

Thriving communities for everyone in Oxfordshire



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

thriving communities

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

thriving people

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

thriving economy

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

foreword



Welcome to our new prospectus in which we map out our goals, vision and future plans – our contribution to ensuring Oxfordshire continues to thrive.

As the organisation that provides around 80 per cent of local government services in Oxfordshire including key functions such as fire and rescue, highways and social care, we have a substantial role to play in the lives and success of everyone in the county.

You'll notice a real theme around listening ever more to residents so that we can really understand what matters most to people. We've already taken on board views from individual people, towns, parishes and other partners in formulating this document. Their roles don't end there. We will continue to work closely with people, communities and all of our partners in delivering our vision for the county.

We will also continue to move away from the traditional top-down service design and delivery model by asking people and organisations to help shape our plans from their earliest stages. As ever there are many challenges and opportunities ahead – we're already doing a lot to tackle them but we will need everyone's help to do better in future.

We're very keen to hear what you think of our vision and how we plan to achieve it.

Please take the time to read the rest of this document.

Best wishes,

Councillor Ian Hudspeth
Leader of the Council



thriving communities



From urban city areas, historic market towns and small villages, to groups based on shared interests or backgrounds, Oxfordshire is a county of diverse communities.

Many people are active in community life, and Oxfordshire's vibrant parishes, towns, councils, and voluntary groups give local communities a voice as well as play a vital role in enhancing local services.

We want every community in Oxfordshire to thrive and grow stronger. We help to achieve this by listening to our communities to identify local needs and by working together to agree the best way forward.

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

- we provide a range of services, including fire and rescue services, to help keep people safe in our communities
- we encourage people to live healthy lifestyles, working with partners to prevent obesity and chronic disease, and reduce health inequalities
- we work with our partners to put health issues at the centre of local planning and 'design in' support for healthy lifestyles
- we continually manage risks to the public and ensure that vulnerable people and communities are helped to stay safe and well
- we engage and work with communities and relevant organisations to identify local needs and tackle issues affecting local communities together
- we protect vulnerable children and adults from abuse and neglect

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

- we support local communities to access high quality broadband and digital services
- we provide and maintain roads, footpaths, cycle routes and other essential local infrastructure
- we work in partnership with residents and other local authorities to encourage recycling and the safe disposal of household waste
- we use our planning responsibilities to protect and enhance the local environment
- we engage and work with communities to make the best use of our properties and assets, providing local services and creating community spaces
- we work with other organisations to offer help to those who may need our support in dealing with drug or alcohol dependency

CASE STUDY

Working with the voluntary and community sector

There is a strong culture of volunteering within Oxfordshire and volunteers deliver many important services in the county. Oxfordshire Volunteers is a new, dedicated volunteering website for Oxfordshire. The website is run as a partnership by the county's three Volunteer Centres, with funding and support from the county council and other bodies.

Oxfordshire Volunteers provides a vital service for over 4000 charities and community groups that work with volunteers, helping the delivery of local services and supporting thriving communities across Oxfordshire.





thriving people



With high life expectancy, low unemployment rates and healthy behaviours, Oxfordshire residents are generally healthy and thriving. School results are improving and, overall, the population is highly skilled.

However, factors such as an increasing and ageing population are driving a rising demand for our services, including important social care services which provide support to people of all ages when they need it most.

We want all Oxfordshire residents to enjoy a healthy and successful life. We help to achieve this by providing sustainable, good quality services to all residents, including those who need extra and ongoing support.

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

- we work with the NHS and other organisations to give new-born children and their families support and care from the start
- we work with schools, families and partners to support increased attendance at school and other educational settings, leading to improved attainment levels
- we provide early help and support to families when it is needed, focusing on the least intrusive and most effective solutions
- we support families experiencing domestic abuse, mental health, and drugs and alcohol issues
- we support families to enable them to care for their children, safely reducing the number of looked-after children
- we work closely with communities, families and relevant organisations to protect vulnerable children and adults from abuse and neglect

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

- we support residents who need support from social care, to live independently at home for as long as possible
- we ensure that people have choice and control over how their care needs are met
- we offer support for services to help identify and tackle conditions which might lead to early death or unhealthy lifestyles
- we work with other organisations to offer help to those who may need our support in dealing with drug or alcohol dependency
- we increasingly involve people who use services and their families to design, buy and evaluate the quality of those services
- we strive to continuously improve satisfaction levels for people who access support from adult social care
- we work to improve the quality and sustainability of care providers across Oxfordshire

CASE STUDY

'Transitions' co-production approach in adult services sector

We are working with young people, families and front-line staff to improve support for young people moving from children's to adult social care services.

So far, the 'Working Together' group has identified a few key areas to focus on. The group has also researched other approaches, visited another local authority, and plans to develop further proposals for wider consideration. The plan for this co-produced way of working is to ensure that young people and families involved in transition can participate in reshaping it so that it works better in the future.





thriving economy



Oxfordshire's economy is successful and growing. It generates output to the value of £21.9bn per year from 400,000 jobs and over 30,000 businesses. As the western anchor to the Oxford-Milton Keynes-Cambridge growth corridor, Oxfordshire's economy is of strategic importance to the United Kingdom.

We want to help fully realise Oxfordshire's economic potential in ways which will bring most benefit to residents and communities. We help to achieve this by working with partners to develop and implement a single, joint vision for economic growth for Oxfordshire.

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

- we use spatial planning responsibilities to ensure that Oxfordshire's infrastructure connects people and places and supports access to vital services, including in growth towns
- we bid and lobby for funding to invest in the county's strategic and local infrastructure to drive growth and effectively connect people to jobs and homes
- we work with partners to help improve the skills available to Oxfordshire's employers and the learning opportunities available to residents and the workforce
- we embed innovation into our policies and strategies to get the best out of new and emerging technologies

To achieve our vision, we will listen to residents so we can continuously improve our services and provide value for money

- the county council must transform how it works so that we continue to help achieve the best possible outcomes for the county and its people
- our 'Fit for the Future' transformation programme will ensure that the council is as efficient as possible and well placed to respond to current and future demands. 'Fit for the Future' is driving the internal changes needed to improve and redesign frontline services and back office functions
- community, service user and staff engagement is fundamental to the programme's success, as is a commitment to thinking differently and challenging ourselves to do even better

CASE STUDY

DRIVEN project

The council is at the centre of a world-leading initiative - the DRIVEN project - to develop a fleet of connected vehicles that will drive fully autonomously from Oxford to London by 2019.

The council is supporting Oxfordshire-based research and innovation for applications worldwide. In doing so, it is also developing the learning, standards and requirements which councils will increasingly need to think about as Autonomous Vehicles become a common feature on our roads.



finances



For 2018/19 the council has set a gross expenditure budget of £788.5 million. The diagram below shows how we plan to spend our £583.9m gross expenditure budget (excluding schools) on services. The chart on the next page shows the main sources of the council's funding.

How your money is spent (excluding schools)

Adult & children's social care	Education and learning	Highways & transport	Fire & rescue and community safety
52%	14%	10%	5%
Public health - improvement and prevention services	Capital borrowing cost	Waste disposal and recycling	Libraries, cultural, registration and coroners services
5%	5%	6%	3%

Main sources of the council's funding

Council tax	Central government grants	Business rates	Income from fees and charges
61%	19%	13%	7%

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	Fire & rescue service	Oxford flood relief scheme
£283m	£210m	£202m	£73m	£4m	£5m
Other council buildings	Contingency	Housing for vulnerable adults	Better broadband for Oxfordshire	Household waste recycling centres	
£52m	£28m	£26m	£7m	£5m	

CASE STUDY

FixMyStreet.com – value for money and listening to residents

The Fix My Street website puts residents in direct contact with our frontline highways inspectors and specialists. Residents become our eyes on the ground, and in return receive a prompt and professional response on the issues that matter to them most.

Through better use of technology, our officers are now able to book repairs while out on the streets, reducing office and travel time, and ensuring that our resources are used where they bring the most value.



about Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire is a diverse and dynamic county, with 678,000 residents and over 30,000 businesses. It is the most rural county in the South-East of England, with three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Beyond the historic city of Oxford, the county has a thriving network of villages and market towns, with fast-growing towns from Banbury and Bicester in the north of the county to Didcot, Abingdon and Henley in the south.



- Residents are happy with their local area as a place to live, and there is a strong sense of community in both rural and urban areas.
- As a centre of academic research, science, and innovation, and with high employment rates and a rapid growth in jobs, Oxfordshire's economy is thriving.
- Oxfordshire also faces clear challenges over the coming years which we must work with our partners to address effectively.
- Despite overall prosperity, there are significant and entrenched pockets of deprivation.
- There are high house prices relative to earnings. Many more new houses are needed. While this is primarily the responsibility of Oxfordshire's district councils, we must ensure that the infrastructure to connect housing, jobs and services can be delivered, particularly in rural areas.
- The opportunities and challenges for Oxfordshire arising from Brexit are currently unclear but could have particular implications for public services in terms of workforce and procurement.



local government in Oxfordshire

Local government in Oxfordshire consists of a county council covering the whole county, and five district councils: Oxford City, Cherwell District, West Oxfordshire District, Vale of White Horse District and South Oxfordshire District.

There are also 15 town councils, 233 parish councils and 68 parish meetings covering all areas of the county, apart from the majority of Oxford.

Each type of council is responsible for providing different services to the public as follows:

County council services include:

- adult social care
- children's services
- education (support to schools, school admissions and school transport)
- fire and rescue service
- libraries
- public health
- roads and transport
- spatial planning
- trading standards
- waste management

District council services include:

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

Parish council responsibilities include:

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

The county council is well placed to take a leading role in shaping the future of Oxfordshire, given we are responsible for delivering services across the county.

We will continue to work in partnership with Oxfordshire's residents and communities to understand and respond to local needs and priorities.

As well as delivering and commissioning many key services that are essential for residents, the council works closely with many partners to ensure that we collectively stand up for Oxfordshire's needs at a national level, in particular seeking to maximise the funding coming into the county.

We welcome your feedback on our vision, priorities and the content of this prospectus.

Contact:

e: vision@oxfordshire.gov.uk

f: [@oxfordshirecountycouncil](https://www.facebook.com/oxfordshirecountycouncil)

t: [@oxfordshirecc](https://www.twitter.com/oxfordshirecc)

Write to us:

Prospectus

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www.oxfordshire.gov.uk