the financial monitoring report on Councillor Mallon's behalf and invited questions.

Councillor Turner raised a query in relation to underspend figures and asked whether there were plans to change the £119m programme of savings previously agreed?

Councillor Hudspeth confirmed there were no plans to change the savings programme. Sue Scane explained that the majority of underspends were requested as carried forwards due to project timescales etc changing, and will be spent on the intended purpose.

Councillor Turner also asked what was the council's long term financial commitment to Academies.

Sue Scane explained that Academies will be independent in terms of management but Oxfordshire County Council will still have responsibility for the provision of basic needs accommodation for any growth in schools. This will require close partnership working with Academies to manage growth.

Councillor Sanders and Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale queried why there had been large increases in reserves and school balances and when these were due to be spent.

Sue Scane explained that growth in school and Oxfordshire County Council reserves were likely to grow due to increased financial uncertainties as covered earlier in the meeting. Many schools also hold reserves to pay for planned capital expenditure over the longer term.

Councillor Hudspeth explained that the council was in good shape financially and paid credit to the efforts of the Chief Finance Officer and her team.

55/12 FORWARD PLAN

(Agenda No. 10)

No specific items from the Forward Plan were raised by the committee for consideration. Councillor Brighthouse flagged that it is important that the Oxford University Hospitals Trust application for foundation trust status should be scrutinised, particularly in terms of the ongoing relationship between this organisation and the Council.

SYP3

This will be passed on to the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

It was also suggested that the attention of the Growth & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee was drawn to the van and trailer permit scheme decision due in September.

56/12 CLOSE OF MEETING
(Agenda No. 11)

Meeting closed at 12.10

..... in the Chair

Date of signing

Strategy & Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

PARTNERSHIP WORKING IN OXFORDSHIRE

Purpose

This item provides an opportunity for the Strategy and Partnerships Committee to consider what issues arising from the Partnership Update Report, prepared for Council on 11 September; it would like to build into its future work plan.

Remit

The remit of the Strategy and Partnerships Committee specifically includes the council's role in providing corporate and community leadership and local strategic partnerships.

The traditional partnership landscape has changed considerably over the last two years and with local strategic partnerships being scaled back, a range of different partnership arrangements have emerged. It is helpful for the committee to be aware of these developments.

Suggested focus

Whilst the Strategy and Partnership Committee has an overarching responsibility around partnerships it is important to remember that scrutinising the detailed work of Oxfordshire's county-wide partnerships is primarily led by the relevant themed scrutiny committee. Therefore it is suggested that the committee focus on issues of corporate significance, for example:

- Where partnership activity may have financial implications
- Any potential barriers to successful partnership working that it could help investigate / resolve
- How partnerships have responded to national policy change
- To what extent the council is demonstrating its community leadership role through its involvement in partnership working

More detailed information on the relationship with the voluntary sector is covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Alexandra Bailey
Senior Performance & Improvement Manager
September 2012

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COUNTY COUNCIL – 11 SEPTEMBER 2012

PARTNERSHIP UPDATE REPORT

Report by Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer

Purpose

1. This report provides an update on the Oxfordshire-wide partnerships which are critical in progressing key countywide priorities and have support from our partners:
 - Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (Business led)
 - Oxfordshire Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Partnership
 - Oxfordshire Environment and Waste Partnership
 - Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board - this report includes information about the three supporting partnership boards:
 - Oxfordshire Health improvement Board
 - Oxfordshire Adult Health and Social Care Boards
 - Oxfordshire Children and Young People Board
 - Oxfordshire Public Information Network (PIN)
 - Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership
 - Oxfordshire Stronger Communities Alliance
2. Several of the Partnerships have experienced considerable changes as a result of national policy changes e.g. the formation of the local Health and Wellbeing Board and election of new key partnership roles such as the Police and Crime Commissioner (due to be elected in November 2012).
3. In relation to the Health and wellbeing board three partnerships are now in place (Health Improvement, Adult Health and Social Care, Children and Young People) to support the work of the board through focusing on specific priorities identified in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Oxfordshire. The Public Involvement Network (PIN) has also been established to ensure that the opinions and experiences of people in Oxfordshire underpin the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the supporting Partnership Boards.
4. Each partnership report addresses the following points:
 - The current focus for the Partnership;
 - The Partnership's key achievements in the last year;
 - The aims for the Partnership in the year ahead ;
 - The key challenges for the Partnership and how these will be addressed going forward.

5. Details of the current/future work undertaken by these Partnerships are shown in Annex A to this report.

Military

6. The Military Partnership is not part of the Oxfordshire Partnership; however, it is worth noting a summary of the positive progress made by this partnership in the past year.
7. We have made considerable progress in our Armed Forces Military Liaison work and we are seen as an area of best practice. The Oxfordshire Military Partnership continues to be an effective relationship that delivers results. Productive partnership working has delivered real improvements to the lives of military personnel and their families; including improved access to health services, school places and identifying employment opportunities for service leavers. In addition, a total of £347,521 in funding has been secured for local communities through nine successful bids to the Community Covenant grant scheme (which is run by the Ministry of Defence). The bids have included:
 - Funding a number of activity days which brought together over 4000 people from both the military and local communities at each of the bases
 - A £130,000 RAF themed playground in Carterton aimed at integrating children from the local community through play
 - A £45,000 refurbishment of a local church which will act as a religious and community building for both the military and civilian communities. This also functions as the station church for RAF Benson.
8. Our Elected Member Armed Forces Champions continue to form effective links with their respective local military base in order to increase awareness of key issues and help Oxfordshire County Council officers to understand the key issues faced by members of the Armed Forces Community.

Reports to Council

9. The partnership update reports will continue to be discussed annually at Full Council.

RECOMMENDATION

10. **Council is RECOMMENDED to note the report.**

SUE SCANE

Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer

Contact Officer : Alexandra Bailey Tel : (01865) 816384
Background Papers : Nil

Annex A: Partnership Update September 2012

Partnership Name	Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)
Date of completion	July 2012
Contact officer	Martin Tugwell, Deputy Director (Growth and Infrastructure), Oxfordshire County Council
Chairman	Adrian Shooter CBE
OCC Cabinet Member	Cllr Ian Hudspeth
The current focus for the Partnership	
<p>The Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership is focused on the creation of sustainable, high-value private sector job creation through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the skills of Oxfordshire’s workforce and those people about to enter the workforce • Increasing inward investment in Oxfordshire • Developing the business support services for Oxfordshire’s businesses • Enabling improved access to finance • Improving infrastructure for growth and jobs • Getting the county connected to fast broadband access and improved mobile phone coverage 	
The Partnership’s key achievements in the last year	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new Executive Board and Chairman are in place along with new governance and working arrangements to ensure transparency in allocating funding, such as the Growing Places Fund (a fund of £8.4M to unlock stalled infrastructure projects that will contribute to the creation of new private sector jobs in Oxfordshire). • The Oxfordshire Skills Board has made the skills need analysis available to all schools, colleges and training providers and there is evidence that this is being used to inform school curriculum planning. • The growth of Invest in Oxfordshire, a local service to provide confidential help to businesses seeking to locate in Oxfordshire, continues apace. In 2011/2012, out of the 31 companies who approached Invest in Oxfordshire, five landed with the creation of a number of new jobs. • The Enterprise Partnership, with Oxfordshire County Council, entered the Enterprising Places competition run by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills. A video, Enterprising Oxfordshire, highlights the free business support available in the county from Oxfordshire Business Enterprises, Frederick’s Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire Business Mentors. • A meeting with banks was held on 19 June and a follow up meeting will take place in August to develop an action plan to widen access to finance for SMEs. 	

- The Enterprise Partnership received a total of £8.4M Growing Places Fund to allocate to stalled infrastructure projects. The bidding process was launched on 21 May. Seven Full Business Cases for proposals were received on 13 July. The Executive Board will make a decision on which proposals to fund at its meeting on 14 August.

The aims for the Partnership in the year ahead

- Allocation of the Growing Places Fund enables stalled infrastructure projects that will contribute to the creation of new jobs to go ahead.
- Submit a successful bid to the Regional Growth Fund for the proposed Service Leavers Business Support project
- An increased number of companies seeking advice about locating to Oxfordshire via the Invest in Oxfordshire service
- An increased number of learners in Oxfordshire making choices about learning that will help them get a job in Oxfordshire, by attending events such as CareersFest, WorldSkills UK, Teen Tech, and through support for schools
- Through the Skills for Science Vale UK project, increase the number of learners being aware of the opportunities presented by new companies moving into the Oxfordshire Science Vale Enterprise Zone
- Businesses in Oxfordshire know where to go to access the business support they need including an improved Business Support Hub (an online free signposting service for businesses seeking a wide range of support) and signposting to relevant networking events
- An increased number of businesses engaging with the potential of new technologies to transform their business models.
- Provision of free face-to-face business start-up advice on a sustainable business model, through the procurement of a new company to manage the service.
- An increased number of businesses investing in training, particularly in the high tech manufacturing sector.

The key challenges for the Partnership and how these will be addressed going forward.

The key challenge for the Enterprise Partnership is increasing its capacity to influence a wide range of players on the national and local scene so that it fulfils its overall aim to increase the number of private sector jobs in the county.

To address this issue the following actions have been taken:

- Executive Board members have been assigned to a specific area of work on which they lead strategically, pulling in expertise as appropriate to develop and deliver projects aligned to the Business Plan.
- Responding to local and national consultations, including the DfT devolving local major transport schemes and the Oxfordshire Local Investment Plan
- Developing the Enterprise Partnership Forum to include CEO's and MD's of Oxfordshire's key companies and public sector & academic organisations
- Engaging and lobbying Oxfordshire MPs on specific issues where barriers

exist to the creation of new private sector jobs.

Partnership Name	Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Partnership (SPIP)
Date of completion	August 2012
Contact officer	Martin Tugwell Deputy Director (Growth and Infrastructure), Oxfordshire County Council
Chairman	Cllr A Ducker (South Oxfordshire District Council)
OCC Cabinet Member	Councillor Ian Hudspeth
The current focus for the Partnership	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The partnership provides a forum to work jointly with partners on matters of collective interest and to seek agreement on local priorities and targets in relation to planning, housing, economic development and infrastructure provision. • The focus of the partnership is on taking forward work related to infrastructure planning and delivery, building on the Local Investment Plan that was prepared by the Partnership. • Affordable housing programme: understanding the implications of changes to the provision of affordable housing including the introduction of the affordable rent scheme and changes to housing benefit. 	
The Partnership's key achievements in the last year	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed and agreed a draft joint Local Investment Plan (LIP) for Oxfordshire (which provides an overview of the investment required to support sustainable economic growth) • Developed a draft Governance Protocol with the Local Enterprise Partnership - clearly setting out the working relationship between the LEP and the SPIP, including clarity on the decision making process when required through the SPIP to the LEP • Gained an understanding of the implications arising from the introduction of Community Infrastructure Levy on securing contributions from development • Transferred the Chairmanship responsibilities of the SPIP from Oxford City to South Oxfordshire District Council 	
The aims for the Partnership in the year ahead	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued and improved links with the LEP • Growing Places Fund Bids and the development and implementation of infrastructure schemes • New Gypsy and Traveller Study to assess the needs of these communities 	

and inform work going forward

- Refreshed Strategic Housing Market Assessment (awaiting new census data)

The key challenges for the Partnership and how these will be addressed going forward.

- Jointly agree the prioritisation of infrastructure (based on resources and economic needs) as part of the development of the Local Investment Plan
- Ensuring consistent approach to the Community Infrastructure levy and related charging schedule.
- The challenges are being and will continue to be addressed through joint working across the districts and county council.

Partnership Name	Environment and Waste Partnership
Date of completion	July 2012
Contact officer	Martin Tugwell, Deputy Director (Growth and Infrastructure), Oxfordshire County Council.
Chairman	Councillor David Dodds (South Oxfordshire District Council)
OCC Cabinet Member	Councillor Hilary Hibbert-Biles
The current focus for the Partnership	
<p>The focus of the Environment Partnership is on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and strengthening climate resilience within organisations and local communities. • Reaching a strategic decision about how Oxfordshire local authorities can support the Green Deal. <p>The focus of the Waste Partnership is on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing waste and maximising reuse, recycling and composting. • Reducing the environmental and financial costs of managing our waste. 	
The Partnership's key achievements in the last year	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated measurable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions as a result of implementing the Low Carbon Communities programme, which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ supported the low cost insulation of over 1,000 homes ○ advised over 2,000 residents about affordable warmth ○ saved an estimated 650 tonnes of CO2 emissions per annum, (or total 26,000 tonnes over 40 year lifetime of the buildings). • By sharing good practice, solutions, and progress across local authorities, enabled partner organisations to make progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. • Hosted a workshop about the Green Deal for partner organisations in Oxfordshire to develop options for a future delivery model. • The Environment and Waste partnership worked jointly to procure an environmental education service that visits schools promoting energy efficiency and waste reduction. • Delivery of further improvement against key waste performance indicators with the countywide recycling and composting rate reaching 60% which means we are amongst the very best in the country at recycling and composting. We are also very good at not producing waste and for 2010/11 had the lowest waste produced per person of any county council and our performance figures for 2011/12 should mean we retain this national position. 	
The aims for the Partnership in the year ahead	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To evaluate options for local authority support for the Green Deal in 	

Oxfordshire; this could potentially result in a joint procurement exercise.

- To strengthen the role of the local authority working group in developing and delivering a programme of work on behalf of the Environment Partnership.
- To complete a public consultation on a five-year review of the joint municipal waste management strategy and agree a revised strategy.
- Considering a contract for the bulking and onward haulage of waste collected by district councils to the Ardley Energy from Waste plant ahead of the plant opening.
- Continue to maximise the amount we recycle and compost to maintain our national performance level.
- To seek and develop opportunities to reuse more and continue to reduce the amount of waste we all produce.
- To implement the joint waste strategy action plan agreed by all partners.

The key challenges for the Partnership and how these will be addressed going forward.

- To access alternative sources of funding to deliver joint projects, at a time when resources to service the partnership and/or to commission or fund new projects and programmes are very limited. This will require a new innovative approach in part reflected in the Green Deal and the emerging community share offers.
- Key to the agreement of a new joint waste strategy will be the setting of new recycling targets.
- As waste management is performing so well further increases in performance will become increasing difficult to deliver. Improvement and efficiencies will be delivered most effectively through closer partnership working.

Partnership Name	Health and Wellbeing Board
Date of completion	July 2012
Contact officer	Jonathan McWilliam, Director for Public Health, Oxfordshire County Council.
Chairman	Cllr Ian Hudspeth
OCC Cabinet Member	Cllr Ian Hudspeth
The current focus for the Partnership	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board is the principal structure in Oxfordshire responsible for improving the health and wellbeing of the people of the County through partnership working. It will become a statutory committee of the Council from April 2013 • The Board is a partnership between Local Government, the NHS and the people of Oxfordshire. Members include leaders of the Clinical Commissioning Group, Councillors from County and District councils, the Local Involvement Network and senior Officers from Local Government. • The Health and Wellbeing Board has been established to make a measurable difference to the health and wellbeing of the people of Oxfordshire. Its vision is: By 2016 in Oxfordshire: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ more children and young people will lead healthy, safe lives and will be given the opportunity to develop the skills, confidence and opportunities they need to achieve their full potential; ○ more adults will have the support they need to live their lives as healthily, successfully, independently and safely as possible, with good timely access to health and social care services; ○ everyone will be given the opportunity to voice their opinions and experiences to ensure that services meet their individual needs; ○ the best possible services will be provided within the resources we have, giving excellent value for the public. • The Board will focus on the priorities identified in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Oxfordshire: <p>Children and Young People Priority 1: All children have a healthy start in life and stay healthy into adulthood Priority 2: Narrowing the gap for our most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups Priority 3: Keeping all children and young people safer Priority 4: Raising achievement for all children and young people</p> <p>Adult Health and Social Care Priority 5: Living and working well: Adults with long term conditions, physical or learning disability or mental health problems living independently and achieving their full potential Priority 6: Support older people to live independently with dignity whilst reducing the need for care and support Priority 7: Working together to improve quality and value for money in the Health and Social Care System</p> 	

Health Improvement

Priority 8: Preventing early death and improving quality of life in later years

Priority 9: Preventing chronic disease through tackling obesity

Priority 10: Tackling the broader determinants of health through better housing and preventing homelessness

Priority 11: Preventing infectious disease through immunisation

The Partnership's key achievements in the last year

The Board remains in Shadow form until March 2013, when the Health and Social Care Act (2012) comes into effect. However, the Board has already:

- Agreed the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy following consultation, identifying key priorities that the Board and partner organisations will focus on to bring measurable and meaningful improvements over the coming years.
- Signed off the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for 2011/12 as the evidence base for the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, as well being accessible to all partners to drive decision making across a wide range of areas.
- Established strong engagement from key organisations, including the County and District Councils and the Clinical Commissioning Group.
- Established a structure including three supporting partnership boards (Health Improvement, Adult Health and Social Care, Children and Young People) to allow greater focus on specific priorities and wider engagement of key partners in the delivery of these priorities.
- Established a Public Involvement Network underpinning the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board, to ensure that all parts of the Health and Wellbeing Board can ask for views to inform their discussions and also hear from members of the public and advocacy groups on matters of concern.
- The Children and Young People's Board held its first workshop in July 2012 on improving mental health service transitions for young people in Oxfordshire. This was attended by over 30 representatives of public and voluntary sector organisations, and young people and there is now a clear work plan with multi-agency sign up in place to deliver this Health and Wellbeing Board priority by 2013.
- There was also a workshop in July 2012 focused on engaging partners in shaping the work, targets and outcomes of the Health Improvement Board. This was attended by over 80 representatives of public and voluntary sector organisations, and helped develop draft action plans for four key priorities by compiling a range of affiliated projects led by partners.

The aims for the Partnership in the year ahead

- The Board is seeking to achieve meaningful, measurable improvements against the priorities and outcomes identified in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (see current focus).
- The membership, structure, working arrangements and supporting boards will be kept under review and developed ahead of becoming formal Boards in April 2013, and in response to further guidance and emerging best practice nationally as well as local experience.
- The Board is also responsible for the development of the Joint Strategic Needs

Assessment (JSNA) for 2012/13 that will have a broader focus on the wider determinants of health and support the priorities in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

- The Boards will be hosting workshops focused on key priorities and issues requiring resolution, which will include many more service providers, partners, voluntary sector representatives and advocacy groups. These include:
 - A workshop supporting the County Council and Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group in the development of a Joint Commissioning Strategy for Older People.
 - A workshop held jointly with the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board that will focus on reducing Sexual Exploitation.
- The Adult Health and Social Care Board has also agreed to focus on improving quality in the provision of adult social care, in keeping with national and local recognition of the importance of ensuring dignity in care. This work will also be developed jointly with the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG).

The key challenges for the Partnership and how these will be addressed going forward.

- Achieving meaningful and measurable improvements in the health and wellbeing of people in Oxfordshire. The priorities within the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy have been developed in partnership and through consultation, and will be supported by action plans embedded within the strategic plans of partner organisations and other key partnerships.
- Developing the best way to engage with the various locality structures within the county council and Clinical Commissioning Group, including the route papers need to take to streamline decision making without losing engagement. A Steering Group has been established with high level representation from all key partners, and will consider how best to achieve this.
- Further work will also be needed as part of the JSNA process to align analysis and intelligence with these different localities and geographies. A Strategic JSNA Board has been established, which will engage with and report to the Health and Wellbeing Board and supporting boards.

Partnership Name	Public Involvement Network
Date of completion	July 2012
Contact officer	Jonathan McWilliam, Director for Public Health, Oxfordshire County Council.
Co-ordinating officers	Alison Partridge (Oxfordshire County Council) and Sarah Adair (Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group)
OCC Cabinet Member	Cllr Arash Fatemian
The current focus for the Partnership	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Public Involvement Network (PIN) ensures that the opinions and experiences of people in Oxfordshire underpin the work of the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board and it's Partnership Boards (Adult Health and Social Care Board; Children and Young People Board; Health Improvement Board). • The PIN will ensure the Health and Wellbeing Board and the three partnership boards are informed by the views of people and their carers/advocates, and voluntary, community and faith sector organisations. It will develop multiple routes for people in Oxfordshire to engage with the Boards and raise their concerns, and involve relevant people as co-participants in subsequent commissioning and service development. 	
The Partnership's key achievements in the last year	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PIN held a workshop in March 2012 with a wide range of organisations, carers and service users. This informed the development of the model for the PIN, along with the outcomes from the Local HealthWatch consultation and the consultation undertaken by Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group regarding engagement in the new Health structures. An open core group was established to advise and support the evolution of the network. This is co-ordinated by the Engagement Managers of Oxfordshire County Council and Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG). • The PIN has invited representatives to the three partnership boards for one-year tenures, following a recruitment and selection process. It will offer a training session to these representatives (and others sitting on formal boards) over the summer. • A workshop was held in June 2012 for Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) partners with Commissioners across children, adult and health fields. The workshop aimed to explore the routes of influence for the VCS in relation to the Health and Wellbeing Board and their role within commissioning and planning. • The PIN has ensured that relevant VCS partners have attended partnership 	

board workshops and relevant views, experiences and opinions of users, carers and the general public, have informed the partnership board workshops. For instance, 10 young people with experience of mental health services attended the Children and Young People board workshop on mental health in July 2012.

- The PIN planned and co-ordinated the consultation of the draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and reported on its findings in July 2012. It included online, digital, open meetings, targeted events and discussion groups, reaching a very diverse range of contributors.

The aims for the Partnership in the year ahead

- The PIN will aim to create effective information and communication routes and evaluate its effectiveness at the end of the first year of its activity. The PIN aims to ensure on-going involvement and engagement of users, carers, the general public and voluntary, community and faith sectors in discussions at all the boards. To achieve this aim, it will need to develop a strong network and demonstrate the tangible contributions/influence made to the board discussions.

The key challenges for the Partnership and how these will be addressed going forward.

- To be effective the PIN will need to gain the support of a wide range of partners, develop strong communication routes, and demonstrate meaningful impact. It will need to work alongside the LINK and subsequently Local Healthwatch.

Partnership Name	Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership (OSCP)
Date of completion	July 2012
Contact officer	Dave Etheridge, Chief Fire Officer and Head of Community Safety, Oxfordshire County Council
Chairman	Cllr Bill Service, South Oxfordshire District Council (will transfer from Cllr Kieron Mallon on 19 th July 2012)
OCC Cabinet Member	Cllr Kieron Mallon
The current focus for the Partnership	
<p>The Partnership agreed a five-year OSCP Business Plan in February 2012. The first year of the plan focuses on preparing for the new Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) through five key areas of work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop an Integrated Management System (IMS) which brings together robust data on core community safety concerns across Oxfordshire so that partners can access consistent and up-to-date information efficiently and effectively • To develop a Commissioning Framework Prospectus that sets out county-wide initiatives and local priorities for community safety partners in Oxfordshire to support local community safety organisations to bid for grant funding. The prospectus will present a picture of community safety issues across Oxfordshire and will include a Business Case Template that can be used to tell a compelling story to the PCC about good practice initiatives to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour across the county • To identify core measures of success for the OSCP Business Plan and develop them into a performance scorecard for quarterly reporting to the Board. These measures will show the general trends and patterns of crime and anti-social behaviour and will be used for monitoring and decision making rather than setting specific targets. • To develop the annual Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) showing community safety trends and priorities for Oxfordshire • To agree a Strategic Communications Plan to ensure that the partnership gets the right messages out to the right people at the right time in the right way 	
The Partnership's key achievements in the last year	
<p>In the past year, the partnership has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed its partnership structures so that the OSCP Board and structures are now 'fit for purpose' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This change reflected the need to review the way the partnership worked because of the move away from Local Area Agreement (LAA) 	

targets and the transition towards Police and Crime Commissioners which will see all current community safety grants and funding from central Government being held by the Commissioner

- Re-focussed the strategic board with a higher level group of officers supporting delivery against the Board's strategic priorities
- Approved its five year OSCP Business Plan in February 2012 (see above)
- Approved Domestic Abuse Homicide Review protocol in February 2012
 - Statutory requirement for Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to arrange domestic abuse homicide review which requires a coordinated approach to share expertise, knowledge and resource across the county
- Developed closer working across Thames Valley to prepare for the Police and Crime Commissioner
 - Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel developed with Cllr Kieron Mallon as the Oxfordshire County Council representative (first meeting of shadow panel in July 2012)
 - Community Safety Managers across Thames Valley (TV) developed TV-wide briefing document for PCC candidates to present community safety landscape. Second paper to follow highlighting opportunities for future working between Community Safety Partnerships in the new world of commissioning.

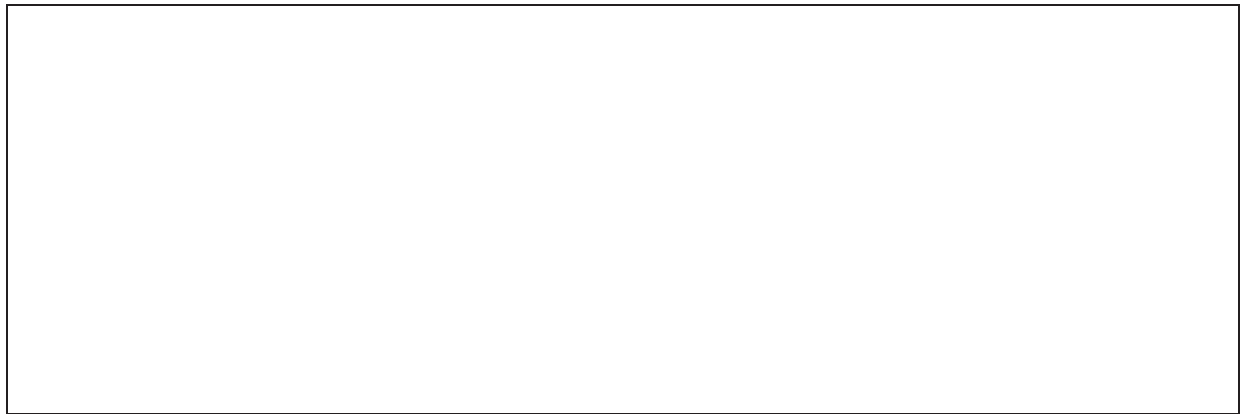
The aims for the Partnership in the year ahead

Over the next year we are seeking to achieve:

- A smooth transition for the introduction of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Delivery against the year 1 milestone dates in the OSCP Business Plan
- Supporting the work stream associated with the Health and Wellbeing Board (particularly the Health Improvement Board)

The key challenges for the Partnership and how these will be addressed going forward.

- From April 2013 all central Government community safety funding will go to the Police and Crime Commissioner rather than to Community Safety Partnerships. Therefore, the key challenge will be to ensure that community safety support and services are maintained during the period of transition to Police and Crime Commissioners. This is particularly important during the period leading up to the election in November 2012 as Community Safety Partnerships start planning for the year ahead. Discussions are already underway to identify the support and services that are 'at risk' from any loss of funding both locally and across the county.
- The OSCP Business Plan outlined above will ensure that OSCP is best placed to be able to respond to the challenges ahead.



Partnership Name	Oxfordshire Stronger Communities Alliance (OSCA)
Date of completion	July 2012
Contact officer	Jonathan McWilliam, Director of Public Health, Oxfordshire County Council.
Chairman	Bishop Colin Fletcher & Cllr Louise Chapman
OCC Cabinet Member	Cllr Louise Chapman

The current focus for the Partnership

- The overall purpose of the Oxfordshire Stronger Communities Alliance (OSCA) is 'to help build and maintain stronger communities and a thriving voluntary, community and faith sector in Oxfordshire'
- The Partnership has recently reviewed its structures and agreed the following:
 - a. The OSCA Cabinet will be disbanded and the Cabinet will meet with the Full Council 3 times a year
 - b. The Chairman of OSCA and the County Council Cabinet Member for Children and the Voluntary Sector will co-chair the group
 - c. Task and finish groups to be set up as required.

The Partnership's key achievements in the last year

- Strengthening collaborative working with the public sector and within the Voluntary, Community & Faith sector.
- Involvement and advising on key service changes e.g. libraries/early intervention hubs
- Working to ensure that the design and delivery of service changes take into account the principles set out in the compact e.g. early engagement, communication and openness when consulting with the sector
- Developing and influencing principles for Commissioning
- Supporting the release of the Big Society Fund
- Developing strong relationships and partnership working across the sector (Transforming Local Infrastructure bid)

- Influencing government – the MP Nick Hurd Visit visited in July 2011

The aims for the Partnership in the year ahead

- Working with the sector to remove barriers and enable different forms of service delivery
- Revisit strategic aims and outcomes of OSCA in the 2008-14 business plan and review whether the same broad aims remain. This work will help to clarify the role of OSCA
- To continue the work of the compact
- Increase informal and formal volunteer opportunities.
- To continue to work with partners to implement the work programme identified in the TLI plan
- Building stronger relationships between commissioners and voluntary sector providers for example:
 - Influencing the Joint Strategic Need Assessment
 - Influencing the development of the health Involvement Network

The key challenges for the Partnership and how these will be addressed going forward.

- Continuing to support the voluntary, community and faith sector to thrive at a time when funding is more scarce, there are more demands on groups, and at a time when there are huge changes in policy and the way the voluntary sector is involved to take on board. This will be supported by putting in place an effective delivery plan retaining a focus on strategic issues and ensuring Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) involvement at the earliest stages to assess the implications of service and policy changes.
- Ensuring that the Voluntary Sector is involved at an early stage in significant areas of service change that impact on the local sector in Oxfordshire.
- Continuing with the Oxfordshire Stronger Communities Alliance as a partnership structure based on collaboration and the sharing of limited resource to deliver against aims.

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Strategy & Partnerships Scrutiny Committee – 4 October 2012
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Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Infrastructure Support

Introduction

The aim of this paper is to update scrutiny on the recent changes to the way in which Oxfordshire County Council supports the Voluntary and Community sector.

The vibrancy and commitment of Oxfordshire's voluntary and community sector is undeniable. We already have an active and engaged Big Society in the county with over 4,500 individual organisations, and a very high number of residents who regularly give up their free time to volunteer.

Voluntary and community groups play an important role in supporting local communities and residents and are essential to delivering the council's vision for a Thriving Oxfordshire.

The Council's relationship with the sector has been strong for many years. Whilst the current environment of reduced public sector funding and changing policy has presented challenges; it has also provided opportunities to refresh how we work together.

Whilst the Council is a significant funder of the Voluntary and Community Sector our relationship is more than about that of a financial contribution. Our support to the sector has moved from 'you will' to 'we do'.

Partnership Working:

Our partnership working is maintained through strong day to day relationships. The Oxfordshire Stronger Communities Alliance which is chaired by Bishop Colin Fletcher and Cllr Louise Chapman provides a broad forum for taking a strategic overview of the issues affecting the public, voluntary, community & faith sector and works together in shaping the policies and strategies of both.

The Council's Infrastructure Contract:

The Council's infrastructure contract supports the provision of high quality infrastructure services and capacity building to frontline organisations; for example organisational development, fundraising advice, access to volunteering opportunities and influencing work giving a voice from the voluntary sector in decision making.

This contract was re-tendered in May 2012 and the successful organisation was Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action (OCVA). All infrastructure funding was combined into a single contract and will commence from the 1st October 2012.

The County Council continues to support the sector to ensure that core VCS needs are met across Oxfordshire regardless of location, but we have taken a less prescriptive approach than before. The detail of the contract has very much been

Item 7 Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Infrastructure Support

developed in partnership with OCVA and the following points summarise the direction it will take:

- Providing strong voluntary sector leadership which can engage in strategic discussions and is forward looking and pioneering in its ideas
- Developing long-term strategies to operate in a new funding and policy arena to deliver effective and efficient support to frontline organisations
- Being dynamic, active and able to harness the energy and ideas of local residents so that they can do things for themselves
- Working collaboratively across urban and rural communities and providing generic and specialist support to provide the best outcomes for Oxfordshire's communities.
- Being a link between communities and the statutory sector

The core aims of the contract are:

1. Volunteering is promoted and developed. The main aspects include:
 - working with volunteer-involving organisations to help them get better at doing their own recruitment and retention and devising more volunteer roles to support increased delivery of their services
 - building on the existing core promotional route (Do-It website) to attract more people into volunteering by piloting new and innovative ways of incentivising people and developing a locality focus
2. To build trust between the sectors so that:
 - a. community groups understand the pressures on the county council and its services and come forward with positive responses that help to provide solutions
 - b. county council officers and members understand the pressures on voluntary and community organisations so that they can establish realistic expectations and productive working relationships
3. to build links and networks within the voluntary, community and faith sector and between the VCFS, officers and elected members so that shared solutions can be developed
4. to provide statutory partners with channels for consultation and access to local consultation results in order to inform their planning
5. to raise the profile of the local charitable sector so that local people are stimulated to give more time etc.
6. to ensure that the voice of Oxfordshire is heard at a national policy level either through direct dialogue or through our national partners
7. To develop 'big society' solutions with more of a focus on enabling communities to identify and meet their communities needs about the things that are important to them by:

Item 7 Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Infrastructure Support

- ensuring that existing services delivered by the voluntary sector are robust and sustainable
- assisting existing services to grow so that they can deliver more
- supporting new services to set up and become sustainable

This offers an exciting opportunity for us to work together to ensure that we have a vibrant voluntary sector which is capable of sustaining long term service delivery and support to our communities. We already have good relationships with the sector but this new infrastructure contract is seen as a further development of joint working, to enable our relationship with the sector to go from strength to strength.

Scrutiny may want to consider:

- How you would like to be kept updated or are there are issues you would like further information on?
- Consider inviting Alison Baxter from OCVA to the January meeting to discuss the wide range of work that they are leading on.

Alexandra Bailey
21.09.12

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Item 8 Corporate Plan Performance & Risk Management Report

Priority outcome	Priorities for action	Our measures of success are	Q1 Progress/Performance
		<p>enquires turning into investment opportunities</p> <p>The infrastructure plan reflects the LEP and business sector needs</p> <p>Year-end assessment Progress on how our contribution has enabled the partnership to provide visible leadership and act as a catalyst for growth</p>	<p>Motorsport, Space and Space-Related Technologies and Cryogenics we have seen an increase in the level of inquiries and the number of visits to Oxfordshire from UKTI staff, both those based in the UK and overseas.</p> <p>Three projects in particular are at initial stages, involving nearly 1000 jobs, many of which will be highly skilled and are within our key target sectors.</p> <p>The Local Enterprise Partnership is working with the Spatial Planning & Infrastructure Partnership to ensure that investment priorities reflect business sector needs.</p> <p>We are developing our links with both Universities and sector networks such as OBN as well as initiating an Account Management service to assist the growth of existing key companies that will lead to additional job creation in the County. This is also available to newly arriving companies in the County, such as Element Six who are moving into the Science Vale UK Enterprise Zone at Harwell, and utilising our support to recruit additional staff.</p> <p>There has been a noticeable increase in interest from China and we have been involved in a number of visits to Oxfordshire by Chinese companies and Government officials in</p>

Item 8 Corporate Plan Performance & Risk Management Report

Priority outcome	Priorities for action	Our measures of success are	Q1 Progress/Performance
			<p>partnership with the University of Oxford's ISIS Innovation. This is being built upon by the County Council's sponsorship of the Link to China Programme and by hosting a further major delegation of Chinese in September.</p>
	<p>Infrastructure</p>	<p>Deliver infrastructure framework - Districts charging schedules reflect OCC priorities and needs</p> <p>Capital programme priorities reflect the infrastructure framework priorities for growth</p> <p>Year-end assessment The OCC 2012/13 infrastructure priorities are reflected through the district charging schedules</p>	<p>The County Council is currently working as part of the Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Partnership to produce a framework of prioritised infrastructure requirements to underpin economic growth within Oxfordshire. The Partnership is intending to complete this work during September 2012.</p> <p>We will be reviewing the Capital Programme priorities in light of emerging work from the Infrastructure Framework being prepared by the Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Partnership.</p> <p>Oxford City Council has published its Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule. The next stage, the Draft Charging Schedule Consultation, is due to begin in Oct 2012.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire District Council is due to begin consultation in September 2012. Starting dates have not been confirmed by the other Oxfordshire District Councils as yet.</p>

Item 8 Corporate Plan Performance & Risk Management Report

Priority outcome	Priorities for action	Our measures of success are	Q1 Progress/Performance
	Tackling transport priorities	<p>Deliver priority transport schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cogges Link Road ○ Thornhill Park & Ride extension (and new hospital bus services) ○ Hinksey Hill ○ Frideswide Square <p>Number of schemes delivered and percentage of funding spent through the Area Stewardship Fund</p>	<p>The County Council is planning to introduce charging for longer-stay parking at Thornhill Park & Ride from November 2012. The extension at Thornhill is expected to be open in Spring 2013. This will increase the number of parking spaces to 1380.</p> <p>We are planning work at Hinksey Hill/Kennington to improve the network at the Southern by-pass. Construction is expected to begin here in Spring 2013.</p> <p>Following the outcome of the Public Inquiry into the Compulsory Purchase Order for the Cogges Link Road, OCC will not be pursuing this scheme. There is a commitment to work in partnership with West Oxfordshire District Council to develop and deliver an affordable alternative transport strategy for Witney</p> <p>Following the Department of Transport announcement of £9bn railway investment, including expansion of Oxford train station, OCC will align its plans for Frideswide Square with the Network Rail redevelopment work.</p> <p>OCC has established an Area Stewardship Fund to help meet the needs of the community and highway network. In 2012/2013, £2.3M has been allocated to deliver maintenance and improvement works across the 14 localities. £1.4m of the overall fund has now been delivered or committed. This has seen a wide</p>

Item 8 Corporate Plan Performance & Risk Management Report

Priority outcome	Priorities for action	Our measures of success are	Q1 Progress/Performance
		<p>Delivery of the highway maintenance programme as detailed in the Transport Asset Management Plan</p> <p>Year-end assessments Improvement in traffic flow around major pinch</p>	<p>range of schemes delivered including traffic management improvements, refurbished footways, improved access arrangements, and winter maintenance facilities.</p> <p>Transport Asset Management Plan as considered by Scrutiny and agreed by the Deputy Leader is on track.</p> <p>The update on the summer surface dressing programme is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This year's programme consisted of 63 locations which were completed in two phases, commencing on 13th June and completed on 24th July. • Nearly 100km (96.5km) of road was treated at a cost of £2.014m. • Geographically, 20 locations were in Cherwell, 15 in West Oxon, 5 in Vale of White Horse, 19 in South Oxon and 4 within Oxford city. • In terms of Classification of road, 8 sites were A roads, 18 B roads and 37 unclassified. • The figures include the additional Rural Road element, but exclude roads dressed by the City Council under s42 arrangements. <p>During this quarter there was effective management of the expected congestion on the</p>

Item 8 Corporate Plan Performance & Risk Management Report

Priority outcome	Priorities for action	Our measures of success are	Q1 Progress/Performance
		points	<p>network associated with the Olympic Torch Relay road closures. Through advanced advertising on the OCC public website, local BBC radio and along the route of the Torch and via Variable Message Signs, the travelling public were kept informed of the planned events. The result of this proactive approach was very successful as no congestions or delays on the network were experienced during that period. A prime example of this management was the closure of Henley Bridge, a traffic pinch point, where disruption was kept to a minimum. Through live assessment of the traffic situation on the local network, the bridge was closed for only 1.5 hours rather than the 4 hours that were planned.</p> <p>Another example of active management of the network and therefore minimising expected delays to the traveling public is the coordination of highway works. In one example (work on the A420 between Pusey turn and BP garage), the work of various agencies (The County Council, BT, and Thames Water) was combined, resulting in the overall saving of 13 days of possible disruption.</p> <p>The highway work on A34 slip road/Botley Road junction in Oxford is one scheme that is planned to deliver improvements to congestion on the outbound flow. This scheme was carried out in May this year and provided additional running lane for the outbound (out of Oxford)</p>

Item 8 Corporate Plan Performance & Risk Management Report

Priority outcome	Priorities for action	Our measures of success are	Q1 Progress/Performance
		Secure funding and investment for East-West rail	<p>traffic. As a result of this work a reduction in the outbound journey times is anticipated</p> <p>Government funding has been secured and was included in the rail announcement in July 2012. The announcement included confirmation that the route will be electrified and form part of a national 'electric spine'. This forms part of the government programme of delivery in the 2014-2019 period.</p>
	Broadband	<p>Establish the digital strategy for Oxfordshire</p> <p>Identify and contract with a Strategic Provider to improve broadband connectivity to priority areas</p>	<p>We have submitted our Local Broadband Plan for £3.86m of funding which will be signed off by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport in Q2 and which is available online. Additionally, up to date information on our plan for Oxfordshire's broadband and how this is progressing is available on the OxOnline website. We are working closely with local communities to develop their interest in broadband and support bids to DEFRA for additional funding; in Q1 two Oxfordshire groups were successful in their expressions of interest for DEFRA funding, including Cotswolds Broadband in Chipping Norton for £1.5 million, and the village of Noke outside Kidlington for £20,000.</p> <p>The digital strategy has been converted into a project plan and work is underway to secure a strategy. Supplier warm up days have been conducted and there is positive interest in Oxfordshire in bringing significant investment</p>

Item 8 Corporate Plan Performance & Risk Management Report

Priority outcome	Priorities for action	Our measures of success are	Q1 Progress/Performance
		<p>Year-end assessments Plan in place for OCC £14M investment</p> <p>Private sector matched funding secured</p>	<p>to the County.</p> <p>The County Council has approved capital funding of £13.86m.</p> <p>The Strategic Provider will be expected to match fund to develop the infrastructure within Oxfordshire. The conversations at the Supplier warm up days have indicated this is a realistic expectation.</p>
	Skills Levels	<p>Improve percentage participation of young people aged 16-19 in education or training</p> <p>Increase the number of all age Apprenticeship starts in the county</p>	<p>For those in years 12-14 (aged 16-19), there has been an increase in participation (those in education, employment in training, or training). This was 81.7% in June 2012, from 79.2% in June 2011.</p> <p>The market of providers, able to offer suitable alternative training to young people (who would have otherwise chosen to not participate in education or training), has been grown in the past year by increasing the number of learning places through our own Adult Learning Services. New providers have been awarded sub contracts to create an additional 200 learning places this year, to grow to 250 from September.</p> <p>Figures for Q1 show that all age Apprenticeship starts in Oxfordshire have increased by 29.7% compared to this time last year. This is an increase from 2,659 to 3,450.</p>

Item 8 Corporate Plan Performance & Risk Management Report

Priority outcome	Priorities for action	Our measures of success are	Q1 Progress/Performance
		<p>Reduce the percentage of Young People Not in education Employment or Training</p>	<p>The percentage of young people not in education, employment or training has fallen from 6% during May 2011 to 5.4% during May 2012.</p>
	<p>Educational Attainment</p>	<p>Improved educational attainment at,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Key Stage 1) ○ Key Stage 2) ○ Key Stage 4) <p>Improved number of schools classified as good or better by 10%</p> <p>Year-end assessment Progress in implementation of the Education Strategy</p>	<p>The latest results for educational attainment are for summer 2011 which, as previously reported, were below target across all key stages. Provisional results for key stage 2 are expected to show an improvement.</p> <p>Of the 86 schools inspected in the school year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 improved their grade to Good or Outstanding • 22 schools previously good or outstanding retained their grading • 24 schools dropped by one grade (including 9 judged inadequate). <p>A change in Ofsted inspection monitoring from the start of the academic year impacted this year's results.</p> <p>Progress in implementing the Education Strategy is on track following agreement at Cabinet on July 17.</p>
<p>Healthy and Thriving Communities</p>	<p>Implications of changes to the health service</p>	<p>Year-end assessments Public Health move into OCC</p>	<p>A Public Health Transition Board has been established and meets monthly. Good progress is reported on all work streams. National guidance is still awaited on some key functions.</p>

Item 8 Corporate Plan Performance & Risk Management Report

Priority outcome	Priorities for action	Our measures of success are	Q1 Progress/Performance
		<p>Progress of new Health and Wellbeing board and new commissioning arrangements</p>	<p>The new Health & Wellbeing Board has now met 3 times in public and has signed off the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This was subject to comprehensive public consultation. There are 11 priorities for which the 3 partnership boards are responsible. Regular reports on progress will be received by the Board.</p>
	<p>Improve health outcomes</p>	<p>Year-end assessment Measures as defined in the director of public health annual report</p>	<p>Recommendations for health improvement in the Director of Public Health Annual report (published in November 2011) had a range of completion dates in 2011-13. All recommendations due to be completed by June 2012 have been delivered. These include the establishment of the Health & Wellbeing Board and its partnership boards, robust processes for public involvement, commitment from partners on their role in priority work including breaking the cycle of deprivation and the setting of outcome measures for mental health. Full engagement of the Clinical Commissioning Group has also been achieved. The Community Safety Partnership has agreed that alcohol harm prevention and minimisation remains a priority under their leadership. Recommendations for completion in September 2012 are on track.</p>

Item 8 Corporate Plan Performance & Risk Management Report

Priority outcome	Priorities for action	Our measures of success are	Q1 Progress/Performance
	Demographic change	<p>Year-end assessment Changes to how day services are provided</p> <p>Provision of extra care housing</p>	<p>Implementation of proposed changes to how day services are provided is on track, with medium term arrangements agreed with Tier 3 providers, delivering innovative services and new business models, and with a strategic procurement plan mapped out for Tier 2 providers going forward.</p> <p>On track to achieve target for the provision of Extra Care housing, with an additional 130 beds commissioned in the first quarter as per plan</p>
	Breaking the cycle of deprivation	<p>Year-end assessment Progress as reported in the director of public health annual report</p>	<p>Breaking the Cycle of Deprivation (BTCD) has been agreed as a priority for the Health & Wellbeing Board through the Children and Young Peoples' Board, as recommended by the Director of Public Health Annual Report. It is part of the priority for "Narrowing the Gap for our most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups". An evaluation report on BTCD in Banbury and Oxford has highlighted good practice in this programme, with particular recognition of good practice in the use of local information to target resources and report progress. Some outcomes have improved e.g. numbers of young people not in education, employment or training, teenage conceptions, benefits claimants, crime rates. Recommendations include maintaining long term focus on these areas, continuing to develop public participation</p>

Priority outcome	Priorities for action	Our measures of success are	Q1 Progress/Performance
	Protection and safeguarding	<p>Adult Safeguarding Increased proportion of people who use services who report they feel safe each year</p> <p>Improved performance against the basket of priority safeguarding indicators</p> <p>Children’s Safeguarding – improved performance against the basket of priority safeguarding indicators (these include Child protection processes, Improved outcomes for looked after children, Number of children in need)</p> <p>Attendances at emergencies* by a fire engine sent from the nearest fire station to be made within target response times (*not all incidents</p>	<p>and sustaining the valuable multi-agency approach.</p> <p>Significant increase in the proportion of people who say they feel safe - 68% of social care service users said that they 'felt as safe as I want' compared to 57% last year.</p> <p>In terms of the basket of priority safeguarding indicators, work continues on increasing response times to initial assessment and ensuring all clients are reviewed on time.</p> <p>Performance against the children's safeguarding basket is on track.</p> <p>The response target outcomes from the first quarter are both on target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 81.4% of emergencies attended within 11 minutes or less (target 80%) • 94.5% of emergencies

Item 8 Corporate Plan Performance & Risk Management Report

Priority outcome	Priorities for action	Our measures of success are	Q1 Progress/Performance
		we attend are considered as emergencies)	attended within 14 minutes or less (target 95%)
	Prevention	<p>365 more people alive because of a reduction in deaths caused by accidental dwelling fires and road traffic collisions</p> <p>Adults Reduce the number of permanent admissions to residential and nursing care homes, per 1,000 population</p> <p>Delay and reduce the need for care and support through a basket of priority indicators</p>	<p>Performance on 365 Alive remains ahead of target, demonstrating protection for the wider public. 295 more people are currently alive following this work, compared to a target of 225 at this point.</p> <p>The number of care home admissions is currently slightly higher than last year at 11 per week. This has helped support the reduction in delayed transfers of care. Plans are being developed to commission alternative services to care homes with an expectation that placements will drop significantly in the second half of the year as people use alternative services.</p> <p>More people are receiving reablement (a time limited service to help people return to full dependence) than last year. The number of people going through the service is below the planned level. Fewer people are leaving the service needing no on-going care than was planned. This means that targets on reducing the need for care are not yet being met.</p> <p>Delayed transfers of care remain relatively high but have consistently fallen each month this year and we are on target to hit the year end plan.</p>

Item 8 Corporate Plan Performance & Risk Management Report

Priority outcome	Priorities for action	Our measures of success are	Q1 Progress/Performance
		<p>Children (Early Intervention Service) Improve outcomes for vulnerable children and young people and families with additional and complex needs (reported through the basket of priority indicators)</p>	<p>Performance is variable. Persistent absence rates in school are marginally higher than the target level. Persistent absence in primary schools is in line with national figures whereas in secondary schools persistent absence rates are slightly below the national figure. For looked after children both persistent absence and overall absence is higher than the target</p> <p>The number of young people not in employment, education or training in Oxfordshire continues to drop.</p> <p>The number of first time entrants (10-17) in the criminal justice system continues to fall and is better than target.</p>
	<p>Personalisation</p>	<p>Increase the proportion of people of who use services who have control over their daily life</p> <p>Improve overall satisfaction of people who use services with their care and support</p>	<p>Each year all local authorities survey the people who use adult social care. The survey includes the question "Which of the following statements best describes how much control you have over your daily life?" 78.6% of service recipients answered 'as much as I want' or 'adequate'. This places Oxfordshire in the top quartile of all authorities in the country.</p> <p>In the same survey people are asked how satisfied they are with their care and support. In the last survey (February 2012) the proportion of people who said they were 'extremely satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with their services rose by 2% since the previous February. The survey scores people's social care related quality of life and Oxfordshire's</p>

Item 8 Corporate Plan Performance & Risk Management Report

Priority outcome	Priorities for action	Our measures of success are	Q1 Progress/Performance
		<p>Improve performance on the basket of indicators to measure the personalisation of care</p>	<p>performance is again in the top quartile nationally.</p> <p>The number of people on personal budgets rose from 2109 to 2280 (or 58% to 64% of eligible people) in Quarter 1. The number on direct payments rose from 1010 in April to 1078 in June. Nationally Oxfordshire is in the top quartile for the proportion of people on self direct support and has the second highest proportion of people receiving a direct payment.</p>
	Road Safety	<p>Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on the roads</p>	<p>The number of those sustaining fatal or serious injuries has fallen from last year. 78 people sustained fatal or serious injuries in the period April to June 2012, in comparison with 108 people suffering such injuries in April to June 2011.</p>
	Localism Act	<p>Year-end assessment Our response to implications of the Localism Act</p>	<p>Implementation and response to the Act continues to be on-going. In June the Community Right to Challenge came into force. Details of how communities in Oxfordshire can make use of this right are on the Council's website.</p>
	Big Society	<p>Number of Community projects supported by the Big Society Fund</p>	<p>In Q1 we took the opportunity to rethink how we administer Big Society funding in order to allow greater member involvement in the allocation of funding whilst building on the success of the previous system. A new scheme incorporating these changes will be launched in Q2.</p>

Item 8 Corporate Plan Performance & Risk Management Report

Priority outcome	Priorities for action	Our measures of success are	Q1 Progress/Performance
Environment	Waste management	<p>Decrease the amount of waste sent to landfill</p> <p>Increase the amount of waste recycled and composting</p> <p>Year-end assessment Progress on waste incinerator and household waste centres programme</p>	<p>On track. Performance on decreasing the waste going to landfill, and increasing recycling in Oxfordshire is on target.</p> <p>In Q1 the rate for waste going to landfill was 112.6kg per person with our target being 119kg. In the same period we reported 62.5% of waste being recycled or composted against our target of 61%.</p> <p>Construction of the Ardley Energy from Waste facility started in December 2011. Good progress is being made and the facility is currently on track for completion in summer/autumn 2014.</p> <p>Detail of the household waste recycling centres implementation plan is being reviewed in light of delivery to date.</p>
	Increase energy efficiency and reduce emissions	<p>Reduce corporate energy consumption level</p> <p>Secure increased quantity of renewable energy supply</p>	<p>On track. There has been a drop in costs of 9% between 2011/12 and 2010/11 despite price rises, due to energy saving investments and asset reductions.</p> <p>The end of year energy review has been completed which details energy action plans for 2012/13 on service provision including street lighting, the transport fleet and business travel.</p> <p>A new biomass boiler at Stadhampton primary school has</p>

Item 8 Corporate Plan Performance & Risk Management Report

Priority outcome	Priorities for action	Our measures of success are	Q1 Progress/Performance
		<p>Year-end assessment Progress update on reduction in the council's carbon footprint</p>	<p>been implemented and a further four schools have commissioned biomass boilers (Kidlington, Fritwell, Carterton and Stonesfield) which will increase renewable energy supply. Changes in the Feed in Tariff have reduced the viability of solar PV schemes but the new Single Service Provider contract Carillion is re-evaluating the programme.</p> <p>Carbon dioxide emissions in 2011/12 were nearly 28% lower than 1990/91, five years ahead of the UK statutory target of a 28% reduction by 2017. The new Single Service Provider contract with Carillion includes contractual targets to save 25% of energy by 2021/22 compared to 2011/12 levels and 35% of carbon in 2021/22 based on 1990/91 levels (mirroring the UK Statutory carbon budgets).</p>
	Protecting the environment and Effective management of natural resources	Minerals & waste strategy development reflects the needs of the county (progress against basket of process indicators)	<p>The County Council agreed a new Minerals and Waste Planning Strategy on 3 April, and this was published for the public to make representations over a 7 week period. The plan and all the responses received will be submitted to a government appointed inspector in September 2012, who will carry out an examination hearings starting in January 2013 to establish whether it is 'sound'. The inspector's report is due May 2013. The strategy is available on the council website.</p>

Item 8 Corporate Plan Performance & Risk Management Report

Priority outcome	Priorities for action	Our measures of success are	Q1 Progress/Performance
		<p>Increase the number of volunteer days to support the rights of way network</p> <p>Year-end assessment Outcome of the inspectors report to agree adoption and implementation of the M&W strategy (April 13)</p>	<p>Oxfordshire County Council's Countryside Access Team is on track to increase the number of volunteer days. Part of the activity is working with volunteer groups to develop a training programme so that existing groups and the team can help others build their capacity, confidence and quality of their work.</p> <p>See above for details.</p>
Efficient Public Services	Delivering our savings target	Achievement of budget savings agreed by Council Feb 2012	Directorates are on track to achieve their Business Strategies and £37.1m planned savings in 2012/13 are expected to be achieved.
	<p>Business Strategy:</p> <p>Improve our use of technology</p>	100% of office based staff will be able to work more flexibly through the use of more efficient communication tools	The County Council is rolling out Windows 7/Office 2010 with 90% of machines completed to date. This approach supports the use of enterprise telephony infrastructure, delivering reduced expenditure and provides new ways of working, such as the deployment of audio and video conferencing and on-line collaboration tools.
	Rationalise our property and encourage the co-	Reduce the cost of the property portfolio by 25% whilst using our property to	The Asset Rationalisation Programme met the Medium Term Financial Plan target for 2011/12. As part of this programme the Council released

Priority outcome	Priorities for action	Our measures of success are	Q1 Progress/Performance
			sector infrastructure with a focus on outcomes: which will include more volunteers; more community projects delivering on the ground and a single front door for people who are interested in volunteering/need volunteers. This will ensure we continue to support and work closely with the voluntary and community sector in Oxfordshire to help deliver better services.
	Equalities	Year-end assessment Meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010	On track. In Q1 the Council published its Equality Policy 2012-2017 (available on the council's website) which outlines our equalities objectives for the next five years, including actions aimed at building on current achievements and raising performance where needed.

4. Risk Management

Risk Registers have been compiled for 2012/13 Quarter 1 and officers continue to manage high priority risks, in close consultation with the Audit Working Group.

RECOMMENDATION

5. **The Committee is RECOMMENDED to:**
- a) Note this report
 - b) Provide feedback to the Cabinet

Contact Officer: Alexandra Bailey Corporate Performance and Review Manager

September 2012

STRATEGY AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
4 OCTOBER 2012

FINANCIAL MONITORING OVERVIEW

COMMENTARY BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE

1. The last Financial Monitoring Overview to Strategy and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee on 26 July 2012 set out the Council's financial position at the end of 2011/12. This report provides a commentary on the financial monitoring for the first four months of 2012/13 and is consistent with the position reported to Cabinet on 18 September 2012. The full Financial Monitoring Reports to Cabinet are available on the Council's website and the Directorate reports are available in the Members' Resource Centre.
2. Part 1 sets out the forecast revenue position, Part 2 the Balance Sheet, and Part 3 provides an update on the Capital Monitoring position and Capital Programme Review.

Part 1 - Revenue

3. The current in – year Directorate forecast including the Council elements of the Pooled Budgets is a variation of -£1.408m, or -0.34% against a budget of £417.517m as shown in the table below. The latest budget position includes carry forwards from 2011/12 agreed by Cabinet on 19 June 2012 and, for carry forwards that were dependent on virements larger than £0.5m, by Council on 10 July 2012.

Original Budget 2012/13 £m		Latest Budget 2012/13 £m	Forecast Outturn 2012/13 £m	Variance Forecast July 2012 £m	Variance Forecast July 2012 %
105.814	Children, Education & Families (CE&F)	107.315	106.099	-1.216	-1.13
219.635	Social & Community Services (S&CS)	212.163	211.993	-0.170	-0.08
77.658	Environment & Economy (E&E)	80.327	80.604	+0.277	+0.34
8.394	Chief Executive's Office (CEO)	17.712	17.506	-0.206	-1.16
411.501	In year Directorate total	417.517	416.202	-1.315	-0.31
	Add: Underspend on Council Elements of Pooled Budgets			-0.093	
	Total Variation including Council Elements of Pooled Budgets			-1.408	-0.34

4. The -£1.315m variation excluding the Council elements of the pooled budgets reported for July was £0.123m greater than the -£1.192m variation for May reported to Cabinet on 17 July 2012¹. An increase in the

¹ There is no Cabinet meeting in August.

forecast underspend for CE&F is partly offset by a decrease in the forecast underspend in S&CS.

Directorate	Forecast Variance as at 31 May 2012 (reported to Cabinet on 17 July 2012) £m	Forecast Variance as at 31 July 2012 (reported to Cabinet on 18 September 2012) £m
CE&F	-0.860	-1.216
S&CS	-0.302	-0.170
Environment & Economy	0.000	+0.277
Chief Executive's Office	-0.030	-0.206
Directorate in-year forecast variation	-1.192	-1.315
Change		-0.123

5. The forecast revenue outturn by Directorate based on the position to the end of July 2012 is set out below.

Children Education & Families

6. The directorate is forecasting a variation of -£1.216m. In addition there is a forecast underspend of -£0.808m on services funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Any underspend on DSG will be placed in a reserve at the end of the year for use in 2013/14.
7. An underspend of -£0.991m is forecast on Home to School Transport. A further saving of £0.200m in 2013/14 is already built into the Medium Term Financial Plan. As in previous years the forecast may change during the year as the full effect of the last tendering process become known along with the impact of the new academic year changes.
8. Early Intervention hubs are forecasting an underspend of -£0.317m. A review of the staffing and activity spend at each of the hubs is currently taking place and further information will be included in the next report.
9. Children's Social Care is reporting a net overspend of +£0.180m. This includes underspends on Corporate Parenting (-£0.287m), Referral & Assessment (-£0.179m) and Family Support (-£0.134m) which offset overspends on External Placements (+£0.632m), Asylum (+£0.092m) and Safeguarding (+£0.072m). The overspend on external placements relates to a number of high cost placements being made in July which are anticipated to continue until the end of the year. This service area is subject to significant fluctuations depending on demand so updates will be included in future reports.

Social & Community Services (S&CS)

10. The forecast outturn for S&CS is a variation of -£0.170m. In addition, there is an overspend on the Council elements of the Older People, Physical Disabilities and Equipment Pooled Budget (+£0.750m) and an underspend on the Learning Disabilities Pooled Budget (-£0.843m).

SCS1 Adult Social Care

11. Adult Social Care is broadly on track to deliver the business strategy over the next three years and a breakeven position is forecast. Fairer Charging income is expected to be underachieved. On 18 September 2012 Cabinet agreed to change the use of the Learning Disabilities Pooled Budget underspend from 2011/12 that is held in reserves so that it can be used to manage this pressure in 2012/13 as well as fund additional staffing resources within the Locality Teams.

Pooled Budgets

Older People, Physical Disabilities & Equipment Pool

12. As shown in Annex 2 the Older People, Physical Disabilities and Equipment Pooled Budget is forecast to overspend by +£3.372m. +£0.750m relates to the Council's element and +£2.622m to the Primary Care Trust (PCT) (which is shadowed by the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group).
13. The forecast overspend on the Council elements of the Older People's Pooled Budget arises from variations to the forecast number of service users.
14. Most of the under spending brought forward from last year has been set aside to meet the costs of additional care home placements in this year and future years. The remaining element of the underspend from the last financial year has been used to fund the costs of three additional care home placements per week from June through to the end of September.

Learning Disabilities Pooled Budget

15. As set out in Annex 2 the Learning Disabilities Pooled Budget is forecasting an underspend of -£1.000m, -£0.843m on the Council's element and -£0.157m on the PCT element. The forecast underspend is largely due to underspends on personal budgets. The underspend could increase during the year due to personal budgets starting later than planned or service users not utilising their complete packages. Further updates will be included future reports.

Environment & Economy (E&E)

16. The directorate is forecasting a variation of +£0.277m.
17. Highways and Transport are forecasting a breakeven position. This position includes an overspend of +£0.500m due to an increase in highway maintenance, vehicle maintenance and rapid incident responses. This is

offset by the early delivery of Public Transport contract savings of -£0.500m.

18. An overspend of £0.208m is forecast by Growth and Infrastructure. This includes an overspend on Property and Facilities of +£0.456m which mainly relates to the partial non-realisation of the asset rationalisation strategy savings and additional contract implementation costs.
19. Waste Management are forecasting a breakeven position. However, tonnages for the first three months are above budgeted levels. This has put an estimated pressure on the disposals budget of £0.5m, which can be met within the directorate in year. The on-going impact will be reviewed as part of the Service & Resource Planning process. Some of this pressure may be weather related and therefore the forecast may change throughout the year as more tonnage data is collected.

Chief Executive's Office (CEO)

20. The directorate is forecasting an underspend of -£0.206m which mainly relates to staffing vacancies in Strategy and Communications.

Virements and Supplementary Estimates

21. The virements requested to date in 2012/13 include the update of the income and expenditure budgets for the revised DSG allocation (see paragraph 23), transfer of the Business Systems Teams from CE&F and S&CS to E&E and CEO, creation of income and expenditure budgets relating to the Thriving Families Funding received from the Department for Communities and Local Government, transfers between the pool and non-pooled budgets within Adult Social Care as decisions have been made on how additional funding is allocated, and the transfer of budgets from Adult Social Care to Joint Commissioning as part of the restructure of the service.
22. There have been no requests for supplementary estimates to date in 2012/13.

Grants Monitoring

23. As set out in Annex 3 ring-fenced grants totalling £390.553m (including £346.949m of DSG) are included in Directorate budgets and will be used for the specified purpose. Changes since the budget was agreed by Council in February 2012 include the latest DSG allocation that was received from the Department for Education on 26 June 2012. The revised allocation is based on the January pupil count and schools converting to Academy status.

Bad Debt Write Offs

24. There were 142 general write offs to the end of July 2012 and these totalled £19,127. In addition Client Finance has written off 25 debts totalling £27,070.

Strategic Measures

25. The average cash balance during July 2012 was £298.9m and the average rate of return was 0.98%. The budgeted return for interest receivable on

balances invested internally is £2.50m for 2012/13. It is expected that this budget will be achieved.

Funding Changes

26. On 17 July 2012 notification was received from the Department for Education on the Government response to the consultation on the Academies Funding Transfer (LACSEG²) for 2011/12 and 2012/13. This set out the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the deductions from local authority formula grant budgets for 2011/12 and 2012/13 better reflect the pattern of Academy provision across the country. A refund will be paid to any local authority where the amount deducted in 2011/12 or 2012/13 was bigger than it would have been had the deduction been based on the number of Academies in the local authority during that financial year. The Council has since received a refund of £1.298m. On 18 September 2012 Cabinet approved the transfer of this additional one-off funding to the Efficiency Reserve to support the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan on a one off basis.

Part 2 – Balance Sheet

Reserves

27. As set out in the Revenue and Capital Outturn 2011/12 Overview Report, earmarked reserves held for a specified purpose to be utilised on a one – off basis totalled £117.061m as at 1 April 2012. The forecast balance at 31 March 2013 was £94.460m as at the end of July 2012. Of the forecast total £12.8m are school balances and £3.7m relates to Dedicated Schools Grant.
28. The Efficiency Reserve (£20.1m) and Budget Reserve (£3.3m) will be used as planned to support the Medium Term Financial Plan on a one off basis. The Capital Reserve (£17.9m) and Prudential Borrowing Reserve (£6.3m) will be used to support the delivery of the capital programme.

Schools Balances

29. 2012/13 budgets have been received from all 274 maintained schools. Budgets for 259 (95%) out of 274 schools have been validated with follow-up actions notified to the remaining 15 schools, including a number of visits arranged for early September. Six of the remaining budgets are for schools that have submitted deficit budgets where the aggregate balance is £0.159m.
30. The projected net surplus revenue balances for schools with validated budgets is £12.761m. The conversion to academy status process requires the local authority to transfer the school's revenue and capital balances to the academy. The Local Authority has transferred £1.5m to schools that have converted to an academy since 1 April 2012. This is in addition to the £1.7m passed to the five academies that opened in the final month of last financial year.

² Local Authority Central Spend Equivalent Grant

Balances

31. Current balances are £16.693m taking into account known changes.

Part 3 - Capital Monitoring

32. The capital monitoring position shows the forecast expenditure for 2012/13 is £50.5m (excluding schools local capital), which is an increase of £0.4m compared to the latest approved capital programme. The table below summarises the variations by directorate.

Directorate	Last Approved Programme * £m	Latest Forecast Expenditure £m	Variation £m
Children, Education & Families	20.9	20.9	0.0
Social & Community Services	3.4	3.5	+0.1
Environment & Economy - Transport	23.2	23.5	+0.3
Environment & Economy - Other	1.7	1.7	0.0
Chief Executive's Office	0.9	0.9	0.0
Total Directorate Programmes	50.1	50.5	+0.4
Schools Local Capital	5.1	5.1	0.0
Total Capital Programme	55.2	55.6	+0.4

* Approved by Cabinet 17 July 2012

33. The main variation in the Transport programme is the inclusion of a new scheme in West Way, Oxford on the A34 Slip Road. This scheme will cost £0.248m and is funded by developer contributions.

Actual & Committed Expenditure

34. As at the end of July actual capital expenditure for the year to date (excluding schools local spend) was £2.7m. This is 5% of the total forecast expenditure of £50.5m, which is around 4% below the expected position compared to the profile of expenditure in previous years. Actual and Committed spend is 33% of the forecast.

Five Year Capital Programme Update

35. The total forecast 5-year capital programme (2012/13 to 2016/17) is now £364.0m, an increase of £0.1m compared to the original capital programme approved by Council in February 2012. The table on the next page summarises the changes to the original Capital Programme, approved by Council in February 2012, to the programme approved by Cabinet in July 2012 and the latest forecast reported to Cabinet in September 2012.

Directorate	Original Capital Programme February 2012 £m	Updated Capital Programme July 2012 £m	Variation (February 2012 to July 2012) £m	September Forecast Capital Programme £m	Variation (July 2012 to September 2012) £m
CE&F	138.3	138.0	-0.3	139.2	+1.2
S&CS	23.0	23.5	+0.5	23.6	+0.1
E & E - Transport	103.5	91.3	-12.2	91.6	+0.3
E & E - Other	30.0	30.0	0.0	30.0	0.0
CEO	2.6	2.7	+0.1	2.7	0.0
Total Directorate Programmes	297.4	285.5	-11.9	287.1	+1.6
Schools Local Capital	12.3	14.0	+1.7	14.1	+0.1
Earmarked Reserves	54.1	62.9	+8.8	62.8	-0.1
Total Capital Programme	363.8	362.4	-1.4	364.0	+1.6

36. The main changes between the original capital programme and the July 2012 update are set out below in paragraphs 37 to 40.

37. Following the decision by the Secretary of State for Transport on the Cogges Link Road, the scheme has been removed from the programme. This has returned £4.0m of funding back to the programme and this is being held in earmarked reserves. The developer contribution funding has also been removed.

38. On 11 April 2012, the Department for Education announced that the Council would receive an additional £5.5m funding for Basic Need in schools in 2012/13. This has now been included in the earmarked reserves in the programme. In the July report to Cabinet the estimated funding for the Schools Structural Maintenance grant (2013/14) has been reduced to reflect the number of schools converting to academy status.

39. A programme of works for rural roads has now been approved and is included within the Transport programme. £1m has been released from earmarked reserves to fund this.

40. The Council will receive an additional £0.6m for Fire Capital Grant in 2012/13. This grant was announced after the February 2012 programme was approved and is not ringfenced or time limited.

41. The change between the capital programme update in July and latest position relates to the increase in the Children, Education & Families Programme, approved by Cabinet on 18 September 2012, is due to the inclusion of external funding at the Stage 2 approval process for projects at Rosehill and Cholsey Primary Schools in the Basic Need Programme.

Conclusion

42. Returning to the position of Cabinet Member for Finance after a break of three years, I find that the Financial Monitoring Report to Cabinet continues to provide the Council with reliable information on the state of the Council's finance as spending proceeds through the year. The report will show up any overspending trend early enough in the year to take corrective action within the financial year if possible, and to reflect this in the Service & Resource Planning Process.
43. The forecast underspend, along with the position on reserves and balances, indicates the Council remains in a strong position and is on track to deliver the Business Strategies in future years. 75% of the £119m savings are expected to be achieved by the end of 2012/13 with the remainder being achieved by the end of 2014/15.

Councillor Charles Shouler
Cabinet Member for Finance

October 2012

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FINANACIAL MONITORING OVERVIEW REPORT
STRATEGY AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 4 OCTOBER 2012
Budget Monitoring

Annex 1

Ref	Directorate	BUDGET 2012/13					Outturn Forecast Year end Spend/Income	Projected Year end Variation	Profiled Budget (Net) July 2012	Actual Expenditure (Net) July 2012	Variation to Budget July 2012	Projected Year end Variance Traffic Light
		Original Budget	Brought Forward from 2011/12 Surplus + Deficit -	Virements to Date	Supplementary Estimates to Date	Latest Estimate						
(1)	(2)	£000 (3)	£000 (4)	£000 (5)	£000 (6)	£000 (7)	£000 (8)	underspend - overspend + £000 (9)	£000 (10)	£000 (11)	underspend - overspend + £000 (12)	(13)
CEF	Children, Education & Families											
	Gross Expenditure	563,507	2,457	-13,487	0	552,477	551,261	-1,216	184,707	163,813	-20,893	G
	Gross Income	-457,693	0	12,531	0	-445,162	-445,162	0	-148,142	-143,906	4,236	G
		105,814	2,457	-956	0	107,315	106,099	-1,216	36,565	19,908	-16,657	G
SCS	Social & Community Services											
	Gross Expenditure	259,276	1,122	-9,947	0	250,451	250,281	-170	86,889	78,279	-8,611	G
	Gross Income	-39,641	0	1,353	0	-38,288	-38,288	0	-16,156	-19,062	-2,906	G
		219,635	1,122	-8,594	0	212,163	211,993	-170	70,734	59,217	-11,517	G
EE	Environment & Economy											
	Gross Expenditure	144,307	1,899	-3,937	0	142,269	142,516	247	52,965	41,665	-11,299	G
	Gross Income	-66,649	0	4,707	0	-61,942	-61,912	30	-26,154	-25,530	624	G
		77,658	1,899	770	0	80,327	80,604	277	26,810	16,136	-10,675	G
CEO	Chief Executive's Office											
	Gross Expenditure	16,360	508	9,942	0	26,810	26,604	-206	184,707	163,813	-20,893	G
	Gross Income	-7,966	0	-1,132	0	-9,098	-9,098	0	-148,142	-143,906	4,236	G
		8,394	508	8,810	0	17,712	17,506	-206	36,565	19,908	-16,657	G
	Less recharges to other directorates	-49,078				-49,078	-49,078	0			0	G
		49,078				49,078	49,078	0			0	G
	Directorate Expenditure Total	934,372	5,986	-17,429	0	922,929	921,584	-1,345	509,267	447,571	-61,696	G
	Directorate Income Total	-522,871	0	17,459	0	-505,412	-505,382	30	-338,593	-332,403	6,190	G
	Directorate Total Net	411,501	5,986	30	0	417,517	416,202	-1,315	170,674	115,168	-55,506	G

FINANCIAL MONITORING OVERVIEW REPORT
STRATEGY AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 4 OCTOBER 2012
Budget Monitoring

Ref	Directorate	BUDGET 2012/13					Outturn Forecast Year end Spend/Income £000 (8)	Projected Year end Variation underspend - overspend + £000 (9)	Profiled Budget (Net) July 2012 £000 (10)	Actual Expenditure (Net) July 2012 £000 (11)	Variation to Budget July 2012 underspend - overspend + £000 (12)	Projected Year end Variance Traffic Light (13)
		Original Budget £000 (3)	Brought Forward from 2011/12 Surplus + Deficit - £000 (4)	Virements to Date £000 (5)	Supplementary Estimates to Date £000 (6)	Latest Estimate £000 (7)						
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
	Contributions to (+)/from (-)reserves	8,366	-5,986			2,380	4,993	2,613				
	Contribution to (+)/from(-) balances	2,800				2,800	2,800	0				
	Pensions - Past Service Deficit Funding	1,500				1,500	1,500	0				
	Capital Financing	37,001				37,001	37,001	0				
	Interest on Balances	-4,348				-4,348	-4,348	0				
	Additional funding to be allocated					0		0				
	Strategic Measures Budget	45,319	-5,986	0	0	39,333	41,946	2,613				
	Government Grants	-52,964		-30		-52,994	-52,994	0				
	Council Tax	-4,019				-4,019	-4,019	0				
	Revenue Support Grant	-2,193				-2,193	-3,491	-1,298				
	Business rates	-113,119				-113,119	-113,119	0				
	Council Tax Requirement	284,525	0	0	0	284,525	284,525	0				

FINANACIAL MONITORING OVERVIEW REPORT
STRATEGY AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 4 OCTOBER 2012

Pooled Budgets

Older People, Physical Disabilities and Equipment Pool

Original Budget £m	Latest Budget £m		Forecast Variance July 2012 £m
		Council Elements	
		Older People	
49.644	53.703	Care Homes	+1.688
26.968	28.863	Community Support Purchasing Budget	-1.193
		Transfer underspend to reserves	+0.000
76.612	82.566	Total Older People	0.495
		Physical Disabilities	
2.622	2.622	Care Homes	+0.000
6.158	6.298	Community Support Purchasing Budget	+0.000
8.780	8.920	Total Physical Disabilities	+0.000
0.886	1.140	Equipment	+0.255
86.278	92.626	Total Council Elements	+0.750
		PCT Elements	
24.549	24.403	Older People	+2.588
6.331	6.625	Physical Disabilities	-0.049
0.308	0.803	Equipment	+0.083
31.188	31.831	Total PCT Elements	+2.622
117.466	124.457	Total Older People, Physical Disabilities and Equipment Pool	+3.372

FINANACIAL MONITORING OVERVIEW REPORT
STRATEGY AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 4 OCTOBER 2012

Pooled Budgets

Learning Disabilities Pool

Original Budget £m	Latest Budget £m		Forecast Variance July 2012 £m
		Council Elements	
50.78	49.607	Personal Budgets	-0.854
16.050	16.886	Other Services	+0.011
66.830	66.493	Total Council Elements	-0.843
12.346	12.424	Total PCT Elements	-0.157
79.176	78.917	Total Learning Disabilities Pool	-1.000

**FINANACIAL MONITORING OVERVIEW REPORT
STRATEGY AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 4 OCTOBER 2012**

Ringfenced Government Grant Details - 2012/13

Directorate	Budget Book	In year Adjustments / New Allocations reported	Latest Allocation
	£m		£m
<u>Children, Education & Families</u>			
Ringfenced Grants			
Asylum UASC Fieldwork (reimbursement from Home Office)	1.243	-0.168	1.075
Dedicated Schools Grant		0.000	0.000
2012/13 Allocation	379.789	-32.840	346.949
Intensive Interventions Programme (DfE)	0.195	0.005	0.200
Music	0.704	0.027	0.731
National Citizen Service	0.000	0.184	0.184
Pupil Premium	8.689	-1.352	7.337
Pupil Premium - Summer School Grant	0.000	0.114	0.114
Education Funding Agency – Sixth Form Funding	27.608	0.000	27.608
Education Funding Agency – SEN	0.491	0.000	0.491
Youth Justice Board	0.924	-0.051	0.873
Thriving Families - Co-ordinator funding	0.000	0.100	0.100
Thriving Families - Attachment Fee	0.000	0.842	0.842
Total Children, Education & Families	419.643	-33.139	386.504
<u>Environment & Economy</u>			
Natural England	0.229		0.229
Skills Funding Agency - Adult Education	3.820		3.82
Total Environment & Economy	4.049	0	4.049
Total	423.692	-33.139	390.553

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THE NEW LOOK LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME FROM APRIL 2014

Report by the Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer

Introduction

1. At the March 2012 meeting of this Committee, Members were provided an update on the negotiations for the changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). Since that date, the Employers and Unions have issued a joint set of proposals for a New Look Scheme, and these have been widely endorsed following informal consultation. We are now awaiting formal consultation on the proposals from the Government.
2. Whilst at the time of writing this report we have not yet had the formal consultation from the Government, previous statements have made clear that they intend to follow the joint proposals as long as they were supported. This report therefore sets out the highlights from the joint proposals, and the key issues raised in the Council's response to the informal consultation. The Committee is invited to make any further comments to include in the response to the formal consultation exercise. Any differences in the final consultation to the joint proposals will be brought to the attention of this Committee.

Key Elements of Joint Proposals

3. The joint proposals were published at the end of May 2012 by the Local Government Association on behalf of the employers, and Unison, GMB and Unite on behalf of the Unions. The subsequent informal consultations amongst their members found levels of support for the proposals ranging from 84% from Unite to 95% for GMB.
4. The key elements of the joint proposals are as follows:
 - (a) A switch from Final Salary to a Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) scheme
 - (b) An improvement in the accrual rate from the current 1/60th to 1/49th
 - (c) Annual indexation of accrued benefits in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
 - (d) The definition of pensionable pay to be widened to include non-contractual overtime and additional hours for part-time staff
 - (e) The allocation of staff to contribution bands to be based on their actual pay rather than their full time equivalent salary
 - (f) Average employee contribution rates to remain at 6.5% of pensionable pay, with no one on a salary below £43,000 due to pay more, with rises at higher grades to reflect impact of tax relief. Scheme Members on salaries in the range £43,000 to £60,000 will see an increase in their

contributions from 7.2% to 8.5%. Those staff earning over £150,000 will see an increase from 7.5% to 12.5%.

- (g) Introduction of a 50% option, where for a limited period a scheme member can pay 50% of their contribution to accrue 50% of the pension benefit (though death grants, ill-health retirements etc still paid at 100%).
- (h) Normal retirement age to be equal to the individual's State Pension age.
- (i) Increase in the vesting period from 3 months to 2 years i.e. if you leave the scheme before accruing 2 years membership, you are entitled to a refund of contributions rather than a deferred pension.
- (j) Extension of the current Fair Deal arrangements, with staff transferred out of the public sector under TUPE entitled to retain membership of the LGPS.
- (k) Transitional protections in place so that all pre 2014 benefits and rights fully protected, and anyone within 10 years of their normal retirement age as at 1 April 2012 will receive a pension at least equal to that they would have received under the 2008 scheme.

Key Issues and Council Response to Informal Consultation

- 5. Overall, the proposals have been estimated by the Government Actuary Department (GAD) to lead to a future service cost of 19.5% of pensionable pay, in line with the Government's cost ceiling. With an average employee contribution of 6.5%, this will lead to an average employer contribution for future service of 13.5%. (N.B. Actual employer contributions will vary from average depending on their staff profile, and will also need to include an element for the past service deficit). GAD estimate that the proposals will reduce the average employer contribution by 2.2%, though whether this is reflected in the 2013 Valuation will depend on a range of other factors, including the performance of the financial markets since the last valuation in 2010.
- 6. Many of the elements of the joint proposal had been subject to previous discussion at the Pension Fund Committee, and were consistent with the way forward recommended by the Committee. The solution was seen as both affordable and sustainable, and supported by both employers and employees. As such, the County Council in its role as both the Administering Authority for the Oxfordshire LGPS Fund and as a major employer offered its general support for the proposals, in the response to the informal consultation.
- 7. The Council welcomed the switch to a CARE Scheme which is seen as a fairer model than the final salary scheme. All members will now gain a pension based on their contributions throughout their service, and those who receive promotion late on in their careers will no longer see their full pension benefiting from the increase in final salary.
- 8. The Council also welcomed the changes to widen the definition of pensionable pay and to switch the establishment of an employee's contribution rate to link with their actual pay rather than their full time equivalent salary. These

changes are seen to address inequalities previous faced by the many part-time members of staff across the Council.

9. As a means of controlling the increasing costs of the pension scheme, the Council welcomed the linking of the normal retirement age with the State Pension Age. The full protection of pension benefits prior to 2014, as well as the further protection given to those closest to retirement reduces the impact of this change on those less able to plan for the consequences.
10. The Council particularly welcomed the proposals around the contribution rates, and the fact that no-one on a salary below £43,000 will see an increase in their contribution rate. This means well over 90% of current members will see no increase. The Council had previously argued that the greatest risk to the LGPS was widespread opt out of the new scheme, where employees unable to pay increased contributions, particularly in light of the current financial environment and recent pay freezes.
11. As another means to maintain scheme membership and therefore the affordability and sustainability of the LGPS, the Council also welcomed the extension of the current Fair Deal arrangements, and the switch to allow out-sourced staff the right to remain within the LGPS.
12. The Council gave a cautious welcome to the proposal for a new 50/50 scheme. The Council fully supports the principle of facilitating new starters and those facing temporary financial hardship to remain in a pension scheme, and to save for their own retirement. However, in the absence of the detailed proposals, the Council expressed some concern as to how this option would operate in practice, both in terms of ease of understanding for the employee faced with the choice, and for employers and the administering authority.
13. In particular, the Council is looking for greater clarity around how long an individual can remain within the 50/50 scheme, on how many separate occasions they can opt back into the 50/50 option, and what restrictions there will be to avoid potential misuse e.g. an employee seeking to join the 50/50 scheme to reduce contributions prior to an ill-health retirement.
14. The one area where the Council expressed real concern was in respect of the 1/49th accrual rate with indexation in line with CPI. Whilst the Council understood that this proposal is broadly cost neutral when compared to the current final salary scheme, and that the overall package was consistent with the Government's cost ceiling, they felt the opportunity to further reduce costs in these difficult financial times had been missed. There was also a concern that public sector pensions would remain overly generous when compared to private sector pensions.
15. The examples provided alongside the proposals plus other research suggests that the majority of staff will retire on a pension broadly similar or indeed higher than under the current arrangements. Those that lose out are the minority of staff who will face a significant reduction in pension when

compared to final salary arrangements which disproportionately rewarded increases in salary late in a career.

16. With an accrual rate of 1/49th, and an extension of normal working life to the new state pension age, employees in future will have the opportunity to accrue pension benefits in line with their average salary (a working life in the public sector from age 19 to 68 will create a pension benefit of 49/49 of average salary). For a significant number of staff whose pay rises in line with CPI over their career, this means their pension will equal their final salary, on top of which they will receive their state pension. Given the previous research on levels of income required in retirement to maintain your standard of living (as reported by the Turner Commission), the proposals can be seen to be over generous in terms of potential pension benefits.
17. Given the difficulty of reviewing this aspect of the joint proposals in isolation from the package as a whole, the Council's informal consultation response accepted that their concern around the accrual rate may not be addressed at this time. The Council therefore suggested that amendments to the accrual rate are seen as the default position to address future pension pressures, rather than any further amendments to employee contribution rates.

Financial and Staff Implications

18. As covered in the main body of the report, the Government Actuary Department estimate that implementation of the joint proposals would reduce the average employer contribution rate by 2.2% of pension pay. Whether this reduction in cost is fed directly through to the Council's budget from April 2014 depends on a whole range of other factors to be taken into account by the Fund's Actuary when he completes the 2013 Valuation of the Fund.
19. For staff, the proposals are seen to maintain a quality pension provision at no extra cost for the majority and with improved arrangements for those facing financial difficulties or the prospect of being out-sourced from their current employer.

RECOMMENDATION

20. **The Committee is RECOMMENDED to consider the joint proposals for a New Look LGPS, and the initial comments made by the Council in response to the informal consultation exercise, and offer any further comments it wishes to see incorporated into the formal consultation response**

SUE SCANE

Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer

Background papers: Joint Proposals from LGA and Unions plus associated papers, available on the New Look LGPS 2014 Project pages of the Local Government Employers website (www.lgps.org.uk)

County Council's response to the Local Government Association on the Informal Consultation on the Joint Proposals

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September 2012

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