3. Transport in Oxfordshire

Our goals for transport are:

- **To support the local economy and the growth and competitiveness of the county**
- **To make it easier to get around the county and improve access to jobs and services for all by offering real choice**
- **To reduce the impact of transport on the environment and help tackle climate change**
- **To promote healthy, safe and sustainable travel**

3.1 Policies

Policy G1 **Oxfordshire County Council will seek to implement this Local Transport Plan as and when funding becomes available, including seeking opportunities for funding from local communities and other external sources.**

Policy G2 **Oxfordshire County Council will give a higher priority to expenditure on maintaining existing transport assets will have a higher priority than to improvements to the network.**

Policy G3 **Oxfordshire County Council will work to ensure that the transport network can meet the requirements of the county's world class economy, whilst protecting the environment and the amenity of Oxfordshire residents.**

Policy G4 **Oxfordshire County Council will seek, as a priority, external funding to deliver:**

- **improvements to the transport network to develop access to Oxford from other towns and regions; and**
- **transport improvements within the Science Vale UK area (Didcot - Harwell - Wantage/Grove)**

Policy G5 **Oxfordshire County Council will support sustainable, healthy and inclusive modes of travel.**

Policy G6 **Oxfordshire County Council will take into account the location, best use of space and the potential need to prioritise particular movements or users when designing schemes.**

Policy G7 Oxfordshire County Council will consult from an early stage in the development of schemes and initiatives so that the needs of all groups, including disabled people, are considered and, where appropriate, acted upon.

3.1 This Local Transport Plan has been prepared in a very challenging time. It is likely that there will be very limited funding available for transport improvements in the first few years of the Plan. It is possible that no public funding may be forthcoming. Oxfordshire County Council still believes that it is important that we set out our goals and objectives for transport in the county. This will allow us to respond to external pressures on the transport system and prepare the county for the future.

3.2 The timescale covered by this Plan has allowed us to set out our aspirations for transport, even while keeping in mind the current economic situation. It is likely, though, that progress towards these will be slight in the short term. If our goals are to be met then it is likely that it will be through the development of new relationships between the council and other bodies. This could be through passing the responsibility for some activities to local communities or seeking new ways of working with organisations to achieve common goals. We will need to challenge all our ways of working to make the best of this new reality.

3.3 With the overall level of funding being scarce the priority must be to protect the networks that the county already has from deterioration, rather than seek to make improvements. This will reduce the long term resources needed to develop the network that we would wish to see given that deferring maintenance will inevitably lead to greater costs in the future. However this does not mean that we will not take opportunities for improvement should they arise, such as through funding associated with new development.

3.4 Our goals for transport seek to make Oxfordshire attractive for existing residents and businesses as well as for new development. This can only be achieved through working closely with all those interested in the future of the county. Transport impacts must play a central part in decisions on how the county develops; but new developments should also contribute towards improving the county's transport and reducing the impact of travel on the county's environment.

3.5 This does require that we strengthen our efforts to ensure that the whole county contributes together to improvement across the

county as a whole. For this Plan to be successful it will be essential that local communities and businesses take responsibility for the consequences of their activity and work together to find realistic solutions. We will use the powers at our disposal to see that this transformation occurs.