

Appendix 1

Oxford 2050: A vision for a successful and sustainable city for everyone

As it looks to the future, Oxford City Council recognises the need for an ambitious new vision for how our unique city might change and grow, while maintaining its essential character and ensuring that all its future residents benefit from a successful and sustainable future city. The City Council recognises that this vision can only be achieved with shared commitment and action from its many partners within the city and wishes to develop it as a joint vision for our city with the Oxford Strategic Partnership.

Oxford is a fast growing city with one of the highest concentrations of knowledge intensive businesses in the UK and a socially and ethnically diverse population. The economic vitality of the city over the past two decades has brought with it distinct challenges of high demand on resources alongside a reduced capacity to deal with some of the consequences of that success. We aim to ensure that our policies will enhance the social and physical environment of the city while ensuring its future economic success.

For Oxford and other fast growing cities there are major challenges from inadequate transport infrastructure; increased demand for housing and declining availability at affordable prices for rent and for purchase; and significant skills shortages. To understand and successfully manage the impacts of growth, the Council will work in partnership with business, the Higher Education and research communities, local communities and their representative organisations, the voluntary and charitable sector and other public sector partners. We will also work with partner cities elsewhere in the UK and globally to share, disseminate and apply best practice in sustainable living.

Our vision for the future of the city associates growth and development with a liveable and sustainable environment, balancing economic, social and environmental needs to ensure that the city remains a highly desirable place to live, work and visit. We will adopt policies and strategies to deliver our vision of a sustainable city.

Oxford complements and is complemented by the surrounding area of Oxfordshire and the while the vision explicitly references the city the ambition is that a successful Oxford will bring benefits to the wider 'city region'.

We want the Oxford of the future to be a city that has developed successfully and sustainably and has the following characteristics:

- Our city is a global centre for research, innovation, education and health. The city of the future will ensure that the benefits of economic success are shared by all its residents, providing full employment for local residents, and having a positive impact on their quality of life. Based on historic strengths it has maximised its potential in high tech and low carbon to become an attractive place to invest. Employment land is protected and accessibility ensured through good transport infrastructure.
- Working people can live close to their workplaces, or are able to commute using safe and accessible cycling and walking routes or through efficient zero emission mass transport systems. The air in the city is clean and safe. Broadband access will be of a quality that allows them to work effectively and efficiently from home or other remote locations. Travel options give people freedom to move easily around and across the city.
- Substantial parts of the city centre are traffic free for large parts of the day. Freight consolidation and zero emission last mile delivery systems are in place to support the needs of local businesses and other organisations.
- Our urban landscape integrates historic buildings with modern needs; people and functionality are the focus of our built environment. The city has been retrofitted to incorporate energy efficiency and renewable energy into its built heritage. The whole of the city feels safe and secure for everyone.
- The new homes delivered in and around the city are built to incorporate the lifetime homes standards and are future proofed for climate change and the needs of an ageing population; net positive in energy generation terms and affordable.

- Our energy needs are minimised through high levels of energy efficiency. Energy production is decentralised and produced from local, renewable sources. We have maximised locally owned and managed energy resources.
- Inequalities in health, life expectancy, deprivation and educational attainment have been substantially reduced, resulting in a more equal city with healthier, safer, and more prosperous residents.
- Waste as a resource is widely understood and where waste cannot be reused or recycled it is used in energy generation.
- Flood risk is mitigated at source wherever possible and water flows are managed through the use of urban trees and green roofs. Water conservation and recycling is the norm.
- Our local agricultural supply chain supports the increased supply and consumption of food that is grown within 50 kilometres of the city.
- Our citizens have easy access on foot to high quality green spaces in every part of the city. Our green spaces are rich in biodiversity and deliver multiple benefits to health and wellbeing.
- Our citizens have a range of affordable leisure facilities available to them.
- The education and training facilities that are available to all parts of the city community are of high quality and provide the basis for successful access to the labour market.
- All parts of our community live in harmony and mutual understanding; the city's ethnic and demographic diversity provides the basis for successful policies for community and inter-generational cohesion
- Our residents and visitors get joy from their surroundings and interaction from their environment.