

Information Collected For Olly Glover MP to Support The Mass Lobby of MPs on 9th July 2025

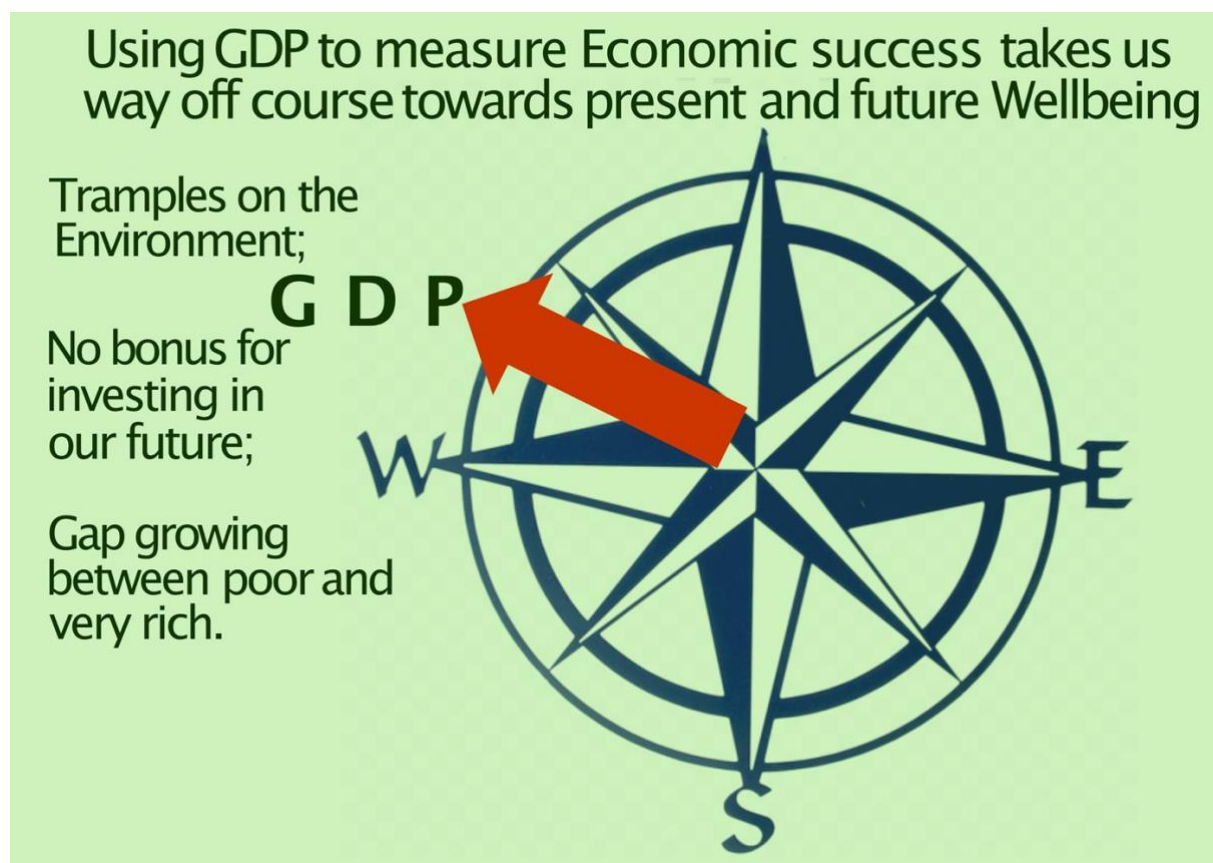


Part 1:

Local, National and Global we ask our MP to bring to the attention of the Government. Please use your influence to help to issues redirect Government policy towards a Sustainable Economy.

Part 2:

One-page descriptions and pictures of environmental projects in the Didcot and Wantage Constituency.



Why not dare to use the UN Social Progress Index?

	Country	Social Progress Score	Basic Human Needs	Foundations of Wellbeing	Opportunity	Nutrition and Basic Medical Care	Water and Sanitation	Shelter	Personal Safety	Access to Basic Knowledge	Access to Information and Communications	Health and Wellness	Environmental Quality	Personal Rights	Personal Freedom and Choice	Inclusiveness	Access to Advanced Education
19	United Kingdom	86.13	88.77	87.48	82.15	93.01	94.14	89.59	78.32	92.72	96.57	80.81	79.81	91.28	84.70	72.59	80.05

Environmental Asks and Initiatives in Didcot and Wantage Constituency

Introduction.

This folder contains Information to support the environmental work of the MP for Didcot and Wantage, ,
Olly Glover MP.

**Part 1 A list of environmental issues that we, your constituents, feel that our MP should raise with
Government Ministers.**

This Section also includes the Climate Coalition's Mass Lobby Policy Briefing.

Part 2 A folder showing environment initiatives in our area. is available on the web as separate
folders

This shows how people in our communities are genuinely committed and taking action
themselves. The folder is arranged showing Constituency-wide projects first, then some of the
Harwell sustainability projects, and then local initiatives, listed roughly East to West across the
Constituency.

This list was compiled by editing the results of asking Chat GPT to list environmental initiatives
in South Oxfordshire and making Google searches linking the names of parishes and towns in
the Constituency with the words 'sustainable...' and "environment...".

The environmental projects in this Constituency range from the development of Fusion energy
to large solar farms, to communal gardens, wood and fields. This Constituency must rank as
among the most significant in the country in our quest for net zero.

This briefing pack has been assembled by:

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Change the GDP Driven Civil Service Culture.

Please seek to change the 5 Case Model in the **Treasury Green Book** (now - the Strategic Case, Economic Case (GDP), Commercial Case, Financial Case, and Management Case) to a 6 Case Model that **includes The Environmental Case**.

Politicians, under pressure to fulfil their manifesto commitments, will naturally seek advice from officials on how to achieve their objectives. The present Government was dealt an almost unplayable hand by their predecessors, aided by the civil service culture of lack of candour, delay and disinformation.

This manifests itself at National level where the Chancellor of the Exchequer seems to have been advised by her Treasury officials that the only way she can achieve economic growth is to build airports and reservoirs, the PM's pledge for 1.5 **new Homes** morphs in the detailed policy to plans to **build 1.5M Houses**, their housing policy allows at least 50% of houses to be newbuilds on greenfield sites and planning rules hazard the environment. Some of these projects and policies were too controversial for even the previous Conservative administration to implement!

At local level such documents as the Oxford Local Plan 2040, Oxfordshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy, the appointment letter for the Chair of the Oxford Growth Commission, and even the regulations for the proposed congestion charge in Oxford exhibit the downside of a GDP driven culture.

These are all examples of the Civil Service culture. Officials who draft such policies and consultations are completely subservient to the Treasury, which is in a panic to promote 'growth' as measured by GDP to raise taxes to pay the bills. This sort of muddle will continue until something happens to change the culture in the Civil Service from the focus on GDP to delivering against a dashboard showing the UN Sustainability Goals and the UN Social Progress Index, or better still - Doughnut. This change happening at National level, through a revised Treasury Green Book, will be difficult to initiate; we look to our local politicians to try to achieve this locally; but weaning even local Officials off Treasury dogma will not be easy, when promotion comes to those who meet their numbers.

Perhaps the best weapon to use to shift this culture is ridicule. It will be as difficult to get the Treasury to use more socially acceptable measures of success to replace, or supplement GDP, as it would be to ask a three-year-old to eat her porridge when she's got a lollipop in her other hand. Picture the old-fashioned mandarins of the Treasury, still dressed in the frock coats they wore in the 1930s, clinging to their environment wrecking rock of GDP also dating from the '30s.



*1930's car with only a rev counter on the dashboard
Treasury attempting to drive the 2025 Economy on 1930's GDP!*

We also need to **persuade the Media to use more than this one metric**, GDP, to talk to the public about Government economic progress.

Momentum for this change is growing. At the last election, the Lib Dem manifesto included their pledge to appoint a First Secretary for the Environment in the Treasury.

Is the Climate and Nature Bill an opportunity to press for a structural change in the Civil Service Green-book driven culture?



BBC News.....Government Economic Success = GDP

Environmental issues that we, your Constituents, feel that our MP should raise with Government Ministers.

1. Abingdon Reservoir.

Please ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to set up a public enquiry to investigate the veracity of cost, projected water need calculations and environmental impact of the Thames Water plan for the proposed Abingdon Reservoir.

Analysis of the Thames Water plan by the [Group Against Reservoir Development](#) casts doubt on the accuracy of cost estimates, the safety of the design and the implications of embankment failure or sabotage and the full environmental impact. A detailed flood risk evaluation has to be made and the sustainability of SESRO in a long drought without Severn to Thames Transfer verified. See more in the [GARD page](#) in the Local initiatives section of this brief.

2. Climate and Nature Bill.

Ask the Government to give the Climate and Nature Bill more time for a debate and vote. The climate and nature crisis are accelerating on your watch and we need you to act now. Please deliver the REAL CHANGE we need to see. Please use this an opportunity to insert consideration of 'The Environmental Case' into the Treasury process to evaluate policies and plans.

3. The Upcoming Climate Plan.

Please write to Rachel Reeves and Keir Starmer. Use the Climate Plan to unlock the route to sustainable economic growth. The Government says it wants to deliver growth. The Treasury thinks this means focus on GDP. Because of this, we are not seeing the desperately needed climate action that would get the economy thriving. Investing in climate action would have so many benefits for new jobs and health. Some of the costs of this should fall on big polluters. The Government must get us off expensive gas, fix public transport, incentivise the insulation of existing housing stock, increase the number of dwellings in existing buildings, install solar panels on all south-facing roofs including listed buildings, install heat pumps for neighbourhoods, incentivise on-shore wind power, encourage local solar and wind farms to serve local communities.

4. Planning and Infrastructure Bill.

This is another example of the Government panicking to generate 'Growth' whatever the cost to the environment. Please seek to amend the Bill to safeguard the environment.

Part 3 of the Bill should not be passed in its current form. There are four major legal risks that must be addressed to provide adequate safeguards to the Government's proposed strategic approach, none of which would slow down development: Legal certainty of environmental outcomes; The mitigation hierarchy; Transparent; Enforceable Timelines; Scientific Justification and Evidence. Oxfordshire faces huge development pressures and we believe that a strong local focus must guide nature restoration efforts: compensation for environmental harm should be delivered as close as possible to the site of the impact, ensuring that local communities and ecosystems see the benefits of nearby development.

5. Food Security.

Please ask the Secretary of State for the Environment to commission a proper county-wide Land Use strategy to safeguard food security whilst encouraging solar power. Renewable energy is vital but "must not jeopardise other critical factors such as food production, biodiversity, and landscape."

6. Low Carbon School meals.

Please ask the Secretary of State for Education to revise School Meal standards considering modern dietary information and environmental food standards.

The government is working on a new food strategy right now - and it's updating the School Food Standards. The timing is perfect. Will you help us get low-carbon lunch on the menu?

Mass Lobby – Policy Briefings.

The **Act Now, Change Forever** Mass Lobby, taking place on Wednesday 9th July 2025, is a significant event where 10,000 constituents from across the UK will meet with MPs to advocate for strong action on climate, nature, and social justice issues. We have three policy asks, as follows:

1. Deliver vital funding to communities hit hardest by climate change, here and around the world
2. Cut bills, back UK jobs, and secure a greener fairer future for all
3. Restore nature to create a safer, healthier future

1. Deliver vital funding to communities hit hardest by climate change, here and around the

world. Scale up and deliver finance to people at home and in lower income countries disproportionately impacted by climate change. This includes making the biggest polluters pay their fair share for climate finance, and tackling unsustainable debts of lower income countries, including drawing on the UK's unique role in governing debt contracts held by private creditors.

2024 was the hottest year on record, and 3.3–3.6 billion people live in contexts highly vulnerable to climate change. With droughts, floods, wildfires and rising sea levels occurring every year across the world, the impacts of climate change hit the poorest and least responsible the hardest – and could push up to 132 million more people into extreme poverty by 2030. The provision of climate finance, both in the UK and internationally, is essential to tackling the impacts of climate change.

Key actions needed:

- *Scale up international climate finance:* In line with the Government's duty under the Paris Agreement, the UK must deliver on its current international climate finance (ICF) commitments, including completing by March 2026 its 4-year delivery of the UK's third international climate finance instalment of £11.6bn, and show global leadership by pledging its fair share towards the new total of \$300bn per year by 2035 agreed at COP29. To achieve this the government must reverse the cuts to UK aid, which currently funds the UK's international climate finance commitments, and identify new sources of public funding so that communities who have contributed the least to the climate crisis but are the worst hit can adapt, transition their economies, and build back from loss and damage.
- *Make polluters pay:* The biggest polluters – those that cause the most climate damage and are able to afford it – must pay their fair share in climate finance. This could be achieved by properly taxing fossil fuel corporations, highly polluting activities and the super-rich, and redirecting subsidies currently benefiting fossil fuel producers. YouGov polling in March found 85% of those surveyed in the UK agreed that those most responsible for pollution should shoulder the costs of addressing the harm it causes.
- *Tackle unsustainable debt:* 93% of climate-vulnerable states are facing a debt crisis, and many of them spend five times more on servicing debt than on tackling the effects of climate change. The majority of global sovereign debt is owed to private lenders, and 90% of lower-income countries' debt contracts operate under English law, putting the UK government in a unique position to act. As a priority, the government should legislate to incentivise private creditors to fully participate in global debt relief, releasing resources for countries in crisis at no cost to UK taxpayers. Such legislation is part of a package of reforms the Government should pursue to improve global debt architecture, including advocating for changes to international structures to centre on human rights and development needs, suspension of debt payments during negotiations and making it clear how much debt relief is on offer before countries apply.

2. Cut bills, back UK jobs, and secure a greener fairer future for all.

We're calling on the UK Government to take action now to cut energy bills, protect jobs, and support farmers:

- *Back Warm Homes and Clean Energy For All, Not Fossil Fuels:* The UK's reliance on volatile oil and gas has sent energy bills spiralling. Meanwhile, oil and gas companies make excessive profits and receive big tax breaks. That needs to change—the government has the opportunity to prioritise solutions that will benefit us all and put money back into people's pockets. This means phasing out oil and gas and instead making warm homes powered by clean energy more affordable.
- *Support Workers and Communities as We Move to Clean Energy:* No-one should be left behind in the transition to a greener economy. As we transition away from oil and gas, the government must ensure workers in high carbon industries are supported into good quality, long-term jobs in renewable energy, invest in areas across the UK that are reliant on high carbon industries, and ensure communities benefit from this industrial renewal. Low-income and marginalised groups must be able to fully access and benefit from the opportunities from the net zero economy.
- *Stop Energy Bills Being Tied to Expensive Gas:* Right now, UK electricity prices are linked to global gas prices, making bills higher than they need to be. Breaking this link will mean cheaper, more stable energy for homes and businesses.
- *Deliver a Bold, Fair and Ambitious Climate Plan:* The UK's current climate policies are not enough to meet our commitments or deliver a fair, green future for everyone. Meanwhile, many communities are left behind, struggling with high energy bills and pollution. That needs to change—the government is set to publish a climate plan by the end of October. This plan needs to be bold, comprehensive and meet our climate goals while ensuring fairness for all and making sure everyone can benefit from the net zero transition.
- *Back UK Farmers to Grow Good Food Sustainably:* UK farmers are at the heart of our food system and should be supported to farm in a way that protects nature, locks up carbon and provides affordable, healthy food for all. The government should support farmers to transition to more sustainable practices, and ensure trade and supermarket rules work fairly. That means introducing trade standards that prevent UK farmers from being undercut by cheaper imports produced to lower environmental or animal welfare standards.
- Ask that electricity bills are lowered as the UK has some of the highest electricity costs which is preventing people transitioning away from gas and oil. It will also help tackle fuel poverty and mean that running a heat pump will always be cheaper than a gas boiler. Ask that social and environmental tariffs are moved off electricity bills into general taxation.

3. Restore nature to create a safer, healthier future.

The UK is facing more extreme weather, rising food prices, and growing health challenges. To secure our future, we're calling on the UK Government to take bold action to restore nature and make the UK more resilient to climate change. That means:

- *Invest in nature to tackle climate change and restore our natural world:* Investing in nature is one of the most effective ways to absorb carbon, reduce emissions, and protect communities from extreme weather. We must step up action on legal commitments and invest wisely to secure the many benefits that follow. By funding nature-based solutions—such as restoring wetlands to reduce flood risk, planting trees and improving peatland to capture and store carbon, and restoring soil health—we can cut emissions and build long-term climate security. These actions also create cleaner air, safer water, and more vibrant green spaces that benefit everyone. The best time to act was yesterday. But if we act today, we can still ensure a more secure tomorrow.
- *Supporting nature-friendly farming:* By increasing funding for nature-friendly farming, the government can not only help farm businesses become more resilient and able to produce healthy, affordable food into the future, but they will also be supporting nature's recovery, healthier soils, cleaner water and protection for communities from flooding. This also contributes to a fairer food system—supporting rural communities, improving public health, and ensuring access to good food for all.
- *Respecting nature's contribution to our economy and society:* Nature is the bedrock of our economy; economic growth that undermines nature is simply not sustainable. The UK Government has legally binding commitments to halt the catastrophic decline of species in England by 2030, and we need action now to ensure they are achieved. We need an expansion of our protected areas network, stronger protections against sewage pollution, and investment in green infrastructure to make our communities safer, healthier, and more resilient.
- *A planning system for nature and people:* Designed well, planning reforms can protect and restore nature at scale, while also delivering more homes and boosting the economy. However, in its current form, Part 3 of the Planning & Infrastructure Bill would instead weaken nature protections in England and put some of our most vulnerable species and precious habitats at serious risk. As a result, we are unable to support the Bill in its current form and call on the Government to urgently address concerns as the Bill passes through its final stages.
- *Recognising the Health Benefits of Nature:* Spending time in nature supports mental and physical health, helping to reduce pressure on the NHS. Green social prescribing—where healthcare professionals connect people with nature-based activities like walking, gardening, or conservation—has proven benefits for wellbeing. The government should expand this approach and ensure every community has access to clean, green spaces that support healthier lives.