

# Oxfordshire

## NHS & Local Authorities Stakeholder Briefing

21 January 2022

Oxfordshire health and local authority partners are working together to respond to the pandemic and help the county restart, recover and renew after COVID-19.

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## Outbreak Management

Welcome to the first Oxfordshire System Stakeholder Briefing of 2022.

Following the peak in December, the number of COVID-19 cases in Oxfordshire has started to fall. The weekly rate now stands at 956.3 per 100,000 compared with 1458.5 the previous week. However, our acute services remain under significant pressure.

The reduction in the infection rate in Oxfordshire mirrors the national trend. After a sharp increase in December, daily confirmed cases in England are now falling. As a result, the Prime Minister has announced an end to Plan B measures in England. This includes lifting the work from home guidance with immediate effect and, from 27 January, ending the requirement for face masks in most indoor settings and the use of NHS COVID passes to enter nightclubs and large events

However, despite the lifting of national restrictions, Oxfordshire's Director of Public Health Ansaf Azhar is still urging caution. He warns that the COVID case rate in the county remains very high and we are likely to see significant numbers of cases in circulation within our community for some time to come.

He is calling on Oxfordshire residents to keep up the good habits we have learned over the past 18 months, including wearing face coverings in enclosed settings, keeping your distance, washing your hands regularly and keeping rooms well ventilated. This will not only protect us from COVID, but other airborne infections such as flu.



## New self-isolation guidance for people with COVID-19



As of 17 January, the self-isolation time for people who test positive from COVID-19 has been cut to five full days, with people able to leave isolation after negative lateral flow tests on days five and six.

Those who leave self-isolation on or after day 6 are strongly advised to wear face coverings and limit close contact with other people in crowded or poorly ventilated spaces, work from home if they can, and minimise contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19.

### Changes to testing rules

People in England who test positive from a lateral flow test and do not have symptoms are no longer required to take a follow-up PCR test. They should self-isolate immediately and report their result on gov.uk. Following this, NHS Test & Trace will contact them to identify their close contacts.

Anyone experiencing any of the three main symptoms must self-isolate immediately and arrange a PCR test. Information about testing sites in Oxfordshire is available on the county council's website.

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/coronavirus-covid-19/prevention-and-testing>

### COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

Since the rapid expansion of the COVID booster vaccination programme on 13 December 2021, nearly 223,000 booster jabs have been delivered across Oxfordshire by our 20 GP-led local vaccination sites, the mass vaccination centre at the Kassam Stadium, hospital hubs and our community pharmacies.

This equates to a remarkable near 90 per cent take-up of the booster offer by all those people who are eligible.

A record breaking 75,500+ booster jabs were administered across the county in the first week of rapid expansion of the programme, with more than 41,000 vaccines delivered during the pre-Christmas weekend (including Friday).

Since the first vaccine in Oxfordshire was delivered on 8 December 2020 at the Churchill Hospital, we have delivered more than 1.5 million vaccinations to residents of Oxfordshire. Overall, we have one of the highest vaccine coverage rates in the country and the success of the entire year-long campaign should be celebrated.

Continued thanks go to everyone who has worked so hard to deliver this life saving vaccine.

Despite, the falling numbers of infections from the Omicron variant, case remain higher than last January so the messages continue to be:

- Getting vaccinated and boosted remains the best thing you can do to protect yourself and your families against getting seriously ill from COVID-19.
- If you're unvaccinated it is never too late to come forward for a vaccine – all vaccination sites will welcome you.

There is ample capacity across the system so please encourage people in your networks to book vaccination appointments, or even bring forward appointments which are booked for later in January or February.

Walk-in COVID-19 vaccinations have resumed at Oxford Health's three vaccination centres in Oxford, Reading and Aylesbury.

Anyone eligible – [including 12-15 year olds](#) – can get a jab without an appointment.

This offer will be available between 9am and 7pm on most days, but people are advised to check before setting out to their chosen centre.

The Kassam site is closed all day on weekend matchdays, and also closes to walk-ins at 3pm when there is a mid-week match.

There are many other vaccination walk-in opportunities which are updated regularly on the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) [website](#) and on the NHS [search service](#). All these clinics welcome people aged 16 and over seeking 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and booster jabs.

Oxford Health is also now offering second dose vaccinations, and boosters if applicable, to children aged 12 – 15 in schools as well as at its large vaccination centres.



Jabs in schools will run until half-term and continue to be offered at the large centres throughout the coming months.

Despite the wide availability of vaccination opportunities, there remain just over 23,000 eligible people in Oxfordshire who have yet to take up a booster jab and plus those eligible people who are not fully vaccinated (have had only one or no jabs).

An outreach and engagement plan - *No one left behind* – has been devised across the

Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire and Berkshire West ICS to ensure the vaccine campaign is targeted at those populations, to increase uptake at pace in areas of deprivation and among groups at increased risk of illness and death from COVID-19 infection.

In Oxfordshire, detailed analysis of the available data has revealed the geography and demographics where vaccine uptake is lower than in other sections of the eligible population. The need now is for outreach work to understand why some people have not come forward for vaccination so far.

This careful and painstaking work will inform how and where it is best to make approaches and break down the barriers of vaccine hesitancy and address concerns that individuals or communities may have. There is funding available for 'vaccine champions' in Oxford City who will work directly with some of the harder to reach groups and communities. This is part of a wider approach which will also include officers from all six councils in Oxfordshire and health colleagues, under the sponsorship of the Oxfordshire Vaccine Delivery Board.

A communications plan is supporting these efforts using all available channels.

### **Celebrating the 1st anniversary of world first Oxford-AZ vaccine administered in Oxford**

Tuesday 4 January 2022 was a landmark date as Oxford University Hospitals (OUH) NHS FT marked a year since the NHS launched the rollout of the Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine – with patients at OUH the first in the world to receive it.



SAM Foster, OUH Chief Nursing Officer, pictured above, administered the first vaccination and she

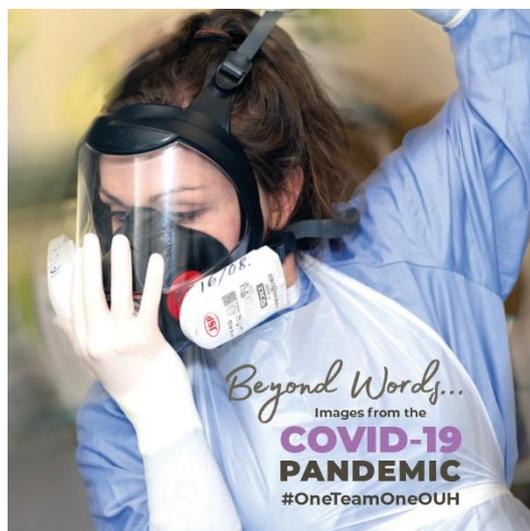
reflected on the significance of that moment and her pride at being involved – as well as the hope for the future which COVID-19 vaccination has brought – in a column published in the *Metro* newspaper.

She wrote: “To be asked to deliver the first vaccine produced in the UK felt like a real privilege – especially after almost a year of caring for some of the most unwell patients on our busy COVID and critical care wards, as the pandemic continued changing the very fabric of our healthcare service.

“We’ve learned some valuable lessons throughout the pandemic. Clinically, the progression of Covid treatments has enabled healthcare staff to assure many patients and their families that we can treat them, so patients are markedly less scared when they’re admitted to hospital. Vaccines have given everyone a sense of relief that we will get through this current wave.”

### ***Beyond Words . . . Images from the COVID-19 Pandemic* – new OUH book published**

*Beyond Words . . . Images from the COVID-19 Pandemic* – a new book to create a permanent record of images to mark an extraordinary time in the personal and professional lives of all OneTeamOneOUH staff – has been published this week.



Many staff submitted photos for inclusion in the book, which has been designed and produced in-house by the Communications and Oxford Medical Illustration (OMI) teams.

Thanks to funding from Oxford Hospitals Charity, printed books are being provided free of charge to

all staff who have requested to receive a copy and copies are being provided to governors, volunteers, and many other people who have supported the response to the pandemic.

In his foreword to *Beyond Words*, OUH Chief Executive Officer Dr Bruno Holthof wrote: "The title (of the book) reflects the fact that our experiences during the pandemic are truly 'beyond words'. Powerful images can tell a story and evoke emotions of a period that we will never forget.

"I am delighted that so many staff submitted their photo memories for this book. Our team efforts in diagnostic testing, infection prevention and control, vaccinations, and new COVID-19 treatments have saved many lives in Oxfordshire, the Thames Valley, England and the rest of the world."

Douglas Graham, Chief Executive of Oxford Hospitals Charity which has been by the side of OUH staff throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and also made *Beyond Words* possible, said the past two years had been a significant chapter in the lives of the everyone and it felt important to document the history happening in OUH hospitals.

He added that he hoped the book would act as a small thank you to all those who have worked so hard during these difficult times.

### **OUH Chief Executive Officer announces he will step down in June 2022**

Dr Bruno Holthof, Chief Executive Officer of Oxford University Hospitals has announced that he will be stepping down from his role on 30 June 2022.



He said: "I have very much enjoyed leading OUH since 2015 and I want to take this opportunity to thank every member of staff for delivering compassionate excellence to the populations and

patients who we serve, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I am very proud of everything we have achieved together as OneTeamOneOUH in response to the pandemic and of the strength of our unique relationship with the University of Oxford, which means our staff and patients have played a key role in Oxford's place at the very heart of global research into COVID-19.

"At this stage in my life, I have decided to spend more time with family and friends around the world and so I have announced that I will be stepping down from my role at OUH at the end of June."

Trust Chair, Professor Sir Jonathan Montgomery, wrote a personal message to all OUH staff announcing Dr Holthof's decision to step down from his role later this year.

He said: "Bruno has held this very demanding position for almost seven years and now wants a more flexible working life that will enable him to visit family abroad more easily.

"He has given notice of his intention to step down from his role now so that the Trust can begin the search for his successor and ensure that there is an orderly handover. This timing will also enable him to continue to steer the Trust's response to the latest wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I would like to thank Bruno for his service to OUH since his appointment in October 2015. He has set the tone for our commitment to compassionate excellence and he has shown exceptional leadership throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, which has been one of the most demanding and prolonged challenges that any Chief Executive could face."

### **OUH Consultant recognised in New Year Honours**

Congratulations to Professor Richard Haynes, a Renal Consultant at Oxford University Hospitals (OUH), who was awarded an MBE for Services to Global Health in the New Year Honours List on 31 December 2021.



He was honoured for his role as the co-ordinator of the University of Oxford's COVID-19 RECOVERY treatment trial.

Professor Haynes said he was excited, flattered and embarrassed to receive this honour. He thanked the efforts of friends and colleagues in the RECOVERY team and wider university and dedicated it to them, and to all collaborators at hospitals in the NHS and around the world who have given themselves to this effort.

### **No Excuse for abusive or violent behaviour towards NHS staff – new OUH campaign launched**

People are reminded that there's no excuse for abusive behaviour towards NHS staff in a new campaign launched by Oxford University Hospitals (OUH) this week.

OUH has launched the No Excuses campaign to urge everyone using local health and care services to treat staff with kindness and respect.

In November 2020, there were 80 reported incidents around violence and aggression within OUH. In November 2021, this had more than doubled to 180.

Sam Foster, Chief Nursing Officer at OUH, said: the Trust understands the anxieties, stress, and worry caused by the ongoing pandemic, and appreciates the toll it has taken on everyone.

She emphasised the need to treat staff with respect – they are working incredibly hard in challenging circumstances to keep patients, family members, and colleagues safe after an extremely difficult two years. Everyone should be entitled to work in an environment where they feel safe.

Abuse takes many forms – it doesn't have to be physical violence. Verbal abuse and aggression can

be just as damaging, and can take a huge toll on someone's wellbeing – in time, this wears people down and can potentially lead to increased sickness and absence.

The No Excuses campaign is running alongside a three-month trial of body cameras for frontline clinical staff in the Emergency Department (A&E) at the John Radcliffe Hospital.

Frontline staff on shift, who have been provided with training, will wear the camera on their uniform in clear view. The camera will only be switched on when an individual is being violent or abusive, and only after they've been told that they're about to be recorded.

Terry Roberts, Chief People Officer at OUH, said every member of the Trust's dedicated and hardworking staff has the fundamental right to be safe at work and it is a priority to eliminate violence and abuse. As well as reducing the number of incidents towards staff, the cameras are there to ensure patients feel safe too.

### **Visitors to Oxford University Hospitals must now take a lateral flow test**

Oxford University Hospitals (OUH) is maintaining the 'Rule of One' visiting restrictions which have been in place throughout much of the COVID-19 pandemic to keep patients and the staff who care for them safe.

In addition, anyone visiting a loved one in the Trust's hospitals must now take a lateral flow test before attending.

**ONE** Visitor Per Day – **ONE** Patient Per Visit – **ONE** HOUR Visit

Patients can have **one** visitor, for **one** hour, **once** a day. One-hour slots will be booked in advance by ward staff. Visiting is available **seven days a week**.

There are some exceptions to this rule – please see nearby posters or visit [ouh.nhs.uk/covid-19](https://ouh.nhs.uk/covid-19) for more information.

**All visitors must complete a lateral flow test before coming to our hospitals.**

### **PROTECT ONE ANOTHER • SAVE LIVES**

When people request a visiting slot, they are informed that they must do a lateral flow test on the day of their visit and they must only come to the hospital if that test is negative. Visitors must bring an email, text message or dated photograph of their lateral flow result to provide evidence that they are

COVID free. [More information – including full details of special visiting arrangements for certain groups of patients – is available on the OUH website](#)

## Horton Hip Fracture Team highlighted in national audit



The Hip Fracture Team, based at the Horton General Hospital in Banbury, have once again performed strongly in the annual National Hip Fracture Audit.

The team, pictured above, met all of its best practice criteria in nearly 92 per cent of patients – the national average was 55 per cent – while more than 90 per cent of patients admitted to the hospital underwent surgery either on the same day or on the next day, compared with a national average of 69 per cent.

The annual National Hip Fracture Audit compares the performance of 173 trauma units in England and Wales. [You can read more about the Horton Hip Fracture Team here.](#)

## Nominations flood in for OUH Staff Recognition Awards

OUH staff, the public and patients were invited to nominate a member of staff or a team which has gone the extra mile to provide outstanding care when the Trust launched its Staff Recognition Awards in December.

There was an overwhelming response, with almost 1,400 nominations by staff of their colleagues, as well as almost 100 nominations by patients, their families and carers to say a special 'thank you' to the staff they felt made a real difference during their

time in hospital and therefore deserved recognition through the Patients' Choice Award.



The Staff Recognition Awards are part the Trust's commitment to recognising and celebrating the OneTeamOneOUH staff.

The Patients' Choice Award was established in 2016 to celebrate the inspiring and innovative work which staff do across the Trust every day to improve the lives of patients and service users.

Selection panels now have the tricky task of deciding which staff and teams will be shortlisted in each category ahead of an awards evening later this year.

Oxford Hospitals Charity's generous support makes the OUH Staff Recognition Awards possible.

## OX5 Run set to raise money for children in hospital

If you are looking for a great way to get fit in 2022, while raising money for Oxford Children's Hospital, why not sign up for Oxford Hospitals Charity's annual fun run, the OX5? Which is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The five-mile event in the grounds of Blenheim Palace on Sunday 20 March raises important funds for children's areas across OUH, including at the Horton General Hospital in Banbury. Participants are welcome to run, jog or walk the beautiful route. See [www.hospitalcharity.co.uk/ox5run](http://www.hospitalcharity.co.uk/ox5run) for all the details.



## Exceptional safety team wins top award for work

A committed team which has worked hard behind the scenes to keep Oxford Health NHS FT staff and patients protected have taken centre stage to accept a special award.



For nearly two years, the team of six has been delivering millions of pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) across five counties, helping keep thousands of people safe. Now, following a glowing nomination, they have been crowned the team of December in Oxford Health's Exceptional People Awards.

The nomination said the PPE team has to be one of the most responsive teams in the Trust, dealing with PPE emergencies as well as business as usual.

Find out more [here](#)

## Making research more inclusive at Oxford Health

Oxford Health's innovative 'count me in' pilot project is having a positive effect on research recruitment according to a letter published in the journal Evidence Based Mental Health.



The initiative was launched in August 2021 after studies showed that asking clinical staff to collect research contact consent was resulting in a low uptake from patients, and that both staff and patients favoured an approach that allowed all

patients to be contacted about relevant research unless they had opted out.

In the first three months of the project more than 8,000 patients became contactable – a 400 per cent increase. To date, 234 of those patients have been contacted about specific research studies with almost 20 per cent going on to consent to take part.

The age, gender and ethnicity of patients contacted are being monitored as part of the pilot scheme and early evidence suggests that 'count me in' is supporting more inclusive research recruitment. The figures also show only 120 patients requested opt outs. Find out more [here](#)

## Logo competition to draw on local talent

Oxford Health is calling on Oxfordshire young people aged under 18 to enter a competition to design the logo for the Autism Learning Disability and Liaison Team (ALDLT) launched by Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust.

The Trust wants the logo to be creative, unique and celebrate the strengths that come with difference – just like the children and young people who will be using the new service.

Find out more about the competition and details of how to enter [here](#).

## Carer workshops now open to book for 2022 in Oxfordshire

A series of special workshops have been set up for the new year to help support Oxfordshire carers. This second year of workshops, designed by Oxford Health's dedicated team, are for carers people who are currently receiving support from Oxfordshire mental health team.



They aim to help people understand the mental health condition of the person they care to better support them. There will be opportunities throughout these sessions to put questions to clinicians and to share experiences. Find out more [here](#).

### **People with long COVID after hospitalisation face limited recovery after one year**

People who were hospitalised with COVID-19 and continued to experience symptoms five months later show limited further recovery one year after hospital discharge, according to the latest results of a major national study looking at the long-term health impacts of COVID-19 on hospitalised patients.

The latest findings of the PHOSP-COVID study, which involves several researchers from the University of Oxford, have been [published on the medRxiv](#) pre-print website.

The study confirmed earlier research that people who were less likely to make a full recovery from COVID-19 were female, obese, and required invasive mechanical ventilation (IMV) to support their breathing during their hospital stays. Read more [here](#).

### **TalkingSpace Plus join plethora of stars to ‘Help!’ with mental health thanks to the Beatles**

Oxfordshire’s talking therapy service TalkingSpace Plus is waiting for calls as a national landmark mental health campaign launches with ‘Help!’ from The Beatles; backed by some of the biggest recording artists, the campaign uses the classic 1964 Beatles song to reinforce the message for people to take better care of their mental health.

People struggling with their mental health are encouraged to seek immediate help – just like the theme of the famous Beatles song – and say ‘Help me if you can I’m feeling down’ thanks to some of the biggest recording artists, like Craig David, Girls Aloud’s Nicola Roberts, Tom Grennan, Laura Mvula, Ella Henderson and Max George.



It is hoped the poignant soundtrack will encourage people to think and reflect about their mental health. According to NHS England and Improvement, since April 2020, more than 230,000 people across the country have come forward for NHS IAPT talking therapies.

Anybody experiencing anxiety, depression, or other common mental health concerns in Oxfordshire is encouraged to get in touch and see how talking therapies also known as IAPT (Improved Access to Psychological Therapies.) can help them.

Jo Ryder, Consultant Counselling Psychologist, Clinical Lead and Head of IAPT, for TalkingSpace Plus said TalkingSpace Plus is here to help. Treatment is available over the telephone, via video consultations and can be available face to face too. Anyone can self refer by visiting the website, [Talking Space Plus](#) or by calling 01865 901 222

Video Link: [NHS Talking Therapies - YouTube](#)

### **Study identifies factors linked to health anxiety**

The results of an Oxford Health study exploring health anxiety during the COVID-19 pandemic have been published in the *International Journal of Social Psychiatry*.

Participants aged over 18 in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire were invited to complete an online questionnaire about their personal circumstances, wellbeing and behaviour during the pandemic. They were then invited to complete a follow up survey after three months.

The study’s authors concluded that there needs to be a high awareness among healthcare professionals of the possible impact of health anxiety on their patients – particularly as we continue to be affected by the pandemic. They also note the need to further investigate the relationship

between health anxiety and fatigue, sleep quality, gender and health difficulties. Read more [here](#).

## Be kind to your mind

West Oxfordshire District Council has launched a campaign to shine a light on mental health. 'Be Kind to Your Mind' will focus on ways in which residents can improve mental health and wellbeing through self-help techniques and it will signpost support services across the district.



The council is working in partnership with local mental health services to improve awareness and understanding of what help and support is available locally, and to share ideas about how habits to improve wellbeing, which can be adopted at an early stage. You can [find out more](#) on the council's website

## Children, Education, Families

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### Have your say on proposals for children with special educational needs and disabilities in Oxfordshire

Residents are being invited to contribute to two consultations on plans to develop a more inclusive approach to supporting children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Oxfordshire.



Oxfordshire County Council's proposals include making more high-quality SEND education available closer to home, reducing reliance on out-of-county provision, and improving educational outcomes for children through closer partnerships between the council and schools.

The council and its partners are also seeking views on a draft Local Area SEND Strategy to develop high-quality services across education, health and social care to support children and young people and their families.

The two consultations are interlinked and will run until 10 March 2022. Residents can respond to both at [letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/SEND-2022](https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/SEND-2022).

## Community resilience

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### Oxford's seventh community larder opens

A new weekly community larder – a low-cost food scheme to help with the rising cost of living and reduce food waste – opened in Oxford on 14 January. Supported by Oxford City Council, the community larder is open to anyone regardless of income.

The Oxford City Larder is a food scheme where members can take fresh fruit, vegetables and



selected ambient groceries such as packets or tins that come from food industry excess and would otherwise be thrown away.

The larder is open 4pm to 7pm every Friday evening at West Oxford Community Centre in Botley Road. Membership is £10 per year, plus £3.50 per week for individuals or £7 per week for a family.

### **Number of rough sleepers in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse recorded as zero**



The number of rough sleepers recorded in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse districts on 31 December 2021 was zero. This is the first time since 2013 that no rough sleepers were recorded in both councils' areas.

The councils are committed to ending rough sleeping in the districts. Their housing needs team works through targeted prevention and early intervention measures to help people at risk avoid homelessness. The team has an impressive 85 per cent success rate. Each year this translates into preventing hundreds of households from becoming homeless or rough sleeping.

The team is working closely with partners, health and care agencies, housing and support providers and voluntary agencies to offer vulnerable homeless households rapid access to long-term accommodation and intensive support. You can read [more online](#).

## **Place, Transport, Infrastructure**

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### **Residents in Oxfordshire are at the top of the table when it comes to recycling, reusing, and composting**



Oxfordshire County Council has once again been named the best performing county council waste disposal authority in England. In 2020-21, residents recycled, reused or composted 59.5 per cent of their household waste – an increase on the previous year's figure of 58.8 per cent, according to government figures.

The total amount of household waste produced in Oxfordshire was 310,479 tonnes for 2020/2021. 186,052 tonnes were reused, recycled and composted, which created a carbon benefit of

126,603 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e compared with disposing of it through landfill.

### **Weekly food waste collections coming to Cherwell**

From 1 March, Cherwell District Council will be collecting food waste from the kerbside once a week instead of fortnightly. The new outdoor food waste caddies are being delivered across the district in phases and, at a 23-litre capacity, they are three times the size of the existing indoor ones.

As the council looks to improve its overall recycling rate, which currently stands at 55 per cent, recycling more food waste is a key target. Currently, as much as three quarters of residents' food waste is going into the residual waste bin.

Electricity generated by food waste collected from Cherwell households could run 9,000 fridge-freezers, or power a TV in every household in the district for 15 hours a week. The 'digestate,' or liquid fertilizer, produced by people's food waste will be distributed to local farmers and can replace petrochemical fertilisers.



**Oxford City Housing Ltd selects developers to help deliver 2,500 low carbon homes across Oxfordshire** Oxford City Council's housing company Oxford City Housing Ltd (OCHL) has selected seven developers to help build more than 2,500 low carbon homes across Oxfordshire in the next 10 years.



Barratt Developments, Equans, Hill Group and Osborne have been chosen as eligible bidders for large projects worth more than £8 million, while Bildeco, Feltham Construction and Impact Modular are in the running to deliver smaller developments.

The appointment of development partners is part of OCHL's £1bn sustainable housing development framework for building new homes.

### County Council invites views of public on Oxford United's request for land for a new stadium

Oxfordshire County Council will be undertaking a public engagement exercise to understand better the opportunities and concerns relating to a proposal from Oxford United Football Club to develop a new 18,000-capacity football stadium.

The football club has asked the county council to lease 18 hectares of land at Stratfield Brake in Kidlington for 250 years. In addition to the stadium, the club's proposal includes facilities such as a hotel, retail, conferencing facilities, and training and community grounds.

The public engagement will run from 25 January to 21 February on the council's digital consultation and engagement platform [letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk](https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

### Have your say on the future of transport in Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet approved the draft Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) last October, which – among its many ambitions – aims to cut car journeys by a quarter by 2030 and reduce them by a third by 2040. It also plans to increase the number of cycling trips from 600,000 to one million by 2031.



Now residents can have their say on the plan until 16 March at <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ltcp> Final adoption of the plan is scheduled for summer 2022.

The county council will be hosting a series of online webinars to introduce the LTCP in more detail and answer questions. Further details will be provided on the council's website and social media shortly:

- Town and parish councils: 24 January and 1 February (7pm - 8pm)
- Businesses: 26 January (8am - 9am)
- Transport stakeholders: 20 January (2pm - 3pm)
- General public: 19 January and 7 February (7pm - 8pm)

Residents can also email [LTCP5@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:LTCP5@oxfordshire.gov.uk) with further questions.

## Economy

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### National Apprenticeship Week in Oxfordshire

National Apprenticeship Week aims to highlight the exceptional work being done by employers and apprentices across the country.

The 15th annual week-long celebration of apprenticeships takes place from 7 to 13 February 2022. This year's theme is 'Build the Future', which focuses on the benefits apprenticeships can have on individuals, businesses and local communities.

The Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) is running two skills webinars for parents and carers on 9 and 10 February to give an insight into apprenticeships and help them support their

child with choosing their next step. The webinars are being run in partnership with the Apprenticeship Support & Knowledge for Schools (ASK) programme, and [further information](#) is available online.



### And finally...

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Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council are in discussions to bring their formal partnership arrangements to an end. The arrangement between the two councils, which has taken the form of joint services under a single chief executive, has been in place since September 2018.

The ending of the partnership would mean that joint chief executive Yvonne Rees will return to her substantive post as CEO for Cherwell District Council from the date of both full council decisions. Recruitment will take place for the post of chief executive for Oxfordshire County Council.

**We hope this update is useful. Please email [occg.media-team@nhs.net](mailto:occg.media-team@nhs.net) with any queries and we will get back to you as soon as we can.**