

Our place, our future

**SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE'S SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY
STRATEGY 2009-2026**



Table of contents

Table of contents	2
Foreword	4
Purpose and aims	5
VISION	5
What is a sustainable community strategy?	7
LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENT	7
SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE'S SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY	7
WHO SHOULD USE OUR PLACE, OUR FUTURE?	7
WHERE DOES THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY FIT IN?	8
The role of SOP	10
Developing the strategy	10
DATA	10
CONSULTATION	11
STRATEGY FORMAT	11
MONITORING PROGRESS	11
Economy	12
Environment	17
DATA AND CONSULTATION	19
Thriving communities	21
SAFE COMMUNITIES	21
MEETING OUR HOUSING NEEDS	24
STRONG COMMUNITIES	28
HEALTHY COMMUNITIES	31

Equality and diversity	34
Annex A: Strategies and plans	35
Annex B: Oxfordshire Partnership	44
Annex C: SOP and Community-led planning	45
Annex D: SOP membership	47

Foreword

The South Oxfordshire Partnership brings together a wide range of people representing many organisations who wish to work together in partnership to coordinate and improve delivery of services to South Oxfordshire's communities.

In 2004, we published a plan setting out ways that members of the Partnership could work together to improve the quality of life for people living and working in South Oxfordshire, based upon a shared vision for the future of the district. *Our place, our future*, the new Sustainable Community Strategy for South Oxfordshire updates that vision and sets out plans to achieve it over the period to 2026.

We have used the views and experiences of many organisations, groups and individuals to help us to develop the strategy and have drawn on the considerable amount of data and evidence available to ensure that the issues and priorities are the ones that are most important to our communities.

We will continue to strive to achieve results through a renewed focus on partnership working both across organisations and geographically across the county. As chairman of SOP, I look forward to leading the partnership into this next phase.

***The Rt Reverend Colin Fletcher OBE
Bishop of Dorchester and Chairman of the South Oxfordshire Partnership***

This is a comprehensive strategy setting out shared priorities that partners can work together to achieve. The cross cutting nature of the strategy reflects the progress we have made in partnership working since the South Oxfordshire Partnership was established in 2002.

I am pleased to be working with so many organisations from the public, private and voluntary, community and faith sectors to share our knowledge and expertise and to join up in delivering services where this achieves better outcomes for our community. I very much look forward to continuing to build upon these relationships with partners and hope your organisation will look to the strategy for opportunities to contribute.

***Councillor Ann Ducker
Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council and Vice-Chairman of the South Oxfordshire Partnership.***

Purpose and aims

This is the Sustainable Community Strategy for South Oxfordshire. The purpose of the strategy is to identify ways in which organisations from the public, private and voluntary and community sectors could improve the quality of life for people of all ages living and working in the area.

VISION

South Oxfordshire 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.

The strategy will achieve this vision for South Oxfordshire through the following aims.

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.

What is a sustainable community strategy?

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENT

The purpose of a Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) is to 'set the overall strategic direction and long-term vision for the economic, social and environmental well-being of a local area in a way that contributes to sustainable development in the UK'. (HM Government, July 2008, Creating strong, safe and prosperous communities: statutory guidance).

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE'S SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

'Our place, our future' is the SCS for South Oxfordshire. The South Oxfordshire Partnership (SOP) has developed it on behalf of, and in partnership with South Oxfordshire District Council and other statutory service providers, and local communities including businesses, the voluntary and community sector, and faith communities. The strategy sets out a shared vision and shared sense of priorities for South Oxfordshire and its communities, and provides a framework for promoting the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of our 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
- an explanation of SOP's role in delivering the strategy and its contribution to achieving the strategy's aims

WHO SHOULD USE OUR PLACE, OUR FUTURE?

'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.

'Our place, our future' should also help those delivering strategies by supporting them to identify ways they can tailor their projects to contribute to as many of our objectives as possible. This in turn should enhance the support for projects and potentially broaden the range of funding opportunities available.

'Our place, our future' has support across key service providers in South Oxfordshire. It also sets a direction based on clear evidence. These factors mean partners can use it to help build a case for existing and new policies, projects and initiatives.

WHERE DOES THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY FIT IN?

In developing 'Our place, our future' SOP has taken account of national and regional priorities and taken steps to ensure that it integrates with other local plans. Below is a brief outline of the main strategies that have influenced 'Our place, our future' and an explanation of the links between them.

The South East Plan

The South East Regional Assembly produces the South East Plan, which sets out changes needed to improve the quality of life in the South East England region over the next 20 years. The Plan, which is currently in draft, covers housing, transport, employment and the environment and sets regional level strategy based upon national goals. For example, the Plan will set the total number of new houses that local authorities in the South East must accommodate and say how these will be distributed across the region. Further information is available at www.southeast-ra.gov.uk

Oxfordshire 2030

Oxfordshire 2030 is the SCS for the whole of Oxfordshire. Developed by the Oxfordshire Partnership, it sets the long-term direction and priorities for action at a county level. In setting the priorities in response to the long term trends facing the county, the Oxfordshire SCS must not conflict with the national and regional priorities expressed in the South East Plan. It must also reflect local needs and priorities by taking into account district SCS. Further information about the Oxfordshire Partnership and Oxfordshire 2030 is available at www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk

Local Area Agreement (LAA)

The Oxfordshire Local Area Agreement (LAA) is the agreement between Oxfordshire and the Government on the improvements partners will deliver for Oxfordshire over a three-year period.

The LAA contains 18 statutory indicators and targets relating to children and young people and 35 other indicators from the national set of indicators. The 35 indicators, and targets set against these, have been negotiated with Government through the Government Office for the South East as those that best reflect the government's national priorities and the key priorities set out in Oxfordshire 2030. Further information is available at www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk

The Local Development Framework Core Strategy

The Local Development Framework (LDF) is the new planning system, which sets out in the form of a portfolio the local development documents, which collectively deliver the spatial planning strategy for the local planning authority's area. The Core Strategy sets out the spatial vision for the local area taking into account national, regional and other local plans. For example, the Core Strategy and other relevant LDF policies must make provision to accommodate the number of new homes that the South East Plan stipulates. The Core Strategy must also take particular account of the SCS and ensure that it facilitates the implementation of spatial elements of the SCS aims and priorities. Further information is available at www.southoxon.gov.uk/yourplaceyourfuture

Corporate and business planning

Partners should take the SCS into account in developing their corporate/business plans so that priorities become aligned. Frequently Government guidance requires organisations to identify how their strategies are contributing to delivering their local SCS.

Community-led plans

Community-led plans are produced by local communities. They identify their key issues and aspirations for the future and include a list of actions to be achieved over a three to five year period. Based upon extensive engagement and consultation with the whole community, the plans are a useful source of evidence for decision makers and policy makers and should be taken into account when strategies are being developed. Government guidance specifically refers to the potential importance of community led-plans in informing SCSs and local development framework policies.

Sixteen communities in South Oxfordshire have already produced a parish plan or market town plan and a further fifteen communities are in the process of developing their plans. Further information is available at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/communityledplanning

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

Developing the strategy

We have developed 'Our place, our future' using evidence from data about the current situation in South Oxfordshire and projected trends for the future, and the results of consultation with partners, stakeholders and residents.

DATA

Our data included:

- statistics and information covering economic, social and environmental aspects of life in Oxfordshire. The data was pulled together under a joint project led by Oxfordshire County Council and the Oxfordshire Data Observatory to inform the county and districts' SCSs. The twelve theme papers arising from the data gathering project are available at www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk
- the contents of completed parish plans and market town action plans
- additional data gathered and used by partners in developing their own strategies and service plans.

CONSULTATION

We used the results of consultation with partners, stakeholders and local people obtained through:

- stakeholder workshops held during the summer of 2007
- residents' workshops
- the South Oxfordshire disability equality panel
- public consultation through Outlook, the district council newsletter
- consultation with district councillors and partners
- additional consultations undertaken by partners in developing their own strategies and plans, e.g. neighbourhood action groups and citizens panels.

STRATEGY FORMAT

The following pages set out:

- the aims for South Oxfordshire under the themes of economy, environment and thriving communities (which align with the themes of the Oxfordshire SCS)
- existing strategies and plans that will contribute to achieving these aims
- what SOP will do to support this work.
- the indicators we will use to monitor progress.

MONITORING PROGRESS

The strategy identifies a total of 14 key indicators that SOP will regularly monitor to maintain an overview of the progress being made to achieve the strategy aims. SOP will use this information to identify areas of the strategy where progress needs to be improved and will carry out a more detailed review of partners' actions in those areas, using additional relevant indicators and targets to help it to understand what further action is needed and how partners can work together to support this.

Economy

Key issues

Overall, South Oxfordshire has a healthy and thriving economy with low unemployment. The Oxfordshire economy as a whole performs well compared with our geographical neighbours and the South East region. Overall, the economic outlook for the district is favourable, and South Oxfordshire has a history of successful small business start-ups, many located in our rural areas. However, our market towns in Henley, Thame and Wallingford face challenges to their viability as service and retail centres in the face of competition from larger retail centres and the internet. Skills shortages may also undermine the performance of the economy. There is potential for the sensitive development of tourism and visitor management services to contribute to the economy of our towns and villages.

Didcot, recently designated a new growth point, has benefited from investment in a new shopping centre, cinema and the Cornerstone Arts Centre and is due to see its population increase from around 25,000 in 2008 to 43,000 by 2026. The areas around Didcot, Harwell and Milton Park, where there is a concentration of science based and high-tech industry, have large investment planned in terms of housing, jobs and research. Didcot is a key element within Science Vale UK where key players are working in partnership to promote the area as a first choice location for high value added business and research.

Although in the long-term, the economic outlook for the district is favourable, at the time of writing South Oxfordshire, like the rest of the country faces sharp, economic decline and difficult and uncertain conditions in the short-term.

Vision and aims

Our vision is that South Oxfordshire will have a diverse, vibrant and thriving economy supported by the necessary transport and housing infrastructure, and workforce. Our aims are to:

- 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

Delivery

The matrix of strategies set out in annex A shows how the aims will be delivered by partners. In addition, SOP will:

- contribute to the development of an Economic Development Strategy for South Oxfordshire
- help facilitate partnership working to support specific projects such as the Didcot Development and Science Vale UK, shaping our market towns, and the Southern Oxfordshire LEADER project, and review progress
- contribute to a review of the district council's current tourism services and the development of a statement setting out its future approach to tourism and visitor management
- help to support and link up partners' engagement with the business community
- where appropriate lobby at a regional or national level for changes in policies that affect the local economy.

LAND USE PLANNING

The local development framework will support delivery of the aims by:

- allocating land for business use and growth which will satisfy future demand and help to reduce current high levels of out-commuting
- making provision for appropriate infrastructure development to support the strategy's economic development aims, e.g. transport, education
- setting out the role that different places in the district will contribute to the overall spatial vision for South Oxfordshire including developing policy to focus retail activity in the most appropriate place
- supporting schemes to upgrade the existing stock of employment land

OXFORDSHIRE 2030

The Oxfordshire SCS includes a number of aims that support those of 'Our place, our future' in relation to the economy. These include:

- tackle traffic congestion across Oxfordshire, particularly on trunk roads and around market towns, Oxford City and other hotspots
- ensure that educational attainment and skill levels are amongst the very best in the country so we provide a well qualified, motivated workforce to meet the needs of business
- create the conditions for everyone to have access to jobs.

Cross cutting issues

Achieving our aims for the economy will also support other priorities in the SCS for example, by contributing to:

- maintaining the vibrancy and sense of community in our towns and villages
- achieving safer communities, with lower levels of crime, drug and alcohol problems, and domestic abuse.
- breaking the cycle of deprivation by providing jobs and training which, along with somewhere to live, are essential in rehabilitating offenders.

Consultation and data

Our consultation told us:

- there are concerns about the future viability of our market towns and more action is needed to support them
- survival of independent business and specialist retail outlets is seen as key to the prosperity of market towns
- small businesses make a key contribution to the local economy
- industrial and commercial units in rural areas help to sustain village life and the rural economy
- local trade should be supported and encouraged
- more should be made of the historical and cultural attractions that the district has to offer, including the amenity offered by the River Thames
- improved visitor facilities such as better public toilets and improved footpaths and cycle paths linking market towns to surrounding villages are needed to make them more accessible and attractive to visitors
- there are pockets of unemployment and deprivation in some parts of the district that are overlooked because they are dispersed and are not captured in the data
- the attractive nature of the countryside and the pleasant environment contributes to the success of our economy. We need to balance the pressure for economic growth and prosperity with conservation of our environment
- there is anecdotal evidence that migrant workers are living and working here but data is often out of date and it is difficult, therefore, to understand the implications for the local economy or the needs of migrant workers

Our research highlighted the following key issues:

- in Oxfordshire in 2004, gross value added (GVA)¹ per head was 16 per cent above the South East average and 22 per cent above the English average
- small businesses thrive in South Oxfordshire. Businesses registering for VAT in South Oxfordshire in 2002 had the highest survival rate (77 per cent) in the

¹ GVA is the difference between the value of goods and services produced and the cost of raw materials and other inputs which were used in their production

county

- unemployment rates are very low in South Oxfordshire, currently running at around less than one per cent, however, in the short-term Oxfordshire faces a projected decline in employment of between six per cent and seven per cent by 2010. The financial services sector is seen as particularly vulnerable to the 'credit crunch' and more than a quarter of South Oxfordshire's working age population works in financial and business services.
- employment growth in Oxfordshire is relatively poor showing an increase of only three per cent between 1998 and 2005 compared with the South East average of 10 per cent and the England average of nine per cent
- while there is a highly skilled workforce, the below average levels of educational attainment are a major issue for the long-term health of the economy and of our communities generally and 28 per cent of businesses in the district report a skills gap
- farm based employment has declined by almost one-fifth since 1990 but farming remains of vital importance to Oxfordshire
- there is considerable out-commuting from South Oxfordshire to Oxford to the north, Reading and London to the south and to Wycombe and Maidenhead a few miles to the east but congestion on the A34 and rail network is a problem and access to Reading and Oxford is also an issue
- in Oxfordshire the sectors in which the most significant growth is forecasted to take place are education, knowledge intensive business services, health and the visitor economy
- High value added business and research are very important to South Oxfordshire; 13 per cent of England's research and development employment is based in the Science Vale UK area, incorporating Didcot, and strategic employment sites at Harwell and Milton Park and there are plans for 10,000 new jobs.

COMMUNITY- LED PLANS

Economic issues also rate as a priority in rural communities. A high proportion of community led plans raised concerns about rural businesses and services.

For example, people in Chinnor and Crowmarsh want to encourage and maintain local employment opportunities. People in Watlington want to take action to preserve existing businesses, and in Goring want to encourage new and diverse businesses to the area. In Wheatley people would like to see planning policies that are favourable to the development of the retail sector, and more provision for parking.

Measures

We will monitor and scrutinise progress using the following indicators:

- overall employment rate
- new business VAT registration rate
- percentage of small businesses in the area showing employment growth.

Environment

Key issues

In South Oxfordshire we benefit from a high quality environment. The district contains two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (the Chilterns and North Wessex Downs), and supports a rich variety of habitat and wildlife. Levels of cleanliness in our public spaces are good, and air quality in the district is good overall. But, as elsewhere in the country, South Oxfordshire faces challenges from the impacts of climate change and the need to conserve our resources and use them wisely, and reduce our energy consumption and CO₂ emissions. Air quality is threatened in places where traffic congestion is a problem or is predicted to become a problem in the future. There is also a demand for more housing, particularly affordable housing in the district, and we need to ensure that housing development and the associated infrastructure to support this is balanced with protecting and enhancing the environment.

Vision and aims

Our vision is that South Oxfordshire is recognised for its high quality and well managed environment both in terms of its countryside and natural environment, and its built and historic environment. To achieve this partners will:

- 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.

Delivery

The matrix of strategies set out in annex A shows how the aims will be delivered by partners. In addition, SOP will:

- adopt and implement the SOP carbon action plan
- encourage and support community initiatives
- promote links with local businesses engaged in developing technologies which facilitate energy and carbon reduction
- encourage and support partners to ensure they can deliver services in a changing climate

LAND USE PLANNING

The Local Development Framework will support our environmental aims through policies that:

- encourage the development of new homes and employment sites in sustainable locations
- minimise the impact of development on the quality of green spaces and encourage development which enhances the environment
- encourage redevelopment of derelict and brownfield sites
- support biodiversity and enhance and support our green infrastructure
- support the conservation of resources and a reduction in carbon emissions, for example through encouraging sustainable approaches to design and construction or sustainable alternative transport options.

OXFORDSHIRE 2030

The Oxfordshire Partnership also supports our aims for the environment and through the Oxfordshire SCS work will be undertaken to:

- reduce carbon emissions and improve energy and water efficiency by public sector organisations, and encourage residents and businesses to do the same
- reduce waste and increase re-use and recycling by households and businesses
- minimise the effects and risk of flooding
- ensure new development is built to high environmental standards
- support individuals, communities and businesses, to respond to climate change and to improve efficiency in their use of energy and water
- keep Oxfordshire 'clean and green'
- protect and enhance the biodiversity of the county.

Cross-cutting issues

A well managed environment is a key reason why people like to live and work in and visit South Oxfordshire. Our environmental aims support our economy aims by:

- attracting businesses, and people to work in them, into the district and helping them decide to stay here
- helping to make our market towns and countryside places where people choose to visit and shop.

We also need well managed environments that provide access to plenty of open and green spaces to help people to live active and healthy lives.

DATA AND CONSULTATION

Our consultation told us:

- climate change, and its impact on all aspects of the environment, are of increasing concern to people of all ages living in South Oxfordshire
- encouraging and providing facilities for recycling is important and businesses should also be supported to recycle
- as well as increasing recycling we should reduce the amount of waste we produce
- we need to make reducing energy consumption a priority and do more to improve the energy efficiency of our buildings
- protecting and enhancing the countryside, its habitats and wildlife is important
- people recognise the need for additional housing in their villages and want to balance the need for development with protecting and enhancing the environment
- people want partners to take action to maintain good air quality and improve it in areas where it is poor
- alternatives to the use of private cars need to be encouraged and supported.

Our research highlighted the following key issues:

- predicted changes in climate in Oxfordshire suggest an annual increase in temperature of between 0.5°C and 1.5°C by 2020
- domestic energy consumption and CO₂ emissions in South Oxfordshire are higher than the Oxfordshire, South East and UK averages
- at 164 litres per person per day, water consumption in Oxfordshire is higher than the England and Wales water industry average of 152 litres
- poor air quality issues in South Oxfordshire are directly linked to congestion and transport emissions
- there are two Air Quality Management Areas, in Henley and Wallingford, where nitrogen oxides levels are likely to breach UK air quality strategy objectives
- at 1.45 cars per household the ratio of car ownership to households in South Oxfordshire is the highest in the county
- the amount of domestic waste recycled or composted increased to just under 40 per cent in 2007/2008; the level of domestic waste collected per head has increased
- South Oxfordshire has a total of 203 designated nature conservation sites and in 2006/07 1066.6 hectares were designated as county wildlife sites.
- sites of Special Scientific Interest cover 2.3 per cent of our land area and 85 per cent of these are in a favourable or unfavourable but recovering condition
- the amount of land under cultivation for energy crops in Oxfordshire has increased from 16.95 hectares in 2003 to just under 1054 hectares in 2007, with consequences for biodiversity.

COMMUNITY-LED PLANS

The rising level of interest in the broad spectrum of environmental issues is reflected in recently completed parish plans. In Goring residents wanted to see greater encouragement to use green fuels and West Hagbourne residents want to encourage more recycling. The Woodcote Parish Plan, published in April 2008, contains a section on the natural environment which sets out high priority aims and actions such as assessing the environmental assets and natural habitats of the village, publicising litter picking days, holding a workshop on the 'environmentally friendly garden' and publicising sources of information and support on energy-saving in the home.

Measures

We will use the following key indicators to monitor progress:

- CO₂ reduction from local authority operations
- household waste recycled and composted
- improved bio-diversity – active management of local sites.

Thriving communities

Thriving communities includes a range of issues, as follows:

- safe communities
- meeting our housing needs
- strong communities
- healthy communities.

SAFE COMMUNITIES

Key issues

While South Oxfordshire has low crime rates compared to the rest of the UK, it does have problems including antisocial behaviour, alcohol related violence, road accidents and domestic abuse.

Vision and aims

Our vision is that South Oxfordshire continues to be a safe place to live, work and visit and that people feel safe and secure enabling them to take part in community life. Our specific aims are to:

- 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.

Delivery

The matrix of strategies set out in annex A shows how the aims will be delivered.

The South Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a sub-group of SOP. This means that SOP will support the CSP to deliver its strategy, will hold it to account in delivering its targets and actions and sign-off the statutory annual refresh of the strategy. SOP will also (via the CSP) support the neighbourhood action groups (NAGs) to engage with communities to identify and resolve the issues important in their neighbourhood.

LAND USE PLANNING

The Local Development Framework will support these aims through the supplementary planning document (SPD) of the South Oxfordshire Design Guide, which includes guidance on designing out crime in new development.

OXFORDSHIRE 2030

The Oxfordshire SCS supports our aims for safer communities. The strategy contains pledges to:

- tackle crime and antisocial behaviour, particularly where the cause is the abuse of alcohol or other substance misuse
- work to prevent all forms of extremism that threaten the well-being of local people and communities

Cross-cutting issues

Improving safety contributes to many other aims within our strategy. If people feel safe in their environment and do not worry about crime they are more likely to take part in community activities and recreation leading to stronger and healthier communities.

We know from developing our market town action plans that a safe environment is important to businesses, employees and visitors and will contribute to creating vibrant towns and villages

Consultation and data

Our consultation told us:

- people see young people hanging around as a problem
- cars parked inconveniently, dangerously or illegally is an increasing problem along with the antisocial use of motor vehicles
- speeding is a key concern
- under age drinking and people of all ages being drunk or rowdy are problems.

Our research highlighted the following key issues:

- overall crime reduced by 10 per cent between 2003/04 and 2007/08
- 96 per cent of people feel safe in our community during the daytime and 76 per cent feel safe after dark
- only two percent of the young people in Oxfordshire offend
- criminal damage accounts for around 20 per cent of our crimes
- we have more road accidents than any other Oxfordshire district (during 2006 we had the highest number of fatal and serious road accidents)
- our levels of burglary and vehicle crime are higher than areas which are similar to South Oxfordshire
- alcohol related accident and emergency admissions are rising
- domestic abuse is under-reported
- a small proportion of offenders commit a high proportion of our crime.

COMMUNITY-LED PLANS

Many of the parish plans completed by villages in South Oxfordshire highlight community safety as a key issue and have specific plans to make improvements. For example, Cholsey's parish plan contains an aim to reduce speeding, West Hagbourne's aims to seek solutions to the increase in volume and the speed of traffic through the village and Chinnor's sought more visible policing.

Measures

We will monitor and scrutinise progress measured by the following indicators:

- assault with injury crime rate
- dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police

MEETING OUR HOUSING NEEDS

Key issues

The increasing population of South Oxfordshire, particularly the increasing proportion of older people and single person households, will put significant additional pressure on our current housing stock, and exacerbate the current shortage of affordable housing.

Vision and aims

Our vision is that people wanting to live in South Oxfordshire should have access to good quality housing and new developments should have had a minimal negative impact on our environment. We will deliver this vision through the following aims:

- 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.

Delivery

The matrix of strategies set out in annex A shows how the housing aims will be delivered. In addition SOP will:

- support the development of a South Oxfordshire older peoples housing strategy to address the issues related to an increasingly ageing population
- work with SODC in refreshing their housing strategy and the development of a new affordable housing supplementary planning document, to ensure they are consistent with and help deliver the aims of the SCS.

LAND USE PLANNING

The local development framework will support delivery of the aims by:

- allocating additional sites in sustainable locations to provide new housing in a variety of communities. For example placing larger developments in locations accessible to existing facilities but also taking into account the contribution a few new houses can make to the sustainability of smaller communities, and considering environmental factors such as the need to avoid locations liable to flood
- ensuring that a proportion of housing on new developments is affordable housing
- addressing the housing needs of particular groups such as older people and young people, based upon a district-wide housing needs survey
- setting out planning policies which require new developments to meet quality standards and including a requirement to meet quality standards in the relevant LDF document.

OXFORDSHIRE 2030

The Oxfordshire Partnership supports our work and in addition is overseeing the delivery of some specific priorities as set out in Oxfordshire 2030 such as work 'to improve support and opportunities for independent living'.

Cross-cutting issues

The provision of good quality housing affects the achievement of many of our other SCS aims, in particular supporting healthy communities since:

- a stable home environment and good quality housing impacts on people's physical and mental health
- we need sufficient housing for key workers such as nurses and other healthcare professionals.

Increasing housing numbers also supports our aims for:

- vibrant and thriving villages and towns by helping companies to recruit staff that can live locally
- involving people in community life by helping people of all ages to live locally.

Consultation and data

Our consultation told us the following issues are important:

- increasing the amount of homes including more low cost housing
- supporting the viability of villages and help young people to stay living locally with their families
- balancing the demand for housing with conservation
- improving housing quality and choice for older people
- increasing home energy efficiency.

Our research highlighted the following key issues:

- an overall annual shortfall in supply of housing of 883 units in the market sector and 530 units of affordable housing
- number of people in homeless accommodation in South Oxfordshire has fallen from 162 in 2002/03 to 69 in 2005/06
- the population of South Oxfordshire is projected to increase from 129,300 in 2006 to 145,700 in 2026; an increase of 13 per cent
- the biggest population increases will be in the 45-64 age group (increase of 8,300 between 2006 and 2026) and over 65 age group (increase of 9,150) which is likely to impact on the demand for supported housing, support services and adaptations
- there is an imbalance of housing supply with housing need in terms of type, size, tenure and location with a noticeable need for two-bedroom units in the market sector and small and family units in the social sector

COMMUNITY-LED PLANS

Housing is a key issue in many community-led plans. For example, an objective of the Benson parish plan is that a high proportion of new dwellings is affordable housing that is retained in perpetuity for local people. The Dorchester parish plan contains actions to progress the provision of affordable housing, investigate possible building sites and consider and recommend the primary groups for whom housing should be provided.

LOCAL HOMES FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

Our consultation and community-led plans highlight people's desire for their families to be able to stay living locally which is often difficult given the high house prices in the district. While we understand people's desires for local housing to be saved for local people, we are not able to restrict who buys market houses. However, when building affordable housing on rural exception sites we do ensure this is first and foremost for local people.

Measures

We will monitor and scrutinise progress using the following indicators:

- the number of additional homes provided
- the number of affordable homes delivered.

Definition of housing terms

Affordable housing is a general term for housing that is offered through favourable schemes to make it affordable. Affordable housing schemes include social rented housing and intermediate housing provided for households whose needs are not met by the housing market. Affordable homes are provided at sub-market prices, and restricted to specified types of household.

Rural exception sites are where local planning authorities permit residential development in rural areas to meet identified local needs in locations where it would not normally be permitted. This secures the provision of new affordable housing in rural communities on sites where general market housing is inappropriate because of, for example, the need to protect the character of villages or to prevent development in unsustainable locations.

Extra care housing schemes are purpose built accommodation for older people with higher levels of care and support needs. Services provided typically include an on-site care team providing 24/7 care support, activity and recreation facilities plus a kitchen providing a midday meal.

STRONG COMMUNITIES

Key issues

People want to live somewhere with a strong sense of community and have access to services and facilities to enable them to have a good quality of life. A strong voluntary and community sector is important in creating strong communities.

Vision and aims

Our vision is that people live in towns and villages with a strong sense of community and that we have a strong voluntary, community and faith sector that is equipped to contribute to all aspects of the SCS. We will deliver this vision through the following aims:

- 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.

Delivery

The matrix of strategies set out in annex A shows the key documents for delivery. In addition SOP will:

- develop a stronger community planning framework to enable communities to articulate concerns and make an active contribution to planning for their future
- support parish councils, voluntary, community, faith groups, neighbourhood action groups and other local groups to share information and network to build their capacity as appropriate
- support SODC to work in partnership to develop an arts development plan to identify opportunities to involve the community in developing, running and participating in arts activities
- join up consultation and engagement opportunities so that organisations can share information and avoid overloading residents.

LAND USE PLANNING

The Local Development Framework will support these aims by:

- establishing which facilities are required within South Oxfordshire and how the planning framework can assist in providing them
- ensure that new development provides the facilities and infrastructure required through contributions from development and through partnership working
- consider how the infrastructure will be funded.

OXFORDSHIRE 2030

The Oxfordshire SCS contains the following pledges which support our objectives for stronger communities:

- work with local people including the voluntary, community and faith organisations and the military to sustain and build supportive, cohesive, resilient and well planned communities
- defend access to services in rural communities
- regenerate deprived local communities.

Cross cutting issues

A thriving voluntary and community sector supports all the aims of our strategy, some recent examples include:

- the number of hours volunteers contributed to the work of the citizens' advice bureaux in Didcot, Henley, Thame and Wallingford was valued at £367,000 in 2006/07. They worked for free to help local people with housing, family and debt problems
- Didcot Baptist Church volunteers set up a youth organisation called Didcot TRAIN to work with vulnerable young people in their own settings to develop and run the activities to contribute to their development and deter them from antisocial behaviour.

Creating a stronger sense of community also contributes to people's good physical and mental health and well-being.

Consultation and data

Our consultation told us the following issues are important:

- people like to live somewhere with a strong sense of community
- people support voluntary and community groups/volunteering
- people want us to encourage local solutions and community development
- voluntary and community groups' priorities for additional support are:
 - information, advice and support for starting new groups/organisations and on funding opportunities
 - help with recruiting, managing and retaining volunteers and access to premises and facilities
 - information and advice on public policy, good practice and legislation
- many people rely on community and voluntary action to help them access public and other services, for example community transport schemes to take people to hospital appointments

Our research highlights the following key issues:

- South Oxfordshire currently has the most community-led plans completed or underway compared with other Oxfordshire districts
- 34 per cent of people living in rural areas belong to a community group
- around 150,000 people in Oxfordshire volunteer, giving 12 million hours per year
- the support services for voluntary, community and faith groups in Oxfordshire are not as good as elsewhere in the country
- there are an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 community groups in Oxfordshire
- the index of multiple deprivation highlights two areas in south Oxfordshire which have noticeably higher deprivation levels than the rest of the district (Berinsfield and Didcot All Saints). Scattered pockets of rural deprivation also exist in our rural communities but is less easy to quantify.
- Rural South Oxfordshire ranked very poorly on a national measure of geographical access to services. Services highlighted as less accessible in rural areas by an audit carried out by Oxfordshire County Council in 2005 (measured in terms of journey time by car) were GPs, dentists, further education and healthy, affordable food.

COMMUNIT-LED PLANS

Local parish plans highlight the importance of volunteers in the community and people's aspirations for a supportive and neighbourly community. For example, the Brightwell cum Sotwell plan recognises the importance of volunteer-run events and the clear need for a higher profile for the various voluntary services on offer. The West Hagbourne plan contains many actions to create stronger communities including investigating the establishment of a village meeting place, creating a register of volunteers willing to offer their skills for village projects and producing a welcome information pack for new villagers.

Measures

We will monitor and scrutinise progress measured by the following indicators:

- people who feel they belong to their neighbourhood
- people's participation in regular volunteering

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Key issues

While South Oxfordshire generally has a healthy population when compared to the whole country, issues such as an ageing population and increasing obesity are impacting on people's health and putting additional pressure on our health and social services. In a rural district such as South Oxfordshire access to health services can be difficult for people who rely on public transport. Other barriers to accessing services may be issues for some groups such as migrant workers, carers and people who experience mental or physical disabilities.

Vision and aims

Our vision is that people living in South Oxfordshire will lead long, happy and healthy lives with good access to health services and recreational opportunities that will help them maintain their health and well-being. Our specific aims are to:

- 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.

Delivery

The matrix of strategies set out in annex A shows how the aims will be delivered. In addition SOP will:

- develop a South Oxfordshire health and well-being plan to drive partnership working
- work with residents and local groups (including parish councils, voluntary organisations and GPs) to identify gaps in service, deliver initiatives and seek funding for health projects
- work with the South Oxfordshire community sports network to promote opportunities for sport and active recreation.

LAND USE PLANNING

The Local Development Framework will support these aims by:

- ensuring that the health care infrastructure can meet the needs of new developments and make provision for this
- considering how the additional healthcare infrastructure needs can be funded e.g. through negotiating legal agreements with developers.
- recognising the importance of accessible and open space in promoting exercise and recreation.

OXFORDSHIRE 2030

The Oxfordshire SCS contains a pledge to 'promote healthy lifestyles including the increase of physical activity'.

Cross-cutting issues

By supporting people to lead long and healthy lives we are also contributing to our aim for a thriving economy by helping us to have a healthy workforce.

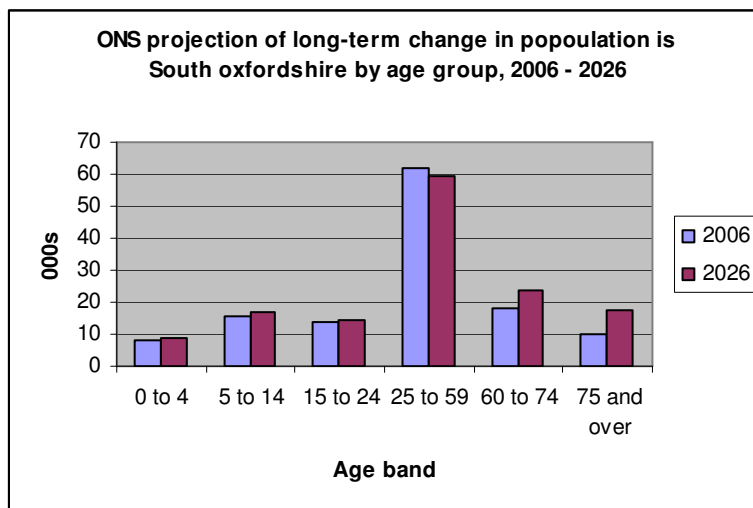
Consultation and data

Our consultation tells us that:

- people support maintaining their local community hospitals
- it's important to support older people to live in their homes and be active citizens

The data shows:

- South Oxfordshire's total population is expected to grow by 9 per cent by 2026 with the population group aged 75 and over expected to grow by 73 per cent



ONS 2006-based population projections, crown copyright reserved

- life expectancy is significantly higher in Oxfordshire than in England
- heart disease, hypertension and stroke are the most common cause of death in Oxfordshire
- South Oxfordshire has a higher than average prevalence of hypertension, asthma, chronic heart disease and cancer compared with the average for Oxfordshire

- the percentage of people with a limiting long term illness will increase as our population ages and will increase the demand on health and social services
- the prevalence of most mental illness is set to increase over the next decade by three to four per cent including an increase in people with dementia
- obesity rates are rising across all localities and age groups
- 27 per cent of the adult population in South Oxfordshire participate in 30 minutes of moderate exercise three times per week which is below the national average
- all of South Oxfordshire is within 25 minutes of a hospital by car, whereas only 10 per cent of people have access to public transport that would take them to a hospital in under 60 minutes
- over 11,000 people in South Oxfordshire are providing unpaid care.

COMMUNITY-LED PLANNING

Local parish plans often recognise the need for better sports and other recreation facilities. For example, Watlington's plan aimed to improve sports facilities and the village recently got a new recreation ground pavilion. The Dorchester-on-Thames plan contains an action to upgrade play facilities.

Some parish plans also highlight the need for better health facilities with actions related to working with statutory partners to identify opportunities for this. For example the Cholsey parish plan contains actions to provide a doctors' surgery, lobby the relevant organisations to retain and improve hospital facilities, investigate the possibility of NHS dentist provision and encourage great use of the local pharmacy.

Measures

We will monitor and scrutinise progress measured by the following indicators:

- adult participation in sport
- all-age all cause mortality rate

Equality and diversity

SOP is committed to its role in promoting and encouraging action to support equality and diversity in South Oxfordshire. SOP has carried out an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) of the SCS focussing on the following equality strands:

- people from black and minority ethnic communities
- disabled people
- women
- people of a particular religion or belief
- people of a particular sexual orientation (bisexual, gay men, gay women/lesbian, heterosexual/straight)
- younger and older people
- people living in rural/urban communities.

The EIA looked at any potential negative impacts on these groups, both in terms of the process used to develop the strategy and the content of the strategy. To implement the findings of the EIA, SOP will:

- ensure that SOP's structure and membership facilitates greater representation and input from groups and individuals representing the different equality strands
- carry out an audit of the different groups that member partners currently engage with, and share this information so that all partners can extend their consultation and engagement across the equality strands
- encourage and influence partners to undertake EIAs or similar when developing strategies and service plans
- support the gathering and sharing of information and data on topics and issues for which reliable data is not readily available, for example dispersed pockets of deprivation, migrant workers and their needs.

ANNEX B

Annex A: Strategies and plans

The table below shows the key strategies and plans that contribute to delivering the aims of the SCS. In our online version of the strategy, this table is interactive and provides web links to the strategies and plans listed.

Strategy or plan	Example of key objectives or actions	Lead partner	Key themes the strategy/plan contributes to		
			Economy	Environment	Thriving communities
Oxfordshire 2030	<p>The sustainable community strategy for the whole of Oxfordshire, it sets the long-term direction and priorities for action at a county level. Priorities are listed under the themes of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a world class economy • healthy and thriving communities • environment and climate change • reducing inequalities and breaking the cycle of deprivation 	Oxfordshire Partnership	•	•	•
Local Area Agreement (LAA)	<p>This is the short-term delivery plan for the top priorities in Oxfordshire 2030. It sets out the national indicators and targets agreed between the Oxfordshire Partnership and Government for delivering improvements in Oxfordshire over a three-year period. The current LLA runs from 2008 -2011</p>	Oxfordshire Partnership	•	•	•

ANNEX B

Strategy or plan	Example of key objectives or actions	Lead partner	Key themes the strategy/plan contributes to		
			Economy	Environment	Thriving communities
South Oxfordshire District Council Corporate Plan	Strategic objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protecting our environment • delivering homes for all • supporting economic growth • transforming Didcot • helping people feel safe and secure • improving opportunities, activities and support for young people • strengthening local communities 	South Oxfordshire District Council	•	•	•
South Oxfordshire Local Development Framework (LDF)	Currently in development, the LDF is a portfolio of local development documents, which collectively delivers the spatial planning strategy for South Oxfordshire and is a key delivery vehicle for aims under each of the themes in the SCS.	South Oxfordshire District Council	•	•	•
Oxfordshire Rural Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies specific rural needs and circumstances and help access sources of rural funding 	Oxfordshire Rural Forum	•	•	•
Oxfordshire Economic Development Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting education and business • participating in learning, training and labour market • investing in workforce development • making town centre vitality a higher priority for attention and support 	Oxfordshire Economic Partnership	•		

ANNEX B

Strategy or plan	Example of key objectives or actions	Lead partner	Key themes the strategy/plan contributes to		
			Economy	Environment	Thriving communities
Science Vale UK Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting Science Vale UK as a first choice location for high value added business and research and an attractive and desirable place to live • working to obtain strategic investment in public transport and roads to link the housing and employment areas • working to improve technician and vocational skills as well as higher level skills 	SEEDA (chair) Vale of White Horse District Council (project manager)	•		
Market Towns Strategy 2006-2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing individual action plans for each market town, redeveloping key sites within the towns such as the former Waitrose site in Wallingford, and encouraging inward investment • improving competitiveness through projects to improve parking, address visitor development and traffic management and pedestrianisation • improving quality of offer through improvements to streetscape, developing town centre plans, realising potential of heritage and creating new facilities for young people • increasing consumer-friendliness through improving toilets, cycle access and footpath networks, and enhancing facilities for usage of River Thames 	South Oxfordshire District Council	•	•	•
South Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan 2006-2011	<p>Improve access to jobs and services, particularly for those most in need, in ways which are both safe and sustainable by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tackling congestion • delivering accessibility • making roads safer • achieving better air quality • improving the street environment 	Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Partnership	•	•	

ANNEX B

Strategy or plan	Example of key objectives or actions	Lead partner	Key themes the strategy/plan contributes to		
			Economy	Environment	Thriving communities
Children and Young Peoples Plan (2006-2009)	<p>Ensure that every young person receives help to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make a positive contribution to the community and society’. • enjoy good physical and mental health • be protected from harm and neglect and grow up to know how to look after themselves • achieve educational success and enjoyment with good opportunities for play, leisure and developing self-confidence 	Children’s Trust	•		•
South Oxfordshire Sustainable Development Strategy	<p>For the district council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • take account of sustainability in all of its actions and support stakeholders to do the same • reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses that contribute to climate change • choose products and suppliers that have a high environmental performance • protect and enhance bio-diversity 	South Oxfordshire District Council		•	
Oxfordshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy – reduce, reuse, recycle and compost, recover value, dispose • promote waste reduction, reuse and recycling • manage waste through the most sustainable option • work in partnership to coordinate infrastructure for waste collection, treatment, transfer and disposal • support development of markets for recovered materials • deliver efficient, cost effective services 	Environment and waste Partnership		•	

ANNEX B

Strategy or plan	Example of key objectives or actions	Lead partner	Key themes the strategy/plan contributes to		
			Economy	Environment	Thriving communities
SOP Carbon Action Plan	All SOP partners to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote awareness of energy saving • complete a simplified carbon management programme or undertake an energy audit of their premises, and a green travel audit. 	SOP		•	
Air Quality Management Area Action Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To implement actions aimed at reducing the level of nitrogen dioxide in the Air Quality Management Area 	South Oxfordshire District Council		•	
Statutory Management Plans for the Chilterns and North Wessex Downs Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guides to maintaining the quality of South Oxfordshire's country side 	Chilterns Conservation Board North Wessex Downs Council of Partners		•	•
Oxfordshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public rights of way are protected and well maintained • a better joined up network that meets the demands of users whilst accommodating the interests of land managers, the natural environment and our cultural heritage • a public rights of way network that enables access for all • a thriving countryside where residents and visitors are able to understand and enjoy their rights in a responsible way 	Oxfordshire County Council		•	•

ANNEX B

Strategy or plan	Example of key objectives or actions	Lead partner	Key themes the strategy/plan contributes to		
			Economy	Environment	Thriving communities
Community safety strategy 2008-11	<p>The strategy aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce antisocial behaviour • improve road safety • reduce acquisitive crime • reduce drug and alcohol problems • tackle domestic abuse • manage behaviour of offenders and potential offenders • engage and support communities. 	South Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership			•
Thames Valley Police Strategic Plan 2008-11 and annual delivery plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To strengthen neighbourhood policing to respond to local need and increase public confidence • to develop our partnerships to reduce crime and disorder • to improve the service provided to victims, witnesses and the public • to protect communities from the threat of terrorism and organised crime • to use information and intelligence to be more effective 	Thames Valley Police and Thames Valley Police Authority			•
South Oxfordshire Young People's Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for them to take part in activities and improve the image of young people within the community. • ensure young people are informed and able to influence decisions that affect them • help young people access facilities and activities • improve the image of young people in the wider community. 	South Oxfordshire District Council			•

ANNEX B

Strategy or plan	Example of key objectives or actions	Lead partner	Key themes the strategy/plan contributes to		
			Economy	Environment	Thriving communities
Sport and Active Recreation Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equal opportunity access to a range of opportunities for all • increase use of sport and active recreation facilities • increase funding opportunities • increase sports club members • promote partnership working • improve health • create safer and stronger communities • increase marketing and promotion. 	South Oxfordshire District Council			•
South Oxfordshire Housing Strategy 2006-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the overall supply of housing, especially affordable housing • improve the quality of the existing housing stock • prevent homelessness and improve housing options • develop sustainable communities including minimise the environmental impact of homes • meet the housing need of vulnerable groups, including older people and young people leaving care. 	South Oxfordshire District Council and local housing associations			•
Supporting People Strategy 2008-2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work together to prevent and tackle housing crisis and to enable vulnerable people to live independent and healthy lives 	Health and Wellbeing Partnership			•
Oxfordshire Carers' Strategy, 2009-12 (emerging)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft vision is for carers to be recognised, valued as partners in care and respected as individuals with a right to a life outside. 	Health and Wellbeing Partnership			•
Oxfordshire Extra Care Housing Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategy responds to the demographic challenge of an increase in the proportion of older people in the County's population and people's desire to remain in their own 	Oxfordshire County Council			•

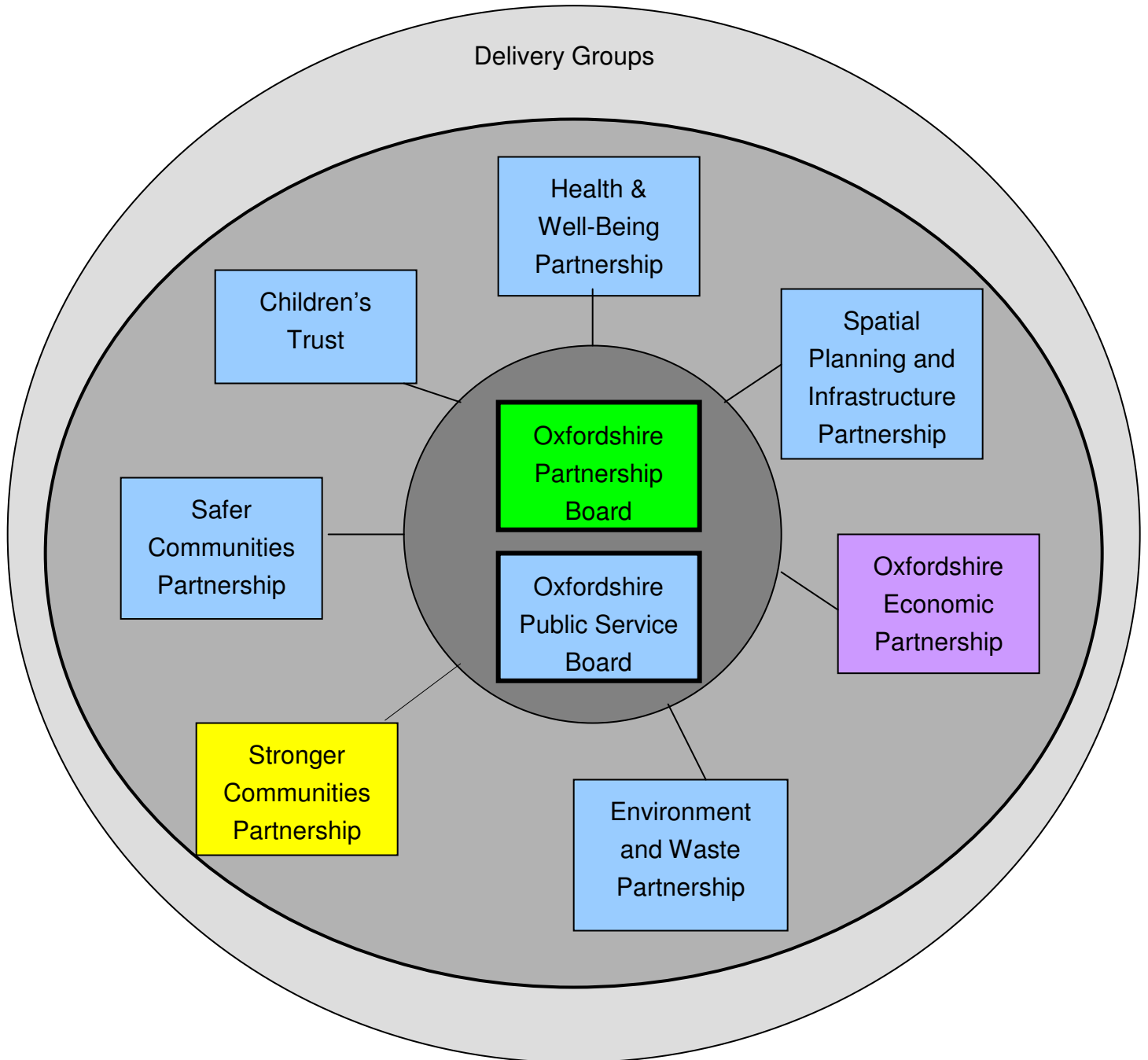
ANNEX B

Strategy or plan	Example of key objectives or actions	Lead partner	Key themes the strategy/plan contributes to		
			Economy	Environment	Thriving communities
	homes.				
Oxfordshire Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Business Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for volunteering • improved information resources • support for organisational development • support for community capacity building • promotion of diversity and equality • support for faith-based social and community activity • enhanced networks and partnerships and promotion of the voluntary and community sector 	Oxfordshire Voluntary Sector Development Partnership			•
Oxfordshire Compact	<p>A framework for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitoring and evaluating the relationship between the Statutory and Voluntary, Community and Faith sectors • assisting the development of effective partnerships between these sectors 	Oxfordshire Voluntary Sector Development Partnership			•
Oxfordshire Public Health Strategy 2007-11	<p>The strategy addresses four major issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an ageing population • breaking the cycle of deprivation affecting children and families • preventing obesity • fighting infectious diseases. <p>Strategies that help to deliver the public health strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obesity strategy • Older people strategy • Mental health promotion strategy 	Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust			•
Our Sporting Future 2006-12	<p>The planned outcomes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to increase participation in sport and active 	Oxfordshire Sports Partnership within the Health			•

ANNEX B

Strategy or plan	Example of key objectives or actions	Lead partner	Key themes the strategy/plan contributes to		
			Economy	Environment	Thriving communities
	recreation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to improve the levels of performance in sport • to widen access to sport and active recreation • and thereby to improve health and wellbeing. 	and Wellbeing Partnership			

Annex B: Oxfordshire Partnership



ANNEX C

Annex C: SOP and Community-led planning

A community-led plan is a plan for the local community, developed by the local community. There are established methodologies for both parish planning and market town action planning that help to ensure that the plans developed are robust and reliable. There are usually two key components involved in a community-led plan:

- a comprehensive survey of residents, community groups and businesses about problems and issues, leading to
- a plan of the action to be taken to address these problems and issues

The aims of a community-led plan include:

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

Supporting community-led planning

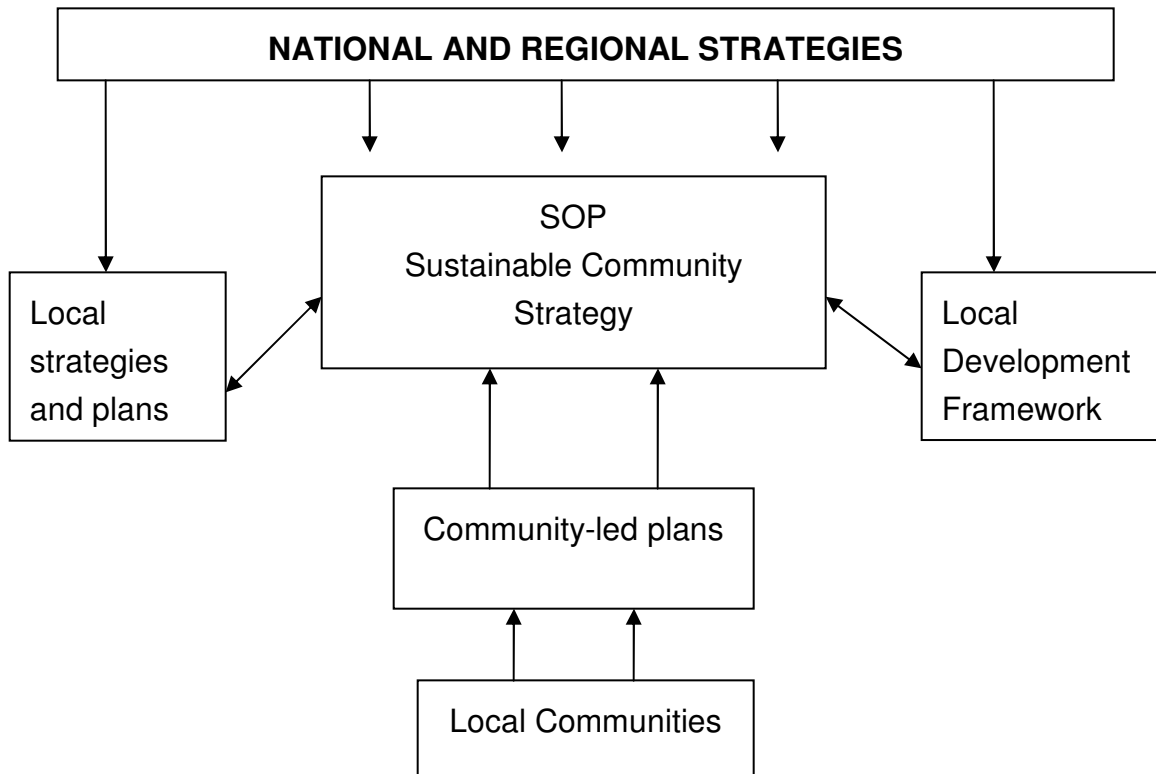
SOP will:

- support all parish plan groups to secure from partners the information and advice they need, including feedback on draft questionnaires
- receive completed parish plans and support groups to secure the engagement of partners' in implementing the plans
- influence partners and decision makers to take community-led plans into account in their own strategies and service delivery plans
- monitor and evaluate the development of community-led plans to ensure that they follow best practice and are robust plans in which policy and decision makers can have confidence
- monitor and evaluate progress in implementing actions within the plans in order to both demonstrate their value and to identify and overcome obstacles to implementation.

Download the SOP Parish Plan Pack at

<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/content/corporate-support/parish-action-plans.en>
<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/content/corporate-support/parish-action-plans.en>

ANNEX C



Oxfordshire 2030

SOP is contributing to a local target in Oxfordshire 2030: the sustainable community strategy for Oxfordshire.

The target is to support local communities to shape their own future through community-led planning and:

- increase the number of communities benefiting from involvement in local community-led planning
- increase the number of actions identified as local priorities in community-led plans being progressed

Download parish plans and check on progress at:

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/communityledplanning

ANNEX D

Annex D: SOP membership

Chairman

The Rt Reverend Colin Fletcher OBE, Bishop of Dorchester, Chair of Churches Together in Oxfordshire

Vice-Chairman

Councillor Ann Ducker, Leader, South Oxfordshire District Council

Members

Councillor Roger Belson, Oxfordshire County Council

Ken Hall, Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils

Lan Jenner, NHS Oxfordshire

Mike Jennings, Jennings of Garsington

Richard Peacock, Chief Executive

Supt. Amanda Pearson Area Commander, South Oxfordshire Police Area, Thames Valley Police

Alice Runnicles, Age Concern Oxfordshire

Cedric Scroggs, local businessman with specialist NHS experience

Meryl Smith, Deputy Chief Executive, Oxfordshire Rural Community Council

Paula Taylor-Moore, Headteacher, Didcot Girls' Schools

Sarah Westcott, Manager, Henley-on-Thames Citizens' Advice Bureau

Canon Tony Williamson, Chairman, South East Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust