

## Notice of a Meeting

### Strategy & Partnerships Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 17 March 2011 at 10.00 am County Hall

#### Membership

Chairman - Councillor Melinda Tilley  
Deputy Chairman - Councillor Nick Carter

*Councillors:*

Jean Fooks	Peter Jones	Dr Peter Skolar
Norman Bolster	A.M. Lovatt	David Wilmshurst
Liz Brighouse OBE	Chip Sherwood	

#### Notes:

**Date of next meeting: 26 May 2011**

#### 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 Melinda Tilley E.Mail: melinda.tilley@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Committee Officer	- Claire Phillips, Tel: (01865) 323967 claire.phillips@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Peter G. Clark  
County Solicitor

March 2011

## 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 - 4)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2011 (**SYP3**) and to note for information any matters arising on them.

4. **Speaking to or petitioning the Committee**
5. **Director's Update**

10.05

The Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy) will give a verbal update on key issues.

## SCRUTINY MATTERS

6. **Financial Monitoring Overview 2010/11** (Pages 5 - 20)

10.20

Commentary by the Cabinet Member for Finance (**SYP6**).

The report provides a commentary on the financial monitoring to the end of January 2011.

Contact Officer: Kathy Wilcox, Principal Financial Manager

7. **Oxfordshire Pension Fund**

10.45

An introduction and overview of the Oxfordshire pension fund will be given to the committee in the form of a presentation.

Contact Officers: Sean Collins, Assistant Head of Oxfordshire Customer Services - Financial Services and Lorna Baxter, Acting Head of Corporate Finance.

8. **Big Society Framework** (Pages 21 - 24)

11.10

The committee is asked to consider a paper (**SYP8**) on the council's proposed approach to Big Society and draft framework.

Contact Officer: Claire Moore, Strategic Partnership Manager

## **9. Localism Bill (Pages 25 - 30)**

**11.30**

Overview of the key issues of relevance to the county council within the draft Localism Bill (**SYP9**).

Contact officer: Ben Threadgold, Senior Policy Officer

**The Committee is invited to consider the potential impact of the Localism Bill on the council and our key partners, and whether more detailed discussions on specific themes within the Bill are required at future meetings.**

## **10. Update on Strategic Partnerships (Pages 31 - 50)**

**11.45**

Overview of recent developments in strategic partnerships and current work programme (**SYP10**).

Contact Officer: Claire Moore, Strategic Partnerships Manager.

## **BUSINESS PLANNING**

### **11. Forward Plan**

**12.05**

### **12.15 Close of Meeting**

## Declarations of Interest

This note briefly summarises the position on interests which you must declare at the meeting. Please refer to the Members' Code of Conduct in Part 9.1 of the Constitution for a fuller description.

### **The duty to declare ...**

You must always declare any "personal interest" in a matter under consideration, ie where the matter affects (either positively or negatively):

- (i) any of the financial and other interests which you are required to notify for inclusion in the statutory Register of Members' Interests; or
- (ii) your own well-being or financial position or that of any member of your family or any person with whom you have a close association more than it would affect other people in the County.

### **Whose interests are included ...**

"Member of your family" in (ii) above includes spouses and partners and other relatives' spouses and partners, and extends to the employment and investment interests of relatives and friends and their involvement in other bodies of various descriptions. For a full list of what "relative" covers, please see the Code of Conduct.

### **When and what to declare ...**

The best time to make any declaration is under the agenda item "Declarations of Interest". Under the Code you must declare not later than at the start of the item concerned or (if different) as soon as the interest "becomes apparent".

In making a declaration you must state the nature of the interest.

### **Taking part if you have an interest ...**

Having made a declaration you may still take part in the debate and vote on the matter unless your personal interest is also a "prejudicial" interest.

### **"Prejudicial" interests ...**

A prejudicial interest is one which a member of the public knowing the relevant facts would think so significant as to be likely to affect your judgment of the public interest.

### **What to do if your interest is prejudicial ...**

If you have a prejudicial interest in any matter under consideration, you may remain in the room but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the matter under consideration, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise.

### **Exceptions ...**

There are a few circumstances where you may regard yourself as not having a prejudicial interest or may participate even though you may have one. These, together with other rules about participation in the case of a prejudicial interest, are set out in paragraphs 10 – 12 of the Code.

### **Seeking Advice ...**

It is your responsibility to decide whether any of these provisions apply to you in particular circumstances, but you may wish to seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer before the meeting.

This page is intentionally left blank

# Agenda Item 3

## STRATEGY & PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**MINUTES** of the meeting held on Thursday, 13 January 2011 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 12.30pm.

**Present:**

**Voting Members:** Councillor Melinda Tilley – in the Chair

Councillor Nick Carter (Deputy Chairman)  
Councillor Jean Fooks  
Councillor Norman Bolster  
Councillor Liz Brighthouse OBE  
Councillor Peter Jones  
Councillor Chip Sherwood  
Councillor David Wilmshurst  
Councillor Charles Mathew  
Councillor Patrick Greene

**Other Members in Attendance:** Councillor Jim Couchman (for Agenda Item 7)  
Councillor David Robertson (for Agenda Item 8)

**Officers:**

Whole of meeting Sue Scane, Claire Phillips (Chief Executive's Office)

Part of meeting Stephen Capaldi (Chief Executive's Office), John Parry (Customer Services)

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Officer Attending</b>
7	Kathy Wilcox, Principal Financial Manager
8	Ben Threadgold, Senior Policy 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.*

**1/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS**  
(Agenda No. 1)

Apologies were received from Councillor Skolar (Councillor Greene substituting) and Councillor Lovatt (Councillor Mathew substituting).

**2/11 MINUTES**  
(Agenda No. 3)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2010 were approved and signed subject to the following amendments Cllr Sherwood had sent apologies, Cllr Couchman attended the meeting and Cllr Carter declared an interest in item no. 6.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 December 2010 were approved and signed.

John Parry provided information about staff grievances through the Staff Care Service which did indicate any increases in inappropriate management practice.

### **3/11 DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

(Agenda No. 5)

Sue Scane, Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer advised that Human Resources have produced a toolkit for managers on managing change. She also outlined the process currently underway to assess Key Service Managers across the organisation.

Sue Scane updated the committee on the Big Society and localism agenda referring to the letter to all councillors about locality review meetings taking place in February. Work is ongoing to develop the Big Society framework which will incorporate our approach to community self help, a Big Society fund for communities and the future of the Closer to Communities strategy.

It was highlighted that all expenditure over £500 is now disclosed on the council website.

### **4/11 SERVICE AND RESOURCE PLANNING 2011/12 - 2015/16**

(Agenda No. 6)

The committee reviewed the comments made by individual scrutiny committees at their meetings on 20 December and made the following additional comments;

#### **Growth and Infrastructure**

- Emphasised preference that any additional available capital funding should be used for Highways maintenance
- Wish to remind cabinet of the Bus Champion, Cllr Lilly
- Support for reintroduction of charges at park and ride sites and explore opportunities for retail at these sites
- S106 developer contributions wish to make best use of new arrangements when these are announced by government

#### **Safer and Stronger Communities**

- Noted that support in the scrutiny committee for the proposals was broad but not unanimous
- Importance of the mobile library service was emphasised

#### **Adult Services**

- Budget pressures from delayed transfers of care were noted as a concern

#### **Children's Services**



- The importance of encouraging registration of eligibility for the pupil premium was emphasised to maximise funding to schools.
- The importance and success of the youth offending service that will be part of the Early Intervention Service was raised.

### **Strategy and Partnerships**

- Property – the committee wished to emphasise the potential interest of parish and town councils to take over property.

It was AGREED to forward these and the individual scrutiny committees' comments from 20 December to Cabinet.

## **5/11 FINANCIAL MONITORING OVERVIEW 2010/11**

(Agenda No. 7)

The financial monitoring report was noted.

It was AGREED to refer the consideration of the physical disabilities overspend to the Adult Services Scrutiny Committee and Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## **6/11 DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2011/12**

(Agenda No. 8)

The Committee considered a draft of the Corporate Plan for the period 2011/12 to 2015/16 prior to consideration and approval by the Cabinet on 25 January 2011 and Council on 16 February 2011.

The Committee noted that the plan was still in a draft format and further work is underway to develop targets for each priority in the delivery plan.

It was noted that the intention is to reduce the number of printed copies of the plan.

It was AGREED that comments on the specific items in the delivery plan should be sent directly to Ben Threadgold.

## **7/11 FORWARD PLAN**

(Agenda No. 9)

It was AGREED that the Chairman would consider the future work programme for the committee and discuss with the committee outside the meeting.

## **8/11 LOCALISM BILL**

(Agenda No. 10)

Members attention was drawn to the new Localism Bill (which was laid before Parliament on 13 December 2010) is intended to provide new power and freedoms to councils and neighbourhoods. The Bill is very wide-ranging, and amongst other things is likely to have implications for our Big Society proposals and planning / infrastructure funding strategies.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/decentralisation/localismbill/>

..... in the Chair

Date of signing .....

## **STRATEGY AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY 17 MARCH 2011**

### **FINANCIAL MONITORING OVERVIEW**

#### **COMMENTARY BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE**

1. The last Financial Monitoring Overview to Strategy and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee on 14 January 2011 set out the Council's financial position at the end of the first seven months of 2010/11. This report provides a commentary on the financial monitoring for the following three months and is consistent with the Financial Monitoring Report to the end of January considered by Cabinet on 15 March 2011. Each of the monthly reports to Cabinet are available on the Council's website and the most recent Directorate reports upon which the Cabinet reports are based are available in the Members' Resource Centre.
2. Part 1 sets out the forecast revenue position, Part 2 the Balance Sheet. Part 3 provides an update on the Capital Programme and Monitoring and Part 4 provides an update on funding changes and other financial issues.
3. As part of the Council's Business Strategy, a new Directorate structure will be implemented by March 2011. Reports have been in the new structure where this is in place since the report to Cabinet on 25 January 2011. There may be further refinement required in 2011/12 but the remaining changes to fully implement the Business Strategy have been made through the Service & Resource Planning process.
4. The next report to Strategy and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee on 21 July 2011 will be a summary of the Provisional Outturn Report. This will set out the final position for 2010/11 and the agreed use of carry forwards in 2011/12. To support the implementation of the Business Strategy the expectation is that any underspends will generally be placed into the Efficiency Reserve to contribute to savings. This approach is reflected in the Financial Monitoring Reports to Cabinet which note where there are expected carry forward requests relating to funding for a specific project spanning more than one year, for example. As such any requests to carry forward underspends will only be approved on an individual and exceptional basis.

#### **International Financial Report Standards (IFRS)**

5. From 2010/11 all local authority accounts are required to be prepared using International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). This is part of a wider public sector move to comply with international accounting standards and replaces the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP).
6. The basis for recognising grants and contributions relating to capital and revenue expenditure has changed under IFRS. They have to be accounted for on an accrual basis, and recognised immediately in the Council's accounts as income. The only exception is where the grant or contribution is subject to a "condition" that has not been satisfied – ie. the grant or contribution would need to be returned if it is not used for the specified purpose.

7. Since the 2010/11 accounts will need to be consistent with the IFRS – based code, the forecast position for 2010/11 has now been updated to reflect this requirement. The table below sets out the anticipated unspent elements of grants now reported. These will be carried forward and considered as part of the carry forward requests in the Provisional Outturn Report to Cabinet on 21 June 2011.

<b>Grant/Directorate</b>	<b>Underspend £m</b>
Dedicated Schools Grant	-1.116
<b>Total Children, Young People &amp; Families (CYP&amp;F)</b>	<b>-1.116</b>
Social Care Reform Grant	-0.976
National Dementia Strategy Grant	-0.031
New Dimensions Training Grant	-0.072
<b>Total Social &amp; Community Services (S&amp;CS)</b>	<b>-1.079</b>

8. Other than future variations on Dedicated Schools Grant it is expected that this will be a one off issue in 2010/11, as only a small number of ringfenced grants remain in Directorate budgets in 2011/12. The CYP&F Management Accounting team are continuing to look at the contributions within the Directorate to establish whether further underspends need to be reported in this way to comply with terms and conditions of the grant.

## **Part 1 - Revenue**

9. To enable comparison to previous 2010/11 reports, the table on the next page has been adjusted to show the forecast Directorate position before and after the changes relating to IFRS. The in-year Directorate forecast underspend excluding the impact of the grant underspends is -£2.725m, or -0.71% compared to a budget of £385.745m. The total variation after taking account of the grant underspends and overspends on the Council elements of the Pooled Budgets is an overspend of -£0.494m or -0.13%. The in-year forecast excludes an underspend of -£1.116m on services funded from Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). This will need to be carried forward with its use in 2011/12 agreed by the Schools Forum.

## SYP6

	Latest Budget 2010/11	Forecast Outturn 2010/11	Variance Forecast January 2011 (including non- DSG Grant underspends)	Variance Forecast January 2011 (including non- DSG Grant underspends)	Variance Forecast January 2011 (excluding non-DSG Grant underspends)	Variance Forecast January 2011 (excluding non-DSG Grant underspends)
	£m	£m	£m	%	£m	%
Children, Young People & Families	96.767	95.788	-0.979	-1.01	-0.979	-1.01
Social & Community Services	204.486	203.554	-0.932	-0.46	+0.147	+0.07
Environment & Economy	72.215	71.907	-0.308	-0.43	-0.308	-0.43
Oxfordshire Customer Services	1.408	0.555	-0.853	-60.58	-0.853	-60.58
Chief Executive's Office	10.869	10.137	-0.732	-6.73	-0.732	-6.73
<b>In year Directorate total)</b>	<b>385.745</b>	<b>381.941</b>	<b>-3.804</b>	<b>-0.99</b>	<b>-2.725</b>	<b>-0.71</b>
Add: Overspend on Council Elements of Pooled Budgets <sup>1</sup>			+2.231		+2.231	
<b>Total Directorate variation including Pooled Budgets</b>			<b>-1.573</b>	<b>-0.41</b>	<b>-0.494</b>	<b>+0.13</b>
Less: Underspend on DSG			-1.116		-1.116	
<b>Total Variation</b>			<b>-2.689</b>	<b>-0.70</b>	<b>-1.610</b>	<b>-0.16</b>

<sup>1</sup> These will be included as part of the Outturn position at year end.

10. If the effect of the IFRS changes is excluded the comparable position reported for January has reduced by -£2.285m from a -£0.440m underspend as forecast at the end of October to a -£2.725m underspend as shown in the table below.

	Forecast Variance (excluding grant underspends) as at:			
	31 October 2010 <i>(reported to Cabinet on 21 December 2010)</i> £m	30 November 2010 <i>(reported to Cabinet on 25 January 2011)</i> £m	31 December 2010 <i>(reported to Cabinet on 16 February 2011)</i> £m	31 January 2011 <i>(reported to Cabinet on 15 March 2010)</i> £m
Directorate				
CYP&F	-0.531	-0.062	-0.763	-0.979
S&CS	+1.705	+1.622	+0.702	+0.147
Environment & Economy	-0.891	-0.919	-1.166	-0.308
Community Safety & Shared Services/Oxfordshire Customer Services	-0.350	-0.118	-0.178	-0.853
Corporate Core/Chief Executive's Office	-0.373	-0.488	-0.596	-0.732
<b>Directorate in-year forecast over/underspend</b>	<b>-0.440</b>	<b>+0.035</b>	<b>-2.001</b>	<b>-2.725</b>
<b>Change compared to previous month</b>		<b>+0.475</b>	<b>-2.036</b>	<b>-0.724</b>

**Children Young People & Families: -£0.979m or -1.01% in-year directorate underspend**

Children and Families (-£0.350m underspend)

11. An underspend of -£0.350m is now forecast in the Children and Families Service compared to a break-even position reported previously. This includes an underspend of -£0.662m on Placements which will be used to off-set the overspend on Asylum.

12. The Asylum Service is forecasting an overspend of +£0.531m. The improvement since January reflects the service not receiving any contract amendment penalties from ending and then restarting the contracts relating to All Rights Exhausted (ARE) clients.

13. An underspend of -£0.290m is now forecast in the Family Support and Assessment Service which is mainly due to delays in recruitment to posts or where vacancies have not been filled.

Raising Achievement Service (+£0.404m overspend)

14. The Raising Achievement Service are forecasting an overspend of +£0.404m (excluding DSG), an increase of +£0.410m since the last Strategy and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee report. Outdoor Education Centres are now reporting a breakeven position and the underlying underspend in the Equality and Diversity Achievement Service now stands at -£0.261m.

Commissioning, Performance & Quality Assurance (-£1.277m underspend)

15. As reported throughout the year there is an underspend of -£1.397m on Home to School Transport. It is not expected that a further saving will be made in 2011/12 as the budget has been reduced as part of the Directorate savings.

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Funded Services (-£1.116m underspend)

16. There is an underspend of -£0.500m in Early Learning and Childcare. Primary and Secondary Strategies are also reporting an underspend of -£0.426m. As mentioned in paragraph 7 any DSG underspend will be requested as a carry forward to 2011/12 and the use of funding will be considered by Schools Forum.

**Social & Community Services: -£0.932m, or -0.46%, in-year directorate underspend including IFRS grant adjustments (+£0.147m or +0.07% overspend excluding grant adjustments)**

Social Care for Adults (+£0.535m overspend)

17. The overspend in this area has decreased by -£0.921m since the last report. Older People Care Management is now forecasting an overspend of +£0.012m a decrease of -£0.286m. This reflects the new structure following the implementation of Self-Directed Support taking effect from December 2010. The forecast includes £0.149m funding from the Social Care Reform Grant. £0.468m redundancy costs are now being met from the Efficiency Reserve, and one off funding of £0.250m from the Section 117 Reserve has been used to support the forecast position.
18. An overspend of +£0.039m is forecast for the Alert Service, an increase of +£0.114m since the last report. This is after taking account of a virement approved by Cabinet on 16 February 2011 requesting to transfer the £0.250m provided for the rollout of the Bicester Resource Centre to this area. There remains an on going pressure in this area for future years and the service is working on an action plan.
19. Fairer Charging and Residential Client Income is forecast to be underachieved by £0.504m. This reflects the quota system introduced to control expenditure within the Pooled Budgets as noted in paragraph 23.
20. The Mental Health service is now forecasting an overspend of +£0.149m, a reduction from +£0.321m in the previous report to Strategy and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee.

Strategy & Transformation and Supporting People (-£0.966m underspend)

21. The service is underspending by -£0.966m, a decrease of -£1.072m since the last report. In accordance with IFRS as set out in paragraph 7 the forecast includes an underspend of -£0.976m on the Social Care Reform Grant which will be requested to be carried forward to 2011/12. The Transforming Adult Social Care programme will come to a close on 31 March 2011. The programme will deliver against the agreed elements but there are on-going support requirements to support future efficiencies. Should the carry forward request be agreed the underspend will be used in 2011/12 to meet these objectives in accordance with an agreed programme of work.

Pooled Budgets**Older People, Physical Disabilities & Equipment Pool**

22. As shown in the table below, which includes a comparison to the variation in the previous report as at the end of October, the forecast outturn on the Older People, Physical Disabilities and Equipment Pooled Budgets is an overspend of +£4.937m. Including the +£0.686m overspend brought forward from 2009/10, the Council elements are forecast to overspend by +£1.298m while the Primary Care Trust (PCT) element is forecast to overspend by +£3.639m. The PCT will make a payment in respect of their share of the overspend before the end of the financial year.

<b>Original Budget 2010/11</b>	<b>Latest Budget 2010/11</b>		<b>Forecast Variance January 2011</b>	<b>Variance October 2010</b>	<b>Change in Variance</b>
<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>		<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
		<b>Council Elements: Older People</b>			
53.052	51.417	Care Homes	+0.123	+0.312	-0.189
28.818	29.293	Community Support Purchasing Budget	-0.132	+0.097	-0.229
<b>81.870</b>	<b>80.710</b>	<b>Total Older People</b>	<b>-0.009</b>	<b>+0.409</b>	<b>-0.418</b>
		<b>Physical Disabilities</b>			
2.450	2.450	Care Homes	+0.570	+0.823	-0.253
4.652	4.616	Community Support Purchasing Budgets	+0.575	+0.823	-0.248
<b>7.102</b>	<b>7.066</b>	<b>Total Physical Disabilities</b>	<b>+1.145</b>	<b>+1.646</b>	<b>-0.501</b>
1.169	1.169	<b>Equipment</b> Forecast in-year variance	+0.162	+0.152	+0.010
<b>90.141</b>	<b>88.945</b>	<b>Total Forecast in year variance – Council Elements</b>	<b>+1.298</b>	<b>+2.207</b>	<b>-0.909</b>

17.917	23.760	<b>PCT elements:</b> Older People	+2.313	+2.972	-0.659
4.047	4.047	Physical Disabilities	+1.071	+0.958	+0.113
0.312	0.311	Equipment	+0.255	+0.170	+0.085
<b>22.276</b>	<b>28.118</b>	<b>Total Forecast in-year variance – PCT Elements</b>	<b>+3.639</b>	<b>+4.100</b>	<b>-0.461</b>

<b>112.417</b>	<b>117.063</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>+4.937</b>	<b>+6.307</b>	<b>-1.370</b>
----------------	----------------	--------------	---------------	---------------	---------------

Council Elements

23. The total overspend on the Older People budget has decreased by -£0.418m to -£0.009m since October, having increased to +£0.645m at the end of December, due to the transfer of the cost of people aged over 65 from the physical disabilities pooled budget. The reduction reflects the quota system introduced for both Internal and



External Home Support which has reduced the projected overspend in these areas. As noted in paragraph 19, this has, however, had an adverse impact on income.

24. Additional funding is being provided by the Oxford Radcliffe Hospital Trust and the PCT to relieve pressures on delayed transfers of care. Additional funding was also provided via the PCT from the Department of Health allocation for reablement linked to hospital discharge. The impact of this additional funding has been included in the report and it is expected that this funding will be supplemented by the additional resource from the National Health Service (NHS) for adult social care announced by the Department of Health at the beginning of January 2011, which is not yet reflected in either this or the Cabinet reports.
25. The Physical Disabilities Budget is forecast to overspend by +£1.145m on Residential and Nursing Beds and External and Internal Home Support. The decrease of -£0.501m is largely due to the implementation of a recovery action plan which has transferred cost to Older People, offset by the transfer of a high cost patient from Continuing Health Care.

### Learning Disabilities Pool

26. The Learning Disabilities Pooled Budget is forecast to overspend by +£1.587m.

Original Budget £m	Latest Budget £m		Variance January 2011 £m	Variance October 2010 £m	Change in Variance £m
		<b>Council Contribution</b>			
9.688	9.673	Residential Services	+0.828	+0.295	+0.533
17.421	17.426	Supported Living	-0.043	+0.087	-0.130
15.307	15.285	Community Support	+0.148	+0.241	-0.093
<b>42.416</b>	<b>42.384</b>	<b>Council Total</b>	<b>+0.933</b>	<b>+0.623</b>	<b>+0.310</b>
		<b>PCT Contribution</b>			
7.236	7.251	Residential Services	+0.620	+0.221	+0.399
13.010	13.064	Supported Living	-0.032	+0.066	-0.098
11.432	11.459	Community Support	+0.066	+0.088	-0.022
<b>31.678</b>	<b>31.774</b>	<b>PCT Total</b>	<b>+0.654</b>	<b>+0.375</b>	<b>+0.279</b>
<b>74.146</b>	<b>74.158</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>+1.587</b>	<b>+0.998</b>	<b>+0.589</b>

27. The forecast has increased by +£0.589m largely due to a reduction of £0.228m in the efficiency savings expected to be achieved this financial year and lower than expected savings resulting from client deaths. A detailed recovery plan has been agreed by Joint Management Group which will deliver both the 2011/12 budget and address the 2010/11 overspending which will be carried forward into 2011/12.

### Community Safety (-£0.440 underspend)

28. The Fire & Rescue Service is forecasting an underspend of -£0.420m and the retained duty system (RDS) -£0.060m. The move from an overspend earlier in the year is a combination of management action taken to control non emergency expenditure and a

lower level of actual emergency call outs compared to forecast. Variances against the RDS budget will be returned to Council balances in line with Council policy.

29. As set out in paragraph 7 the underspend includes £0.072m of New Dimensions Grant which will be requested to be carried forward to 2011/12 for the continuation of the New Dimensions Training Programme.

**Environment & Economy: -£0.308m, or -0.43%, in-year directorate underspend**

Highways & Transport (-£0.015m underspend)

30. The underspend at the end of January was -£0.015m compared to -£0.891m in the previous report. This is after not drawing down as planned on the Parking Account to maintain the balance on the reserve and a planned transfer of £1m relating to pension costs associated with the new transport contract. An action plan to deliver £0.987m additional road maintenance work including patching, defects and minor structural repairs by 31 March 2011 has now been agreed. However with the few weeks remaining until the end of the financial year, together with a need for favourable weather conditions and the extra operational capacity required to allow work to be completed, there is a risk that it will not be possible to complete all of the planned work. Costs incurred as a result of the bad weather in December 2010 are included in the forecast position.

Sustainable Development (-£0.327m underspend)

31. Waste Management is forecasting a break-even position after the estimated underspend of -£1.738m has been transferred to reserves as detailed in the previous report. The underspend has increased by -£0.341m since the last report mainly due to a further decrease in tonnage being disposed of. Some of this is due to the van permitting scheme now being in operation and an update to level of diversion credits (reduced by £0.140m) being payable to the district Councils following agreement by the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership. The additional underspend will be transferred to the Waste Management reserve to support the funding of costs relating to the waste treatment project.

Property Asset Management (-£0.096m underspend)

32. The underspend includes -£0.140m on non-domestic rates which will be returned to balances at the end of the financial year.

**Oxfordshire Customer Services: -£0.853m in-year directorate underspend**

33. An underspend of -£0.350m is forecast for the services previously included as part of Shared Services, an increase of -£0.190m since the last report. Learning & Development is now forecasting an underspend of -£0.100m, resulting from a combination of vacant posts, income from schools and other non pay underspends. The remaining increase in Shared Services is explained by savings relating to the business strategy, starting to be delivered in advance of April 2011 together with part year vacancies and income from schools and elsewhere. A request will be made to carry forward some or all of this underspend to provide funding for the external partnering and other continuous improvement projects which will contribute to delivery of the business strategy.

34. Meals supplied by Food with Thought are 4.4% above target to the end of January 2011, an increase of 0.4% since the end of October. Management action is being taken

to control inflationary pressures on food costs. Food with Thought is currently forecasting a trading surplus of £0.260m although there is a potential pressure on repair and maintenance costs. This will be transferred to the reserve and used for future investment in the service. QCS Cleaning is on target to break-even.

35. ICT is now forecasting to underspend of -£0.400m because two large, complex projects will not be completed until the first or second quarter of 2011/12. The service will therefore be requesting a carry forward to enable the projects to be completed. The first of the two projects is the construction of the Council's Disaster Recovery Centre which was due for completion in March 2011. A review by Property Asset Management determined that the existing site was unsuitable and that an alternative option was to locate at Kidlington Fire Service HQ. Construction costs are now being determined and are estimated to be £0.170m, with work now scheduled to be completed by July 2011.
36. The remainder of the underspend relates to a project that links several workstreams aimed at reducing the future costs of Oxfordshire Community Network (OCN) against a picture of fast changing technology options and the advent of superfast broadband in Oxfordshire. It is now expected that the project will be complete by May/June 2011.
37. Adult Learning continues to report an overspend of +£0.082m which will be carried forward to 2011/12 as part of a planned recovery programme in place to repay the overspend by March 2013.

**Chief Executive's Office: -£0.732m, or -6.73%, in-year directorate underspend**

38. Legal Services is forecast to overspend by +£0.100m. This reflects an increase in Counsel and legal fees and a reduction in external income from Section 106 and other fee earning work. Democratic Services is forecasting an underspend of -£0.100m. Part of this will be requested as a carry forward to fund costs associated with a move towards improving the efficiency of the Educational Appeals process in 2011/12.
39. Human Resources is forecasting an underspend of -£0.180m. A carry forward request will be made to enable the completion of the two year funding for the Apprenticeship Scheme and the employment of the Performance and Engagement Lead. An underspend of -£0.168m on the Audit Fee will be returned to balances at year end. Within Strategy & Communications there are savings relating to vacant posts and reduced activity (-£0.539m). Redundancy costs throughout the directorate totalling £0.549m will be offset against these underspends.

**Redundancy Costs**

40. Redundancy costs of £3.241m are included in the current forecasts. The table on the next page shows the breakdown between directorates and how the costs are being funded.

Directorate	Redundancy Costs		Total Redundancy Costs
	Funded by Directorate	Funded by Efficiency Reserve	
	£m	£m	£m
CYPF			
- National Strategies	0.600		
- Equality & Diversity Achievement Service	0.522		
-Student Support	0.030		1.152
S&CS			
- Restructure of Adult Social Care		0.468	
- Cultural & Community Development		0.049	0.517
- Community Safety		0.067	0.067
Oxfordshire Customer Services (ICT)	0.282	0.287	0.569
Chief Executive's Office	0.549		0.549
E&E	0.205	0.182	0.387
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.188</b>	<b>1.053</b>	<b>3.241</b>

### Virements and Supplementary Estimates

41. Virements requested since October have in the main reflected structure changes required to implement of the Council's Business Strategy. There have been no further supplementary estimates requested since the last report.

### Savings Monitoring

42. As reported previously the total savings planned in 2010/11 were £35.5m. Of that £29.3m was to be achieved by directorates with an additional saving of £6.2m relating to lower than expected inflation. Directorates are currently forecasting to achieve £28.3m by the end of the year. The total savings forecast to be achieved are £34.5m, as shown in the table below:

Directorate	Planned Savings £m	Savings Achieved £m
Children, Young People & Families	6.451	6.451
Social & Community Services	11.514	10.471
Environment & Economy	7.606	7.606
Oxfordshire Customer Services	3.103	3.103
Chief Executive's Office	0.670	0.670
<b>Subtotal Directorate Savings</b>	<b>29.144</b>	<b>28.301</b>
Inflation	6.200	6.200
<b>Total</b>	<b>35.544</b>	<b>34.501</b>

43. It is important to note that the savings are included in the overall position reported elsewhere so need to be seen in that context.

### Bad Debt Write Offs

44. There were 281 general write offs to the end of January 2011 totalling £122,138. Most of these were very small and not economically effective to recover. As previously reported the largest to date is £74,667 and reflects a Section 106 debt in connection

with a planning obligation which was agreed to be written off by Cabinet on 18 May 2010. In addition Client Finance wrote off 109 debts totalling £54,894.

### Strategic Measures

45. The average cash balance for January 2011 was £236.4m and the average rate of return was 1.00%. In December the balance was £214.7m and the rate of return 0.98% and in November the balance was £235.9m and the average rate of return 0.87%. It is expected that the budgeted income for deposits of £1.9m will be achieved.

## Part 2 – Balance Sheet

### Reserves

46. In the last Strategy and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee report reserves were £66.257m and have since increased to £68.627m at the end of January. Changes during this period include an increase in the carry forward reserve reflecting the underspend position now forecast, an increase in the forecast transfer of underspends to the Waste Reserve offset by the use of the Efficiency Reserve to fund redundancy costs in 2010/11.

### School Balances

47. Budget submissions for 2010/11 have now been received from all 289 schools and the updated position will be considered by Schools Forum on 10 March 2011. Submissions for 286 schools have been verified by the CYP&F Schools' Support Team. As shown in the table below 247 schools are budgeting to be in surplus, and 42 in deficit in 2010/11. Deficit plans totalling £1.429m have been agreed for 40 of those schools with a further two, with a total deficit of £0.101m outstanding. The net budgeted surplus is £5.884m.

Budget Plans	Surplus Plans		Deficit Plans		Total	
	No of Schools	£m	No of Schools	£m	No of Schools	£m
Nursery	12	-0.248	0	0	12	-0.248
Primary	202	-4.933	30	+0.443	232	-4.491
Secondary	22	-1.476	10	+0.947	32	-0.529
Special	11	-0.757	2	+0.141	13	-0.616
<b>Total Surplus(-) /Deficit (+)</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>-7.414</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>+1.530</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>-5.884</b>

48. Budget monitoring submissions compared to these plans have also been received from 283 schools with 6 outstanding. 244 schools are showing forecasting a surplus compared to budget in 2010/11. 39 schools, including 11 secondary schools, are forecasting a deficit compared to their budgeted position. This has reduced by four compared to the last returns which reflected the position at the end of September 2010, but reflects 19 schools now showing surplus balances offset by 15 now showing deficit balances.

### Balances

49. General balances were £13.078m as at the end of October 2010 and have increased to £13.256m as at the end of January 2011. Changes since the last report reflect underspends expected to be returned to balances in line with Council Policy. Since forecast balances are higher than the risk assessed level of £12.5m the 2011/12 budget includes an additional one – off contribution from balances.

### Part 3 - Capital Monitoring

50. The capital monitoring position as at the end of January shows forecast expenditure of £88.2m for 2010/11 (excluding schools local capital). This is a decrease of £0.8m compared to the latest capital programme which was approved by Council on 15 February 2011.
51. The table below summarises the forecast 2010/11 variations against the programme agreed in February 2011:

Directorate	Latest Capital Programme (Position as at end of Dec '10, approved by Council Feb '11) £m	Forecast Expenditure (Position as at end of January 2011) £m	Forecast Variation £m
Children, Young People & Families	56.2	56.1	-0.1
Social & Community Services	6.7	6.5	-0.2
Environment & Economy - Transport	19.9	19.6	-0.3
Environment & Economy - Other	5.3	5.1	-0.2
Oxfordshire Customer Services	0.9	0.9	0
Chief Executive's Office	0	0	0
<b>Total Directorate Programmes</b>	<b>89.0</b>	<b>88.2</b>	<b>-0.8</b>
Schools Capital/ Devolved Formula	11.9	11.9	0
Earmarked Reserves	0.1	0.1	0
<b>Total Capital Programme</b>	<b>101.0</b>	<b>100.2</b>	<b>-0.8</b>

#### Actual Expenditure

52. As at the end of January actual capital expenditure was £53.1m, or 60% of the total forecast expenditure of £88.2m (excluding schools local spend). This is still around 4% below the expected position compared to the profile of expenditure in previous years. Committed spend is 85% of the forecast.

### Part 4 – Funding Changes & Other Financial Issues

#### Winter Maintenance

53. On 23 February 2011, the Council received notification from the Department for Transport of exceptional funding for Road Maintenance. Whilst not strictly a ring fenced grant, this funding is conditional on agreeing a declaration ensuring that the Council will spend it on Highways maintenance and that it will be used in addition to the funding currently budgeted. The national total is £100m but the individual authority allocations have yet to be announced. The Council is expecting its share to be in the order of £1.1m based on the allocation method proposed.
54. Given the Leader of the Council's proposal at Council on 15 February 2011 that if additional funding comes to the authority it would be spent on Highways, the report to Council on 16 March 2011 recommends Cabinet to confirm that this grant will be used for Highways Maintenance. When the final figure is known it will be reported along with proposals for the detailed usage. The funding is likely to be received in the last few days of the financial year. If so this will cause a significant underspend which will need

to be requested as a carry forward to 2011/12.

### **2011/12 Pay Award**

55. The Local Government Employers (LGE) announced on 17 February 2011 that it would be freezing all Green Book pay grades. When setting the budget the assumption was made that the LGE were likely to freeze green book pay, but that there was a possibility that a payment of £250 could be accepted for staff paid under £21,000. £0.381m was included in various cost centres where the staff affected were employed.
56. A virement is therefore proposed in the latest Cabinet report to remove this additional funding and transfer it to the Efficiency Reserve. This will be used as a contingency given the rise in inflation and concerns over rising oil and fuel prices.

### **Conclusion**

57. Excluding the effect of the IFRS changes the comparable forecast underspend has increased to -£2.725m at the end of January 2011 from -£0.440m at the end of October 2010. However, if the overspend on the Council's elements of the Pooled Budgets is taken into account there is a combined forecast overspend of -£0.494m. Whilst the overall position has improved since the previous report, there is significant and continuing pressure on the Pooled budgets in SCS which is being managed with the PCT. Given the risks in this area this will need to be monitored closely in 2011/12. The underspend in CYP&F reflects sustained action to reduce spend during this difficult economic period but given the volatility of this area there is a risk that it may be difficult to maintain this in 2011/12.
58. Capital expenditure is in line with the updated programme and reflects the impact of the Capital Programme Review, the moratorium on new schemes and in-year grant reductions.

Councillor Jim Couchman  
Cabinet Member for Finance

March 2011

January Financial Monitoring Report

CABINET - 15 March 2011

Budget Monitoring

Ref	Directorate	BUDGET 2010/11					Outturn Forecast Year end Spend/Income £000 (8)	Projected Year end Variation underspend - overspend + £000 (9)	Profiled Budget (Net) January 2011 £000 (10)	Actual Expenditure (Net) January 2011 £000 (11)	Variation to Budget January 2011 underspend - overspend + £000 (12)	Projected Year end Variance Traffic Light Indicator (13)
		Original Budget £000 (3)	Brought Forward from 2009/10 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)
Page 18	<b>Children, Young People &amp; Families</b>											
	Gross Expenditure	581,870	0	-16,042	498	566,326	564,231	-2,095	474,521	525,464	50,943	G
	Gross Income	-482,820	0	13,261	0	-469,559	-469,559	0	-393,738	-470,118	-76,380	G
	Net Expenditure	99,050	0	-2,781	498	96,767	94,672	-2,095	80,783	55,346	-25,437	A
	<b>Social &amp; Community Services</b>											
	Gross Expenditure	223,982	-716	16,868	170	240,304	239,372	-932	200,789	213,509	12,720	G
	Gross Income	-40,325	0	4,507	0	-35,818	-35,818	0	-30,258	-44,277	-14,019	G
	Net Expenditure	183,657	-716	21,375	170	204,486	203,554	-932	170,531	169,232	-1,299	G
	<b>Environment &amp; Economy</b>											
	Gross Expenditure	99,339	406	963	448	101,156	100,701	-455	84,297	73,551	-10,746	G
	Gross Income	-28,931	0	-10	0	-28,941	-28,794	147	-24,118	-24,296	-179	G
	Net Expenditure	70,408	406	953	448	72,215	71,907	-308	60,179	49,255	-10,924	G
	<b>Oxfordshire Customer Services</b>											
	Gross Expenditure	52,403	805	-865	20	52,363	51,510	-853	43,636	48,241	4,605	G
	Gross Income	-24,281	0	-26,674	0	-50,955	-50,955	0	-42,463	-49,938	-7,475	G
	Net Expenditure	28,122	805	-27,539	20	1,408	555	-853	1,173	-1,697	-2,870	R
	<b>Chief Executive's Office</b>											
	Gross Expenditure	38,569	571	-22,388	254	17,006	16,274	-732	18,874	19,628	754	A
	Gross Income	-28,991	0	22,854	0	-6,137	-6,137	0	-9,818	-11,323	-1,505	G
	Net Expenditure	9,578	571	466	254	10,869	10,137	-732	9,056	8,305	-751	R



SYP6

January Financial Monitoring Report

CABINET - 15 March 2011

Budget Monitoring

Ref	Directorate	BUDGET 2010/11					Outturn Forecast Year end Spend/Income £000 (8)	Projected Year end Variation underspend - overspend + £000 (9)	Profiled Budget (Net) January 2011 £000 (10)	Actual Expenditure (Net) January 2011 £000 (11)	Variation to Budget January 2011 underspend - overspend + £000 (12)	Projected Year end Variance Traffic Light Indicator (13)
		Original Budget £000 (3)	Brought Forward from 2009/10 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)
	Less recharges to other Directorates	-88,704	0	0	0	-88,704	-88,704	0		0		
		88,704	0	0	0	88,704	88,704	0		0		
	<b>Directorate Expenditure Total</b>	907,459	1,066	-21,464	1,390	888,451	883,384	-5,067	822,116	880,393	58,277	G
	<b>Directorate Income Total</b>	-516,644	0	13,938	0	-502,706	-502,559	147	-500,394	-599,952	-99,558	G
	<b>Directorate Total Net</b>	390,815	1,066	-7,526	1,390	385,745	380,825	-4,920	321,722	280,441	-41,282	G

Less: DSG funded services underspend (included above)

1,116

1,116

Directorate variation net of DSG variation

**381,941**

**-3,804**

Add: OCC Elements of OP&PD and LD Pooled Budgets

2,231

In-Year Directorate Variation

**381,941**

**-1,573**

This page is intentionally left blank

## Strategy & Partnership Scrutiny Committee

17<sup>th</sup> March 2011

### The Big Society Framework

#### Purpose

This paper sets out Oxfordshire County Council's activity to support the creation of a Big Society in Oxfordshire. It has been discussed by CCMT and Informal Cabinet. Scrutiny members are asked for their views on the framework. We are also now discussing the framework with our partners so it may be subject to further amendment

#### Background

1. Healthy and Thriving Communities has been a key objective for the County Council and its partners over recent years. This is a key strand of both Oxfordshire 2030 our Sustainable community strategy and the Council's Corporate Plan. In consequence we have been emphasising community self help activities in a variety of ways including the promotion of volunteering, support for community transport schemes etc
2. The unprecedented cuts in public expenditure have inevitably given added impetus to discussion about what local government can afford to fund and what activities might in future be delivered through the voluntary and community sector.
3. Increasingly we are an organisation that is focused on the commissioning and facilitating of outcomes with service delivery only needing to be retained in-house where there are economic or practical reasons.
4. Since the 2010 General Election the Coalition Government has been clear that 'Big Society' is a key element of their programme with four clear themes identified
  - **Devolution** – to local government but also direct to schools, parish councils and other local bodies. The government is also promoting co-operatives and not for profit organisations to take over the running of services.
  - **Cutting red tape/getting rid of bureaucracy** – this includes giving local government a power of general competence as well as scraping a range of quangos and statutory requirements (LAAs, CAA, National Indicator set etc)
  - **Encouraging community action** – volunteering, community organisers etc
  - **Transparency** – requiring public bodies to be open about their spending and giving local people the opportunity to challenge

5. Greg Clark the Local Government Minister has described three actions required for the Big Society to flourish:
  - the right to know - what the state can do for us
  - the right to challenge – What we can do for ourselves
  - turning Government on its head – what we can do for others”
6. The Local Government Bill and various sets of draft guidance define the potential legislative framework and we will bring further reports forward on the various strands of the Bill which include:
  - Internal governance issues for local government (general competence, referendum requirements, committee system, standards, right to challenge etc)
  - Housing provisions
  - Planning and regeneration provisions including Community Infrastructure Levy

### **Our Broad Approach to Big Society**

7. We need to build on the work already in hand and the following proposals are recommended:

#### **Devolution**

8. Over recent years we have made a number of attempts to encourage town and parish councils to take on functions from the County Council. There has been little take up but the offer remains on the table. **The Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils should be encouraged to lead a debate with their members.**
9. We have developed shared services (e.g. ICT for the City Council) partnering arrangements (e.g. highways) and have contracted out numerous services (e.g. residential care). **We will continue to look for opportunities to join with others to improve value for money and service quality including proposals for co-operatives which might be promoted by the not for profit sector or employees.**
10. **In 2011/12 we will establish the Area Stewardship Fund for highway related ‘community enhancement projects’. It is anticipated that in each district area there will be an allocation of funds which Area Stewards will spend on local priorities.**

#### **Cutting red tape and bureaucracy**

11. Changes made by government (regional bodies, CAA, LAA, NIS etc) have enabled the County Council to slim down its workforce. **We will continue**

**to reshape our management structure and back office functions to reflect the new operating environment**

12. We have already identified 14 localities based on natural communities and started work on a series of locality reviews involving local members. Our aim is to help local members to ensure that our services are shaped to fit local communities and to avoid a one size fits all approach. **We will continue our locality focus and in particular address the potential for community run library and youth facilities.**
13. We are developing and improving our customer responsiveness. **During 2011 we will rethink our customer service strategy having particular regard to the findings from our locality reviews. We will also support members to get things done for their communities e.g. making it easy for communities to organise street parties to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.**
14. The public are often discouraged from volunteering because of perceived obstacles some of which are imagined rather than real. **We will seek to 'bust the myths' and encourage local people to take responsibility for their area particularly in relation to snow clearance and clean and green issues.**

#### **Encouraging Community Action**

15. Oxfordshire has a strong and vibrant voluntary, community & faith sector (VCS) but there is potential to encourage more volunteering. **We will work with the VCS to further promote a volunteering culture and connect volunteers to appropriate outlets for their skills and energies.**
16. We already fund key voluntary and community sector infrastructure organisations including OCVA and ORCC: these organisations are vital in supporting local groups, helping with advice on fund raising and volunteers and in providing a voice for the sector. **However in conjunction with our partners we will need to refresh our funding priorities in the year ahead.**
17. For 2011/12 we have established the Big Society Fund to help pump prime community self help projects. It is anticipated that this funding will be used to support projects which emerge from locality reviews and ideas being generated in our communities especially those relating to libraries, youth provision and community transport. However it is also likely that some of this funding will be needed to support the VCS sector to develop their own Big Society strategy and to support local organisations and groups to take on new challenges. **The Council will promote community projects and seek to support as many local projects as we can. More details are on the Council's Big Society website.**
18. The County Council's pump priming fund will not meet all of the funding needs which will emerge as we build the 'Big Society'. **So the Council will work with Oxfordshire Community foundation and other VCS**

**infrastructure organisations to find new ways of raising funds to support our communities.**

19. We are already working with the local government leadership centre to help develop county councillor community leadership/social entrepreneurial skills. **During 2011 we will work with the Leadership Centre to support members, in particular focusing on three of our locality reviews to support local members from all political groups.**
20. We have for many years supported community planning so that local people help shape the future for the communities in which they live and work. **Over the medium term we will strive to extend community planning across all towns and parishes and work with the City Council to promote and support neighbourhood planning**
21. We spend £59m with the VCS and independent sectors each year. Much of this spend is for services delivered on behalf of the County Council and this spending is administered under procurement and contracting arrangements. However we do spend almost £1m each year on grants to local organisations (supporting the arts, environmental groups, advice services etc). **The Council will during 2011 define clear priorities for its grant giving and work with partners to ensure we have a joined up approach which maximises value for money**
22. The County Council already has a 'volunteering policy' for staff and a recent survey revealed that more than 40% of staff volunteer in their spare time. **There is scope to encourage even greater levels of staff volunteering and in the year ahead we will explore how we might better support staff volunteers.**

## **Conclusions**

23. We start from a solid baseline of strong communities and extensive volunteering, but there is much more to be done to unpick the reliance on the state and reshape the County Council for 21<sup>st</sup> century needs. In Oxfordshire this represents evolution rather than revolution but the steps identified in this report will be difficult and challenging.

**Stephen Capaldi**  
**Assistant Chief Executive**

Contact: Claire Moore: Partnership Manager: 01865 323966

## Strategy and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

17 March 2011

### Implications of the draft Localism Bill

#### Purpose / Recommendation

1. **The Committee is invited to consider the potential impact of the Localism Bill on the council and our key partners, and whether more detailed discussions on specific themes within the Bill are required at future meetings.**

#### Background

2. The draft Localism Bill was put before Parliament on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2010 and was given its second reading on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011. It has since moved to a Public Bill Committee for scrutiny which finished on 10<sup>th</sup> March.
3. Although the Bill is unlikely to become law until 2012 a number of the proposals have been well-trialed and are likely to remain close to their current form.
4. Several could require significant preparation by us and our partners, so there are advantages to being proactive in thinking about the implications and seeking to influence further amendments to the Bill.
5. The proposals in the Bill can be grouped into four broad themes:
  - a. internal issues for Local Government including governance and finance;
  - b. Community empowerment including Big Society;
  - c. Planning
  - d. Housing.
6. The Committee may wish to consider the areas of the Bill of with the greatest potential impact on the work of the council and its partners, and to request updates on progress in preparing for / mitigating these.
7. The attached annex provides an initial summary of issues and considerations to support these discussions.

Stephen Capaldi  
Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy)  
7 March 2011

Contact: [Ben Threadgold, Senior Policy Officer, 01865 32 8219]

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### General Power of Competence

8. The Bill proposes allowing councils to do anything unless the law prohibits it, rather than current restrictions allowing us to only do those things permitted in legislation.
9. The Bill gives the Secretary of State power to repeal other statutory provisions he feels restrict or overlap the General Power, or to prevent local authorities (collectively or individually) doing anything in exercising it - this has attracted criticism in significantly limiting the General Power.
10. The Bill allows for the charging for services in exercise of the General Power on a cost recovery basis, providing the service is discretionary and the recipient of the service has agreed to its being provided.

### Governance

11. The Bill permits local authorities to return to a committee system, and discretion to continue with scrutiny arrangements under this system should they wish – however this could not happen before the next Council elections in 2013.
12. The Bill also allows the introduction of an elected mayor if there is a strong desire for one, either politically or in response to a petition. In either case a referendum would be required.
13. It is also proposed to introduce a new requirement for us to have a designated 'Scrutiny Officer', who cannot be the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer or Chief Financial Officer.

### Predetermination

14. This clause provides that an elected member should not be taken to have a 'closed mind' if they have previously indicated what view they would take on an issue.
15. However the rules as drafted in the Bill are not very clear, and imply that the concept of predetermination has not been completely abolished. A Member taking a categorical position in relation to something that needed a decision could still be accused of predetermination.

### Standards

16. The existing Standards Board will be abolished, with Local Government Ombudsmen rulings becoming binding.
17. There will be a new duty to maintain high standards of conduct, but it is not clear how this will be enforced or what would happen if a Member is in breach of that duty.
18. The Council will have the option to continue with its existing code of conduct on a voluntary basis, adopt an amended code or dispense with one altogether.

### Pay Accountability

19. Local authorities will have to approve and publish a senior pay policy statement annually at Full Council, including levels and elements of remuneration for each chief officer, increases and additions, performance



related pay and/or bonuses, remuneration on recruitment or ceasing employment.

20. Statements must be prepared by 31 March of the preceding financial year, starting with 31 March 2012.
21. The Secretary of State has also proposed that Councillors should have to approve local authority salaries of more than £100,000, and will be issuing guidance that any salaries above that will go to a vote of full council.

### **EU Fines**

22. The Bill gives central government the power to require local or public authorities to make payments towards EU financial sanctions, where an authority is believed to have contributed to the imposition of that sanction.

### **Non-domestic rates**

23. Local Authorities will be given the power to set local discounts on business rates to support struggling businesses and to encourage start-ups in their area. Any rate cuts will have to be funded locally, and would require a referendum on their introduction.
24. The clauses allow local authorities to grant discretionary business rate discounts, making small business tax breaks easier to take advantage of, giving affected businesses a greater say in rate supplements, and cancelling certain backdated business rates including port taxes.
25. The Secretary of State also has the power to make provision for a new small business rate relief scheme that would be automatic in some or all cases (ie would not need an application).

## **COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT**

### **Local Referendums**

26. We will be required to hold referendums on issues if we receive a petition signed by 5% of the population requesting one, all elected members for an electoral area request it, or if we pass a resolution to have one.
27. Although they are not necessarily binding, we will be required to take the outcomes of any referendums into account when making decisions.

### **Council Tax**

28. The Secretary of State will no longer be able to cap council tax rises, but will set principles to determine what is deemed as excessive – It is not clear what form the principles will take but they must include comparison to the previous year and can include a threshold.
29. Any local authority and larger parishes setting an increase above the threshold will trigger a local referendum. This would be administered by the district councils.
30. The Bill also includes a change in the calculation from setting a budget requirement to setting a council tax requirement.

### **Community Right to Challenge**

31. This part of the Bill enables voluntary and community bodies, charities, parish councils or public sector employees delivering the service, to express an interest in providing or assisting in providing a local authority service.

32. These provisions will be the subject of further regulation by the Secretary of State, including clarifying considerations for authorities when deciding whether to accept or reject an expression of interest (not currently included in the Bill).
33. Where it accepts an expression of interest, the local authority must carry out a procurement exercise for the running of that service. There is nothing to suggest that the service must continue to be run the same way as before the expression of interest is made.
34. If we are proposing to stop a non-statutory service, the Bill won't apply because we will not be seeking to award a contract for on-going delivery of that service.
35. However where we have an on-going commitment (or responsibility) to run comprehensive services we need to think about how we respond to expressions of interest to run part of the overall service.
36. There is nothing to suggest that the community right to challenge extends to assets of community value – ie we do not have to transfer an asset based on an expression of interest unless we choose to include it in the procurement exercise.

### **Assets of Community Value**

37. These clauses set out proposals for the 'community right to buy'. Local authorities will have to maintain a list of public or private assets of community value and a list of assets unsuccessfully nominated for inclusion.
38. In Oxfordshire the lists will be the responsibilities of District Councils, including setting criteria for inclusion and restricted periods before disposal. There is therefore a risk of five schemes with different implications on council property – discussions are already planned at Chief Executive's and Leaders Groups, SPIP etc.
39. The Community Right to Bid gives communities time to develop a bid and raise the capital required to 'save' a site when the owner of an asset included on the list gives notification of their intention to dispose of it (either freehold or on a long lease). It does not guarantee the asset must ultimately be sold to them, although the implication is that this would be the likely result.
40. The clauses do not replace our obligations to achieve the 'best consideration reasonably obtainable' when disposing of land. Equally they do not restrict our existing ability to transfer land at less than market value provided it will contribute to the promotion and improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of the area and the difference in market value and price paid is not more than £2 million.

## **PLANNING**

### **Planning Processes and Community Infrastructure Levy**

41. This section introduces many of the changes first suggested in the Conservative Planning green paper and again in the Local Growth White Paper, including the abolition of regional strategies, changes to the local planning process and changes to the Community Infrastructure Levy.
42. The proposals make the duty to cooperate between agencies more formal than previously. However it is weak as drafted as it does not apply to

implementation (only plan making). It also does not apply to all authorities (only local planning authorities)

43. The current proposals in the Bill are that affordable and social housing would be exempt from the Community Infrastructure Levy. This could lead to a shortfall in funding where new development places a demand on public services that would not otherwise be required.
44. It is implied within the Growth White Paper that LEPs could have a role in strategic planning, helping to integrate spatial planning, infrastructure delivery and economic development. However this is not referenced in the Localism Bill, and given LEPs are not subject to the duty to cooperate are likely to focus their limited resources on other priorities.

### **Neighbourhood Planning and the Community Right to Build**

45. The Bill outlines proposals to enable communities to permit development without the need for planning applications.
46. The Community Right to Build is intended to tackle the lack of development coming forward by allowing communities to retain the benefits of development. However it is unclear how this will work and it will not address the shortfall in private and public funding available for investment in infrastructure and services.
47. The proposals feel bureaucratic (requiring referendums, independent examinations appointment of neighbourhood forums etc) and appear unlikely to encourage many communities to come forward to produce neighbourhood plans or enact the community right to build.
48. There is also a significant risk of unintended consequences, such as the knock-on effect to local services if planning is permitted locally without funding allocated to improving infrastructure – it is unclear how (if at all) this could be considered / resolved as part of the process.

## **HOUSING**

49. The details of this section are primarily for district councils but could have implications for us, despite the Bill emphasising proposals will not change existing duties for councils to protect the most vulnerable members of the community.
50. The proposed changes in housing policy, linked to other announcements about affordable rents at 80% of market rate and welfare reform (including caps on housing benefit), could have major implications for funding new homes (or not) and the ability of tenants to afford new rents.
51. Similarly if affordable rents prove to be the opposite, social mobility will be restricted – poorer tenants / those on benefits will be more exposed to market provision and may have to migrate out of London and other high cost areas such as Oxford(shire).
52. Proposals in the Bill allow councils and registered social landlords to grant flexible tenancies in social housing, councils to decide who qualifies for their housing waiting list and changes to the way that local authorities can meet their homelessness duty. Although this could impact on our commitment to maintaining independence and keeping people in their own homes as long as possible, and could have implications for other vulnerable groups, there also appears a clear government intention to

target social housing to those in greatest need which should favour or protect the most vulnerable and those on lowest incomes.

## Strategy and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

17 March 2011

### Partnership update report

#### Purpose / Recommendation

1. This paper provides an update on all thematic partnerships and district local strategic partnerships. Members are asked to note the partnership changes that are currently taking place.

#### Background

2. The Oxfordshire Partnership framework has been operating for a number of years. In 2009 we undertook a review of partnership working to ensure it was fit for purpose. Overall we have created the framework and conditions for people and organisations to work together on shared priorities
3. However, the context for partnership working and the landscape around it has rapidly changed over the last few months. Alongside substantial cuts in public spending the Council, along with our partners, has been responding to significant reforms including the Localism and Devolution agenda, the Big Society, significant Health and Policing reforms, the dismantling of regional infrastructure which resulted in the establishment of Local Enterprise Partnerships and the introduction of Community (Place-based) budgets across 16 local areas.
4. We have also seen much of the removal of the top down partnership 'wiring'. There has been a complete scaling back of the inspection framework with the abolition of the Comprehensive Area Assessment, the end to Public Service Agreements and Local Area Agreements.

#### Current Activity

5. The rationale for LSPs and the thematic partnerships has changed dramatically in a short space of time and provides us with the opportunity to take stock of what structures we want in Oxfordshire.
6. We see this as an opportunity to re-direct the future role of partnerships, to move away from bureaucracy and instead have a clearer and more practical focus on what needs to be done to both improve outcomes and reduce costs.
7. As part of this the **Oxfordshire Partnership** is under review. A further report will be scheduled for Scrutiny setting out the future purpose and role of the Oxfordshire Partnership.

8. *The **Public Service Board*** has not met since September 2010 and it has been agreed that meetings will only be convened if and when necessary. Any residual work of the PSB is being picked up the County Chief Executives group (which includes Local Authority Chief Executives, Police and Primary Care Trust)

<b>This report</b>
--------------------

9. The information contained in the report provides an update in terms of each thematic partnerships focus, priorities for the year ahead and role in the creation of the Oxfordshire Big Society. In terms of district Local Strategic Partnerships it is the responsibility of each district whether they want to maintain their Local Partnership and the majority are in the process of reviewing their role and remit.

- Children and Young People's Trust
- Health and Wellbeing
- Environment and Waste
- Local Enterprise Partnership
- Safer Communities
- Oxfordshire Stronger Communities Alliance
- Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Partnership
- All District LSPS
  - Oxford
  - Cherwell
  - West
  - Vale and South

If you require further information please visit the Oxfordshire Partnership website which holds detailed information on the thematic partnerships or contact the lead officer for the relevant partnership.

If you would like any more information about the report please contact:

**Claire Moore**  
**Claire.moore@oxfordshire.gov.uk**  
**01865 323966**  
**Partnerships Manager**

<b>Partnership</b>	Oxfordshire Children and Young People's Trust (OCYPT)
<b>Date of completion</b>	25/02/2011
<b>Contact officer</b>	Sarah Breton
<b>Contact details</b>	01865 815060, sarah.breton@oxfordshire.gov.uk
<b>Chairman</b>	Cllr Louise Chapman
<b>OCC Cabinet Member</b>	Cllr Louise Chapman & Cllr Michael Waine
<b>What is the current focus for the Partnership?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leading a child poverty needs analysis to inform the development of an Oxfordshire Child Poverty Strategy</li> <li>• Agreeing the Year 2 priorities for the Children and Young People's Plan</li> <li>• Challenging performance in key areas.</li> <li>• Driving future direction of the Trust in light of new guidance on Health and Wellbeing Boards</li> </ul>	
<b>What has the Partnership achieved since the last update? (given in September 2010)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Trust has delivered Year 1 of the CYPP. All priorities around keeping all children and young people safe, raising achievement and narrowing the gap are on track to deliver.</li> <li>• There has been a focus on joint working to reduce teenage pregnancy rates. Figures released in February 2011 show a decrease from 29.5% in 2010 to 26.1% and a 17.1% decrease since 1998.</li> </ul>	
<b>What are your plans for the year ahead? (e.g. Membership changes, priorities)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing the role of the Children's Trust and the statutory Health and Wellbeing Board.</li> </ul>	
<b>What do you think the role of the Partnership in the Big Society is?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion still needed by the Trust</li> </ul>	

<b>Partnership</b>	Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership
<b>Date of completion</b>	February 2011
<b>Contact officer</b>	Dave Waller
<b>Contact details</b>	01865 810813, dave.waller@oxfordshire.gov.uk
<b>Chairman</b>	Dr Martin Dare-Edwards
<b>OCC Cabinet Member</b>	Cllr David Robertson
<p><b>What is the current focus for the Partnership?</b>  The Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership's Executive Board first met on 5 January 2011 and is currently meeting on a monthly basis as it starts to take forward the programme of work set out in our proposal to Government</p> <p><b>A catalyst for realising Oxfordshire's potential</b>  The Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership is a voluntary body made up of representatives from enterprise, employment and job creation. The Partnership's overarching aim is to be the catalyst for realising Oxfordshire's economic and commercial potential. It will act as an informed, independent advocate for the drivers of innovation and growth. In addition this role, the Partnership will prioritise on key programmes to address the high priority deficiencies identified within the county, rather than trying to do everything itself.</p> <p><b>Key programmes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Getting the county connected to <b>fast broadband access</b> and improve mobile phone coverage</li> <li>• <b>Improving the skills</b> of Oxfordshire's workforce and those about to enter it, to improve their employability</li> <li>• Maximising Oxfordshire's potential to <b>increase inward investment</b></li> <li>• Providing the local link for <b>Business Support</b>, particularly around high growth and high-tech</li> <li>• <b>Enabling Infrastructure</b> for growth and reducing barriers</li> </ul> <p><b>Focus for Growth</b>  Finally, the Partnership will support and champion nationally recognised areas for growth around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bicester</li> <li>• Oxford</li> <li>• Science Vale UK</li> </ul>	
<p><b>What has the Partnership achieved since the last update? (given in September 2010)</b>  <b>Is the LEP website up and running?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board and Forum members identified</li> <li>• Third Board meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March</li> <li>• First Forum meeting will take place on 28<sup>th</sup> March</li> <li>• LEP members meeting Minister Mark Prisk on 8<sup>th</sup> March at which LEP will be formally approved by the minister and launched</li> <li>• 2 bids to Regional Growth Fund endorsed by LEP:</li> </ul>	



- Funding for development of infrastructure to enable Harwell to realise its potential to create new high value employment
- Funding of East West Rail that will enable the development of 100,000 jobs and 100,000 homes
- Key metrics for LEP agreed: High value, private sector jobs as overarching measure of success complemented by skills levels, new business formation, unemployment and Gross Value Added.
- Substantial alignment of work with existing initiatives by building on the work undertaken by the Oxfordshire Economic Partnership and its potential successor, Oxfordshire Business First in key areas of skills, inward investment and business support, by Visit Oxford and Oxfordshire working on tourism and by locally specific projects in Bicester, Science Vale and Oxford.

**What are your plans for the year ahead? (e.g. Membership changes, priorities)**

- Programme of work for LEP to be agreed:
  - Web site and communications to be strengthened
  - Develop bid to Broadband Delivery UK to improve broadband and mobile telephony to all rural areas of the county by 2015
  - Explore innovative ways of increasing delivery of scientific and engineering apprenticeships
  - Support high growth and innovative businesses – building on the success of the Oxfordshire Innovation and Growth Team
  - Further development of proposals to realise economic potential of Oxford’s West End

**What do you think the role of the Partnership in the Big Society is?**

- This is very big society – given the value of the time that senior business leaders are giving to this.
- The Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership will contribute to Big Society by engaging business in developing new business models that are not dependent on public sector funding but that rather meet social and consumer demands in ways that also meet the commercial needs of business.

<b>Partnership</b>	Spatial Planning and Infrastructure (SPIP)
<b>Date of completion</b>	February 2011
<b>Contact officer</b>	Ian Walker
<b>Contact details</b>	01865 815588, ian.walker@oxfordshire.gov.uk
<b>Chairman</b>	Cllr Ian Hudspeth
<b>OCC Cabinet Member</b>	Cllr Ian Hudspeth
<b>What is the current focus for the Partnership?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	
<b>What has the Partnership achieved since the last update? (given in September 2010)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most of the Partnership's achievements are through its delivery arrangements e.g. through the development and implementation of local plans and other strategies. Progress on housing delivery and transportation work are reported separately and details are in partnership minutes published on the Oxfordshire Partnership web site</li> <li>• The Local Investment Agreement was signed off by the HCA and local authorities. The agreement sets out how the partners will deliver the priorities in the Local Investment Plan and has provided the basis for investment decisions by the HCA against the priorities in the Plan.</li> <li>• Gaining agreement to joint working to produce an infrastructure plan for Oxfordshire as the overarching framework for strategic investment needs; and to prepare for the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy at the earliest possible opportunity.</li> </ul>	
<b>What are your plans for the year ahead? (e.g. Membership changes, priorities)</b>	
<p>Priorities for SPIP are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparing an infrastructure plan and for the introduction of the Community Infrastructure levy</li> <li>• Understanding the implications of the HCA's new affordable homes programme, which includes a new affordable rent model where homes will be made available to tenants up to a maximum of 80% of market rent</li> <li>• Developing the partnership's response to the coalition government agenda in particular in relation to planning, housing and transport.</li> <li>• Advising the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership – formal links are being developed between the 2 partnerships.</li> </ul>	
<b>What do you think the role of the Partnership in the Big Society is?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop partnership working in relation to the localism agenda and the delivery of growth and infrastructure</li> </ul>	

<b>Partnership</b>	Environment & Waste Partnership
<b>Date of completion</b>	25 Feb 2011
<b>Contact officer</b>	Wayne Lewis/Susie Ohlenschlager
<b>Contact details</b>	01295 221903, wayne.lewis@cherwell-dc.gov.uk 01865 810148, susie.ohlenschlager@oxfordshire.gov.uk
<b>Chairman</b>	Cllr Ian Hudspeth
<b>OCC Cabinet Member</b>	Cllr Ian Hudspeth
<b>What is the current focus for the Partnership?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The focus of the Environment Partnership is on a review of its function and objectives following abolition of the LAA2 targets, and how it can deliver its objectives more effectively in the future.</li> <li>• The focus of the Waste Partnership continues to be on the reduction of waste and maximising reuse, recycling and composting; minimising the environmental impact of waste disposal.</li> </ul>	
<b>What has the Partnership achieved since the last update? (given in September 2010)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of the Low Carbon Communities Programme; we have published two newsletters which highlight progress.</li> <li>• A revised waste prevention strategy has been agreed.</li> <li>• All district councils now operate food waste collections, following the introduction of new collection arrangements in Oxford, Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire.</li> <li>• A new van &amp; trailer permit scheme was introduced at Household Waste Recycling Centres in November 2010, helping to reduce the disposal of trade waste at these sites.</li> </ul>	
<b>What are your plans for the year ahead? (e.g. Membership changes, priorities)</b>	
<p>A new delivery model for the future work of the Environment Partnership and its relationship with the Waste Partnership is proposed. This will focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and saving money on local authority estates, with a strong link to the Local Enterprise Partnership for wider strategic issues and development of a low carbon economy.</p> <p>A five year review of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy will be undertaken; reviewing and revising objectives and targets for waste management in Oxfordshire.</p>	
<b>What do you think the role of the Partnership in the Big Society is?</b>	
<p>There is potential to explore how we could build on our experience of working with local community groups on both waste and climate change in the context of the Big Society.</p> <p>The partnership continues to support volunteer networks, such as the Community Action Group and Master Composter programmes that promote waste reduction and sustainable living within their communities.</p>	

<b>Partnership</b>	Health & Well-Being Partnership
<b>Date of completion</b>	18 Feb 2011
<b>Contact officer</b>	Matt Bramall
<b>Contact details</b>	01865 323605 (or 01865 337016 Tue & Wed) matt.bramall@oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk
<b>Chairman</b>	Cllr Arash Fatemian and Dr John Galuszka (interim)
<b>OCC Cabinet Member</b>	Cllr Arash Fatemian
<b>What is the current focus for the Partnership?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making a reality of the transition arrangements required to implement the vision laid out in <i>Equality and Excellence: Liberating the NHS</i>.</li> <li>• Maintaining a focus on business as usual throughout this period of unprecedented change by driving forward with core elements of the Director of Public Health's agenda, such as obesity and mental wellbeing, and assisting in preparation for the transfer of many of these functions to the county council</li> <li>• Persist in giving momentum to shared aspirations to shift more resources from hospital and residential care into preventative services and towards interventions that increase people's capacity to look after themselves.</li> </ul>	
<b>What has the Partnership achieved since the last update? (given in September 2010)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some of our LAA reward funding invested in a bid that succeeded in Oxfordshire being one of only 20 areas in the country to be awarded National Lottery Funding from Sport England to increase women's involvement in sport. The £371,000 will be spent over three years, targeting mothers with young children and women living in deprived areas. Achieving behavioural change of this sort is an important element of a prevention strategy that seeks to narrow the gap in healthy life expectancy and contribute to breaking the cycle of deprivation.</li> <li>• Became part of a 25 council strong network of 'Early Implementers' working with the Department of Health to identify good practice for the successful establishment of the new statutory Health and Wellbeing Boards.</li> </ul>	
<b>What are your plans for the year ahead? (e.g. Membership changes, priorities)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To successfully manage the transition arising from the new statutory basis for local authorities to work in partnership with GP Commissioning Consortia, which will make the (yet to be established) new Health and Wellbeing Board the only body with responsibility for health and social care policy covering adults <i>and</i> children in a defined geographical area. This will require significant adjustments to the structure, membership and purpose of the current Board and the creation of an entirely new, smaller Board above it, which will have the delegated authority to take decisions, and to which the current Board</li> </ul>	

will report as one of its delivery arms.

- To identify how existing arrangements will fit into the new structure that will be implemented in Spring 2011 (with the creation of a new Health and Wellbeing Board in 'shadow form') to carry out new statutory powers as laid out in the Health and Social Care Bill 2011, including:
  - agreeing a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) for the county;
  - producing the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA);
  - overseeing effective joint commissioning between the emerging single GP Commissioning Consortium for Oxfordshire, the newly clustered Oxon/ Bucks PCT, and the local authority (which will in time take over Public Health functions and responsibilities from the PCT).

**What do you think the role of the Partnership in the Big Society is?**

- Social care and health services will increasingly be provided by social enterprises and other organisations within the voluntary and community sector, and both the new Board and the current Partnership will play a key role in developing commissioning strategies (informed by the JSNA and the views of users) which will see services purchased from them.
- Ensuring appropriate involvement from Big Society providers in the Delivery and Implementation Groups that will be required to deliver the outcomes identified by the new Health and Wellbeing Board.
- Ensuring sufficient involvement from HealthWatch and other user voice mechanisms in the frameworks and procedures used to guarantee quality of care within any services provided by organisations established as part of the Big Society.

<b>Partnership</b>	Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership
<b>Date of completion</b>	28 February 2011
<b>Contact officer</b>	Ruth Whyte
<b>Contact details</b>	01865 815396, ruth.whyte@oxfordshire.gov.uk
<b>Chairman</b>	Cllr Kieron Mallon
<b>OCC Cabinet Member</b>	Cllr Kieron Mallon
<b>What is the current focus for the Partnership?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>The review of the Partnership has now begun.</u> A draft report summarising early thinking from the OSCP Officer Group and briefings from Partnership members on their perspective on, and commitment to, Community Safety, formed the basis for a positive and productive discussion at the OSCP meeting on 27 January</li> <li>• <u>Areas of agreement included:</u> the need for a countywide strategic group; the Officer Group functions well and communication between the two groups is open and effective; the work of the Oxfordshire-wide Tactical Business Groups have status through links to OSCP.</li> <li>• <u>Areas for improvement included:</u> the need for a clearer, more proactive role for the Partnership, including stronger leadership and enhanced strategic priority-setting roles. (Oxfordshire 2030 could form a framework for priorities). Connections with other Thematic groups and the Oxfordshire Partnership could be improved</li> <li>• <u>The Officer Group has been tasked with researching good practice structures and practices in other local authorities, will co-ordinate work on this at its 7 March meeting, and produce a draft paper to inform a shared OSCP/Officer Group workshop shortly afterwards. The final review paper should be ready by the beginning of June</u></li> </ul>	
<b>What has the Partnership achieved since the last update? (given in September 2010)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Oxfordshire-wide <u>Safe and Confident Communities</u> project, using Experian Mosaic and targeting messages according to residents' preferred channels of communication, has now been evaluated with positive results. The National Policing Improvement Agency and the Home Office are impressed with the work, which has been shown to improve local engagement, increase confidence in authorities' ability to tackle crime, and to be cost -effective. The system is to be rolled out across Thames Valley</li> <li>• The <u>Quarter 3 performance review</u> of crime and anti-social behaviour revealed that All Crime was down, with a 5.4% reduction (-1,905 reported crimes) on the April-December period in 2009/10. Criminal damage saw a 10.4% reduction (623 cases) and anti-social behaviour was down 17.3% with 3,600 fewer cases reported</li> </ul>	

- The Oxfordshire Alcohol Strategy 2011/14 was approved and adopted, with the action plan now being finalised
- The Oxfordshire Offender Health Strategy has been developed. There is a close link between health improvement and reduction in offending. The strategy sits with the Integrated Offender Management Group
- The Partnership also approved and adopted the Oxfordshire Sexual Abuse Strategy
- The Drugs Tactical Business Group has reviewed its work and is to focus on recreational drugs and Operation Falcon, the countywide drugs enforcement programme

**What are your plans for the year ahead? (e.g. Membership changes, priorities)**

- Plans for the year ahead will depend on the outcome of the review of OSCP, but also on the expected Government strategies, reviews and legislation. The Crime Strategy is expected shortly, and a national review of Early Intervention and Prevention is due soon. The consultation on anti-social behaviour is current and the Police and Crime Commissioners will be in place from May 2012. Major changes which impact on Community Safety statutory partners, including the impact of the Public Health White Paper and the Police restructure, will also affect future plans significantly
- The Police restructure, which was still evolving in February, will be challenging with significant impact on posts. Operational responsibility will be with local management based on four local policing areas (Vale and South LPAs to be merged). There is, however, support for preserving the established countywide work on overarching issues, including alcohol and domestic abuse

**What do you think the role of the Partnership in the Big Society is?**

- Helping to promote the county council's Big Society Fund will encourage more local groups and agencies to support Community Safety activity to help divert young people from crime, reduce the fear of crime and safeguard more vulnerable people. Projects such as Didcot Baptist Church's Families against Drugs; the Nominated Neighbour scheme in Cherwell; the South Abingdon Group working with the community to provide facilities for young people, and Neighbourhood Watch demonstrate how Big Society principles are already underpinning some community safety activities
- Communities may wish to take more local ownership of issues affecting quality of life or the local environment. Community safety partnerships can provide a channel to access support and resources for those communities, and the overarching partnership will need to create the conditions to enable this support to be provided
- The OSCP Officer Group has already started to explore better links

with Community-Led Planning

- Domestic abuse services (the Tactical Business Group reports to OSCP) have a strategic lead from the voluntary sector
- OSCP agreed “Community Pot” funding of £125k from its share of the Top-sliced LAA1 Reward funding for local and countywide schemes led by neighbourhood action and community groups. A similar approach to allocating any future funding streams should be considered
- Support for the Localism agenda will be reinforced through stronger Police activity focused at local level through the four Local Police Area Commanders. Neighbourhood Action Groups require support from community safety partners
- Community safety statutory obligations include an annual “Face the People” session
- Perhaps further joint discussion about how all the Thematic Partnerships can together contribute to the Big Society would be worthwhile



<b>Partnership</b>	Oxfordshire Stronger Communities Alliance
<b>Date of completion</b>	3 March 2011
<b>Contact officer</b>	Kate Hill
<b>Contact details</b>	kate.hill@ocva.org.uk
<b>Chairman</b>	Colin Fletcher, Bishop of Dorchester
<b>OCC Cabinet Member</b>	Judith Heathcoat
<b>What is the current focus for the Partnership?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are discussing the future of OSCA and our role re Big Society and how we can best support for groups in Oxfordshire given the new environment in which we are operating</li> </ul>	
<b>What has the Partnership achieved since the last update? (given in September 2010)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OSCA has rewritten its business plan, and circulated a draft for consultation to all groups in the county</li> <li>Oxfordshire Stronger Communities Fund opened and received 145 applications seeking £1.94 million in grants, giving a subscription level for the £219,306 available of nearly 9 times. Grant panel made decisions on allocation of the funds on 2 March 2011.</li> <li>Continued series of forum events to update VCS organisations including full day County Conference with key note speakers from CLG and NCVO in November</li> <li>Sessions delivered to voluntary sector representatives to offer them support in their role and bring consistency to the way in which the voluntary sector is represented in LSPs locally</li> </ul>	
<b>What are your plans for the year ahead? (e.g. Membership changes, priorities)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consolidate new way forward once agreed and resourced</li> <li>OSCA grants projects up and running</li> </ul>	
<b>What do you think the role of the Partnership in the Big Society is?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OSCA is key in delivering the Big Society as it is 'the place where the statutory and voluntary, community and faith sectors come together to help build and maintain stronger communities and a thriving voluntary, community and faith sector in Oxfordshire. OSCA supports communities, voluntary groups and social enterprises to develop local solutions and deliver effective services for the benefit of the people of Oxfordshire'.</li> <li>OSCA can support other partnerships to deliver Big Society objectives</li> </ul>	

<b>Partnership</b>	Oxford Strategic Partnership (OSP)
<b>Date of completion</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> February 2011
<b>Contact officer</b>	Sebastian Johnson
<b>Contact details</b>	01865 252317, srjohnson@oxford.gov.uk
<b>Chair</b>	Jackie Wilderspin
<b>OCC Cabinet Member</b>	Cllr Keith Mitchell
<b>What is the current focus for the Partnership?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of the vision for the City and detailed work on the action plans of the flagship issues as outlined in the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) 2008-2012 “A World Class City for Everyone”</li> <li>• Review new areas of focus following the expected impact of changes through the budget and comprehensive spending review</li> </ul>	
<b>What has the Partnership achieved since the last update? (given in September 2010)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Low Carbon Oxford initiative was launched in October 2010 with 16 Pathfinder Organisations signing a Low Carbon Oxford charter committing themselves to 3% carbon reduction each year and a commitment to collaborative working to develop a low carbon city and a low carbon sustainable economy. Pathfinders include the two local authorities, both Universities, MINI Plant Oxford, Unipart, B&amp;Q, M&amp;S and other businesses and community groups.</li> <li>• The second meeting of the Low Carbon Oxford Pathfinders was held in February 2011 with new Pathfinders welcomed to the group and the launch of seven collaborative projects being undertaken by Pathfinders under the leadership of the OSP’s Low Carbon Oxford initiative. Project funding of over £250k has been secured for a community based project through the Local Carbon Framework.</li> <li>• The Public Realm Group has led on the publication of a Public Art Map for Oxford City and has been involved in the initial development stages of a new Wayfinding project for the city centre.</li> <li>• Good progress is being made on the delivery of the Regeneration Framework Action Plan. There has been an Annual Review of progress which indicates several particular areas of success, including, the Planning Inspector endorsing the Core Strategy as ‘sound’ and the Northern Gateway Development, the Family Intervention Project and improved family support to the most ‘at risk’ families, improved routes to employment and an additional 900 residents receiving a health check in the targets areas. The OSP has received on-going updates and reports.</li> <li>• The OSP held a summit meeting in November 2010 to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ review the findings and implications of the Comprehensive Spending Review</li> <li>○ discuss how Partners and the Partnership should respond</li> <li>○ explore further options for joint working and pooling of resources</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Seven new and revised priorities and project proposals are being considered by the Partnership following the summit meeting: i) Address Inequality Issues; ii) Procurement Hub; iii) Low Carbon Economy; iv) Housing and Construction; v) Wireless City; vi) Visitor Economy and</li> </ul>	

Tourism; vii) Retail Strategy

**What are your plans for the year ahead? (e.g. Membership changes, priorities)**

It should be noted that the City Council has stated its continued commitment to co-ordinate and run the Partnership in the future. Plans for the year ahead are:

- To continue in the delivery mode of the OSP SCS flagship issue action plans
- Continued review of priorities and project proposals as outlined above
- Explore links to developing partnerships elsewhere, such as the Local Enterprise Partnership
- Respond to changing legislation, challenges and opportunities as required

**What do you think the role of the Partnership in the Big Society is?**

- The OSP will continue to review opportunities to add value to the benefit of the City in all of its work

<b>Partnership</b>	Cherwell Local Strategic Partnership
<b>Date of completion</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> February 2011
<b>Contact officer</b>	Caroline French
<b>Contact details</b>	01295 2211586 caroline.french@cherwell-dc.gov.uk
<b>Chairman</b>	Cllr Barry Wood (Cherwell DC)
<b>OCC Cabinet Member</b>	Cllr Michael Waine
<b>What is the current focus for the Partnership?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy</li> <li>• Continued focus on the Brighter Futures in Banbury Project</li> <li>• Organising the yearly Cherwell LSP Reference Group Conference</li> <li>• An additional focus for the LSP surrounding the effects the CSR Report.</li> </ul>	
<b>What has the Partnership achieved since the last update? (given in September 2010)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cherwell LSP have launched the Faith Forum and created a Faith Forum Steering Group</li> <li>• The Disability Forum has completed its second event.</li> <li>• LSP Partners have continued to promote the Community Leadership ambition within the SCS by having LSP representation at all forums.</li> <li>• The LSP has undertaken a self assessment.</li> <li>• Consulted on the Economic Development Strategy which is due to be adopted in spring 2011.</li> <li>• Actively involved in consultation on the Local Transport Plan and the Learning and Skills Partnership.</li> </ul>	
<b>What are your plans for the year ahead? (e.g. Membership changes, priorities)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appoint new Chair of the LSP Board, at present it is the Leader of the Council.</li> <li>• To complete the next wave of community engagement under the Brighter Futures in Banbury project, Connecting the Communities.</li> <li>• Delivery of the Economic Strategy.</li> <li>• To gain the agreement of the new delivery plans for some of our medium term strategies.</li> <li>• To gain an understanding of the Localism Bill and the impact on Local Community Parishes.</li> </ul>	
<b>What do you think the role of the Partnership in the Big Society is?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To offer promotion and support to all the voluntary and commercial sectors</li> <li>• To explore new service delivery models with the voluntary sector moving towards a more strategic approach.</li> <li>• Look at developing the community with our strong voluntary engagement and support.</li> </ul>	

<b>Partnership</b>	South Oxfordshire Partnership
<b>Date of completion</b>	Feb 2011
<b>Contact officer</b>	Emma Morris
<b>Contact details</b>	01491 823612, emma.morris@southoxon.gov.uk
<b>Chairman</b>	Colin Fletcher, Bishop of Dorchester
<b>OCC Cabinet Member</b>	Cllr Ian Hudspeth
<b>What is the current focus for the Partnership?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewing the future role of the partnership</li> <li>• Continuing to support local communities to develop community-led plans and community-led initiatives, including the community places project.</li> </ul>	
<b>What has the Partnership achieved since the last update? (given in September 2010)</b>	
<p>The joint community places project with the Vale Partnership has made significant progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Berinsfield Action Group(BAG) has amended its constitution to make it more open to community membership. The BAG has held successful meetings regarding the development of an action plan, housing development in Berinsfield and will shortly be hosting a meeting of everyone houses or manages community facilities and assets to discuss how these could be shared and used more effectively.</li> <li>• Beginning to talk to potential partners about the management of the temporary community facility for the Great Western Park development in Didcot.</li> <li>• SOP member has been identified to pilot community –led planning ‘champion’ approach to implementing community plans. Pilot community is Chalgrove.</li> </ul> <p>The Partnership has also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supported the town and parish council forum in November 2010</li> <li>• Supported the joint south and vale voluntary sector forum in February 2011</li> <li>• Published its annual report</li> </ul>	
<b>What are your plans for the year ahead? (e.g. Membership changes, priorities)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review role and terms of reference</li> <li>• Implement learning from community places project and where appropriate apply for funding to continue the work/specific projects arising from it</li> <li>• Continue to support community-led planning.</li> </ul>	
<b>What do you think the role of the Partnership in the Big Society is?</b>	
<p>This is currently under discussion as part of the partnerships review of its future role. However, the Partnerships initial discussions have highlighted that its existing role in supporting community action will become increasingly important.</p>	

<b>Partnership</b>	Vale Partnership
<b>Date of completion</b>	Feb 2011
<b>Contact officer</b>	Emma Morris
<b>Contact details</b>	01491 823612/01235 540324, emma.morris@southoxon.gov.uk
<b>Chairman</b>	John Robertson
<b>OCC Cabinet Member</b>	Cllr Judith Heathcoat
<p><b>What is the current focus for the Partnership?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tackling disadvantage, reducing the fear of crime and promoting community cohesion.</li> <li>• Helping young people into work</li> <li>• Improving communications and awareness</li> </ul>	
<p><b>What has the Partnership achieved since the last update? (given in September 2010)</b></p> <p>The joint community places project with the Vale Partnership has made significant progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A community-led planning steering group has been established in South Abingdon. The group is seeking funding for the costs of developing a community-led plan, including consultation and a feasibility study for a skate park.</li> <li>• A Vale Partnership member has been identified to a pilot community – led planning ‘champion’ approach to implementing community plans. Pilot community is Shrivenham.</li> </ul> <p>The Partnership has also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed a communications plan</li> <li>• Supported a successful ‘skip day’ in Faringdon</li> <li>• Supported joint voluntary and community sector forum in February 2011</li> </ul>	
<p><b>What are your plans for the year ahead? (e.g. Membership changes, priorities)</b></p> <p>The Board will consider a report on the future role of the Partnership at its meeting on 3 March 2011. The proposals that the Board will consider include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying key issues in the area and gaps in the resources/services etc to tackle these and organisations that could help to fill those gaps.</li> <li>• Bring together relevant organisations both inside and outside the partnership to discuss how to tackle issues/gaps</li> <li>• If barriers exist to consider how the partnership may be able to overcome these</li> </ul>	
<p><b>What do you think the role of the Partnership in the Big Society is?</b></p> <p>In a changing policy environment some communities will be able to develop a ‘big society’ by themselves, but others would need help, in order to come together to improve community life and community facilities. The Vale Partnership could, if required, co-ordinate support for communities that need help.</p>	

<b>Partnership</b>	West Oxfordshire Strategic Partnership
<b>Date of completion</b>	Feb 2011
<b>Contact officer</b>	Astrid Blackburn
<b>Contact details</b>	01993 861692, astrid.blackburn@westoxon.gov.uk
<b>Chairman</b>	David Neudegg
<b>OCC Cabinet Member</b>	Cllr David Robertson
<b>What is the current focus for the Partnership?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revising activity to enable WOSP to deliver on the localism agenda</li> </ul>	
<b>What has the Partnership achieved since the last update? (given in September 2010)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completion of the following Shaping Futures 2010 – 2011 Action Plan projects: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting and building on the activity of community groups with an active interest in the natural environment and climate change.</li> <li>RUSH Chipping Norton (partnership project for youth provision in Chipping Norton)</li> <li>William Carter Centre- (community hub within Carterton)</li> <li>Improved access to information on support for the elderly and their carers (Seniors Directory and Intergenerational IT Project)</li> <li>'Safe and Confident Communities' Project</li> <li>Affordable Housing – 'New Homes Quality Study'</li> <li>Wellbeing on Wheels – public health awareness project</li> <li>Fredericks Foundation- finance and business guidance support for start up businesses unable to access mainstream funding sources</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p>A progress report detailing these projects is to be reviewed at the next WOSP meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> March.</p>	
<b>What are your plans for the year ahead? (e.g. Membership changes, priorities)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of terms of reference to take place at next WOSP meeting, to reflect the changing context in which the Partnership is operating (ie to deliver on the localism agenda). The detail of this is to be discussed and agreed at the WOSP meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2011.</li> <li>An event on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2011 is to be held to provide the opportunity for wider debate and development of ideas for practical activity in West Oxfordshire which will contribute further to the existing strong voluntary, community and faith sector in the District.</li> </ul>	
<b>What do you think the role of the Partnership in the Big Society is?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide a platform for supporting community activity that encourages community empowerment and social action, as required by the Decentralisation and Localism Bill.</li> </ul>	

This page is intentionally left blank