

INTENTION FOR THIS DOCUMENT – A PUBLIC FACING ‘PROSPECTUS’ FOR OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, ARTICULATING OUR VISION AND DIRECTION OF TRAVEL.

A FULL NEW CORPORATE PLAN 2018-21 WILL BE DEVELOPED OVER THE AUTUMN FOR AGREEMENT AT COUNCIL IN FEBRUARY 2018

NOTE THIS IS AN EARLY DRAFT AND WILL BE UPDATED TO REFLECT FURTHER COMMENTS AND TO ENSURE IT IS ‘PLAIN ENGLISH’, PROOF-READ THROUGHOUT, AND THAT MISSING TEXT IS ADDED.

THE FINAL VERSION WILL BE FULLY DESIGNED AND INCLUDE PHOTOS WHICH WILL DEMONSTRATE THE SERVICES AND COMPLEMENT THE TEXT

Thriving communities for everyone in Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire County Council

THE COUNTY COUNCIL'S VISION

Thriving communities for everyone in Oxfordshire

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

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 and 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 FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Potentially to cover:

- This document sets out our refreshed vision for thriving communities in Oxfordshire.
- It shows our main priorities for the county
- It indicates where you can find out more information about the services we offer and the other things we do
- Specific details of how we will deliver our ambitions, and measure success, are set out in the Corporate Plan.
- In this document we give a flavour of how we work, and how we collaborate with residents and other partners, to achieve our vision.
- In defining our vision we have taken on board the views of residents across the county – e.g. focus groups on the draft vision, and e.g. through our work with towns and parishes to consider the county council's role in local services
- Delivering this vision will involve close work together with residents, communities, businesses and other partners
- Co-production for example, moving away from the traditional top-down service design and delivery model
- Delivery in partnership with town and parish councils, or voluntary and community groups, ensuring we make the right difference where and how it is most needed
- Many challenges and opportunities ahead – we're already doing a lot to tackle them but will need everyone's help and engagement to do better, more in future
- Over the next few pages our vision is set out in greater detail
- We're very keen to hear what you think of our vision and how we plan to achieve it - see our website for more details of how to get in touch, or speak to your local councillor

THRIVING COMMUNITIES (2-page spread)

We want all of Oxfordshire's communities to thrive, and to grow stronger together. We will listen to residents in our many and varied communities so that together we identify local needs and priorities and agree the best way forwards.

Oxfordshire's communities range from urban inner city areas and historic market towns to small villages and hamlets. There are also groups within our population that regard themselves as a community, perhaps based on ethnicity, religion or age.

Communities in Oxfordshire already benefit from a high level of engagement in local democracy and community life. Civic society here is active, and a vibrant parish and town sector gives voice to local communities as well as playing a vital role in enhancing local services.

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

- *We encourage people to live healthy lifestyles, working with partners to prevent obesity and chronic disease and reduce health inequalities*
- *We continually manage risks to the public and ensure that vulnerable people and communities are helped to stay safe and well*
- *We engage with and support community groups and organisations to jointly tackle issues affecting local communities*
- *We work with our partners to put health issues at the centre of local planning and 'design in' support for healthy lifestyles.*
- *We provide a range of services, including Fire and Rescue, to help keep people safe in our communities*

CASE STUDY: working with the voluntary and community sector

Oxfordshire Volunteers is a new, dedicated volunteering website for Oxfordshire. Run as a partnership by the county's three Volunteer Centres, with funding and support from the county council and other bodies, the website provides a vital service for over 4000 charities and community groups in the county that work with volunteers.

The service means that for the first time anyone looking to volunteer in Oxfordshire only needs one website to find a role. The service benefits community and voluntary groups too, who now have one central place on the web to advertise their opportunities. The council's support for easier connections between those who need volunteers and those who wish to volunteer will help the delivery of local services and thriving communities.

THRIVING COMMUNITIES (continued....)

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

- *We will strengthen existing community engagement and cohesion through better use of our properties and assets and providing services locally*
- *We will continue to support local communities to access high quality broadband and digital services*
- *We support thriving communities through the provision and maintenance of roads, footpaths, cycle routes and other essential local infrastructure*
- *We undertake our planning responsibilities to protect and enhance the local environment*
- *We work in partnership with residents and other local authorities to encourage recycling and the safe disposal of household waste*

CASE STUDY: giving communities control over local services

The newly introduced Wantage Transport Service runs one day per week using an Oxfordshire County Council vehicle that goes directly from being used on a special educational needs route to providing this service.

This is an example of the Oxfordshire Comet – our demand-responsive transport service which has been designed to fill the transport gap in areas where people may not have suitable access to public transport and for people who have mobility issues.

The Comet is a forward-thinking approach to using our existing resources better. It has allowed the council to deploy vehicle and driver resources beyond its original provision of school and social care transport to fulfil new and existing transport needs during the daytime.

THRIVING PEOPLE (2-page spread)

We want Oxfordshire to be a great place for everyone to grow up and be healthy and successful. We believe that the best start in life requires children and young people to experience a safe and supportive home and school life, and that those residents who do need ongoing support have access to sustainable and good quality services.

The council's services support everyone. Oxfordshire's residents are generally healthy and thriving, with high rates of life expectancy, employment and healthy behaviours. The local population is, on the whole, highly skilled, and school results are improving. While pockets of social deprivation and child poverty persist in places, chronic problems are being tackled through a strong partnership approach.

Our safeguarding services are rated as 'good'. As demand for these services continues to rise – driven, for example, by the increasing and ageing population, and by a rising number of obese adults – we have to find new ways of working and making funding go even further. We will achieve this through greater engagement with local people in developing services and better joining up with our partners.

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

- *We will carry on working closely with the NHS and other organisations to give new-born children and their families support and care from the start*
- *We will continue 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 will safely reduce the number of looked-after children, providing support to enable families to care for their children*
- *We work to support families experiencing domestic abuse, mental health and drugs and alcohol issues*
- *We work with communities, families and relevant organisations to protect vulnerable children and adults from abuse and neglect*

CASE STUDY: Phoenix Project – supporting children's development

The project is a collaboration between the council and local charity Children Heard and Seen, which supports children with parents who are currently serving prison sentences.

We enable young people to have an insight into the work of our Fire and Rescue Service, through educational sessions at a fire station covering fire prevention and road safety, and practical training drills similar to those undertaken by fire fighters.

The project discourages anti-social behaviour, mitigates the effects of parental imprisonment on children, young people and their families, and supports children's development towards improved self-esteem, confidence building and the responsibilities of becoming a young adult.

THRIVING PEOPLE (continued....)

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

- *We will continue to support residents who need support from social care, to live independently at home for as long as possible*
- *We will improve the satisfaction levels for people who access support from adult social care*
- *We work to ensure that people have choice and control over how their care needs are met*
- *We will improve the quality and sustainability of care providers in Oxfordshire*
- *We will increasingly involve people who use services and their families to design, buy and evaluate the quality of services*
- *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*

CASE STUDY: “Transitions” co-production approach in adults’ services

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, an area identified by families as needing development.

So far, the ‘Working Together’ group has identified a few key areas which they felt important to focus on. The group has also researched other approaches, visited another local authority, and plans to develop further proposals for wider contribution. 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 future.

THRIVING ECONOMY

Oxfordshire's economy is successful and growing. We want to help fully realise this economic potential in ways which bring the most benefit to local residents and communities. By investing in infrastructure such as transport and schools, supporting housing growth, and engaging in environmental protection, innovation, and community cohesion, we will generate the conditions for sustainable growth.

Oxfordshire's economy is thriving, with the county's economy as a whole generating output to the value of £21.9bn per year from 400,000 jobs and a total of over 30,000 businesses. As the western anchor to the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford growth corridor, Oxfordshire's economy is recognised as being of strategic importance to the United Kingdom as a whole.

We will enable better planning for our communities, homes, transport, schools and businesses, and take a strategic leadership role in economic and planning matters across Oxfordshire's county and district councils.

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

- *We will work with partners to develop and implement a county-wide vision for economic growth*
- *We will continue to fight for funding to invest in the county's strategic and local infrastructure to drive growth and effectively connect people to jobs and homes*
- *We undertake our spatial planning responsibilities to ensure that infrastructure connects people and places and supports the provision of access to vital services, including in growth towns*
- *Innovation will be embedded in our policies and strategies ensuring that we get the best out of new and emerging technologies*
- *We work with partners to help improve the skills available to Oxfordshire's employers and learning opportunities available to residents and workforce.*

CASE STUDY: anchoring the Oxford-Cambridge Arc

The county council's work to drive investment in infrastructure can help to address the challenges in the Oxford-Cambridge corridor. A particular area of focus is autonomous – meaning driverless – vehicles.

The DRIVEN project puts the council at the centre of a world-leading initiative 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 worldwide exploitation, and in doing so is also developing the learning, standards and requirements which councils will increasingly need to think about as Autonomous Vehicles become ever present on our roads in the coming years.

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

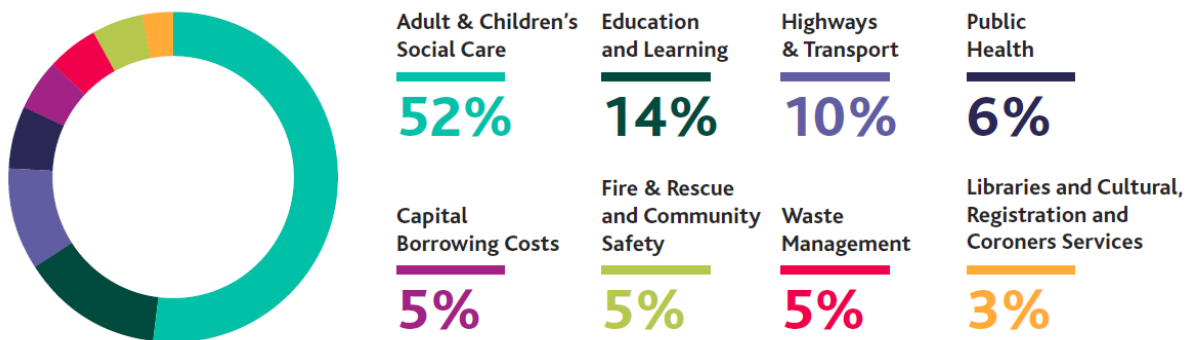
The county council cannot stand still, but must transform how it works so that we continue to strive towards the best outcomes for the county and its people.

Our transformation programme, known as Fit for the Future, is driving the internal changes needed to improve and redesign frontline services and back office functions. Through this programme, we will ensure that the council is as efficient as possible and well placed to respond to current and future demands.

Finances

The main sources of the council’s funding are locally raised council tax (61%), specific government grants to be used for specific services (22%) and locally raised business rates (12%).

For 2017/18 the council has set an overall budget of £790.8. The figures below show broadly how the planned spend of £552.9 million on services (excluding expenditure of £237.9m on schools) in 2017/18 is divided up:



CASE STUDY: FixMyStreet.com – value for money and listening to residents

Fix My Street has put residents directly in contact with our frontline Communities inspectors and specialists. Residents become our eyes on the highways, and in return receive a prompt and professional response on the issues that matter to them most.

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. Together with our new Area Management structure this promotes a pride-of-patch which will keep our highways in the best possible condition.

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.

There is a strong sense of community in rural and urban areas of the county, and a high degree of satisfaction with the local area as a place to live.

The county's economy is extremely buoyant, contributing £22bn per year to the national economy, and with rapid growth in jobs and high employment. The county is also a centre of academic research, science, and innovation.

Oxfordshire also faces a number of clear challenges over the coming years and we and our partners must address these to plan effectively for the future.

The population is growing rapidly, particularly in older age groups. Many of the council's most used services face the simultaneous challenges of rising demand and reducing funds. Whilst overall Oxfordshire is a prosperous county, there are significant and entrenched pockets of deprivation.

Our strong private sector economy has led to challenges recruiting staff to the county's workforce at all levels, especially due to high levels of house prices relative to earnings. There is a recognised need for many new houses in the county, and while this is primarily the responsibility of Oxfordshire's district councils, the county council 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

Oxfordshire's Population

Oxfordshire	678,000
Cherwell	146,000
Oxford	160,000
South Oxfordshire	137,000
West Oxfordshire	109,000
Vale of White Horse	127,000

Oxfordshire's Town & Parish Councils



All areas of the county, other than the majority of the city of Oxford, are currently 'parished'.

Division of Responsibilities

County council services	District/City council services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child protection • Fostering & adoption • Adult social care • Education support • Roads and transport • Fire and rescue • Waste disposal • Public Health • Libraries • Trading standards • Countryside access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing and benefits • Leisure • Local planning • Street cleaning • Waste collection • Environmental health • Council tax collection • Electoral registration • Parking

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

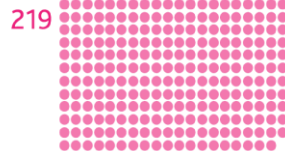
In addition, all areas of the county, other than most parts of the city of Oxford, are currently 'parished' and there are 15 town councils, 233 parish councils and 68 parish meetings.

Councillors

Oxfordshire County Councillors



District Councillors



Parishes and town councils play an important role in the local community, looking after local amenities, and providing an important link to district and county councils and other agencies on local issues.

The County Council is well placed to take a leading role in shaping the future of Oxfordshire.

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

Back cover: summary of services we offer, contact details and directions to the website

Council services

Business Trading Standards, licences and permits...	Fire and public safety Fire and rescue, emergencies, crime...
Children, education and families Parents, childcare, schools, working with children...	Social and health care Adults, children, looking after someone...
Community and living Births, deaths and ceremonies; armed forces...	Leisure and culture Libraries, museums, history, adult learning...
Environment and planning Countryside, planning, waste and recycling...	Roads and transport Public transport, roadworks, parking...

About your council

- [Councillors](#)
- [Voting and elections](#)
- [Meetings](#)
- [Council tax and finance](#)
- [Have your say](#)

Postal address, web address, social media, phone numbers

How to contact your local councillor