

APRIL 2021 : OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

STRATEGY

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. THE Oxon science- based economy is globally significant in bio sciences, motor engineering (esp. autonomous vehicles) and energy.

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL works in successful partnerships in the region with Bucks, Herts, Beds, Cambs in ARC/EEH.' Within the county developed partnerships with OxCity and all the District Councils in Growth Board to co-ordinate future strategy and housing and infrastructure planning. 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 OFAS, flood scheme).

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.

In 2012 when new NPPF was introduced, economic development in Oxon was estimated to require 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, 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 north of Didcot through to new river crossing at Culham, for about 15,000 houses in Didcot Garden Town (£218 million) and widening west bound A40 from OxCity to Witney (£105 million)

THERE WILL BE MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN NEXT 4 YEARS

OXFORDSHIRE SERVICES : 2020/21

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 2021.

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 issues.

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

2.

RESTART – for non-essential retail and hospitality

Local Support Grant

Additional Restriction Grant

Closed Business Lockdown payments

S106 FUNDS : £839 MILLION secured from developers in 10 years: all but £150,000 spent or committed

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

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

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

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

BUDGET MANAGEMENT : OCC APPROVED COUNCIL TAX increase of 2.995 plus 1% for ring -fenced Adult Social Care, lowest possible increase in time of greatest stress on household budgets

Cllr Yvonne Constance

April 2021