

REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS MAY 2021

FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION

The county council holding elections for all 63 seats across 61 divisions on Thursday 6th May. Verification will take place on Friday 7th May. Counting will take place on Sunday 9th May and results will be announced the same day.

OXFORDSHIRE TO BENEFIT FROM ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE GROWTH

Residents of Oxfordshire can look forward to a future of good, environmentally responsible growth in the years ahead to 2050. The Oxfordshire Strategic Vision for Long Term Sustainable Development is a landmark document for Oxfordshire led by the Oxfordshire Growth Board and being voted on this spring by its constituent members including the county and district councils. Oxfordshire County Council's cabinet approved the vision with some amendments at its meeting on Tuesday, April 20. The document sets out specifically the concept of "good growth" based on enhanced social, environmental and economic wellbeing. This means that by 2050 amongst other goals that Oxfordshire will:

- Be healthy and inclusive, with all development addressing inequalities and contributing positively to the overall health and wellbeing of Oxfordshire's communities, environment and economy.
- Support diverse, accessible employment, generating a highly productive and inclusive economy based on our world-class research, innovation and technology.
- Build resilience to change, with growth planned in ways that: build on strengths and assets to support communities during periods of change; support economic diversity and can accommodate changes in technology; recognise changes in the way that people live and work and changing demographics; and respond to worldwide impacts, particularly from climate and economic changes.

These goals will form the basis of county council-specific plans for growth including the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP), the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OXIS) and the future Nature Recovery Network Strategy. In addition, the vision includes working towards a County target of 2040 for net zero carbon. This emphasises a shared commitment for county-wide net zero target of 2040 in alignment with district councils within 10 years of our own Carbon Reduction Framework target of 2050.

MAJORITY OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN OFFERED FIRST CHOICE PRIMARY

A total of 93.09 per cent (6,409) of applications have been awarded their first choice for starting infant or primary school in Oxfordshire. Last year's figure was 90.60%, meaning a higher proportion of parents and children across the county have been offered their first choice of primary school for 2021/22. A total of 98.86 per cent (6,806) have been offered one of the four choices they listed on their application.

COVID STATISTICS

In the seven days up to 23 April, there has been a total of 141 confirmed new COVID-19 cases in Oxfordshire. This is a decrease from 153 new cases in the previous week and is equivalent to a weekly rate of new cases of 20.4 per 100,000 residents. In South Oxfordshire there were 19 cases in the same period, a weekly rate of new cases of 24.3 per 100,000 residents