A Compass Toward a Thriving and Resilient Oxfordshire

THE OXFORDSHIRE DOUGHNUT PROJECT

FINAL REPORT TO OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

7 November 2024

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Introduction

“How can Oxfordshire become home to a thriving people in a thriving place while respecting the wellbeing of all people and the health of the whole planet?

The answers are in the room.

Kate Raworth
A Better Future For Oxfordshire: Doughnut Economics Workshop, September 2023

This report represents the first steps toward an Oxfordshire re-imagining economics to serve thriving futures - a future where the needs of all citizens are met, where we live within our ecological means, and where the wellbeing of people and future generations, both here at home and beyond our borders, are considered and actioned in decision making. Here we will share Oxfordshire’s preliminary data portrait of place - a data-informed snapshot of where we are now relative to the ‘safe and just space’ of the Doughnut - and consider how Doughnut-informed thinking and tools can play a role in shaping transformative, participatory decision making and strategic economic planning.

Two key moments were pivotal for the development of this project

September 2023: Nearly 100 stakeholders from across Oxfordshire came together in a way that rarely happens for the ‘Better Future For Oxfordshire’ Doughnut Economics (DE) workshop. With representation from nearly 73 different organisations from across Oxfordshire’s districts, and sector representation from housing, energy, transport, education, agriculture, green innovation, built environment, farming, food and more, Kate Raworth and Rob Shorter from Doughnut Economics Action Lab invited participants to ‘step into the Doughnut’ for the first time. These participatory workshops yielded the first qualitative insights to inform Oxfordshire’s Doughnut. More than this, it demonstrated an enormous appetite for doing things differently here in the County to address our greatest challenges.

January 2024: Oxfordshire’s inaugural Green Finance conference 100 Together - convened by Oxfordshire County Council Chief Executive Martin Reeves to address how we might mobilise finance and unlock investment to accelerate the green transition - transformative economics was a key theme.

Kate Raworth, gave the keynote address. Throughout the day, the strengths and weaknesses of the County were recognised; a county of riches, heritage and global influence in innovation and academia. But also severely nature-depleted and with deep and widening social inequality.

With a County ambition to ‘dare to do it differently’, Martin Reeves posed a direct challenge. “Oxfordshire has everything at its feet. If we can’t do it, who can?”.

It was here that members of an emerging network of Doughnut Economics practitioners connected with Oxfordshire County Council officers and Martin Reeves on the idea of progressing the Oxfordshire Doughnut;

There were three components to the resulting brief:

1. To develop a first- iteration baseline data portrait for Oxfordshire. This is the early beginnings of a county-wide ‘selfie’ that asks - is Oxfordshire thriving?

2. To consider how ‘Doughnut thinking’ can inform the evolution of impact assessment tools for more holistic, transformative decision making

3. To explore how these tools - the Portrait and Impact Assessment - can speak to each other dynamically, inform strategic economic planning as part of an overall Doughnut-informed framework for use.

This report distils the outputs of this early exploratory research. But it also speaks to both the growing momentum and the enormous potential for applying transformative economic thinking here in Oxfordshire - the beginning of an exciting journey into the ‘sweet spot’ of the Doughnut.

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Why Doughnut Economics?

Oxfordshire has everything at its feet.

If we can't do it, who can?

Martin Reeves
Oxfordshire County Council CEO,
100 Together January 2024

At the time of finalising this report, Autumn 2024, in October alone; the State of Climate Report has told us that 25 of 35 planetary vital signs are at record levels; "we are on the brink of an irreversible climate disaster...much of the very fabric of life on Earth is imperiled".[1] WWF's State of Nature Report has told us nature continues to disappear at an alarming rate and we need to transform food, energy and finance systems, fast.[2] The UNEP global Emissions Report 2024 has told us that we are on track for a devastating 2.6* global temperature increase unless large scale adoption of renewables and energy efficiency measures are accelerated.[3] And we've also learned, with new analysis from the Fairness Foundation, that the wealth inequality gap in the UK increased by 48% between 2011-2019, the richest 10% holding more than 60% of the wealth - the highest in the OECD, except for the US.[4]

Doughnut Economics is a response to a global system that is simultaneously failing to meet the needs of humans whilst degrading nature's life-support systems.

In its approach, Doughnut Economics is a mindset.[5] It communicates this through 'The Seven Ways To Think Like a 21st Century Economist' [FIGURE 1] new economic thinking to drive a paradigm shift away from the 20th Century GDP-growth goal now widely recognised as 'an inadequate guide for effective policy making, and a poor proxy for economic prosperity and social progress'.[6]

In practice, Doughnut Economics offers a set of practical tools and methodological approaches for applying these ways of thinking. To engage with and to apply the tools, is mindset shift in action. The Doughnut Economics approach provides;

- Tools and pathways for setting vision-led, transformative agendas in an age of crisis
- An a-political, holistic framework that unites different interests and players
- A strong visualisation which has a mobilising effect in tackling difficult challenges
- New ways of measuring progress and integrating these into economic planning
- A narrative of hope and optimism where everyone has a role to play (DEAL).

Across the British Isles from Cornwall to Glasgow, Leeds to Devon, Brecon Beacons to Ladywell in Birmingham, people are asking "how do we build on our strengths to regenerate our local places and societies for a new definition of prosperity in the 21st Century?" And how do we mobilise the local economy - in all its guises - to get us there?".

Why Doughnut Economics? Doughnut Economics brings hope and optimism—a call for a bold paradigm shift rooted in 21st-century economic thinking. It offers practical, actionable tools that empower policymakers at the county level and passionate citizens at the local level alike to envision regenerative, equitable futures, transforming aspirations into impactful change at all levels.

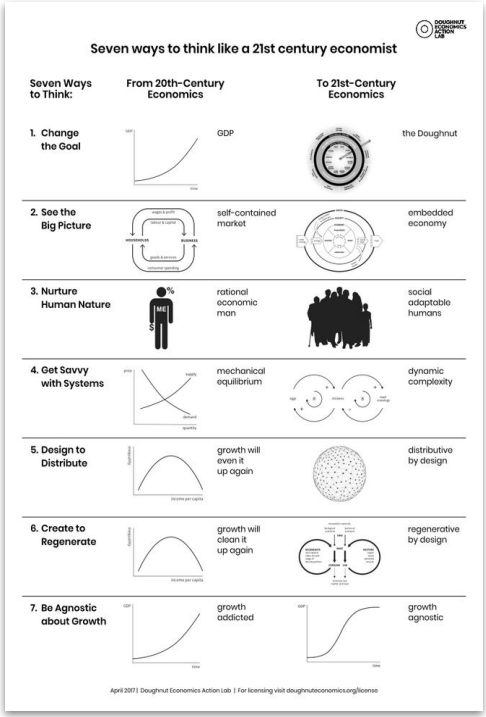

FIGURE 1: The Seven Ways To Think Like a 21st Century Economist, DEAL

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September 2023: nearly 100 stakeholders from across Oxfordshire came together for the ‘Better Future For Oxfordshire’ Doughnut Economics workshop

Photo by Nicola Shafer: September 2023 Doughnut Economics Workshop, convened by ODEC.

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02 Methodology

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The Doughnut

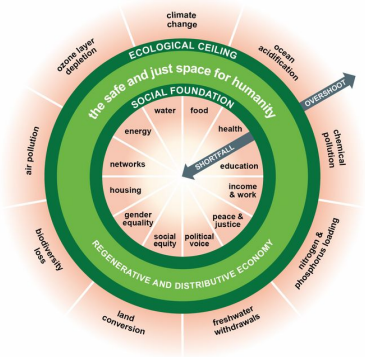

FIGURE 2: The Doughnut Economics Doughnut - Doughnut Economics Action Lab

The core concept at the heart of Doughnut Economics is based on the Planetary Boundaries model. The outer ring represents the ecological ceiling. The inner ring, modelled on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represents the social foundation - below which 'falling short' means critical deprivation of human needs. Together they represent the boundaries which a place should not transgress - and the space between them, is both ecologically safe and socially just.

The Doughnut provides those responsible for steering change with a new compass for prosperity. A new goal to aim for - the safe and just place where humanity can thrive in balance within ecological limits.

The Portrait Of Place

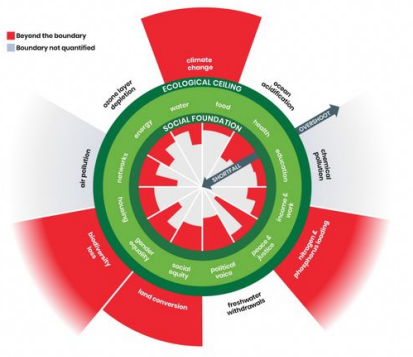

FIGURE 3: The first global Doughnut's (Raworth, 2017) visualises the global ecological and the global social

The Portrait of Place is what we arrive at when places downscale the doughnut to local scale.

If the Doughnut model tells us what we're aiming for - the Portrait of Place shows us where we are; a selfie, if you will, which shows us where a place is breaching the planetary boundary or falling short of human needs in the social foundation.

We build the portrait of place by 'unrolling the doughnut' to reveal four lenses.

The Four Lenses

FIGURE 4: The Four Lenses, DEAL, doughnuteconomics.org

The four lenses is an approach for exploring a place through four different perspectives; local-social, local-ecological, global-social, global ecological. "Taken together, the four lenses are intended to start and inform a public discussion about what it would mean for your place to achieve local aspirations, while respecting the rights of all people, and the health of the living planet. With varying degrees of engagement, qualitative and quantitative data is gathered and it is this data that sits behind the portrait visualisation, and communicates the extent to which a place is 'thriving'.

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Methodology

Doughnut Economics Action Lab (DEAL) has open-sourced its tools and methodologies for the commons.

From the Doughnut framework to practical tools and guides, DEAL's resources are freely available for communities and municipalities to adopt and adapt, allowing projects to unfold uniquely based on local needs. Our primary resource tools from DEAL are the Data Portrait of Place Tool and The Four Lenses tool.[7-8]

The Oxfordshire Approach

The Oxfordshire approach is both ambitious in scope and radically pragmatic - working with a small budget over six months, the goal was to was to accelerate understanding of Doughnut-Economics-in-application, with tangible deliverables, across three core areas;

1. **The Portrait of Place:** to create a preliminary data portrait of place (including visualisation) for further engagement and development
2. **Decision Making Tool:** for a council already committed to holistic impact assessment, how might tools be informed and evolved in alignment with 'the Doughnut'?
3. **Strategic integration/framework for use.** As part of considering how the Doughnut could inform strategic economic planning, show how the Doughnut and tool can integrate dynamically to inform overall system of decision making in Oxfordshire?

We adopted the 4D Design process, an iterative model that enabled parallel workflows and the cross-pollination of insights across workstreams. Using a primarily desk-based, lean agile-scrum approach, we worked in focused research sprints, accelerating our learning to quickly inform development within the project's constraints (including reduced-capacity data teams and time-poor assessment tool leads at Oxfordshire County Council).

Specific details on methodology are unpacked in each section of the report related to the workstreams.

These three, early deliverables provide a 'baseline' for further interrogation and development; A preliminary data portrait for engagement and socialisation; some early envisioning for portrait and tool alignment. And a starting framework for considering the transformational potential of these tools to drive economic systems change to steward Oxfordshire into the 'safe and just' place.

FIGURE 5: Project plan and workstreams

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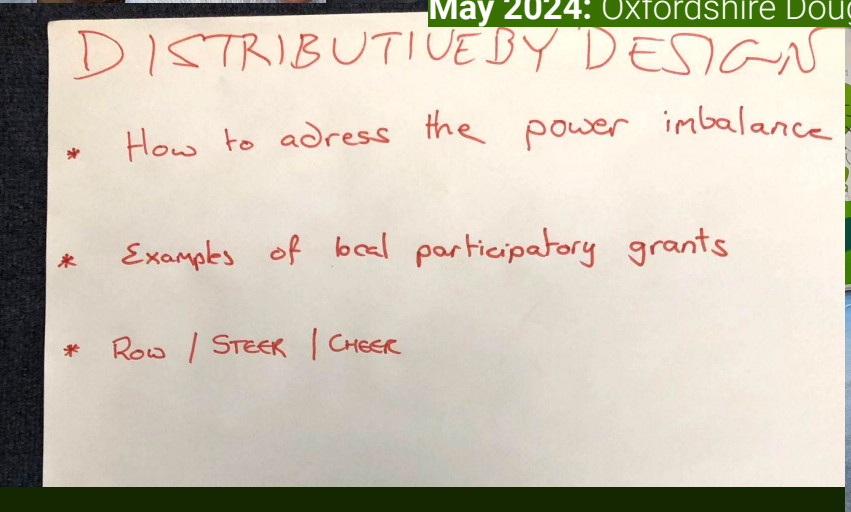
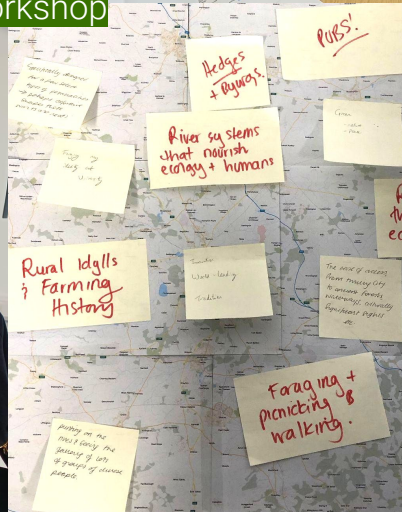
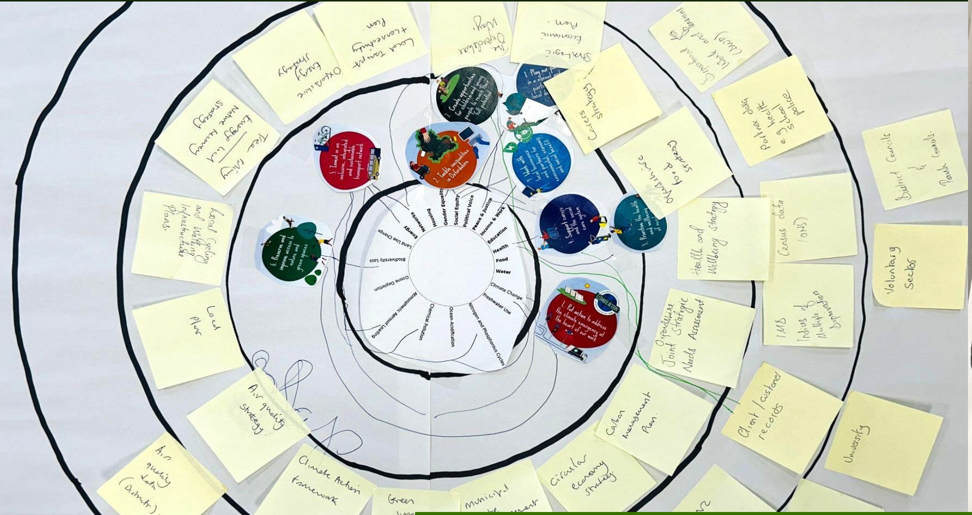
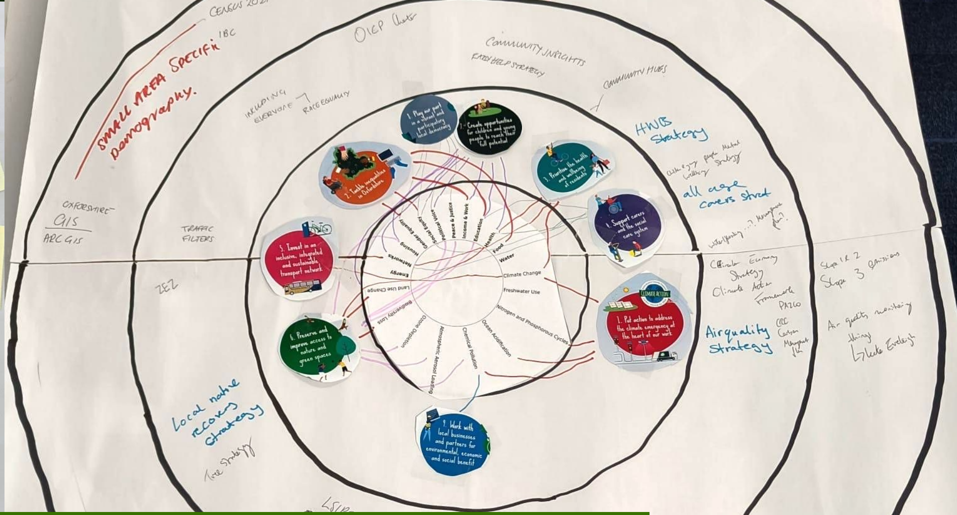
May 2024: Oxfordshire Doughnut Economics ‘Sparking Connections’ Workshop









May 2024: Oxfordshire Doughnut Economics 'Sparking Connections' Workshop

Mapping Policies to Dimensions

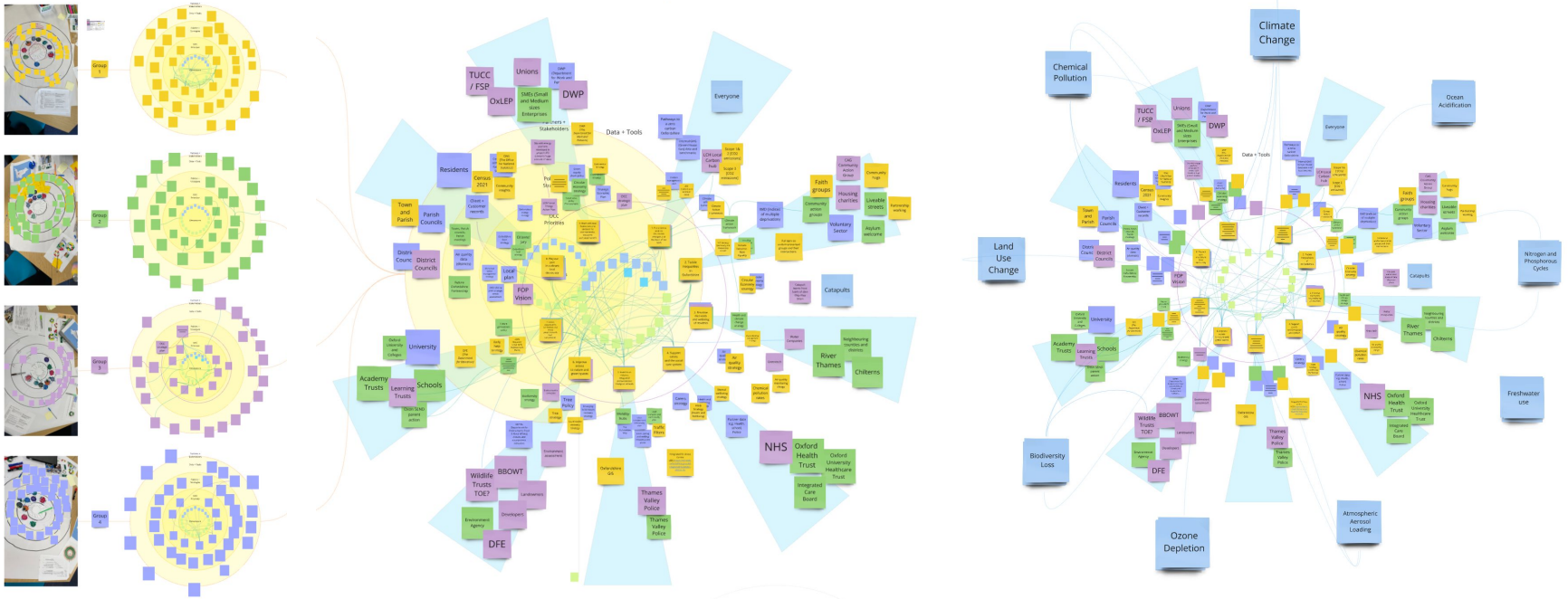


FIGURE 6: Progression of mapping OCC policies to DE dimensions

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Building up narrative themes on how the **strengths** of Oxfordshire can meet the **challenges** we face and reach for the **aspirations** of a **thriving** future Oxfordshire for all.

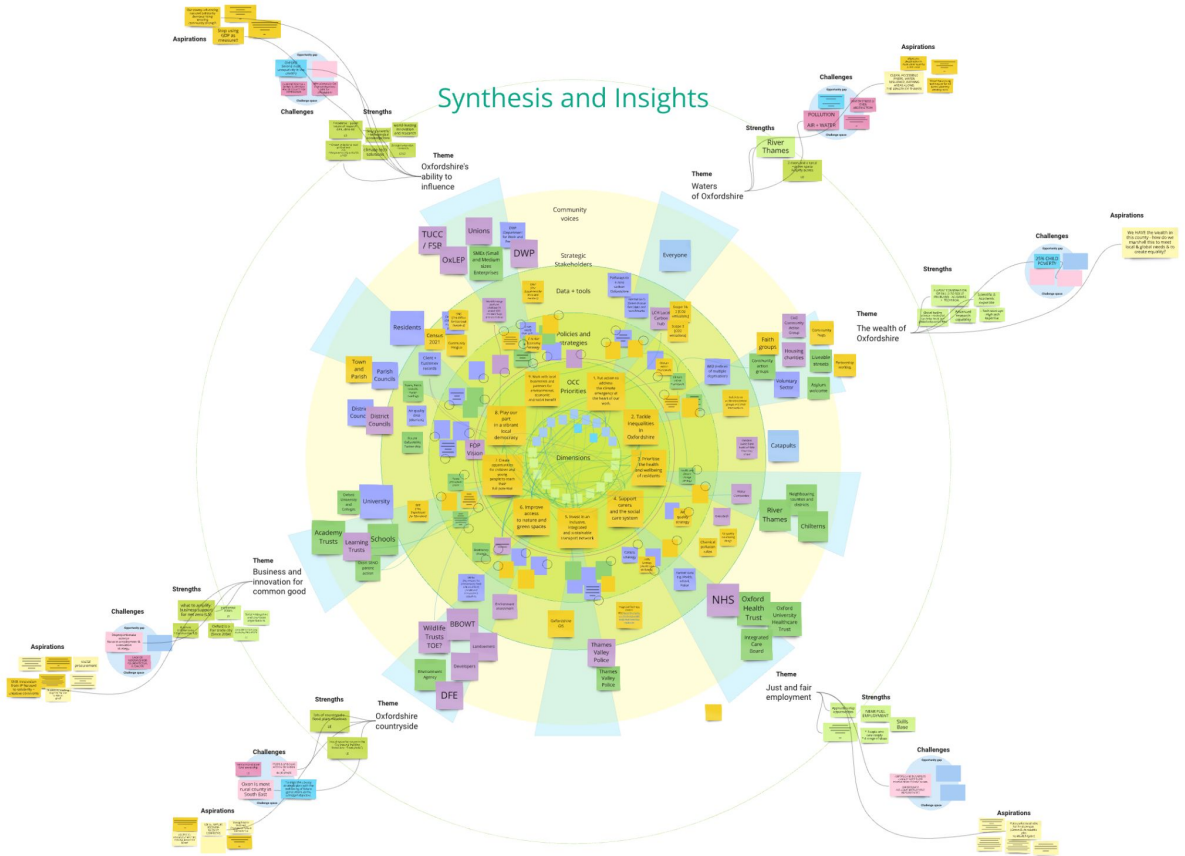

FIGURE 7: Building narratives on the strengths of Oxfordshire, meeting the challenges and reaching for aspirations

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03 Executive Summary

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Executive Summary

Overall, the preliminary data portrait shows how deeply connected the challenges are that we face - but also shines a light on the potential for interconnected decision-making; an early stage re-rolling of all four lenses into one Oxfordshire Doughnut is helpful for not only illustrating the interconnections today, but also for future Doughnut-aligned decision-making tool integrations down the line.

What is the preliminary Oxfordshire data Portrait of Place telling us so far?

The Oxfordshire population is producing far more carbon emissions than is safe. On average, each person is responsible for nearly eight times more their fair share of carbon emissions.[9] This is a colossal overshoot - at this rate, Oxfordshire will have burned through the County carbon budget for 2050 by April 2026[164] (Global Ecological lens).

Oxfordshire's relative wealth as a county is not only unevenly distributed locally, but contributing disproportionately to poor social outcomes globally; a good standard of living for most in Oxfordshire relies on low wages, poor working conditions, poverty and lack of education among those outside our borders (Global Social lens)

We are using more than our fair share of resources to feed our relatively comfortable life-styles. Not only is this driving ecological breakdown but reinforcing social inequality (Global Social - Global Ecological)

Here in Oxfordshire average earnings are high and most people enjoy long healthy lives [10,11]. However, the local-social lens reveals that many are falling short; in all but one dimension, Oxfordshire breaches the social foundation - representing the minimum requirements for a decent life, or areas of critical deprivation. (Local Social lens)

Our natural resources are at a critical point - water is under extreme stress, almost all stretches of Oxfordshire rivers are unswimmable and life-depleted, many are over-abstracted, and in general at high-risk of both flooding and running dry. We have very little semi-natural habitats to house already critically-declining biodiversity, and we are emitting more carbon from fossil fuels than we generating through renewables, or drawing down through habitats. (Local and Global Ecological lenses)

FIGURE 8: Simplified DE portrait of place for Oxfordshire

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Executive Summary

How can Oxfordshire be a home to thriving people, in a thriving place, whilst respecting the wellbeing of all people, and the health of the whole planet?

What can Oxfordshire do about it?

The reality is, there's already so much happening in Oxfordshire. In October alone, the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy was published for consultation.[12] The Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership (OLNP) gathered at FarmED, a world-leading demonstrator for regenerative, nature-friendly farming and soil health, for their annual meeting to agree goals and actions. The inaugural Oxford City Climate Awards acknowledged exceptional action at the intersection of climate and social regeneration from housing projects (The Hook Norton Community Land Trust) to innovation (Oxfordshire Greentech), and nature recovery (Wild Oxfordshire).[12] A feasibility study for a Social Investment Fund has been published to understand how to strengthen and empower an already thriving social enterprise County.[13] And a 30-strong delegation of academics from Oxford University will be contributing their expertise to global discussions on biodiversity at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Columbia.[14]

This of course is just a snapshot of the work already happening around the County that demonstrates the enormous potential of the Doughnut approach in Oxfordshire - for 'joining the dots', mobilising data, forging powerful partnerships and collaborations, and above all bringing everyone together on the same journey with shared understanding of shared challenges and opportunities for thriving.

To take this further, Oxfordshire County Council's ambition to move beyond impact assessment tool to decision making tool in alignment with the challenges and opportunities of the Doughnut, and to explore Doughnut-informed approach to strategic economic planning, demonstrates the leadership, will, and ambition to act.

Doughnut Economics Action Lab (DEAL) have found that uptake of Doughnut Economics is most powerful in councils where:

There is an ambition to transform the future of places with new economic thinking.	✅ **Oxfordshire**
There is the political will to shift towards outcomes-based policymaking, focused on social and ecological outcomes.	✅ **Oxfordshire**
Much work is siloed, and a common framework is needed with the capacity to bring different sectors from both social and ecological domains together.	✅ **Oxfordshire**

With Doughnut Economics tools, Oxfordshire has the power to:

Break down silos and join things up with collective understanding of priorities

Address the tension between growth economics and 'thrive' goals

Engage citizens and stakeholders on the tough-subjects (land use) and harness data to best effect (storytelling and measurement)

Activate Oxfordshire communities, social enterprises, the commons, innovators and business sectors around shared priorities

Orient, mobilise and power-up finance and investment around shared goals

Drive better outcomes for projects, planning, and policy with embedded ambition and cultural shift.

Proactively build an inclusive economy through participation and regenerative and distributive design of projects.

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Top-Line Findings And Next Steps

WORKSTREAM	LEARNINGS & CORE INSIGHTS	TAKING IT FORWARD
1. PRELIMINARY DATA PORTRAIT To work collaboratively with OCC to build a first- iteration baseline data portrait for Oxfordshire	The preliminary data portrait paints an extremely concerning picture for Oxfordshire socially and ecologically particularly on global impacts. The process has highlighted the value of portrait as both compass and a tool for making socio-ecological connections and driving mindset shift. The process also highlighted the challenge and opportunity with unlocking data and action gaps, reinforcing the importance of broad and inclusive engagement to enrich, evolve, and legitimise. Further, global social and global ecological impacts point to critical role of local action to build a resilient , globally responsible Oxfordshire.	**Embrace preliminary data portrait as springboard for engagement and socialisation** 1. Investigate and establish a platform, process, and Governance for housing 'living and evolving' Doughnut 2. Progress the Doughnut methodology to enrich the portrait with qualitative input to develop a compelling vision for thriving : participatory cross-sector workshop series with diverse representation 3. In partnership, and collaboratively, evolve and develop indicator, target and threshold selections with key stakeholders harnessing local expertise across climate and ecology
2. ASSESSMENT TOOL To create a Doughnut-aligned decision-making tool to better consider short and long-term environmental, health, intergenerational, socioeconomic and equality implications of OCC decisions.	OCC have developed an integrated impact assessment (IA) tool to combine disparate IAs , streamline the process, and begin to shape holistic thinking on projects. With socialisation of the Doughnut and more explicit design synergy, there's the potential for OCC to become a forerunner in developing advanced Doughnut-aligned tool to drive transformative decision making in the design of projects.	1. **Align Tool with Doughnut Portrait:** Integrate the design principles of the doughnut portrait into the tool (dimensions, goals, and thresholds) 2. **Design for supporting thriving people and places** while respecting everyone's well-being and the planet's health; Design the tool's criteria, language, questions, advanced scoring system and visuals to reflect what thriving could look like in Oxfordshire. 3. **Iterative Framework:** Create a tool framework that enables future adaptation, guiding users through various stages to identify hotspots and optimise outcomes.
3. FRAMEWORK To consider how Doughnut Economics tools could be integrated into an overall 'framework' for use including Strategic Economic Planning in Oxfordshire	Whilst an evolving practice, our discovery research shows that many places have integrated the Doughnut approach coherently in partnership with municipalities and community. The Portrait of Place and a Doughnut-informed Decision Making tool have the potential to guide a transformative approach here in Oxfordshire - from strategic economic planning right through to policy and project design, fostering an enabling environment for an inclusive economy to thrive.	1. Awareness of and engagement of the preliminary data portrait and framework is needed to socialise and develop the framework in collaboration with stakeholders such as local policy lab, OIEP as well as Directorates and districts 2. Adopting Oxfordshire Doughnut as both guiding compass and regenerative transformation framework for strategic economic planning - from establishing holistic snapshot, to defining objectives and cross-cutting themes, and co-designing finance and investment mechanisms to fund transformative change

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The central theme of Global Donut Days 2024 is “local action, global connection”. Through this, we can build a sense that we are all part of a wider story of change.

Doughnut Economics Action Lab

Report Journey

This report is a a distillation of three interconnected work streams but also tells the story of potential. How might Oxfordshire County Council, in partnership with Anchor institutions and other County stakeholders, begin to embrace 21st Century economic thinking and action?

We begin the report with the preliminary data portrait to help anchor perspective. Many places begin storytelling of the Doughnut with the local lenses. We've elected to begin with the global lenses - topping and tailing with the ecological - in this way we begin with the relatively untold story of Oxfordshire's impact and start the process of 'nesting' local action in the Global context.

Not only is this highly relevant to the 2024 Global Donut Day theme “local action, global connection” but it's also a response to a core insight from OCC officers and Discovery learnings from other places - that incorporating global impacts is new territory, and challenging for most municipalities.

From here, we journey to the Tool and distil how we might align and integrate the portrait and tool for transformative decision making in Oxfordshire, decision making that not only plays a part in addressing Oxfordshire's greatest challenges, but also act on our global responsibilities.

Lastly, inspired by the work of other places, and in consideration of the Oxfordshire context, we finish on a vision for an inclusive, Doughnut-informed economic model for mobilising all parts of the economy, leveraging the Doughnut tools and mindset shift to get us there.

THE DATA PORTRAIT

- Global Ecological
- Global Social
- Local Social
- Local Ecological

THE DECISION MAKING TOOL

Discovery learnings and unlocking potential for transformative change at project level

THE FRAMEWORK

Envisioning an inclusive, doughnut-informed economic model with the Doughnut mindset shift and tools

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May 2024: Oxfordshire Doughnut Economics Sparking Connections workshop

04

Part 1
The Preliminary Data Portrait

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Is Oxfordshire a home to thriving people, in a thriving place, whilst respecting the wellbeing of all people, and health of the whole planet?

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One Portrait Of Place - Many Layers

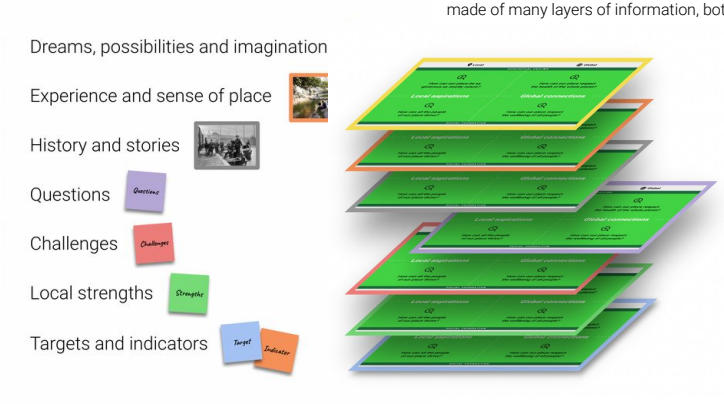

FIGURE 9: DE Multi-layered approach

If the Doughnut provides us with a new goal for prosperity, the Portrait of Place shows how a place is faring against the ecological ceiling and the social foundation. It is in fact made of many layers of information, both qualitative and quantitative.

Some places, like Melbourne, begin with the community portrait, providing qualitative inputs on local aspirations and challenges which steer prioritisation and decision making for dimensions.[15] Others begin with a desk-research-based data portrait with data drawn from published records and ambitions. In Oxfordshire, this is our starting point.

Depending on available funding, the data portrait can be co-created with stakeholders and key partners over time, or, as is the case in Oxfordshire, a top-line pulled together in a relatively short time frame as a starting point.

Working in approximately two-week sprints per lens, we broadly followed the DEAL methodology, incorporating variations tailored to each lens.

Where possible, we recorded the data rationale and identified data gaps and opportunities as we went. These can be found in the data summaries in the appendix.

The Oxfordshire Approach to the DEAL methodology;

1. Mapped oxfordshire local priorities to the dimensions to unlock targets, data sources and to ensure the portrait is aligned to local priorities
2. 'Unrolled the doughnut' to build a data snapshot across all four lenses with a goal of visualising as many dimensions as possible in the 'Oxfordshire Doughnut'
3. Agreed the criteria for selecting data: *relevant* to the identified Oxfordshire Council target, *representative* of specific challenges in Oxfordshire, *available* at the Oxfordshire level, *updated annually* for the indicator, *publicly available* and following trustworthy methodologies
4. Identified visions and ambitions (targets) for each dimension. The vision column in our data sheet was an addition to the DEAL methodology to log existing visions, for eventual alignment with tool integration and to baseline further engagement on thriving aspirations
5. Selected one representative data story - from target to snapshot - per dimension to communicate oxfordshire's performance. Where resources permit, suites and baskets of indicators are collected, collated, debated with one target, indicator and snapshot selected as most representative. The OCC-Oxfordshire Doughnut project team, in partnership with key collaborators, decided the focus area based on a mix of OCC priorities, known Oxfordshire challenges, and available data. Decisions were largely made by a small team, at pace within the sprint period.
6. Established a threshold - for the most part these don't exist so were subjectively calculated based on targets and / or national averages. These are unpacked in the data summaries in the appendix.

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A Compass Towards a Thriving and Resilient Oxfordshire

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v1.8 30 October 2024.

Global Ecological Lens

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Global Ecological Lens

Is Oxfordshire respecting the health of the whole planet?

The global-ecological lens seeks to understand and quantify how Oxfordshire impacts Earth's life-supporting systems. Based on the planetary boundaries model, this involves a downscaling of global data to local scale to understand if Oxfordshire as a county is operating within, or overshooting, our fair share of planetary boundaries, in the global context.

The story so far - what is the global-eco lens telling us?

Oxfordshire's relative wealth as a county comes at significant climate and ecological cost.

- Oxfordshire is currently producing far more carbon emissions than is safe - the county is overshooting the climate change boundary by more than 700%
- On average, each person is responsible for eight times their fair share of carbon emissions. This is a colossal overshoot - at this rate, Oxfordshire will have burned through the allocated County carbon budget for 2050 by April 2026
- This impact, however, isn't created equally. Although all income quintiles overshoot planetary boundaries for climate change, high income earners overshoot their fair by over 1400% compared with lowest earners who overshoot by over 400%'. This disproportionate impact by relative wealth is reflected across all global-ecological dimensions
- Ecological footprint data shows that, proportionally, the Oxfordshire way of life demands more than double the safe limit for land use conversion, placing significant pressure on the Earth's resources and its ability to support future generations
- Oxfordshire is not consuming responsibly - on average, our material footprint, which measures the total amount of materials extracted to meet final consumption demands, is in overshoot of the safe and just place by more than 150% - again, this isn't borne equally with highest income quartiles overshooting the threshold by 360%. The lowest quintile is only 25% over the threshold, so much closer to existing within planetary boundaries.

Method top-lines

- We have applied the similar data downscaling method as Leeds City Doughnut, which was based on methodologies produced by O'Neill et al.[16-17]
- We have applied carbon budgets in alignment with more recent and higher confidence 1.5C carbon goal.[18]
- To calculate carbon footprint we used place-based carbon calculations to collate local district level Carbon Footprints based on expenditure data,[9] then weighted each district by population to give the weighted average of carbon footprint in Oxfordshire.[19]
- For ecological footprint, we downscaled to regional average and applied an uplift based on Oxfordshire income data.[10]
- We have also applied UK expenditure shares by income quintiles to examine overshoots by earning groups.[20]

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Global Ecological Lens

Is Oxfordshire respecting the health of the whole planet?

What we did

- Climate Change and Ocean Acidification are both measured by Carbon footprints, which we measured at district level to give a better understanding of Oxfordshire's share.[9] Using a more ambitious target of 1.36t CO2 per person per year leads to Oxfordshire's share being 8 times larger than it should be.[18]
- Excessive Land use was measured by the UK's ecological footprint which helps us set a target for global hectares used per person per year.[21] While this footprint has decreased drastically over the last 20 years, Oxfordshire's share is still over 2 times larger than it should be.
- Excessive Fertiliser use is measured by Phosphorus and Nitrogen, which when downscaling national data finds that Oxfordshire's share is over 5 times and 7 times larger than it should be respectively.[17]
- Freshwater withdrawals was illustrated via blue-water use, and was used to find Oxfordshire's share being 43% of threshold via downscaling the national levels.[17]
- Measuring Consumption via the UK's Material Footprint, which indicates Oxfordshire's share of consumption is 2.5 times larger than it should be.[22]
- Biodiversity is extremely hard to measure, however by using MSA-loss-HA as an indicator of Biodiversity Footprint we can argue Oxfordshire is 'exceeding' the Biodiversity share more than the UK.[23]

Where to next?

- Further downscaling to Oxfordshire territorial overshoots, where regional data has been applied
- Updated thresholds (similar to carbon footprint alteration)
- A new methodology needed to examine Chemical Pollution dimension
- Updated data to track progress

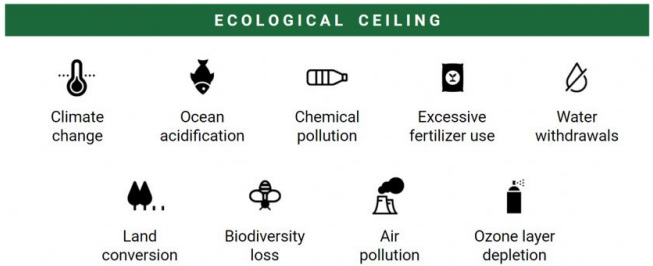

FIGURE 10: DE Global Ecological Dimensions, Data Portrait of Place tool, doughnuteconomics.org

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Global Social Lens

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Global Social Lens

Is Oxfordshire respecting the wellbeing of people, the world over?

The global-social lens lens is an inquiry into the impact of a place on the wellbeing of people beyond our borders. Modelled on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), an internationally recognised minimum standard of wellbeing,[24] the DEAL methodology invites an exploration of the interconnections between culture, lifestyle and business activity on the wellbeing of people world wide.

Oxfordshire is not an island. Although we have bioregional and municipal borders, production and consumption in a globalised system is borderless, dispersed, and interconnected to regional, national, and global brands and suppliers. Oxfordshire-based retailers source products globally, and Oxfordshire's businesses and sectors are deeply interwoven with global supply chains.

While large enterprises are increasingly expected to assess their social impact, this is less common at the municipal level.

The Global Social lens is an opportunity to start locating Oxfordshire's position within these global supply chains, reflect on how this affluent County is interconnected to global dynamics of exchange, and bring visibility to ways in which activity here contributes to poor social outcomes.

As Oxfordshire's green and fair ambitions unfold through policy and action plans, this lens presents an opportunity to reflect on the global implications of local actions—spanning government, households, anchor institutions and businesses - and consider how, though the work of 'the Doughnut', global social responsibilities can be actively considered in decision-making systems right here in Oxfordshire.

FIGURE 11: DE Global Social Dimensions, Data Portrait of Place tool, doughnuteconomics.org

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Is Oxfordshire respecting the wellbeing of people, the world over?

Global Social Lens

The Oxfordshire Approach

We have already seen in the Global Ecological lens, the ecological impact of Oxfordshire's relative wealth on both climate change, land use and biodiversity...

...But what of the social impact?

In recent decades, global material resource consumption has experienced unprecedented growth - material extraction has trebled in the last fifty years alone and is considered the primary cause of the 'triple planetary crises' of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.[25] High income countries use six times more materials per capita than low income countries and are disproportionately reliant on resources from less affluent regions. This "ecologically unequal exchange" illustrates how the affluent nations benefit from the net inflow of resources, grow and accumulate wealth while poorer regions bear the environmental and social costs, reinforcing global inequalities.[26]

With relatively limited resources for this first-iteration, early-stage data portrait, the goal of our desk-research was to firstly understand Oxfordshire's social impact through material footprint and expenditure data. [22, 27, 28]

Material footprint is a measure of the total amount of materials extracted and used across the supply chain to produce goods and services. It includes the materials used within a county, but also those embedded in imported products.

It's a helpful measure for providing a more comprehensive view of the actual resources required to sustain an economy, and is useful for bringing understanding of the pressure that production and consumption in Oxfordshire places, not just on ecosystems, but also communities around the world.

Layered with indicators from the social foundation, we are able to arrive at a 'share of impact' of key wellbeing indicators in alignment with the SDGs. This effectively gives us a 'social footprint' to communicate.

Secondly, to make things more tangible, we've taken a sector specific 'shallow-dive' into supply chain implications of two top import categories, categories which, as we'll see, are deeply embedded in the Oxfordshire way of life.

This approach provides an early toe-in-the-water on global-social so we may;

i. Bring awareness to how resource intensive the Oxfordshire way of life is, and begin to identify where Oxfordshire is falling short of global responsibilities as a County

ii. Prompt engagement and dialogue on the global social impact of Oxfordshire-based sectors, businesses and organisations

iii. Start to make global-social connections with existing strategies and policies and consider how Doughnut-aligned decision making - at policy and project level - can drive measurable, transformative change toward the safe and just space both here on home soil, and overseas.

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Global Social Lens

Is Oxfordshire respecting the wellbeing of people, the world over?

The Oxfordshire Methodology

1. Global supply chains: Social impact by country, weighted to UK material footprint and Oxfordshire expenditure.

First, we've taken UK material footprint data - this captures the amount of domestic and foreign extraction of materials needed to produce the goods and services used by households, Governments and charities in the UK - and applied their weighted proportions of material imports by country.[22] We've layered this data with indicators from globally-recognised data sets aligned with the social foundation of the Doughnut. This picture enables us to build a snapshot of both material dependency on specific countries, and bring visibility to social impact in alignment with the SDGs. Downscaling and detangling the specific Oxfordshire material impact is a complex undertaking. However, to give some indication of Oxfordshire's share of responsibility, we have attributed South East expenditure data to the model.[28] This enables us to compare us to the UK average, and to provide a data-driven, place-based starting point of Oxfordshire's share of responsibility in critical deprivation of human needs.

2. Life-style patterns: Sector-specific supply chain implications

Secondly, to zero in on how Oxfordshire life-styles might impact wellbeing world-wide, we've taken a sector specific approach to highlight how consumption decisions here in Oxfordshire impact people elsewhere. Our question of inquiry was, "of our top import countries, what are we importing most of by value, and what are the social-impact implications through the supply chain?". This approach allows for consideration of the ways in which Oxfordshire lifestyles are interconnected with these global supply chains through our business and purchasing decisions. The data is UK wide - detangling Oxfordshire's share of specific imports is outside the scope of this project - however, readers will see that these sectors are nonetheless deeply embedded and relevant to Oxfordshire lifestyles.

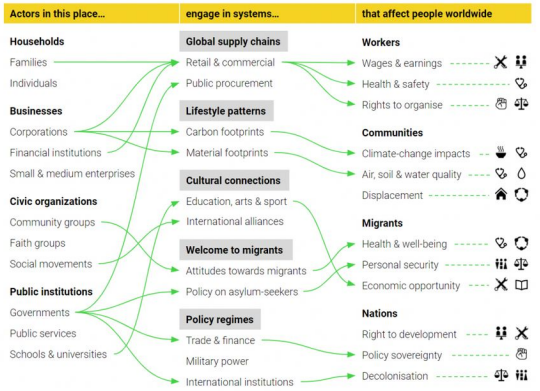

FIGURE 12: Possible Interconnections of the Global-Social lens. DEAL Data Portrait Tool, doughnuteconomics.org

Different approaches for the global-social lens Doughnut Economics Action Lab (DEAL)

***Global supply chains** : Are being paid fairly and treated with respect in good working conditions?*
***Life-style patterns :** How resource intensive are our local life-style norms and infrastructure (for example modes of travel and consumption patterns)*
***Cultural connections :** Are we promoting a sense of belonging and solidarity with global neighbours through the arts, science, innovation and educational institutions?*
***Welcoming migrants** : Is our place welcoming to migrants?*

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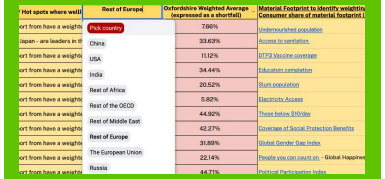
Global Social Lens

Is Oxfordshire respecting the wellbeing of people, the world over?

See the appendix for the full UK and Oxfordshire weightings.

For the data nerds! Regional and country-specific data can be found in the drop down menu within the interactive spreadsheet linked here: Global Social Interactive Workings. All key findings for social impact weighted by material footprint are derived from this data.



' Hot spots where wei	Rest of Europe	Oxfordshire Weighted Average (expressed as a shortfall)	Material Footprint to identify weighting Consumer share of material footprint (
ort from have a weighti	Pick country	7.66%	Undernourished population
Japan - are leaders in t	China	33.63%	Access to sanitation
ort from have a weighti	USA	11.12%	DTP3 Vaccine coverage
ort from have a weighti	India	34.44%	Education completion
ort from have a weighti	Rest of Africa	20.52%	Slum population
ort from have a weighti	Rest of the OECD	5.82%	Electricity Access
ort from have a weighti	Rest of Middle East	44.92%	Those below $10/day
ort from have a weighti	Rest of Europe	42.27%	Coverage of Social Protection Benefits
ort from have a weighti	The European Union	31.89%	Global Gender Gap Index
ort from have a weighti	Russia	22.14%	People you can count on - Global Happines
ort from have a weighti		44.71%	Political Participation Index

Social Impact By Material Footprint

The weighted averages illustrate a percentage shortfall from the social foundation across all import countries.[22] Whilst averages invariably mask areas of particular concern, the approach provides a useful mechanism for highlighting 'hot spots' across the global social dimensions to start building a picture of the ways in which the success of the UK economy, and Oxfordshire's, is implicated in areas of critical deprivation.

Figure 13 shows that, whilst the EU has the largest proportion of imports by Geography (17.5%), the UK, and Oxfordshire, depend directly on the Global South for over 67% of imports. The material footprint demonstrates that, to maintain the relatively high UK and Oxfordshire standard of living, there exists a reliance on regions grappling with poverty, deep inequalities, and where political voice and peace and justice are compromised.

Oxfordshire's average income per capita is approximately 16% higher than the national average and the South East's expenditure is approximately 18% higher than the UK average.[10, 28] When expenditure data is applied, Oxfordshire households' 'share of impact', as represented in shortfalls, is proportionally greater than the UK average to the tune of nearly 10%.[27] (This 'share of impact', however, as with climate and ecology impacts, is not evenly distributed across all income deciles in Oxfordshire).

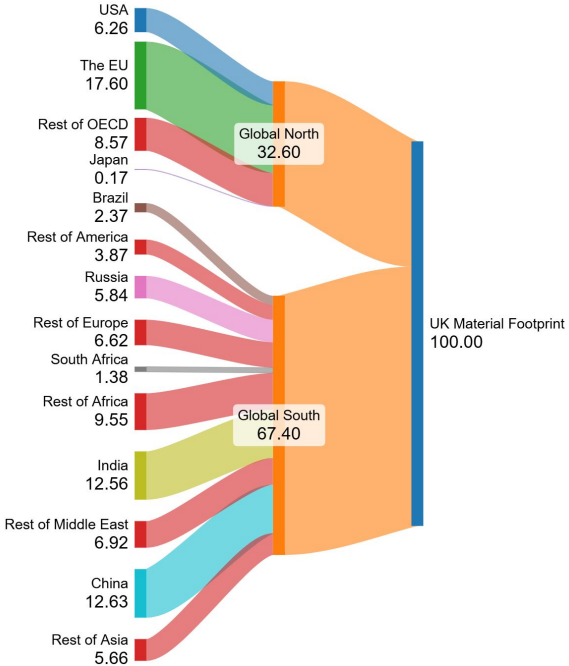


FIGURE 13: UK Material Footprint [22] using IMF classifications [163]

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Global Social Lens

Is Oxfordshire respecting the wellbeing of people, the world over?

Social Impact By Material Footprint

'Social equity' and 'income and work' are dimensions of particular concern. The UK is dependent on nations that have six times more of their population without social protection benefits (this is particularly high for India, Africa and the rest of Asia)[29], and a high proportion of their populations living on less than $10/day.[30] In Africa and India, which account for 22% of our imported material footprint,[22] more than 90% of their populations live on less than $10/day.[30] For the UK, the weighted average is 41% of their population living on less than $10/day.[30] For Oxfordshire, this shortfall rises to nearly 45% indicating that Oxfordshire is dependent on - and arguably perpetuating - high poverty in these countries.

'Sanitation' is another dimension where the Oxfordshire social footprint significantly overshoots the UK country average. UK lifestyles are dependent on a weighted average of 31% of populations lacking access to sanitation, 10 times worse than the levels we have in the UK.[31] This is heavily influenced by the rest of the Americas and Africa having more than half of their population without access to sanitation.[31] For Oxfordshire, this footprint rises to 36.6%.

Impact on 'Education' is concerning. Combined, India and 'rest of Africa' represent over 22% of our material footprint.[22] In India, 50% of their population have not completed secondary education.[32] In Africa, this rises to 77%. This indicates that our material footprint is dependent on populations and workforces that have 3 times as many people without upper-secondary education, thus limiting their opportunities and enabling higher exploitation. Oxfordshire is dependent on - and arguably perpetuating - high poverty in these countries.

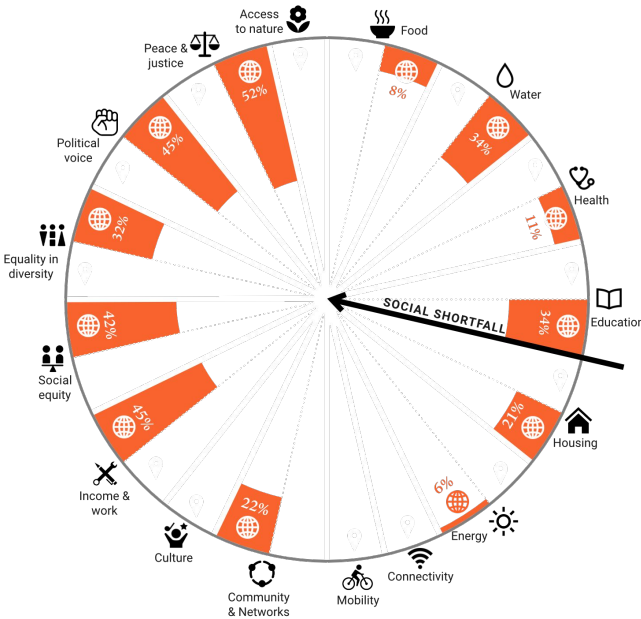

FIGURE 14: Global-Social lens for Oxfordshire

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Global Social Lens

Is Oxfordshire respecting the wellbeing of people, the world over?

The value of a sector-specific 'spotlight' is to make the social impact of import, production and consumption decisions and behaviours more tangible here in Oxfordshire. By way of illustration, we take a short journey into two sectors that the Oxfordshire economic system - from businesses to households - are heavily reliant on.

A reminder of our inquiry question: "of our top UK import countries, what are we importing most of by value, and what are the social-impact implications through the supply chain?".

Germany And Car Manufacturing

Germany is the UK's top EU import partner with a share of 9.46% of total imports. Motor vehicles accounted for 37% of UK imports from Germany.[33]

Within Germany, the car manufacturing industry is relatively well-regulated, with strong unions and a focus on worker rights and high wages.[34] However, it has a highly complex and globalised supply chain, which relies on numerous suppliers and production stages, often spanning several countries. Many components may be sourced from countries with varying labour and environmental standards and information in the supply chain is often opaque. Overall, "German automotive firms deal with serious human rights risks in their supply and value chains, for example inhumane working conditions, child and forced labour, and the environmental damage that may be caused when extracting raw materials".[35] The German car industry relies heavily on raw materials like steel, aluminium, and rare earth minerals (for electronic components) where labour rights and environmental regulations are much weaker. Metals like cobalt, used in batteries for electric vehicles (EVs) are predominantly sourced from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where mining conditions are notoriously poor, including child labour, dangerous mining operations, and severe environmental degradation.[36]

The UK is one of the primary destinations for German EVs and overall heavily reliant on German car imports.[37] This reliance exposes the supply chain, including Oxfordshire, to human rights and ethical impacts, and positions it as a key stakeholder in the global supply chain.

Although the direct impacts are often felt far from Oxfordshire, the demand created in the County contributes to the ongoing social, environmental, and economic issues.

FIGURE 15: Germany highlighted in dark green, however the automotive industry part of a complex supply chain spanning several countries

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Global Social Lens

Is Oxfordshire respecting the wellbeing of people, the world over?

Oxfordshire's dependence on Chinese electronics, while providing cost-effective access to consumer goods, ties the county to a supply chain fraught with ethical challenges, socially and environmentally.

China And Electronics

China is the UK's top non-EU trading partner, contributing 12.5% of the UK's total imports, with electronics comprising the largest share at 29%.[33]

China continues to innovate in electronics, with significant production growth in key areas such as smartphones, microcomputers, and integrated circuits. The country's capacity for scaling production rapidly, alongside its ability to deliver high-quality, low-cost goods, keeps it at the centre of global supply chains - global electronics giants like Apple rely on Chinese factories because of their cost efficiency and production capacity.[38] Labour conditions in these factories, however, often fail to meet acceptable standards. Reports have documented long working hours, unsafe working environments, and unfair wages. Many workers face high pressure to meet production quotas, often without adequate social protections or labour rights. [39]

Further, child labour and exploitation in mining regions where raw materials are sourced also fuel the global supply chain for electronics.[40] Raw materials such as lithium, cobalt, and rare earth metals, critical for electronic components and batteries, are often sourced from countries with minimal labour protections. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is a significant source for these minerals, where the mining industry is rife with human rights abuses, including child labour, hazardous conditions, and environmental destruction.[41]

The UK's large-scale importation of Chinese electronics contributes to the pressure on Chinese manufacturers to keep costs low, which arguably often leads to compromises on labour rights and environmental sustainability. This paints a concerning picture for Oxfordshire businesses and buyers as as the demand for low-cost goods often drives these exploitative practices. Oxfordshire's dependence on Chinese electronics, while providing cost-effective access to consumer goods, ties the county to a supply chain fraught with ethical challenges, socially and environmentally.

FIGURE 16: China is a significant trade partner for electronics. It too is part of a complex supply chain with component parts from different countries, including the extraction of raw materials.

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Is Oxfordshire Respecting the Wellbeing of People Worldwide?

This is a good moment to focus on examples of early positive momentum in Oxfordshire to show how an interconnected view on local activity can play a role in reversing negative impact on global neighbours.

Oxfordshire, as home to Oxfam and Doughnut Economics, has birthed leadership organisations that are driving change in mindsets to close the global social inequality gap. Unlocking the potential of this thought leadership and embracing the tenets here in Oxfordshire is an opportunity for the County to demonstrate its application.

The global social lens creates space for an exploration of the ways in which the local economy impacts the wellbeing of people worldwide. It's an invitation - as a municipality and a County of stakeholders - to begin to answer the question directly, 'is Oxfordshire respecting the wellbeing of people worldwide?". And if not, how close are we? This work is just the beginning of that exploration. It makes way for a recognition that the wealth of Oxfordshire is deeply dependent on the global system - a seemingly 'invisible economy' where the flow of goods and services often masks exploitative working conditions, child labour, modern slavery, and poor living conditions. To take this further - and embrace responsibility - it is illustrative of the direct correlation between affluence, the intensity and inequality of material use and an 'ecologically unequal exchange' which reinforces and perpetuates inequality.[42,26]

An Emergent Circular Economy Strategy - ambitious and executed County wide, and involving communities, sectors, funders and investors - has the potential to reduce consumption, reliance on the extraction of materials, and social impact. Strategies such as incentivising the growth of the repair, retrofit, and sharing economy, radically reducing the County's reliance on virgin materials, can shift the balance in the unequal extraction of resources and corresponding global-social impacts, with considerable co-benefits across dimensions in the Doughnut. Similarly, growing local food production with the Oxfordshire Food Strategy reduces reliance on global imports and social equity impacts whilst building a resilient local food economy.

Community Wealth Building - Oxfordshire County Council have ambitions to scale action on Community Wealth Building (CWB). Community Wealth Building and local procurement strategies can significantly reduce global social impact by fostering local economic resilience and reducing dependency on global supply chains that perpetuate inequality. By prioritising Oxfordshire businesses and socially responsible suppliers in value chains through ambitious procurement policy, CWB can reduce the ecological and social costs of long-distance resource extraction, and play a positive part in promoting fair labour practices. Additionally, local procurement reduces transportation emissions and shifts power dynamics away from multinational corporations that may exploit resources and labour in lower-income countries.

Active Travel Strategy and the vision for Oxfordshire to 'transform movement' (FOP), in conjunction with circular economy strategies, energy-systems shift, and private sector innovation, are illustrative of potential for how a joined up approach can drive a culture shift from resource and carbon intensive modes of travel, radically reduce reliance of imports of new cars, by way of example, whilst contributing to considerable co-benefits for health and wellbeing, locally.

"Global Futurists and Responsible For Outcomes".
The Oxfordshire Council Council ambition is for an Oxfordshire that is 'changing the world for the better, every day'. Ambitions run high to take a leadership position in a green and fair transition where no one is left behind. Exploring and bringing visibility to the connection between local action on negative global impact and social inequality can elevate the outcomes of that ambition - both here in Oxfordshire and beyond our borders.

Where to next for the Global Social?
This early exploration of the Global Social Lens highlights the connection between Oxfordshire's relative affluence, the connection to global material inequality, and consequential social impacts. As Oxfordshire advances its green transition, aligning local policies with global responsibilities, reducing resource dependency and respecting the wellbeing of less affluent regions presents a challenge that the Doughnut framework, through collaborative partnerships with all stakeholders, can, with ambition and determination, effectively tackle.

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Local Social Lens

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Local Social Lens

Are people in Oxfordshire thriving?

The social foundation of the Doughnut defines the minimum requirements for a decent life. Falling short represents exceeding the boundary of critical human deprivation.

The local social lens asks "are people in a place thriving? And if not, how close are we?".

The goal is to compare the local aspiration for each dimension of the social foundation with a performance snapshot. As with the Global Social, the dimensions are based broadly on the Sustainable Development Goals, with a few additions.

We followed the DEAL methodology, but with adaptations to speed up the process and adapt to constrained resources. For example, for some projects, such as Amsterdam's, all possible targets and indicators are mapped, debated and tested with stakeholder engagement.[43] Across all projects, the methodology asks for a selection of one target, indicator and data snapshot for each dimension. It is recognised that the goal is to provide an 'illustrative data snapshot'.

The Oxfordshire Approach

This was a desk-research based endeavour, in partnership with OCC, to arrive at an overall snapshot in a relatively short space of time. Based on the DISCOVERY phase findings, the joint OCC/ Oxfordshire Doughnut project team defined a collaborative process for portrait data spreadsheet development that integrated the following priorities;

1. To engage and socialise the project and process among OCC officers and data teams
2. To build a 'prototype' preliminary data portrait, at pace, with accelerated decision making on indicators and metrics with OCC subject experts
3. To rapidly align portrait and tool development pathways

FIGURE 17: Dimensions of the local-social lens, Data Portrait of Place tool, doughnuteconomics.org

Where to next?

- Qualitative enrichment of the data portrait with stakeholder and citizen engagement on aspirations for thriving to ensure we're 'measuring what matters' would be beneficial especially in guiding indicator and data selection
- Ongoing work to build out other indicators, baskets of indicators, and supporting snapshots for further iterations.

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Local Social Lens

Are people in Oxfordshire thriving?

The social foundation of the Doughnut defines the minimum requirements for a decent life. Falling short represents exceeding the boundary of critical human deprivation.

The Oxfordshire Approach

Two key collaborative workshops accelerated progress.

Firstly, a '**Sparking Connections' hybrid launch workshop** which invited OCC officers to map priorities, policies and strategies, data and tools and possible partners and stakeholders to the dimensions of the Doughnut (Figure 18).

And later, a '**Launch Pad' Data Portrait online workshop** which took participants on a journey through the Four Lenses on Miro. In breakout rooms, we reviewed data decision trees and followed data threads; from targets to snapshot possibilities. A core goal of the workshop was to identify 'custodians and collaborators' for each dimension - based on the insight that OCC is a data-rich Council with officers in specific service areas closest to the best available and emerging data in their field (Figure 19).

In this way, a small team were able to identify best-available indicators for many dimensions in a short time frame, effectively 'crowd sourcing' ideal targets and indicators for each dimension based on known challenges. As a desk-research based undertaking, decisions were fairly subjective and made at pace to understand, in a relatively short time frame, what was or wasn't available from published policy and strategy documents, and where we might go to source alternative metrics.

After identifying potential indicators, the Oxfordshire Doughnut Project team led on desk research, and interviews to enrich the findings, and identify alternative indicators and data sources where gaps existed.

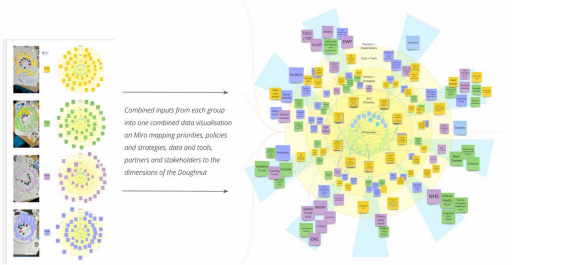

FIGURE 18: Policies, priorities, and strategies from workshops were collated in Miro and then imported into a 'working zone' data spreadsheet with a tab per lens

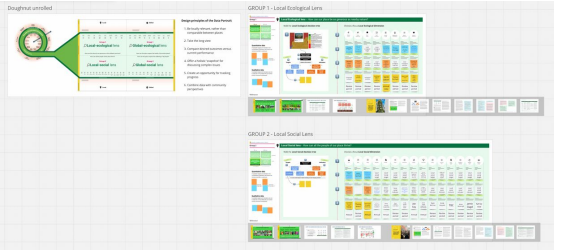

FIGURE 19: Interactive Miro board and breakout rooms per lens. Derived from DEAL doughtnuteconomics.org

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Local Social Lens

Inequality isn't an economic necessity - it's a design failure

Kate Raworth[5]

What We Found

- Although there were strategies and plans that spoke to high-level goals for local social dimensions, specific targets weren't available for most of the priority indicator areas identified. We have deferred to either vision-led principles or County Council Priority statements. For example, for housing and affordability; "everyone should have access to quality, affordable, and energy efficient homes which support their well being".[11] And for political voice; "play our part in a vibrant and participatory local democracy" (Priority #5). We have also adopted national targets where relevant.

- Given the nuance and complexity, without wider research and engagement, dimensions such as 'Peace and Justice', 'Community', and 'Equality in Diversity' presented challenges in deciding on a final indicator and snapshot. In some instances, a narrative snapshot captured a research-led perspective, or we acknowledged challenge and possibility.

- "Access to Nature" is a proposed addition to the local social lens, suggested by OCC officers to align with emerging County work and now-global recognition of nature's importance to wellbeing. This also aligns with emergent links to deprivation profiles.

- Ideally for the local social lens, we are measuring shortfall from the social foundation expressed as a percentage of the population. This proved to be challenging due to data gaps but also, as a wealthy county, could mask severity of some outcomes. For example, to select 'healthy life expectancy' would lead to 'social foundation met' on health for Oxfordshire - but to select 'life expectancy gap by ward' speaks to known Oxfordshire challenges and illustrates severe health inequalities.

- Data from the latest JSNA was published after finalising the preliminary data portrait so there may be new data sets available.

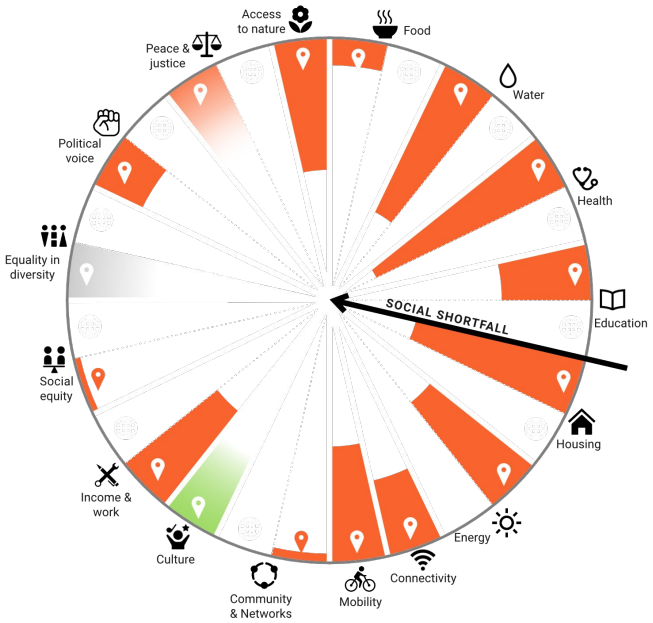

FIGURE 20: Local-Social lens for Oxfordshire

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What Is The Local Social Lens Telling Us?

Are people in Oxfordshire thriving?

- The deeply unequal nature of Oxfordshire is well recognised and Oxfordshire County Council has a wealth of data and understanding of the impact of deprivation - this story is reflected in the local social lens
- The interconnectedness between social and ecological dimensions, both locally and globally, is evident. For example, water stress, a public health issue which compromises basic human needs, is impacted both by climate change and over abstraction of waterways
- Systemic issues faced by the UK are reflected in the the Oxfordshire story but exacerbated by relative wealth and inequality; for example, access to affordable housing, a national issue, is considerably worse in Oxfordshire where house prices are on average 10.3 times more than median gross annual workplace-based earnings (higher than England and the the South East)[44].
- Although unemployment is low, and Oxfordshire on average enjoys 16% higher average earnings,[20] many experience in-work poverty illustrating the uneven distribution of wealth and challenges in access to work that covers the cost of living in Oxfordshire.
- Those experiencing deprivation are disproportionately socially impacted by local and global climate change - from health impacts due to energy efficient homes, to flood risk, to fuel poverty.

Please see the appendix for narratives and data summaries on Local Social dimensions

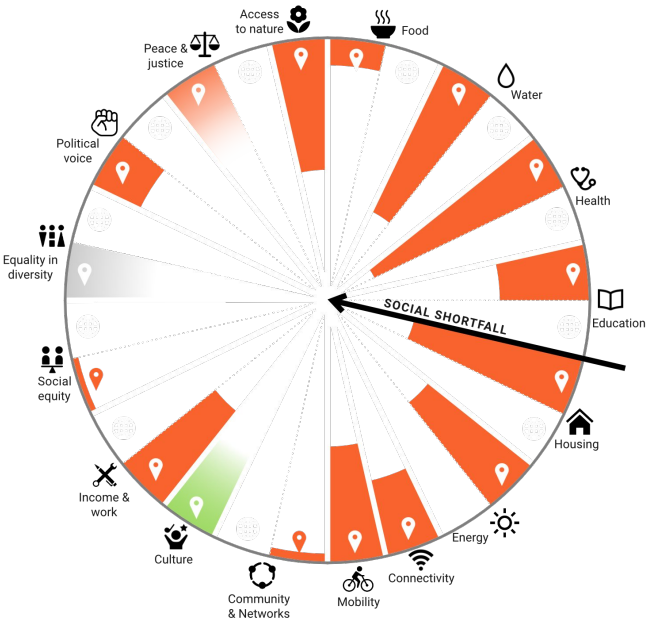

FIGURE 21: Local-Social lens for Oxfordshire

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Local Ecological Lens

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Local Ecological Lens

Is Oxfordshire being as generous as nearby nature?

"Nature cleanses the air, regulates the temperature, stores carbon, cycles water, builds nutrient-rich soil, harvests the sun's energy, welcomes wildlife, and makes people feel at home. What if every town or city aimed to match or exceed the ecological generosity of its wildland next door? This would transform the design of urban and rural places alike, bringing greater health and resilience to the places where people live".[7]

The Oxfordshire Approach

The local-ecological lens invites 'every place to aspire to be as ecologically generous as its healthy surrounding natural habitat'. The approach for this lens, given the appropriate level of resources, is aligned with biomimicry principles which invite place-shapers and designers to 'mimic', or be informed by nature to 'create resilient and regenerative rural and urban communities'.[45]

The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. Natural biodiversity is approximately 50% intact and Oxfordshire's landscape reflects the national picture - approximately 75% of Oxfordshire is intensively farmed farmland, with only 6% semi-natural woodland remaining and 1% semi-natural heath, scrub or wetland.[46] This gives very little wildland or natural habit to mimic and places high priority on radically reducing or ceasing activities that degenerate the habitats we do have (land use), or reducing / ceasing the human-inputs that impact of their degradation (such as air and river pollution).

For this reason, we've adopted a blended approach for this iteration - for 'Cleanse the Air' and 'Water Cycle' - the indicators and snapshots reflect 'state of place'. For land-based dimensions (carbon, soil, and biodiversity), an early framing has been developed for approaching how we might begin to gather robust Oxfordshire snapshots.

Method top-lines

Measuring biodiversity, carbon, and soil health is a complex undertaking and is emerging work for most municipalities - Council targets rarely exist and data isn't been collected or monitored. As this report enters the final stages of writing, the Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy is out for phase three consultation.

For 'House Biodiversity', 'Store Carbon' and 'Build and Protect Soil', therefore, we have had the generous support of Alison Smith from the Leverhulme Centre for Nature Recovery and Nature-based Solutions Initiative, University of Oxford, to guide how we might begin to frame decisions on targets and indicators for land use metrics.

There is deep complexity involved in attempting to select one indicator and snapshot and this guidance not only gives an indication of where Oxfordshire stands ecologically, but creates a pathway for review and engagement to decide and refine when resources become available.

Where possible, we have applied thresholds to help visualise snapshots in the Doughnut. Where data is lacking, but we have high-confidence in overshoot, we have applied an "unquantified overshoot".

Please see the appendix for narratives and data summaries on Local Ecological dimensions.

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Local Ecological Lens

Is Oxfordshire being as generous as nearby nature?

What is the local-ecological lens telling us?

- This lens paints a stark picture for Oxfordshire - our rivers are, in the main, unsafe for humans and biologically depleted,[47] places for nature to inhabit and flourish - essential to human life and our farming industry - are dwindling, and very little of our intensively-farmed landscapes are managed for soil health, essential for maintaining biodiverse, nutrient-rich soils that support water retention, resilient crops, and sustainable food production.

- The Local Ecological lens also, however, speaks powerfully to the potential and opportunities in Oxfordshire - the emergent Local Nature Recovery Strategy, currently in draft, the deep academic and data expertise in our local Universities already working to understand and map current state and opportunities, the ambition and transformational potential in locally-owned and distributed renewable energy (Low Carbon Hub),[48] but also the incredible citizen-science that serves to to both gather data and raise public awareness.

- And whilst the 'Regulate Temperature' is in overshoot based on Tree Canopy data, work is underway at OCC to harness technology and data mapping for tracking progress, mobilising key partners and aggregating currently siloed data, storytelling and culture shift. Work here is demonstrative of the power and potential of aggregating open sourced data sets to inform and communicate progress into the 'safe and just space'.

Where to next?

- Further engagement with the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, drawing on significant local expertise from universities and nature recovery networks.
- As with the local-social lens, qualitative enrichment of the data portrait with stakeholder and citizen engagement on aspirations for thriving to ensure we are 'measuring what matters'.

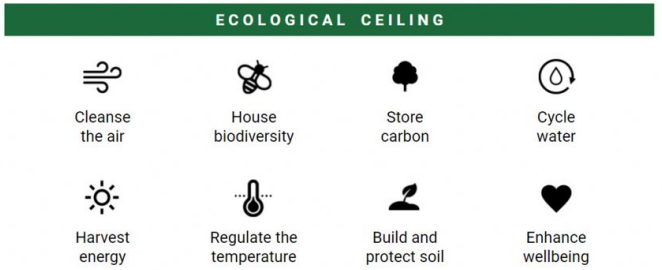

FIGURE 22: Local Ecological Dimensions, Data Portrait of Place tool, doughnuteconomics.org

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Embrace the Portrait as a springboard for social engagement and debate

Where To Next For The Preliminary Data Portrait?

To work with the Doughnut methodology is to embrace the Portrait of place as 'living and evolving' - places change, targets evolve, new data becomes available. And, if we're collectively working towards 'the safe and just space', we'd hope to see this reflected in the visualisation of the Doughnut - a testament to its potential as a powerful communication tool.

So. The preliminary data portrait, is therefore, by definition, unfinished business.

Embrace it as a springboard for engagement, debate, and to help socialise the key tenets of the Doughnut mindset.

There are some practical next steps:

1. In partnership, consider how we might establish a platform, process, and Governance for housing the 'living and evolving' Doughnut - something for everyone to get behind and get involved in

2. In partnership, and collaboratively, evolve and develop indicator, target and threshold selections with key stakeholders particularly with Oxfordshire's considerable social enterprise, academic, scientific, and nature-recovery expertise

3. Enrich the portrait with qualitative input. Progressing the preliminary data portrait with the 'Community Portrait' to develop thriving aspirations to guide on going work: consider participatory cross-sector workshop series with diverse representation

4. Continue the work of aligning the Portrait with a next-generation decision-making tool designed to support thriving.

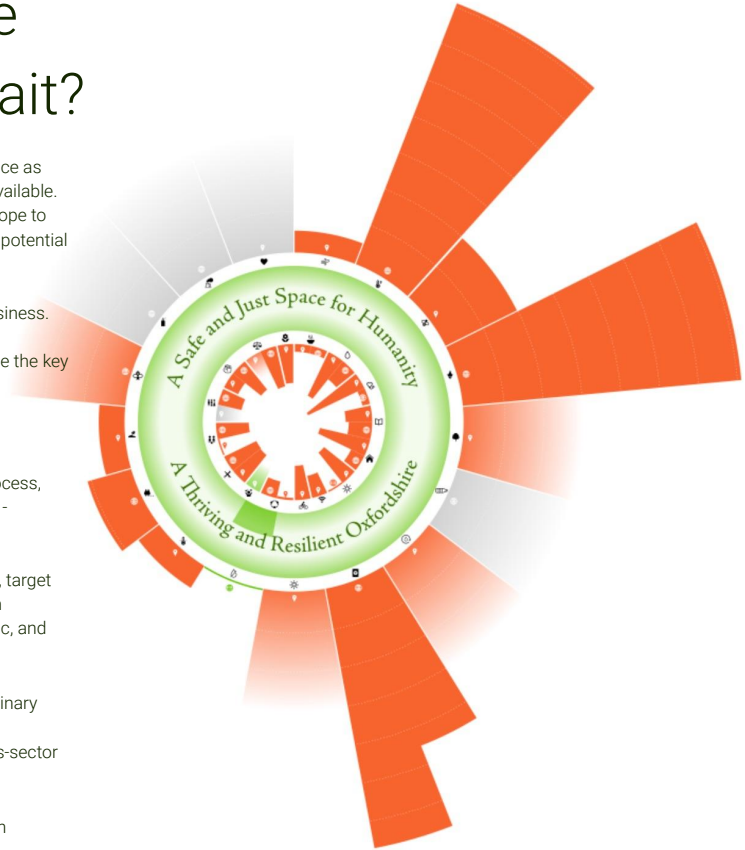

FIGURE 23: Simplified DE portrait of place for Oxfordshire

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05

Part 2

The Decision Making Tool

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From Assessing Impact To A Transformative Decision Making Tool

Exploring how other places have applied Doughnut Economics (DE) to shape the design of their impact assessment tools, we have drawn from Doughnut Economic Action Lab's (DEAL) "7 Ways of Thinking", the design of the Doughnut portrait and Doughnut unrolled 4 lenses as well as from DEAL best practices.

We also conducted a series of interviews with leading practitioners, such as Cornwall City Council as well as various OCC data and impact assessment leads to gather insights into their specific needs and requirements.

The Oxfordshire Approach

Our approach for the tool aligns with our work on the Doughnut portrait, balancing ambitious vision with practical foundations across four workstream phases. In the Discovery phase, we facilitated a workshop, conducted stakeholder interviews, and researched best practices in impact assessment. This groundwork aimed to enhance the effectiveness of OCC's assessment and decision-making tools.

At the end of the Discovery phase a report was produced outlining our findings, through the lens of Doughnut Economics' "7 Ways of Thinking." Moving into the 'Define Phase', several tool sessions were held with OCC stakeholders to discuss these findings and explore how a Doughnut Economics-driven vision could guide the tool's design towards achieving transformative outcomes for a thriving and resilient Oxfordshire.

Early in the project, it became clear that, due to internal timelines and priorities, OCC needed to fast track an initial prototype for a combined impact assessment tool. Teams needed something that was a stepwise change, building on what they already had, rather than explore a radical DE-led overhaul. It was also clear that this tool was required before the Preliminary Data Portrait was ready.

The brief was therefore revised to two phases;

Phase 1 Led by OCC, focussed on developing a light-touch integrated impact assessment prototype which brought together, for the first time, all key IAs into one;

Phase 2 Development of a Doughnut-informed and aligned decision tool support more transformative end-goals.

Phase 1 has been completed with a prototype excel-based integrated tool that combines the climate, equalities, health and intergenerational (future generations) impact assessments, and incorporating additional considerations such as living standards, the circular economy and nature/biodiversity.

For **Phase 2** there is still a real potential opportunity to position OCC as a forerunner in developing a holistic and integrated doughnut informed tool for transformational 21st Century economic decision making.

This tool is the first step towards this, but in order to move this from doughnut inspired to a more fully fledged DE informed decision-making tool changes are needed to incorporate big picture DE thinking into assessments at each decision making stage, from ideation to delivery, as well as more engagement of Doughnut Economics thinking across Oxfordshire to establish the idea of the portrait as a compass for all decision-making.

For example Cornwall has seen that some users are currently only doing assessments at the end of developing an idea, before it goes to Cabinet.

However, their ambition is for it to be used from initiation to implementation, and they are making efforts to encourage engagement of their wheel to inform and influence thinking at the early stages. Valence Romans also recognised that the earlier they brought the impact assessment in, the greater the overall positive impact at the end of the project.

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The Decision Making Tool

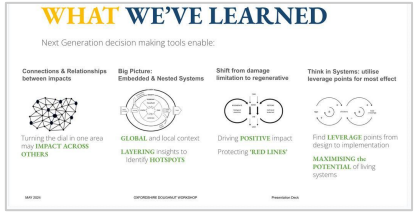

FIGURE 24: Enablers of next generation decision making tools

Introducing 'The Seven Ways' early on is an opportunity to embed mindset shift into design functionality

"We need to acknowledge "thriving" as the goal in the design of the tool"

"Communities need to be the decision makers and councils need to be the co-ordinators"

"We need to be thinking about community needs rather than political needs"

OFFICER VERBATIMS FROM MAY WORKSHOP

Mindset shift and socialization

Introducing the '7 Ways of Thinking'

The DISCOVERY phase revealed a clear ambition within OCC for a more holistic, integrated Impact Assessment (IA) approach that considers the broader impact on both people and the planet, and how by applying Doughnut Economics this can help shift mindsets, leading to significant advantages, fostering collaboration and a stronger shared purpose. It can drive transformative change by reshaping culture and by embedding it as a continuous, evolving process to enhance collective capacity.

We've also observed that next-generation Doughnut-informed decision-making tools in other regions are working to integrate *The Seven Ways* into their designs. This approach presents the challenge of transforming high-level Doughnut Economics concepts into practical applications. Yet, it is through this translation, that these tools become powerful drivers of mindset shifts, fostering change through functionality.

Translating *The Seven Ways* into a workshop context unlocked valuable insights into design opportunities and ways to progress with impact assessments.

'Change the goal': From assessing impact to Framing Decisions differently

For example, re-framing the Impact Assessment tool as a Decision-Making tool shifts the mindset from viewing it as a tool for "damage limitation" to one that empowers decision-making for positive outcomes.

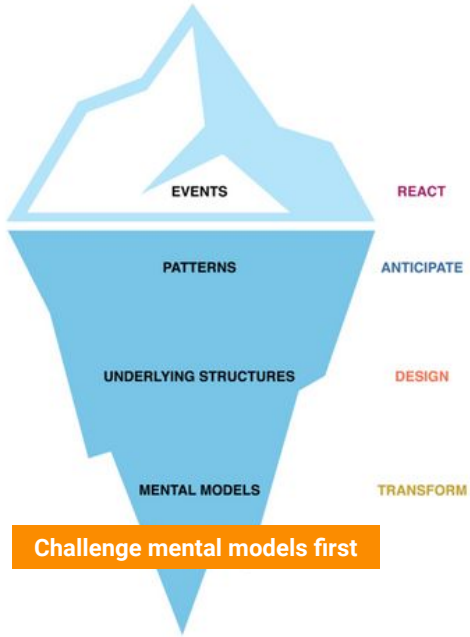

FIGURE 25: The Iceberg Model in Systems Thinking

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The Decision Making Tool

"Future iterations of the tool could integrate the design of the doughnut portrait into the tool to ensure the metrics and indicators serve OCC goals"

Align the Tool and Doughnut Portrait

OCC has recognized that a broader holistic approach to decision-making which considers the interconnectedness of social and environmental factors is beneficial, addressing both people's needs and the natural environment they rely on.

The portrait would set the ambition and targets, indicators and thresholds to assess performance and establish "red lines" to inform high level decision making for the tool.

Living and evolving OCC ambitions and targets in the tool would shift when the portrait is updated. Scoring thresholds and guidance would reflect this.

However to avoid "'greenwashing", considerations would need to be given for what is worthy of 'green' and what is 'red'. This 1st version has selected some of the goals and targets, but this will need further iterations and development.

The "safe and just space" as defined in the portrait could be used as a threshold in the tool to guide scoring, and thus decision making. Thresholds could be qualitatively expressed to determine an ambitious minimum baseline (for example, carbon positive), and potentially quantitatively underpinned. An early practical solution to evolve the existing tool and begin to shift mindsets is to consider including a 'thresholds' column in the spreadsheet.

Additionally, the definitions of dimensions and scoring would need to align with the overall portrait by identifying relevant indicators to track progress within the broader context in which the tool is applied.

ReGen Melbourne and Glasgow developed stakeholder-informed qualitative descriptions for each dimension and then the developed the indicators.[15, 49]

For their portrait, Melbourne created stories linked to the dimensions to help bring in community voice and narrative and has meant that they can keep adding stories, themes and narratives.

Dimensions

The prototype tool starts to include more social and ecological criteria to bring balance with economic considerations but to align with the portrait, further work would be needed.

Currently the integrated assessment tool categories combine assessment areas from multiple impact assessments such as health, climate, and equalities.

To become fully Doughnut informed, there's the potential to lead the design with DE dimensions and integrate impact assessment categories across the dimensions (for example Cornwall[50]).

Not all dimensions and indicators are relevant for all projects. An early decision gate at the front end of the decision tool can help determine priority outcomes across multiple, but selective dimensions, as aligned with OCC priorities. For example, the Co-Benefits Tool, designed in collaboration with Glasgow City Council, leads on the benefits the project could create through the project.

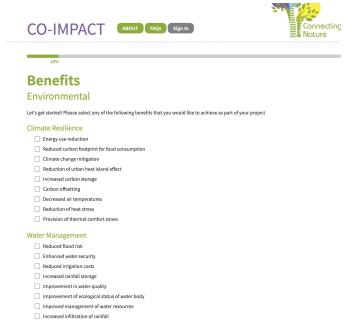

FIGURE 25: Co-Benefits Tool https://co-impact.app/TargetsEnvironmental

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The Decision Making Tool

Incorporating questions from the portrait's global social and ecological perspectives on dimensions and visions, would provide deeper context and ensure consideration of "glocal" impacts for decision-making.

Aligning the Tool and Doughnut Portrait

Incorporating global impacts from the Oxfordshire Doughnut

Global impacts are often overlooked, difficult to understand, or inadequately represented in footprinting and lifecycle models. This includes the consideration of externalities, such as the direct and indirect impacts of imports and consumption. These impacts include climate change, waste, pollution, biodiversity loss, poor labour and human rights conditions in supply chains implicated in Oxfordshire life-styles and economic activity.

The Global Social and Global Ecological lenses of the preliminary data portrait of place provide global perspective and the beginnings of an evidence base to account for these impacts within a doughnut-informed decision making tool. The Oxfordshire Doughnut ambition to re-roll all four lenses and to visualise global impacts alongside local is a first step toward practical integration, helping decision makers join the dots between local activity and global impacts.

Practical integrations for in Doughnut-informed Decision Making tool could include as a minimum, including a column in the spreadsheet for global social and global ecological considerations.

Further, early stage workshopping of projects could embrace the Four Lenses methodology for early-stage project design. In Glasgow, for example, teams designed projects through the Four Lenses Framework to consider how local project design could also address global and social impact, positively.[49]

FIGURE 26: The Social Foundation of the preliminary Oxfordshire data portrait - this illustrates local and global impacts side by side for early stage communication and storytelling to help join the dots between Oxfordshire's way of life and impact elsewhere.

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The Decision Making Tool

To allow for future evolution, the tool design should continue to be refined to help users identify hotspots, optimise outcomes, and enable future adaptability.

Iterative Framework: Plan for Evolution

Our findings have shown that to allow for future evolution OCC should continue refining the tool design to help users identify hotspots, optimise outcomes, and enable future adaptability. The framework should allow for flexibility and iteration as project design and implementation unfolds, with multiple levels and stages that guide users along the right path while allowing the tool to evolve and recognize critical hotspots over time.

The tool could be designed for multiple levels and stages such as early stage application enabling higher level reviews and design questions to quickly identify opportunities for improvements or highlight any 'red lines' to protect or mitigate. Later stages might be assessed in more specific detail, or with deep dives into highlighted areas of opportunity or challenge, so that it guides users along the right path, recognising critical hotspots over time, and allowing the project design to evolve.

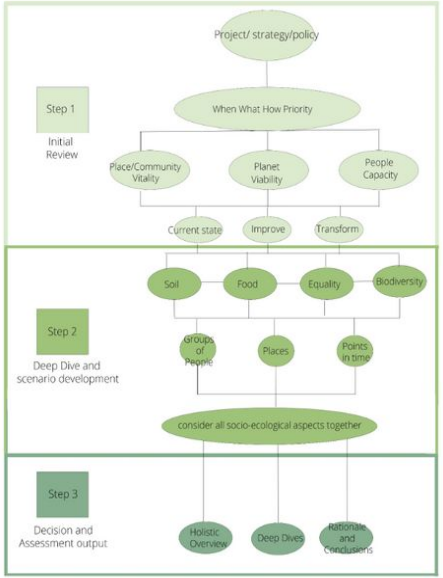

FIGURE 27: An example of an iterative Framework

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The Decision Making Tool

A decision tool designed to be used at multiple, iterative stages to guide development of initiatives and policies could steer and improve outcomes to meet ambitious targets and aspirations

Iterative Framework: Plan for Evolution

Layering data

OCC staff expressed an interest in being able to combine and overlay dimensions to identify hotspots of impact within subsets such as particular population demographics and/or locations (e.g. habitat or settlement) or changes over time. In many of the projects 'place' will be key, and understanding of a location and how it has shaped nature and people within it is fundamental to designing projects to enable a place to thrive. Also this approach could help to identify hotspots or impacts at different layers i.e. city and district, down to neighbourhood plan level. A simple approach to this for overlaying dimensions would be a matrix model, as opposed to a wheel. Other visualization methods such as GIS data maps, or internodal network approaches may be useful for this.

Allow for Iteration

Consider a Decision stage gate and expert review loops that allow improvements across the design, development and implementation stages to ensure an evolving process for iterative project/policy development. Power BI or other interactive data manipulation and reporting tools can help test and compare multiple scenarios to support the iterative process.

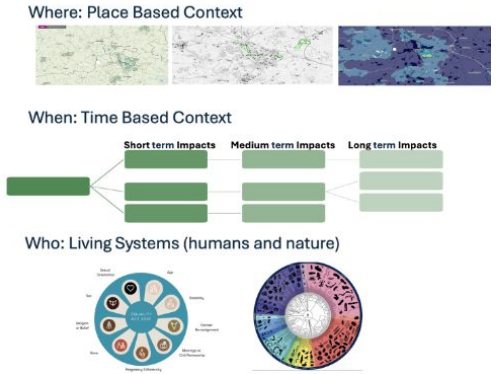

FIGURE 28: Examples of layering data

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The Decision Making Tool

Our goal is for all people to thrive in a flourishing Oxfordshire, respecting the wellbeing of all people and the health of the planet.

A Doughnut-informed tool can embed this vision into functionality through questions asked, shaping language, scoring, and visuals to iteratively guide decision makers toward thriving aspirations.

Design for thriving to go beyond impact assessment

There is scope to further revise the tool's criteria, language, questions, scoring, and visuals to maximise opportunities for designing a thriving Oxfordshire.

Thriving Language

Shifting from a problem solving or solution seeking mindset to understanding the full potential of a situation moves us out of the mechanistic paradigm we are in. Going beyond what is permissible to what is the right action enables all our natural and human systems to flourish.

Could we move the dial towards transformation by reframing the questions and using language that looks to the potential, to strive forwards?

Example 1: Changing the question from 'how does the project impact biodiversity and tree cover in the affected areas'? to 'is there an opportunity for the project to improve biodiversity and tree cover?'
Example 2: 3 levels of ambition could be presented, supporting users from the earliest stages of planning.
Activate, Improve and Transform could be the path and underpinned with 3 values and a set of working principles that guide the user on their journey.

Example 1:

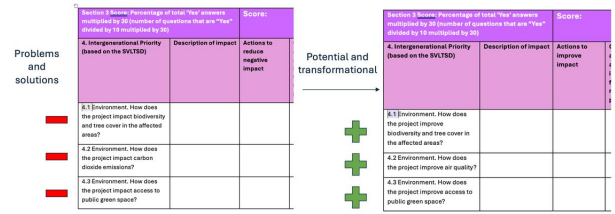

FIGURE 29: Shifting to solution seeking language and mindset

Example 2:

Circular decision making					
Topic	Activate stat	Improve Question	Transformational Question	Narrative answer	numerical 1-10 assessment
Circular decision making	Are design decisions made considering the aesthetics, cost and quality?	Are design decisions made that consider the carbon, waste and sustainability criteria?	Are design decisions made considering a deep questioning of the origin of the materials and their impact on these places, the people who manufacture them, and their work conditions?		

FIGURE 30: Showing columns with activate, improve and transform questions

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The Decision Making Tool

OCC's vision for a green future will only be realised if we reframe the narrative to start from a sustainable rather than degenerative mindset and build in measures towards transformative outcomes.

Thriving Definitions and questions

A column could be added that feeds through from the portrait with the vision for each dimension and what "thriving" looks like for each dimension. This would help anyone filling it in to refer to the high-level overarching purpose they are working towards.

The Devon Doughnut group believes that the doughnut/wheel metrics and data could reflect the 3 attributes of a living system and be a combination of quantitative and narrative data, and this is an interesting framework for working towards thriving:

1. **vitality** (what brings life and joy to a place);
2. **viability** (what enables local people individually and collectively to meet their basic needs);
3. **capacity** to evolve (skills and resources to realise the potential of a place within the boundaries of its ecosystem and to enable it to continue to grow and change as needed.

Thriving Scoring system

Could a "thriving scoring system" be developed to replace traditional risk assessments, shifting the focus from reducing harm to fostering transformation?

It is important to identify the red lines that must not be crossed at any cost. These might be the loss of specific natural features, resources, facilities or services, or might be related to degradation of quality of important aspects e.g. water pollution, and underfunding vital services for vulnerable groups. Red lines, and related protective measures, should be specified within the assessment of design and implementation of projects.

Another aspect to consider in future is how to assess for tradeoffs between dimensions. This relates to OCC priorities, and could be applied as a form of weighting in the scoring, although trade-offs are rarely that simplistic.

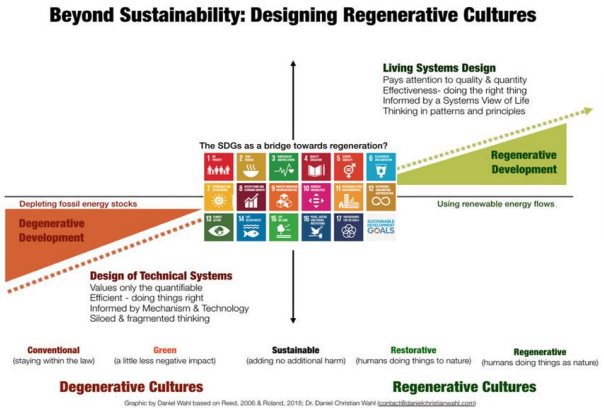

FIGURE 31: Daniel Wahl - The Regenerative Design Framework (based on and adapted from the work of Carol Sanford, Bill Reed & Regenesis Group, and Ethan Roland)51

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The Decision Making Tool

Highlighting specific Hot Spots

Colour coding the individual scores for each criteria, as shown opposite, would quickly identify 'hot spots' for improvement and opportunity areas of maximum benefit. This can be used to review these areas and ensure conscious decisions are taken as to whether it is possible to modify design to improve these aspects.

Enhanced Scoring System

There are several aspects of the current tool scoring where further improvements could be made.

Wheel scoring:

A clearer explanation of the scoring for the current wheel is required, in terms of what the score ranges are for each domain. The Introduction sheet indicates that the scores are weighted, but they are actually normalized to a maximum score of 9 and minimum of -9 for each dimension (i.e. wheel segment). The colour coding allocation also seems somewhat arbitrary, with any score of +4 and above gaining the dark green top colour coding, and any score of -3 and below gaining dark red, and no key is provided on the sheets.

Below are some further suggestions of changes to the current scoring system:

The wheel scores are collated from multiple criteria for each dimension (i.e. wheel segment) e.g. for climate there are currently 8 criteria, for equalities there are 22 criteria. The collated dimensions scores would be easier to interpret if they were aligned with the individual criteria scoring range (currently -3 to +3) by giving a mean average across the criteria within each dimension (rather than the -9 to +9 collated range in the wheel currently).

The 'not applicable' (N/A) allocation should be separate from a '0' impact score. The net overall change may not be noticeable even if there is some relevance to the project or policy. Allocating N/A where it is relevant but there is zero overall impact for one version of project design may then mean that this impact is overlooked if changes to design are made as it evolves.

Climate	**Transport & connectivity** – reduces the need to travel and/or reduces need for car ownership, supports increased active travel and/or public transport. Supports lowest carbon vehicles from a lifecycle perspective. The initiative has a clear contribution to OCC's 2040 target for a net zero network.	3
Climate	**Buildings and housing** – promotes net zero new builds and developments and accelerates retrofitting of existing buildings and housing. Follows PAS2080 principles & adopts the lowest carbon option from a life cycle approach.	2
Climate	**Resilience & adaptation** – increases resilience to flooding, to extreme weather events (storms, cold snaps, heatwaves, droughts), and/or improves the resilience of council services, communities, energy systems, transport infrastructure and/or supply chains	-3

FIGURE 32: Example of colour coding scoring to highlight problematic and highly beneficial areas of the project

Rule (applied in order shown)	Format
Cell Value between 1 and 3	AaBbCcYyZz
Cell Value between -2 and -1	AaBbCcYyZz
Cell Value <= -3	AaBbCcYyZz
Cell Value >= 4	AaBbCcYyZz

FIGURE 33: Current conditional formatting for wheel segments:

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The Decision Making Tool

*There is currently no score to indicate truly transformative impacts. **DEAL** recommends that scoring goes up to +5 to allow for different levels of impact.*

For the purposes of the OCC tool, it is recommended that an extra 'bonus' score of +4 is added, with a blue colouring, to bring this next level into play.
In addition. the colour coding could be refined to provide a sliding gradient across the whole scoring spectrum:

The table opposite (Figure 34) shows this additional +4 score and also provides suggested definitions, which incorporate thriving into the ambition.
In future specific targets and metrics could be provided for specific criteria.

Score	Social and Ecological Impact	Impact on OCC delivery
-3	A long-lasting (>10yr/intergenerational) and/or severe negative impact. Preventing several demographics, locations or natural spaces/biodiversity from thriving.	Would actively move OCC away from commitments or targets. REVIEW design of the project.
-2	A significant medium term (2-10yr) and/or medium severity negative impact. Severly limits certain people or natural spaces/biodiversity from thriving.	Would significantly undermine OCC efforts from achieving commitments and targets.
-1	Short term (<2yr) or minor negative impact. More limited geography, number of people or biodiversity effected. Where there has been a missed opportunity to generate positive impacts.	Would somewhat undermine OCC efforts from achieving commitments and targets.
0	No overall positive or negative change (NOTE: If area is not applicable code as N/A)	Would not enable OCC to meet targets, but would not move OCC further away.
1	Short term (<2yr) or minor positive impact. Enables some people or natural spaces/biodiversity to thrive or move towards thriving. May be of limited geography, or number of people or biodiversity effected.	Would at least start to shift OCC towards some, if not multiple targets
2	A significant medium term (2-10yr) and/or medium level positive impact. Significantly shifts certain people or natural spaces/biodiversity towards thriving.	Would significantly shift OCC towards some, if not multiple targets
3	A long-lasting (>10yr/intergenerational) and/or major benefit. Enabling certrain people and/or nature to thrive, at least locally if not in other regions.	Would enable OCC to meet at least one target or signficantly shift OCC towards multiple targets
4	A long-lasting (>10yr/intergenerational) and/or radically tranformational, gamechanging design. Enabling people and nature to thrive, locally and globally.	Would be transformational and move OCC beyond current commitments or targets.
N/A	The criteria area is not applicable. NOTE: this is not the same as a zero score (see above), where there is no net gain or detrimental impact.	No impact

FIGURE 34: Suggested changes to the scoring with definition

Guidelines

The introduction worksheet of the tool requires updating (the current ones may be taken from the climate wheel). Keys and specific scoring explanations would be helpful. Guidelines for the specific dimensions with scored examples require compiling - these may already exist from the different assessments in various documents e.g. the climate tool has a guidance document for those original wheel criteria. However, to take more DE direction those may need amending to provide more specific and thriving examples.

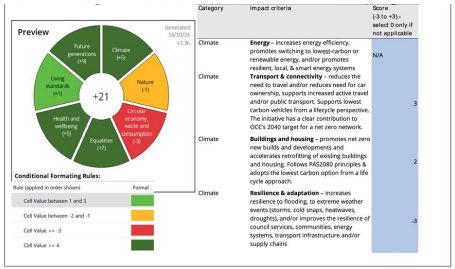

FIGURE 35: Current tool scoring: wheel normalised to -9 to +9 for each dimension/segment

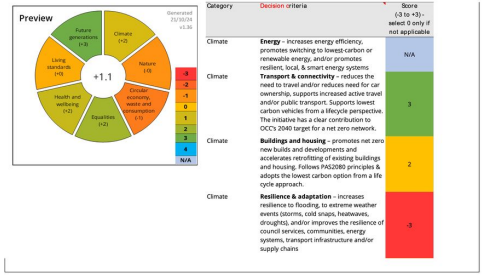

FIGURE 36: Suggested normalised scoring using averaged (mean) scores, consistent with the -3 to +4 scale of the individual criteria with graded colour scale for the wheel and individual criteria

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The Decision Making Tool

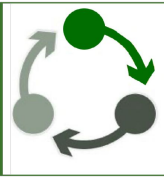
The tool prototype represents a momentous shift for holistic impact thinking at Oxfordshire County Council. Integration and alignment with Doughnut Economics has the potential to drive transformational decision making.

We recommend the following next steps to transition the tool as part of a Phase 2.

Mindset shift & Education

Workshops and user testing could be a key mechanism to align stakeholders, introducing transformative concepts and shifting the tool's usage from a post-design task to an inspiring decision-making aid. Practical sessions would address strategic DE thinking and topics like data quality, accuracy, and the balance of qualitative and quantitative insights. Additionally, workshops could gather user feedback to integrate into the tool's design and foster a culture of continuous learning and evolution, similar to Cornwall's approach.

Align Tool with Portrait



Future iterations of the tool could work towards integrating the design of the doughnut portrait into the tool to ensure the metrics and indicators serve as a guiding compass to accurately make decisions towards OCC goals.

Design for Thriving

There is scope to further revise the tool's criteria, language, questions, scoring, and visuals to maximise opportunities for designing a thriving Oxfordshire.

This early-stage application of Doughnut-informed design principles to the prototype of course comes with technical and practical complexity. Addressing these requires further engagement with OCC officers, practitioners and data leads to explore the potential and practical integration.

OCC Phase 2 key elements would be as follows:

- Refine the tool based on feedback from Phase 1
- Digitise the tool using PowerApps
- Full rollout of the tool across all areas of the Council, for all relevant Cabinet decisions and budget proposals
- Developing training to accompany the roll out
- Clear guidance on when the tool ought to be used, and for which projects
- Clear guidance on the intersection between the tool and existing and emerging governance processes including decisions, business and budget planning, PAS2080 and infrastructure projects, planning applications, etc.

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Envisioning An Integrated Approach

While we may not have all the answers now, we can take actionable steps across projects and policies to embed and test Doughnut and regenerative design principles, ensuring positive impacts for the county.

Portrait as compass / Tool for Transformative Action

This chapter has distilled some of the ways in which a Doughnut-aligned decision making tool could play a key role in driving both mindset shift, and social and ecological transformation at project level. Designing for evolution using socio-ecological dimensions, goal-setting, designing for thriving, advanced scoring to set minimum thresholds, and integration of global impacts are all practical applications of 'The 7 Ways', embodied in a vision for a Doughnut- informed decision-making framework.

How might the Portrait and the Decision Making Tool integrate and work together over time? With portrait creating a holistic snapshot, delivering data and insight for goal setting, the Decision Making Tool can shape policy design, strategies, plans and projects. Moving beyond business-as-usual impact assessment, the decision tool has the potential to shape outcomes for positive impact. Data and feedback loops from projects and policy-design can feed back into the Portrait to assist with reporting. In this way iterative design thinking for regenerative and distributive economics is embedded over time.

Together, portrait and tool can drive transformative change by reshaping culture and embedding it as a continuous, evolving process to enhance collective capacity.

If this iterative design cycle shows us how to envision an integrated approach with Portrait and Tool for Oxfordshire County Council, what about the rest of Oxfordshire? How can we involve everyone? In the next chapter, we share an early stage model for an inclusive approach to mobilising all parts of the economy for thriving.

An iterative cycle where portrait and tool help move Oxfordshire into the 'safe and just space of the Doughnut

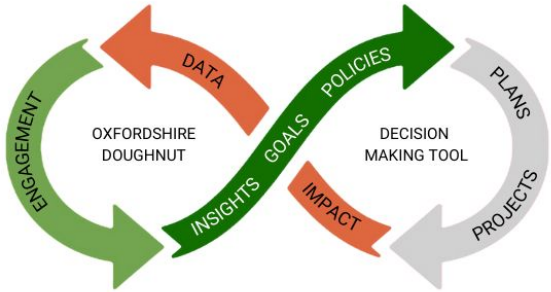

FIGURE 37: An iterative integrated design process for the Portrait and Decision Making Wheel

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06

Part 3

A Doughnut-informed Framework for a Thriving Oxfordshire

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Inspired By Other Places...

Doughnut Economics is an emergent practice with different starting points in different places, each growing and manifesting in different ways. But in these examples we can begin to envisage an integrated approach to the application of Doughnut Economics.

Every application of Doughnut Economics is necessarily place-based; a response to the unique context, circumstances, histories, dynamics, challenges and opportunities different places present.

To understand how other places had applied the DE methodology and tools to their places to shape new economic thinking and action, our Discovery Sprint took us on a virtual journey;

- **Brussels** showed us how the Doughnut is used to inform 'state of place' and drive an ambitious trajectory for the "Shifting Economy' economic transition plan for the Brussels Capital Region, aligned with thriving.[52]
- **Copenhagen** showed us how the Doughnut, reported annually, is used to highlight 'solution need', prioritise decisions and to allocate budget.[53]
- **Glasgow** shows us the power of qualitatively-informed 'thriving definitions' for dimensions of the Portrait, guiding-lights to show the way for policy makers and project design and experimentation through a town-and-gown Living Lab.[49]
- **In Cornwall** and other places throughout Europe, we've seen the ongoing transition away from do-less-harm 'impact assessment' to Decision Making Wheel for transformative projects, aligned with municipal goals to drive better outcomes for projects socially and ecologically. Data is mobilised for storytelling and impact and a joined up approach between projects on the ground, and high-level goals.[50]
- **Melbourne** has shown us how the Melbourne Doughnut, developed over a three year period with deep local engagement, catalysed "wildly ambitious" projects such as Swimmable Birrarung - a long term systems-informed project mobilising Government, business, residents, universities, communities, non profits, funding and finance in service to the regeneration of the Birrarung, 'life force' river at the heart of Melbourne way of life.[15]
- **Civic Square** in Birmingham is showing us how the Doughnut can be downscaled to neighbourhood level with a demonstrator project in Ladywood that shows how to build resilient civic infrastructure for the climate transition which is designed, owned and governed by residents - a living lab of local social regeneration.[54]

FIGURE 38: Examples of Doughnut Economics in action around the world

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Photo by Nicola Shafer: September 2023 Doughnut Economics Workshop

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The Oxfordshire Context

Oxfordshire really is an extraordinary place - full of amazing people doing incredible things in their neighborhoods, communities, places of work and across academic institutions.

But the preliminary data portrait is sending us a clear message - in spite of all the great things happening in this County, we are heading in the wrong direction on all fronts.

Spend any time talking to people at the front line of social and environmental change in Oxfordshire and you'll bear witness to a common theme:

"Things aren't joined up"
"We need to work more closely together".

There's also well-recognised tension between growth economics and the genuine desire for inclusive, sustainable development.

"We love the idea of the Doughnut", said a senior Oxfordshire County Council Policy Officer, *"but how do we apply it when central Government is asking for 'growth, growth, and a bit more growth please?"*.

The beauty of the Doughnut is its power to orient people, organisations, and economic activity around social and ecological challenges - to empower local change makers and focus transformative strategies, finance and investment on where they're needed most.

Could the Oxfordshire Doughnut become our guiding compass and inform a whole new approach to planning and co-creating a just transition for a resilient Oxfordshire?

And can we apply the Doughnut mindset to drive transformative outcomes at County, neighbourhood and project level, from the outset?

What follows is an early stage model for an inclusive, participative economy in Oxfordshire - to demonstrate how the Doughnut tools can work together to drive a joined-up approach right here.






Photos by Nicola Shafer: September 2023 Doughnut Economics Workshop, convened by ODEC.

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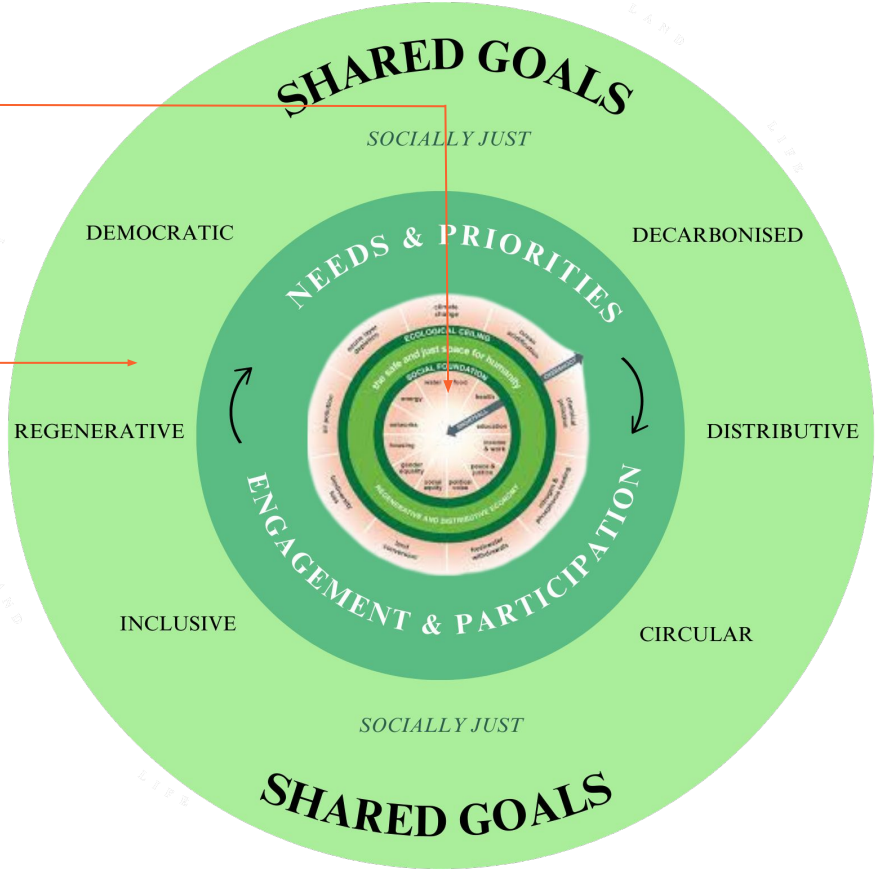
1. PORTRAIT AS COMPASS
Communicates 'state of place' with a holistic perspective.: Vision-led, underpinned by data, helps set the trajectory to align stakeholders on key challenges and mobilise all parts of the economy.

2. SHARED GOALS
Based on needs and priorities, guided by the portrait and decided with community and stakeholder engagement. Shared goals form the foundation of the economic strategy, investment, finance and community priorities, defining new holistic measures of success.



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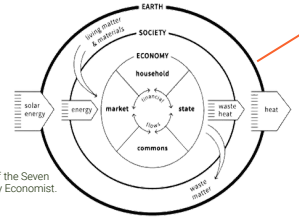
2. SHARED GOALS

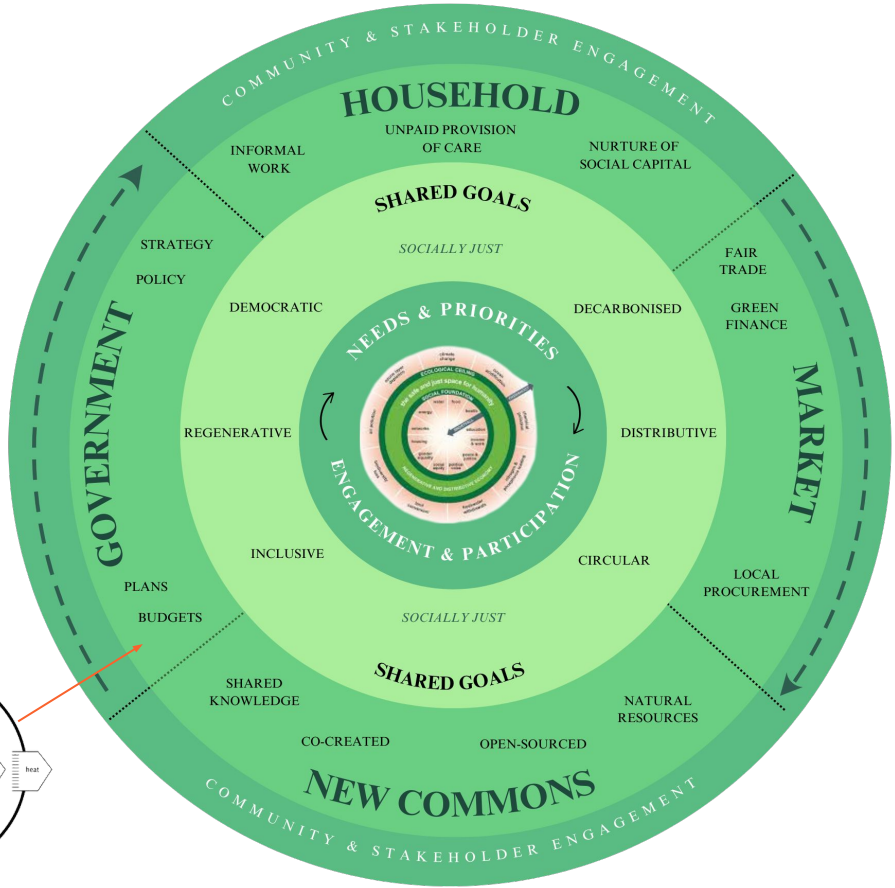
Based on needs and priorities, guided by the portrait and decided with stakeholder engagement. Shared goals form the foundation of the Oxfordshire economic strategy, investment, finance and community priorities, defining new holistic indicators and measures of success.

3. 'THE EMBEDDED ECONOMY'

Integrated roles for the household and Oxfordshire's dynamic commons alongside local Government, and the market - this values their contribution and recognises their power in working toward shared goals. The role of the state and the market in funding and financing the transition in new ways plays a vital role in growing the civic economy and building community wealth.



'The Embedded Economy' - one of the Seven Ways To Think Like a 21st Century Economist. (Raworth, 2017)



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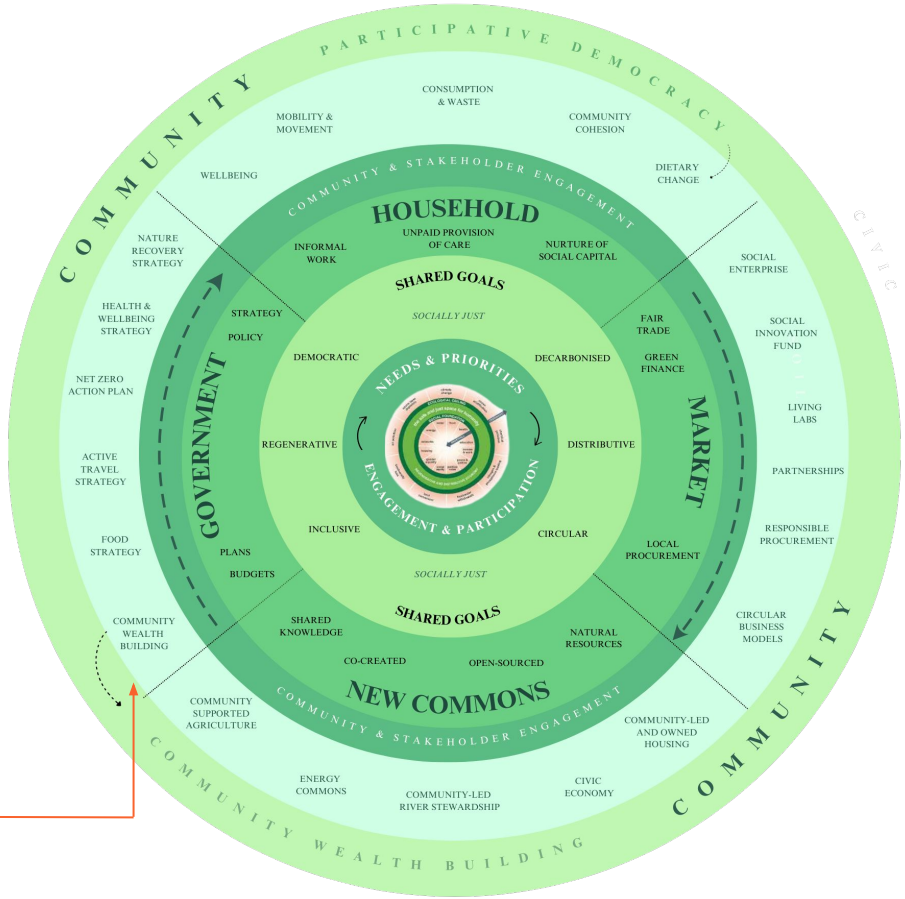
4. THE EMBEDDED ECONOMY - ACTIVATED
Demonstrates how shared goals and aspirations can be activated across the economy with a role for each area of the economy, beyond the market and the state, breaking down silos and working toward shared goals



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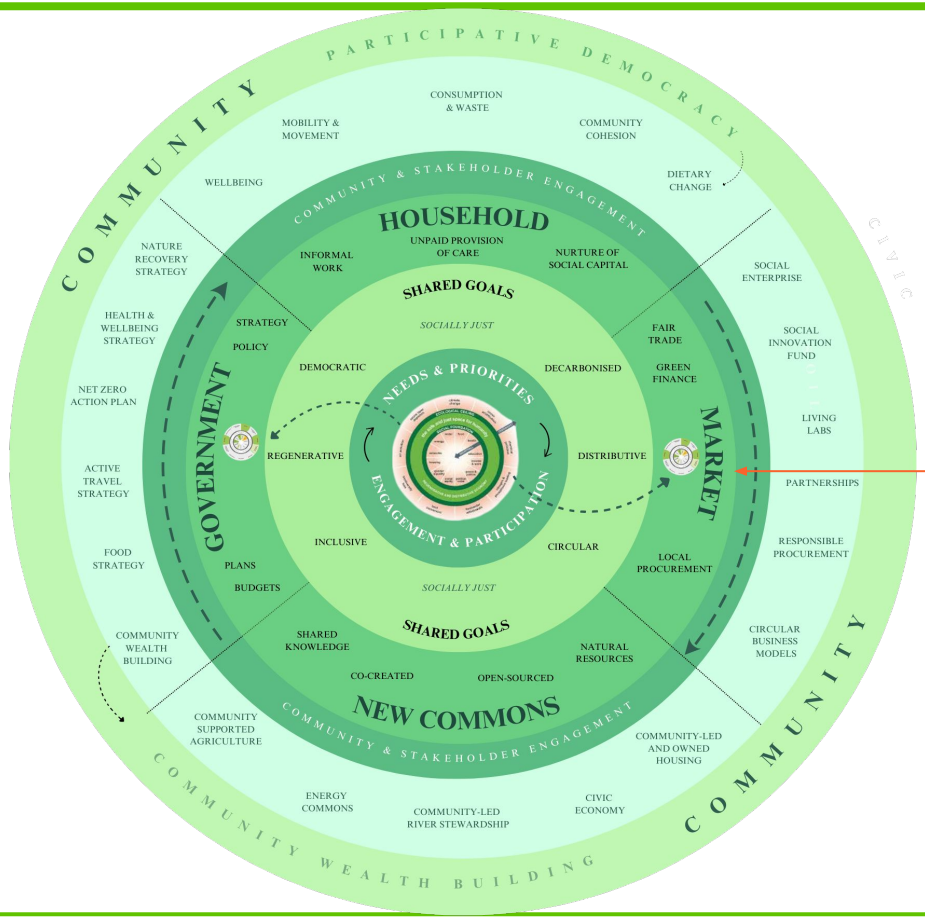

5. DESIGNED TO REGENERATE & DISTRIBUTE
Aligned to the Oxfordshire Doughnut priorities and visions for thriving, the Decision Wheel guides transformative decision making for local Government, project developers, policy-makers and planners. Data and communication feedback loops help track progress toward the 'safe and just space' of the Doughnut and drives better outcomes for all areas of development.

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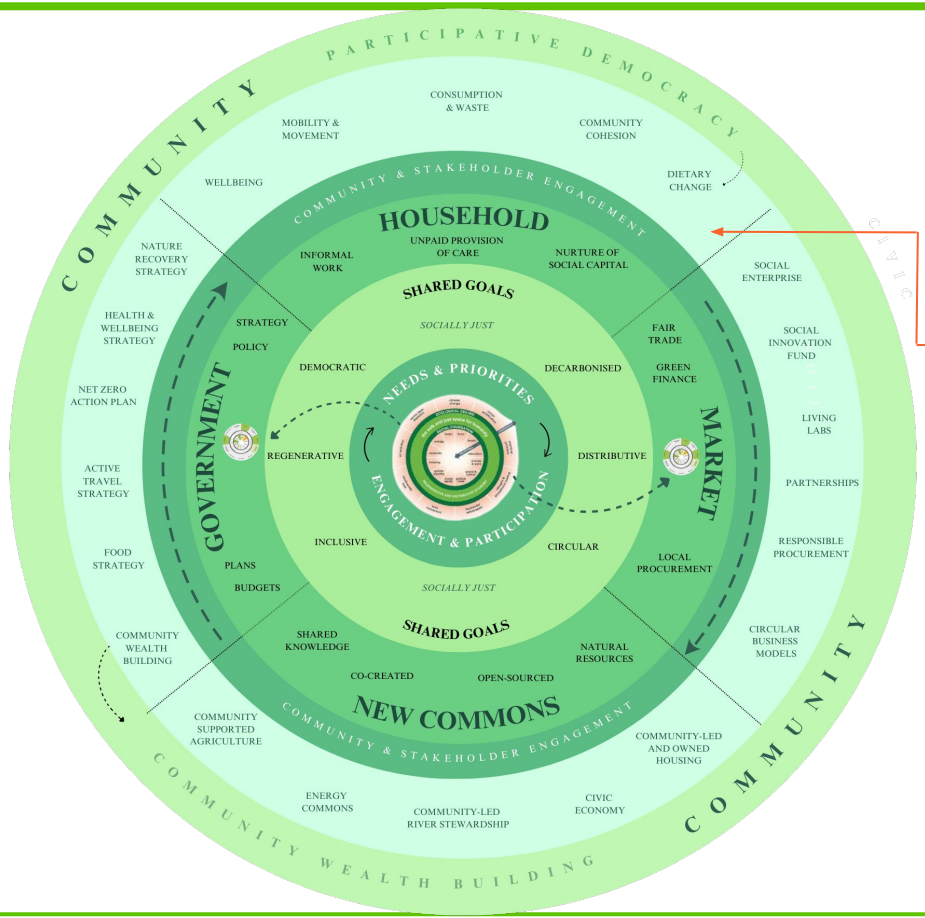

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6. PARTICIPATORY DECISION MAKING
Communities and citizens are empowered and engaged throughout decision-making processes. Challenging decisions around land-use, dietary change, and mobility involve citizens and stakeholders.

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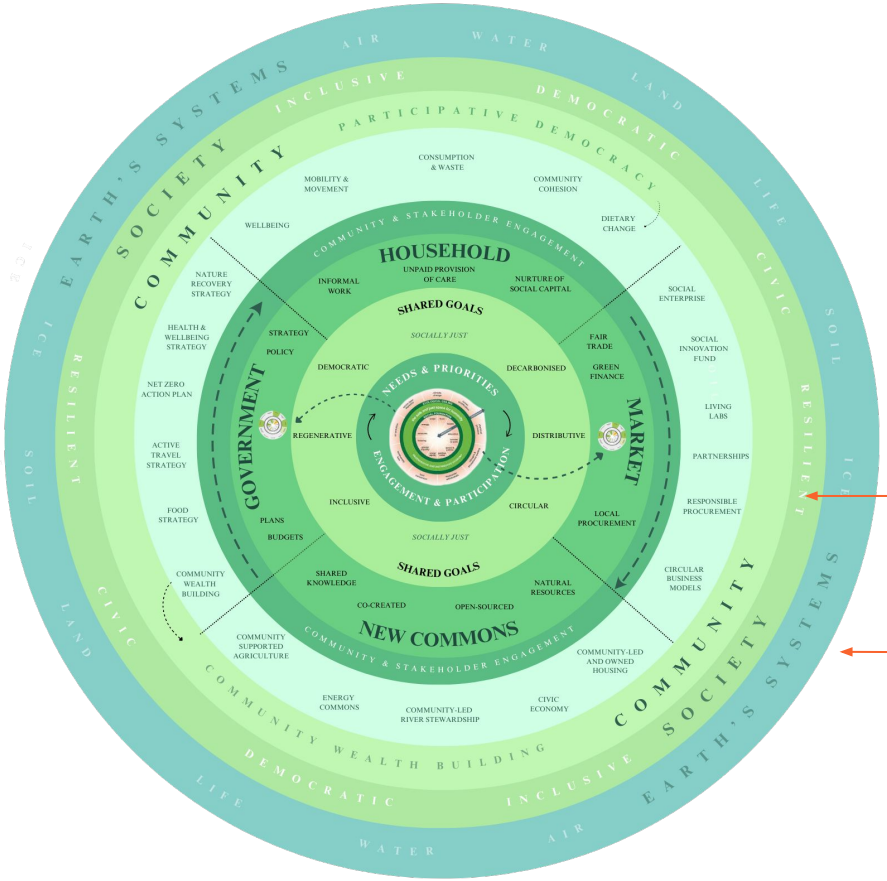

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Communities and citizens are empowered and engaged throughout decision-making processes. Challenging decisions around land-use, dietary change, and mobility involve citizens and stakeholders.

7. INCLUSIVE & RESILIENT SOCIETY
A Doughnut-empowered Oxfordshire economy builds an inclusive, democratic, civic, and resilient society able to respond to the challenges of changing climate and social challenge.

8. EARTH'S SYSTEMS
The embedded economy is nested in Earth's systems. Recognising this helps make the impact of local action on global systems more tangible. Air, water, land, life, soil and ice represent Earth's systems currently compromised by fossil fuel dependency and over consumption. Doughnut tools help assess, track and measure local regeneration, global impacts

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07 Concluding Reflections and Next Steps

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Concluding Reflections and Next Steps

We need to be global futurists and responsible for outcomes. Not just to shape our place more inclusively in Oxfordshire about around the world - to change the world for the better.

Martin Reeves
The Oxfordshire Story launch event, September 2024

The Portrait of Place, or 'Doughnut', in every place, is a call to action for everyone.

It's for Oxfordshire County Council, Districts and Parishes. Our world-leading Universities, innovative businesses and networks, Community Action Groups, and social enterprises. For funders, investors, and financiers.

Above all, it's for the humans wearing these different hats who also happen to live in households and communities in this extraordinary County who really care about their place, the people here and now, and future generations.

The magic of 'the Doughnut way', is that everyone can participate.

Some practical next steps for taking the three work streams forward are outlined on the following page but before progressing, we need to create space for wider reflection before diving in to action.

1. **Time to pause**. This report will be the first time for many people to really engage with what the preliminary Doughnut is telling us so far. This deserves space for reflection and consideration.

2. **Time to re-group**. The Doughnut needs time and space to travel. To be shared and interrogated. For people to discuss and consider where to next and how to build capacity.

3. **Time to co-create**. The Doughnut needs a home and it needs keystone partners to help take this work forward, in partnership. The time to pause, reflect and re-group is critical for defining the way ahead.

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Top-Line Findings And Next Steps

WORKSTREAM	LEARNINGS & CORE INSIGHTS	TAKING IT FORWARD
1. PRELIMINARY DATA PORTRAIT To work collaboratively with OCC to build a first- iteration baseline data portrait for Oxfordshire	The preliminary data portrait paints an extremely concerning picture for Oxfordshire socially and ecologically particularly on global impacts. The process has highlighted the value of portrait as both compass and a tool for making socio-ecological connections and driving mindset shift. The process also highlighted the challenge and opportunity with unlocking data and action gaps, reinforcing the importance of broad and inclusive engagement to enrich, evolve, and legitimise. Further, global social and global ecological impacts point to critical role of local action to build a resilient , globally responsible Oxfordshire.	**Embrace preliminary data portrait as springboard for engagement and socialisation** 1. Investigate and establish a platform, process, and Governance for housing 'living and evolving' Doughnut 2. Progress the Doughnut methodology to enrich the portrait with qualitative input to develop a compelling vision for thriving : participatory cross-sector workshop series with diverse representation 3. In partnership, and collaboratively, evolve and develop indicator, target and threshold selections with key stakeholders harnessing local expertise across climate and ecology
2. ASSESSMENT TOOL To create a Doughnut-aligned decision-making tool to better consider short and long-term environmental, health, intergenerational, socioeconomic and equality implications of OCC decisions.	OCC have developed an integrated impact assessment (IA) tool to combine disparate IAs , streamline the process, and begin to shape holistic thinking on projects. With socialisation of the Doughnut and more explicit design synergy, there's the potential for OCC to become a forerunner in developing advanced Doughnut-aligned tool to drive transformative decision making in the design of projects.	1. **Align Tool with Doughnut Portrait:** Integrate the design principles of the doughnut portrait into the tool (dimensions, goals, and thresholds) 2. **Design for supporting thriving people and places** while respecting everyone's well-being and the planet's health; Design the tool's criteria, language, questions, advanced scoring system and visuals to reflect what thriving could look like in Oxfordshire. 3. **Iterative Framework:** Create a tool framework that enables future adaptation, guiding users through various stages to identify hotspots and optimise outcomes.
3. FRAMEWORK To consider how Doughnut Economics tools could be integrated into an overall 'framework' for use including Strategic Economic Planning in Oxfordshire	Whilst an evolving practice, our discovery research shows that many places have integrated the Doughnut approach coherently in partnership with municipalities and community. The Portrait of Place and a Doughnut-informed Decision Making tool have the potential to guide a transformative approach here in Oxfordshire - from strategic economic planning right through to policy and project design, fostering an enabling environment for an inclusive economy to thrive..	1. Awareness of and engagement of the preliminary data portrait and framework is needed to socialise and develop the framework in collaboration with stakeholders such as local policy lab, OIEP as well as Directorates and districts 2. Adopting Oxfordshire Doughnut as both guiding compass and regenerative transformation framework for strategic economic planning - from establishing holistic snapshot, to defining objectives and cross-cutting themes, and co-designing finance and investment mechanisms to fund transformative change

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"The key to fixing everything is all of us"

JON ALEXANDER, CITIZENS

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Project Team Contacts

This project was a collaborative team effort with cross pollination of ideas and insight from research streams. Details are included here if you'd like to contact team members about specific workstreams.

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08 Appendices

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Global Ecological Appendix

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DIMENSION	INDICATOR	NARRATIVE SNAPSHOT	CALCULATIONS	INCOME QUINTILES OVERSHOOT AS PERCENTAGE
Climate Change	**Carbon Footprint**	**814% OVERSHOOT** The current safe boundary for carbon emissions is 1.36 tonnes per capita. This is based on 2024 data aligned with the 1.5°c ambition. People in Oxfordshire are currently responsible for 11 tonnes a year which exceeds the safe boundary by 9.8 tonnes. Our calculations are based on District-level data but averaged per capita.	Climate Change and Ocean acidification are both measured by Carbon footprints, which using district level data allowed us to gather district level footprints.[9] These were then weighted by district populations leading to 11.09t.CO2.yr-1 We set the threshold at an ambitious target of 1.36t.CO2 (O'Neill et al use 1.61)[17] to highlight the drastic change needed to be confident in not exceeding 1.5°C by 2050.[18] This leads to Oxfordshire's share of the carbon we can produce is 8 times larger than it should be.	INCOME Q1 - 400% INCOME Q2 - 547% INCOME Q3 - 714% INCOME Q4 - 938% INCOME Q5 - 1471%
Land Use	**Ecological Footprint**	**214% OVERSHOOT** The ecological footprint effectively measures how much land is needed outside our borders to sustain our Oxfordshire way of life. It is measured in global hectares. The global land footprint on average for people in Oxfordshire is currently 3.7 times the safe boundary.	Using the UK's Ecological footprint, we can access our Excessive Land Use.[21] O'Neill et al. sets a threshold of 1.72 global hectares per year per capita.[17] Notably the UK is at 3.57 (down nearly 50% since 2001). Using an down-scaling based on the South East's higher expenditure, leads to 3.68gha.yr-1 for Oxfordshire.[28]	INCOME Q1 - 160% INCOME Q2 - 179% INCOME Q3 - 201% INCOME Q4 - 230% INCOME Q5 - 300%
Fertilizer Use	**Nitrogen & Phosphorus**	**551% OVERSHOOT PHOSPHORUS** **776% OVERSHOOT NITROGEN** This dimension measures how our consumption in Oxfordshire impacts fertiliser use, beyond our borders. It applies a per person responsibility using Biodiversity footprint downscaling for the South East. Currently Oxfordshire overshoots safe boundaries considerably by 550% and more than 700% for nitrogen and phosphorus respectively.	Using Phosphorus (kg.P.yr-1) and Nitrogen (Kg.N.yr-1) to examine excessive fertiliser use found levels of 4.9kg and 69.1kg respectively, achieved by down-scaling the UK levels replicating previous methodologies.[17,16]	*No income differential for phosphorus and nitrogen*

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DIMENSION	INDICATOR	NARRATIVE SNAPSHOT	CALCULATIONS	INCOME QUINTILES OVERSHOOT AS PERCENTAGE
Freshwater Withdrawals	**Blue Water**	**43% UNDERSHOOT** This measure considers 'embodied water' in the production of important goods, consumed here in the UK. Our calculations show that Oxfordshire is operating within the safe boundary for water	Freshwater withdrawals was illustrated via blue-water use, using the methodology of O'Neill et al.,[17] downscaling from the UK value of 241.1m3.yr-1 to our Oxfordshire figure of 248.9, thus being 43% of the 574m3.yr-1 threshold.	INCOME Q1 - 32% INCOME Q2 - 36% INCOME Q3 - 41% INCOME Q4 - 47% INCOME Q5 - 61%
Resource Efficiency *(Consumption)*	**Material Footprint**	**256% OVERSHOOT** "Material footprint" refers to the total amount of raw materials extracted to meet final consumption demands. It both an indication of resource efficiency and the impact of growth to meet material needs. The safe boundary is 7.2 tonnes per year - in Oxfordshire, we consume more than double the safe boundary.	Measuring consumption via the UK's 2021 Material Footprint,[22] which equates to 16.5t.yr-1. Downscaling to Oxfordshire using South East's higher expenditure leads to a value of 18.4t.yr-1.[28] This exceeds the safe limit (7.2t.yr-1) by a factor of 2.5.	INCOME Q1 - 125% INCOME Q2 - 172% INCOME Q3 - 224% INCOME Q4 - 295% INCOME Q5 - 462%
Biodiversity Loss	**Biodiversity Footprint**	**OVERSHOOT** We have high confidence that Oxfordshire exceeds the boundary based on consumption data and calculations so far.	Biodiversity is extremely hard to measure, however by using MSA-loss-HA as an indicator of Biodiversity Footprint provides South East England with 0.41 (as of 2010). which is close to UK average (0.43) and EU average (0.53), and can thus can come to same conclusion of 'High', though we could argue Oxfordshire is 'exceeding' more than the UK, as the lower the value the greater the loss of biodiversity.[23]	N/A

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DIMENSION	INDICATOR	NARRATIVE SNAPSHOT	CALCULATIONS	INCOME QUINTILES OVER SHOOT AS PERCENTAGE
Chemical Pollution	*Novel entities is a new Planetary Boundary (2023). Gap for this baseline iteration.*			
Ozone Layer Depletion	*No local agreement and the global community continues to address. Decision taken to exclude from this iteration of the Doughnut. Montreal Protocol: global agreement to protect the stratospheric ozone layer by phasing out the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances (ODS).*			
Air Pollution	*No local target for global air pollution. Decision taken to exclude from this iteration. Awaiting data.*			

To find the income relations we followed the expenditure differences between UK income quintiles.[20]
These shares are then multiplied to blue-water use and the ecological, material, and carbon footprint, following the same methodology as the leeds doughnut.

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Global Social Appendix

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DIMENSION	SDG	INDICATOR	WEIGHTED AVERAGE UK (% = SHORTFALL)	OXFORDSHIRE WEIGHTING (EXPENDITURE)	NARRATIVE SNAPSHOT
Food	**SDG2** End hunger, achieve food security & improve nutrition	% of population undernourished	6.99%	7.66%	The nations we import from have a weighted average of 7% of their population that are undernourished. Most regions have 2.5% - the minimum possible value - including the UK, whereas the average of Africa is 18%, and thus have 7 times our undernourished population rate. While undernourishment is less of an issue nationally or locally, this indicates that our imported material footprint is dependent on twice as much undernourishment than we have in the UK. Oxfordshire exceeds the UK average.[55]
Water	**SDG6** ensure availability & sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	% of population lacking access to sanitation	30.7%	33.6%	While the UK - and Japan - are leaders in this metric (with under 2% of their population lacking access to sanitation), the UK's material footprint illustrates how our lifestyles are dependent on a weighted average of 31% of populations lacking access to sanitation, 10 times worse than the levels we have in the UK. This is heavily influenced by the Americas and Africa having more than half of their population without access to sanitation. Oxfordshire exceeds the UK average.[31]
Health	**SDG3** Ensure healthy lives & promote wellbeing at all ages	% of population that lack DTP3 vaccine coverage	10.15%	11.12%	The nations we import from have a weighted average of 10% of their population not receiving a DTP3 vaccine. In the UK, like the USA, only 7% of our population has not received this vaccination, a higher percentage than Russia, Japan and Europe, indicating areas for improvement nationally. On the global scale, the weighted average is not much higher than our own, however our lifestyles are dependent on the regions with 3 times the UK's rate, such as the Americas and Africa. Oxfordshire exceeds the UK average.[56]
Education	**SDG 4** Ensure inclusion & equitable quality education & promote life-long learning opportunities for all.	% of population that did not complete upper secondary education	31.44%	34.44%	The nations we import from have a weighted average of 31% of their population not completing upper-secondary education. For comparison, only 10% of the UK's population do not complete upper-secondary education, indicating that our material footprint is dependent on populations and workforces that have 3 times as many people without upper-secondary education, thus limiting their opportunities and enabling higher exploitation. This is especially the case in Africa, of which 10% of our imported material footprint originates, have an average of 77% of their population with uncompleted upper-secondary education. Oxfordshire exceeds the UK average.[32]

Global Social Interactive Workings

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DIMENSION	SDG	INDICATOR	WEIGHTED AVERAGE UK (% = SHORTFALL)	OXFORDSHIRE WEIGHTING (EXPENDITURE)	NARRATIVE SNAPSHOT
Housing	**SDG 11.1** By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe & affordable housing & basic services	% of urban population living in slums or informal settlements	18.73%	20.52%	The nations we import from have a weighted average of 19% of their "urban population live in slums or informal housing". For comparison the UK has 0.17% of our urban population living in slums or informal housing, and thus the weighted average is more than 100 times than the UK's level. With a lot of material being manufactured or produced in urban areas, our material footprint is dependent on these living conditions. This high weighted average is mainly due to Asia and Africa (15% of our imported material footprint) having above 30% of their urban populations in slums or informal housing. Oxfordshire exceeds the UK average.[57]
Energy	**SDG7** Ensure access to affordable reliable sustainable modern energy for all	% of population without access to electricity	5.31%	5.82%	The nations we import from have a weighted average of 5% of their population without electricity access. The global north virtually provides electricity access to all, however our imported material footprint is dependent on areas that do not have this social foundation; specifically populations of Africa have nearly half without access to electricity, with nations like Burundi having 90% without electricity access. Oxfordshire exceeds the UK average.[58]
Income & Work	**SDG8** Promote full & productive employment & decent work for all	% of population living under $10/day	41.01%	44.92%	The nations we import from have a weighted average of 41% of their population living on less than $10/day. To improve towards a global thriving society, individuals must be able to at least acquire their needs like food and shelter, illustrated by the UK only having 1% of its population living under this level. Taking into account nations cost of living and average incomes indicates that our material footprint is dependent on 40 times more of their populations not having enough to thrive on. In Africa and India, which account for 22% of our imported material footprint, less than 10% of their populations live on more than $10/day, indicating a vital dependence on massive levels of poverty. Oxfordshire exceeds the UK average.[30]
Social Equity	**SDG10** Reduce inequalities within & among countries	% of population without social protection benefit	38.59%	42.27%	The nations we import from have a weighted average of 39% of their population that do not have at least 1 social protection benefit. Social benefits - such as pensions and maternity or unemployment benefits - are essential in creating a safety net for a populace. For comparison, only 6% in the UK are not covered by one social protection benefit. Thus, our material footprint is dependent on nations that have six times more of their populations without social protection benefits (by weighted average). This is due to at least half of the populations in Africa, Asia, and the Americas are without one social protection benefit. Oxfordshire exceeds the UK average.[29]

Global Social Interactive Workings

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DIMENSION	SDG	INDICATOR	WEIGHTED AVERAGE UK (% = SHORTFALL)	OXFORDSHIRE WEIGHTING (EXPENDITURE)	NARRATIVE SNAPSHOT
Equality In Diversity	**SDG5** Achieve gender equality & empower women & girls	Ranking on Global Gender Gap Index	29.11%	31.89%	The nations the UK import from have a weighted average of 29% based on the Global Gender Gap Index. The higher the 'economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment', the lower the percent. The UK has a relatively small gender gap of 21%; thus, the nations our material footprint is dependent on has gender gaps 0.5 times larger than ours. This is mainly in Africa, India, China, and the rest of Asia - which equates to 40% of our imported material footprint - having gender gaps over 30%. Oxfordshire exceeds the UK average.[59]
Community & networks	**SDG11** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	% of population without someone they can count on	20.21%	22.14%	The nations we import from have a weighted average of 20% of their population that do not have social support (someone to count on). Our material footprint is therefore dependent on communities that are unable to support everyone, indicating a lack of community and engagement; this is can be linked to the prioritisation of survival and labour above community. This is also an issue nationally, with 13% of UK respondents having no one to count on. While most areas are below the average of 20%, Africa and India - 22% of our imported material footprint - have 40% or more of their populations unable to count on someone, over 3 times as many as the UK. Oxfordshire exceeds the UK average.[60]
Political Voice	**SDG16.7** Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory & representative decision-making at all levels	Ranking on Political Participation Index	40.81%	44.71%	The nations we import from have a weighted average of 40.81% based on the Political Participation Index. This index measures the extent to which citizens can and do participate in politics. For comparison, the UK is in the 18th percentile, thus indicating that our imported material footprint is dependent on populations ranked two deciles higher than us, indicating that these nations are less able to support and implement policies that better the populace. This is mainly down to China, the rest of Asia, and the Rest of Africa - equal to 28% of our imported material footprint - on average are in the top half of political participation percentiles. Oxfordshire exceeds the UK average.[61]
Peace & Justice	**SDG16** Promote peaceful & inclusive societies for sustainable development, access to justice for all, & effective, accountable & inclusive institutions at all levels.	Ranking on Global Peace index	47.85%	52.41%	The nations we import from have a weighted average of 47.85% (Medium Peace) based on the Global Peace Index. This index measures the extent a nation's state of peace, based on interactions inside and outside of its borders. Positioning Iceland and Yemen as the 0% and 100% borders respectively (due to being ranked highest and lowest states of peace) indicates where other nations rank between them. For comparison, the UK would rank in the 29th decile (High Peace), which is lower than Japan and Rest of Europe on average, but higher than every other averaged area. The main contributors to this weighted average like the USA, Russia, Brazil, and South Africa - who equate to 16% of imported material footprint - are above the 60th percentile, which is double the UK's ranking. Oxfordshire exceeds the UK average.[62]

Global Social Interactive Workings

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Local Social Appendix

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Local Social Dimensions

01 Food
02 Water
03 Health
04 Social Equity
05 Education
06 Housing
07 Income and Work
08 Energy
09 Mobility
10 Political Voice
11 Community
12 Culture
13 Access to nature
14 Connectivity
15 Peace Safety and Security
16 Equality in Diversity

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Local Social

FOOD

FOCUS : FOOD INSECURITY

DEAL DEFINITION

Safe, sufficient, nutritious food for all. Food is a daily essential for a healthy life, which is why all people need to have secure access to sufficient, affordable, safe and nutritious food.SDG2 End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition

SDG2 End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition

DOUGHNUT INTERCONNECTIONS

Local Social
Health

Local Ecological
Land use

Global Ecological
Carbon footprint, ecological footprint

Global Social
Food (undernourishment)

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The Oxfordshire Food Strategy, adopted by Oxfordshire Council Council in 2022, outlines a vision where everyone in Oxfordshire can enjoy the health and sustainable food they need with a focus on building 'vibrant food communities' locally.[63] Strategies are being localised through the Districts. The priority reflects qualitative input from 100 stakeholders in the 'Better Future For Oxfordshire' Doughnut Economics workshops with Kate Raworth where access to locally grown and procured food was identified as a core opportunity for addressing multiple known issues - from food security to dietary ill health. Robust data on progress toward these aims is not yet available for this iteration and OCC's metrics currently focus on food poverty and dietary related ill health. As a major driver for health inequality and a risk factor for severe health outcomes, Food Insecurity as the focus for this iteration.

Target: No specific target for food insecurity however the ambition in the Oxfordshire Food Strategy is for everyone in Oxfordshire to enjoy the healthy and sustainable food they need everyday.
Indicator: The chosen indicator is 'the number of Oxfordshire's neighbourhoods at highest risk of food insecurity, as indicated by the number of Oxfordshire LSOAs in the bottom three deciles of the Priority Places Food Index (PPFI).[64] The PPFI is an indicator of 'areas most likely to be at risk of food insecurity' and why - such as proximity to supermarkets and non-supermarket provision, socio-demographic barriers, fuel poverty).
Snapshot: 8% of Oxfordshire's LSOAs are currently at the highest risk of food insecurity.[64]
Threshold: No specific threshold has been set locally. For the purpose of this data portrait, we have suggested that no Oxfordshire LSOAs fall in the bottom 3 deciles.

Limitations and opportunities: Understanding risk of food insecurity is a great starting point for this lens. For future iterations of the portrait, further engagement is required to develop a wider basket of indicators and sub indicators and explore how we can map and measure the Oxfordshire population's access to sustainable, nutritious, local food. Further, whilst we've identified the number of neighbourhoods most likely to be at high risk, identifying a measure of population experiencing food insecurity would be a helpful illustration.

LINKS TO OCC PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

OCC Priority 1
Put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work

OCC Priority 2
Tackle inequalities in Oxfordshire

OCC Priority 3
Prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents

Oxfordshire Food Strategy [63]
Everyone in Oxfordshire can enjoy the healthy and sustainable food they need every day

Health and Wellbeing Strategy [11]
Improved access to healthy food, especially in priority neighbourhoods

WATER

FOCUS : WATER STRESS

DEAL DEFINITION

Access to clean water and decent sanitation. Water is a household essential for drinking, bathing, cooking, and washing clothes, and is also essential for agriculture and industry. The quality of water supply and sanitation systems are both fundamental for ensuring human health and hygiene.

SDG6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

DOUGHNUT INTERCONNECTIONS

Local Social
Health

Local Ecological
Land use

Global Ecological
Carbon footprint, ecological footprint

Global Social
Food (undernourishment)

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Access to water is a fundamental human right, both necessary for survival and a household essential to maintain health, hygiene and wellbeing. Here in Oxfordshire, water stress is an issue of growing concern. Water stress is typically defined by the human demand for water exceeding available supply. It is impacted by resource availability, usage, population growth, and climate change. When people face water stress, it compromises basic human needs. Water stress also doesn't impact all households equally. Vulnerable or low-income communities may be hit harder due to inefficient infrastructure or higher water bills. In Oxfordshire, high water demand combined with population growth is likely to exacerbate these inequalities, leading to water poverty and affecting the most marginalised groups. Insufficient access to water due to stress can also compromise health, which is another key pillar of the social foundation. Limited water can increase the risk of diseases therefore ensuring there is enough water for everyone therefore supports public health.

The Environment Agency classifies the Thames River Basin District, which includes Oxfordshire, as an area of Serious Water Stress. Abstraction exceeds availability in summer months with a decline in groundwater levels due to over-abstraction and reduced rainfall, affecting overall availability.[65] According to Thames Water's reports, the average per capita consumption (PCC) in their service area, which includes Oxfordshire, is 146 litres per person per day.[66] This is well above the national average of around 140 litres per person per day.[67] Water stress is also predicted to worsen - between 2011 and 2021, Oxfordshire's population grew by 10.9% which is well above than the England average.[68] According to the Met Office UK Climate Projections, by the 2050s, summer rainfall in South East England could decrease by up to 30%.[69]

Target: There is no County specific target for water usage, however the UK government's target is to reduce litres per person per day to 110 l/p/d by 2050 with an interim target of 122 litres per person per day by 2030.[70] A more ambitious target is the Environment Agency target of 100 litres per day per person in water stressed areas.[71] There's evidence that local Oxfordshire councils support this target.[72]

Indicator: Average Litres of water consumed per day per person, along with other data sets, is indicative of high water stress and correlates to finite resources and risk to human wellbeing. It also speaks to efficiency. The 'per litre per day' indicator includes water wasted from leaks, inefficient plumbing and infrastructure.

Snapshot: 146 litres per person per day.[66]

Threshold: 63% shortfall. 173 was set as the upper limit to represent 100% for the purposes of portrait visualisation. This is based on the Chilterns Per Capita Consumption which has the highest consumption in the UK and in Europe.[73]

Other illustrative Snapshots of water stress in Oxfordshire
- Oxford remains in an area of serious water stress. The findings of the Water Cycle Study find that water supply is expected to run into deficits towards the end of the Local Plan period.[74]
- Oxfordshire is predicted to be facing severe water stress by 2030.[75]
- The Chilterns, including Oxfordshire, has the highest per-capita consumption in Europe using 173 litres per person per day.[73]
- The Oxfordshire Town of Northend lost access to water completely in 2022 due to reservoir stress and high demand.[76]

LINKS TO OCC PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

OCC Priority 1:
Put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work

OCC Priority 2
"Tackle inequalities in Oxfordshire" (water inequality)

OCC Priority 3:
Prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents

Links to OCC Environmental Principles
Objective 2. Adapt to the challenges of climate change and develop climate resilient communities"
Objective 4. Use Natural Resources Sustainability "Address existing and future water resource, water quality and flood risk issues"

Health and Wellbeing Strategy:
"Protect against and reduce the negative health impacts associated with flooding, poor water quality and droughts." [pg 39][11]

"Manage flood risk and the impacts of flooding on people and property across the county"[77]

Local Social

HEALTH

FOCUS : HEALTH INEQUALITY

DEAL DEFINITION

Access to affordable, quality healthcare for all. Health services provide people with essential care and treatment for illness and injury, from birth to death as well as significantly reducing the prevalence of disease.

SDG3 Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing at all ages

DOUGHNUT INTERCONNECTIONS

Local Social
Education, Food, Water

Local Ecological
Air, Water, Land

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Overall, Oxfordshire is fairly healthy and has longer life expectancy and healthy life expectancy than national averages.[78] However, Oxfordshire is characterised by significant health inequalities, as brought out in Oxfordshire's Annual Director of Public Health Report 2019-20.[79] As such, we have selected 'inequality in life expectancy between wards' as the indicator for this domain.

Target: Although the Oxfordshire system has set out a clear and strong ambition to narrow and minimise avoidable and unfair health differences between different groups in its Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Oxfordshire has not set any specific targets. We have followed Leeds' example and set the target to 2 years in equality, in line with the local authority with the least inequality in life expectancy. (Barking & Dagenham for males: 2.3 years; Richmond upon Thames for females: 1.2).[78]
Indicator: Inequality in life expectancy between wards.
Snapshot: An average of 12.9 years, average (14.2 years for men and 11.5 years for women).[78]
Threshold: To calculate shortfall to 100%, we have set an upper limit threshold to 15 years life expectancy gap. This is the England average of highest life expectancy gap by ward.[78] This puts Oxfordshire in the 81st percentile of health inequality in England (100% being the largest health inequality gap) and therefore giving a shortfall of 81% beyond the social foundation.

Limitations and opportunities:

In future, there may be an opportunity to set specific targets e.g. to reverse increasing life expectancy gaps by 2030, or to halve the life expectancy gap by 2040 - bearing in mind how complex this outcome is and the limited ability of the County Council to influence health inequalities.

LINKS TO OCC PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

OCC vision
To lead positive change by working in partnership to make Oxfordshire a greener, fairer and healthier county

OCC Priority 2
"Tackle inequalities in Oxfordshire"

FOP Vision Outcome 9 [80]
Our community will be a more equal, fair and inclusive place for everyone.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy [11]
Oxfordshire should be a place where the avoidable and unfair health differences between different groups in the county are minimised. This is everyone's responsibility.

SOCIAL EQUITY

FOCUS : DEPRIVATION

DEAL DEFINITION

Reducing inequalities of income and wealth. People living in more equal societies tend to be healthier, safer, and more trusting compared to those in less equal societies.

SDG10 Reduce inequalities within and among countries

DOUGHNUT INTERCONNECTIONS

Local Social

Housing, health, access to nature, food, education, energy, mobility, income and work, community

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Social equity speaks to fairness and social justice. It involves ensuring that all individuals have access to resources and opportunities, and considering systemic inequalities that may create disadvantages for certain groups. To improve social equity is to address and eliminate barriers that prevent equal access to resources and participation in society.

This dimension strikes to the very core of one of Oxfordshire's greatest challenges as a county. Known for its relative wealth, Oxfordshire overall is in the 10th least deprived of 151 upper-tier local authorities.[81] However, there are some areas of the County pockets of deprivation, including areas that are among the 20% most deprived in the Country.[82]

Work has been done to identify the 10 most deprived wards in Oxfordshire, and to create focused Community Insight Profiles that take an asset-based approach to understanding the challenges in those places. Deprivation underpins many other challenges across the county - housing, health, food, and access to nature.

There is no specific county target for 'social equity' however ambitions to address equity are represented in Oxfordshire's Strategic Vision "To lead positive change by working in partnership to make Oxfordshire a greener, fairer and healthier county" and identified as County Priority 2 - "to tackle inequalities in Oxfordshire".

Indicator: The percentage of Oxfordshire wards in the most deprived deciles according to the IMD multiple deprivation index.

Snapshot: 28 of Oxfordshire's 407 neighbourhoods are in the most deprived 30% of neighbourhoods in the country.[82]

Threshold: For communities to thrive, and especially given the relative wealth of the County, everyone should have access to good, basic standard of living, no one should be experiencing high levels of deprivation. The threshold was therefore set to 0 giving a shortfall of 6% beyond the social foundation and into critical deprivation.

Limitations and opportunities:

IMD measures the relative deprivation of wards, across a variety of domains, and creates a score in comparison with averages for England. There are issues with using the IMD measure because the data is over 5 years out of date, and because the measure is relative.[82] A new set of IMD data is due in 2025 which can be used in future iterations. The threshold is currently set to 0 - no Oxfordshire ward should exist in the most deprived deciles of the IMD scores, however this threshold will need to be revised due to the relative nature of the data. Further, rather than percentage of wards we should also consider the percentage of the total county population. This would visualise Oxfordshire's shortfall in addressing critical human deprivation by population rather than ward.

LINKS TO OCC PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

OCC vision:
To lead positive change by working in partnership to make Oxfordshire a greener, fairer and healthier county

OCC Priority 2
Tackle inequalities in Oxfordshire

OCC Priority 3:
Prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents"

Health and wellbeing strategy,[11] priority 7
Financial wellbeing and healthy jobs
"All of Oxfordshire's people should have a good basic standard of living and financial wellbeing. Our local economy should be inclusive, equitable, and fair and everyone should be able to contribute through life-long learning and good quality and stable work"

FOP VISION OUTCOMES [80]
Our county will be a more equal fair and inclusive place for everyone

EDUCATION

FOCUS : INEQUALITY OF ATTAINMENT

DEAL DEFINITION

Access to lifelong learning for all. Education is foundational to every person's ability to participate in society and to take up opportunities throughout their life.

SDG 4 Ensure inclusion and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all .

DOUGHNUT INTERCONNECTIONS

Local Social

Health, Access to Nature, Food, Mobility, Community, Culture, Income and Work, Social Equity.

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

School readiness and attainment in early years is 'one of the main markers for wellbeing throughout the life course' and it is a "Public Health England priority to ensure that every child has the best start in life: being ready to learn at age two and ready for school at age five".[83]

In Oxfordshire, a disparity exists in achievement of the 'Good Level of Development' measure for disadvantaged children - or those eligible for free school meals. According to JSNA 2023, "many Oxfordshire children reach a good level of development by the time they start school, however those eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) had a lower (worse) than average good level of development".[84]

Target: Increase percentage of children achieving a good level of development at 2 to 2 and a half years and at age 4 years, particularly in most deprived communities" Health and Wellbeing Strategy Outcomes Framework.
Indicator: The indicator selected for this dimension is the 'proportion of disadvantaged pupils (FSMs) achieving a 'Good Level of Development' (GLD) in early years.
Snapshot: Currently in Oxfordshire just 43% of children eligible for free school meals achieve a Good Level Development in Early Years. This is lower than the national average (49.1%) and lower than South East England (47.4%). This figure is even lower in specific pockets (South Oxfordshire 37.4%).[84]
Threshold: Current Oxfordshire targets are to 'minimise the gap' or increase the number of children eligible FSM who achieve GLD. The team determined that the safe and just space was to at least match the England average for EYFS children who have attained a Good Level of Development, but are not eligible for free school meals (67%)[84] - reflecting the principle that all children should have equal access to good development, no matter their socioeconomic background. The shortfall is therefore 35.82%.

LINKS TO OCC PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

OCC Priority 2
Tackle inequalities in Oxfordshire

OCC Priority 7:
Create opportunities for children and young people to reach their full potential"

Health and Wellbeing Strategy Outcomes Framework [11]
"Increase percentage of children achieving a good level of development at 2 to 2 and a half years and at age 4 years, particularly in most deprived communities.

FOP Vision Outcome 9 [80]
Our community will be a more equal, fair and inclusive place for everyone.

SEND Priority Action Plan [85]

Oxfordshire School Readiness Strategy [83]

Local Social

HOUSING

FOCUS : AFFORDABILITY

DEAL DEFINITION

Decent, affordable, safe housing for all. Sustainable and resilient homes and settlements are foundational for creating thriving communities, and for reducing the risk of natural disasters and climate change.

SDG 11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services

DOUGHNUT INTERCONNECTIONS

Local Social
Energy, Health, Social Equity, Income and Work,

Local Ecological
Land Use

Global Ecological
Carbon Footprint

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The complexity of housing is reflected in the DEAL definition, SDG target and OCC's own strategic priorities. Affordability, energy efficiency, resilience, and access - in the case of homelessness - are all recognised high priority challenges in Oxfordshire that undermine the potential to thrive. Further, housing intersects with other known challenges such as the tension between land use and proposed development to meet housing shortages.

For this iteration, the focus is on affordability as a status indicator of the challenge the county faces.

Target: No specific County target however Priority 9 of the Oxfordshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy states that "everyone should have access to quality, affordable, and energy efficient homes"
Indicator: The 'price to income affordability ratio' indicator
Snapshot: On average, house prices in Oxfordshire are 10.3 times more than median gross annual workplace-based earnings - this is higher than the average for England (8.26) and the Southeast (9.27). In Oxford this rises to 11.7, and the Cotswolds 14.8 times annual workplace earnings.[44]
Threshold: The Office of National Statistics set the housing affordability ratio at five times annual workplace income.[44] If we exclude London, the least affordable County for housing affordability is Surrey with a median house-to-income affordability ratio of 13.24. We have used this to set the upper limit to benchmark Oxfordshire's performance. This represents a 64% shortfall of the safe and just place.

Rental figures paint a similar picture which means that the right for all people in Oxfordshire to access affordable homes is severely compromised with disproportionate impact on low-income earners.

LINKS TO OCC PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

OCC vision:
To lead positive change by working in partnership to make Oxfordshire a greener, fairer and healthier county

OCC Priority 2
Tackle inequalities in Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priority 9 [11]
Everyone should have access to quality, affordable, and energy efficient homes which support their health and wellbeing"

FOP VISION OUTCOMES [80]
Our county will be a more equal fair and inclusive place for everyone

INCOME & WORK

FOCUS : IN-WORK POVERTY

DEAL DEFINITION

Decent work and adequate income for all. Work that is safe and meaningful, with fair pay and decent working conditions, provides essential income that enables households to meet many of their needs and wants. Other sources of income – such as welfare payments, cash transfers and remittances – are likewise critical for many.

DOUGHNUT INTERCONNECTIONS

Local Social
Health and wellbeing, access to nature, food

Local Ecological
Energy efficiency, flood risk, air quality

Global Social
Work and income

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Unemployment is relatively low in Oxfordshire (the claimant rate is only 2.3% in September 2024, while the England average is 4.4%)[86], but many of the jobs available pay insufficiently for residents to thrive in Oxfordshire. Oxfordshire generally has a large proportion of wealthy residents, there are significant pockets of deprivation which are made more acute by the higher cost of living in the County.

This economic inequality is a specific challenge in Oxfordshire, with deep impacts on health and wellbeing, contributing to a life expectancy gap of more than 11 years between the wealthiest and the least wealthy wards.[87]

For this domain, we are measuring residents who are working, but whose earnings are insufficient and thus they have to claim universal credit. This measure is a proxy for 'in-work poverty'.

In-work poverty refers to circumstances where individuals or families are employed, but their income is insufficient to meet basic living needs. This can occur due to low wages, part-time or unstable employment, high living costs, or insufficient working hours, meaning that despite being in work, they struggle to escape poverty and maintain an adequate standard of living. This issue often affects households where wages do not keep pace with the cost of necessities like housing, food, and utilities.

Target: There is no specific Oxfordshire target however OCC is a signatory to the IEP Fair Employment Charter and the Community Wealth Building Action Plan commits to enshrining OCC's commitment to fair wages
Indicator: Universal Credit (UC) claimants in Oxfordshire who have an 'in employment' marker, as measured by DWP and reported in Stats Xplore.[87]
Snapshot: 44.5% of UC claimants in Oxfordshire are classified as 'in employment' (above the UK average).[87]
The threshold was set to 0 because everyone in Oxfordshire should earn a wage that is sufficient for them to live. There is no specific target at County level to address income inequality. This puts Oxfordshire into a 44% shortfall of the social foundation for thriving.

LINKS TO OCC PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

Signatory to the OIEP Fair Employment Charter [88]: "As employers or individuals, we recognise the importance and value of supporting an inclusive Oxfordshire. We are committed to improving all aspects of social mobility and increase shared prosperity for both our communities and residents by taking action on the pledges selected by our organisation."

Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy [11]- Priority 7 Financial Wellbeing: "All of Oxfordshire's people should have good living standards, financial wellbeing, and access to the basics – food and water, shelter and heating, the internet, clothes, and physical activity. Our local economy should be inclusive, equitable, and fair and everyone should be able to contribute through life-long learning and good quality and stable work."

FOP VISION OUTCOMES [80]
Our county will be a more equal fair and inclusive place for everyone

ENERGY

FOCUS : ENERGY EFFICIENCY

DEAL DEFINITION

Access to clean, affordable energy services for all.

SDG7 ensure access to affordable reliable sustainable modern energy for all

DOUGHNUT INTERCONNECTIONS

Local Social
Housing, health

Local Ecological
Air, land (energy & biodiversity)

Global Ecological
Climate change, ocean acidity, biodiversity loss

Global social
Electricity access

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

With a focus on affordability in the housing dimension, and solar generation in the Local Eco lens, the focus for the energy dimension is energy efficiency. Energy efficiency encompassess ambitions and targets that sit at the intersection of energy, affordability, climate resilience, future generations, and health and wellbeing. The Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy, for example, identifies energy inefficiency as a cause of significant health issues and a driver for widening health inequalities. The strategy for decarbonising housing in the Oxfordshire Net Zero Action Plan is "to adopt stringent energy efficiency standards for any new builds (e.g. Passivhaus), to retrofit existing buildings to bring them up to EPC B or above".[89]

Between 2021 and 2022, the number of households in Oxfordshire classified as "fuel poor" increased from 7.9% to 9%.[90] There were 26,699 homes in fuel poverty in Oxfordshire in 2022.[90] Through retrofit schemes such as LAD1b/ LAD3 and HUG1 and HUG2 approximately 455 fuel poor homes have been upgraded since 2021.[90] Whilst this builds a picture of County-funded retrofit it doesn't include private-system measures.

Mapping and accurately understanding Oxfordshire's progress toward energy efficient housing through retrofit across private and public is a complex undertaking as is the regulatory context so, in alignment with retrofit ambitions, we've we've focussed this snapshot on Median Energy efficiency score (EPC) for existing housing stock by MSOA. This excludes new-builds - most of which now meet energy efficiency standards of at least B - and gives a truer picture of the state of energy efficiency of Oxfordshire's existing housing stock.

Based on March 2023 ONS publication, Median energy efficiency scores for existing houses and flats in Oxfordshire is EPC rating D (55-68).[91]

Target: We've adopted the ambition from the Oxfordshire Net Zero action plan.[89] "The overarching strategy for decarbonising this sector is to adopt stringent energy efficiency standards for any new builds (e.g. Passivhaus), to retrofit existing buildings to bring them up to EPC B or above, deploy solar PV on rooftops and to electrify heating via air source heat pumps (in both existing and new builds)." [89] (pg 22)
Indicator: Median Energy efficiency score (EPC) for existing housing stock (houses and flats) by MSOA
Snapshot: 68.19 (band D) is the combined average median EPC rating for existing housing stock in Oxfordshire (includes houses and flats).[91]
Threshold: As this is a median energy efficiency score, determining a threshold is relative to the poorest Energy Efficiency score (Set to EPC D in this context)[90] and the goal according to PAZCO and the Oxfordshire Net Zero Action Plan (EPC B). A 50% shortfall was calculated by setting 100% and 0% shortfall as 55 SAP (Low EPC rating D) and 81 SAP (Low EPC rating B) respectively. Oxfordshire's average EPC of 69.19 positions us perfectly between these two benchmarks, giving us a 50% shortfall from achieving a low EPC rating of B.[91]

Limitations and opportunities:

Further, OCC-funded retrofit programmes rightly target fuel-poor homes. This data is readily available, however data on overall progress toward retrofit is limited. Understanding how to aggregate data through the Districts and measure progress toward retrofit is an opportunity that requires further engagement and collaboration. Lastly, an ideal metric for the local-social foundation would be the proportion of the population occupying / with access to energy efficiency homes.

LINKS TO OCC PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

OCC Priority 1 "Put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work"
OCC Priority 2 "Tackle inequalities in Oxfordshire"
OCC Priority 3 "Prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents"

PAZCO reference in OCC Retrofit Action Plan [92]
"By 2030 over 16,000 properties will need to be retrofitted to above an EPC 'B' standard to sufficiently mitigate GHG emissions from Oxfordshire's domestic homes sector (equates to approximately 54 properties per week from 2024)"

OCC Environmental Principles Obj. 2.
Adapt to the challenges of climate change and develop climate resilient communities

Oxfordshire Energy Strategy [93] "New housing built to the highest energy standards. Retrofit 4,000 homes per year to C standard or higher

Climate Action Framework [94]
"More homes with improved material standards and energy efficiency, reducing health issues from damp, cold and excess heat"

Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy [11]

Local Social

MOBILITY

FOCUS : ACTIVE TRAVEL

DEAL DEFINITION

Access to networks - of transport, of communications, and of community support. Transport Infrastructure, digital communications, and social connections are crucial for creating opportunity and for building community wellbeing and resilience.

DOUGHNUT INTERCONNECTIONS

Local Social
Health, housing, community, culture

Local Ecological
Air quality

Global Ecological
Carbon emissions and climate change

Global Social
Consumption and material footprint impacts

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Oxfordshire County Council recognises the holistic, systemic co-benefits of active travel. The Future Oxfordshire Partnership has a bold vision that, by 2050, Oxfordshire will; "have transformed movement and connectivity within the County and beyond" and the Active Travel Strategy has a vision to 'create a society where active travel becomes the norm'; "Oxfordshire towns and villages will be places where most residents choose active travel as the natural first choice for making most of their local journeys and many of their longer journeys, in tandem with train and bus".[80,95]

Active travel intersects with multiple priorities and strategies; Tacking the Climate Emergency, public health priorities, reducing urban traffic congestion, improving air quality and reducing traffic noise, levelling up of travel opportunities, healthy place shaping, 20 minute communities, and future generations. There are a number of potential indicators for progress in active travel.[96] Oxfordshire County Council are currently monitoring the number of cycling trips taken by adults so we have selected this as our proxy indicator of progress toward a comprehensive active travel strategy.

Target: Increase the number of weekly cycle trips taken by adults to 1 million by 2031, county-wide.[95]
Indicator: The number of weekly cycle trips taken by adults
Snapshot: 533,000 (2022 data)[96]
Threshold: 630, 000 (taking 2019 as the pre-pandemic baseline). Oxfordshire is currently in a 15% shortfall of pre-pandemic levels and a 46.7% shortfall of the target

LINKS TO OCC PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

OCC Priority 5 "Invest in an inclusive, integrated and sustainable transport network"

"To increase the number of cycle trips to 1 million by 2031, county-wide, from our current level of 600,000"

Target from Active Travel Strategy [97]
"To create a society where active travel becomes the norm"

Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) [95]: a vision for "a net-zero Oxfordshire transport and travel system that enables the county to thrive while protecting the environment and making Oxfordshire a better place to live for all residents."

Healthy Place Shaping [98] "Support Cycling and Walking Activation to increase physical activity – especially in communities with greatest need" (pg. 5)

Priority #4 HWS Joint Outcomes [11]**:**
Physical Activity and Active Travel

Oxfordshire Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan (commissioned by FOP)[89]

POLITICAL VOICE

FOCUS : ELECTION RATE TURNOUT

DEAL DEFINITION

Ensure people have voice in, and influence over, decisions that affect their lives. Democratic institutions, freedom of expression, freedom of association, and a free media all tend to support more inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making in public life.

SDG16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision making at all levels

DOUGHNUT INTERCONNECTIONS

Local Social
Community, culture

Global Social
Political voice

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

For this iteration of the Doughnut, our selected indicator is voter turnout for the national elections across Oxfordshire as this was the best available data.

Broadly speaking, voter turnout is a very narrow, one dimensional indicator of political voice and participatory decision making. It doesn't reflect the broader ambitions of Oxfordshire County Council for more engaged communities, nor anecdotal community desire for more active participation on local hot topics such as housing, transport, and nature recovery.

With this in mind, this dimension will benefit from further stakeholder engagement to establish a wider set of indicators, targets and metrics for political voice and participatory democracy in Oxfordshire.

Target: No specific county target
Indicator: Voter turnout for the national elections across Oxfordshire
Snapshot: 65% of people turned out for the national elections across Oxfordshire in 2024.[99]
Threshold. One would hope all adults would vote. But that is unrealistic and so, being more pragmatic, we have selected the highest national voter turnout since the war–79%–as the 'threshold' in this instance.[100] Thus, while Oxfordshire has higher voter turnout than the national average - however, we're still in 14% shortfall of our target in terms of population, and need 18% more voters than we already have to reach that target.

Limitations and Opportunities:

Oxfordshire councillors have expressed an ambition for more participatory democracy in decision making (OCC Doughnut Workshop 1 May 2024) and the recent Future Generations Mission statement has identified "Youth participation in democracy" as a key action. In Oxfordshire Doughnut workshops with OCC officers, "community led decision making" was identified as an opportunity for defining how budget and grants could be allocated to projects of social and ecological priority that align with County priorities. Further, the Local Government Association has identified devolution as an opportunity to "Help bring disengaged citizens back into the democratic process" and "empower citizens in their local area".[101] Targets and indicators for the Doughnut that align with these ambitions would pave the way for transformative action in this area.

LINKS TO OCC PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

OCC Priority 5 "Play our part in a vibrant and participatory local democracy"

Citizens' jury

Oxfordshire Councils Charter

Future Generations [102]

COMMUNITY

FOCUS : SATISFACTION WITH THE LOCAL AREA

DEAL DEFINITION

Having a sense of belonging within the community. Social connection and the support it brings is fundamental to most people's sense of wellbeing. It helps build the social cohesion needed to create inclusive and mutually respectful societies, and ensures that people feel they have others to turn to in times of difficulty.

DOUGHNUT INTERCONNECTIONS

Local Social
Access to nature, housing, mobility, networks, culture

Local Ecological
River quality, land use, biodiversity

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Defining what a thriving community looks like in Oxfordshire is a dimension that will benefit greatly from deeper engagement with local people and organisations.

Thriving Communities has been identified as a cornerstone of a 'well and healthy Oxfordshire' in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. "Communities are crucial to creating good health and wellbeing. If we enable people to participate in community organisations, events and activities, they can feel a sense of belonging, develop and maintain social relationships, and feel proud of the place they live in." (p43)[11]

Within this broad ambition are many possible indicators of a thriving community which intersect other dimensions in the local-social: from access to nature, culture, mobility and more.

Satisfaction with the local area was chosen as the indicator, based on the annual survey of residents.

Target: No specific county target
Indicator: % of respondents satisfied with local area
Snapshot: In 2023, nearly three-quarters (74%) were satisfied with their local area as a place to live, a significant drop from the 2022 result of 78%.[103]
Threshold: Choosing a threshold was part subjective exercise and part benchmarking against the England averages in the UK Government Community Life survey. In the 2020/21 survey 79% of respondents in England were either very or fairly satisfied with their local area as a place to live.[104] Setting the threshold (goal) to 80%, 74% of satisfied respondents results in a shortfall of 7.5%.

Limitations and opportunities:

Satisfaction surveys can mask those less likely to participate. A rich, inclusive, place-based definition of community in Oxfordshire could be developed through community engagement workshops. These would also help build out possibilities for richer indicators of belonging, social connection, and wellbeing.

LINKS TO OCC PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

Health and Wellbeing Strategy,[11] Priority 6
"Everyone in Oxfordshire should be able to flourish by building, maintaining, and reestablishing strong social relationships. We want to reduce levels of loneliness and social isolation, especially in rural areas".

CULTURE

FOCUS : ENGAGEMENT WITH CULTURAL EVENTS

DEAL DEFINITION

Enabling communities to participate with cultural activity. Cultural practices and events bring music, art and dance to everyday life, giving people pride in their community. Culture helps to build a sense of connection to others, and to the rest of the living world, through rituals, festivals and traditions, old and new.

DOUGHNUT INTERCONNECTIONS

Local Social
Community, networks, mobility

Local Ecological
Biodiversity and land use (rural communities)

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Like community, culture is a dimension that will benefit greatly from broader engagement. What does a thriving culture look like for Oxfordshire? Does it differ in urban and rural areas? What have we lost over time and what do we need to revive and regenerate?

For this iteration, a composite indicator of cultural engagement was selected, measuring engagement with cultural events and activities in the broadest sense, incorporating arts, libraries, heritage, and museums, in person and digitally. This uses local level data commissioned by the Department of Culture, Media, and Sport, who asked the British Arts Council to conduct a survey with residents across the UK. In Oxfordshire, the composite engagement score is 43%.[105]
We have used average engagement rates nationally (39%) to determine the threshold, meaning Oxfordshire is within the safe and just space on cultural engagement for this metric.[105]

This indicator includes a very wide variety of cultural engagement, such as: going to events or doing activities alone, extending across art, photography, sculptures; theatre, drama, musical, panto, ballet, opera; literature, books, reading, writing; film/movie; music ; craft exhibition; art exhibition/carnival; dance ; fashion event; comedy event; video games; and more.

Target: No county specific target
Indicator: Engagement with cultural events
Snapshot: 43% engagement [105]
Threshold: 39%. This determines that Oxfordshire has achieved the social threshold [105]

Limitations and opportunities:

As a national survey doesn't capture the unique cultural practices or needs of rural and urban communities in Oxfordshire. There are likely to be digital and / or socio-economic barriers to participation to cultural events of this kind in Oxfordshire. Developing place-based definitions of a thriving culture with indicators informed through qualitative engagement will help enrich this dimension.

LINKS TO OCC PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

Health and Wellbeing Strategy [11], Priority 6 "Everyone in Oxfordshire should be able to flourish by building, maintaining, and reestablishing strong social relationships. We want to reduce levels of loneliness and social isolation, especially in rural areas"

"Communities are crucial to creating good health and wellbeing. If we enable people to participate in community organisations, events and activities, they can feel a sense of belonging, develop and maintain social relationships, and feel proud of the place they live in" (HWS p43)[11]

Oxfordshire Libraries and Heritage Strategy 2022-27 [106]: "Our new strategy sets out how we will create multi-purpose physical and virtual spaces that play a crucial role in ensuring the social, cultural, health and economic wellbeing of individuals and communities – places where people can access a variety of services as well as inspiring cultural assets."

ACCESS TO NATURE

FOCUS : ACCESS TO GREEN SPACE WITHIN 15 MINUTES

DEAL DEFINITION

There is no 'access to nature' dimension in the DEAL methodology. We have therefore adopted the Natural England 15 minute standard and OCC Priority 6 until further consultation takes place

SDG 11.7
By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible green and public spaces, particularly for women and children, older persons with disabilities

DOUGHNUT INTERCONNECTIONS

Local Social
Health, social equity

Local Ecological
Air, wellbeing

Global Ecological
Carbon footprint, biodiversity

Local Social

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

With thanks to Martha Crockatt for guidance.

The broad benefits of access to nature to human physical and mental health and wellbeing have been widely acknowledged globally, nationally, and here in Oxfordshire. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy has an ambition to, "Increase and improve access for all to safe, inclusive, and connected green and blue spaces, which are rich in biodiversity, support nature connection and wellbeing, and are climate resilient".[11] With this in mind, 'Access to Nature' is a proposed new dimension for the local-social lens for Oxfordshire. There is no specific DEAL definition yet and, although the importance of access to nature is recognised in Oxfordshire, a specific target has not been set and the forthcoming Oxfordshire Nature Recovery Strategy is yet to be released. We have therefore adopted the Natural England Target (Green Infrastructure Framework and Standards) target and their expressed ambition for everyone to have "access to a variety of green space within 15 minutes walk from home".[107]

A recent report found that 'more accessible green space is required across the county to meet the Accessible Green Space Standards'.[108]

The chosen indicator is the number of neighbourhoods (LSOAs) that have poor access to publicly accessible green space within a 15 min walk of their home.

'Poor access' is defined as neighbourhoods in which the first three Accessible Green Space Standard Requirements are met in less than 30% of the neighbourhood's area.

In Oxfordshire, 197 of 407 Neighbourhoods (LSOAs) have poor access to green space equating to 48%.[108]

Target: "As a minimum, there should be an ambition for everyone to have access to a variety of green space within 15 minutes' walk from home".[107]
Indicator: Number/ % of neighborhoods (LSOAs) which have poor access to publicly accessible green space within 1km / 15 min walk of their home.
Snapshot: 197 of 407 Neighborhoods (LSOAs) have poor access to green space = 48%.[108]
Threshold: 0. Because Natural England determines that all should have access. Oxfordshire, especially in urban areas, falls below the safe and just space for access to nature.
Limitations and opportunities: Note that this metric is based on a desk-based research study and is based on quantity of green space rather than quality and use. This metric considers only publicly accessible greenspace, and does not take into account other elements that may provide access to green infrastructure such as footpaths through privately owned land such as agricultural fields or woodland, roadside verges, gardens, etc. This means that rural areas, which have lower density populations and more sparse provision of publicly accessible green space such as parks, appear to be greenspace deprived, despite residents being surrounded by natural surfaces. The metric may be more suitable for urban areas however is a good basis for further engagement and discussion.
Going forward, for even more informed prioritisation, there is intent to enrich the data with metrics on quality of green spaces and consideration of data combined with green infrastructure. - Lizzie Moore of Public Health OCC notes that the ideal is to look at prioritising green spaces not just for access and proximity, but quality improvements, inclusivity, connectivity, and opportunities for engagement and activation - Martha Crockatt is in discussion with The Woodland Trust and Tree Equity Score UK about combining greenspace deprivation index with the Tree Equity / Canopy Cover scoring for a combined score of 'green infrastructure deprivation'.[109]

LINKS TO OCC PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

Natural England: "As a minimum, there should be an ambition for everyone to have access to a variety of green space within 15 minutes' walk from home".[107]

OCC Priority #6 "Preserve and improve access to green spaces"

Health and Wellbeing Framework Priority #8: Climate Action and Health
"Increase and improve access for all to safe, inclusive, and connected green and blue spaces, which are rich in biodiversity, support nature connection and wellbeing, and are climate resilient" [11]

Health and Wellbeing Strategy : "between now and 2030 we want to see... Increased and more equitable access to greenspace, more shade and natural carbon capture, and protection of biodiversity" [11]

CONNECTIVITY

FOCUS : ACCESS TO HIGH SPEED INTERNET

DEAL DEFINITION

Access to networks - of transport, of communications, and of community support. Transport infrastructure, digital communications, and social connections are crucial for creating opportunity and for building community wellbeing and resilience. However, half the world's population have no access to local public transport,

DOUGHNUT INTERCONNECTIONS

Local Social
Community, networks, mobility, health

Global Social
Electricity access

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Digital connectivity plays a crucial role in enhancing social wellbeing by enabling access to essential services, education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. It facilitates social inclusion by allowing people to maintain relationships and participate in community activities, reducing feelings of isolation. Additionally, digital connectivity supports economic opportunities by providing access to information, resources, and remote working possibilities, thus improving overall quality of life and fostering a sense of empowerment and belonging within the community.

In alignment with Government funding, Oxfordshire has undertaken an ambitious programme and made great strides to enable Gigabit-capable connections i.e full-fibre broadband.[110]

Targets: Gigabit capable connections to 85% of premises by the end of 2025 and in 99% of premises by the end of 2030.[110]
Indicator: % of Gigabit capable connections to households and business premises
Threshold: 85% set as the threshold
Snapshot: 60.2% full fibre of all premises (giving a shortfall of just over 29%)[111]

Limitations and opportunities:
While the indicator of gigabit-capable broadband coverage shows the availability of high-speed internet infrastructure, it doesn't capture the actual usage, adoption, or accessibility by the population.

Availability doesn't mean all residents can benefit from it. Factors such as affordability, digital literacy, and access to computers or other internet-enabled devices play a significant role. Those who are digitally excluded—whether due to age, socio-economic status, or lack of training—may be unable to take advantage of these high-speed connections. Households in lower-income brackets might not be able to afford subscriptions to the higher-speed services, even if the infrastructure is available. This affordability gap means that simply having a gigabit-capable connection doesn't equate to equitable access. Going forward, we can enrich this dimension with data on adoption rates, usage and accessibility by decile.

The Oxfordshire Community Foundation commissioned a small study from The Student Consultancy (Oxford University) which found that over 9,000 young people didn't have access to a computer or device at home. The study also found that 39% of Oxford University students surveyed have an unused device; this led to recommendations around a local network of collaboration to create scale and long-term support.[112]

LINKS TO OCC PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

Project Gigabit [110]

Digital Inclusion Strategy [113]

Digital Inclusion Action Plan [114]

PEACE, SAFETY, SECURITY

FOCUS : FURTHER WORK REQUIRED

DEAL DEFINITION

Personal security, government accountability, and access to justice for all. Peaceful and just societies enable people to live in community, free from fear and exploitation. They likewise address corruption in business and politics by building effective and accountable institutions at all levels

DOUGHNUT INTERCONNECTIONS

Local Social

Social equity, community, culture, health, education, income and work, democratic / political voice, equality in diversity

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy under the 'Thriving Communities' building block states, "It is important people feel safe in the communities they live in so that they can fully connect with it and experience the benefits it has to offer".[11]

The best available qualitative measure for 'feelings of safety' are from the Oxfordshire Residents Satisfaction Survey. In 2023, 91% respondents reported feeling safe when outside in their local area, whilst 71% reported feeling safe after dark.[103] Broadly comparable indicators exist from the Office for National Statistics which measures "perceptions of personal safety and experiences of harassment".[115] By comparison, Oxfordshire's reported sense of safety is higher than ONS national data 89% ("11% felt unsafe during the day". 63% feeling unsafe at night, and 37% felt safe in a park or open space after dark).[115]

High measures of reported safety, however, mask the vulnerable groups or individuals less likely to participate in the survey or disclose feelings of lack of safety (Jamie Kavanagh).

It also lacks dimension and nuance - Oxfordshire is a relatively low crime area but there is a high correlation between deprivation and violence and sexual offences and data shows crime is on the increase;[116]

- 15 cases of modern slavery recorded in Oxfordshire every month.[117] The incidence of modern of slavery is on the rise but, due to the high complexity of 'identifying, investigating, and disrupting', numbers are unlikely to reflect the true picture.
- Incidence of sexual offences increased by nearly 20% since 2020.[118]
- Between 2020/21 and 2021/22, the crime severity score and the offence rate each increased in Cherwell, Oxford, Vale of White Horse, and West Oxfordshire.[119]
- In a West Oxfordshire survey of young people for the community needs assessment, 12% said they have felt the need to carry a weapon, with nearly 50% of those being female. This figure rose to nearly 60% of females in the school catchment area that covers Witney.[119]

Crime rates, whilst broadly indicative of societal challenges, don't speak to 'justice for all'. Doughnut Economics peers working on the Ladywood Birmingham Doughnut note that "'safety' is upheld institutionally… across the UK more widely, by punitive law enforcement measures" and reflects on the "systemic criminalisation and marginalisation of many communities" as well as the recent regression in policy and justice in right to protest legislation.[120]

We've also seen first hand in Oxfordshire through Tap Social the very powerful impact of meaningful work and rehabilitation on reoffending rates (14% vs national average 54%).[121] With all this in mind - how to define and measure 'peace and safety' warrants deeper exploration.

Specific metrics have not been applied but, based on these snapshots, Oxfordshire falls below 'safe and just' threshold.

LINKS TO OCC PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

Oxfordshire Residents Satisfaction Survey 2023 [103]

Safer Oxfordshire Partnership: Strategic Intelligence Assessment 2023 [116]

Modern Slavery in Oxfordshire [117]

SIA Crime Dashboard [118]

Safer Oxfordshire Partnership Final Report 2024 [119]

FOP VISION OUTCOMES [11]

Our county will be a more equal fair and inclusive place for everyone

Local Social

EQUALITY IN DIVERSITY

FOCUS : FURTHER ENGAGEMENT REQUIRED

DEAL DEFINITION

Ensuring that every individual has an equal opportunity to make the most of their life. This is regardless of differences of identity – such as gender, ethnicity, sexuality and ability – while recognising that historically groups of people have experienced significant discrimination on the basis of these characteristics.

DOUGHNUT INTERCONNECTIONS

Local Social

Social equity, community, culture, health, education, income and work, democratic / political voice

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The OCC vision for Equality and Diversity is to " lead the field in our approach to equality and diversity in our workplace, inclusive service delivery and tackling disadvantage in the communities we serve.[122]

Oxfordshire County Council recognise that the relative wealth of the County masks deep inequalities - from those living with long term disability, to the gender pay gap, and health inequality by ward. The Council's work in this area spans communities, inclusive service delivery, and inclusive workplaces, with specific goals and actions identified across each in the Inclusion, Diversity and Equalities Action Plan, with responsibility dispersed across Directorates.[123]

But how to make a subjective call on what to focus on for this dimension? What is being measured that matters most to the people of Oxfordshire?

Should we be looking at social justice and fair opportunity for race or sexual orientation? Refugees and asylum seekers, or those with neurodiversity?

Significant work on further understanding Health Inequality is underway with community insight profiles and, although Health Inequality is addressed under 'Health' this dimension could be an opportunity for unpacked intersectional issues impacting on the health and wellbeing of people.

With this complexity in mind, the team determined that deeper exploration and further engagement was required to do true justice to this dimension.

LINKS TO OCC PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

OCC Priority 2 "Tackle inequalities in Oxfordshire"

OCC Priority 3 "Prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents"

OCC Priority 5 "Play our part in a vibrant and participatory local democracy"

FOP VISION OUTCOMES [11]
Our county will be a more equal fair and inclusive place for everyone

OCC Including everyone: Equalities, Diversity, and Inclusion Framework [122]

Local Social

Local Ecological Appendix

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Local Ecological Dimensions

01 Cleanse the Air
02 House Biodiversity
03 Store Carbon
04 Cycle Water
05 Harvest Energy
06 Regulate the Temperature
07 Build and Protect Soil
08 Enhance wellbeing (see Access to Nature in Local Social)

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CLEANSE THE AIR

FOCUS : AIR QUALITY

Local Ecological

DEAL DEFINITION

NATURE'S GENEROSITY

Plants and their microorganisms immobilise, convert, or remove airborne contaminants, improving air quality.

How to match it: Protecting and planting resilient tree and plant species to remove and reduce air contaminants, stopping industrial airborne pollution.

DOUGHNUT INTERCONNECTIONS

Local Social
Access to nature, health, culture, community

Local Ecological
Water quality, water regulation, temperature regulation

Global Ecological
Biodiversity, carbon footprint,

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Rather than look at how nature regulates the air, for this iteration, and due the limitations of what nature can achieve with significant and ongoing inputs impacting air quality, the focus of this dimension is the impact of human activity on air quality, or air pollution.

"Trees and hedgerows can play a role in trapping and absorbing air pollution, especially where they are sufficiently dense and tall to act as a barrier between communities…However, there are limits to what vegetation can do - the main lever for reducing air pollution is reduced emissions from road traffic". Alison Smith [124]

Air pollution has been identified by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as the biggest risk to human health, alongside climate change. In the latest update on guidelines published by WHO, it was determined that there was no safe limit at which pollutants stop causing harm. "Both $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10} are capable of penetrating deep into the lungs but $PM_{2.5}$ can even enter the bloodstream, primarily resulting in cardiovascular and respiratory impacts, and also affecting other organs. PM is primarily generated by fuel combustion in different sectors, including transport, energy, households, industry, and from agriculture".[125]

Nationally, poor air quality is one of the biggest risk factors to human health with children and the elderly most at risk.

And here in Oxfordshire, poor air quality has been shown to have a direct impact on the health and wellbeing of residents "It is estimated that fine particulate air pollution's effect on mortality in Oxfordshire was equivalent to 320 deaths at typical age in 2021".[126]

Oxfordshire County Council has strategies, policies and action plans in place to address air quality over time with monitoring and annual reporting taking place across the Districts. The Local Transport Connectivity Plan,[95] the Active Travel Strategy,[97] Healthy Place Shaping,[98] and 20 minute neighbourhoods,[127] the Tree Policy,[128] and likely intent to adopt Green Infrastructure Framework and standards as part of the forthcoming Oxfordshire Nature Recovery Strategy.[12] These strategies intersect with many Local-Social and Global dimensions.

Air Quality - and the concentration of particulate matter and harmful gases, is therefore a good proxy indicator for progress of a collection of strategies.

To comply with legal restrictions, the annual mean concentration of no2 must not exceed 40 µg/m3. The average mean for Oxfordshire for 2023 was 19.2µg/m³.[131] Whilst this falls below the legal limit, the average does not show where concentrations of particulate matter and Nitrogen Oxides are highest - unpacking this data is an opportunity going forward.

Target: Reduce emissions of Nitrogen oxides (NOx) by 73% by 2030.[129]
Indicator: Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) Diffusion Tube data [131]
Snapshot: Currently omitting 19.2µg/m³ as of 2023 [131]
Threshold: 12.66µg/m³ (73% less than 2005 average - 46.875µg/m³) [131]

Opportunities going forward:
1. Alignment across the districts for targets, indicators, and progress for ease of communicating progress.
2. Integrating data from The Agile nature recovery opportunity maps which include a score for each habitat type reflecting its ability to filter out air pollution. This could be summed to provide a score at county level.[124]

LINKS TO OCC PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

OCC Priority 1 "Put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work"
OCC Priority 2 "Tackle inequalities in Oxfordshire".
OCC Priority 3 "Prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents"
OCC Priority 9 "Work with local businesses and partners for environmental, economic and social benefit.
Oxfordshire Environmental Principles: Objective 4: "Support local action to improve air quality"

Targets in Air Quality Strategy working with air quality partners;[129]
1. Reduce annual PM concentration to 5µg/m³ or less by 2030
2. Reduce emissions of Nitrogen oxides (NOx) by 73% by 2030 relative to 2005 levels
3. Conduct population exposure modelling and develop quantified local population exposure targets for PM2.5 and NOx

Oxfordshire County Council Air Quality Strategy Route Map: OCC is committed to; "improving air quality across the county, with the ultimate goal of ensuring all residents can breathe safely." [130]

HOUSE BIODIVERSITY

FOCUS : QUANTITY OF SEMI-NATURAL HABITATS

DEAL DEFINITION

NATURE'S GENEROSITY

Healthy natural landscapes - whether forest, grassland or wetland - provide rich habitats for a multitude of plant, animal and insect specific, and in doing so, continually create conditions conducive to life.

How to match it: Protecting, restoring and rewilding public land, nature reserves and public parks, connecting urban habit space e.g wildlife corridors, increasing biodiversity on privately held land.

DOUGHNUT INTERCONNECTIONS

Local Social
Access to nature, health, culture, community, peace, safety and security

Local Ecological
Water quality, water regulation, temperature regulation

Global Ecological
Biodiversity, carbon footprint,

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

With thanks to Alison Smith, Leverhulme Centre for Nature Recovery and Nature-based Solutions Initiative.[124]

With limited resources, it is easiest to measure biodiversity in terms of habitats rather than species, although this approach has limitations. The area of semi-natural habitat is a good starting point. It provides a reasonable proxy for the area of land that could be of value for supporting biodiversity.

In the UK, the term semi-natural refers to "an ecosystem with most of its processes and biodiversity intact, though altered by human activity in strength or abundance relative to the natural state".[132] This can include native woodland, shrubland, native hedgerows, native grassland, heathland, wetlands and natural water bodies.

The UK has committed to meet the Convention on Biological Diversity target that 30% of UK land should be protected for nature by 2030 (the '30 by 30' target).[133] Although there is no mandate for each county to adopt this target individually, The Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy will shortly be going out for public consultation and will likely take account of the national target of 30%.[12] Therefore, a target that 30% of the county should be semi-natural habitat (with proper protection from development) would appear to be a more accurate indication of how much of the county could support wildlife.

Recent data from Agile Nature Recovery Map for Oxfordshire gathered by Alison Smith shows that just 14% of Oxfordshire is semi-natural habitat.[134] To reach the target of 30% of land protected for nature by 2030 would therefore involve more than doubling this area, which would entail significant conversion of productive farmland. This would bring major challenges, but there are various ways in which potential trade-offs with food production could be minimised:[134]

1. Avoid conversion of the most productive land (grade 1 and 2)
2. Target small areas of habitat creation in field corners and other less productive areas, in line with the new Sustainable Farming Incentive payments.
3. Restoration of improved grassland to semi-natural grassland will allow grazing to continue at a lower density, reducing yield but potentially producing a premium product.
4. Dietary change towards more plant-based food could free up land for nature recovery, given that approximately 48% of current land in Oxfordshire is used either for pasture or to produce livestock feed (27% improved grassland and approximately half of the arable land, another 21%).

Target: 30% semi-natural land by 2030 [134]
Indicator: Percentage of Oxfordshire area (hectares) as semi-natural land
Snapshot: 14% [134]
Threshold: 30%

To visualise an overshoot, we estimated 24% of land being potentially transformed to semi-natural land (via restoring half of Improved Grasslands and half of Arable Land), combining to a potential total 38% of semi-natural land. This gives us a reference for the threshold of what we could transform, leading to Oxfordshire overshooting the 'housing biodiversity' safe boundary 3 times.

TAKING IT FURTHER

As with many of the dimensions, biodiversity and the implications for land use will benefit from qualitative engagement; dietary change is a sensitive and complex issue given that Oxfordshire livestock produce is traded globally, and given the socio-economic implications for rural livelihoods, communities and culture. Communities would then need to come together to debate how to maximise synergies between nature recovery and the ecosystem services it provides, and minimise trade-offs with other goals.

LINKS TO OCC PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

OCC Priority 1 "Put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work"

OCC Environmental Principles Objective 3:
Protect, restore, enhance and create new nature areas and natural capital assets
"Support doubling the area of land managed for nature in Oxfordshire"
"Achieve and where possible exceed government and local biodiversity net gain targets with an ambition of achieving 20% net gain"
"...Protect, improve, expand and sustain tree and woodland cover in Oxfordshire"

Local Authority Nature Recovery Targets [135] - Protect and effectively manage 30% of our land and sea for nature by 2030
- Halt the decline in species abundance by 2030, and then increase abundance by at least 10% to exceed 2022 levels by 2042
- Restore or create 140,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitats outside protected sites by 2028, compared to 2022 levels

Biodiversity strategy,[136] **Emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategy,**[12] **Tree strategy Tree Policy,**[128] **Access to Nature,**[137] **Future Generations,**[102] **Health and Wellbeing Strategy** [11]

Local Ecological

STORE CARBON

FOCUS : ECOSYSTEM CARBON STORAGE

DEAL DEFINITION

NATURE'S GENEROSITY

Plants absorb CO2 from the air as they grow, and use it has a building block for creating biomass.

In doing so, nature continually draws down carbon from the atmosphere and sequesters it in plant mass and soils

How to match it: Protect and preserve existing trees and woodland. Planting trees, shrubs and groundcover in urban spaces, prioritising building materials that store carbon, rapidly reducing industrial CO2 emissions

DOUGHNUT INTERCONNECTIONS

Local Social
Access to nature, health, culture, community

Local Ecological
Water quality, water regulation, temperature regulation

Global Ecological
Biodiversity, carbon footprint,

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

With thanks to Alison Smith, Leverhulme Centre for Nature Recovery and Nature-based Solutions Initiative.[124]

Suggested indicator
The obvious main indicator is carbon stored in soils and vegetation in the county. This has the advantage of emphasising the need to protect the carbon and biodiversity stored in existing habitats. Habitat loss releases an instant spike of carbon emissions which takes many decades to recover,[138] and habitat degradation also releases significant emissions over time.[139] A complementary indicator could be carbon sequestered per year. However, it is important to remember that there are limits to the amount of carbon that can be removed from the atmosphere by ecosystems, due to finite land area and growth rates. While nature recovery can play an important complementary role in sequestering carbon, it must not distract attention from the overriding need to urgently cut emissions from fossil fuels, agriculture, industry and waste management.

Target
The main target should be for no further loss of carbon stored in Oxfordshire's ecosystems, to emphasise the need to better protect important existing habitats and soils. Beyond that, there is potential to increase carbon stored and sequestered through well-planned ecosystem restoration activities,[140] but it is vital to do this in harmony with plans for nature recovery, and minimise any trade-offs with food production (otherwise impacts could just be displaced overseas). Focusing purely on carbon sequestration could lead to damaging activities such as planting non-native monocultures of trees on biodiverse semi-natural open grassland or heathland. Biodiversity benefits can be maximised by restoring and creating a mix of semi-natural ecosystems including grasslands, heathlands, shrubland and wetlands as well as semi-natural woodlands using a diverse mix of native species. Ideally any activities would be in line with the emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategy.[12]

Snapshot
Carbon stored and sequestered can be estimated based on habitat type. The PAZCO study (Pathways to a Zero Carbon Oxfordshire) estimated that around 85 Mt CO2 is stored in the county's soils and vegetation, and that they sequester around 316,000 tonnes of CO2 each year (after accounting for at least 100,000t lost annually when land is cleared for development).[140]

This sequestration is just 8% of the 4 Mt produced in Oxfordshire through use of fossil fuels.[140] The overshoot is unquantified but the team determined that Oxfordshire is over its safe place for carbon storage.

LINKS TO OCC PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

Oxfordshire Environmental Principles: Objective 1:
"Put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work"

Future Oxfordshire Partnership Vision:[80]
By 2050, Oxfordshire will have achieved carbon neutral status, and be accelerating towards a carbon negative future, removing more carbon than it emits each year. Energy production will be sustainable.

2020 Climate Action Framework [94]
50% emissions reductions by 2030
Carbon Neutral county by 2050

OCC Enabling a Net Zero County [141]
Net-Zero by 2030

Oxfordshire Energy Strategy [93]

Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire [140]

Biodiversity strategy [136]

Emerging Oxfordshire Nature Recovery Strategy [12]

LEAP Local Energy Action Plan [142]

Local Ecological

WATER CYCLE

FOCUS : WATER QUALITY/ POLLUTION

Local Ecological

DEAL DEFINITION

NATURE'S GENEROSITY

In healthy ecosystems water filters down through the soil, interacting with the plants and organisms, and is cleaned in the process.

Wetlands and riversides are important for managing surface runoff, stormwater and overflow from streams and rivers.

How to match it: Protecting and restoring wetlands and floodplains, reducing and preventing pollutants from entering the water system, increasing natural and permeable service areas

DOUGHNUT INTERCONNECTIONS

Local Social
Access to nature, culture, community, health

Local Ecological
Store carbon, house biodiversity

Global Ecological
Climate change, biodiversity loss

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

There are many possible pathways and indicators for water in the local eco - water quality, water cycle, natural flood management, sustainable drainage systems and provisioning, water harvesting and recycling.

For this iteration, we've focussed on water quality of rivers. Not only is this an issue of national relevance but also deep concern in Oxfordshire impacting both local ecology, health, and wellbeing. Rivers in Oxfordshire - The Thames, River Evenlode, River Windrush, River Cherwell and River Glyme to name just a few - are also deeply embedded in rich cultural, historical, and geological sense of place, intertwined with local communities, culture and wellbeing.

Guidance notes from Alison Smith affirmed this choice for this dimension; *"There are three important aspects related to water: water quantity, water quality, and flood protection. Ecosystems can play an important role in all of these, but the main influence on water quality… is discharges of untreated sewage into the river system by Thames Water."* [124]

The Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) has recently reviewed the Government's implementation of the Water Framework Directive Regulations (WFDR, a retained-EU piece of legislation) and has determined UK Government progress is inadequate and urgent action must be taken to develop a Programme of Measures to achieve environmental objectives.[143]

POSSIBLE TARGET AREAS

There is no specific County target for river quality however the poor quality of Oxfordshire's rivers has been identified as a priority issue for public health with broad ambition by Oxfordshire County Council to 'protect against and reduce the negative health impacts' of river quality.[11]

South Oxfordshire District Council, in partnership with other councils have set an ambition to "to make the River Thames and its tributaries "Safe for All".[144]

The Evenlode Catchment Partnership is striving to restore the Evenlode Catchment to "Good Ecological Status" for the benefit of all.[145]

INDICATOR

Under the Water Framework Directive (WFD), a piece of EU-retained law, river health is measured under two main categories: Chemical Health (presence of absence of chemical pollutants using water sampling) and Ecological Health (looking more broadly at what's living in the river and how modified it is.[146]

Possible indicators include ecological status, turbidity and cloudiness, Phosphate and nitrate levels, Bacteria (E Coli and Enterococci) as indicators of disease risk from surface waters.[147]

SNAPSHOTS

According to the State of Our Rivers Report,[47] none of England's river stretches are in good or high overall health:
- 0% are in high or good overall status
- 23% are classed as in poor or bad overall status
- 85% of river stretches fall below good ecological standards (only 15% achieve good or above ecological health status)

Since the last release of data (2019), of the 3553 rivers stretches for which data exists, only 151 stretches have shown improvement and 158 worsened.[47] Further river sampling has also decreased with funding constraints and Oxfordshire is increasingly reliant on citizen science projects.

IN OXFORDSHIRE;

- 'In 2021, 18 river locations in Oxfordshire were sampled by the Oxford Rivers Project. This assessment identified that only one of eight recreational sites had safe levels of bacteria to allow for swimming and bathing'.[148]
- "None of the 18 waterbodies in the Evenlode Catchment currently achieve 'good' ecological status (under the Water Framework Directive).[149]
- Wolvercote Stream Oxford was recently assessed by the Environment Agency as 'poor'.[150]
- 2,405 "illegal" spills from the 44 Sewage Treatment Works (STWs) between 2017-21".[151]

Capturing a comprehensive snapshot of the state of all rivers in Oxfordshire is beyond the scope of this report however, data gathered by citizen-science led projects and broad public awareness of the state of Oxfordshire's rivers would determine that river quality in Oxfordshire is well outside of a 'safe and just' area.

LINKS TO OCC PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

OCC Environmental Principles Objective 4: Use Natural Resources Sustainability
"Address existing and future water resource, water quality and flood risk issues"

Health and Wellbeing Strategy [11]
"Protect against and reduce the negative health impacts associated with flooding, poor water quality and droughts." pg 39

Director of Public Health Annual Report
'Increase and improve access for all to safe, inclusive green spaces and clean waterways with positive impacts on wildlife, biodiversity and adaptation' [152]

DEFRA, 25 Year Environment Plan:
"Improving at least three quarters of our waters to be close to their natural state as soon as is practicable by: Minimising by 2030 the harmful bacteria in our designated bathing waters and continuing to improve the cleanliness of our waters" [153]

Harvest Energy

FOCUS : ROOFTOP SOLAR / COMMUNITY ENERGY

DEAL DEFINITION

NATURE'S GENEROSITY

Plants convert sunlight into energy through photosynthesis, provididingfood for themselves and other life forms.

How to match it: Harvesting the sun's energy to grow food on empty street plots and on roof tops. Harvesting the Sun's energy to generate electricity and hot water with solar panels, tiles and glass.

DOUGHNUT INTERCONNECTIONS

Local Social
Community, health, social equity, access to nature / wellbeing

Local Ecological
House biodiversity, air quality

Global Ecological
Climate change, biodiversity loss

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The solar potential for Oxfordshire has been well recognised and well documented in the Pathways to a Zero Carbon Oxfordshire (PAZCO).[140] As a southern county, Oxfordshire has relatively high solar capacity and solar is already the county's largest renewable resource with ambitions to scale this significantly; In the ambitious 'societal transformation' pathway outlined in PAZCO, Oxfordshire's contribution to national solar supply would increase to 4% by 2030 from a 3% baseline and 6% by 2050. "*In the medium term (2030), the proportion of rooftop solar increases to 40% of installed capacity*" (page 43).[140] This includes domestic, industrial, commercial, and institutional sectors.

This means quadrupling installed photovoltaic (PV) capacity, thus requiring a significant increase in PV installations on existing buildings (both commercial and domestic) and ground mounted arrays.

To meet this ambition and maximise local benefits, PAZCO recommends local partnerships and local community energy;

"Oxfordshire should ensure that financial benefits from its solar capacity are kept local by utilising flexibility to minimise imports and encourage local ownership." (PAZCO, pg 9)[140]

To meet solar targets, ground-mounted solar will also be necessary, however there are also trade-offs here with land conversion (and potential benefits for biodiversity).

Given the complex relationship between land use, energy generation, farming, and biodiversity, understanding the extent of roof-top installed solar in Oxfordshire, remaining capacity, and tracking progress toward a County-wide goal is one option for this lens. However, gathering data on private, public, domestic and non-domestic installations is a complex undertaking requiring further exploration for driving and measuring uptake of rooftop solar to minimise the pressure on land conversion.

Given the redistributive benefits of community-owned energy, the intersection with other dimensions of the Doughnut, and the work underway to realise the ambition of locally-owned energy going into local grids (Low Carbon Hub)[48], another potential is to develop targets, indicators and metrics for community owned energy in Oxfordshire.

LINKS TO OCC PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

OCC Priority 1 *"Put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work"*

OCC Priority 2 *"Tackle inequalities in Oxfordshire".*

OCC Priority 3 *"Prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents"*

OCC Priority 5 *"Invest in an inclusive, integrated and sustainable transport network"*

OCC Priority 9 *"Work with local businesses and partners for environmental, economic and social benefit.*

Oxfordshire Environmental Principles: Objective 1: *"Put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work"*

Oxfordshire Energy Strategy [93]

Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire 2021 [140]

2020 Climate Action Framework [94]

Enabling a net-zero county [141]

Net-zero by 2030 [154]

Local Ecological

...REGULATE TEMPERATURE

FOCUS : TREE CANOPY COVER

Local Ecological

DEAL DEFINITION

NATURE'S GENEROSITY

Plants in native forests and landscapes intercept sunlight, keeping radiant heat from directly hitting the ground. They release moisture thus cooling the air, from the treetops to the forest floor

How to match it: Planting and protecting trees, introducing green walls, streetscapes, using adaptive road and walkway paving materials to reduce surface temperatures

DOUGHNUT INTERCONNECTIONS

Local Social
Community, health, social equity, access to nature / wellbeing

Local Ecological
House biodiversity, cleanse the air / air quality

Global Ecological
Climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

"In the summer of 2022 there were 65 excess deaths during periods of higher temperature across Oxfordshire." (page 7)[152]

The impact of the heat island effect and the importance of growing green infrastructure and green canopy cover in urban areas has been recognised by Oxfordshire County Council and the Districts.[128] Increasing tree canopy works towards multiple priorities - from climate adaptation, to health and wellbeing, and healthy place-shaping. The percentage of urban tree canopy cover has therefore been selected as the indicator for this dimension.

Natural England recognises that setting targets for tree canopy cover ultimately needs to be a localised, place-based endeavour.[155] With this complexity in mind, we are following the targets set by the OCC Tree Policy which broadly align with the global 30 x 30 standard set at Kunming-Montreal, and adopted in England [107] - 30% tree canopy cover in urban areas.[128]

According to The Woodland Trust Tree Equity app, there is approximately 23% Urban Canopy across all major Oxfordshire towns.[156] The Area weighted mean of canopy cover in the UK is 17.3% and South East England (22.1%) has one of the highest regional canopy covers.[157]

Target: 30% urban canopy cover [128]
Indicator: % urban canopy
Snapshot: Average 23% across all major Oxfordshire towns [156]
Threshold: To create a threshold, we need to benchmark the maximum possible urban canopy coverage. As 100% urban canopy is unachievable, and unrealistic , we set an arbitrary benchmark of 40%. Inversing this metric facilitates an overshoot/undershoot rather than shortfall narrative. This leads to 60% (of lacking urban canopy) being 0% undershoot, 70% being our threshold (on the planetary boundary), 77% being Oxfordshire's snapshot, and 100% being our max overshoot. This enables us to find our snapshot 170% overshoot (17% / 10% above the min undershoot (60%)).

Limitations and opportunities:

The challenge for setting, mapping, and managing progress toward urban canopy targets lies in the complexity of land ownership, jurisdiction and governance in land management across private and public land in urban areas. Significant data work is under way at OCC for mapping and aggregating tree data with an app that not only logs tree data for OCC-managed land (approximately 10%) but also aggregates data from local authorities and highlights areas of private ownership.

Note that the tree canopy cover figure does not capture tree inequity and urban tree coverage varies significantly across the county. There's potentially an opportunity to aggregate data and integrate learnings with work being done on access to quality green spaces.

LINKS TO OCC PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

OCC Priority 1
Put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work
OCC Priority 2
Tackle inequalities in Oxfordshire
OCC Priority 3
Prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents
OCC Priority 9 "Work with local businesses and partners for environmental, economic and social benefit.

Environmental Principles Objective 2.
Adapt to the challenges of climate change and develop climate resilient communities

Environmental Principles Objective 3.
Protect, restore, enhance and create new nature areas and natural capital assets

OCC Tree Policy [128]

Natural England [107] - Green Infrastructure Standards and Framework:
S5: Urban Tree Canopy Cover Standard

Oxfordshire - Green Infrastructure report for policy and planning [137]

Climate Action Framework [94]

DPHAR 2023-24 [152]

BUILD AND PROTECT SOIL

FOCUS : THE PROPORTION OF OXFORDSHIRE BEING ACTIVELY MANAGED FOR SOIL HEALTH

DEAL DEFINITION

NATURE'S GENEROSITY

Healthy soil stores nutrients and carbon, allowing life to regenerate it. It permits organisms, water and nutrients to move within it, and it's biodiversity helps to prevent soil erosion

How to match it:

Healthy soil stores nutrients and carbon, allowing life to regenerate. It permits organisms, water and nutrients to move within it, and its biodiversity helps to prevent soil erosion.

DOUGHNUT INTERCONNECTIONS

Local Social

Community, health, social equity, energy

Local Ecological

House biodiversity

Global Ecological

Climate change, biodiversity loss

Local Ecological

Store carbon, house biodiversity

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

With thanks to Alison Smith, Leverhulme Centre for Nature Recovery and Nature-based Solutions Initiative.[124]

The main driver of soil loss and degradation (through erosion, pollution, compaction and loss of soil biodiversity) is intensive agriculture.[158] Accordingly, the main opportunity to build and protect soil is through more sustainable agricultural practices such as use of cover crops, reduced tillage, buffer strips, reduced use of agrochemicals, addition of organic matter such as compost and manure to the soil, and reversion of arable land to grassland or woodland – especially on steep slopes and erodible soils.[124]

Suggested indicator

To assess the service of building and protecting soil, we could look at the proportion of Oxfordshire being actively managed for soil health. This could focus on agri-environment schemes, which include:[124]

- Environmental Stewardship (ES) (no new applicants but agreements still running)
- Organic farming scheme (OS) (no new applicants but agreements still running)
- Countryside Stewardship (CS) (active and will continue as Tier 2 of ELMS)
- The new Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI), Tier 1 of ELMS. Active.

Target

The Environmental Improvement Plan for England (EIP) contains a target for 60% uptake of the use of cover crops, so this could form a starting point.[159] However, this seems under-ambitious given the importance of protecting our rapidly degrading soil resources – an alternative would be for the target to be 100% of soil managed for soil health or under semi-natural habitats.

Snapshot

Spatial data is available for ES, OS and CS is available but is a complex undertaking outside the scope of this early-stage iteration. However, to give a rough idea of what this indicator might look like, previous work for the HERO initiative in 2022 found that 22,322 ha of farmland in Oxfordshire was under high or mid-level agri-environment or organic schemes, though this covers all schemes and not only those that improve soil health.[160] This equates to 12% of Oxfordshire farmland.

For further development:

There are ways of deriving very rough estimates for the total area of land under agri-environment schemes that protect soil health.[124] For example:

1. An upper bound for the ES, CS and organic schemes can be derived from the total area of agreement polygons that include at least one option point relevant to soil health.[161] This is an overestimate as most options would not occupy the whole parcel (e.g. many are just field corners or buffer strips).
2. This could be refined by considering the average area of each option per agreement based on England-wide data. A lower bound could then be obtained by multiplying the number of agreement polygons by the average size covered by a typical agreement. Ideally this would take account of the different sizes for different types of agreement.
3. For SFI, an estimate could be derived by multiplying the total number of agreements in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire combined (800 in July 2024) by the fraction of this area that is Oxfordshire, to estimate the number of SFI agreements in Oxfordshire.[162] Assumptions could then be made on the proportion of agreements including a soil health option, based on the national data, and the typical proportion of the agreement area covered by soil health options.

LINKS TO OCC PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

OCC Priority 1: *"Put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work"*

OCC Priority 3: *"Prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents"*

OCC Priority 9 : *"Work with local businesses and partners for environmental, economic and social benefit.*

Oxfordshire Environmental Principles - Objective 1:
"Put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work"

Oxfordshire Environmental Principles Objective 4. *"Support measures to reduce the impact of agriculture on the environment, helping land managers to collaborate at a catchment and landscape scale"*

2020 Climate Action Framework: *"Take advantage of 'natural capital' assets such as soils, woodlands, hedges and ponds in order to capture and store carbon and are valued by communities"* [94]

FOP Vision: [80] *By 2050, Oxfordshire will have achieved carbon neutral status, and be accelerating towards a carbon negative future, removing more carbon than it emits each year. Energy production will be sustainable.*

Local Ecological

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