This brief summary leaflet outlines the purpose of the Housing Strategy, the main issues identified, and the broad aims of the Strategy contained within the main document.

For a full account of the Housing Strategy, its detailed aims and targets please visit our website on www.oxford.gov.uk

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Housing in Oxford

Oxford is experiencing a housing crisis, with many people unable to afford to live in the city, one of the highest levels of homelessness in England and high demand for council and Housing Association homes.

Some Oxford housing facts:
- There are over 4,600 households on the Council’s housing waiting lists.
- There are over 450 households living in temporary accommodation in Oxford.
- There are over 170 people living in hostels in the city.
- Two thirds of homeless persons are aged under 25.
- There are over 6,000 over-crowded households living in Oxford.

What are the main issues identified in the strategy?
- Oxford is a densely populated city, which creates huge pressures on housing.
- The growth in population and households in Oxford is adding to housing pressures and adding issues such as overcrowding.
- There is a lack of land to build houses on in Oxford, which means the problems are not easily fixed.
- Homelessness and lack of sufficient housing for vulnerable people is a major concern in Oxford.
- Some areas of the city suffer from deprivation; low skills, low incomes, and high levels of crime.

What is the Housing Strategy?

The Housing Strategy is a document looking at the housing crisis in Oxford, and which identifies possible solutions, including a set of objectives and action plans.

The vision of the Strategy is to have more housing for Oxford, and better housing for all.

What does the strategy say will be done about these issues?

There are 7 objectives in the strategy listed below. Under each one is an example action point from the strategy. These are:

1. Provide more affordable housing to meet current and future needs in and around the City. Deliver an average of 250 affordable new homes each year ensuring that at least 30% are 3 bedroom or larger.

2. Prevent and reduce homelessness. (please see the Homelessness Strategy 2008–2013)

3. Address the housing needs of vulnerable people. Improve domestic violence services in the City to reduce harm and risk to women and prevent homelessness.

4. Improve the quality of the existing housing stock across the City. Improve energy efficiency in private sector homes.

5. Improve housing services, choice and quality of life on estates. Involve residents more in shaping the services that they use and that affect their lives.

6. Improve our understanding of housing needs to develop and implement housing strategy. Undertake a comprehensive housing needs assessment.

7. Ensure housing services offer value for money. Improve the efficiency of homelessness prevention work through more effective use of the Homechoice Deposit Guarantee Scheme.

How was the Strategy created?

- Oxford City Council consulted with a wide selection of organisations and also people who use the homeless services in Oxford.
- Focus groups were held, which provided valuable feedback and discussion about homelessness in Oxford.
- Questionnaires were sent to hundreds of households in Oxford, and also to people who were staying in temporary accommodation provided by the council.
- A large conference was held in the town hall, which contributed to the action plans in the strategy and the vision for the next 5 years.