



Vicky Fletcher
Acting Countryside Service Manager



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**
COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE

Service areas

- Rights of way
- Definitive Map and Commons
- Access to the countryside
- Natural Environment



Key activities

- **Protection, maintenance and management of rights of way assets**
- **Records and registers**
- **Planning, advice, evidence**
- **Partnership work**



- **Based in Eynsham**
- **£2m gross/£1.3m net**
- **28 core staff**
- **19 multi-funded project staff:**
 - **TVERC**
 - **National Trails**
 - **Oxfordshire Woodland Project**
 - **Wychwood Project**



Basics

- **Economic development**
- **Efficient public services**
- **Healthy and thriving communities**
- **Protect and enhance the environment**



Outcomes

Economic development

Macro

- Promoting Oxfordshire – international countryside destinations
- Nurturing and growing enterprise - attract and retain high calibre staff
- Natural environment worth £118m
- Spend from PROW= £14m
- Improving skills & job prospects through volunteering
- Infrastructure - create sustainable or higher land values

Micro

- £ house prices
- £ office rental



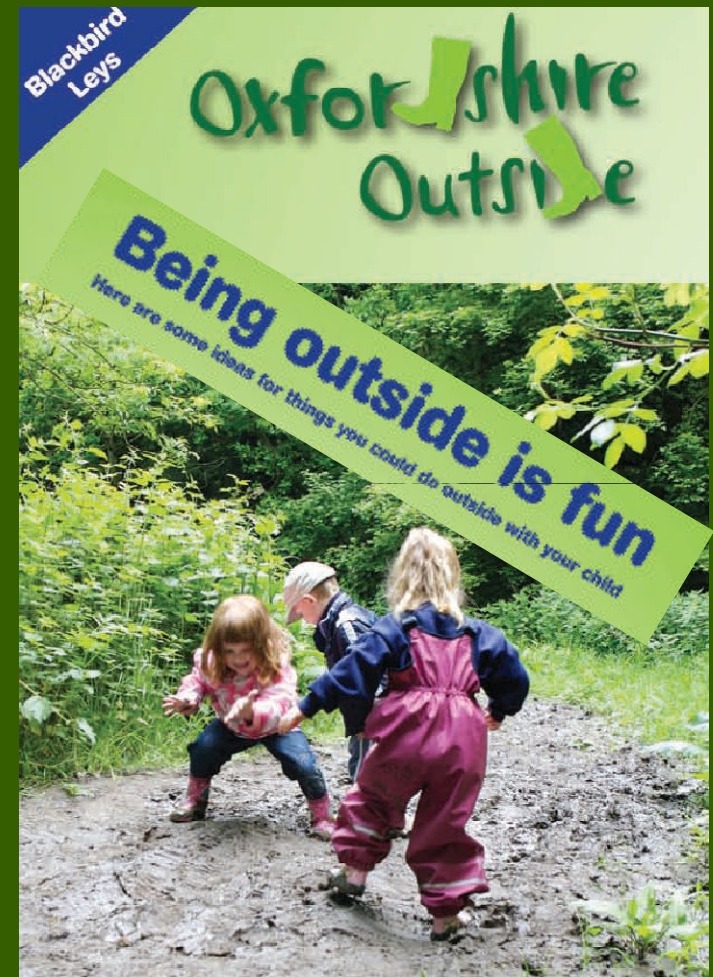
Efficient public services

- Volunteering - £160k added value p.a.
- Community ownership and management of local assets (e.g. woodlands)
- Enabling communities to deliver improvements – e.g. Parish Paths project
- Responsive to local needs and priorities
- Support community projects and local volunteer groups



Healthy and thriving communities

- Physical inactivity costs NHS £8.2billion/year
- Improving access can dramatically reduce this bill
- Walking first prescribed by doctors in Oxfordshire
- Oxfordshire has fewer accessible green-spaces than other SE counties
- Rights of way even more important in Oxfordshire for health and wellbeing



Did you know...

Walking is a great way for families to be up and about having fun together. In fact, there's probably no easier way of being active outdoors! Because walking helps you become more active, it can reduce your chances of getting serious illnesses like cancer, type 2 diabetes and heart disease in the future.

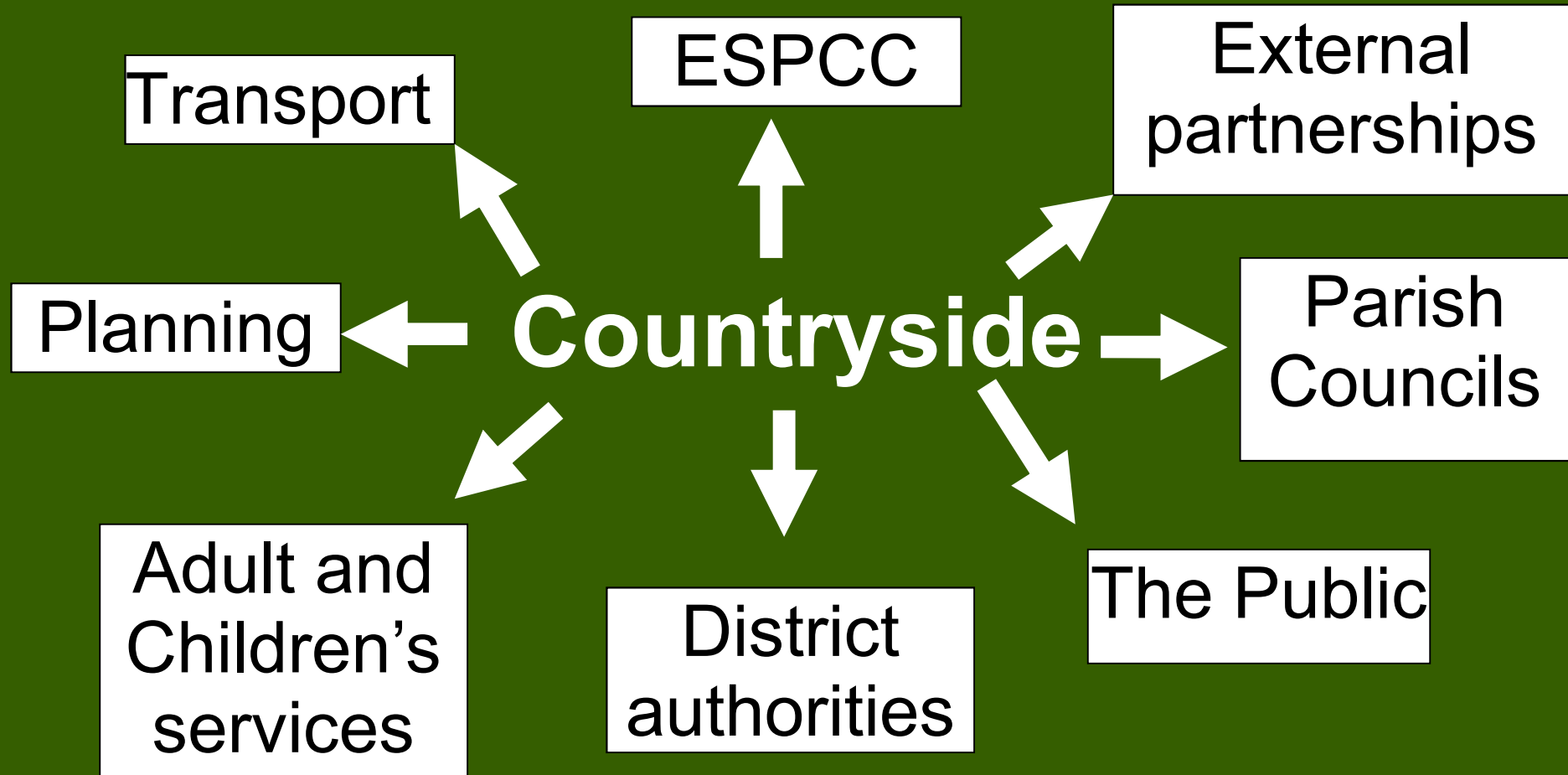


Protect & enhance the environment

- Creating win-wins for development and environment
- Spatial CTA approach – the ‘biodiversity hotspots’
- Enhance environment through partnership work:
 - LWVP – £350k of private investment
 - Wychwood - £30k raised from local residents alone
 - OWP – woodfuel



Delivery in partnership



Managing Risks

- Reputation – Corporate Social Responsibility
- Reputation – pROW often contentious locally, can end in court cases
- Reputation - infrastructure collapse (e.g. Thames Path)
- Delays to development (e.g. protected species)
- Preventing loss or damage to Oxfordshire's assets



Business Strategy

- Consultation on restructuring of Sustainable Development Strategy
- Realising savings by reducing management costs



- **Proposal will create a new group – Planning and Regulation**
- **Rights of Way and Definitive Map team retained broadly in their current form**
- **To include ‘hosted services’**
- **Mainstream work on natural environment and countryside access**



Future