

Thriving communities for everyone in Oxfordshire

County council services and how
your money is spent 2018/19



OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL

Thriving communities for everyone in Oxfordshire

We listen to residents so we can continuously improve our services and provide value for money



We help people live safe, healthy lives and play an active part in their community

We provide services that enhance the quality of life in our communities, and protect the local environment



We strive to give every child a good start in life, and protect everyone from abuse and neglect

We enable older and disabled people to live independently. We care for those in greatest need



We support a thriving local economy by improving transport links to create jobs and homes for the future



Dear resident,

This booklet is about the services provided by Oxfordshire County Council and how they are partly funded through council tax. Once you know more about what we do, I hope you will feel we provide value for money services that support thriving communities for everyone in Oxfordshire.

Previously, my message has been about helping vulnerable people. Protecting children from neglect and abuse. Helping older and disabled people live independently.

This is more important than ever. In fact, more children need protection – here and across England. Offering children the best start in life is vital.

With the number of over 85s set to double by 2030, more older people also need care. We are increasing council tax again so that we can care for children and adults in greatest need.

But by talking about vulnerable people, I may not have talked enough about the services we provide for you and your community.

From the fire and rescue service, to emptying gullies that reduce flood risks. And from running seven household waste centres for recycling, to retaining all our 43 libraries (with thanks to the volunteers who make that possible).

We can always do better, however, and I am always listening so we can continuously improve. Please do get in touch if you have suggestions.

Best wishes,

Councillor Ian Hudspeth
Leader of Oxfordshire County Council
leader@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Managing our budget

Since 2010, government funding for councils has gone down while demand for services has gone up – especially in children's and adult social services.

In total, we have saved £360 million in various ways such as employing fewer managers, selling properties to reduce costs and investing in digital technology. Most of that money has been used to help the growing number of people needing care, including older people and disabled people.

We have redesigned some services to help people with the greatest need. We also help communities provide services in their area – ranging from support for older people and those with learning disabilities, to volunteers in libraries.

Council funding and spending 2018/19

For 2018/19 the council has set a gross expenditure budget of **£788.5 million** (£790.8 million in 2017/18).

It is funded in the following ways:



Council tax and social care precept

Council tax is the tax you pay towards local public services. Oxfordshire County Council's council tax consists of two elements – our main council tax and an adult social care precept.

Council tax increase for 2018/19 (including the adult social care precept) **5.99%** (Council tax increase for 2017/18 was 4.99%)

One of the main services we provide is adult social care. The government allows councils to raise an adult social care precept to help relieve funding pressures.

In 2018/19 Oxfordshire County Council will receive £352m from council tax. For 2017/18 the council received £328m.

What we spend on council services

The figures below show how we plan to spend our £583.9m gross expenditure budget (excluding schools) on services (£552.9m in 2017/18). We spend £204.6m on schools, which comes directly from government.



Capital programme

The council's 10-year capital programme is mainly funded by grants, developer contributions, capital receipts and bids awarded to the council. This money can only be used for the purpose it has been given and cannot be allocated to day-to-day council spending – e.g. improving a road junction, but not filling potholes.

We plan to spend £895m over the next 10 years on:

Highways and transport maintenance and improvement schemes	Housing and Growth Deal	School buildings and children's services	OxLEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) schemes
£283m	£210m	£202m	£73m
Other council buildings	Contingency	Housing for vulnerable adults	Better broadband for Oxfordshire
£52m	£28m	£26m	£7m
Fire & rescue service	Oxford flood relief scheme	Household waste recycling centres	
£4m	£5m	£5m	

What we do

We work to support thriving communities for everyone in Oxfordshire.

Thriving communities

- Manage 2,800 miles of **road** and maintain 59,000 **streetlights**. In 2017 we inspected 8,000 **trees** and repaired over 30,000 **potholes**.
- Run seven household **waste recycling** centres and deal with over 300,000 tonnes of waste collected by Oxfordshire's district councils.
- Respond to **fire and rescue** incidents and offer free **Safe and Well visits** to help reduce the risk of fire in people's homes and to provide health, wellbeing and crime prevention advice.
- Give **trading standards** advice to consumers and businesses. In 2017 we helped around 2,000 consumers and successfully prosecuted 43 cases.
- Manage 43 **libraries**, the **Oxfordshire Museum** and the **Oxfordshire History Centre**.
- Provide **registration and celebratory services**. In 2017 we registered 17,000 births, deaths and marriages and conducted 50 Citizenship ceremonies with around 1,500 people receiving British nationality.

Thriving people

- Support **children** and families including running eight **children and family centres** and funding **early education** places for three and four year olds. We provide **foster placements** for over 480 children, are the **corporate parent** for over 650 looked after children and support another 650 on a child protection plan.
- Support vulnerable adults and carers including running eight **community support centres**. In 2017 we assessed the **social care needs** of 15,000 vulnerable adults, supported 7,800 people with long-term care needs and issued 25,000 **pieces of equipment** that helped 5,000 people stay in their own homes.
- Promote and protect people's **health and wellbeing**, working closely with the NHS.

Thriving economy

- Deliver **major highways and transport improvement schemes** to improve journey times, public transport and provision for cycling and walking. Recent projects include improvements to the Plain Roundabout in Oxford, improvements to the A34 Milton Interchange and supporting rail partners to deliver Oxford Parkway and Bicester Village stations.
- Work with Oxfordshire councils and OxLEP (the Local Enterprise Partnership) to build infrastructure, deliver new homes and boost economic productivity across the county.
- Use our **spatial planning** responsibilities to ensure that Oxfordshire's infrastructure connects people and places, and supports access to vital services.

Active communities

Oxfordshire has many active communities that play an important role in the county. We work closely with voluntary and community groups, as well as parishes and town councils to help them shape and improve their local area. This includes recruiting volunteers to become digital helpers in libraries, supporting community transport schemes and providing funding for community-led children's services.

Your county councillor

Oxfordshire County Council has 63 county councillors who are voted for every four years. The next election will be held on **Thursday 6 May 2021**. Your county councillor can help if you have a query or concern about the council's services by offering advice or directing you to someone who can help www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-councillors

Who does what in Oxfordshire

County council services include:

- adult social care
- children's services and education
- fire and rescue service
- libraries, cultural and registration services
- public health
- highways and transport
- spatial planning
- trading standards
- waste disposal and recycling centres

District council services include:

- benefits payments
- collecting council tax
- homelessness support
- electoral registration
- environmental health
- housing
- leisure
- local planning
- street cleaning
- waste collection

Parishes and town councils responsibilities include:

- allotments
- burial grounds, cemeteries and crematoria
- commons land and common pastures
- community centres
- flagpoles
- monuments and memorials
- village halls

Contact us

01865 792422
Oxfordshire County Council, County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND



You can apply, book, find, report and pay for a range of services on the county council website:

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

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