

Celebrating the official opening of our new library service

Our library teams celebrated the official opening of the new Business and Intellectual Property Centre on Wednesday. Based on the second floor of our county library in Oxford, the centre supports individuals and entrepreneurs to start and grow their own business. Developing multi-purpose physical spaces for people to access a range of services is part of our innovative new library and heritage strategy.

Action to tackle climate change in Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet has approved plans which could see its own corporate carbon emissions almost halved by 2024/25.

The authority produced 10,774 tonnes of CO2 in 2020/21, but measures outlined in its carbon management plan could see this cut to 6,000 tonnes within three years.

Cabinet also approved the climate action programme delivery plan for 2022/23 aimed at decarbonising the authority's estate and operations by 2030, and transitioning Oxfordshire as a county to net zero ahead of the national target of 2050.

The delivery plan also looks at adapting and improving resilience to extreme weather events, increasing biodiversity, and developing a nature recovery strategy.

Ways in which the council is helping Oxfordshire become net zero and tackle climate change include:

- Shaping a net zero transport system through the new Local Transport and Connectivity Plan.
- Investing in public transport to bring 159 electric buses to Oxfordshire.
- Installing EV charging points in council car parks for residents without off-road parking.
- Piloting a zero emissions zone in Oxford city centre.
- Supporting more than 100 community-led climate action groups, the largest network of its kind in the UK.
- Helping residents recycle and compost 59.5 per cent of all household waste – top place in England for eight years in a row.
- Trialling hydrogen technology to power fire engines.
- Partnering with councils, universities, community, and private sector to create a smart clean energy system through [Local Energy Oxfordshire](#).

Another key tool in the council's plans is the [Pathways to a Zero Carbon Oxford](#) (PAZCO) document, which is being developed as a countywide decarbonisation roadmap. The report was jointly funded by the council, alongside partners in local government, academia, and business, to outline different potential pathways to achieving a zero-carbon economy in Oxfordshire by 2050, with milestones for 2030.

HIF1 Didcot and Culham infrastructure project

I'm continuing to participate in the 'cabinet advisory group', which is led by Cllr Duncan Enright, the cabinet member responsible for the project. We've made clear we do not want an 'Expressway by stealth' pushing heavy traffic onto our unsuitable country roads, and we don't want to lock in car-dependent sprawl in new developments. We are also looking at

design improvements to cut the carbon and other pollution impacts of the project, and making sure that walking and cycling routes connect and link to other forms of transport. What change we can actually secure, given how far along the project is, remains to be seen.

Useful contacts on Homes for Ukraine

It's great to see so many local residents providing a safe and secure home for refugees from Ukraine. We continue push to provide the best and fastest access to services that we can via both county and district councils, working closely with other partners.

Please direct general Ukraine queries to:

- **Website:** www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ukraine
- **Oxfordshire Ukraine helpline:** +44 1865 966444 / 01865 966 444 (opening hours for Monday 30 May - Wednesday 1 June, 8.45am - 5pm, bank holiday Thursday 2 June - Saturday 4 June, helpline closed but email is being monitored 10am - 3pm, closed Sunday 5 June).
- **Email:** ukraineresponse@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Barnardo's has also set up a free support service and helpline staffed by English, Ukrainian and Russian speakers:

- **Website:** www.barnardos.org.uk/what-we-do/helping-families/ukrainian-helpline
- **Helpline:** 0800 148 8586 (10am - 8pm, Monday to Friday and 10am – 3pm Saturday).
- **Email:** ukrainiansupport@barnardos.org.uk

Cabinet changes at OCC

After the recent Annual meeting of Council, Cllr Tim Bearder has moved to Adult Social Care, with Cllr Andrew Gant taking over Highways Management. As a former 'cycle champ', I know Andrew will be just as committed as Tim was to improving our active travel network. Cllr Jenny Hannaby has taken over the Culture portfolio from Neil Fawcett. Cllr Susanna Pressel is the new Chair of council. Cllr Dan Levy is the new waling and cycling champion.

£10.4 million awarded for active travel improvements in Oxfordshire

Cyclists, pedestrians and residents in Oxfordshire will benefit from a £10.4 million government grant to improve walking and cycling infrastructure in the county.

Oxfordshire County Council has been awarded funding from the third phase of the government's active travel fund. The council has previously been awarded grants of £600,000 from phase one and £2.98m from phase two, so this new round is a step change in magnitude.

The funding will support infrastructure improvements across the county including **£400K for feasibility work on the Berinsfield-Oxford link and £237,500 for the School Streets** programme.

We have engaged with communities, district and parish councils and residents to identify projects that would benefit from this investment. The scale of the award means that we will be able to implement these schemes that will benefit the county for the long term.