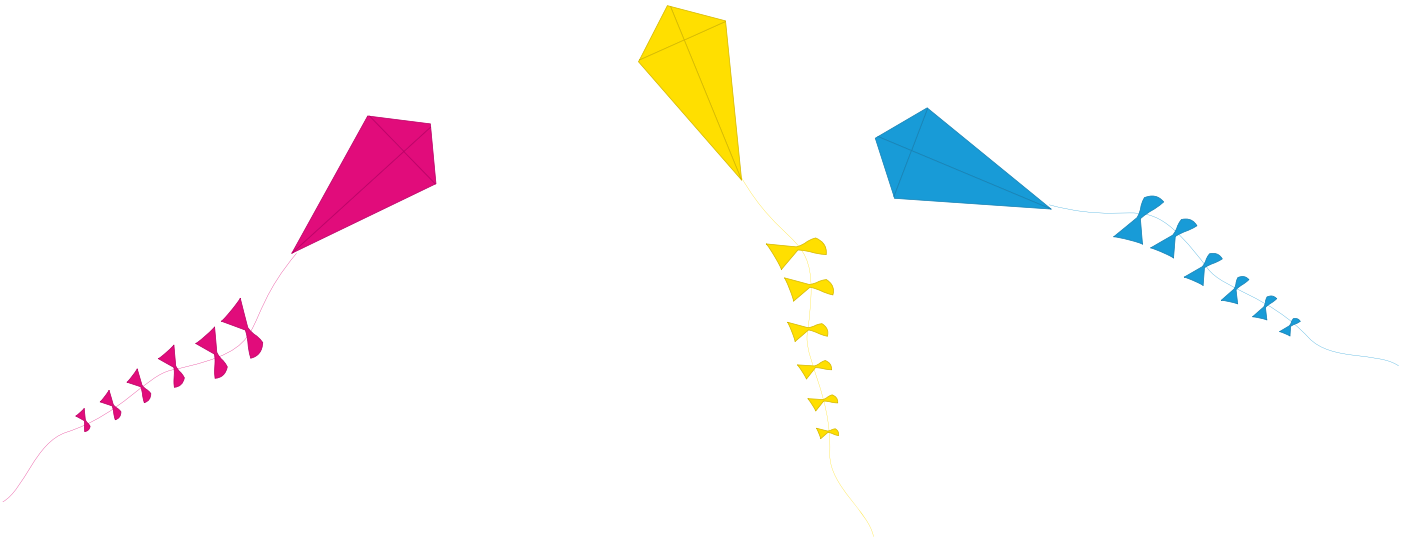
Oxfordshire Partnership

Oxfordshire 2030

A partnership plan for improving quality of life in Oxfordshire



Oxfordshire 2030

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Oxfordshire Partnership

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Foreword

Oxfordshire 2030 identifies how we will respond to the challenges facing Oxfordshire over the next 20+ years. It sets out a long-term vision for Oxfordshire's future. Our vision is an ambitious one:

> By 2030 we want Oxfordshire to be recognised for its economic success, outstanding environment and quality of life; to be a place where everyone can realise their potential, contribute to and benefit from economic prosperity and where people are actively involved in their local communities.

This strategy has been developed by the Oxfordshire Partnership on behalf of the people living and working in Oxfordshire. The partnership brings together people from Oxfordshire's most influential organisations and groups to tackle the issues that are important to local people. Oxfordshire 2030 is about partnership working. It has been developed through extensive consultation and collaboration and will be regularly reviewed and updated.

This is a diverse and changing county. There are pockets of deprivation amongst prosperous communities; areas of outstanding natural beauty and areas of significant housing and commercial development. Our rural areas, market towns and Oxford itself have different local identities, challenges and priorities. In consequence this strategy seeks to recognise broad priorities whilst recognising that action needs to reflect the needs of our local communities.

When we unite around our common aims, we can achieve a great deal working together. This strategy provides the framework to support partnership action. We have set out our key pledges and targets and will publish details annually on how successful we are in achieving them.

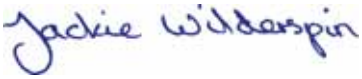
Councillor Keith R Mitchell CBE
Chairman of the Oxfordshire Partnership and Leader of Oxfordshire County Council

Mary Harpley
Chairman Cherwell Community Planning Partnership and Chief Executive Cherwell District Council

Rt Rev Colin Fletcher
Chairman South Oxfordshire Partnership and Bishop of Dorchester

Rev John Robertson
Chairman Vale Partnership and Vicar of Grove

David Neudegg
Interim Chairman West Oxfordshire Strategic Partnership and Chief Executive West Oxfordshire District Council



Jackie Wilderspin
Chairman Oxford Strategic Partnership and Head of Partnerships and Equalities, Oxfordshire PCT

Oxfordshire 2030

Oxfordshire 2030 is a Sustainable Community Strategy. It sets out a long-term vision for Oxfordshire's future. **Our ambition is to**:

- Create a world class economy for Oxfordshire building particularly on the high tech sector.
- Have healthy and thriving communities. We want to sustain what is good about our city, towns and villages but also respond to the needs of the 21st century including the impact of demographic and lifestyle changes.
- Look after our environment and respond to the threat of climate change and the potential for more extreme weather conditions. The threat of flooding is a particular concern.
- Break the cycle of deprivation by addressing the regeneration needs of disadvantaged communities; reducing the gap between the best and worst off and supporting people to maximise their talents and raise their aspirations.

The strategy has the support of all the key statutory agencies in the county as well as voluntary and business sector endorsement. Our expectation is that key agencies will reflect the vision and priorities in their own corporate plans and in their resource allocation so we ensure that we deliver the vision.

What is a Sustainable Community Strategy?

All local authorities have a duty to work with partner organisations to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy – a document which demonstrates how local organisations and agencies will work together to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area.

There are three main strands within the strategy:

- Place – where housing and other development will be concentrated.
- Major themes – Largely centred on economic and community well being.
- Cross cutting issues – Tackling inequality, responding to climate change and sustainability – ensuring that our approach to improving our economy, environment and communities takes account of the need for long-term sustainable solutions – for example: living within our environmental means and actions that help communities to be more resilient and self-supporting.

The Oxfordshire Partnership

The task of developing Oxfordshire 2030 has been taken on by the Oxfordshire Partnership which represents public, business and voluntary sector interests from across the county.

The Oxfordshire Partnership is the over-arching strategic partnership for the county and provides the form for setting the strategic vision for the county and for capturing the vision in the Sustainable Community Strategy. There are similar partnerships for each district and their strategies will pick up more detailed issues and focus on the needs of local communities.

The main objectives of the Oxfordshire Partnership are:

- To develop Oxfordshire 2030 - a Sustainable Community Strategy for Oxfordshire.
- To strengthen partnership working to ensure that everyone is working in the same strategic direction, sharing resources, information and expertise to address key issues and local priorities.
- To promote equality, respect and diversity and improve the quality of life for everyone who lives in, works in, or visits Oxfordshire.

The evidence:

In developing the strategy, the partnership looked at the long-term social, economic and environmental trends, issues and other plans and strategies affecting the future of the county. Organisations from the partnership, including the police, health services, businesses, the voluntary and community sectors and elected members of local councils were invited to events in 2007 to debate the implications of these trends. They then agreed priorities for action for wider consultation with the public.

See the website for more information on the role of the Oxfordshire Partnership and the development of the strategy **www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk**

Understanding Oxfordshire

Detailed information on the trends and issues affecting Oxfordshire can found on our website www.oxfordshireobservatory.info

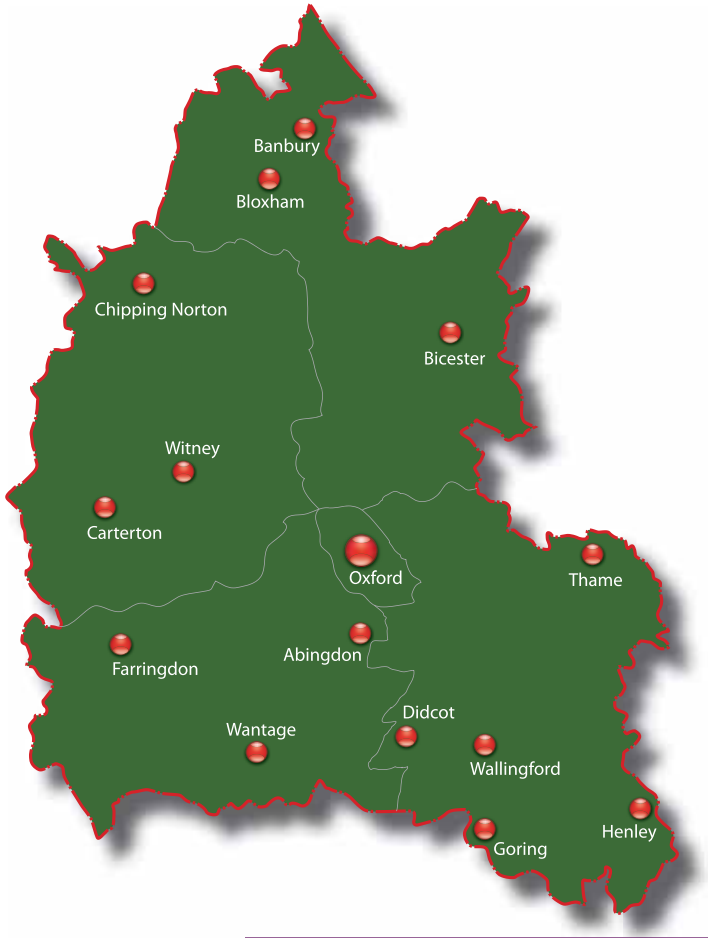
Oxfordshire is a county alive with enterprise, learning and history. It has become internationally renowned as a place of architectural and natural beauty, a centre of excellence for higher education, research and innovation and a designated European Centre of Culture.

The county includes three areas of outstanding natural beauty: the Cotswolds, the Chilterns and the North Wessex Downs and is crossed by the River Thames and its tributaries. The internationally famous city of Oxford is surrounded by numerous historic towns and villages set in beautiful countryside. Oxfordshire is at the north-western edge of the South East region and, with its central location in England, has strong links to London and the Midlands, as well as west to the Cotswolds and along the M4 corridor.

Economic prosperity and the quality of the environment make Oxfordshire an attractive place in which to live and work. People in Oxfordshire in general live long and healthy lives. However there are pockets of relative deprivation where residents have lower wages and low skills, poor housing, young people do not fulfil their potential at school and where older people have poorer health than most.

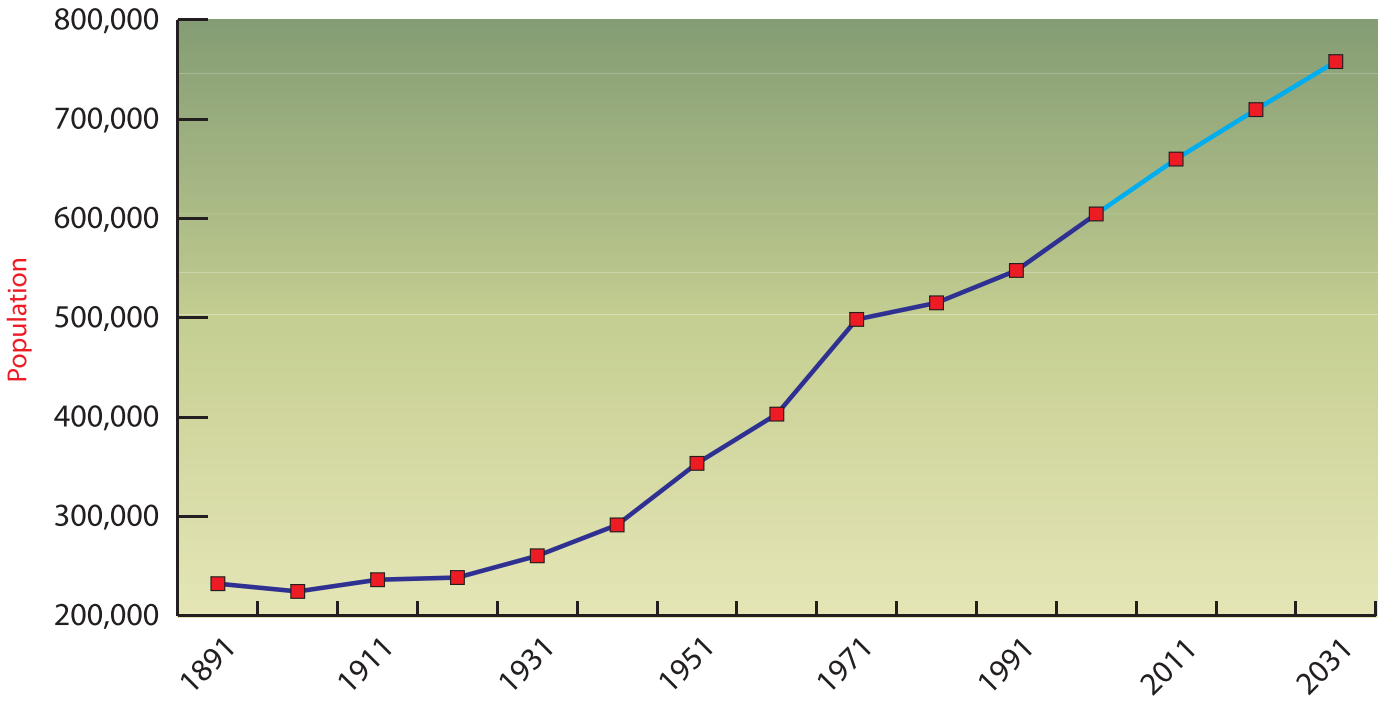
Oxfordshire in context

- In mid-2006, an estimated 632,000 people lived in Oxfordshire.
- Oxfordshire is the most rural county in the South East region - over 50% of people in Oxfordshire live in settlements of less than 10,000 people.
- Our largest settlement is Oxford city with a population of 149,100, with 42,500 students attending either Oxford University or Oxford Brookes University (Total students, Higher Education Statistics Agency - not students in residence).
- Around one-third of the population lives in our market towns.



Population growth

- The population of Oxfordshire has more than doubled since the 1940s.



- Between 2006 and 2026 Oxfordshire's total population is forecast to grow by over 12%, whilst the number of people aged 75 and over is projected to grow by 60% over the same period. This trend is similar to that expected nationally and is driven by increasing life expectancy and the current age profile of the county.

Region	mid 2001	mid 2026
Oxfordshire	607,300	711,800
Cherwell	132,000	165,900
Oxford	135,500	171,100
South Oxfordshire	128,300	135,000
Vale of White Horse	115,800	127,700
West Oxfordshire	95,700	111,900

- In 2006 the proportion of people from non-white ethnic groups in Oxfordshire was 7.7%.

Oxfordshire's environment

- 78% of the land in Oxfordshire is under agricultural management and almost a quarter of the land is designated an area of outstanding natural beauty.

- The number of cars owned by people living in Oxfordshire increased from 175,000 to over 300,000 (+78%) between 1981 and 2001.

- Traffic on Oxfordshire's roads increased by 12.5% in the 10 year period to 2006.

- 10.2 tonnes of carbon dioxide per person were emitted in Oxfordshire in 2005: 26.5% of the emissions were from domestic sources i.e. our homes, 38.2% from industry and 35.3% from road transport.

The Ridgeway

A vision for the future

"By 2030 we want Oxfordshire to be recognised for its economic success, outstanding environment and quality of life; to be a place where everyone can realise their potential, contribute to and benefit from economic prosperity and where people are actively involved in their local communities."

Our strategic objectives are:

1. **World class economy**: To build on Oxfordshire's vibrant economy and make sure that everyone has an opportunity to be included in that success.
2. **Healthy and thriving communities**: Oxfordshire is a great place to live for most but not all, and we need to tackle crime, anti-social behaviour, health inequalities, lack of housing and congestion and respond effectively to the demographic challenges we face over the next 20 years. We also want our city, market towns and villages to be communities with a heart.
3. **Environment and climate change**: To respond to the challenges of climate change by minimising the effects of flooding, looking after our environment, reducing waste and use of energy to improve the quality of life for all.

Oxford Science Park

4. **Reducing inequalities and breaking the cycle of deprivation**: Whilst Oxfordshire is a pleasant and prosperous place to live and work, there are pockets of deprivation typified by some or all of the following:

    - Low educational attainment
    - Family breakdown
    - Worklessness
    - Crime and anti-social behaviour
    - Poor health
    - Poor housing.

These problems are linked and mutually reinforcing. They can combine to create a complex vicious cycle. Central to our vision is ensuring that everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed in life. The Partnership will work together to reduce inequalities and narrow the gap between the least and most deprived individuals and communities in Oxfordshire.

We also recognise that in relation to everything we do, **we must**:

Reduce the gap between the best and worst off. We will do this by improving the outcomes for the worst-off and bringing them closer to the outcomes enjoyed by the best-off. This will mean targeting resources to the localities or communities experiencing the worst outcomes as we implement all our plans.

Job Centre Plus

Be sustainable as we work to deliver our vision we must consider the social, economic and environmental impacts of our work, and ensure the resources and capacity needed to deliver change exist and are sustainable. We must also ensure that we meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Delivering results

There is a strong track record of local organisations working collaboratively to deliver services and outcomes across the public, private, voluntary, community and faith sectors. There is a strong infrastructure of partnerships including county-wide partnerships (for example The Children's Trust Board working for all our young people) and local partnerships (for example Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships who work together to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse).

Oxfordshire 2030 provides a context for this work. The strategy is supported by a Delivery Plan (**www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk/oxfordshire2030**) which sets out specific and measurable medium term priorities for the partnership. For example targets to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour, improve health, housing, transport, and educational attainment and workforce skills.

The Delivery Plan contains the following:

- Three year targets that are in our Local Area Agreement (LAA) – an agreement between the Government and partners in Oxfordshire which reflects some of the highest priority key targets.

- Key targets which are important locally but not in the local area agreement.

Within Oxfordshire we have a countywide local strategic partnership and five local strategic partnerships at district level. We are all working together to achieve the shared vision for the future. This approach means that we can make best use of our resources, joining up where necessary, whilst ensuring very local issues are also tackled.

Monitoring progress and measuring change

The strategy is important for defining goals but at regular intervals we need to take stock to see if circumstances have changed. We will do this at least every five years. We also need to monitor progress against targets on an annual basis as well as taking stock of broader quality of life indicators.

The Local Area Agreement and the Delivery Plan will be monitored on a quarterly basis and progress will be reported to the Oxfordshire Public Service Board, which is responsible for managing the Local Area Agreement. It will also be formally reported to the Government once a year. We will produce an annual report which will analyse current performance and future trends.

Planning for better places to live, learn and work

This section is about land use planning rather than general planning for the future.

Oxfordshire has to balance the need to protect and enhance its special environment, both urban and rural, with the needs for economic growth and housing. There is also a need to ensure that physical and social infrastructure (such as public transport, health services and schools), both within Oxfordshire and neighbouring areas, are provided at the right time. Only by balancing these requirements will the county be able to achieve its objectives of securing a world class economy and healthy and thriving communities whilst tackling climate change and addressing environmental issues.

New housing in Oxfordshire

Currently the framework for the overall spatial planning strategy for Oxfordshire is provided by the Structure Plan (**www.oxfordshire.gov.uk**). However, this will change very soon when the South East Plan is approved by the Government. Below the regional level there will be Local Development Frameworks prepared by each of the five district councils and a minerals and waste development framework prepared by the county council.

A draft South East Plan was prepared by the South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA) and submitted to the Secretary of State in March 2006 and was subjected to a public examination in late 2006 and early 2007. The public examination panel's report was published in August 2007, and the Secretary of State published her proposed changes to the plan in July 2008.

These included a review of the greenbelt south of Oxford in order to facilitate an urban extension of at least 4,000 homes. The Secretary of State's final decision following consultation is awaited.

After the preparation of the South East Plan the government invited submissions for a number of 'eco towns'. "Weston Otmoor" between Weston on the Green and the M40 is one of 15 sites across the country currently under consideration. A decision as to whether this proposal is included in any finally approved list is expected in 2009. This section of the strategy will be updated in 2009 to reflect the requirements of the South East Plan and/or Eco Town provision.

Links to Local Development Frameworks

Critical to the delivery of 2030 goals is the provision of the physical and social infrastructure. The planning system will play an important role in helping us deliver sustainable communities by facilitating provision of, for example:

- Affordable homes and housing options
- Shops, business sites and premises
- Schools and health facilities
- Transport networks for pedestrians, cyclists, bus and rail users, and private and commercial road users
- Parks
- Flood defences

Rail services in Oxfordshire

To make sure this happens all five district councils are developing local development frameworks (LDF's) – a collection of policies and plans to guide development in the local area which are essential tools in order to shape communities and ensure that services are delivered to meet local needs. These frameworks, along with the South East Plan and other major plans such as the minerals and waste development framework, will guide how much development and building there is in your area, where it is located and what infrastructure (roads, schools, community facilities) are needed to support it.

Housing

Housing demand is high in the South East. The Draft South East Plan proposed housing growth of 2,360 dwellings each year (within Oxfordshire) until 2026 but the Secretary of State has proposed an increase to 2,760 pa. The draft plan proposed that at least 50 per cent of all new houses (in the central Oxfordshire sub region), should be 'affordable' to meet the needs of young people and those on low incomes, although the Secretary of State has suggested that this be reduced to 40%. Growth points have been designated within the county at Oxford and Didcot. Once the South East Plan is approved then Oxfordshire 2030 will be updated to reflect any changes.

Community

The South East Plan embraces the concept of 'lifetime neighbourhoods' with inclusive, well designed living environments for all ages. A lifetime neighbourhood would provide all residents with the best possible chance of health, wellbeing and social inclusion, particularly as they grow older. This would require an accessible and pleasant built environment in which residents of all ages are not unnecessarily excluded by age, physical or cognitive ability, and remain able to work, socialise and participate for as long as possible. We will work to respond to older people's needs and experiences for example, in relation to the use of public transport, access to residential care services, access to shops, amenities and leisure space, their perception of security, neighbourhood and place, and the desire to congregate, socialise and participate.

Employment

The main locations for the provision of additional land for employment will be at Bicester and Didcot, in particular to provide for the education, scientific and technological sectors and the expansion and relocation of existing local firms. In Oxford, the West End Development, the Northern Gateway and potentially the Science Park to the South of the city will provide employment opportunities. In Banbury development for employment will take place mainly on previously developed land.

Traffic congestion

Road traffic has grown rapidly in Oxfordshire, particularly on the M40 and A34, and congestion is a significant problem. The county council, in partnership with Network Rail and the Highways Agency is promoting a package of measures called 'Access to Oxford' designed to ease congestion around the county. However, further traffic management and development of transport networks particularly around our market towns will be needed.

Oxfordshire's principal road network is already operating at near capacity and traffic growth is predicted to increase significantly over the next few years. There is a backlog on infrastructure development both in road and rail. This is likely to be a growing problem both for businesses and individuals. The resultant traffic congestion will also add to pollution.

Natural resources

Thames Water, through its resources management plan, has proposed a major new reservoir to the south west of Abingdon near the village of Steventon, although the need for this is still being examined. Consultation on the water resources management plan took place during the Summer of 2008.

Oxfordshire has extensive deposits of sand, gravel and limestone and is an important producer of aggregate minerals for construction work mostly within the county. Aggregates are needed both for new development and to maintain the existing built fabric and infrastructure. The draft South East Plan sets out plans for extraction rates but following central government guidelines are now being reviewed.

M40 in Oxfordshire

World class economy

Oxfordshire is an economically vibrant area. Compared with the rest of the UK unemployment is low and the economy is prosperous. We have a lot to be proud of: the highest level of research and development in western Europe; a concentration of high-wage, high-tech industry; and of course, world-renowned universities. But global economic conditions and competition mean we have to work even harder to secure a world class economy for the county.

Key issues include:

- Supporting and growing our high technology businesses and increase high value employment.
- The need for Oxfordshire to continue to secure inward investment to help existing businesses to 'go global'.
- The need to provide the best possible business support to grow existing businesses.
- Improving infrastructure, in particular transport to reduce congestion.
- Increasing the supply of affordable housing.
- Raising educational attainment, improving workforce skills and encouraging lifelong learning.
- Local regeneration initiatives.
- Improving the sustainability of rural economies.

Current position

Oxfordshire's economy has sustained continued growth and stability over an extended period and is recognised as an economic powerhouse within the South East and UK and also on the world stage. It has an exceptional concentration of research and development (7.9% of the workforce compared with 2.9% for the South East) with world renowned establishments such as the critical triangle of universities, hospitals and medical research leading to high technology spin offs, and the Diamond Synchrotron on the Harwell Science and Innovation Campus. In the South East Plan and the Regional Economic Strategy, Oxford city and central Oxfordshire is seen as a regional hub – a centre of economic activity and a Diamond for Investment and Growth. The county as a whole has strong sectors in tourism, motorsports (Banbury is a sub regional hub and other areas in north Oxfordshire), and publishing industries.

In terms of gross value added (GVA) Oxfordshire performance ranks in the top 10% for the UK, having increased more than Cambridgeshire but significantly less than Berkshire since 1995. Oxfordshire GVA per head has been consistently above the South East average.

Military

The armed forces are the largest employer in the county with 30,000 military personnel at bases in Bicester, Abingdon, Benson, Brize Norton, Shrivenham and Didcot. These bases have special needs, for example changes to employment are expected over the medium term, and these have been reflected in our planning.

Rural economy

The county's market towns depend largely on small businesses to provide the shops and services that communities need.

Oxfordshire is the most rural county in the South East and its pleasant rural landscape, the high quality of its built environment and culture make it a place where businesses want to operate and people want to live and work. Farming plays a vital role in the economy with 78% of the land in Oxfordshire under agricultural management.

Our county is varied and offers visitors and residents a number of unique rural and urban attractions. We work with partners to promote strong tourism brands (for example Oxford, Cotswolds and Bicester Village) which highlights the energetic and cosmopolitan city of Oxford, our bustling market towns, picturesque rural communities and areas of outstanding natural beauty.

Thame town centre - Photo by David R Walker

Our many historic rural towns and villages provide access to a wide range of goods and services and a base for both established and new businesses from thatching to software engineering and local retail, financial services and distribution. Business is everywhere in the county from isolated rural parishes to high tech business parks near our major road and rail routes.

Culture and leisure

High quality cultural, sport, leisure and recreational activity is a key factor in making Oxfordshire a good place for business. They provide employment and improve the quality of life of everyone in the county. There are more than 70 festivals, world class museums and heritage attractions including the Ashmolean and Blenheim Palace; high quality theatre, art galleries and sporting events and access to the countryside, parks and rivers.

The castle complex at Oxford's West End

As global competition intensifies, maintaining growth and prosperity becomes more and more challenging and we need to focus on **economic regeneration** – particularly

- Urban renaissance of Oxford's West End.
- Developing the Southern Oxfordshire Science Vale as an international centre for innovation and enterprise. The Science Vale is an area of economic growth in southern central Oxfordshire whose future is defined by four points – Harwell science and innovation campus, Milton Park, Didcot and Grove.
- Developing the Bicester economy with greater emphasis on a high value, high wage, and high tech economy to keep pace with planned housing growth.
- Developing the Banbury economy by attracting mid and high-tech industries.

Workforce skills

Although the county has the highest concentration of degree level qualifications of any county (at the time of the Census 2001 survey, around 28% people aged 16 to 74 in Oxfordshire had a degree or higher, the highest proportion of any county in England), a significant proportion of the working age population are without qualifications and are therefore ill equipped to meet the needs of businesses operating in very competitive markets. Despite this high percentage of graduates and the low rate of unemployment, the county has 30 areas within the worst 10% in England on education, skills and training deprivation and three areas in Oxford ranked within the worst 1% in England on this measure.

Elms Road Nursery, Botley Primary and Matthew Arnold school pupils

According to the 2005 National Employer Skills Survey, Oxfordshire employers were more likely to have recruitment issues and skills gaps than in either the Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire area as a whole or across the South East region.

Educational attainment in our schools is a cause for concern with performance not as strong as in comparable areas of the country. There is a need not just to raise GCSE performance in schools, but for all young people in the county to aspire to share in the sense of opportunity which its economy provides.

Investment in transport and housing infrastructure lags behind the pace of economic development. This has contributed to increasing levels of congestion and shortages of affordable housing. The lack of affordable housing is especially a problem for those in essential service jobs not sharing in the high wage economy.

Traffic congestion nationally and locally is getting worse. As the population grows it is likely that congestion around the county will continue to worsen unless action is taken to address it. Taking into account national and local travel trends and levels of committed and expected future development, growth in all traffic on Oxfordshire roads is predicted to be over 25% over the period to 2026 - well above the national average of 18%.

Oxfordshire is a mostly rural county and for many the car is (and for the foreseeable future will continue to be) the predominant mode of travel. However a significant minority do not have access to a car, affecting their ability to reach services and employment. The county's road network is well-developed, and provides car users with direct links to all major destinations. However, for those people who do not have access to a car for all or part of the time, getting to key destinations can be far from easy.

The 'hamburger' roundabout in Headington

Improvements to the railways such as East-West Rail, improvements to Oxford Station as well as smaller schemes at local stations (for example Grove) have the potential to improve public transport services. Enhancements to bus infrastructure will have a similar impact. The county council has secured funding from Government for a major project called 'Access to Oxford', including improvements for rail, bus and general road traffic, which is to be delivered in 2013-2015.

The need and demand for affordable housing (social, rented and intermediate) is high in Oxfordshire as it is throughout the South East region and beyond. However, lack of land and the desire to protect the county's unique historical, environmental and cultural heritage will inhibit our ability to satisfy demand.

Oxfordshire is in a strong position to sustain economic growth. There are some things that Oxfordshire has right and should treasure – the balancing of economic and environmental interests and the links between universities, science, innovation and entrepreneurism

We pledge to

- ✓ Collaborate across public, business and voluntary sectors to build on Oxfordshire's economic success.
- ✓ Create the conditions for everyone to have access to jobs.
- ✓ Ensure that educational attainment and skill levels are amongst the very best in the country so we provide a well qualified, motivated workforce to meet the needs of business.
- ✓ Grow the economy whilst achieving a sustainable balance between jobs, housing and the environment.
- ✓ Tackle traffic congestion across Oxfordshire, particularly on trunk roads and around market towns, Oxford city and other hot spots.
- ✓ Reduce the gap between the best and the worst off by targeting our work appropriately.

Affordable housing in Witney

How we will measure success

By 2030 we expect:

- Education and skills levels to have risen well above the national average.
- GVA (gross value added) to be in the top 10% nationally.
- The ratio of housing supply to demand and the quality and affordability of housing to be improved.
- Those who are of working age but not in work, full time education or training and those not actively seeking work, to be the lowest in the country.
- Oxfordshire to be known throughout the world as a centre of science and innovation excellence.
- Journey times on Oxfordshire roads to be within the most reliable 10% in the country.
- Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling to have improved.

Our priorities for action

Details of action planned for the medium and longer term are set out in the accompanying Delivery Plan **www.oxfordshirepartnership.gov.uk/oxfordshire2030**

Key partnerships to develop the theme

Oxfordshire Economic Partnership
Learning & Skills Partnership
Housing Partnership
Environment Partnership
District Local Strategic Partnerships

Healthy and thriving communities

People enjoy living in Oxfordshire. Surveys show us that over 90% of the people in Oxfordshire like living in their communities. We are fortunate to have a population that is generally healthier than elsewhere, with longer than average life expectancy. However, there are pockets where life expectancy is lower in parts of the county. Levels of crime are generally lower than average. We have a diverse population: as the most rural county in the south-east of England, half our population live in rural areas but a quarter live in Oxford city with the remainder living in our bustling market towns. The profile of a 'typical' Oxfordshire resident is changing. There are now many more people over 85 living in the county and the number of people with learning disabilities living here has also increased. Our black and minority ethnic communities account for 5% of Oxfordshire's population overall and 13% in Oxford city. We want to ensure that everyone is safe from harm, able to live a healthy lifestyle and is valued in the community in which they live, work, grow up and grow old. We also want to ensure people have the ability to participate and contribute to their communities.

Healthy and thriving communities implies that:

*** Our towns, neighbourhoods and villages are communities with a heart, where local people work with each other and with service providers to improve their areas.**
*** We work together to support and protect all vulnerable groups including older people and those with disabilities**
*** People are physically and mentally healthy and live longer**
*** Oxfordshire is a place where people feel safe and welcomed. Our foundations are strong: there are concerns about anti-social behaviour but generally our city, towns and villages are safe and pleasant places in which to live.**

Key issues include:

- Housing has become unaffordable particularly for many young people within urban and rural areas.
- Maintaining local services in rural communities.
- Older people and those with disabilities want more choice and control over their care, wish to live independently and have access to high quality services when they need them.
- Preventing ill-health in the ageing population.
- Community engagement and self help is less strong than it once was and the community and voluntary sector needs strengthening to support this.
- Crime is relatively low but fear of crime and concern about anti-social behaviour – and particularly as a result of alcohol or drug abuse – is a growing concern for many people.

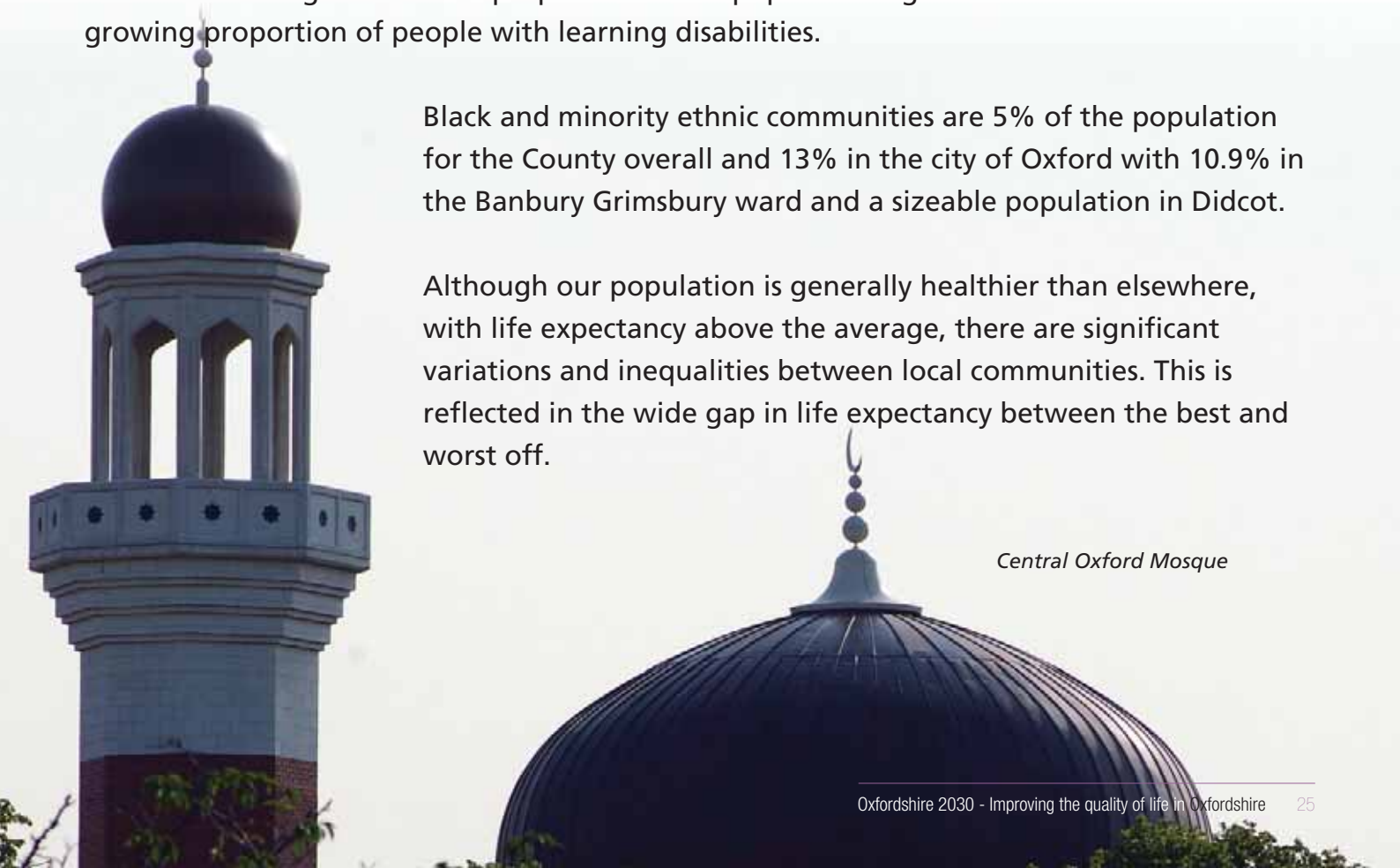
- Life expectancy is improving year on year, particularly in our affluent communities, but there are growing concerns about the effects of unhealthy lifestyles in some of our communities.
- Regeneration of deprived local communities.
- Involving more people in making decisions about their communities - including those who have not been involved in the past (for example, young people and those from different cultures and backgrounds).
- Putting our energy and resources into communities that are experiencing rapid change due to housing development, population and demographic change and where there is the greatest need to prevent ill-health, reduce crime and other problems.
- Encouraging a new generation of volunteers who actively support their communities.
- Valuing culture, sport, recreation and leisure as being vital to maintaining good quality of life and in providing opportunities for economic growth and employment.

Current position

Oxfordshire is a diverse county in terms of the range of urban and rural environments and ethnicity. A quarter of the population live in the city of Oxford with a similar proportion in our market towns and half the population living in rural areas. The population is ageing with substantial growth in the proportion of the population aged 85 and over. There is also a growing proportion of people with learning disabilities.

Black and minority ethnic communities are 5% of the population for the County overall and 13% in the city of Oxford with 10.9% in the Banbury Grimsbury ward and a sizeable population in Didcot.

Although our population is generally healthier than elsewhere, with life expectancy above the average, there are significant variations and inequalities between local communities. This is reflected in the wide gap in life expectancy between the best and worst off.



Central Oxford Mosque

Communities with a heart

People want to live in communities where services are well planned and coordinated; where the local centre provides good shopping provision; where there is a good quality environment; where there is access to good quality housing and services; where there is access to high quality culture, sport and leisure. We also want places where local people help shape the future for their city, town, village or neighbourhood and who work to contribute to the solution of local problems.

In some areas of the city and our market towns there is a need to better join up activity as well as requirements for more active engagement to break the cycle of deprivation, in relation to skills, community safety and health.

'Aunt Sally' in Oxfordshire - Photo by Brian Miller

We acknowledge the difficulties of people commuting longer distances to work and people working longer hours which have an impact on the amount of time people have available to input into their communities. Despite this we know that there are at least 3,000 voluntary and community groups in Oxfordshire and many people are involved and working hard to make life better for local people and their communities. However we are heavily reliant on those who are community spirited and active in our communities and we need to engage more people to build on that good work in the future.

A feeling of identity and 'sense of place' is critical to making Oxfordshire an even better place. Oxfordshire residents have a strong affiliation to the county and to their local community and there is a real sense of community and belonging. Distinctive local activities and events – such as the popular game of "Aunt Sally", the rural touring programme which brings live arts events to local community spaces, the annual Leveller's Day in Burford as well as one off special events and festivals like "Luminox" in Oxford reinforce this sense of identity and provide occasions for a whole community to come together.

Our voluntary, community and faith organisations are vital to the well-being of local people and communities as are our parish, town, district and county councils who provide local services and local democratically elected representation to make sure that services are responsive to local people's needs.

Voluntary, community and faith organisations play a vital role in Oxfordshire life, both in providing services to people who need them and in making volunteering opportunities available for people to get involved in their communities. We will work to ensure that our community organisations receive the support they need to develop and operate effectively in order to meet the needs of the people they serve.

Participation in culture, sport, leisure and recreation are also important to how people experience and perceive the place where they live – contributing to a distinctive identity, engendering pride and a sense of belonging while helping to sustain community cohesion. The need to improve play opportunities for children and young people is also important in order to support thriving communities. The Oxfordshire Play Partnership is working with all local authorities (including parish and town councils) and relevant VCS organisations to increase and improve play opportunities

A strong local cultural life and a choice of leisure and recreational opportunities deliver benefits which strengthen communities and contribute to a rich quality of life for all while having a positive impact on the economy, tourism, educational attainment and community safety.

'Luminox' in Oxford

We would like Oxfordshire to be a community where:

- People feel they have a say in their own communities but also put something back in terms of neighbourliness, running local projects e.g. neighbourhood watch, fund raising, event organising etc.
- There are strong and positive relationships between people from different backgrounds in the community.

Bicester Resource Centre

Oxfordshire communities are well thought of with over 90% of the people in Oxfordshire saying they like living in their local communities. A recent analysis of parish plans also shows that a growing number of local people are working with their parish council to actively plan for the future of their community. Oxford City Council has had area committees for some years and are developing their approach to neighbourhood planning. Typically community-led plans reveal concerns about the 'environment' with 'access to services and travel', 'affordable housing and activities for young people' also raised.

Demographic change

One of the key areas of change facing us all is the ageing of our population. As a result of our improved longevity and declining birth-rate there is a profound shift in the structure of our population. Improvements in income, health care and healthier lifestyles have led to more people living longer. This has led to an increase in the number of relatively fit and active older people, many of who are and want to continue to be active contributors in employment, in their families and communities as volunteers, employees

Shotover Day Centre

and carers. Older people make an important contribution to economies and communities as consumers and for their expectations as citizens. It also means more people will need support to remain independent in later life.

However, the distribution of income amongst the older population is very uneven. Older people have one of the highest risks of poverty of all age groups and experience social exclusion due to a range of factors including reduced social contact, poorer health, low income and lack of mobility. The greatest consumers of health and social care are those over 85 which is the section of the population growing at the fastest rate. There is also an increase in the number of younger people who have experienced some form of learning or physical disability from birth, or who have survived a trauma. This will place increased financial pressure on both the county council's adult care services and the Oxfordshire NHS.

There is a real danger that our healthy population will become less healthy over the next 20 years. The incidence of obesity is rising and so is alcohol consumption. Apart from the health implications, excessive alcohol consumption amongst people also gives rise to anti-social behaviour and so increases fear of crime.

Responding to these challenges will involve a renewed emphasis on prevention and provision of support to individuals to live their lives independently and successfully. We will also need to emphasise (even more strongly than we do now) the importance of family carers and the support they need to carry out this role effectively and with due regard to their personal needs. We want to shift the emphasis to prevention so that we can intervene early, providing support to help the person stay independent and delay the need for costly intensive support for as long as possible.

Safer communities

Oxfordshire does not have high crime levels; indeed parts of the county have very low crime levels compared to the rest of the country. However alcohol-fuelled anti-social behaviour and drug related crime are particular problems in some areas and generally fear of crime is disproportionately high throughout Oxfordshire. Statutory agencies (such as the local authority anti-social behaviour teams) and voluntary agencies are working with the Police to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour but we also need local communities to help find local solutions.

We pledge to

- ✓ Work with local people including the voluntary, community and faith organisations and the military to sustain and build supportive, cohesive, resilient and well planned communities.
- ✓ Tackle crime and anti-social behaviour – particularly where the cause is the abuse of alcohol or other substance misuse.
- ✓ Work to prevent all forms of extremism that threaten the well-being of local people and communities.
- ✓ Support the people of Oxfordshire to achieve a healthy and positive old age, concentrating on the groups in greatest need.
- ✓ Ensure every child gets every opportunity for a good start in life.
- ✓ Improve support and opportunities for independent living.
- ✓ Promote healthy lifestyles including an increase in physical activity.
- ✓ Defend access to local services particularly in rural communities.
- ✓ Reduce the gap between the best and the worst off by targeting our work appropriately.

How will we measure success?

By 2030 we expect

- Everybody feels welcomed and safe in their local community.
- Volunteering and community self help are stronger than the national average.
- People are living longer by staying healthy.
- A reduction in the gap in between the best and worst off.
- Crime and anti-social behaviour to be in the bottom quartile in the country.
- Local communities to have developed and implemented a community-led plan (for example: a parish plan or a local community action plan) and have achieved a range of tangible improvements.

Police officer in central Oxford

Our priorities for action

Details of action planned for the medium and longer term are set out in the accompanying Delivery Plan **www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk/oxfordshire2030**

Key partnerships to develop the theme

- Health and Well-being Partnership
- Oxfordshire Sports Partnership
- Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership
- Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships
- Oxfordshire Voluntary Sector Development Partnership
- District Local Strategic Partnerships

Environment and climate change

Dreaming spires, rambling green spaces, buildings steeped in rich history: few could doubt that we enjoy an exceptional environment. We recognise our important role as custodians of the environment now and for future generations. Our challenge is to protect our areas of natural beauty while meeting the demands of a 21st century lifestyle and an expanding and ageing population. We recognise that the future of our environment is closely linked to the national and international response to the global challenge of climate change. We are committed to making our contribution.

Individuals, communities, the public sector and businesses will all need to play their part both in reducing carbon emissions and making our county as resilient as possible to the effects of climate change.

Our aspiration is to conserve and enhance our natural and built environment while balancing this against the needs of a thriving economy and the impact of climate change.

Key issues are:

- Reducing our carbon footprint and adapting to climate change.
- Ensuring that all developments reduce carbon emissions and increase resilience to climate change.
- Preserving and enhance the character of our city, our market towns and villages.
- Enhancing the quality of the natural environment, landscapes and biodiversity.
- Addressing flooding risks.
- Reducing the landfill of waste.
- Dealing with the environmental impact of population growth and development while maintaining the character of our towns, villages and countryside.
- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

Current position

Our climate is changing. Temperatures are likely to rise by 1.8-4.0° C by the end of the century, depending on the extent of remedial action to reduce carbon emissions. The increase in the next 20-30 years (between 0.5-1.0° C here in the UK) will probably happen regardless of remedial action because of the impacts of carbon already emitted.

A good quality local environment can help improve health, reduce crime and contribute to our economy. Our environment is precious and the impacts of climate change will be wide ranging and affect our lifestyles and economy. We recognise the need to ensure that ambitious growth plans and the need for new housing do not adversely affect the rural and built environments that give Oxfordshire its character and provide valuable recreational resources for the whole community. We want to keep Oxfordshire clean and green – improving street and environmental cleanliness is a priority.

Access to transport is crucial to our aim of balancing environmental and economic needs. Our park and ride schemes, priority bus routes and the real-time bus information service make public transport accessible and user friendly. We continue to have the highest public transport use of any county.

Tackling and adapting to climate change (managing and reducing the impact of climate change on our environment) and protecting our environment are two of the most important issues we face.

An Oxford Park and Ride bus

We already experience water shortages, more extreme weather conditions, heat waves, intense winter storms and flooding. Climate change will increase the frequency, severity and cost of such events and could have devastating impacts, especially on those whose future is dependent upon their environment. It is therefore important that we work together to tackle climate change and plan for its impacts - both the positives and negatives. We can all play our part, for example, by reducing our waste, energy and water consumption and using greener transport options.

Managing the impact of climate change

A number of public, private and voluntary and community sector organisations have developed action plans for reducing their carbon footprint. An increasing number of businesses are doing this too, because they recognise that reducing carbon emissions is both good for the environment and can reduce their costs. Using resources effectively and reducing wastes are economically critical to businesses. Supporting our businesses to be efficient with resources is part of them becoming and remaining world class.

Save energy by switching things off

Some of the measures to reduce emissions require investment, such as improved building insulation or better heating and lighting controls, but a great deal too can be achieved through changes in behaviour, for example: switching off electrical appliances when they are not in use. The use of renewable sources of energy also needs to be explored.

Disposing of waste in landfill sites is not sustainable because of its effect on greenhouse gas emissions, the speed at which landfill sites are being filled, and the associated financial penalties which are imposed by government. Therefore reducing waste and then finding better ways of dealing with it is vital. Oxfordshire's domestic waste levels are already low and recycling rates are high compared with the rest of the country, but international comparisons are less favourable.

The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership (which includes the five Oxfordshire districts and the county council) has agreed a strategy for reducing waste and increasing reuse and recycling, but even if recycling rates matched the best in Europe there will still be a need for new waste treatment arrangements. The county council is in the process of procuring treatment facilities for food, garden and residual waste. The latter waste will be burned in a new plant currently proposed to be built at an existing landfill site at either Ardley or Sutton Courtenay. The plant will provide electricity for the grid and potentially combined heat and power.

Cotswold landscape

Protecting the environment

Oxfordshire has four National Nature Reserves, more than one hundred Sites of Special Scientific Interest, seven Special Areas of conservation, and many local nature reserves. There are three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty; the Chiltern Hills, the Cotswolds and the North Wessex Downs. Oxford city provides an important historic environment and at the heart of the county, Blenheim Palace & Parks is a world heritage site, and there are over 200 conservation areas and thousands of listed buildings across Oxfordshire.

Oxfordshire currently has the most effective county biodiversity partnership in England. Within Oxfordshire we have access to wildlife through public rights of way and open green space, bringing well recognised benefits for health and well-being.

We pledge to

- ✓ Reduce carbon emissions and improve energy and water efficiency by public sector organisations, and encourage residents and businesses to do the same.
- ✓ Reduce waste and increase re-use and recycling by households and businesses.
- ✓ Minimise the effects and risk of flooding.
- ✓ Ensure new development is built to high environmental standards.
- ✓ Support individuals, communities and businesses, to respond to climate change and to improve efficiency in their use of energy and water.
- ✓ Keep Oxfordshire clean and green.
- ✓ Protect and enhance the biodiversity of the county.
- ✓ Reduce the gap between the best and the worst off by targeting our work appropriately.

How will we measure success?

By 2030 we expect:

- Commercial and domestic waste reduction, re-use and recycling to be comparable with the best in Europe.
- Public sector and domestic energy and water use below the UK average.
- All new housing developments to include sustainable drainage.
- Oxfordshire's greenhouse gas emissions reduced to levels comparable with the best in the UK - a 50% reduction in CO_2, on 2008 levels by 2030.
- Oxfordshire's natural and built environment is preserved, protected and enhanced.

Our priorities for action

Details of action planned for the medium and longer term are set out in the accompanying Delivery Plan **www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk/oxfordshire2030**

Key partnerships to develop the theme

Oxfordshire Waste Partnership
Oxfordshire Environment Group
Climate Change Partnership
District Local Strategic Partnerships

Reducing inequalities and breaking the cycle of deprivation

Oxfordshire is an affluent county but there are pockets of deprivation. It is important to tackle these problems for economic reasons, to ensure we sustain a stable and cohesive society and to give individuals every chance to succeed. Key areas for attention will include:

- Improving educational attainment and skills.
- Promoting healthy lifestyles.
- Working with local people to address local community concerns.
- Focusing attention on the localities in greatest need to make a real difference.

Crime in Oxfordshire is significantly below the national average

Current position

Oxfordshire is, in general, an affluent county with low levels of social exclusion compared with England as a whole. Unemployment, poverty, poor health, poor housing and crime are all significantly below the national average. But stubborn inequalities remain, within particular groups of people and specific geographical localities. We recognise that pockets of deprivation and groups of people experiencing inequality occur in rural as well as urban areas of the county and that rural deprivation is particularly difficult to address as it is scattered across a large number of often small settlements.

In such communities there may be evidence of worklessness (those who are of working age but not in work, full time education or training and those not actively seeking work), poor housing and crime. Individuals may be living in relative poverty often related to low income, poor qualifications and skills and associated low self esteem. Lifestyles may also be unhealthy.

Improving skills

The cycle of deprivation is a description of what happens when people or areas suffer from a combination of linked factors including employment, poor skills, low incomes, poor housing, crime, poor health and worse access to services. The combination of several or all of these elements leads to disadvantage that can continue from one generation to the next. We recognise that extra effort is required to break this cycle so that everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed and to achieve their full potential in life.

We also recognise that there is a high "turnover" of residents in some communities with people moving onwards to pursue jobs, secure the housing and access to services they need and this can undermine a sense of local community. This trend needs to be reversed if the aspiration for all our communities to be thriving communities is to be delivered.

Our approach will be focused on the following:

- Raising educational achievement and skill levels – We want to raise educational achievement for all but there is a particular need to address the achievement of some Black and Minority Ethnic communities, children in public care and people in communities where people have few qualifications and in particular to equip local people with the skills needed by local businesses.
- Family support – to break the cycle of deprivation, work with families to promote the importance of education and skills, addressing parenting skills, and reduce teenage pregnancy and promote healthy lifestyles.
- Regenerating local communities – there are several areas of the city and of some of our market towns where statutory agencies need to work together and with local people to improve the area. This will include work to
    - Improve the supply and quality of housing for those who require it and support the vulnerable including those experiencing homelessness
    - Reduce the impact of crime in identified hot spots and divert young people from anti-social behaviour.

We pledge to

- ✓ Reduce the gap between the best and worst off.
- ✓ Increase educational attainment and skill levels.
- ✓ Tackle crime and anti social behaviour hot spots.
- ✓ Regenerate deprived local communities.

How will we measure success?

- No communities to be amongst the worst 10% in the country for aspects of deprivation.
- Educational attainment and skill levels to have risen well above the national average.
- Health inequality measured in differences in death and disease rates between the best and worst off will be reduced.
- Worklessness (those who are of working age but not in work, full time education or training and those not actively seeking work) to be in the lowest 20% in the country.
- Crime and fear of crime to be below the national average.

Our priorities for action

Details of action planned for the medium and longer term are set out in the accompanying Delivery Plan **www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk/oxfordshire2030**

Key partnerships to develop the theme:

- Oxfordshire Voluntary Sector Development Partnership
- Children and Young People Partnership
- Health and Well-being Partnership
- Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership
- Economy Partnership
- Environment Partnership
- District Local Strategic Partnerships

Educational achievement for all

Local distinctiveness

Oxfordshire is a diverse county and, although we have identified a number of countywide priorities, there are geographical variations in terms of how important those priorities are for different parts of the county.

The five district Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) in Oxfordshire have all produced community strategies relevant to their local areas, which reflect their own ambitions, aims and objectives. These local ambitions have fed into and helped to identify the countywide priorities set out in this document.

This section sets out how the key issues within each district and a summary of their priorities for action. Local Strategic Partnerships will have an important role to play in implementing both the countywide and local priorities identified within this strategy.

Oxfordshire Partnership: **www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk**

Cherwell Community Planning Partnership: **www.cherwell-dc.gov.uk**

Oxford Partnership: **www.oxfordpartnership.org.uk**

South Oxfordshire Partnership: **www.southoxon.gov.uk**

Vale Partnership: **www.thevalepartnership.org.uk**

West Oxfordshire Partnership: **www.westoxon.gov.uk**

Cherwell
West Oxfordshire
Oxford City
South Oxfordshire
Vale of White Horse

Cherwell

Banbury Cross - Photo by Dave Rutt

Cherwell covers an area of 590km^2 in north Oxfordshire. Named after the River Cherwell which flows through it, the district offers a unique and successful combination: its fine rural landscape provides some of the most attractive and picturesque scenery in Oxfordshire, whilst thriving commercial and industrial centres bring prosperity and economic strength in a highly accessible and desirable location.

Cherwell is a relatively affluent area but there are significant differences in wealth distribution. Banbury in particular has pockets of severe deprivation, second only to Oxford in the county. Other forms of deprivation derive from rural isolation. 137,600 people live in Cherwell. Over 62% of the population live in the principal centres of Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington; the rest in more than 70 smaller settlements between 50 and 3,500 people. 85% of the district is attractive farmland and 14% lies within the Oxford Green Belt, contributing to making Cherwell the 12th least densely populated district in the South East. So Cherwell's population faces both urban and rural challenges. Banbury, Cherwell's urban centre, is an industrial town whose services, which include the Horton Hospital, support a large rural hinterland which stretches beyond Oxfordshire.

Cherwell's population increased by almost 12% between 1991 and 2001 and by a further 4.5% since. Growth predictions of a further 8% by 2016 and a cumulative 15.6% by 2026 are significantly higher than regional and national rates. Most of the recent growth has been in Banbury and Bicester and this will continue. Bicester's population is projected to grow by 13.8% between 2001 and 2016. The rapid growth across the district will put pressure on the local infrastructure.

Cherwell's population profile is changing. The 2001 Census showed that 3.9% of the district's population was of non-white ethnic origin. These low numbers were generally highly dispersed, apart from higher concentrations in some Banbury Wards. 2006 estimates indicate that the non-white population has grown to 5.9% overall. In 2001 7.5% of the population considered themselves to belong to a group other than white British. By 2006 this had grown to 10.7%. Experience suggests that this growth comes and continues to come from migrant workers from Polish and other Eastern European communities.

Cherwell now has the highest proportion of 0-15 year olds in Oxfordshire. By 2031 the population is forecast to age dramatically, with numbers in each of the over 65s, over 75s and over 85s bands increasing by at least 23 percentage points more than national rates, and by more than 47 percentage points in the case of the over 85s.

Priorities for Cherwell include:

World class economy

- Raise the standards in schools and colleges with vocational as well as educational qualifications, to meet the needs of Cherwell's businesses.
- Improve educational achievement, particularly in secondary schools where outcomes are sometimes below county and national averages. This problem is highlighted in Bicester where there is a marked migration of pupils either to outside of the county or to private schools.
- Work to attract further mid and high-tech as well as knowledge-based industries to Cherwell with a view to providing more local, attractive employment opportunities. The employment mix in Cherwell means that earnings from Cherwell workplaces are 3.9% below the national average, but residents' earnings are, however, above national averages.
- Make it easier for you to get where you need to go. Cherwell residents travel further to work than people in the rest of the South East and nationally. It should be noted that many people in the north of the district tend to look towards Banbury rather than Oxford.
- Increasing the number of affordable homes remains one of Cherwell's top priorities. The 2007 median house price to income ratio is 8.9, up from 7.7 in 2005, above both South East and English averages.

Shoppers at Bicester Village

Healthy and thriving communities

- Help you feel safe in your home and community, working to reduce further the very low levels of crime in Cherwell. Overall crime levels dropped by 13.2% between 2003/04 and 2007/08 (a real reduction of 794 reported crimes), compared with a 10.9% reduction across the Thames Valley. However, in 2006 residents felt less safe than those in any other Oxfordshire district in terms of being alone and walking alone during the day or at night.
- Registration with GPs is low in parts of North Oxfordshire.
- Co-ordinate, improve and provide more diverse and accessible health provision and advice through improved education, partnership working, better local access and increased choice.
- Make it easier for you to lead a healthy and active life.
- Reduce teenage conception rates as Cherwell has a high and rising rate with four out of six Banbury wards in the highest 20% in England in 2005.
- Improve local services and opportunities in rural areas. 11 rural wards in Cherwell have areas that feature in the 10% most deprived nationally for barriers to housing and services.
- Develop the unique characters of Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington and engender a sense of pride, belonging to the community and heritage.
- Improving the quality of life for all, particularly older people, the young, disabled people and ethnic minorities recognising and supporting the important role of the family, carers, voluntary sector and faith communities.

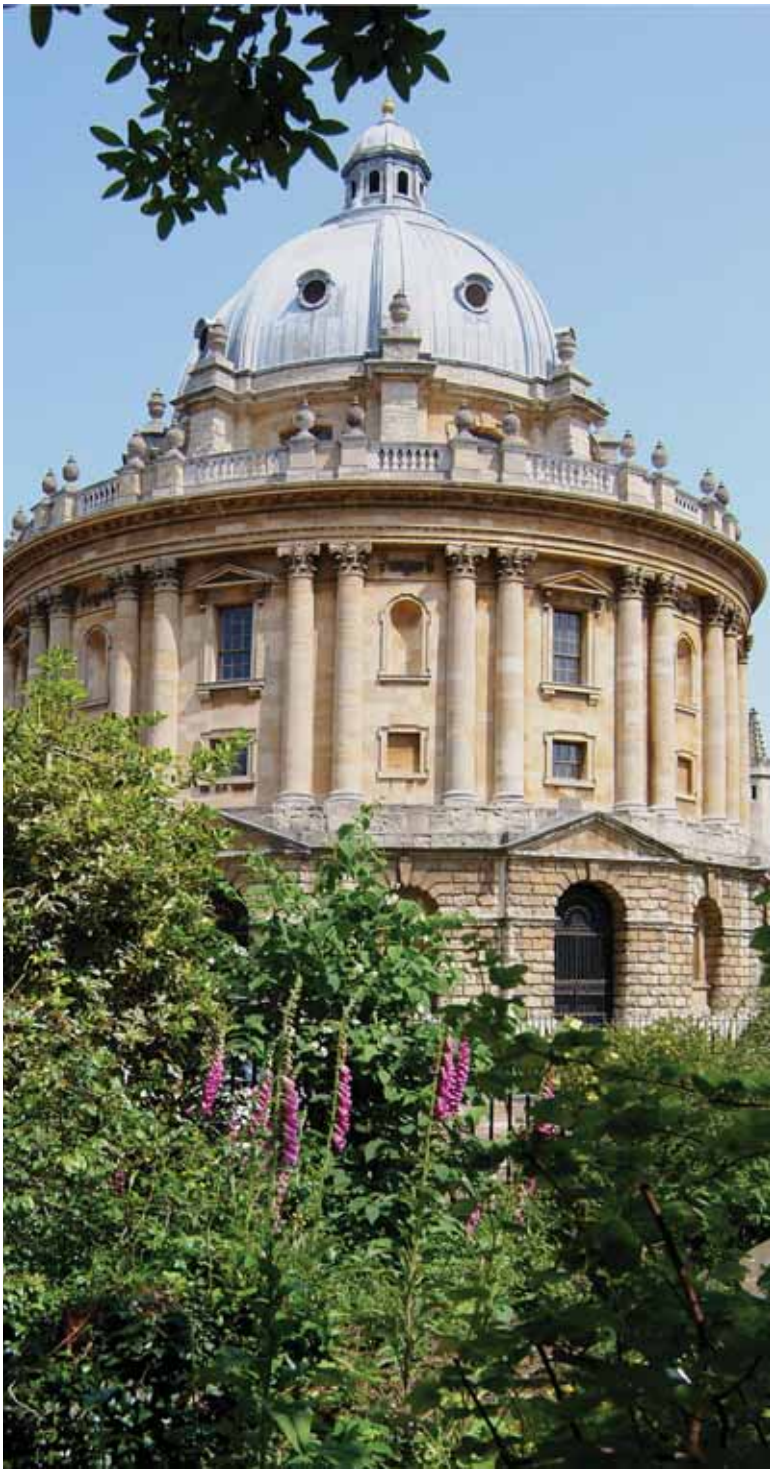
Environment and climate change

- Protect and enhance our environment, wildlife habitats and the countryside.
- Protect and enhance our built environment. It should be noted that Cherwell has a rich built heritage, with approximately 3,000 listed buildings (8.6% of the South East's total) and 54 conservation areas.
- Reduce carbon emissions. Per capita carbon dioxide emissions in Cherwell in 2004 were significantly higher than regional and national levels, although domestic emissions were the lowest in Oxfordshire.
- Improve further our already high recycling rates (48% of domestic waste was recycled in 2007/08) so that we can reduce the amount of landfill waste.
- Prepare for and respond to the effects of climate change.
- Conserve resources and reduce energy consumption.

Local Development Framework

The Local Development Framework (LDF) will support and facilitate the delivery of the aims within the sustainable community strategy. Find out more at **www.cherwell.gov.uk**

Oxford city



Radcliffe Camera, Oxford

Oxford is centrally located within England, and is at the heart of the county of Oxfordshire.

Oxford is one of the most photographed, filmed, and written about cities in the world. The enduring images are of historic Oxford and these images are vital to our flourishing tourist industry because it is historic Oxford that tourists visit in millions. It is, however, only one part of our city's story. Oxford at the beginning of the 21st century, while still with its historic core and green spaces, is a far cry from its media stereotype.

The population of Oxford in mid-2007 was estimated to be 151,000[1]. In marked contrast to other parts of the county, Oxford is ethnically and culturally diverse, with the third highest minority ethnic population in the South East. The city is not only culturally diverse but also youthful. 32% of Oxford's population consists of 16-29 year olds. This is twice the national average[2]. Over 30,000 students studied full-time at the two universities[3] in 2005/06; this is the highest proportion of students in England and Wales[4].

1. Source: Mid Year Estimates 2007, Office for National Statistics
2. Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics
3. Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency
4. Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

Oxford is an affluent city. However, median earnings of residents (£488 per week) are lower than the regional average[5] and the city contains pockets of severe deprivation. Of 85 areas in Oxford, 18 are among the 30% most deprived areas in England[6]. These areas suffer multiple levels of deprivation - low skills, low incomes and high levels of crime.

The city is home to around 3,400 businesses providing 108,000 jobs. There has been little change in the total number of jobs in Oxford over the last 30 years. As manufacturing has declined, these jobs have been replaced by jobs in health, education and the service sectors. 89% of employees now work in services, including 42% in public administration, education and health[7]. Other key features of the local economy include the bioscience sector, IT, software and creative media businesses and university spin-off companies. The impact of the education economy, universities and major teaching hospital are positive drivers for the economy but add to the transitional population and puts pressure on the housing market. Oxford has a high level of in-commuting, with around half its workforce living outside its boundary[8].

Blackwell Publishing offices in Oxford

5. Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earning 2007, Office for National Statistics
6. Source: Indices of Deprivation 2007, Department for Communities and Local Government
7. Source: Various, available from Nomis (www.nomisweb.co.uk)
8. Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

The city is a densely packed urban space - covering 46 sq km (29 sq miles) - with very high levels of housing density. There are severe pressures on housing stock, with large concentrations of homes in multiple occupation and significant numbers of homeless and other vulnerable groups. House prices in Oxford are almost ten times greater than annual incomes[9]. This ratio is considerably higher than the South East average. Consequently the average joint attainable mortgage is far lower than the average price of houses.

As house buying in the city is out of reach of most households, there is a huge demand for more affordable rented housing in Oxford. The draft South East Plan states that 7,000 new houses should be developed in Oxford city during the 20 year period 2006 – 2026 (350 per year) and includes a review of the green belt which may result in opportunities to meet some of the housing pressures in the city.

Contemporary Oxford is a global brand. It is an economic hub at the centre of the South East Plan's central Oxfordshire sub-region and the Regional Economic Strategy's "Diamond for Investment and Growth". As such it is part of a sub-region with the greatest concentration of research and development in western Europe, with a world-class knowledge economy that underpins continued prosperity not just in Oxfordshire but in the south-east of England and beyond.

Oxford is a top international tourist destination and attracted approximately 8.8 million visitors in 2005[10]. The city attracted the designation "European Centre of Culture" in 2002, associated with the UK hosting of "European Capital of Culture" in 2008. The city centre is a regional shopping destination, which performs extremely well and has a low vacancy rate. Oxford is ranked sixth as a retail centre of regional importance in the South East. The renaissance of the West End is an exciting joint project between SEEDA, Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council. The vision is for the creation of a vibrant quarter of the city centre for all with a mix of uses and facilities to further develop opportunities for tourism, culture and retail.

Over 3,000 voluntary and community groups exist in Oxfordshire with a large proportion providing services to the residents of Oxford city[11].

9. Source: Ratio of median house price to median earnings 2007, Department for Communities and Local Government
10. Source: The Economic Impact of Tourism Oxford 2005, Tourism South East
11. Oxford City Council provided £1.6m in grants to community and voluntary sector organisations in 2006/7

Priorities of the Oxford Strategic Partnership

The Oxford Strategic Partnership's vision is to make Oxford a world class city for everyone.

The Partnership recognises that strengthening the local economy is a cross cutting issue that impacts on the Partnership's five key priorities and objectives:

- To tackle the urgent need for more affordable housing.
- To improve the health and social welfare of the people of Oxford by providing opportunities and improving services for the vulnerable and those experiencing disadvantage and depravation.
- To work towards Oxford city becoming a carbon neutral city and a centre of excellence for climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives.
- To work in partnership to improve the public realm in all areas of the city
- To make Oxford a more cohesive and safer place.

These priorities link strongly to the three key themes of Oxfordshire 2030

- World class economy
- Healthy and thriving communities
- Environment and climate change

Priorities in the Local Development Framework

The Oxford Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and the Local Development Framework and Core Strategy are being prepared in close collaboration, with city council planners reporting regularly to the Strategic Partnership. As a result, the aspirations set out in the emerging Core Strategy vision are very similar to those in the SCS vision. The Core Strategy argues that Oxford should:

- Build on its unique heritage and international reputation. It emphasises the importance of new developments contributing to the distinctive character of particular areas of Oxford.
- Be at the forefront of measures to tackle climate change.
- Enhance its role as a sub-regional capital and service centre, e.g. by promoting sustainable tourism and the renaissance of the West End.
- Build on its strengths as a centre of excellence in areas such as higher education, health services, car manufacturing, and medical and scientific research.

More specifically, the Core Strategy also proposes:

- Achieving a high level of affordable housing from residential development and by requiring an appropriate contribution from commercial development.
- Adopting strong planning policies on flood protection and minimising the use of energy and natural resources in new developments to mitigate the impact of climate change.
- Addressing the theme of health and social inclusion by:

    - promoting the provision of high quality convenient local health services
    - prioritising new green spaces in areas with a significant current shortage
    - promoting regeneration in the most deprived areas of the city

Find out more at **www.oxfordpartnership.org.uk**

River Isis in Oxford

South Oxfordshire

South Oxfordshire is a mainly rural area of 253 square miles, adjoining Oxford in the north, and Reading in the south, with Wycombe and Maidenhead a few miles to the east. It has beautiful countryside, which includes rolling downland, wooded hills, historic parkland, low-lying farmland and riverside meadows rich in biodiversity. The River Thames, runs through South Oxfordshire from the north-west of the district to Goring.

Around 35 per cent of South Oxfordshire's 128,000 residents live in the four towns of Didcot, Henley, Thame and Wallingford with the majority (65%) living in the more than eighty villages and settlements of varying sizes throughout the district. Didcot, recently designated a New Growth Point, has benefited from investment in a new shopping centre, cinema and the Cornerstone Arts Centre and the three historic market towns each have their own distinctive character and heritage.

Agriculture is the main land use in South Oxfordshire but the district also contains many science and high value businesses, particularly in and around Didcot, and the four towns all provide a range of businesses and employment opportunities.

Wallingford

Economic issues

- Unemployment rates are low, currently running at less than 1%.
- The future viability of the market towns is a key concern and the survival of independent business and specialist retail outlets and improvements to visitor facilities and marketing are seen as central to the towns' prosperity.
- Farm based employment has declined by almost one-fifth since 1990.
- Small businesses thrive in South Oxfordshire; businesses registering for VAT in 2002 had the highest survival rate (77%) in the county.
- Overall the level of qualifications of residents is high, but 20% of the workforce has no formal qualification and 28% of businesses in the district report a skills gap.

The old Brakspear brewery, Henley-on-Thames - Photo by Eric Hardy

Social issues

- A higher proportion of people are over the age of retirement in South Oxfordshire (20.3%) compared with the national average, and the projected increase in the population aged 75 and over between 2006 and 2026 is 66%.
- South Oxfordshire is one of the least deprived parts of the country but pockets of deprivation exist.
- People in South Oxfordshire are relatively healthy but there are 170 deaths from smoking each year, 14% of people are binge drinkers, obesity rates are rising and only 23% of adults participate in the recommended weekly level of activity.
- In May 2007 the average house price was £400,200 compared with a national average of £211,000 and the overall annual shortfall in affordable housing in South Oxfordshire is 835 units.
- South Oxfordshire experiences low levels of reported crime and feelings of safety are improving but alcohol related antisocial behaviour is a key concern amongst residents and alcohol related accident and emergency admissions are rising.
- Young people have a poor image amongst many adults but many communities also recognise that facilities and access to transport for young people need to be improved.
- Many people rely on community and voluntary action to help them to access public and other services.

Environmental issues

- South Oxfordshire has the highest car ownership to household ratio in the country.
- poor air quality issues in South Oxfordshire are directly linked to congestion and transport emissions.
- Domestic energy consumption and CO_2 emissions in South Oxfordshire are higher than the Oxfordshire, South East and UK averages.
- The amount of domestic waste recycled or composted has increased year on year but the total amount of domestic waste collected per head has also increased.

World class economy

- Create and support vibrant and thriving economies in market towns and villages.
- Achieve sustainable balance of business growth, new and more locally-based jobs and environmental protection.
- Increase inward investment.
- Develop a skilled and motivated workforce matched to local business needs and opportunities.

Healthy and thriving communities

- Reduce crime and fear of crime in the district.
- Meet people's housing needs in South Oxfordshire.
- Balance housing development with protecting and enhancing the environment.
- Improve the support service for voluntary, community and faith groups.
- Support local people to develop inclusive plans for their area.
- Promote and support opportunities for people of all ages to get involved in community life and support inclusive and cohesive communities.
- Promote access to services.
- Improve people's health and well-being by providing quality health care and proactively working in partnership to prevent ill-health.

Didcot Parkway railway station - Photo by Paul Ashton

Environment and climate change

- Protect and enhance the quality of our built and natural environment.
- Protect and improve the quality of our public open spaces.
- Reduce waste.
- Conserve resources and reduce energy consumption.
- Prepare for and respond to the effects of climate change.
- Maintaining and improving the quality of the natural environment and landscape.

Local Development Framework

The Local Development Framework (LDF) will support and facilitate the delivery of the aims within the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). The SCS document provides examples of how the Core Strategy and other LDF policies will support delivery of a key aims within each of the theme areas. Further information about the development of the LDF is available at **www.southoxon.gov.uk/yourplaceyourfuture**

Pishill near Henley-on-Thames - Photo by Christian Guthier

Vale of White Horse

The Vale of White Horse (the 'Vale') covers an area of 580 square kilometres and extends from the edge of Oxford in the north east almost to the edge of Swindon in the south west. The north east of the district contains parts of the Oxford Green Belt and in the south the Downs form part of the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The River Thames forms the northern and part of the eastern boundary of the district.

The Vale is far more than its rural character might suggest: the two power stations at Didcot and the reservoir at Farmoor make major contributions to the power and water supply of the wider region. The UK Defence Academy at Watchfield, the Saïd Business School's Executive Education Centre at Egrove Park, and Oxford Brookes University's Westminster Campus all provide higher education facilities. There are extensive employment areas including Milton Park and the Harwell Science and Innovation Campus – one of the largest research centres in Europe. Together these two sites employ about 11,000 people.

Just over half of the Vale's 117,300 residents live in the five main settlements of Abingdon, Botley, Faringdon, Grove and Wantage. The rest of the population lives in over 70 villages and hamlets.

Abingdon Town Hall - Photo by Martin Beek

In autumn 2007 the Vale Partnership prepared an 'Issues and Options' report. The report outlined the issues that the Vale will face in the future and started to consider ways in which they might be addressed. The Partnership then consulted with residents and businesses to learn more about what the issues facing the Vale in the future might be, and how local people and businesses would suggest dealing with them. Hundreds of residents wrote in and attended meetings and this feedback helped with the preparation of the Vale's Strategy for Sustainable Communities (the Sustainable Community Strategy).

Wantage town centre - Photo by T Hartberg

Social issues

- The Vale has an ageing population. Between 2006 and 2026 the population in the district aged over 75 is estimated to increase by 65%.
- Many residents have reasonable incomes but in 2007 6,000 residents (5% of the Vale's population) were dependent on means tested benefits and around 1,900 children live in low income households.
- It is estimated that 20% of adults in the Vale are obese.
- In terms of reported crime, the Vale is one of the safest districts in South East England, but the fear of crime is a real concern locally.
- Many young people say they do not have things to do in their leisure time.
- In 2006 around 44% of pupils in the Vale's state schools did not achieve five or more A* to C GCSE passes.
- There is a good sense of community in the Vale but many residents acknowledge that they do not have the time to be involved in their local community.
- The average house price in the Vale is nearly nine times higher than the average income.
- The Vale is a rural district and access to services and jobs in many areas is difficult, with many people having to use a car rather than public transport.

Economic issues

- Traffic congestion, particularly on the A34, will continue to affect the competitiveness of local businesses.
- The Vale has six times the national average of research and development jobs but China, India and other emerging economies are investing heavily in the skills needed to compete with our economy.
- Our town centres are not all enjoying the full benefits of the Vale's economic success.
- Farming continues to change, with higher grain prices making livestock farming difficult and an increased interest in growing biomass or crops for bio-fuel; both of which have the potential to change the look of the countryside.

Williams F1 headquarters, Grove - Photo by David Kerrigan

Environment issues

- On 20 July 2007 a record amount of rain caused extensive flooding in the Vale, a sign that flooding and other extreme weather conditions may become more frequent in the future.
- In 2006 every person in the Vale produced an average of a third of a tonne of rubbish.
- There is a substantial body of evidence that the Earth's climate is changing as a result of an increase in greenhouse gases which are trapping more heat at the planet's surface.
- The growing population in the Vale and the South East will place increasing pressure on water supplies; Thames Water is consulting on proposals to build a large reservoir near Abingdon.
- The draft South East Plan proposes that 11,550 new homes should be built in the Vale between 2006 and 2026.

Priorities for action

Botley - Photo by Jules Marshall

Healthy and thriving communities

- Healthier communities.
- Improving quality of life for older people.
- Safer communities.
- Fostering a greater sense of community.
- A good understanding of town and parish priorities.
- Involving young people.
- Helping those without cars to access jobs and services.
- Affordable homes.
- Good quality homes.
- Access to good quality green spaces, sport, cultural and leisure facilities.

World class economy

- Addressing economic weaknesses.
- Building on our economic strengths.
- Maintaining and enhancing the health and vitality of the Vale's market town centres.

Environment and climate change

- A low carbon Vale.
- Living with extreme weather conditions.
- Using resources wisely.
- Reducing waste and increasing recycling.
- A high quality natural and historic environment.

Faringdon - Photo by Stephen Martin

Local Development Framework

The common aim of the Vale's Strategy for Sustainable Communities and the Local Development Framework is to create good places to live and work. Some actions will be tackled specifically through policies and proposals in the Local Development Framework; whilst others will be addressed through the Strategy for Sustainable Communities.

Find out more at **www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/community_support_and_advice/community_strategy/default.asp**

West Oxfordshire

West Oxfordshire lies to the west of the city of Oxford on the western edge of the South East region, and adjoins the county boundaries with Gloucestershire and Warwickshire. The upper reaches of the River Thames form the southern boundary and the Cotswold Hills cover the north-western part of the district.

West Oxfordshire is one of the most attractive parts of Britain, a charming blend of bustling market towns, picturesque villages and breathtaking natural scenery. A third of the district is in the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and 2% lies within the Green Belt surrounding Oxford city. The district has a population of about 100,000 people and an overall density of around 1.4 persons per hectare, making it one of the most rural authorities within the South East region. Residents and visitors enjoy a high quality environment, with a strong sense of place derived from the character of its buildings set in attractive rolling countryside and wooded river valleys. This places great importance on protecting and enhancing the environment, and managing the impacts of climate change.

West Oxfordshire has a rich architectural and historic heritage ranging from Cotswold stone cottages and dry stone walls to the splendour of Blenheim Palace, a World Heritage Site.

Blenheim Palace, Woodstock

There are two distinct landscape types, the Cotswold Hills and the Upper Thames Clay Vale. Several rivers such as the Windrush, Evenlode, Thames and Cherwell contribute to the district's rich biodiversity and offer opportunities for leisure and recreation, including through use of restored gravel pits. There are more than 500 miles of public footpaths, bridleways and way-marked routes across the district.

There are around 130 separate settlements, but few larger towns. 40% of the population lives in the two largest centres (Witney and Carterton), and forecasts suggest that by 2016 nearly half of the population will live in just 3% of the district's area. West Oxfordshire has a higher proportion of residents of retirement age than any of the other Oxfordshire districts or the South East overall, and this proportion is forecast to increase significantly over the next ten years. Carterton is home to RAF Brize Norton, the proposed expansion of which means the high proportion of people in the district working in or linked to the service community is likely to increase.

Charlbury - Photo by Richard Potts

The area faces no major social problems, and crime figures are amongst the lowest in the country. The local economy performs well, with above average levels of entrepreneurial activity, low unemployment and a tight labour market. The area is an attractive place to live for skilled staff, with a diverse economy including clusters of high technology industry and a strong tourism sector worth over £200 million annually to the district's economy. However, high house prices in the district can make it difficult for young people and families to stay in the area, and combined with an ageing population this creates challenges for communities in maintaining the vibrancy and prosperity of the towns and villages.

Main roads such as the A40, A44, A361 and A4095 provide access to larger centres outside of the district but within easy reach, including Oxford, Swindon, Cheltenham and Banbury. The Cotswold and Cherwell Valley railway lines pass through the area, and there is a network of bus services and community transport schemes. Despite this, about a quarter of the

population lives in areas ranked within the worst 10% in England in terms of accessibility to a range of services. As a result many rural residents have no alternative but to rely on cars (where available), meaning the district faces specific challenges in ensuring all residents can access the services and facilities they need now and in the future.

Brize Norton air base - Photo by Ashley Middleton

Priorities for action

World class economy

- Sustain economically prosperous and vibrant towns and villages.
- Create an environment that encourages a diverse range of business types and employment across the district.
- Developing skills that support local business success.
- Developing appropriate business development and support in the local area.
- Give young people the best chance of gaining employment and becoming economically independent.

Healthy and thriving communities

- Facilitate vibrant, inclusive and sustainable communities, and address the specific challenges of living in rural West Oxfordshire in terms of access to services and facilities.
- Ensure that all policy and service delivery is subject to testing to make sure it considers the impact on rural issues and areas (rural proofing).
- Joint working to improve access to services, including a co-ordinated approach to minimising the barriers experienced by older people.
- Promote and help facilitate investment in new infrastructure and better public transport.
- Create a joined-up approach to improving health and well-being, and promote and support healthy lifestyle choices.
- Address the inequalities in health in West Oxfordshire, and health issues and support needs specific to an ageing population such as mental health and wellbeing and social inclusion.
- Improve the promotion of the welfare of children and young people in the district, and support communities to offer a wide range of positive activities for young people.
- To promote the provision of new affordable homes, including better access to affordable housing and improvement in the affordability of existing accommodation.
- Further reduce crime and nuisance and fear of crime across the district to improve the quality of life in our neighbourhoods, and address neighbourhood concerns.

Environment and climate change

- Maintain and enhance the natural environment across West Oxfordshire.
- Maintain and improve the built environment across West Oxfordshire.
- Take a more sustainable approach to resource management across the district.
- Reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Local Development Framework

Shaping Futures, the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) for West Oxfordshire, and the Core Strategy for the Local Development Framework (LDF) are being prepared in close collaboration, with joint consultation undertaken in the initial stages. As a result, the emerging Core Strategy is expected to support and facilitate the delivery of the aims within the SCS. Further information about the development of the LDF is available at **www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning/LDF.cfm**

Find out more at **www.westoxon.gov.uk**

Bliss Mill, Chipping Norton - Photo by Ian Harris

How can I get involved?

Oxfordshire Partnership wants as many local people and organisations as possible to know about what we do, how we are performing and how people can get involved in our work. There are lots of ways you can get involved. You can receive newsletters, help promote our activities, attend meetings and events, take part in consultations, and discuss issues with your local councilors.

Subscribe to our newsletter

Newsletters are available by email and include updates about the work of the Partnership. To subscribe email **oxfordshirepartnership@oxfordshire.gov.uk**

Attend meetings

Anyone is welcome to attend Oxfordshire Partnership meetings where strategic countywide issues are discussed. Information about meeting dates is available at **www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk**

If you would like to attend a meeting of your district local strategic partnership please contact them directly.

- Oxfordshire Partnership - 01865 323967
  oxfordshirepartnership@oxfordshire.gov.uk
- Cherwell Community Planning Partnership - 01295 221751
  community.planning@cherwell-dc.gov.uk
- Oxford Partnership: Oxford City Council - 01865 249811
  info@oxfordpartnership.org.uk
- South Oxfordshire Partnership: South Oxfordshire District Council - 01491 824033
  partnerships@southoxon.gov.uk
- Vale Strategic Partnership: Vale of White Horse District Council - 01235 520202
  comments@whitehorsedc.gov.uk
- West Oxfordshire Strategic Partnership: West Oxfordshire District Council - 01993 861000

Talk to your councillor

You and your community are represented by county and district councillors who will be happy to talk to you about any issues you would like to raise. For example you might want to talk to them about improvements you would like to see in your area. You can check who your councillors are at **www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/councillors**. You can also talk to your

parish council, town council or area committee representatives to highlight local concerns. Read more about town and parish council at **www.oxfordshire.gov.uk** Oxford city residents can find out more about area committees at **www.oxford.gov.uk**

Find out more about your Local Strategic Partnership

The six Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) in Oxfordshire have all produced community strategies relevant to their local areas, which reflect their own ambitions, aims and objectives. The local ambitions of the five district LSPs have fed into and helped to identify the countywide priorities set out in this document. You can find out more about each of them on the following websites:

Oxfordshire Partnership: **www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk**

Cherwell Community Planning Partnership: **www.cherwell-dc.gov.uk**

Oxford Partnership: **www.oxfordpartnership.org.uk**

South Oxfordshire Partnership: **www.southoxon.gov.uk**

Vale Partnership: **www.thevalepartnership.org.uk**

West Oxfordshire Partnership: **www.westoxon.gov.uk**

Feedback

We welcome your comments about the work of Oxfordshire Partnership. Please contact the Partnership team with your comments: **oxfordshirepartnership@oxfordshire.gov.uk** or telephone 01865 323967.

Membership of the Oxfordshire Partnership

Organisation / sector	Members	
Oxfordshire County Council	Cllr Keith Mitchell	Leader of the Council – Chairman
Health	Fred Hucker	Chairman, Primary Care Trust
Thames Valley Police	Francis Habgood	Thames Valley Police Assistant Chief Constable (Local Policing)
District councils	Cllr Bob Price Cllr Ann Ducker Cllr Barry Norton Cllr Barry Wood Cllr Tony de Vere	Leader Oxford City Council Leader South Oxfordshire District Council Leader West Oxfordshire District Council Leader Cherwell District Council Leader Vale of White Horse District Council
District LSPs	Jackie Wilderspin Rev John Robertson Mary Harpley Bishop Colin Fletcher David Neudegg	Chairman Oxford Strategic Partnership Chairman Vale Partnership Chairman Cherwell Community Planning Partnership Chairman South Oxfordshire Partnership Interim Chairman West Oxfordshire Strategic Partnership
Parish/town councils	*City*: Cllr David Rundle Cllr M J Leeding (Forest Hill with Shotover) *South Oxfordshire*: Cllr Kester George (South Harpsden) *Vale of White Horse*: Cllr Ian Charlton (Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor)	Up to five representatives. Further consultation is required with third tier authorities / Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils to clarify representation.

Organisation / sector	Members	
Parish/town councils (continued)	*West Oxfordshire*: Mrs Catherine Hitchens (Fifield) *Cherwell*: Cllr David Wood (Caversfield)	Up to five representatives. Further consultation is required with third tier authorities / Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils to clarify representation.
Learning, skills, education	Bob Walding Julie Maxton Prof John Raftery TBC	Executive Director Learning and Skills Council Thames Valley Registrar Oxford University Pro Vice-Chancellor (External) Oxford Brookes University Chair of the Learning Partnership
Private Sector	Frank Nigriello Derek Holmes Nick Merry Elizabeth Sale Miranda Markham	Chairman of Oxfordshire Economic Partnership Editor Oxford Times Chairman Oxford United Football Club President Oxfordshire Chamber of Commerce Community Relations Manager, Value Retail
Government Office for the South East	Chris Farthing	GOSE Locality Manager for Oxfordshire (Thames Valley)
SEEDA	Warren Ralls	Area Director
Voluntary, Community and faith sectors	Alison Baxter Bede Gerrard TBC Martin Briggs	Director Oxfordshire Community Voluntary Action County Ecumenical Officer Churches together in Oxfordshire Voluntary and Community Sector elected representative Voluntary and Community Sector elected representative (Oxfordshire Consortium of Citizens Advice Bureau)
BME sector	Patrick Tolani	Director, Oxfordshire Racial Equality Council

Organisation / sector	Members	
Culture, tourism and leisure	Sarah Maxfield	Chief Executive, Oxford Inspires *Further consultation is required with the sector to clarify representation*
Environment	Robin Buxton	Chair, Oxfordshire Environment Group *Further consultation is required with the network of forums and partnerships in this area to clarify representation*
Rural communities	Linda Watson	Chief Executive, Oxfordshire Rural Community Council
Total		**37 members**
Others who attend as required / by invitation		
County council, health, other	County council - Chief Executive District council Chief Executives Chief Executive PCT Director of Public Health Chairs of the thematic partnerships - for example: Children and Young People's Partnership. *Purpose is to link these partnerships with this Board and report on LAA and other strategic targets and emerging issues*	
Support team	Partnership Working Unit, Corporate Core, Oxfordshire County Council	

Glossary

Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) - The long term vision and action plan articulating the aspirations, needs and priorities of the local community, prepared by the Local Strategic Partnership. The strategy is evidence based. For Oxfordshire this is Oxfordshire 2030.

Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) - is a multi-agency partnership representing all sectors of the community which oversees development of the vision for the local area through the Sustainable Community Strategy. There are six LSPs in Oxfordshire that relate to each local authority's area.

Oxfordshire Partnership (OP) - the countywide Local Strategic Partnership. It brings together organisations from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors within the county, with the objective of working together to improve the quality of life for Oxfordshire.

Local Area Agreement (LAA) - is a three year agreement between the local area (in this case Oxfordshire) and government to deliver a range of improvement targets. The LAA priorities are drawn from the vision for the area as articulated in the sustainable community strategy.

Public Service Board (PSB) - is responsible for negotiation and delivery of the LAA on behalf of the Oxfordshire Partnership. It brings together decision makers from the key public sector organisations in the county.

Government Office of the South East (GOSE) - represents central government in the region and promote better and more effective integration of Government policies and programmes at a regional and local level. We work with the Government Office to agree our Local Area Agreement.

South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) - is the Government funded agency responsible for the economic and social development of the South East of England.

South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA) - is a partnership of the region's councils and communities, representing the interests of South East England. It brings councils and communities together to make decisions on the South East region's priorities for planning, transport and housing.

Office for National Statistics (ONS) - The Office for National Statistics produces independent information to improve our understanding of the UK's economy and society. We use these statistics to inform our planning for the future and priorities for action within the county.

Gross Value Added (GVA) - measures the contribution to the economy of each individual producer, industry or sector in the United Kingdom. It is used in the estimation of the UK's gross domestic product (GDP), which is a key indicator of the state of the whole economy.

Breaking the cycle of deprivation - In some of the poorest families there is often a cycle of deprivation typified by some of the following low educational attainment, family breakdown, worklessness, crime and poor health and housing. This passes from generation to generation, and even by the age of a few years old, the life chances of young children are shaped. The aim is to break this vicious cycle in those areas/families where it can be seen.

Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) - describes people living in Britain of African, Caribbean, South Asian, other Asian origins (including those who identify with more than one ethnic origin), and people from other communities who have a common experience of discrimination because of their race and who are not from the majority white community.

'sense of place' - is a feeling of identify and belonging to the area around you or the community you live in. It is what characterises a place as distinct and unique from others and contributes to a sense of well-being and community cohesion.

Local Development Framework (LDF) - is a folder of local development documents that outlines how planning will be managed in an area. In Oxfordshier there is a local development framework in each district council as well as one for minerals and waste planning for the whole county. These documents guide how much development and building there is in your area, where it is located and what infrastructure (roads, schools, community facilities) are needed to support it.

اشكال بديلة لهذا المنشور موجودة حسب الطلب. هذه تشمل لغات مختلفة و الطبعة البارزة وطريقة بريل و اشرطة كاست و اقراص الحاسوب او البريد الالكتروني.

Arabic

আপনি যদি অনুরোধ করেন তাহলে এই পুস্তিকাটি বিকল্প ছাঁদে, যেমন, অন্য কোনও ভাষায়, বড় হরফে, ব্রেইলে, অডিও-ক্যাসেটে, কমপিউটারের ডিস্কে বা ইমেলের মারফত পেতে পারেন।

Bengali

"本刊物備有其他的格式可供索取。這些包括有其他語言版，大字版，盲人用版，錄音帶版，電腦磁碟版或電子郵件版。"

Chinese

प्रार्थना करने पर यह प्रकाशन दूसरे रूपों में प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। जिस में सम्मिलित है, दूसरी भाषाओं में, बड़े छापे में, ब्रेअल, सुनने की टेप पर, कम्प्यूटर की डिस्क पर या ई-मेल द्वारा।

Hindi

"ਇਹ ਪੁਸਤਕ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਕਰਨ ਤੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ । ਜਿਵੇਂ ਕਿ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ, ਵੱਡੇ ਛਾਪੇ ਤੇ, ਬ੍ਰੇਲ ਵਿਚ, ਸੁਣਨ ਵਾਲੀ ਟੇਪ ਤੇ, ਕੰਪਿਊਟਰ ਡਿਸਕ ਜਾਂ ਈ ਮੇਲ ਤੇ।"

Punjabi

"اس اشاعت کو متبادل اشکال میں درخواست کرنے پر حاصل کیا جا سکتا ہے۔ اس میں دوسری زبانیں، بڑا پرنٹ، بریل (جسے اندھے چھو کر پڑھ سکیں)، آڈیو کیسٹ، کمپیوٹر ڈسک یا ای میل شامل ہیں۔"

Urdu

Na życzenie publikacja jest dostępna w innych formatach. Do nich należą wersje w innych językach, drukowane dużą czcionką, alfabetem Braille'a, w wersji audio, na dysku komputerowym, lub jako email.

Polish

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Oxfordshire Partnership

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tim.alexander@oxfordshire.gov.uk / 01865 815289