

APRIL 2021 : OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

STRATEGY : deliver 'Good Growth' : social, environment; net gain for bio diversity; net zero carbon as well as economic

OXFORDSHIRE is a growth area of increasing importance to UK economy. Currently one of only 3 net contributors to Gov Exchequer, and predicted to double the GDP from the Ox/Cam ARC by 2050. Oxfordshire County Council has a leadership role in the EEH/ARC. The Oxon science- based economy is globally significant in bio sciences, motor engineering (esp. autonomous vehicles) and energy esp renewables. County Council employs a team of researchers in Innovation Hub (iHib) who keep 600 companies and University researchers connected to develop cutting edge technologies.

PARTNERSHIPS with other Councils

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL works in successful partnerships : in the EEH REGION with Bucks, Herts, Beds, Cambs in England's Economic Heartland where East West Railway is under construction already (Bicester to Bletchley) and EEH Transport Strategy now published aiming to be net zero by 2040 with increased BB connectivity and reduced car travel. In the COUNTY OCC has developed partnerships with OxCity and all the District Councils in Growth Board to co-ordinate future strategy for housing and infrastructure planning. Oxfordshire's Strategic Vision for Long Term Sustainable Development is now approved by OCC and Growth Board and sets the basis to inform all future development, including the LTCP , OXInfrastructure Strategy and future Nature Recovery Network Strategy around defined 'good growth' for Oxfordshire: social, economic and environmental .

PARTNERSHIP with LEP

OCC works also with the LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) to reach private sector throughout the county. OXLEP is committing £2.2 billion investment into Oxon's innovation eco –system with new business accelerators/hubs in emerging technologies. Over 3,000 businesses are supported each year to grow, invest, innovate, creating new jobs, new products new services. LEP supports also significant infrastructure improvements (e.g. A40 widening scheme and P&R and OxCity's flood scheme, as well as active travel cycle/walking schemes in Witney and Bicester)

Local Industrial Strategy is the main public statement of future Oxon plans, responding to Gov Industrial Strategy . We hear the EEH/OxCam Arc is one of 32 major programmes on the PMs desk for regular up-dates, so we know it has major political support.

HOUSING

In 2012 when new NPPF was introduced, economic development in Oxon was estimated to require up to 85,000 new jobs, which clearly required many new houses, not only for new arrivals but also to meet the need for OxCity's keyworkers who are priced out of OxCity's properties – now as expensive as London. The LEP reports that 50,000 new jobs have been created already, just 9 years after NPPF

OXFORDSHIRE'S GROWTH DEAL was successfully negotiated with Gov, for £150 million over 5 years to deliver infrastructure improvements for 100,000 houses by 2031. In addition Gov has agreed to new HOUSING Infrastructure Funds : HIF 1 north of Didcot through to new river crossing at Culham, for about 15,000 houses in Didcot Garden Town (£218 million) and HIF2 widening west bound A40 from OxCity to Witney (£105 million)

2.

THERE WILL BE MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN NEXT 4 YEARS, incl. new Shrivenham roundabout on A420 at Highworth Road for direct access for new development (end May21)

OXFORDSHIRE SERVICES : 2020/21

OCC 's Covid response has been a model with growing awareness of the impact of inequality which has been focus of the new Director of Public Health since he joined OCC early in 2020.

OCC received about £72 million in Gov funding to manage the pandemic, and was able to supply 4500 school children with free meals during Easter holidays

90 % (and up to 95%) residents have been vaccinated and OCC's Public Health continues to encourage the uncertain along with managing the difficult test and trace connections.

RECOVERY

will require a new role for OCC to support Community Restart (£3million) ; its share of Levelling-up Fund (£4billion nationally) and Community Ownership .

BUSINESS GRANTS

RESTART – for non-essential retail and hospitality

Local Support Grant

Additional Restriction Grant : Oxon businesses have shared £520 million from Gov

Closed Business Lockdown payments

OTHER SERVICES with major public impact

S106 FUNDS : £839 MILLION secured from developers in 10 years: all but £150,000 spent or committed (Shrivenham roundabout funded by S.106 moneys)

EDUCATION : 93% children offered first choice school placements : attests to provision of school places : 7 new schools opened in 2020;, 5 more in pipeline

HIGHWAYS : over 40,000 road repairs (potholes!) repaired in past year : resurfacing programme of about £10 million p.a. continues

HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING ; 7 sites remain open; OCC best recycling council for 7th year at 58.9% with target to achieve 70% by 2025

BROADBAND : OCC completed roll-out superfast broadband to 98% premises and now embarked on programme for final 2% rural premises to ultrafast broadband

TRANSFORMATION : access to services moved to digital, with savings of £14.5 million achieved

BUDGET MANAGEMENT : OCC APPROVED COUNCIL TAX increase of 2.99% plus 1% for ring -fenced Adult Social Care, lowest possible increase in time of greatest stress on household budgets

Cllr Yvonne Constance

April 2021

Cllr Yvonne Constance

April 2021