our place our future

The sustainable community strategy for South Oxfordshire

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE Partnership
What is ‘Our place, our future?’

‘Our place, our future’ is the sustainable community strategy for South Oxfordshire. It sets out ways in which organisations from the public, private and voluntary and community sectors could work together to improve the quality of life for people of all ages living and working in the area. It includes:

- a long-term vision of a sustainable future for South Oxfordshire’s communities
- a picture of what life in South Oxfordshire is like now, the key issues facing us and the priorities for action
- the actions that partners are already taking, and the future plans that partners have put in place that will contribute to achieving the vision
- areas where partners can add value by working together in partnership in order to deliver priorities

Our vision for South Oxfordshire is that it will be an attractive, successful, vibrant and safe place where people choose to live, work and visit. It will be a place where everyone can enjoy:

- a good quality of life
- a strong sense of community where diversity in people and place is respected and valued
- access to the services and facilities they need to support good health and social and economic well-being.

Who is it for?

‘Our place, our future’ is aimed primarily at policy makers. It aims to ensure that the key strategies in the district are aligned and contribute to delivering the vision within ‘Our place, our future’. In a practical sense, it will inform policy makers about the key issues in South Oxfordshire and identify objectives in other areas of work that their strategies may contribute to, along with the key partners to work with in order to develop this cross-cutting work.

It also provides residents, businesses and other organisations with an overview of what improvements they can expect across a range of services in the coming years.
Summary of priorities

Economy

- Create the conditions that encourage vibrant and thriving economies in villages and towns
- Provide an environment that supports the creation and growth of new and existing businesses and attracts businesses into the district
- Achieve a sustainable balance of business growth, new jobs and environmental protection throughout the district
- Ensure that we have a workforce matched to local business needs and opportunities
- Develop the transport infrastructure and services, and housing provision needed to support the economic development of South Oxfordshire.

Environment

- Enhance the quality of our built and historic environment, through appropriate development, quality building standards and sustainable approaches to design and construction
- Improve the quality of our natural environment and support biodiversity
- Improve the quality of and access to our public open and green spaces
- Reduce waste to landfill through reducing, reusing and recycling waste, and support individuals, communities and businesses to do the same
- Conserve resources, including water, reduce energy consumption, and support individuals, communities and businesses to seek ways to economise on energy and other resource use where possible
- Be prepared for the risks and opportunities arising from a changing climate
Thriving Communities

Safe communities
- Reduce crime and antisocial behaviour
- improve feelings of safety
- reduce drug and alcohol problems
- tackle domestic abuse
- improve the safety of our roads.
- break the cycle of offending.

Meeting our housing needs
- Increase housing numbers to meet people's current and future housing needs
- meet the housing and support needs of vulnerable groups including older people
- strive to ensure new housing meets high quality standards for size, design and environmental efficiency
- ensure new housing developments are sustainable by putting in place the appropriate levels of infrastructure and community facilities
- balance housing development with protecting and enhancing the environment
- ensure that existing housing stock is enabled to become more energy efficient and that affordable housing complies with Decent Homes standards.

Strong communities
- Improve the support services for voluntary, community and faith groups
- support communities to make an active contribution to planning for their future
- promote and support opportunities for people of all ages to get involved in activities and community life
- tackle deprivation and inequality
- improve access to services and facilities for local people, particularly those who need support because of deprivation, health or access issues.

Healthy communities
- Improve access to quality health and social care
- proactively work in partnership to prevent ill health
- promote, encourage and support healthy lifestyles and mental well-being
- plan services for an ageing population
- increase participation in sport and active recreation
The South Oxfordshire Partnership (SOP)

As the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for South Oxfordshire, SOP is a non-statutory, non-executive organisation which:

- brings together at a local level representatives from the public sector – district and county councils, Police, NHS Oxfordshire and the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils - as well as private business, and community, voluntary and faith sectors, to identify how different initiatives and services support each other and work together
- supports decision making at a strategic level that takes into account need and aspiration at a local level.

SOP's role is to support and supplement rather than to duplicate the work of agencies delivering services and projects, which contribute to achieving the priorities contained within the SCS. To do this SOP will:

- share knowledge, drive partnership working and help to join up consultations
- scrutinise delivery and monitor partnership targets
- influence strategy development
- support community-led planning
- develop joint working in areas of greatest need.

SOP and community-led planning

A community-led plan is a plan for the local community, developed by the local community. They can:

- help to shape a future that the community wants to see
- influence decision making bodies to work with a community to take positive actions forward
- help to bring groups and individuals in communities together to work towards a common goal

SOP is committed to helping communities to develop a plan and will support them to:

- obtain information and advice from partners
- to get the help they need to implement their plans
- influence partners and decision makers to take community-led plans into account in their own strategies and service delivery plans.
More information

For more information about SOP and 'Our place, our future', please contact the partnerships team at South Oxfordshire District Council at partnerships@southoxon.gov.uk or by calling 01491 823612.

You can also download a copy of 'Our place, our future' and an information pack setting out how SOP can help communities to develop their community-led plans at www.southoxon.gov.uk/SOP

Alternative formats of this publication are available on request. These include large print, braille, audio cassette, computer disk and email. Please telephone the partnerships team on 01491 823612