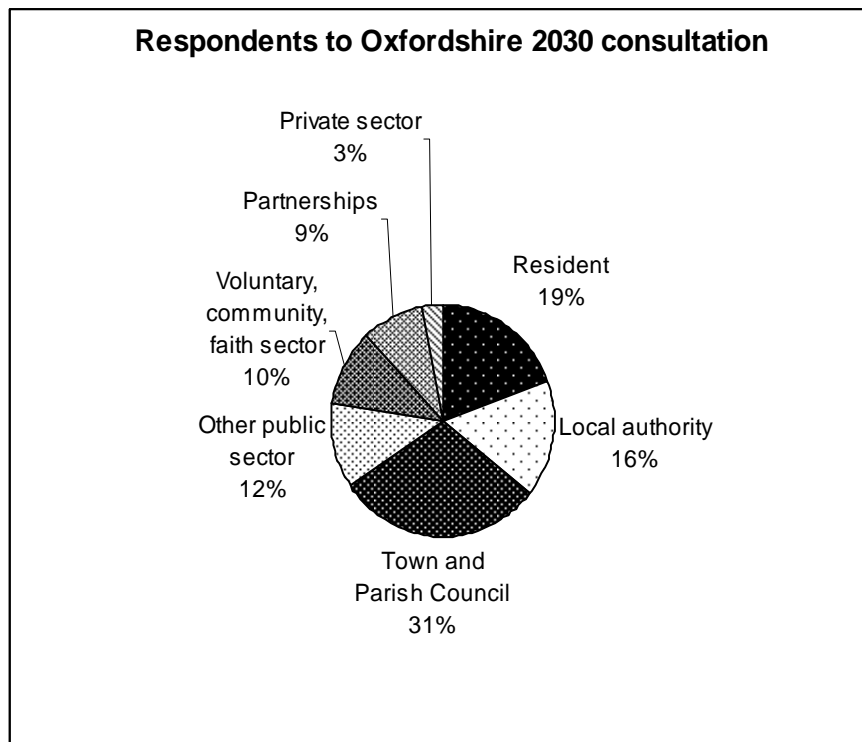


Summary of responses to the consultation on Oxfordshire 2030

The Oxfordshire Partnership consulted with the public on its draft vision and strategy, *Oxfordshire 2030* between 7th July 2008 to 22nd September 2008. Response to the consultation was very positive. A total of 67 responses were received from individuals and organisations through consultation surveys and written responses.

Summary of consultation respondents



Consultation findings

Findings from the consultation showed that respondents were broadly supportive of the strategy's vision, objectives and priorities however:

- Minor changes were proposed to the text, language, grammar and design
- Additions to the text were proposed on issues respondents felt were either not included or considered insufficiently clear
- Clarification of issues and processes and
- Clarification of how respondents could get involved in the work of the partnership were requested

Approach to amendments

Given the volume and nature of the consultation responses we have used the following principles in amending the strategy;

- Oxfordshire 2030 is a long term strategy with a clear vision for the future
- Oxfordshire 2030 is a countywide strategy which acknowledges the different communities in the county but does not contain very localised issues. These are more appropriate to be covered in district sustainable

community strategies. Such comments have been forwarded to district partnerships to consider.

- The strategy and delivery plan concentrate on priorities for partnership action. It does not attempt to list the wide range of existing action underway by partner organisations that contribute to achievement of our goals.

Summary of amendments to the strategy following consultation comments

General issues and introductory sections

- We have explained what a sustainable community strategy is because a number of respondents were not clear why we have this strategy
- The 'How you can get involved' section has been developed to give more detail about how you can contribute to the strategy and partnership.
- We have changed the layout to be more consistent across the document because it was noted that it did not read the same for every section.
- We have included more detail about how we will be delivering results and measuring our strategy
- We received many comments about the spatial planning section and we have addressed these by adding more detail about the South East Plan and current eco-town debate. Also more specific references to areas of the county affected by particular issues have been included.
- We have strengthened the sustainability issue throughout the document because this is a guiding principle of the strategy that was suggested did not come through clearly enough.
- Many responses to the consultation raised specific local issues or calls for more emphasis on certain areas of the county. Where these are considered important to the overall priority they have been incorporated and forwarded to the relevant district for information.

World Class Economy

- We have given a stronger emphasis on the role of the military who are a major employer in the county particularly at this time of expansion in the county.
- Importance of farming in the rural economy was raised and has been incorporated.
- We have strengthened the priority of Tourism to reflect Oxford city and market towns and rural attractions across the county because it was felt these were not adequately reflected in the consultation draft.
- We have clarified the issue of workforce skills which is a concern because despite high numbers of graduates in the county there are a number of areas with education, skills and training deprivation
- Congestion across the county was raised as an issue by a number of respondents and is a key challenge for the future. We have tried to reflect this priority further in the strategy.
- The issue of affordable housing and the implications of an ageing population in a predominantly rural area have been emphasised following comments through the consultation.

Healthy and Thriving Communities

- Further to comments that challenges facing rural communities were not adequately addressed we have strengthened this in the strategy.
- We have strengthened the role of the voluntary, community and faith sector in community life
- The pledge on crime and anti-social behaviour has been strengthened to include the impact of alcohol and drugs

Environment and Climate change

- We have included more detail about the challenges facing our environment and the impacts of climate change
- We have added the potential benefits of renewable energy sources following feedback that the Partnership should be encouraging this.
- We have emphasised protection over preservation of biodiversity having received many comments about the importance of our outstanding environment.
- Demand for focus on energy consumption and an aim to influence the behaviour of organisations and individuals has been strengthened

Delivery Plan

Comments on the delivery plan centred around the duplication of targets between sections and the timescales for the delivery of targets. Considerable work has been done on the delivery plan to make proposed targets smarter and reduce duplication where it existed. Thematic Partnerships are leading on the development of appropriate actions to measure progress against our pledges.

There was some concern about the lack of detail about the measures in the delivery plan. The aim at the consultation stage was not to have this level of detail around proposed targets but to seek feedback on the measures proposed. Detail of the target levels and delivery arrangements are being developed.

The strategy is important for defining goals but we need to take stock at regular intervals to see if circumstances have changed. We will do this at least every 5 years. Our delivery plan actions will be updated more regularly.

Next steps and more information

All responses to the consultation and the Partnership's response can be read on the Oxfordshire Partnership website www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk

The strategy is currently being updated to take account of the many comments we have received and will be taken to the Partnership's meeting in November to agree. The final version of the strategy will be available on the website after that.