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Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership



oxlep

Pictured: The Oxford BioEscalator,
part-funded by the government's
City Deal.



HM Government



European Union

European Regional
Development Fund

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**INSPIRING,
COLLABORATING
AND DELIVERING
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR ECONOMIC
PROSPERITY.**

Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership
(OxLEP) Annual Report – 2018/2019



WELCOME FROM
NIGEL TIPPLE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Nigel Tipple in front of the Houses of Parliament in London, ahead of our first-ever House of Commons economic briefing in September 2018.

Thank you for taking the time to read our 2018/2019 annual report. This year, our report is entitled: **‘Inspiring, collaborating and delivering opportunities for economic prosperity’** and reflects a newly-created vision for our work.

Although this is a new vision, we are already **inspiring, collaborating and delivering**, supporting not just our own economic prosperity in Oxfordshire, but across the UK too.

FIRSTLY, HOW ARE WE INSPIRING?

During the last financial year, we have helped to inspire many to understand the opportunities that exist within Oxfordshire, taking these opportunities to national and international audiences.

Consider the four transformative technologies highlighted in our 2017 science and innovation audit. Through our quarterly House of Commons economic briefings, we have showcased to MPs, government officials, foreign embassies and investors the globally-significant and world-class development that is happening in Oxfordshire right now – whether that’s in connected and autonomous vehicles or even technologies that underpin quantum computing.

WE HAVE COLLABORATED TOO.

Our Local Industrial Strategy – which responds to government’s own UK Industrial Strategy – has seen us team-up with dozens of businesses, education providers and our local authorities to help shape an ambitious strategy that positions the county as one of the top-three global innovation ecosystems.

In addition, we have teamed-up with partners to promote the opportunities that exist across the Oxford-Cambridge Arc as a successful, innovative and productive knowledge-economy that contributes over £111bn GVA nationally, with potential to do more.

AND FINALLY, WE HAVE DELIVERED.

As a Local Enterprise Partnership – with our partners – we have now secured over £650m-worth of government or European investment for the county.

During 2018/19, this funding has directly supported partner organisations to deliver crucial projects making a positive impact on many communities. From a BioEscalator innovation centre – backing cutting-edge, life sciences research – through to the opening of a Livestock Technology Centre, ensuring young people with an ambition to work in agriculture gain access to the latest supporting technologies.

I hope you enjoy this annual report and it helps you to better understand the impact we are making.

Nigel Tipple
Chief Executive

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DELIVERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

ICE (INNOVATIVE CRYOGENIC ENGINEERING)

Through our work experience programme, we inspired around 5,500 young people from across Oxfordshire, securing meaningful placements with some of our leading businesses – including many operating within our key sectors, boasting genuine world-class capabilities, such as the Witney-based ICE (Innovative Cryogenic Engineering).

Inspiring the many stakeholders that we work with to gain a greater understanding of the opportunities that exist through our economy has been a major focus of our work throughout the past year.

Whether it is via the introduction of a series of House of Commons economic briefings – hosted by the county's MPs – promoting the globally-significant four transformative technologies that could be worth £180bn to the UK economy by 2030, or the creation of a roadshow of Q&A events, aimed at engaging our dynamic small business community, we aim to inspire as many people as possible.

Helping the next generation to get a real and genuine understanding of the potential careers that await them in years to come is also a key priority. Events like CareersFest – now in its 10th year – or the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards, celebrating apprentice and employer success alike, has inspired hundreds of young people from across the county.

These are just some of the ways we have inspired during 2018/2019:

INSPIRATION

1500+

YOUNG PEOPLE INSPIRED BY
CAREERSFEST

200+

SENIOR BUSINESS FIGURES INSPIRED BY
OUR HOUSE OF COMMONS EVENTS

COLLABORATION

Collaborating with our stakeholders cannot be underplayed. It is undeniable that Oxfordshire presents significant potential for the UK economy, particularly in a post-Brexit context – but to maximise this potential, collaborative working with our many stakeholders across multiple sectors, is absolutely essential.

We have collaborated locally, regionally, nationally and internationally throughout 2018/19, ensuring that we clearly position Oxfordshire’s potential in the minds of those who recognise the opportunities that exist within our economy.

Our commitment to collaboration has ensured our asset-rich, vibrant economy is in a position to be able to deliver opportunities, not just to

Oxfordshire communities, but for the wider UK economy too.

We have also played a major role in the emerging Oxford-Cambridge Arc, which – backed by a long-term plan and an investment partnership between government and local leadership – offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity.

This is how we have collaborated during 2018/2019:



OXFORD SPACE SYSTEMS

Throughout the past year, we have collaborated with businesses working within our globally-significant transformative technologies, highlighting their capabilities to investors, foreign embassy representatives and government officials alike through a series of House of Commons economic briefings. At our January 2019 event, we showcased our space and satellite capabilities – including the Harwell Campus-based, Oxford Space Systems, who already boast significant international growth.

Being able to deliver and demonstrate the value we bring as a Local Enterprise Partnership has been – and will continue to be – a major focus.

As a Local Enterprise Partnership – with our partners – we have now secured over £650m-worth of government or European investment for the county, with many programmes where we have secured investment being delivered during 2018/19.

Our delivery is also contributing to an economy that now boasts the creation of 50,000 new jobs between 2011/12 and 2016/17, and one of just three net contributors to the national exchequer.

We are also evolving the way in which we deliver our support to the Oxfordshire economy, recognising how important it is for our programmes to reflect our innovative economy – for example, the introduction of our Innovation Support for Business programme, as well as continuing to deliver meaningful work experience placements across the county within many emerging sectors.

We have also created a definitive business plan which gives our organisation a clear, strategic direction for delivery up to 2021.

ABINGDON & WITNEY COLLEGE

We delivered in partnership with Abingdon and Witney College a brand-new Livestock Technology Centre, based at their Common Leys Campus. It provides a 'highly-technical' environment and uses the latest agricultural technology to inspire young people. We secured £1m of funding towards the project via the government's Local Growth Fund, this, from an overall Local Growth Fund 3 allocation of £24.16m for Oxfordshire.

This is how we have delivered during 2018/2019:



INNOVATION SUPPORT PROGRAMME LAUNCHED
TO OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY

OF PREVIOUSLY SECURED GOVERNMENT OR
EUROPEAN FUNDING CONTINUES TO SUPPORT
OUR GROWING ECONOMY



MEANINGFUL WORK EXPERIENCE
PLACEMENTS DELIVERED FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

DELIVERING



THE OXFORDSHIRE LOCAL INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

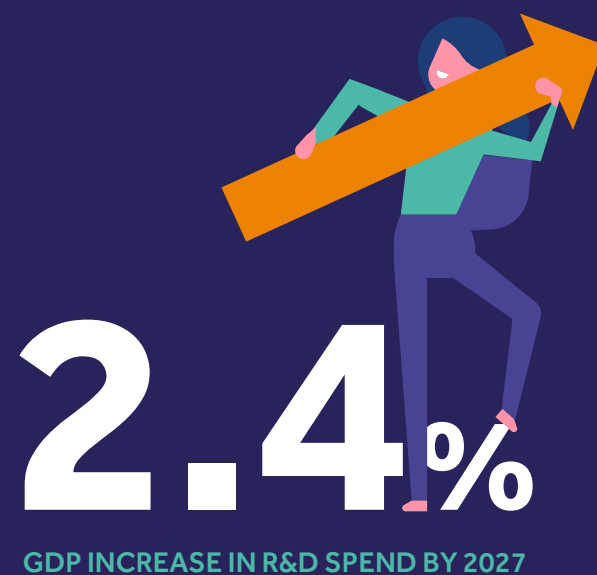
Oxfordshire is a globally-renowned county with one of the strongest economies in the UK, with a successful record securing investment to promote growth.

During 2018/19, we worked closely with over 300 stakeholders to create a Local Industrial Strategy for the county – a strategy that responds to the Government's UK Industrial Strategy, which aims to increase growth and productivity across the country and create more prosperous communities.

The UK Industrial Strategy is based on five 'Foundations of Productivity':

- Ideas
- People
- Infrastructure
- Business environment
- Places

Our ambition for the Oxfordshire Local Industrial Strategy is to position the county as one of the top-three global innovation ecosystems, highlighting our world-leading science and technology cluster and to be a pioneer for the UK and our emerging transformative technologies and sectors.



HM Government



INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY



IDEAS

ESTABLISH A GLOBALLY CONNECTED AND COMPETITIVE INNOVATION ECONOMY



FUEL 3D

By investing in Oxfordshire, we can deliver for the UK through new ideas, products and service innovation, reinforcing our position as a net contributor to the UK. Fuel 3D – based at Oxford Science Park – are a company growing through innovation. They develop 3D scanning solutions that monitor subcutaneous tumour growth, with the technology also being used to create a 'fitting platform', providing opticians with a superior personalised service.

ELMSBROOK

Creating 21st century 'places' that position the county as champions of green initiatives and technologies is a key priority. Elmsbrook – a new development situated on the outskirts of Bicester – offers eco-efficient properties and sustainable community living. It embraces rain water harvesting systems, electric car charging points, in-home digital information systems and solar panels with heating provided by a district heating plant. We have continued to champion such innovative developments through our support of the Oxfordshire Property Festival.



We are creating a highly-ambitious strategy for Oxfordshire that can also be at the forefront of a future globally-facing UK economy.

PLACEMAKING

ENABLE GREATER CONNECTIVITY AND ACCESSIBILITY ESPECIALLY ACROSS KEY GROWTH LOCATIONS

Our Local Industrial Strategy recognises and prioritises local need. It works directly alongside and feeds into other key Oxfordshire strategies, including the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.

No other part of the UK has the breadth and depth of assets, knowledge capability, skills and business capacity – making Oxfordshire a leading location for investment in the UK.

£4 for every £1 invested, delivering for the UK economy by 2040



PEOPLE

DEVELOP A MORE RESPONSIVE SKILLS ECOSYSTEM CREATING BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL



THE OXFORD FOUNDRY (UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD):

The Oxford Foundry is the University of Oxford's new entrepreneurship centre and aims to create a diverse, student-led community that embraces innovation and creativity, supporting the university's 24,000 students to become entrepreneurial people. As a county, we are home to two of the UK's 13 unicorn (\$1 billion) tech businesses and we continue to champion such innovation.



Our Local Industrial Strategy is focussed on the long-term, not short-term. It will provide an ambitious, long-term vision for economic growth between now and 2040 and is backed by business.

It provides a business-led framework, detailing how we can realise our full-potential, raising productivity and commercialisation of our unique innovation assets. It also has major significance, nationally and internationally.

The key sectors and technologies that we excel in have global reach, meaning we are a critical driver for UK economic growth post-Brexit.

BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

BECOME A POWERHOUSE FOR COMMERCIALISING TRANSFORMATIVE TECHNOLOGIES



COGNITANT

With a mission of: 'Helping people to understand and take control of their health', Oxfordshire-based digital health company Cognitant recognises that the world's population is growing and we are living longer. As a result, the chance of suffering from long-term illness is greater than ever. Cognitant works with patients, doctors and healthcare professionals, producing visual and interactive health information in 3D to be viewed on smartphones, tablets, computers or virtual reality headsets.

PLACES

DEVELOP OXFORDSHIRE AS A LIVING LABORATORY TO HELP SOLVE THE UK'S GRAND CHALLENGES

STREET DRONE

We have the global reach needed in a post-Brexit economy. The key sectors and technologies that we excel in have worldwide significance, meaning we are a critical driver for UK economic growth post-Brexit. This includes our connected and autonomous vehicles capabilities which we showcased at our House of Commons economic briefing in September 2018 – including the Oxford-based StreetDrone, pictured here in Westminster.

As the Local Enterprise Partnership for Oxfordshire, we are acutely aware of the public responsibilities we hold.

We make every effort to ensure our decision-making is transparent, accountable and delivers the value for money that is expected of a government-funded organisation.

To underpin this, the government ensures we – along with all other Local Enterprise Partnerships – adhere to a National Assurance Framework, ensuring robust systems, protocols and processes are in place, right across our work.

This National Assurance Framework ensures that we are also equipped to develop their own Local Assurance Framework to meet our own local growth priorities.

Our Local Assurance Framework clearly outlines our commitment to:

- Governance and decision making
- Clear transparency around any potential conflicts
- Accountability
- Ensuring value for money and effective delivery

The responsibility for ensuring we adhere to this framework lies with our 'Section 151 Officer', whose role it is to sign-off and certify our own Local Assurance Framework each year. This is also assessed during our annual performance review meeting with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Telling our story to senior stakeholders at the Houses of Parliament

Meaningful engagement with our Oxfordshire MPs



Bringing the latest products to our business community, including the launch of our £5.2m Innovation Support for Business (ISfB) phase two programme

Talking to hundreds of SMEs through our breakfast Q&A events

TRANSPARENCY



THE OXFORD BIOESCALATOR

It's important our work aligns with local growth priorities. The Oxford BioEscalator – designed with growing, start-up businesses in mind, particularly these working in the life sciences sector – opened for business in late-2018 and was part-funded by the government's City Deal. Working with the University of Oxford, we helped to secure £11million from the fund.



THE BOARD

OXFORDSHIRE APPRENTICESHIP AWARDS

Through our Board of Non-executive Directors, we continue to strengthen relationships between businesses, academia and the public sector. One example of this is our annual Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards, which brings young people, employers and education providers closer together to not only celebrate apprenticeships, but also better-understand the mutual benefits they can bring across multiple sectors. Pictured above is our Deputy Chair Adrian Lockwood presenting at the 2019 awards.



£2.2bn

GROWTH PROGRAMME
CURRENTLY OVERSEEN FOR OXFORDSHIRE

As the Local Enterprise Partnership for Oxfordshire, it is our role to champion the county's economic potential, acting as a catalyst and convener to drive a dynamic, sustainable and growing economy, supported by a £2.2bn growth programme.

We have made considerable progress in strengthening the county's economy by establishing robust and effective relationships between businesses, academia and the public sector – our Board* reflects this:

POSITION	NAME	REPRESENTING
Chair	Jeremy Long	Private sector
Deputy-chair	Adrian Lockwood	Oxfordshire Skills Board (private sector)
Vice-chair and local authority representative	Cllr. Roger Cox	Vale of White Horse District Council
Local authority representatives	Cllr. Ian Hudspeth	Oxfordshire County Council
	Cllr. Bill Service	South Oxfordshire District Council
	Cllr. James Mills	West Oxfordshire District Council
	Cllr. Susan Brown	Oxford City Council
	Cllr. Barry Wood	Cherwell District Council
Private sector representatives	Miranda Markham	Private sector
	Di Batchelor	Further education
	Prof. Alistair Fitt	Higher education
	Angus Horner	Private sector
	Penny Rinta-Suksi	Private sector
	Phil Shadbolt	Private sector – Bicester Vision
	Phil Southall	Private sector
	Peter Nolan	Private sector
OxLEP Ltd Chief Executive	Patrick Grant	Higher education
	Nigel Tipple	Attends ex officio and is not entitled to be admitted to membership

As we move into 2019/20, we are committed to ensuring our Board best reflects the diversity of our county.

In addition, like all Local Enterprise Partnerships, we are also committed to ensuring that by 2020, one third of our Board will be female and by 2023, this will be one half of our non-executive director membership.

*Please note – this was the make-up of our Board on 31 March 2019.

Here, we outline the financial performance for OxLEP Ltd between April 2018 and March 2019. The company is supported by Oxfordshire County Council as our Accountable Body.

This financial information was presented to and approved by our Finance and Audit Committee on 20 August 2019 and will be presented to our Board on 10 September 2019.

	2018/2019	2017/2018
INCOME		
Government grant income	£700,000	£500,000
Restricted income	£2,173,447	£1,726,857
TOTAL	£2,873,447	£2,226,857
EXPENDITURE		
Staff costs	£1,655,684	£1,658,010
Contracted services	£51,864	£51,334
Office/administrative expenses	£380,152	£155,795
Specialist, legal and professional services	£432,392	£113,010
Project costs	£353,355	£248,708
TOTAL	£2,873,447	£2,226,857

These accounts will be registered with Companies House and can be accessed via their own corporate website.

OUR COMMITTEES AND SUB-GROUPS:

We have a solid governance structure in-place sitting beneath our Board, made-up of two committees and eight sub-groups, each with key responsibilities overseeing our everyday work:

NOMINATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

Reviewing and reporting on key issues dealing with the recruitment and retention of Board non-executive directors and our staff. It is also responsible for overseeing the overall performance of the Board and also conducts an annual review of its effectiveness.

FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE:

Provides internal challenge and scrutiny to the financial processes and procedures within our organisation. It also reviews financial regulations and procedures to ensure a sound control environment is in place.

OUR SUB-GROUPS:

We have eight sub-groups, all with the responsibility of developing strands of our work. Each group reports back to our main Board.

THESE SUB-GROUPS HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR:

- Skills
- Programme
- Innovation
- Business Support
- Transport
- Enterprise Zone Development
- Culture and Visitor Economy
- Environment and Sustainability

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Positioning the Oxford-Cambridge Arc’s potential internationally at MIPIM International



Supporting young people to discover career opportunities, through our Apprenticeship Ambassador scheme



Securing pivotal investment for the county, including the LGF-backed Didcot Parkway Station expansion

Thank you for taking the time to read our annual report for 2018/2019. I hope that it has outlined to you the continued strengths of the Oxfordshire economy and the work we – as a Local Enterprise Partnership – are doing to contribute to it.

As we have outlined in this report, we wish to inspire, collaborate and deliver across all areas our work, promoting an economy whose 'narrative' has genuine global potential right at its core – and it's a story that we feel needs to be told as regularly as possible to multiple audiences.

With a GVA of £23bn per year, as a county, we are one of just three net county contributors to the exchequer.

Oxfordshire is a significant player in the emerging Oxford-Cambridge Arc, which contributes over £111bn GVA per year, with potential to do more and we have now seen a total of 50,000 new jobs created in the county between 2011/12 and 2016/17.

Our small business community also continues to buck the national trend. The UK five-year survival rate for businesses born in 2011 – and still active in 2016 – was 44.1%, Oxfordshire averaged 49.3%.

Meanwhile, the county's four transformative technologies of connected and autonomous vehicles, digital health, space and satellites and technologies underpinning quantum computing – if fully-utilised – could be worth in the region of £180billion to the UK by 2030, around six percent of the global economy in these technologies.

Global impact like this presents significant potential, not just locally, but for the UK economy too, particularly post-Brexit – but to maximise this potential, collaborative working across all stakeholders, is absolutely essential and we will continue to play our part in this during 2019/20 and beyond.

Of course – Brexit is one subject that will continue to be at the forefront of everybody's minds. As discussions continue, many will be unsure as to what will happen next.

However, one message we will continue to communicate is whatever 'type' of Brexit is agreed; Oxfordshire's economy is both agile and high-performing. It's an economy ready to embrace many opportunities and ultimately, it's one we are all very proud to be a part of.



Jeremy Long
Chair



IN SUMMARY, JEREMY LONG CHAIR

Jeremy Long, speaking at our House of Commons space and satellites economic briefing in January 2019.