

2. Meeting Housing Needs

Improving Oxford residents' access to affordable and high-quality homes in good environments that are close to jobs and facilities

Corporate Plan Priorities 2016-2020

Tackle the city's housing crisis by promoting high quality development of the homes that Oxford needs in the city and in locations near to Oxford, with good transport links working in partnership with developers, universities and neighbouring District Councils.

Ensure that more affordable homes are built to meet the needs of different income groups and types of employment in the city.

Improve conditions for private tenants by actively enforcing standards for private rented housing and managing the impact on neighbourhoods of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs).

Improve homes for the Council's own tenants by refurbishing our properties above national standards, making homes more energy efficient and improving the general environment of our estates.

Tackle homelessness and rough sleeping by securing appropriate accommodation and support for those affected, so that no-one has to sleep rough.

Key Achievements in 2017

Provided transitional funding of £200,000 to keep Simon House open for a further year while A2Dominion builds a new supported housing facility in Cowley.

Carried out 275 inspections of private rented properties to investigate serious threats to the health or safety of tenants. Planned for the introduction of the civil penalty system and increase inspections to 700 a year.

Commenced development at Barton Park, to deliver over 800 homes including 354 at social rent.

Secured £745,000 investment for the Blackbird Leys and Barton regeneration programmes.

Delivered a £21 million programme of major repairs and other upgrades to City Council homes.

Invested £9.5 million in the Tower Block refurbishment programme and responded to the changed Fire

Safety requirements following the Grenfell Tower disaster .

Agreed £60m loan to the Council's new Housing Company to supply around 500 new social rented homes.

Increased our stock of temporary accommodation and reduced the number of households in temporary accommodation to the lowest level since 2012.

Recommissioned the homeless pathway services following County Council budget cuts.

Started work on the Trailblazer initiative, bringing agencies together to provide targeted prevention, outreach work and advice services for those at risk of becoming homeless. Reduced risk of homelessness for 900 households.

Safeguarded residents tenancies by making 463 Discretionary Housing Payment awards from a fund of £509,495.

Improved our performance on dealing with planning applications and now exceeding all government targets for applications and planning appeals being dealt with.

Priorities for 2018 – 2020

Progress the Housing and Growth Deal investment programme jointly with other Oxfordshire Authorities to support delivery of more affordable housing.

Provide more affordable housing through the Council's Housing Company and Registered Providers and by working in partnership with Universities and public bodies.

Increase resources to tackle homelessness, through the Trailblazer initiative and the prevention services to deliver the required provisions of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

Develop a City-wide partnership to mount an effective response to the increased level of homelessness and

Success Measures	2017/2018 Targets	2017/2018 Projected outcomes
Number of new homes granted permission	400	On track
The percentage of HMOs licensed in the city	75	On track
Limit our use of temporary accommodation at 2015 levels	120	Achieved, only 96 in temporary accommodation

rough sleeping.

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Progress the planned major refurbishment and estate regeneration projects which will improve energy efficiency and the satisfaction of residents.

Develop a new Tenancy Strategy and a revised Council Tenancy Agreement in line with emerging legislation.

Increase enforcement on unauthorised dwellings (beds in sheds) and substandard and unlicensed accommodation in the HMO and private rented sector properties.