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## GROWTH & INFRASTRUCTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**MINUTES** of the meeting held on Wednesday, 25 May 2011 commencing at 9.30 am and finishing at 12.30 pm

**Present:**

**Voting Members:**

Councillor David Nimmo-Smith – in the Chair

Councillor Nicholas P. Turner (Deputy Chairman)

Councillor Anne Purse

Councillor Pete Handley

Councillor Charles Mathew

Councillor John Tanner

Councillor David Turner

Councillor A.M. Lovatt (In place of Councillor Keith Strangwood)

Councillor Stewart Lilly (In place of Councillor Michael Gibbard)

**Other Members in Attendance:**

Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale

Councillor Rodney Rose

**By Invitation:**

**Officers:**

Whole of meeting

Martin Tugwell

Steve Howell

Part of meeting

Huw Jones

Chris Brown

Susie Ohlenschlager

Victoria Fletcher

Tracy Dow

*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.*

**5/11 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2011/12 COUNCIL YEAR**  
(Agenda No. 1)

Cllr David Nimmo-Smith was nominated for the position of Chairman of the Growth & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee for 2011/12 by Cllr Nicholas Turner and seconded by Cllr John Tanner. The Committee **RESOLVED** that Cllr Nimmo-Smith be elected Chairman.

**6/11 ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2011/12 COUNCIL YEAR**  
(Agenda No. 2)

Cllr Nicholas Turner was nominated for the position of Deputy Chairman of the G&I Scrutiny Committee for 2011/12 by Cllr David Nimmo-Smith and seconded by Cllr Roger Belson. The Committee **RESOLVED** by a show of hands (six votes to three) that Cllr N. Turner be elected Deputy Chairman.

**7/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS**  
(Agenda No. 3)

Cllr Stewart Lilly was present as a substitute for Cllr Michael Gibbard.

Cllr Sandy Lovatt was present as a substitute for Cllr Keith Strangwood.

**8/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - SEE GUIDANCE NOTE ON THE BACK PAGE**  
(Agenda No. 4)

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**9/11 MINUTES**  
(Agenda No. 5)

The minutes of the meeting on 09 March 2011 were signed and approved, subject to the spelling corrections noted by Cllr Charles Mathew and Cllr Nicholas Turner.

**10/11 SPEAKING TO OR PETITIONING THE COMMITTEE**  
(Agenda No. 6)

There were no requests to speak to or petition the Committee.

**11/11 PRELIMINARY FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT**  
(Agenda No. 7)

The committee received a presentation by Hannah O'Callaghan, from JBA Consulting.

The presentation is attached.

If Members have specific issues to raise, Steve Howell (Deputy Director for Highways & Transport) invited them to contact Officers directly so they can be incorporated where possible.

The Committee will receive an update on a more detailed implementation plan in due course.

**12/11 RESILIENCE TO SEVERE WEATHER**  
(Agenda No. 10)

The Committee received an update from Susie Ohlenschlager (Adaptation and Partnership Manager) on the Council's approach to dealing with severe weather events across the County. The presentation is attached.

Cllr Anne Purse noted the need for close working with District and Parish/Town Councils to ensure the response to incidents is as co-ordinated as possible.

Cllr Rodney Rose assured the Committee that all Town and Parish Councils have been sent a pamphlet advising them on how to deal with severe weather events, particularly heavy snow and ice in winter.

**13/11 COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE BRIEFING**  
(Agenda No. 9)

The Committee received a briefing from Victoria Fletcher from the Countryside Service (presentation attached) on the Service's work and potential implications of the next round of Service and Resource Planning work.

The Committee RESOLVED that the Countryside Service should next be discussed in the Autumn as a part of the budget setting process.

**14/11 COMMUNITY TRANSPORT**  
(Agenda No. 8)

Tracy Dow (Highways & Transport Service Manager – Policy and Strategy) gave a presentation to the Committee about the need to consider how the Council supports community transport initiatives and how this might fit in with changing priorities in other Directorates. The Committee RESOLVED to create a small working group to consider this issue over the next year. Cllr Stewart Lilly (Bus Champion), Cllr David Nimmo-Smith, Cllr David Turner and Cllr Anne Purse agreed to be on the working group.

**15/11 G&I FORWARD PLAN FOR 2011/12**  
(Agenda No. 11)

The meeting closed before this item was discussed. The Committee RESOLVED to discuss at the next meeting.

**16/11 12.00 CLOSE OF MEETING**  
(Agenda No. 12)

The meeting closed at 12:30pm.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing .....



**JBA**  
consulting

## **Oxfordshire Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment**

Growth and Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee

25th May 2011

Hannah O'Callaghan

[hannah.ocallaghan@jbaconsulting.co.uk](mailto:hannah.ocallaghan@jbaconsulting.co.uk)

# Flooding in Oxfordshire

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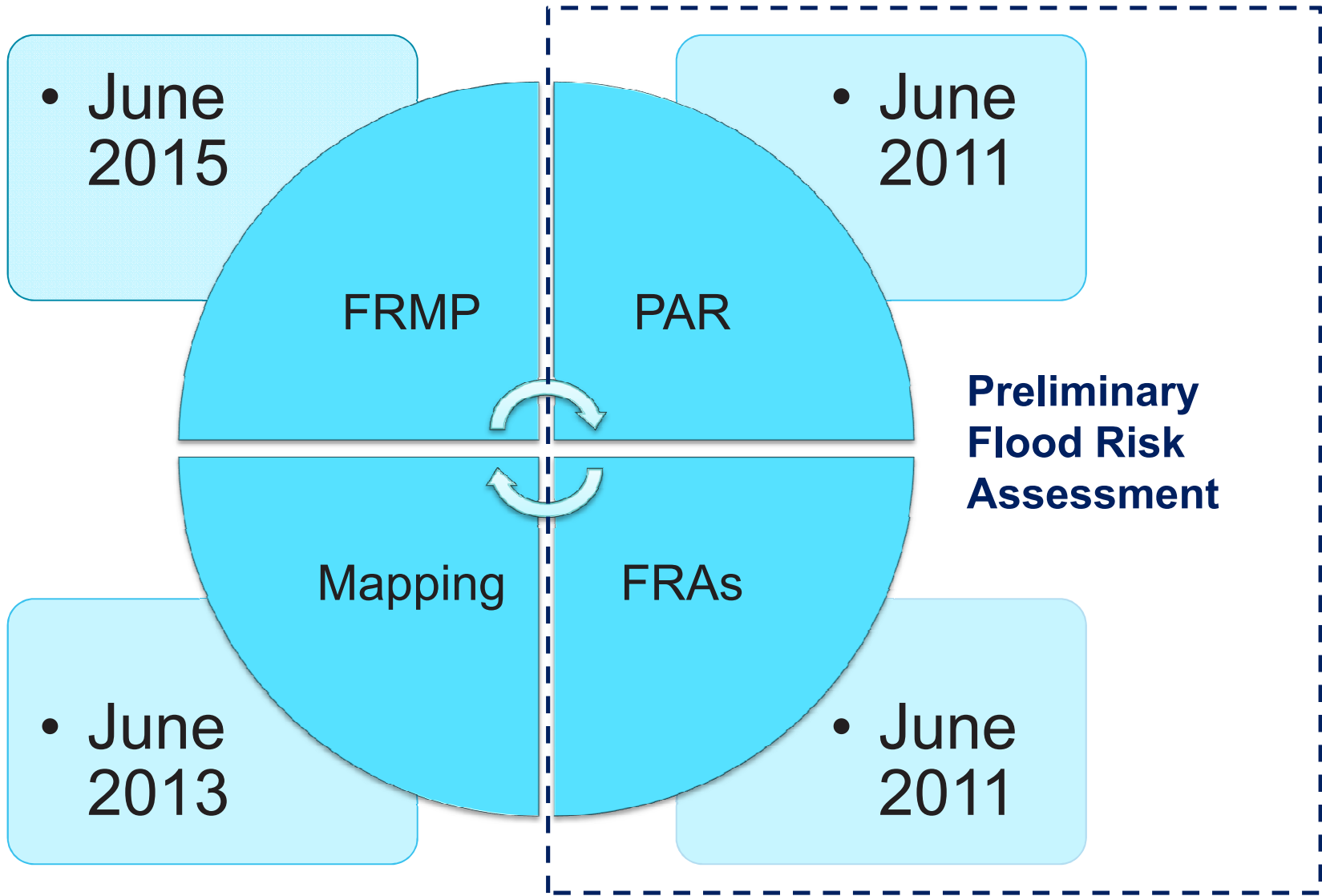
## National

- Summer 2007 largest peacetime emergency since WWII, 55000 properties flooded
- Pitt Review (2008)
- Flood Risk Regulations (2009)
- Flood and Water Management Act (2010)

## Local

- Estimated over 2100 properties July 2007
- Scrutiny review Sept 2008
- Oxfordshire is now a LLFA
- Proactive stance on SUDS and working with Districts
- Series of Flood Working Groups to take legislation forward
- Capacity report and recommendations

# Flood Risk Regulations (2009)



# Objectives of the PFRA

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- Past flooding
- Future flooding
- Flood Risk Area?
- Informing the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
- Work with Risk Management Authorities



# What the PFRA considers



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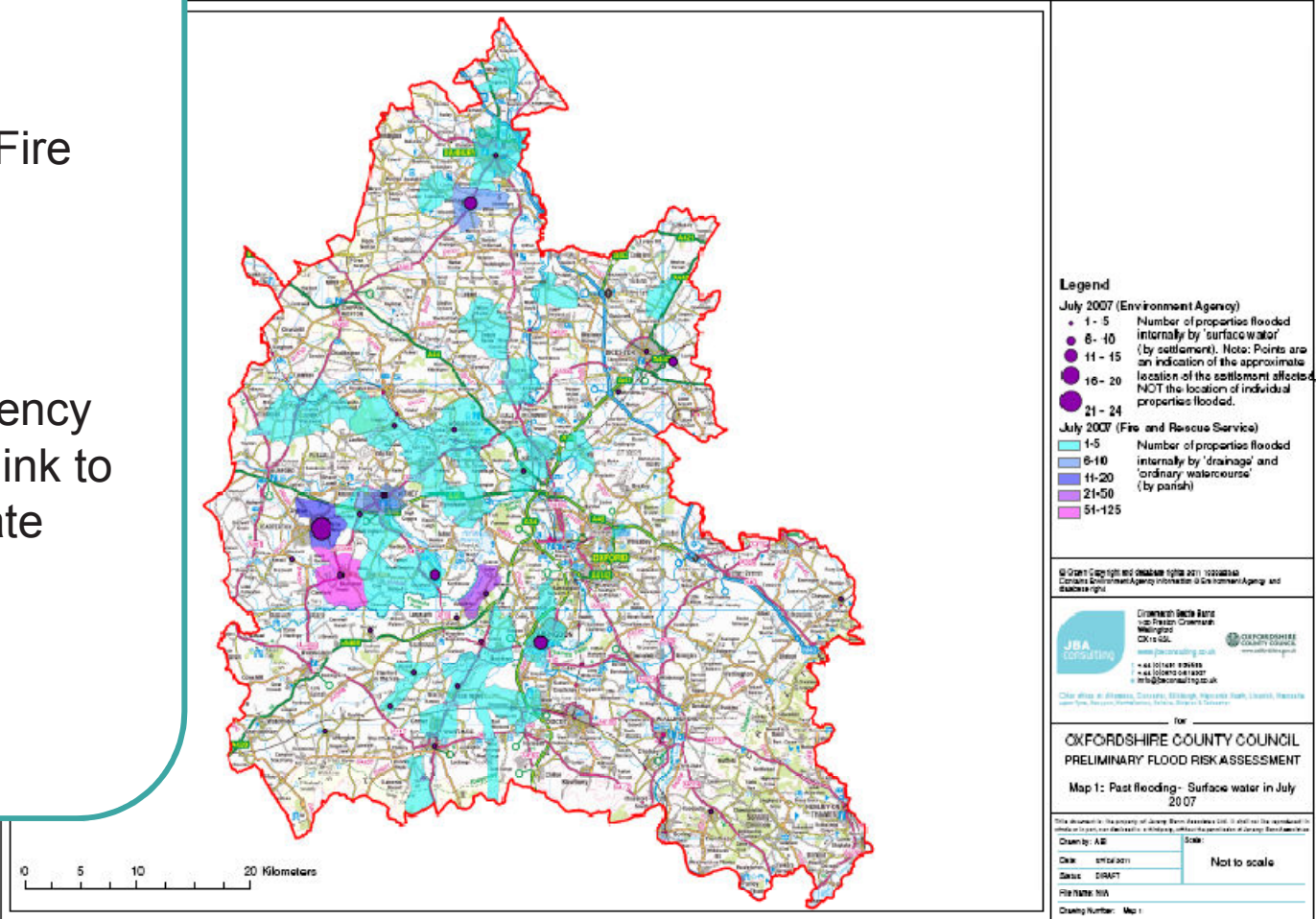


- **Surface water**
- **Ordinary watercourses**
- **Groundwater**
- **Does not consider main river directly**

# Past flooding

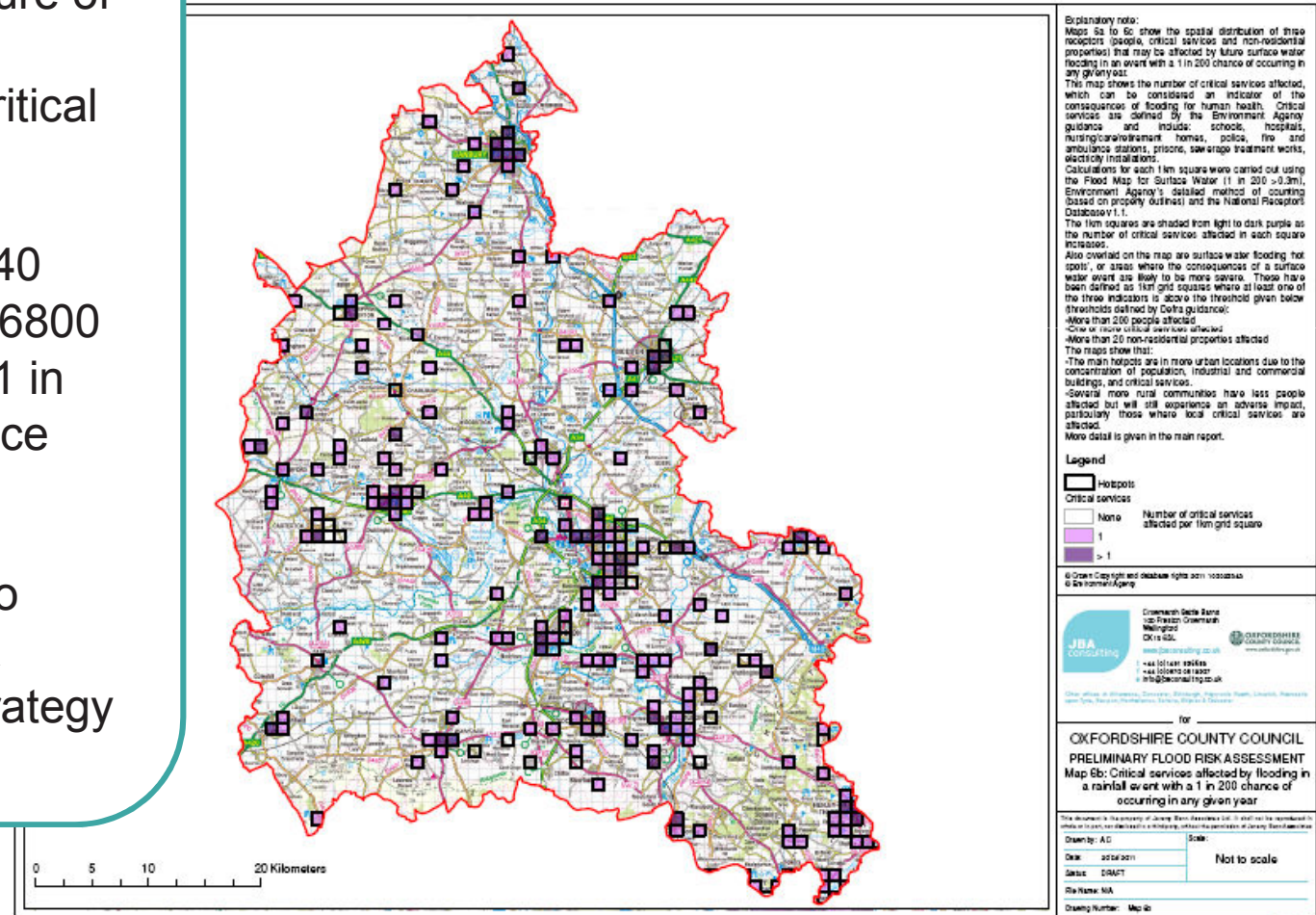
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- July 2007 is 'significant'
- EA, District and Fire Service data
- Parish survey
- Need for consistency going forward – link to Duty to Investigate



# Future flooding

- A consistent picture of risk to people, properties and critical services
- 37900 people, 240 critical services, 6800 non-residential (1 in 200 annual chance rainfall)
- Feed forward into Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

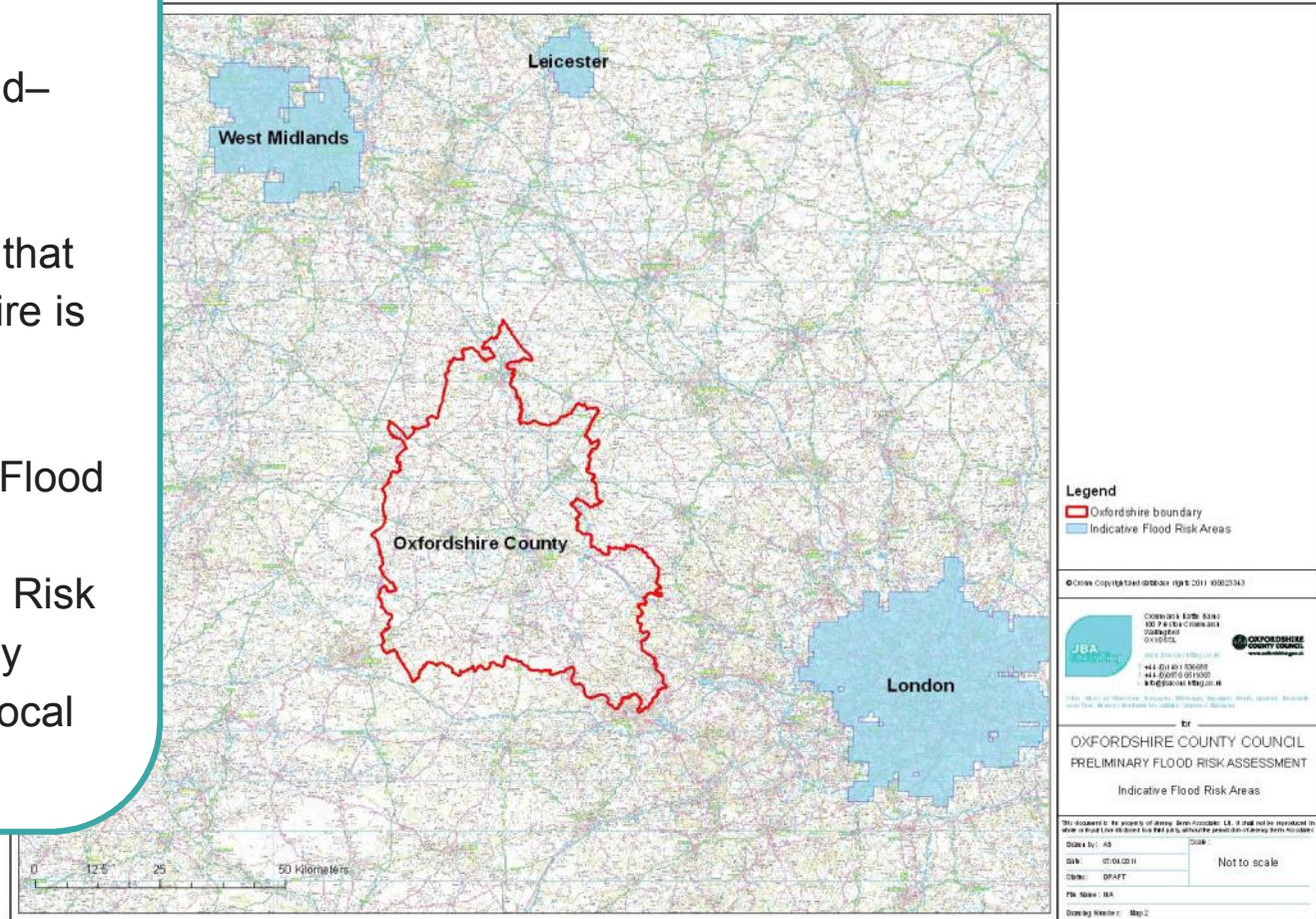


# Significance



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- Nowhere in Oxfordshire meets national significance threshold— 30,000 people
- This does not mean that flooding in Oxfordshire is insignificant
- FWM Act and Local Flood Risk Management Strategy – the Flood Risk Regs are not the only route for managing local flood risk



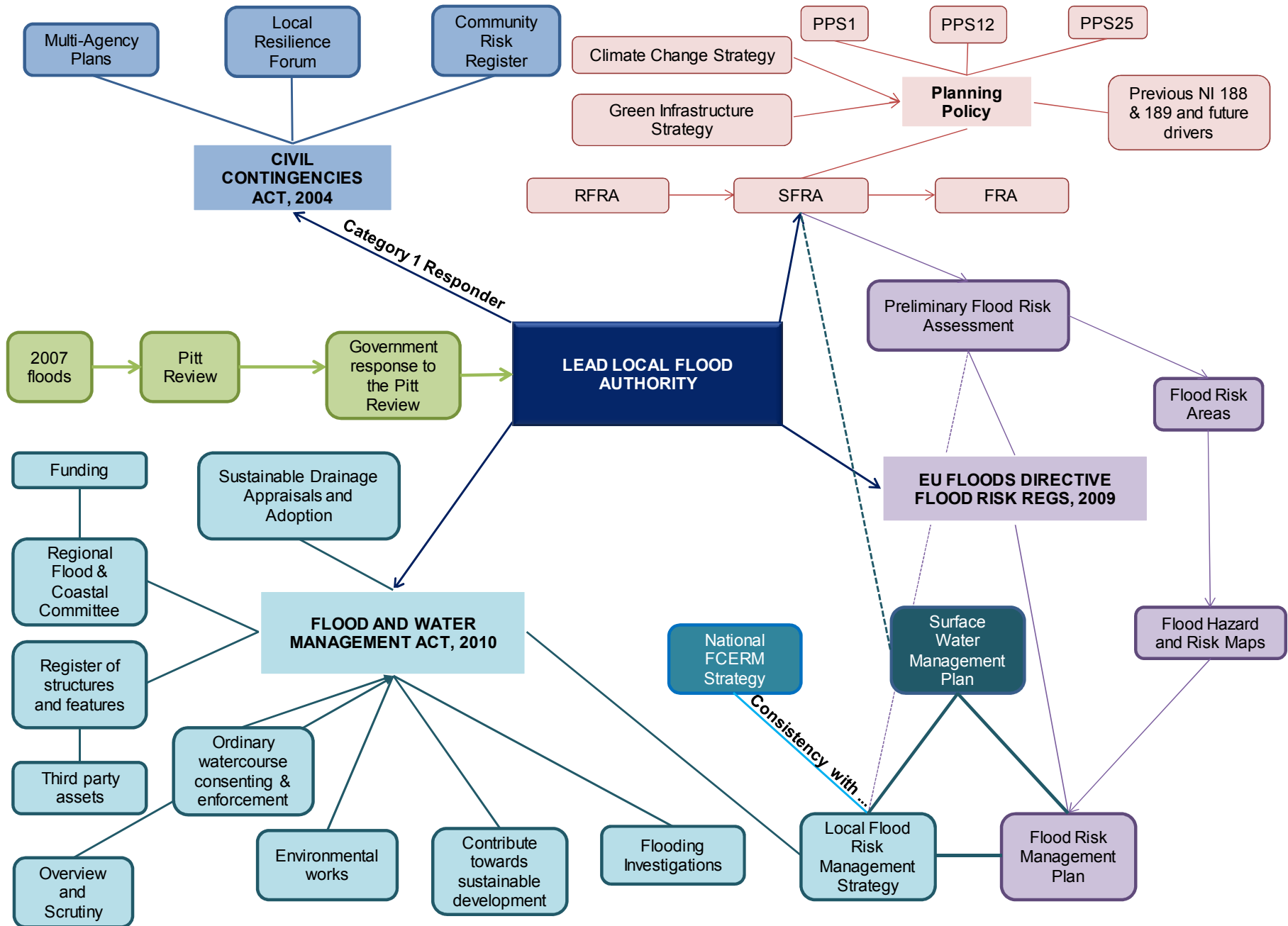


TAKING LEGISLATION FORWARD

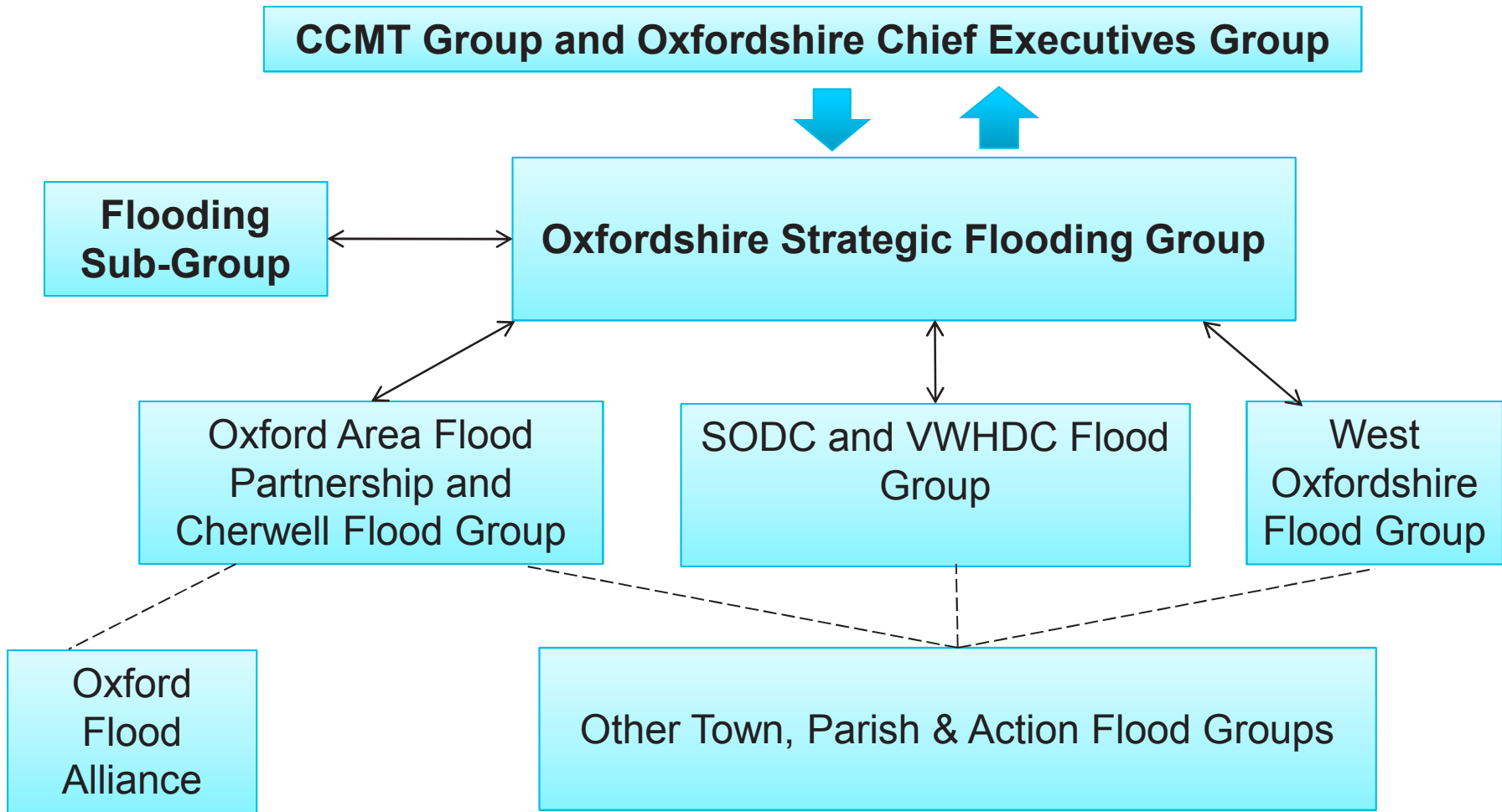
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### Partnership working with Risk Management Authorities and CCA Responders

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# Partnership working



# Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

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- Risk Management Authorities
  - FCERM functions that *may* be exercised by the authorities
  - Objectives for managing local flood risk
  - Measures proposed to achieve objectives
  - How and when measures are expected to be implemented
  - Costs and benefits and funding of measures
  - **Assessment of local flood risk**
  - Review
  - Contribution to wider environmental objectives
-



## Role of Elected Members

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- LLFA Scrutiny of Risk Management Authorities
  - Link to Thames Region RFDC/ RFCC
  - Reporting lines for Strategic Flooding Group
  - Development of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
- 
- **How do you want to be involved?**
-



**JBA**  
consulting

**Questions?**

# Increasing our resilience to weather



# Evidence gathering



# 2006 heat wave - road damage

High temperatures (34.8oC on 19th July 2006) create 'sticky' conditions on more than 37 roads over two day period.

## Consequences:

- Heat damage
- Road closures

## Responses

- diversions
- Gritting
- 'Slippery road'

## Cost

- Estimates £3.6m



# 2006 heat wave - school closures

Some schools recorded temperatures of more than 36°C (97°F) in classrooms.

## Consequences

Temperature in some classrooms exceeded 36°C

## Responses

6 schools closed for either an afternoon, one or two days. Head teachers decided that pupils should be sent home. Over 970 students affected.



# Snow/cold spells

2007-2009: 4 events; cost c £600,000

January 2010

- Estimated highway related costs **£630k** over budget for snow clearance and gritting Nov- January period.
- More than **25,000** miles of gritting and even more miles of snowploughing



# Total estimated costs

<b>Period covered</b>	<b>Approx no of severe weather events</b> eg 2007 and 2008 floods, January 2009 cold spell/snow	<b>No of recorded incidents/ consequences</b> eg damage to school buildings, school closures	<b>Est. total costs</b>
<b>1996-2006</b>	36	263	£16.5 million
<b>2007-2009</b>	10	93	£4.5 million
<b>Total</b>	46	356	<b>£21 million</b>





# Our response

- Strengthening internal processes and joint working
- Risk assessments
- Local community resilience



# Infrastructure



# The Future

- Service and resource planning
- Capital and asset management
- Leading by example



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**Vicky Fletcher**  
**Acting Countryside Service Manager**



**OXFORDSHIRE**  
**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE**

# Service areas

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- **Rights of way**
- **Definitive Map and Commons**
- **Access to the countryside**
- **Natural Environment**



# Key activities

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**Protection, maintenance and management of rights of way assets**

- **Records and registers**
- **Planning, advice, evidence**
- **Partnership work**



- **Based in Eynsham**
- **£2m gross/£1.3m net**
- **28 core staff**
- **19 multi-funded project staff:**
  - **TVERC**
  - **National Trails**
  - **Oxfordshire Woodland Project**
  - **Wychwood Project**

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# Basics



- **Economic development**
- **Efficient public services**
- **Healthy and thriving communities**
- **Protect and enhance the environment**



## **Outcomes**

# Economic development

Macro

- Promoting Oxfordshire – international countryside destinations
- Nurturing and growing enterprise - attract and retain high calibre staff
- Natural environment worth £118m
- Spend from PROW= £14m
- Improving skills & job prospects through volunteering
- Infrastructure - create sustainable or higher land values

Micro

- £ house prices
- £ office rental



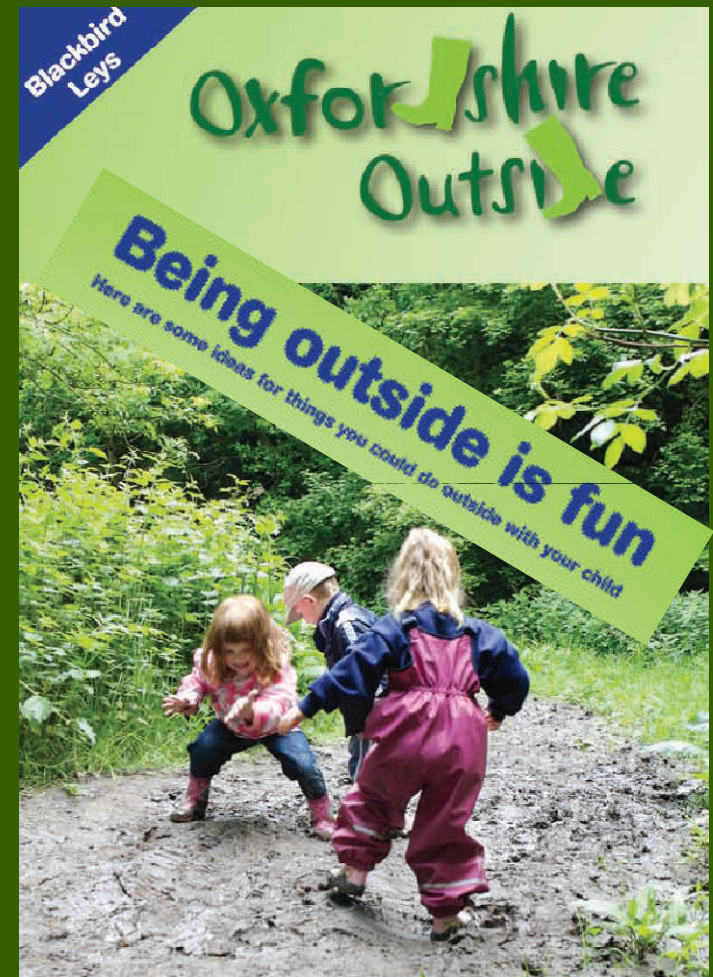
# Efficient public services

- Volunteering - £160k added value p.a.
- Community ownership and management of local assets (e.g. woodlands)
- Enabling communities to deliver improvements – e.g. Parish Paths project
- Responsive to local needs and priorities
- Support community projects and local volunteer groups



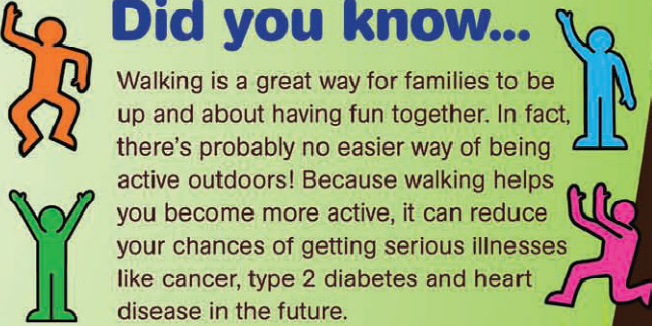
# Healthy and thriving communities

- Physical inactivity costs NHS £8.2billion/year
- Improving access can dramatically reduce this bill
- Walking first prescribed by doctors in Oxfordshire
- Oxfordshire has fewer accessible green-spaces than other SE counties
- Rights of way even more important in Oxfordshire for health and wellbeing



**Did you know...**

Walking is a great way for families to be up and about having fun together. In fact, there's probably no easier way of being active outdoors! Because walking helps you become more active, it can reduce your chances of getting serious illnesses like cancer, type 2 diabetes and heart disease in the future.

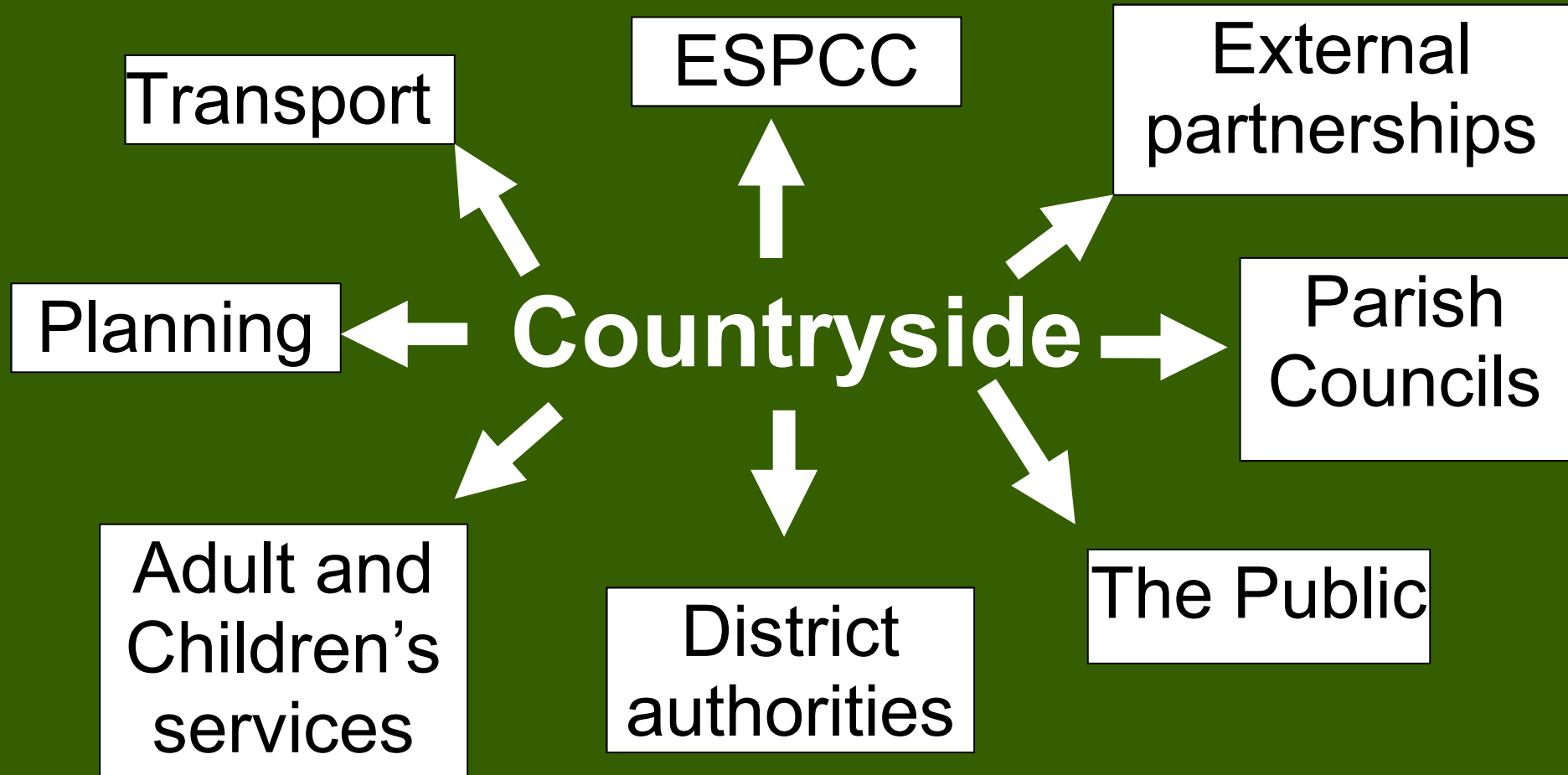


# Protect & enhance the environment

- Creating win-wins for development and environment
- Spatial CTA approach – the ‘biodiversity hotspots’
- Enhance environment through partnership work:
  - LWVP – £350k of private investment
  - Wychwood - £30k raised from local residents alone
  - OWP – woodfuel



# Delivery in partnership



# Managing Risks

- Reputation – Corporate Social Responsibility
- Reputation – pROW often contentious locally, can end in court cases
- Reputation - infrastructure collapse (e.g. Thames Path)
- Delays to development (e.g. protected species)
- Preventing loss or damage to Oxfordshire's assets



# Business Strategy

- Consultation on restructuring of Sustainable Development Strategy
- Realising savings by reducing management costs





- **Proposal will create a new group – Planning and Regulation**
- **Rights of Way and Definitive Map team retained broadly in their current form**
- **To include ‘hosted services’**
- **Mainstream work on natural environment and countryside access**



**Future**

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# Growth & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee 25 May 2011

## Community Transport

1. Update on current provision;
2. Consider member involvement in future Community Transport policy development.



# Value of community transport

- Meets specific needs of important minority
- Reduces isolation
- Impacts on health care
- Fills gaps in public transport provision
- Reducing bus subsidy grant



# Current provision

## Background

- Oxfordshire untypical
- Patchy provision
- No overarching strategy
- Gaps in overall offer



# Current provision

1. **Dial-a-Ride** (for disabled & mobility-impaired)
  - Octabus – Oxford City, Vale and West Oxfordshire
  - Cherwell dial-a-ride (BCTA)
  - South Oxon – no provision



# Current provision

## 2. Volunteer services

- Minibus volunteer groups
- Car schemes



# Current provision

ORCC role – Training  
minibus drivers &  
supporting car  
schemes

OCC role: – ITU  
- ‘OXTAIL’





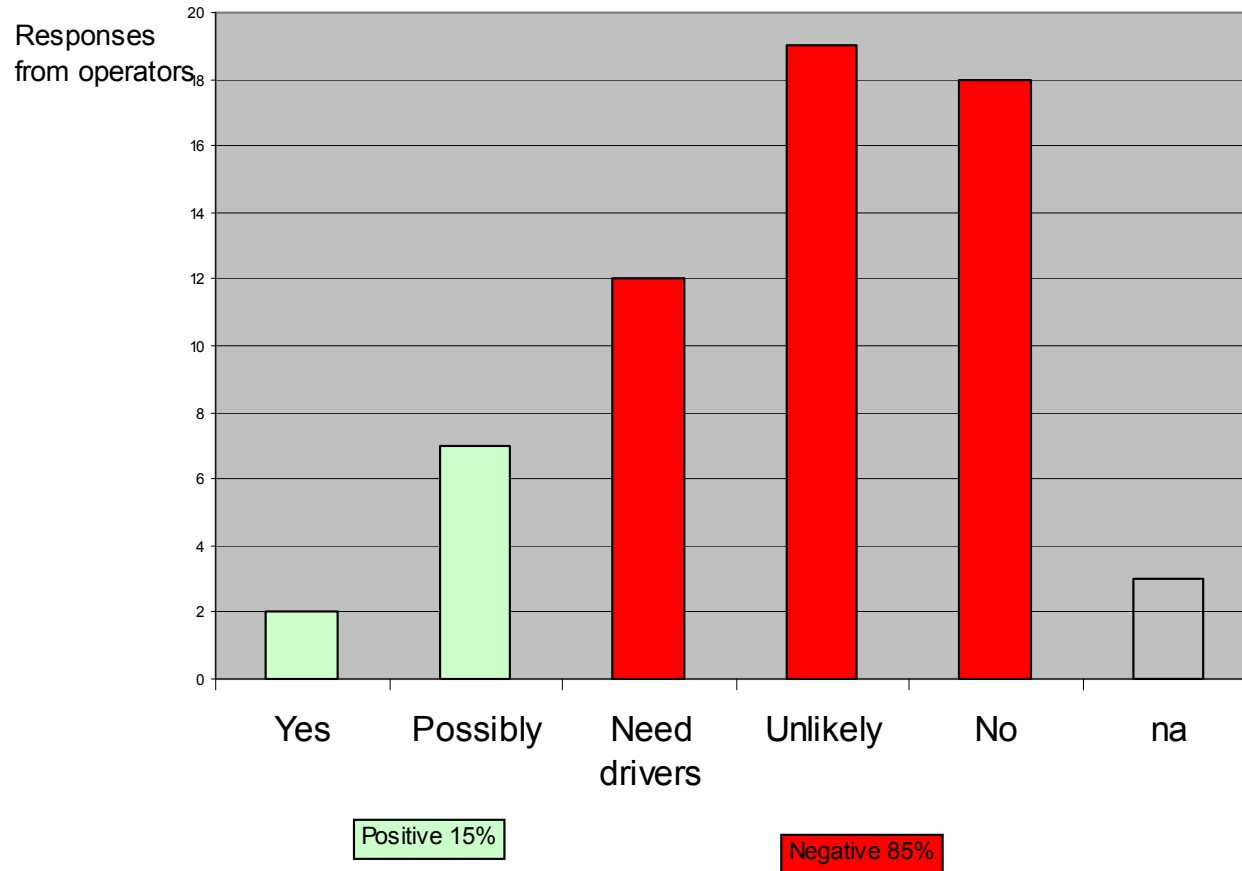
# Issues

- In decline/lack of volunteers



# Issues

## Community Transport - Are schemes capable of expansion?



# Issues

- Wishes of local groups
- Disparate funding
- Self-directed care
- Increasing elderly population



# Current opportunities

- £279,356 grant
- £2,600 CTA consultancy support
- ITU fleet operation
- Big society



# Where do we want to get to?

- Overarching community transport policy
- Action plan and programme to enable implementation



# What next?

- Community transport project & team
- Help of members needed
- CTA support
- Research best practice elsewhere
- Work with district councils/users
- Implement strategy



# Questions and discussion on way forward

Working for you



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