

Response ID ANON-RNJA-KZ3A-4

Submitted to Oxford's Economic Strategy Consultation Survey
Submitted on 2021-12-05 13:05:33

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
Steve Dawe

2 What is your email address?

Email:
stevedawe@gn.apc.org

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:
Cowley Area Transport Group - www.catg.org.uk

Which of the following best describes you?

4 Which of the following best describes whose behalf you are responding on?

Business/Organisation based in Oxford

5 Have we captured the right issues and challenges affecting Oxford's economy?

No

Please provide further details on why you answered as you did :

Oxford needs: zero carbon policies meaning large year on year emissions cuts; a circular economy; localisation to favour local businesses and expand/create more markets on more days of the week; sustainable retrofitting of the existing built environment for housing; re-purposing public and private car parks for apartment use above ground level, building areas with larger populations and local spending power to assist businesses; working from home to diminish need for office space, allowing more of this space to be re-allocated to very low cost housing; Low Traffic Oxford with large expansion of pedestrianisation in an enlarged City Centre to benefit existing businesses with far more footfall, as a medium term goal; an end to development on greenfield sites.

6 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the Strategy's key themes of transition to an Inclusive, Global, and Net Zero economy?

Neutral

Please provide further details on why you answered as you did :

Inclusivity is impossible unless housing costs come down. Private rents and purchase prices of homes make this impossible. The City needs decades of emphasis on low cost housing creation: via the City's Housing Company, housing associations and its various housing campaign groups. 'Global' as a term raises carbon and greenhouse gas emissions questions and needs heavy qualifying as concept in this context. Net Zero is exceptionally questionable given the need for deep cuts in emissions. Relevant references: Absolute Zero - UK FIRES, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council - Julian Allwood et al, 2019.

<https://ukfires.org/absolute-zero/>

Dyke, James, Watson, Robert and Knorr, Wolfgang - Climate scientists: concept of net zero is a dangerous trap, 2021:

<https://theconversation.com/climate-scientists-concept-of-net-zero-is-a-dangerous-trap-157368>

Smolker, Rachel - Negative Emission Technologies: can they deliver? - December 2020, Biofuelwatch. Concise, cautionary piece about the problems of these technologies that have yet to be addressed: https://www.biofuelwatch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/BFW_NETS.pdf

Spratt, David and Dunlop, Ian - "Net Zero 2050: a dangerous illusion" - Breakthrough briefing note, National Centre for Climate Restoration, 2021:

<https://www.breakthroughonline.org.au/nz2050>

Stevenson, S, Horton, P, and Allwood, J M - Minus 45: delivering the UK government's pledge to COP26: Cutting UK emissions by 45% from 2018-2030, 2021, UK Fires: Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council: <https://www.repository.cam.ac.uk/handle/1810/329709>

A Global City

7 To what extent do you agree or disagree that Oxford, as a centre for technology and innovation, has an important role in the success of the UK and regional economy?

Neutral

Please provide further details on why you answered as you did:

The idea of 'Global' has not been tested thoroughly against: maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity as contributions to the Oxford economy; achieving a Zero Carbon and then a negative carbon Oxford; how deep cuts in emissions, depending upon large cuts in surface transport emissions in Oxfordshire, and aviation and shipping cuts reflecting a reduction in Oxford's dependence on a high carbon 'business as usual' economy.

8 To what extent do the principles and associated projects support the strategy's Global City ambition? This theme is expressed through a number of guiding principles and associated projects which can be found in the hyperlinks in the introduction to 'A Global City' above.

To no extent at all

Please provide further details on why you answered as you did :

See previous response

9 Which of the principles do you think are most important to delivering the strategic ambition of the Global City theme?

Q5 - Increase the commercial space focusing on Life Sciences, Low Carbon, Digital and knowledge sectors.:

Q5 - Expedite transport, digital and energy developments.:

Q5 - Continue to support businesses to adapt to changing economic Conditions.:

Q5 - Help deliver Oxford West End.:

Q5 - Boost domestic and international inward investment.:

Q5 - Retain a greater proportion of spin out companies.:

Q5 - Support the recovery of the visitor economy.:

Q5 - Mobilise Oxford's population to make the city's workforce a more distinctive.:

Q5 - Attract and retain more skilled international workforce.:

A Global City– questions on key areas

10 How can Oxford City Council and its partners' best support the success of local economy through planned commercial development projects? Which of the following would you prioritise?

Q8 - Affordable workspace:

Q8 - Workspace and business support for new start-up businesses:

Q8 - Support to expanding university spinouts through grow on space:

Q8 - Providing quality office/lab space for overseas/UK companies moving into the city:

Q8 - Workshop and small light industrial space in or close to the city:

Q8 - Lab space for life sciences and technology:

Q8 - A balanced mix of uses across all the above where possible.:

11 How important is addressing the issue of congestion and reliability of travel around Oxford to Oxford's economic success?

Very important

Please provide further details on why you answered as you did :

Impossible without a Low Traffic City, as part of assisting Oxford in avoiding the consequences of predicted rises in traffic over future decades. Traffic reduction targets should be set, and met. Pedestrianisation is vital to the economy of the City Centre and other local centres as pedestrians and cyclists spend more than car drivers do, as research has shown. An enlarged and strongly pedestrianised City Centre is also part of adapting to Climate Change. SEE: Report on Adaptation to Climate Change - Oxford's transport and green spaces - 2nd edition - under REPORTS at www.catg.org.uk

12 Do you have any suggestions for how the city might promote the recovery of the visitor economy, which has been affected during the pandemic?

Suggestions:

At present, Oxford's pedestrianised and pedestrian priority areas are far too small. This should change in stages to create a City Centre that expands to the west as far as the rail station. Pedestrians and cyclists spend more than car drivers, which is one consideration. Another is that the day trippers/coach

passengers are unlikely to choose to stay in Oxford unless it seems both greener and much more hospitable in its central area. There are too many vehicles including buses and taxis. An enlarged City Centre - using models offered by places such as Norwich, York or Canterbury - would encourage longer-stay visitors, and make more local residents keener on visiting the City Centre.

An Inclusive City

13 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the need to address inequality and social inclusion in Oxford?

Strongly agree

Please provide further details on why you answered as you did :

Low cost housing expansion is a primary consideration for the next few decades, using the existing built environment and re-purposing private and public car parks by putting apartments above them. Such very low cost housing could be Housing Company, housing association, housing coops, cohousing and include keyworker housing to stop the drain of keyworkers from the City due to absurd home prices and private rents. If this additional housing is car free by covenant/agreement, then it will contribute to helping release areas of the City from the traffic burden and pollution.

14 To what extent do the principles and associated projects support the Inclusive City strategic ambition?

To some extent

Please provide further details on why you answered as you did :

See previous answer

15 Which of the Inclusive City principles do you think are most important to delivering the strategic ambition of this theme? (Pick three from drop down list)

Q13 - Develop an Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Charter and pledge scheme to engage all local business and institutions.:

1

Q13 - Focus recovery efforts on the needs of the most disadvantaged places, through community wealth building and community economic development.:

Q13 - Further develop and build on the Oxford Living Wage initiative (OLW) to embed the principles of a minimum standard of prosperity.:

Q13 - Support social enterprise, cooperative businesses and civil society sectors, and pursue a more prominent role in the city's future economy.:

Q13 - Support local spending, enhance local business and generate social value through procurement.:

Q13 - Support local people to access skills, training and education opportunities and adapt to the expected rapid structural changes to the economy:

Q13 - Deliver affordable workspace that provides security to stay in spaces and lower risks to growth.:

Q13 - Explore using the principles of 15-minute neighbourhoods to give residents access to the services, practical and economic assets.:

3

Q13 - Explore options to deliver more affordable travel to travel to employment and education using public transport, cycling and walking.:

2

Q13 - Pro-actively encourage more mainstream socially and environmentally responsible businesses to locate city-wide.:

16 Which of the Inclusive City principles listed are most important to you/your organisation? (Pick three from drop down list)

Q14 - Develop an Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Charter and pledge scheme to engage all local business and institutions.:

Q14 - Focus recovery efforts on the needs of the most disadvantaged places, through community wealth building and community economic development.:

3

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1

Q14 - Explore options to deliver more affordable travel to travel to employment and education using public transport, cycling and walking.:
2

Q14 - Pro-actively encourage more mainstream socially and environmentally responsible businesses to locate city-wide.:

An Inclusive City – questions on key areas

17 Building on the Oxford Living Wage initiative, in what other ways might the city promote wage and working standard improvements for workers in Oxford?

Improvements:

Name and shame the worst employers and enterprises caught paying less than the derisory minimum wage. Create far more very low cost housing in the existing built environment to allow a wide range of income groups to have somewhere reasonably priced to live.

18 Support local people to better access skills, training and education opportunities to help them prosper and adapt changes in the economy. How do you think employers can support and unlock the potential of local people?

Support for local people:

Pay the Oxford Living Wage

If Other, please provide further details:

Extend the principle of London Weighting to Oxfordshire via national legislation.

19 Support and encourage more socially and environmentally responsible businesses. In your view what ways can Oxford City Council and its partners more effectively support businesses in the city to become more socially responsible and address inequalities?

Support to procure more goods and services locally, Support from partners to learn from best practice case studies

If Other, please provide details:

Environmental responsibility means radically reducing all greenhouse gas emissions related to the operation of private or public sector bodies. If this is not identified as occurring each year, for individual organisations and the City as a whole, then 'environmental responsibility' is not being pursued. Transport, at 45% of the County's surface emissions and more if aviation and shipping serving Oxfordshire is added, is a key area for businesses to cut their emissions - including by strongly supporting staff working from home as much as possible,

If Other, please provide details:

Zero Carbon City

20 To what extent do you agree or disagree with this ambition for Oxford's economy?

Strongly agree

Please provide further details on why you answered as you did :

Yes, provided new housing and new development is displaced by re-purposing the existing built environment on grounds of lower embedded carbon costs in sustainable retrofitting than new build. If new build is justified, it should be taller buildings on existing brownfield sites in industrial estates/science parks and it should be very low cost housing with car free covenants.

21 The Zero Carbon theme is expressed through a number of guiding principles and associated projects To what extent do you think the Zero Carbon principles and associated projects support the strategic ambition?

To some extent

Please provide further details on why you answered as you did :

Considerably more detail would be required and an increase in ambition eg. a Zero Carbon City by 2030 - not New Zero Carbon by 2040.

22 Which of the principles do you think are most important to delivering the Zero Carbon ambition of this theme? (Pick three from drop down list)

Q23 - Measure and reduce the environmental impacts of existing economic activity:

1

Q23 - Mitigate the environmental impacts of new development and housing growth:

Q23 - Support the growth of the green and low carbon technology sectors:

Q23 - Facilitate the flows of knowledge in the response to climate emergency:

2

Q23 - Empower Oxford's businesses to decarbonise their operations and their supply chains:

3

Q23 - Amplify neighbourhood projects which support local economic approaches to climate emergency:

Q23 - Develop budgeting processes which support investment in zero carbon development:

Q23 - Support and partner businesses and institutions to be more environmentally responsible and address city-wide zero carbon targets:

Q23 - Deliver the Oxford Zero Emission Zone and develop the next stage of a strategy to reduce emissions in the city:

Zero Carbon Economy – questions on key areas

23 What are the priorities for enabling growth of the green and low carbon technology sectors in Oxford? (Pick three from the dropdown list)

Q27 - Develop innovation centres (e.g. The Energy Systems Accelerator):

Q27 - Support more innovative projects between business, research and the public sector (e.g. Project Low Energy Oxfordshire):

2

Q27 - Attract more foreign and inward investment from green and low carbon sectors:

Q27 - Explore the potential for capital investment funds to invest in projects:

Q27 - Ensure the right technical skills are in place to scale projects and grow the sector (construction/energy/transport):

3

Q27 - Ensure business networks are in place that help expertise and knowledge to be shared.:

1

24 Do you have any other ideas for limiting the environmental impacts of planned development and housing growth?

Other Ideas:

Brownfield site development only, using the existing built environment for housing: sustainable retrofitting for very low cost homes. Decrease the area of land and buildings empty in existing industrial estates/science parks by building very low cost, high density car free homes. Place far more emphasis on how existing businesses grow and much more emphasis on how cooperatives might be formed to reduce capital costs for participants. Ensure the largest possible proportion of people working are able to do so from home, to constrain and hopefully prevent office space growth/unused capacity.

Any Other Comments

25 Are there any other comments you would like to make about the Oxford Economic Strategy?

Comments:

The current tax base is not suitable for a sustainable transport informed approach to Oxford's economy. The public sector is not large enough, needing selective re-nationalisations of buses, trains, larger energy providers and the water industry. Private sector-based expansion, as envisaged here, is problematic due to market failures; speculative commercial development than fails; the overall restrictions of space in Oxford when employment is needed in other parts of England.

The present stance of the City Council on the Climate Emergency, although clearly constrained by limited local government funding, needs under-pinning by better policies. Early examples would include supporting the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill; committing to a Low Traffic City; firmly orienting existing and new businesses to serve the very long-term needs of Oxford, including the eradication of poverty and very high housing costs. Lower cost housing is a regeneration measure as it frees people to spend more in local businesses that would otherwise have gone to private landlords, in all too many cases. Pressing downwards on car use and ownership also makes more households inclined to use their financial resources for purposes other than adding to traffic congestion. See our Report on Adaptation to Climate Change under REPORTS at www.catg.org.uk

Involvement in the Economic Strategy going forwards

26 Please use this box to let us know how you would like to be involved in the Economic Strategy going forward.

Keep me informed by email

About You

27 What is your postcode?

postcode:

OX3 7HU

28 Which of the following best describes how you think of yourself?

Male

29 Which age bracket do you fall into?

65-74

30 Which of the following best describes your ethnic group?

White British - English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish

31 Are your day to day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?

No