

OXFORDSHIRE

Local Area Assembly

Local Policy Priorities Statement 2023



ABOUT THE THAMES VALLEY AND OXFORDSHIRE LOCAL AREA ASSEMBLY

The Thames Valley is a true turbo-economy - the 'Silicon Valley' of Europe and one of the UK's most productive regions. Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce (TVCC) remains the independent voice of business, providing the regional leadership that is helping secure the future economic prosperity of the Thames Valley.



Home to the world's No. 1 University for the seventh consecutive year, and world leading IP-rich R&D and business community, Oxfordshire is consistently one of the UK's most productive, top-performing locations, attracting high volumes of foreign direct investment. The Oxfordshire Chamber represent businesses of all sizes across an array of sectors, including advanced engineering, health and life sciences, and space.

AIM AND OBJECTIVE

As the independent voice of local business in Oxfordshire our LPPS outlines the core policy priorities our members will be mobilised in supporting this year.

We aim to maintain the momentum from past LPPSs to ensure we remain focused on helping decision makers, and key stakeholders, understand and listen to what Oxfordshire businesses want, enabling them to succeed and prosper.

Our objective is to present a clear and coherent message on what are the right local conditions to enable businesses to invest, plan for the long-term, work towards meeting net zero targets and secure the County's future economic, social, and environmental well-being.



It is also an invitation to engage with the Local Area Assembly, and our wider membership, who are keen to represent the voice of business and to work alongside you to help shape, frame and deliver solutions that will secure the future well-being of Oxfordshire and the wider Thames Valley region.

LOCAL POLICY PRIORITIES

The Oxfordshire Local Area Assembly has identified the following local policy priorities:

- Engage our key stakeholders and anchor institutions to help deliver the wider aims of our own, and their, policy, economic and investment aims and objectives, e.g., the Bus Enhanced Partnership, [Bus Service Improvement Plan](#), [Rail development plan](#) and [EEH's Connectivity Studies](#).
- Showcase the good practice and promote the initiatives being developed by the TVCC's sustainability working group to help businesses on their pathway to net zero, help SME's navigate the 'ESG' landscape.
- Preserve our active partnerships with relevant partners to achieve our wider policy aims and objectives across the economic geography of the County and wider Thames Valley.
- Encourage proposals that can help secure the appropriate mix of development and the highest standard of urban design, planning, and infrastructure provision across Oxfordshire.
- Support key infrastructure proposals that (i) are crucial to stimulating investment and boosting growth in the Oxfordshire economy, such as East-West Rail and the WRLtH; (ii) promote wider use and availability of public transport to key nodes, such as Heathrow; (iii) provide smart multi-modal mobility & simple ticketing; (iv) optimise the provision of low carbon alternatives.
- Through the TVCC's role as designated Employer Representative Body for Oxfordshire, leading work to pioneer a new approach to skills, bringing together business and education providers to tackle skills shortages in priority areas. (See [LSIP](#))
- Maintain support to existing exporters and help new businesses grow their trade activity, by identifying the inherent trade challenges facing our business community.
- Support initiatives that re-imagine the County towns, encourage appropriate levels of investment and active town centre management that will help secure their future vitality, vibrancy, and employment opportunities.

- As appropriate and relevant to our business community, support the refresh of the Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan and proposals that deliver sustainable economic growth.
- In recognition of the Government's ambition for the Oxford to Cambridge Pan Regional Partnership, play our part in its development and delivery.
- Work to help promote the assets (e.g., Harwell), centres of excellence and key sectors (e.g., space, health and life sciences) that will drive higher volumes and value investment into Oxfordshire.

A LOCAL ENGAGEMENT, REGIONAL REPRESENTATION AND GLOBAL OPPORTUNITY

The LAA priorities form an integral part of our wider work programme and commitment to regional leadership detailed in our Business Manifesto 2023. This includes focus on four main priorities. Together, they form policies and actions behind which the whole Chamber network will focus:

1

Secure investment in resilient infrastructure and utility networks: promote the continued investment in key digital and transportation networks to ensure they remain resilient to the future needs of business.

3

Expand the depth of our support and services to enable trade and inward investment flows to continue: provide our members with the relevant, direct, practical support and policy information required to operate efficiently and effectively.

2

Deliver regional leadership: support initiatives and promote the contribution our members are making to deliver the region's future sustainable economic well-being, productivity growth and pathway towards net zero.

4

Put employers at the centre of the skills system and build a stronger and more dynamic partnership between employers and further education providers: through our leadership of two Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs).



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Assembly



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