

# Strategic Transport Leadership Board

5 December 2024

## Agenda Item 10

### OxCam Pan Regional Partnership Environment Principles

*Recommendation:*

**It is recommended that the Strategic Transport Leadership Board:**

- a) Notes the development of the OxCam Pan Regional Partnership (PRP) Environment Principles**
- b) Considers the application of the principles within individual partner Local Authorities**

#### **1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1. To update the Strategic Transport Leadership Board on the development of the OxCam Pan Regional Partnership Environment Principles

#### **2. Key points to note**

- 2.1. The OxCam PRP had previously developed a set of Environmental Principles (published in 2021), which have now been updated.
- 2.2. The principles are supported by a number of potential 'pathways' setting out how the principle could be achieved. The updated Environment Principles are included as annex 1 of this document.
- 2.3. Due to the nature of EEH's work, the Board is asked to note the reference to support of the EEH transport strategy principles in Section 2 of the report (net zero pathways).
- 2.4. The Strategic Transport Leadership Board are asked to note the development of the PRP Environment Principles and consider their application within their own Local Authority.

#### **3. Context**

- 3.1. In February 2021, Leaders in the region (through the previous ARC leadership group) endorsed the "shared regional principles for protecting, restoring and enhancing the environment in the Oxford-Cambridge region." Subsequently, these principles became commonly known as the "Environment Principles." The principles created a statement of intent to achieve environmentally sustainable economic growth.
- 3.2. In 2024, based on a revised policy landscape, such an updated National Planning Policy Framework, the New Towns Taskforce and the Industrial Strategy Green Paper, a renewal of the Environment Principles was undertaken.
- 3.3. This resulted in a refreshed OxCam Environment Principles document which builds on previous work carried and brings together and how the ambitions could be achieved in a collaborative way. There are 5 thematic areas included in the refreshed principles, these are:
  - Net Zero Carbon
  - Nature and Land

- Water
  - Circular economy
  - Climate change adaptation
- 3.4. Of particular note for the EEH Board is the net zero carbon emissions pathway, which includes working towards the four key principles set out in England's Economic Heartland's Regional Transport Strategy. EEH is specifically referenced in relation to contributing to the goal of achieving a "transition to NetZero and scale and at pace". EEH is already playing an important role in delivering against this ambition, for example, with the development of the Carbon Assessment Playbook, which is available to all Local Authority partners.
- 3.5. The PRP Partnership's Environment Sub Group, chaired by Cllr Bridget Smith and with Members from across LAs represented on the PRP Board, has been leading the development of the principles. The PRP Partnership Board adopted the renewed set of regional Principles on 28 November 2024.

#### **4. Nest steps**

- 4.1. The PRP Partnership Board Members have agreed to explore opportunities for a co-commissioned and co-funded programme of activity to deliver the Environment Principles.
- 4.2. It is recommended the Board notes the development of the OxCam PRP principles and consider the application of the principles at individual Local Authorities.

**Naomi Green**  
**Managing Director**  
**December 2024**

**Nathan Vear**  
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