

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Inside
Pull-out
Recycling and
Waste Collection
Guide 2024-2025

**CLEAN
GREEN
OXFORD**
Oxford recycles



How your
council tax
helps Oxford



Oxford is a wonderful place to live, work and visit. We have world-famous institutions, a rich history and culture, a growing local economy, and one of the youngest and most diverse populations in the country.



But Oxford is also an unequal city. Parts of our city are amongst the wealthiest in the country, while other parts – often just a few miles down the road – are amongst the most deprived.

We are also running out of space. Our city has an acute housing shortage, traffic congestion and rising demand for laboratory, office and other business space. We need to build sustainably to provide jobs and homes within easy reach of each other and public transport routes.

And on top of this, we are faced with the cost-of-living crisis and the reality of climate change. Oxford, built on two rivers, is particularly exposed to extreme weather events. We need to do our bit to tackle climate change while also preparing for more extreme conditions.

Your council tax goes towards tackling these challenges.

The money is split between three organisations: Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford City Council and the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner.

This booklet aims to explain the responsibilities of each organisation, and how they plan to spend your money to make Oxford a fairer, safer, healthier and greener place for all.



We know the cost of living crisis is affecting everyone, and as a result we have tried to keep council tax rises to a minimum. Oxfordshire County Council is increasing council tax by 4.99%, Oxford City Council by 2.99%, and the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner by 5.07%.

Oxfordshire County Council is responsible for services across the whole of Oxfordshire, including:

- Adult and children's social care
- Education and learning
- Highways and transport
- Public health improvement and prevention services
- Waste disposal and recycling
- Fire and rescue and community safety
- Libraries, cultural, registration and Coroner's services

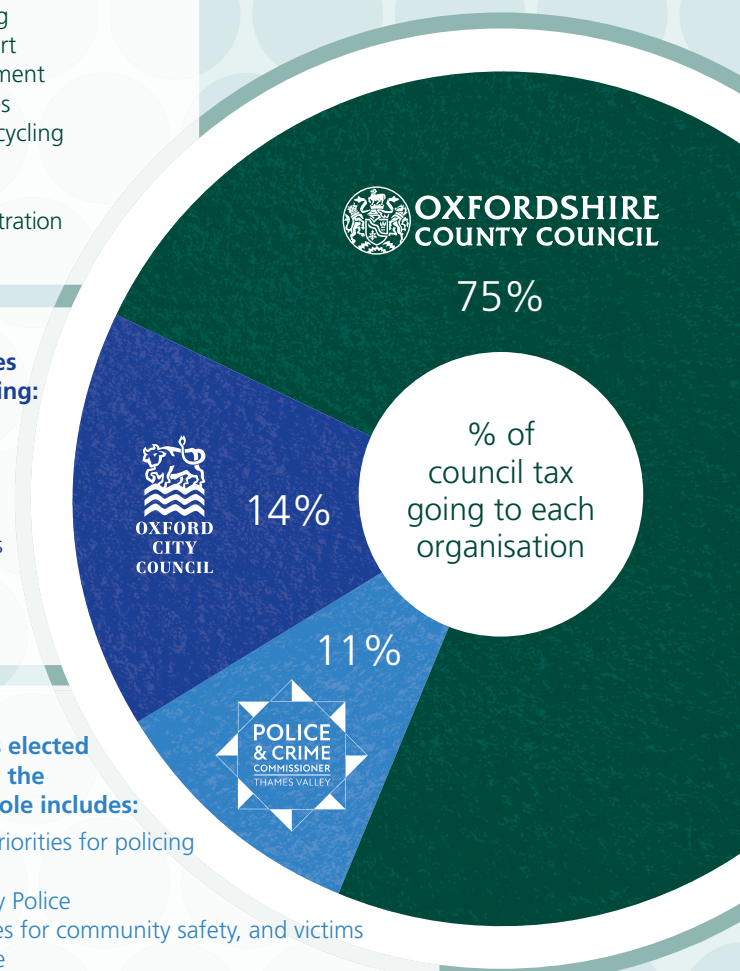
Oxford City Council is responsible for services in Oxford only, including:

- Planning
- Council housing
- Community centres
- Leisure centres
- Parks and open spaces
- Licensing
- Bin collection
- Street cleaning

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is elected to improve policing in the Thames Valley. Their role includes:

- Setting the strategic priorities for policing in the Thames Valley
- Funding Thames Valley Police
- Commissioning services for community safety, and victims and witnesses of crime
- Scrutinising, supporting and challenging policing performance

If you need support or advice due to the cost of living, please visit: www.oxford.gov.uk/costofliving



Oxford in numbers

<p>10</p> <p>Areas of Oxford amongst the 20% most deprived across England and Wales</p>	<p>28.4%</p> <p>Percentage of children living in poverty</p>	<p>11.4 years</p> <p>Difference in life expectancy for women between Wolvercote and Cowley wards</p>
<p>3,300</p> <p>Number of households on the waiting list for council housing</p>	<p>£445,775</p> <p>Average house price in Oxford – 12.15 times average earnings</p>	<p>5,000</p> <p>Number of homes at risk of flooding in Oxford</p>

If you live in Blackbird Leys, Littlemore, Old Marston, or Risinghurst and Sandhills you will also pay council tax to your parish council, which is responsible for some local services.

The past year has not been an easy one with residents and businesses working hard to cope with cost of living issues.

All local authorities have also faced rising costs, and inflationary and demand-led pressures. We continue to experience all these most across services to support children and young people; in social care and care placements for adults and children; and in our response to a national shortage of social care workers that leads to a reliance on more expensive agency staff. We also have a growing and ageing population.

All of these pressures combined amount to approximately £27 million for 2024/25. Government grants and funding are simply not keeping pace with growth in demand and costs. Government has, however, acknowledged the difficulties councils are facing and has provided extra funding for 2024/25, which for the county council equates to £4.8m.

We have still faced some difficult choices in setting a balanced budget. Our overall net budget will rise to more than £611m and we have had to find £13.9m in savings. These include reducing the operating costs of our buildings and lowering our reliance on agency staff.

The majority of our overall funding comes from council tax. We are raising this by 4.99 per cent in 2024/25, two per cent of which must be spent on adult social care.

However, our budget also invests £10.6m in the things you think we should focus on. To do this, we listened carefully to what matters most to you and your communities through our residents' survey, engagement events and our budget consultation.

This means we'll continue to protect those in need, while investing in roads and improving services for children and families, particularly those with special educational needs and disabilities.



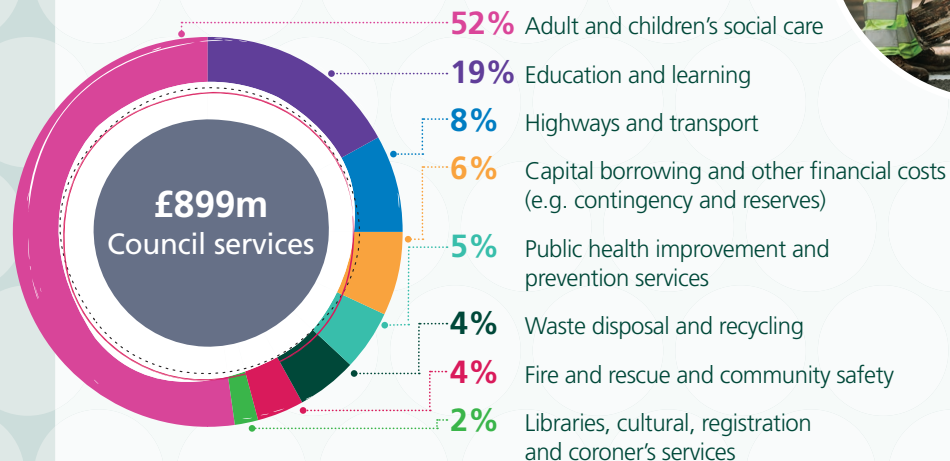
Councillor Liz Leffman
Leader, Oxfordshire County Council

Council funding and spending

For 2023/24, 58% of the County Council's funding for services will come directly from council tax, with the rest coming from charging for services and government grants.



What we spend on council services



In addition, we will also spend £207m on maintained schools, which covers teachers and running costs, and comes directly from government.

4% of your council tax is used to support the cost of borrowing towards our **£1.5bn** capital programme, which includes investing in highway improvements (**£282m**) and major infrastructure (**£740m**), energy efficient street lighting (over 10 years), new school buildings and pupil places (**£259m**).

Where we will invest

Our 2023/24 budget invests in the things you think we should focus on to deliver our nine strategic priorities. We listened carefully to what matters most to you and your communities through our residents' survey, Oxfordshire Conversation events and, most recently, our budget consultation. Examples include:

- **£2.8m** to improve public transport and the travel experience in Oxfordshire.
- **£2.3m** to provide council tax and cost of living support to low income households.
- **£1m** for people with special educational needs and disabilities and for community hubs to support families and young people.
- **£1m** to improve highways, cycle-paths and pavements in Oxfordshire.

The rising cost of living has meant this has been another challenging year for many local residents - and for the council too. Higher bills and more people needing our support mean increased costs. We are doing all we can to support Oxford's families, particularly those on low incomes.

In particular, councils such as ours have had huge rises in costs such as temporary housing accommodation, energy bills and construction costs.

We are committed to managing the council's finances to provide a stable and prudent budget. This has been more difficult than ever this year but we have been able to continue with our strong track record of supporting Oxford's residents and businesses.

Serving Oxford residents is at the heart of our work, and we remain committed to retaining our leisure centres and parks, building more council houses, and supporting youth work and community groups. We have added additional verge-cutting and street cleaning in response to feedback from local residents.

Given Oxford's housing crisis, we are proud to be delivering 1,428 new homes, including 1,277 council houses. In addition, we are making our existing council homes more energy efficient by investing £7.6 million in our retrofit programme.

2024 is an exciting year. We will complete the transformation of East Oxford Community Centre, and will be refurbishing our leisure centres with an investment of up to £4 million.

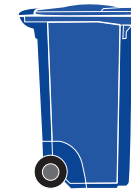
We will also continue to install public electric car charging points and invest in our Covered Market – which celebrates its 250th anniversary this year. Both will secure reliable income streams for the council.

We are able to do this in part because of our wholly-owned companies, our direct services operator ODS, and OX Place which builds homes, as they provide local jobs, deliver valued services and generate substantial income to the Council that helps to support front line services.

Your council tax helps fund vital frontline services in Oxford, but we are making sure your money goes as far as possible to help make our city a fairer, safer, healthier and greener place for all.



Councillor Susan Brown
Leader, Oxford City Council



Mixed Recycling

In your blue bin or clear sacks

Collected **every other week**



Additional recycling can be placed in clear bags next to your bin or sacks on your collection day for recycling. **Items should be clean, dry and loose**



glass bottles and jars



paper and card
(dry, inc. shredded paper)



soft plastics
(bottles, pots, tubs and trays)



liquid cartons



foil trays



food tins and drinks cans



spray cans
(empty)



empty carrier and plastic bags (do not fill, no black plastic)



Food Waste

In your green caddy or red bin

Collected **every week**



Line your food caddy with a compostable bag, plastic bag (excluding black plastic), newspaper, or even place food in your caddy loose



raw food



cooked food



teabags and coffee grounds



cooking oil (collect in plastic bottle)



Rubbish

In your green bin or lilac sacks

We will not collect extra waste (three lilac sacks maximum)

Collected **every other week**



black bags



thin plastics
(inc. salad bags and sweet wrappers)



coffee cups



dirty tissues



nappies and sanitary products



polystyrene



hard plastic



broken glass and crockery (please wrap)



pet food pouches



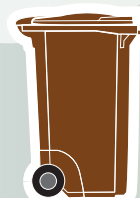
compostable products



pet tray litter and dog poo



old style light bulbs



Garden Waste

Paid for subscription service

To subscribe, please call 01865 249811 or email gardenwaste@odsgroup.co.uk

Collected **every other week** on your green bin day



Our priorities



Tackling the housing crisis

- Delivering 1,600 new council and other affordable homes with OX Place and housing associations
- Investing in improving the quality of our existing 8,000 council homes
- Improving standards in 11,000 private rented homes through our new licensing schemes
- Continuing our housing-led approach so no one has to sleep rough in Oxford



Tackling the climate emergency

- Investing £8.7m to upgrade the energy efficiency in 300 Council homes
- Supporting households, businesses and institutions to save energy and cut emissions by 2040
- Enhancing parks, green spaces, biodiversity and access to nature



Reducing inequality

- Reducing health inequality by working with health services and communities
- Managing our 130 green spaces to support health and wellbeing
- Supporting Oxford's art, culture, sport and community groups
- Providing a sustainable leisure service across our five leisure facilities



Creating an economy that works for all

- Using Council spending to support the local supply chain
- Supporting young people into work and training through apprenticeships
- Helping businesses by providing flexible and affordable business space options
- Promoting an Oxford Living Wage of £12.49 to ensure Oxford residents are paid fairly

As your Police and Crime Commissioner, it is my responsibility to ensure that Thames Valley Police has the resources to effectively prevent and investigate crime, support victims and communities from harm.

I am conscious of the current cost of living pressures on households. However, alongside this, economic pressures such as high utility, fuel, and vehicle costs are also continuing to significantly policing budgets despite a rise in government funding.

In order to continue to keep our communities safe and to address the policing priorities of residents identified through my ongoing local crime survey, I have made the decision to increase Council contributions by 25p per week for a Band D property. Through this, investment in policing will focus on the priorities that matter to residents with strengthened neighbourhood policing and crime prevention.

Thames Valley has more police officers than ever before, exceeding the target set by the Home Office for police officer recruitment, with a further 150 additional officers now funded

through this budget. This builds upon my pledge of recruiting additional police officers to ensure Thames Valley Police grows as our population increases.

In addition, the budget will allow for investment in other key areas. This will include nearly £1 million of funding to roll-out the Operation Deter youth engagement programme across the force tackle knife crime, £500,000 allocated to support road safety activity, additional funding to tackle the rise in retail crime as well as the continuation of funding for services to reduce reoffending victims of crime.



Matthew Barber
Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner

Investment

This year's policing budget will enable the Police and Crime Commissioner to invest for the medium-term, to ensure we recruit more police officers and specials and to give those officers the tools and resources they need to tackle the crimes that matter most to the public. This year's policing budget will enable the following:

- Funding for an additional 150 police officers across the force, including neighbourhood officers; priority crime teams to tackle burglaries, theft and shoplifting; and an increase in the Rural Crime Taskforce
- Thames Valley-wide Operation Deter Youth programme to help tackle and deter young people from knife crime
- Thames Valley-wide cyber awareness activity to help protect the public and businesses from cybercrime and fraud
- New investment to tackle retail crime
- Long-term investment in local community safety initiatives with local authorities
- Continued investment in Thames Valley-wide CCTV partnership
- Road safety initiatives across the Thames Valley

- Preventing reoffending through the Restart programme
- Continued investment in the forensic improvement programme
- Long-term investment in technology and infrastructure

Savings

His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) reports that Thames Valley Police "makes the best use of the finance it has available, and its financial plans are well thought out and sustainable".

Despite funding received through central government, policing isn't unaffected by increasing cost pressures and faces a difficult time to fund vital services. This year's policing budget is set against a demanding economic environment with rising inflation, utilities, pay and fuel costs. Therefore, it is more important than ever that prudent financial management is used to continually review, challenge and improve our services.

Over the next two years (2024/25 and 2025/26) a further £20 million is planned to be saved from the base revenue budget, to ensure policing across Thames Valley is as efficient as possible.



ODS was born out of the need to maintain Oxford City Council's housing stock, parks and streets. It was formally established as a wholly-owned company in 2018 and now has over 550 employees. It is made up of two companies that work together to deliver cost-effective public and commercial services.

ODS deliver a number of services including:

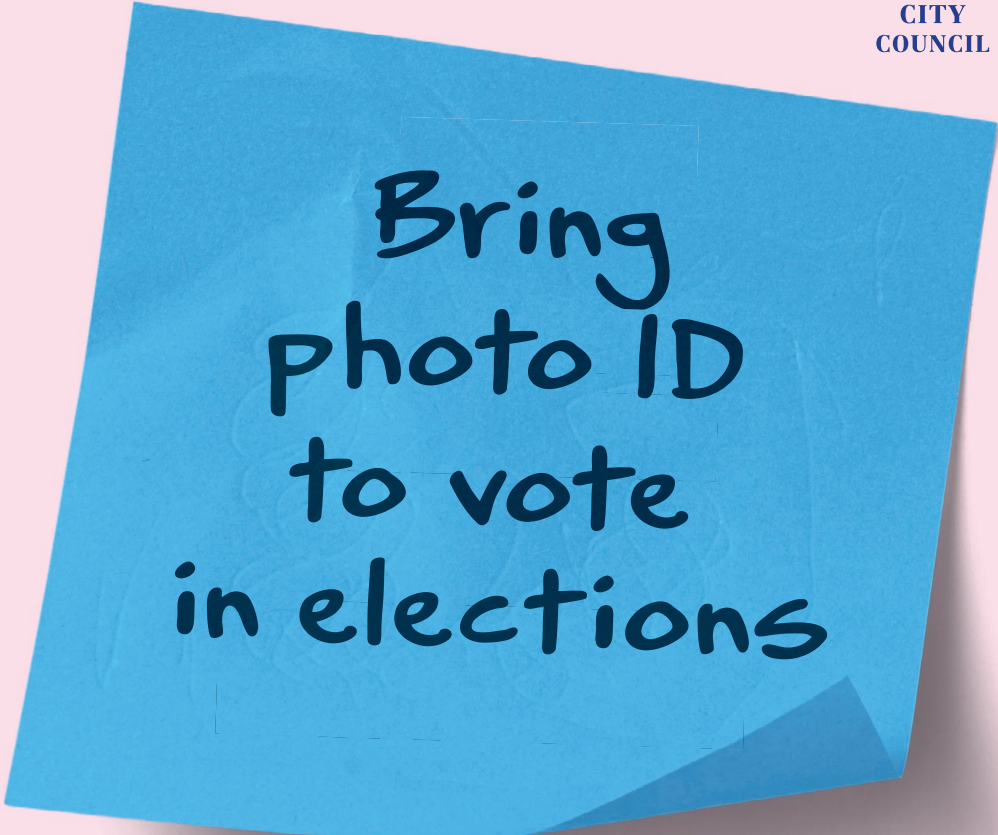
- **Recycling & Waste** including commercial and domestic waste, and skip hire.
- **Construction** of new homes and community centres and refurbishments.
- **Civil engineering** including highway maintenance, drainage and sign manufacturing.
- **Fleet and electric vehicles** including servicing, MOTs and repairs.
- **Property maintenance** including gas and electric repairs and property improvements.
- **Open spaces** including maintenance of parks, landscaping, tree removals, hot power washing and pest control.



ODS is a **#doinggood** business, creating social value through the services delivered directly to residents and through the commercial services provided to business institutions and other local authorities.

ODS creates a more inclusive and sustainable economy that balances purpose and profit; one that considers the impact of decisions on employees, customers, suppliers, the community and our environment. All our profits go back into Oxford City Council.

To find out more about the services ODS provide, visit www.odsgroup.co.uk



A wide range of photo ID will be accepted, including passports, driving licences and cards with a PASS mark. The name on your ID should be the same name you used to register to vote. If you don't have an accepted form of ID, you can apply for a free voter ID document known as a Voter Authority Certificate.

Don't have ID?
Apply for free voter ID.

For more information, visit

electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID

or scan the QR code, call 0800 328 0280



Find out more about each organisation



www.oxfordshire.gov.uk



www.oxford.gov.uk



www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk

Get regular updates straight to your inbox by signing up

Oxfordshire
County Council



Oxford City
Council



Police & Crime
Commissioner



You can also follow all three organisations on social media

