



Annual Report and Summary of Accounts 2009/10

Delivering in partnership

Subject to Audit

Leader's message



This Annual Report is a “snapshot in time” showing the achievements and the financial standing of the Council. On both counts, anyone reading this document can be reassured. The Council has fifty elected

members who all play a full part in directing the work of the organisation, checking and suggesting improvements to services, and, importantly, guiding and monitoring a continuous search for efficiency.

During 2009/10 the Council opened new and revitalised Leisure Centres in Bicester, Kidlington, and Banbury. We are one of very few Councils to invest in open air swimming and all of these large scale projects were completed on time and on budget. Councillors have set the criteria for these investments and closely monitored the delivery of them.

The Councillors put a lot of emphasis on monitoring the financial and operational risks of the organisation, much as a team of non executive directors would for a large company. In some ways the Council is run as if it were a business (we treat and refer to our public as paying customers and place great store on customer satisfaction); but the truth is that we never forget that the Council is a public service. In that context I pay particular tribute here to the staff of the Council, all of whom subscribe to a fantastic ethos of public service. I am confident that a “public service delivered in a business like way” philosophy shines through the pages of this Annual Report.

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Councillor Barry Wood
Leader, Cherwell District Council

Chief Executive's look forward



We had hardly reached the end of the 2009/10 year when the general election was held, resulting in the new coalition government. The government has been clear that its priority is to reduce the national deficit

and as recipients of government grant all local authorities will face substantial grant cuts over the next few years.

Our focus on continuously improving the value for money we offer our residents means that we run our services for substantially less money than in previous years. We will keep up

this approach of course. We will also continue to review our residents' needs and priorities through 2010/11 as the extent of the grants cuts becomes clear to ensure that when we have less to spend on services we continue to provide those which are most important to our customers

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Mary Harpley
Chief Executive

2009/10 – Headlines



A district of opportunity

- Our Banbury Job Club has been operating for over a year now and was joined in 2009/10 by a club in Bicester. Many organisations work together in these clubs to provide advice and support to residents facing redundancy and/or financial difficulties.
- We launched our own apprenticeship scheme and appointed six young apprentices from within Cherwell District who were previously not in education, employment or training. We are now encouraging local businesses to take up the scheme. Bicester Village has successfully taken on retail apprentices and there have been apprentices taken on recently by Charter Community Housing, Karcher and Banbury Town Council with expressions of interest in taking on future apprentices from a number of employees also received.
- A record 199 new affordable homes were built in 2009/10 in Cherwell, including homes in Banbury, Bicester, near Kidlington and in our rural areas. This has been achieved by using our planning role positively to encourage new development starts in difficult market conditions. We have worked with partner housing associations to invest council capital to purchase additional houses for social rent and promote Government shared ownership schemes.
- We secured the designation of NW Bicester by national government as one of just four UK eco towns. We have been awarded £9.7 million of government funding towards the initial development phase and towards a number of projects which will bring to life across the town the benefits of living in a sustainable way.
- Local residents thinking of starting a business, or in the early stages of doing so, continued to receive one-to-one advice through Oxfordshire Business Enterprises, a service co-ordinated by Cherwell District Council. 430 individual advice sessions were delivered across the district, 100 per cent of respondents to a satisfaction survey would recommend the service.

An accessible, value for money council

- Our website was awarded three out of four stars by the Society of Information Technology Management (SocITM) and the Crystal Mark from the Plain English Campaign.
- We cut our costs by another £1 million, bringing our total reduction in four years to £5m (21 per cent of our 2006/07 budget).
- Our target of 90 per cent customer satisfaction in LinkPoints and in our customer contact centre has been consistently met or exceeded during the year.



Cleaner and greener

- We exceeded our target for reducing the amount of waste we sent to landfill by 300 tonnes, reducing it by 1,300 tonnes in total.
- We successfully rolled out food waste recycling collections across the district helping to reduce further the amount of waste sent to landfill.



- We further invested in our recycling banks expanding the number of sites collecting batteries and introducing banks for new materials such as small electrical items, toys and bras!
- We reduced the amount of fuel our fleet uses by almost 30,000 litres saving money & reducing our CO₂ emissions.
- We exceeded our 10 per cent reduction target in vehicle fleet emissions of Nitreous oxides (NOx) and soot particles (PM10) by achieving a 20 per cent reduction for NOx and 30 per cent reduction for PM10s.
- We issued 79 litter, 10 dog fouling and 20 abandoned vehicles fixed penalty notices to people who choose to act irresponsibly. Of these, we prosecuted 8.



Safer and healthier

- Following a massive investment programme, we provided modernised and extended Leisure Centres in Bicester and Kidlington which we opened in June 2009, a new £17m Spiceball Leisure Centre which was opened ahead of schedule in December 2009 and reopened Woodgreen Open Air Pool last summer.



- We have helped to make Cherwell an even safer place to live and work by investing £330,000 on upgrading our CCTV equipment to a digital system on which offences and offenders can be seen very clearly.
- We have played a key role in supporting Oxfordshire NHS and the John Radcliffe Hospital Trust in reaching an agreed view on the staffing required to retain the best possible and accessible health care services at the Horton Hospital.
- Our work last year in partnership with Thames Valley Polices has seen a fifth consecutive year of crime reduction on an already low comparative level of crime. Serious Acquisitive Crime is down by 9 per cent on last year and down 12 per cent against 2007/08. All crime is down 7 per cent against last year.



Summary of accounts 2009/2010

Head of finance's statement

The council's statement of accounts has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting. The council's annual accounts are subject to an annual audit inspection by the Audit Commission. The purpose of the accounts is to give residents, businesses, tax payers

and partners clear information about the council's finances.

A full copy of the accounts is available for examination on request. Download a copy from www.cherwell.gov.uk or if you prefer a printed copy you can order one via the website.



This summary gives a brief overview of the council's expenditure and income and its financial position for the year ending 31 March, 2010.

Our income and expenditure account for the year ending 31 March, 2010 shows that we spent £38.2 million on running services but after other costs and income, our spend for the year was £20.9 million. The money that we spend comes from local and national taxes and business rates given back to us by central Government. The council receives income from four sources: council tax, central government grants and business rates, investment income and fees and charges.

**Actual
2009/10
£'000**

Expenditure	
Service expenditure	38,205
Net service expenditure	38,205
Exceptional items	0
Net cost of services	38,205
Town and parish precepts	3,886
Surplus from trading activities	(5,916)
Investment income	(2,514)
Interest cost on pension fund	3,401
Other accounting items (including pension fund and depreciation)	(14,069)
Use of reserves	(2,088)
Amount we spent	20,905
Funding	
Collection fund	(4,002)
Cherwell District Council tax	(6,165)
Government grant - general	(1,990)
Government grant - NNDR from pool	(8,621)
Total funding	(20,778)
Decrease in general fund balance in 2009/10	127
General fund balance at 31 March, 2009	1,904
General fund balance at 31 March, 2010	1,777

Service expenditure by strategic priority



General fund balance

This balance shows how much money we had at the end of the year as our working balance (known as the general fund balance), the amount left over from the income and expenditure account, statutory amounts we took into account (such as depreciation) and money we have put away in our reserves for future projects. This becomes our opening balance for the next financial year.

Capital expenditure and financing

We invested money on a variety of capital schemes during the year, to continue providing first-class public facilities and investment in the infrastructure of the district.

The council delivered 97 per cent of its 2009/10 capital budget. Capital expenditure (spending on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of fixed assets) and capital income (mainly receipts from the sale of such assets), are detailed in the notes to the financial statements and summarised in the tables below:

2009/10 capital expenditure	£'000
Operational assets	12,975
Non-operational assets	731
Intangible assets	384
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute (REFCUS)	3,586
	17,676

Capital schemes	Budget	Actual	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Business Services	141	203	62
ICT Projects	169	169	0
Safer Community & Community Development	470	494	24
Environmental Services	1,050	930	(120)
Health & Recreation	1,468	1,531	63
Urban & Rural	190	226	36
Economic Development & Estates	2,810	2,049	(761)
Housing Services	2,187	2,469	282
Sports Centre Modernisation	8,585	8,585	0
Various Small Schemes	1,130	1,020	(110)
	18,200	17,676	(524)

The table below shows how we funded our capital programme:

2009/10 capital expenditure financing	£'000
Capital receipts	15,230
Government grants and other contributions	2,122
Funding from earmarked reserves through revenue	264
Direct revenue financing	60
	17,676

Balance sheet - what are we worth?

Our balance sheet gives a “snapshot-in-time” picture of our financial position at the end of the financial year. It shows the value of our assets and investments, what we owe (now and in the future) funds we hold for others and amounts owed to us, as well as how much cash we hold and how our organisation is financed (reserves and balances), all at that particular “snapshot-in-time”.

We started the year with £129.8 million of net assets, earmarked reserves of £9.2 million and a general fund balance of £1.9 million. As at 31 March, 2010 the net asset figure had fallen by £23.9 million mainly due to the fall in interest rates resulting in a forecast increased pension deficit and a reduction in value (impairment) of assets, such as land and buildings as a result of the general property market slump. At the end of the year we remain financially sound with net assets of £105.9 million, £7.1 million of earmarked reserves and £1.8 million of general fund reserves.

Balance sheet	£'000
Assets such as land and buildings and stock owned by the council	117,025
Money invested to generate interest to support the council tax	68,833
Cash and bank balance	66
Money owed to us	14,199
Money we owe	(94,239)
Total assets and liabilities	105,884

Cash flow statement

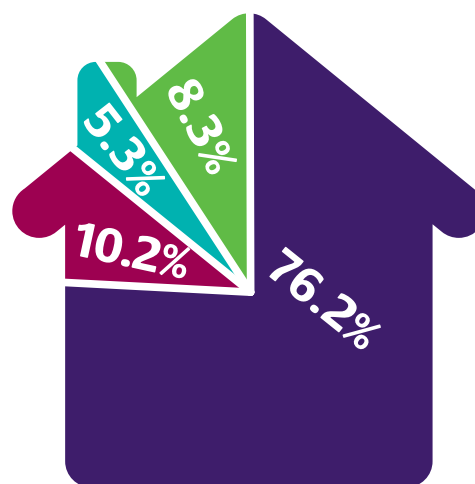
The cash flow statement summarises how much cash we paid in and how much we paid out during the year. The council's bank balance improved by £0.2 million during 2009/2010.

Cash flow	£'000
Bank balance on 1 April, 2009	(133)
Cash outflow from revenue activities	-7,421
Cash inflow from investments	2,629
Net cash flow from capital activities	-3,537
Net decrease in short term deposits	8,528
Net increase in cash	199
Bank balance on 31 March, 2010	66

Collecting local taxes

Council tax: Cherwell District Council, as the billing authority, collects the council tax for Oxfordshire County Council, Thames Valley Police Authority and the individual town and parish councils as well as the district council's own requirements - only 8.3 per cent of what is collected. Council tax collected in 2009/2010 was £74.7 million. This includes an additional £0.7 million secured above the targeted 98 per cent collection rate. This amount will be distributed among all preceptors.

The council tax collected by Cherwell District Council during 2009/2010 was distributed as follows.



2009/2010 £'000

Oxfordshire County Council	56,444
Thames Valley Police	7,552
Parishes	3,886
Cherwell District Council	6,165
Total	74,047

Business Rates: Business rates are set by the Government. Cherwell District Council collects the business rates due in the district and pays them directly to the government. The Government redistributes these funds to all local authorities using a method based on population. During 2009/2010 the council paid £63.7 million to the Government and received £8.6 million.

Cherwell's green credentials



We have a long term commitment to improving our environmental performance and we have integrated this commitment into the everyday work of the Council. Reducing our use of energy not only results in lower emissions, it also produces financial savings.

Building on our environmental strategy for a changing climate, we published a comprehensive delivery plan to set out our work to reduce our carbon emissions.

Going greener

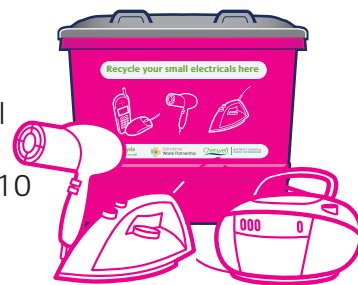
- Emissions from our fleet of vehicles have fallen by 9.8 per cent since 2006/07 as we reduced the miles travelled and used more environmentally friendly vehicles. We have reduced fuel consumption by almost 30,000 litres in 2009/10 despite an increase in the number of properties we serve.
- We reduced the amount of electricity used as Bodicote House by installing more energy efficient lighting and by reducing the power needed to run our ICT servers.
- As part of the process of making Bodicote House more energy efficient we introduced new arrangements for printing which reduced by almost half the amount of paper we use.

Recycle more

- 300 tonnes of food waste were turned into compost rather than dumped in landfill which reduced the green bin contents by 17 per cent.
- Our recycling rate was more than 51 per cent and the amount of waste to landfill fell by 1,300 tonnes.



- We have introduced innovative facilities for recycling small electrical items such as kettles, toasters & hairdryers at 10 bring bank locations.



What the future holds

- Roll out of the food waste collection to all residents living in flats.
- Drive down our fleet emissions by reducing our fuel usage by a further 10,000 litres.
- Be at the forefront of energy efficient housing and community development in the Bicester eco development.
- Ongoing work with the Carbon Trust to reduce further our emissions across council buildings
- Re-visit our workplace travel plan to reduce further our business mileage
- Make our depot considerably more energy efficient by using recycled water for vehicle washdowns, introduce a woodchip boiler for heating and install solar photo voltaics to generate electricity.



Talk to us, we're listening ...

Whether you have suggestions about how we can improve this publication, a comment about our services or would like to tell us your views, we're keen to hear from you.

Tel: 01295 221575

Web: www.cherwell.gov.uk

Take part

You can take part in our latest consultations by visiting our consultation portal <http://consult.cherwell.gov.uk/portal>

Follow us on Twitter.

www.twitter.com/cherwellcouncil

Our performance

Delivering our targets

Our corporate plan sets out our ambitions for delivering services to our residents, businesses and visitors. In 2009/10, as in 2008/09, we met 96 per cent of our performance targets. In order to make sure we always make best use of all our resources we also have an internal corporate improvement plan. In 2009/10, again as in 2008/09, we met 98 per cent of our corporate improvement plan targets.

Where we are performing well

While we want to improve across all services we have focused our efforts on improving those services we know are particularly important to the public. These are highlighted in our public promises.

What we promised in 2009/10	What we achieved	
Contribute to the creation of 200 new jobs	403 new jobs created	✓✓
Deliver 100 affordable homes	199 new affordable homes built	✓✓
Work with partners to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour by 200 offences/ incidents compared to 2008/9	637 fewer incidents	✓✓
Improve Bicester and Kidlington leisure centres, re-open Woodgreen Pool and open our new Spiceball Leisure Centre	All three Leisure Centres completed and Woodgreen Pool opened in 2009	✓
Continue to support new and improved healthcare services in Bicester and surrounding areas	We supported Oxfordshire NHS's plans to replace and improve current Bicester Hospital services	✓
Continue to support the provision of the best possible services at the Horton General Hospital.	We have played a central role in the work to maintain current maternity and paediatric services at the Horton	✓
Increase resident's satisfaction with street and environmental cleanliness from 66 per cent to 70 per cent by improving the removal of dog mess and abandoned vehicles.	Satisfaction has increased to 67 per cent, but has not yet reached 70 per cent	✗
Increase the household recycling rate to 50 per cent by March 31 2010	Recycling rate is now just over 51 per cent	✓
Remove 90 per cent of fly tipping within 48 hours.	More than 90 per cent of the 448 fly tips removed by deadline. Actual number of fly tips also down by 33 per cent on previous year	✓
Reduce the council's vehicle emissions by 10 per cent	reduced emissions of Nitreous oxides(NOx) by 20 per cent and we reduced the emissions of soot (PM10) by 30 per cent	✓
Place 10 new Link Points in our rural areas to provide residents and businesses with a greater choice of access to our services	Link points installed in Cropredy, Deddington, Sibford Ferris, Heyford Wharf and Ambrosden	✗
Help and support Cherwell's residents and businesses through uncertain times	There have been 2000 plus visits to the clubs, resulting in 1000 sign ups to local college "Get that Job" courses. Major employers Sainsbury's, Value Retail (Bicester Village), Wyevale Garden Centre and Crompton Technology have recruited through the clubs	✓
Take the steps needed to reduce our costs by a further £1m by the beginning of 2010-11	£1m cost reduction achieved	✓
Work with partners to start the Bicester town centre development	Although some preparatory work started in February 2010, development work got underway in June	✗
Make major improvements to Parsons Street, Banbury.	Work completed.	✓

What we want to improve - public pledges 2010/11

For 2010/11 we have identified a number of key areas where public concern is high or our performance does not meet our own expectations. Our public pledges for 2010/11 lay out many of our priorities for improvement.

We will

Deliver 100 new homes for those in need of better housing	Increase your satisfaction with street and environmental cleanliness from 67 per cent to 69 per cent by improving cleanliness and the removal of dog mess, abandoned vehicles and fly-tipping	Continue to support new and improvement health care services in Bicester and the surrounding area
Contribute to the creation of 200 new jobs	Deliver a further year of emissions reduction from the council's fleet of vehicles and corporate buildings	Continue to support the provision of the best possible services at the Horton General Hospital
Help another 1,000 local people at our Bicester and Banbury job clubs	Work with partners to deliver yet another reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour offences	Double the number of council services that can be booked, paid for or applied for online from 50 to 100.
Launch a new programme of work to tackle deprivation in Cherwell.	Attract an extra 100,000 visits to the new and refurbished leisure centres and the newly opened Woodgreen open air pool following the council's investment	Reduce our costs by a further £800,000
Work with partners to make significant progress towards completion of the Bicester town centre development		Deliver a council tax increase in 2011/12 which is below inflation.
Make significant progress on all the Bicester eco town demonstration projects		
Increase the household recycling rate to 55 per cent		

[DN] Update freeze

Delivering in partnership

Cherwell District Council cannot address all the issues faced by the District and its residents on its own. We therefore join forces with other organisations to deliver common objectives by sharing expertise. We are grateful for the contributions from many, many partners. Some of our key partners are listed on the back cover, but here are some examples of our successful partnership working in 2009/10:

Cherwell Local Strategic Partnership

launched Our District; Our Future, a new sustainable community strategy, which sets out the aims and aspirations for Cherwell between now and 2016 and complements the Local Development Framework. Over 250 individuals and community groups were consulted as the strategy was developed.

Bicester Vision continues to bring the private and public sectors together to champion the growth and sustainable development of Bicester. With

Cherwell District Council, Bicester Vision hosted the Bicester Summit, attended by the government minister for the south east and many senior civil servants who outlined their departments plans for the town.

Kidlington Village Centre Management Board

has helped secure planning permission for a market in Curtis Place, replaced the high street furniture and started work on options for further improvements, such as pedestrianisation.

Cherwell Homelessness Strategy Partnership

continues to tackle homelessness, with the number of households living in temporary accommodation down further to 29 this year.

Banbury Town Centre Partnership

has worked to support the development of Banbury, focusing particularly on supporting the Parsons Street improvements, the appointment of a new market operator and the running of the food fair in August 2009.



Cllr Barry Wood,
Leader of the Council
FRINGFORD

Your Cherwell District Councillors

Portfolio holders

Vice Chairman

Chairman

Deputy Leader

Liberal Democrats

Labour

Conservative



Cllr G A Reynolds
SIBFORD



Cllr Norman Bolster
BICESTER: WEST



Cllr Colin Clarke
BANBURY: CALTHORPE



Cllr Michael Gibbard
YARNTON, GOSFORD & WATER EATON



Cllr James Macnamara
THE ASTONS & HEYFORDS



Cllr Nigel Morris
BANBURY: EASINGTON



Cllr Debbie Pickford
BICESTER: TOWN



Cllr Nicholas Turner
BANBURY: HARDWICK



Cllr Ken Attack
CROPREDY



Cllr George Parish
BANBURY: RUSCOTE



Cllr Timothy Hallchurch MBE
OTMOOR



Cllr Rick Atkinson
ADDERBURY



Cllr Andrew Fulljames
AMBROSDEN & CHESTERTON



Cllr Mr Alastair Milne Home
BANBURY: CALTHORPE



Cllr Fred Blackwell
BANBURY: EASINGTON



Cllr Kieron Mallon
BANBURY: EASINGTON



Cllr Ann Bonner
BANBURY: GRIMSBURY & CASTLE



Cllr Margaret Cullip
BANBURY: GRIMSBURY & CASTLE



Cllr Christopher Smithson
BANBURY: GRIMSBURY & CASTLE



Cllr John Donaldson
BANBURY: HARDWICK



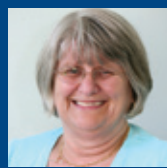
Cllr Tony Ilott
BANBURY: HARDWICK



Cllr Alyas Ahmed
BANBURY: NEITHROP



Cllr Martin Weir
BANBURY: NEITHROP



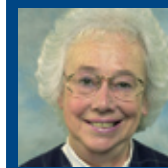
Cllr Patricia Tompson
BANBURY: RUSCOTE



Cllr Keith Strangwood
BANBURY: RUSCOTE



Cllr Lawrie Stratford
BICESTER: EAST



Cllr Rose Stratford
BICESTER: EAST



Cllr Nicholas Mawer
BICESTER: NORTH



Cllr Carol Steward
BICESTER: NORTH



Cllr Nick Cotter
BICESTER: SOUTH



Cllr Diana Edwards
BICESTER: TOWN



Cllr Daniel Sames
BICESTER: SOUTH



Cllr Russell Hurler
BICESTER: WEST



Cllr Leslie F Sibley
BICESTER: WEST



Cllr Chris Heath
BLOXHAM & BODICOTE



Cllr Lynda Thirzie Smart
BLOXHAM & BODICOTE



Cllr Mrs Catherine Fulljames
CAVERSFIELD



Cllr P A O'Sullivan
DEDDINGTON



Cllr Victoria Irvine
HOOK NORTON



Cllr Douglas Williamson
KIDLINGTON: NORTH



Vacant
KIDLINGTON: NORTH



Cllr Maurice Billington
KIDLINGTON: SOUTH



Cllr Neil Prestidge
KIDLINGTON: SOUTH



Cllr Tim Emptage
KIDLINGTON: SOUTH



Cllr Simon Holland
KIRTLINGTON



Cllr David Hughes
LAUNTON



Cllr Luke Annaly
THE ASTONS & HEYFORDS



Cllr Douglas Webb
WROXTON



Cllr Trevor Stevens
YARNTON, GOSFORD & WATER EATON

Cherwell District Council

Bodicote House
Bodicote
Banbury
Oxfordshire
OX15 4AA

Main telephone number for general enquiries: 01295 227001

Local LinkPoints deal with personal enquiries for a wide range of Council services. These include advice on housing benefit and council tax, housing, waste and recycling.

All LinkPoints offer 'self serve' points which give residents free access to the Cherwell District Council and other useful public service web-sites.

Banbury LinkPoint

Castle Quay
Banbury

Bicester LinkPoint

38 Market Square
Bicester

Kidlington LinkPoint

Exeter Hall
Oxford Road
Kidlington

Opening hours

Monday to Friday 8.45am* to 5.15pm

*10am Wednesday in local LinkPoints.

The information in this document can be made available in other languages, large print braille, audio tape or electronic format on request. Please contact 01295 227001

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo uzyskać informacje w innym języku lub w innym formacie, prosimy dać nam znać. 01295 227001

ਜੇ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ, ਤਾਂ ਇਹ ਸਾਥੋਂ ਮੰਗ ਲਓ। 01295 227001

如欲索取以另一語文印製或另一格式製作的資料，請與我們聯絡。01295 227001

اگر آپ کو معلومات کسی دیگر زبان یا دیگر شکل میں درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے پوچھئے۔
01295 227001

Our partners

Banbury Town Council, Bicester Town Council and parish councils across Cherwell District

Supporting People Partnership

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/supportingpeople

Children and Young People Partnership

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cypp

Oxfordshire Housing Partnership

www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk

Oxfordshire Waste Partnership

www.oxfordshirewaste.gov.uk

Oxfordshire Economic Partnership

www.oep.org.uk

Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership

www.saferoxford.org.uk

Oxfordshire Voluntary Sector Development Partnership

www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk

Health and Well Being Partnership Board

www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk

Cherwell Community Planning Partnership

Homelessness Strategy Partnership

Cherwell Registered Social Landlords Partnership

Banbury Town Centre Partnership

For more information visit www.cherwell.gov.uk

Cherwell Safer Community Partnership

www.cherwellcsi.org

Cherwell M40 Investment Partnership

www.cherwell-m40.co.uk

Kidlington Village Centre Management Board

www.kidlington-pc.gov.uk

Bicester Vision

www.bicestervision.co.uk