

# Executive

## Oxfordshire 2030

2 February 2009

### Report of the Chief Executive

#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To adopt Oxfordshire 2030, Oxfordshire's Sustainable Community Strategy.

This report is public
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#### Recommendations

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The Executive is recommended to:

- (1) To recommend to Council for adoption Oxfordshire 2030, Oxfordshire's Sustainable Community Strategy, as a key strategic document for Cherwell District Council

#### Executive Summary

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##### Introduction

- 1.1 Oxfordshire 2030, the Oxfordshire Sustainable Community Strategy, sets out a strategic vision for Oxfordshire. The themes, priorities, pledges and actions that it contains should be acceptable to Cherwell District Council as it will be responsible for contributing to their delivery. Oxfordshire 2030 is attached as Appendix 1 and the Delivery Plan as Appendix 2.
- 1.2 Oxfordshire 2030 provides a vision for the future of Oxfordshire and consequently will be critical to determining future Local Area Agreements. It has, therefore, potentially significant financial implications.
- 1.3 The Executive considered a draft of Oxfordshire 2030 at its meeting on 1 September 2008. The majority of the comments made then have been incorporated into this final version. The responses to our comments are set out in Appendix 3.

##### Proposals

- 1.4 Executive Members are asked to adopt Oxfordshire 2030 as one of the key strategic documents for Cherwell District Council.

##### Conclusion

1.5 Oxfordshire 2030 is a key strategic document for the District.

## Background Information

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- 2.1 Local authorities have a duty to prepare a Sustainable Community Strategy. The role of the Sustainable Community Strategy is to set out the strategic vision for a place. It provides a vehicle for considering and deciding how to address difficult cross-cutting issues such as the economic future of an area, social exclusion and climate change. Oxfordshire Partnership, the Local Strategic Partnership for Oxfordshire, has developed Oxfordshire 2030
- 2.2 Oxfordshire 2030 is a key strategic document for the whole of Oxfordshire. The new Local Area Agreement is based on it, as will future agreements be.. Local Area Agreements potentially have significant amounts of funding associated with them.
- 2.3 Other key documents created by other public sector agencies in Oxfordshire will need to take account of Oxfordshire 2030, including our new Sustainable Community Strategy for Cherwell. There is an expectation (and in our case a duty) of all of the key partners within Oxfordshire (the County Council, District Council, Police, Primary Care Trust, Health Authorities, voluntary and community sector, colleges and businesses) to embrace the messages within the Strategy and align themselves to help deliver it.

Oxfordshire 2030 is important to Cherwell because:

- It should reflect the priorities identified in the Cherwell Community Plan, and visa versa
- Evidence for future Local Area Agreements will be based on it
- Our Local Development Framework will need to demonstrate strong links to it
- Cherwell District Council has to 'have regard' to the Oxfordshire Sustainable Community Strategy and also has a 'duty to co-operate' to agree relevant targets in the Local Area Agreement
- Cherwell District Council will be one of the partners who will contribute to delivering it

## Key Issues for Consideration/Reasons for Decision and Options

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- 3.1 Acknowledging that Oxfordshire 2030 is a countywide document and as such can't reflect all of Cherwell's issues, does Oxfordshire 2030 reflect the priorities for the District?

The following options have been identified. The approach in the recommendations is believed to be the best way forward

**Option One** To adopt Oxfordshire 2030, Oxfordshire's Sustainable Community Strategy.

## Consultations

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<b>Cherwell Community Planning Partnership</b>	Considered the consultation document at its meetings on 17 July and 18 September. The views of Executive were reported to the 18 September meeting and agreed.
<b>Executive</b>	Considered the consultation document at its meeting on 1 September. The responses to comments made are included in Appendix 3.

## Implications

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(Financial, Legal and Risk and other implications e.g. Equalities, Human Resources, Data Quality and Environmental where relevant)

<b>Financial:</b>	<p>Oxfordshire 2030 itself has no financial effects. However, it should be noted that it will be used as the evidence base and set priorities for future Local Area Agreements. If Oxfordshire 2030 does not reflect Cherwell's priorities there is a real danger that they will not be included in future Local Area Agreements and consequently will not get funding. While there is still uncertainty about the level of funding that will be available and how it will be distributed, it is important to note that the sums involved could amount to millions of pounds.</p> <p>Comments checked by Sarah Best, Senior Accountancy Assistant 01295 221736</p>
<b>Legal:</b>	<p>Cherwell District Council is required by law to "have regard" to Oxfordshire 2030. This means that our policies should not be in conflict with it or inconsistent with it. If they were this could be grounds for a successful challenge.</p> <p>Comments checked by Liz Howlett, Head of Legal and Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer 01295 221686</p>
<b>Risk Management:</b>	<p>By not contributing to Oxfordshire 2030 there is a possibility that priorities are set for Oxfordshire that don't reflect priorities in Cherwell. The Strategy could commit the Council to delivering actions that either it may not agree to or it does not consider a priority.</p> <p>Comments checked by Rosemary Watts, Risk Management and Insurance Officer 01295 221566</p>
<b>CAA Implications</b>	<p>Under the new Comprehensive Area Assessment (which replaces Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA)), it is expected that Cherwell's contribution to priorities set within Oxfordshire 2030 will be formally assessed.</p> <p>Comments checked by Mike Carroll, Head of Improvement 01295 227959</p>

**Wards Affected**

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All

**Corporate Plan Themes**

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All

**Executive Portfolio**

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**Councillor Wood**  
**Portfolio Holder for Policy and Community**

**Document Information**

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<b>Appendix No</b>	<b>Title</b>
Appendix 1	<i>Oxfordshire 2030</i>
Appendix 2	<i>Oxfordshire 2030 Delivery Plan</i>
Appendix 3	<i>Oxfordshire 2030 – Responses to Executive Comments</i>
<b>Background Papers</b>	
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