

Oxfordshire County Council Parish Briefing

GROWTH BOARD ANNOUNCEMENT ON HOUSING AND GROWTH AGREEMENT

The Oxfordshire Growth Board comprises the six councils: Cherwell District Council, Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council, together with the county's Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP).

On Budget Day it was announced the Board had reached an outline Housing and Growth Agreement with Government. This will see an additional £215 million of investment over the next five years to build infrastructure, support the delivery of new homes and boost economic productivity across the county. This breaks down as: £30m pa for five years for infrastructure; £60m for affordable homes across the county; and £5m to develop a Joint Statutory Spatial Plan.

The Board wants the five-year deal to be the first stage in a sustained partnership with Government to secure the ongoing investment needed to deliver properly planned growth and economic development over the coming years. This will support councils to achieve the ambition of 100,000 new homes across the county over the period 2011-2031, as identified through the 2014 countywide Strategic Housing Market Assessment and Local Plans.

HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (HIF)

The bids to the Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF), to support the development of the Didcot Garden Town, and West Oxfordshire and North of Oxford Garden Villages, are still being considered by Government with decisions expected in the new year.

OX-CAM EXPRESSWAY

The National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) has published its report to Government on the Oxford-Cambridge arc. It advised on the need for long-term investment funding for new transport infrastructure to harness the region's economic potential, to benefit local people and boost UK plc in a post-Brexit landscape.

OXFORDSHIRE ADULT SOCIAL CARE SETTINGS OUTSTRIP NATIONAL AVERAGES

Older people and adults with disabilities are getting a better level of service from care settings in Oxfordshire than elsewhere in England, official figures have again proved. The number of care homes and home care providers in the county rated as "Outstanding" or "Good" by the Care Quality Commission was yet again comfortably higher than the national average when the latest figures were published on November 1. A total of 89 per cent of the 209 Oxfordshire providers are rated "outstanding" or "good" compared to a national average of 81 per cent. The CQC regularly publishes updated national figures and Oxfordshire has for some time outstripped the national averages.

CAMPAIGN TO RECRUIT CARE STAFF TO REDUCE DELAYED TRANSFER

Against a background of increasing demand for care services, particularly from older people with complex problems and needing support, a major campaign to recruit more care staff was launched on 20 November. *Make a difference every day* is a four month campaign targeted at residents who are Mid-life women aged 50-70, parents aged 25-50 and younger adults aged 20-30 seeking flexibility in work which care work can often provide, and existing social care workers who could recruit people like themselves.

The campaign aims to increase understanding of care work opportunities available in both the public and private sectors and will direct people to job opportunities, across both sectors, on the Oxfordshire Association of Care Providers' website. It is being supported by the county council, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and the Oxfordshire Association of Care Providers.

The campaign will show the real and positive difference care work makes to peoples' lives, that it is never too late to start a career in care and it will also refer to a recent county council and Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust survey showing 9 out of 10 care workers are proud to work in social care.

OCC ANTI-SCAM CAMPAIGN

OCC's Trading Standards is asking people to "Take a Stand Against Scams". This month, National Trading Standards started offering free call blockers to any person living with dementia that is currently receiving scam or nuisance calls. It's the latest initiative in the Friends Against Scams campaign launched last year to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams and empowering communities.

Locally, OCC introduced free training and local awareness sessions, available online and face-to-face to provide people with the confidence and skills they need to identify and prevent scams. Around 100 people have now received training and some have become "SCAMChampions", which means they are now busy spreading the message and hosting their own sessions to recruit more "Friends".

The campaign aims to inspire action, highlight the scale of the issue by encouraging communities and the nation to talk about scams, change the perception of why people become scam victims and prevent people from becoming or continuing to be a scam victim.

More information can be found here: <http://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/friends-against-scams-in-oxfordshire-would-you-like-to-become-a-scamchampion/>.

Applications for a free call blocker for people living with dementia can be made via www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/callblocker

SMOKE ALARM TESTING

OCC's Fire and Rescue Service are urging residents to test smoke alarms regularly. The Local Government Association warned that almost 40% of battery-powered smoke alarms failed to activate in residential fires in England in the past year. Figures show that more than a fifth of households never test their smoke alarm and one in 10 homes do not even have a smoke alarm.

More information can be found here: <http://www.365alive.co.uk/cms/content/smoke-alarms-0>

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Kind regards



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