

South Oxfordshire District Council

Corporate Performance Report



2022/23 Quarter Two

October 2022

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Background

- The Council monitors performance and progress towards achieving the aims and priorities set out in the South Oxfordshire District Council **Corporate Plan 2020-2024**.
- This report provides a strategic overview of the performance for **quarter two (01 July to 30 September 2022)**, focusing on the activity to deliver our priorities in the Corporate Plan.
- In addition to providing a performance update and assurance against the delivery of the Council's six strategic themes in the Corporate Plan, this report will also provide any strategic context relevant to the Council's operations.
- This report is the sixth iteration, and it is expected that it will evolve in line with the new approach to Performance Management being embedded by the Council, as well as from feedback from senior officers and Members.



Strategic context

Quarter two of 2022/23 saw the global economic situation deteriorate further. Soaring prices have driven inflation across the world, stalling the post-pandemic recovery and placing individuals, families and businesses under increasing financial pressure.

Within the UK, the rate of inflation reached 10.1 per cent in the 12 months to September 2022 (equalling the figure from July). The main drivers of this increase have been housing & energy costs (up 20.2 per cent since September 2021) and food & non-alcoholic drink prices (up 14.6 percent) – the Bank of England currently forecasts that inflation will remain above 10.0 per cent for the next few months before starting to fall back. The Bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), as part of their remit to keep inflation under control, raised interest rates to 2.25 per cent in September. Since the end of 2021, the MPC has approved seven consecutive increases. In the medium-term it is expected that these actions will dampen demand within the economy and, therefore, hopefully push down the rate of inflation. The high rate of inflation has meant that household finances have been squeezed as incomes have failed to keep pace with the rising cost of living. Figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show that in August 2022 regular pay, when adjusted for inflation, fell by 2.9 per cent on the year – one of the largest decreases seen since comparable records began in 2001.

As the cost-of-living crisis has worsened throughout the quarter, the Council's Community Hub has continued to assist those in our communities that are most in need. Activities in this area have included the sharing of information, the provision of advice and, where appropriate, the delivery of food parcels or funding.



The rise in prices has also impacted upon British businesses – figures from the ONS (released in early October) show that in the three months to June, company insolvencies in England and Wales rose to a 13-year high.

During quarter two, HM Government announced that they would introduce an Energy Price Guarantee for households (due to start on 1 October). This is designed to reduce the size of energy bills by capping the amount consumers are charged for each unit of gas and electricity they use in their homes. A similar programme (the Energy Bill Relief Scheme) was also introduced for businesses.

The pressures on household and businesses, combined with the ongoing economic uncertainties, has impacted on overall economic growth. In August 2022, the economy shrank by 0.3 per cent (this

was driven by 1.8 per cent reduction in the production sector). This contraction followed July's very weak growth (0.1 per cent). The Bank of England believes that the UK economy is already in a recession (two consecutive quarters of decline in GDP).

In late September, HM Government announced its Growth Plan, a series of measures intended to realise a 2.5 per cent trend rate for economic growth. Following its introduction, the pound sterling (which had already been declining in value over recent months) fell precipitously against the United States Dollar and the borrowing costs on government bonds rose. Moreover, many banks and building societies withdrew mortgage products and increased their interest rates on fixed-rate mortgages.

The devastating war in Ukraine continued during quarter two 2022/23. As part of the council's ongoing response to this humanitarian crisis, it continues to work alongside partners across Oxfordshire to help provide 'wrap-around' care for refugees within the county through the Homes for Ukraine scheme (this offers the opportunity for individuals in the UK to sponsor named guests to come and live with them in their home).

The five Local Planning authorities in Oxfordshire have been working together on a joint plan for Oxfordshire to 2050. It is with regret that we were unable to reach agreement on the approach to planning for future housing needs within the framework of the Oxfordshire Plan.

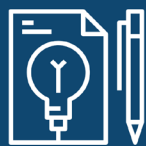
Local Plans for the City and Districts will now provide the framework for the long term planning of Oxfordshire. The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 work programme will end and we will now transition to a process focused on Local Plans. The issues of housing needs will now be addressed through individual Local Plans for each of the City and Districts. The Councils will cooperate with each other and with other key bodies as they prepare their Local Plans.

The United Kingdom entered a ten-day period of national mourning following the death of Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September. During this time, Vale of White Horse carried out its required communications as part of Operation London Bridge. All of the Council's other regular communications and campaigns were paused throughout the period of national mourning.



Quarter two performance highlights

Protect and restore the natural world



We began work on compiling an investment plan to unlock conditional allocations from the **Rural England Prosperity Fund**



If successful, this funding can be used to support rural communities and agricultural business



We are exploring opportunities to plant **more trees** across the district

Openness and accountability



We launched the draft **Diversity and Inclusion Strategy** consultation



We are reviewing our information governance and updating our

- **Annual Governance Statement**
- **Code of Corporate Governance**



100% of our meetings were livestreamed and available to view online

Action on climate emergency



We are developing a route map and action plan for the **Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire** project with county partners



We developed a bid for funding from the **Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme** for Cornerstone



We provisionally awarded a contract for work on the development of our new **Air Quality Plans**

Improved economic and community well-being



82
The number of traders registered with our **Virtual High Street** initiative



We commissioned SYSTRA Ltd to develop a **Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan** for Didcot and its surrounding area



£19,000
The amount of CIL funding approved for the **Henton flood alleviation scheme**

Homes and infrastructure that meets local need



We commissioned consultants to look at data that will help us provide enough **future facilities and amenities** to promote healthy lifestyles



£6.2 million

The amount of funding available from the county council to support the delivery of new road provision



We started the **Berinsfield Garden Village Community Facilities** project

Investment that rebuilds our financial viability



Cabinet approved the **business case and procurement route** to transform the planning and regulatory services systems and IT



We recruited a project and programme manager for the council's agreed **Transformation Programme** that will focus on four themes:
Customer / Digital and Technology / People / Future Proof



Theme 1: Protect and restore our natural world

Why?

South Oxfordshire is a largely rural district, including parts of two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and the Oxford Green Belt, as well as a long stretch of the River Thames. The natural world is proven to provide benefits to both mental and physical health, as well as having its own intrinsic value, and it needs our protection.

So:

We will respect and protect our natural environment, especially our Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and other nature rich areas. We will champion the opportunity to restore our natural world in both biodiverse and bio-depleted areas through nature recovery networks and other means. We will connect urban communities to their local green spaces and restore nature to urban environments.

Strategic Lead - Suzanne Malcolm (Deputy Chief Executive / Place)

Key Activities in quarter one

See Theme 1 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 22

After extensive work during quarter one, the Council submitted its investment plan for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) during quarter 2 as planned. Funding from the UKSPF would support our work to enhance our district's natural assets and create a more defined tourism strategy. The Economic Development team also began work on compiling an investment plan to unlock South Oxfordshire's conditional allocation from the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF), announced by DEFRA this quarter as an extension to UKSPF. Officers undertook consultation meetings with key stakeholders. If successful, this funding can be used to create and improve green spaces and to support rural communities and agricultural businesses. A briefing on the REPF submission is scheduled to come before Cabinet in quarter three, before its submission in November.



Theme 2: Openness and accountability

Why?

The complexity of modern society and local government structures can be hard to navigate. Many services are delivered as part of external partnerships, so it can be hard for residents to see what we do and how we do it. There are some groups within our district with whom we have little engagement or interaction, so the diversity of our district is not always recognised and supported.

So:

We will maintain and improve high levels of satisfaction with the services we provide and will reach out to all sectors and age groups to foster a culture of openness, participation, and representation. We will use our influence to champion inclusion, diversity and transparency across all elected and unelected bodies in our region. We will empower and invest in our staff and conduct our operations with the highest level of integrity and accountability.

Strategic Lead - Adrianna Partridge (Deputy Chief Executive / Transformation and Operations)

Key Activities in quarter one

See Theme 2 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 24

In order to maintain and improve the services that South Oxfordshire provides, work began in September on implementing the Council's Customer Relationship Management system (CRM). In particular, the Customer Service team has been working with colleagues in Waste, IT, Finance and Communications to prepare for the migration of garden waste to the CRM. The Customer Service team have also been working with their colleagues in Planning to implement the "quick wins" identified in the Planning Advisory Service review.

In quarter two, South Oxfordshire have, following the introduction of a new analytics system, been able to start getting reliable statistics on website traffic. These figures can now be used to set the benchmark for future quarters.

As part of South Oxfordshire's efforts to champion openness and transparency, it continued to livestream all public meetings during this quarter. This not only helped to ensure a greater degree of accessibility for

residents, but also allowed them an insight into our decision-making processes.

Moreover, IT has now been installed at Abbey House to ensure that all future meetings, with the exception of Full Council, can continue to be livestreamed (officers are currently exploring potential options for the livestreaming of Full Council meetings at Didcot Civic Hall).

With the ambition of increasing the Council's level of engagement with residents – especially those from marginalised/under-represented groups – South Oxfordshire launched a consultation on the draft Diversity and Inclusion Strategy. To assist with this work, materials were provided to members and officers to support engagement with both colleagues and community groups. In addition, within the engagement documentation for the draft Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, the council has asked about preferred methods of contact. This data will be used to ensure that South Oxfordshire is using the most appropriate methods to reach its target audiences.

As part of South Oxfordshire's goal of increasing accountability and improving decision-making, progress continued to be made during quarter two 2022/23 on governance issues. A review of information governance has almost been completed and work is underway to update both the Annual Governance Statement and Code of Corporate Governance. The Council has also nearly finished a significant task around the procurement process which aims to ensure that it takes a strategic approach to commissioning.



Theme 3: Action on climate emergency

Why?

The greatest challenge we face as a society is the Climate Emergency and our ability to adapt our lives and our behaviours to ensure a safe and resilient future. While statements and targets are welcome, the challenge for our district is to take action, transform our operations and inspire our residents and businesses to do the same. Aspects of our lives will need to change, but we have a duty to make this transition fair for all parts of society.

So:

We will show leadership by developing and implementing a climate change programme to make the Council net carbon neutral by 2025. We will help our communities to plan a fair transition to a future that will be defined by climate change.



Strategic Lead - Suzanne Malcolm (Deputy Chief Executive / Place)

Key Activities in quarter one

See Theme 3 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 28

Emissions from our leisure facilities make up a significant proportion of the Council's carbon footprint. To help achieve our aim of becoming carbon neutral by 2025, in quarter two, South Oxfordshire developed a bid for the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) for the Cornerstone, according to new criteria announced in August. The fund is expected to open for a new round of bids in October 2022.

With a view to tackling our emissions more widely, council officers are also reviewing a draft report from the Energy Savings Trust which examines options for the decarbonisation of staff mileage and the Council's vehicle fleet.

Quarter two also saw the Council complete the purchase of a second property in Didcot, to provide temporary accommodation. As part of the work to bring these properties into use, consideration is being given to any modifications that would help to improve their energy efficiency.

The Economic Development Team submitted a bid in quarter two to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF); key themes within South Oxfordshire's bid included supporting decarbonisation whilst growing the local economy, developing green skills and improving provision of sustainable energy infrastructure for community buildings. If the bid is successful, the funding will play an important part in supporting our goal for South Oxfordshire to become a carbon neutral district by 2030.

As part of their work to support local businesses to adapt and respond to the climate emergency, Economic Development Team officers also attended the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) roundtable: "What would need to happen to get every business in Oxfordshire to cut their carbon emission in half by 2030". Officers from the team also contributed to the development of a route map and action plan for the Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire project. Officers have been reviewing potential ways for how district councils can best help to accelerate the uptake of retrofit within their areas.

An options paper on this work is currently being progressed and will be reviewed once the draft Oxfordshire Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan are published in early October.

At a meeting of Full Council on 14 July, Members passed a motion to support farming and the food system in our district. Within this were commitments to support sustainable food production including cutting carbon emissions associated with food production and reducing food waste through our waste and recycling service and the promotion of the circular economy.

The role of the Council as a planning authority is important in tackling the climate emergency and achieving our targets. The Planning Policy team continued to develop policy on sustainable construction as part of the wider development of the Joint Local Plan. Throughout the quarter, the Planning Policy and Climate Action teams continued to work closely.

Work on the strategic level plan for Oxfordshire, the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, ceased in August after the participating councils were unable to reach an agreement on the approach for future housing needs. The progress made to date on themes like climate change, biodiversity and environmental standards will continue through the Joint Local Plan.



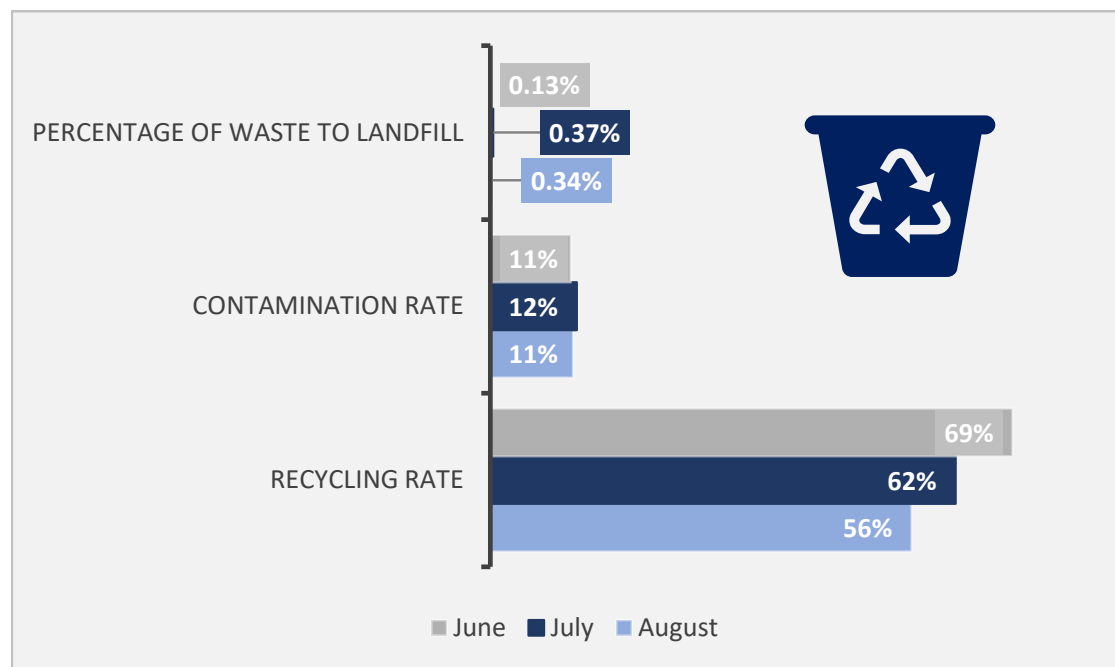
Work has continued on improving air quality in the district. A contract has been provisionally awarded to consultants who will work on the development of new Air Quality Plans.

We have continued to work with Oxfordshire County Council and other local partners to build on our commitment to active travel. South Oxfordshire are now participating in the new Enhancement Partnership Board which will manage the additional £12.7 million in HM Government funding for the Bus Service Improvement Plan. In quarter 2 the County Council commissioned the development of a Didcot Area Travel Plan and the Strategic Active Travel Network for Oxfordshire. We will seek to engage in the development of these plans over the coming months.

In response to the cost of living crisis, the Council launched a new energy saving webpage which includes information on retrofitting and sources of advice on reducing energy consumption. The Council also supported the launch of the new Climate Action Oxfordshire website which provides information to residents. Communications campaigns during the quarter also highlighted the work the council is doing to reduce emissions, the support available to community projects and the work of grant awardees who've used capital funding for projects to benefit their communities.

South Oxfordshire's Climate Action Plan (CAP) was published in February 2022 and progress towards its delivery continues to be monitored. The first CAP quarterly report was published in quarter two, reporting on the previous quarter.

Chart A / *ACE7: 2022-23 Monthly recycling rates



This chart includes June rates which were not available for the quarter one report - September data will be published in our next report.

*This is the specific Corporate Plan ID reference to performance update tables on pages 20-46



Theme 4: Improved economic and community well-being

Why?

South Oxfordshire has a large number of small and micro businesses and is well placed to adapt to changes in the economy, but support will be needed for it to remain a healthy and vibrant place to live and work. The Coronavirus pandemic has shown the strength of the community but there are areas of isolation and deprivation in our district, and the benefits of access to culture, leisure, and community for all has been made clear.

So:

We will reimagine our high streets, helping independent small businesses to thrive and to encourage cultural well-being for all. We will encourage clean local economic development and support our business hubs, centres of scientific excellence and our educational establishments to become leaders in sustainable technology, innovation, and enterprise. We will help our community groups to strengthen cohesion, reduce social isolation and tackle areas of deprivation.

Strategic Lead - Suzanne Malcolm (Deputy Chief Executive / Place)

Strategic Lead - Adrianna Partridge (Deputy Chief Executive / Transformation and Operations)

Key Activities in quarter one

See Theme 4 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 33

To support the economic recovery and future prospects of our district, following extensive preparatory work and consultation in quarter one, South Oxfordshire's Economic Development team focused on compiling and submitting investment plans to unlock the council's conditional allocations from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and developing investment plans for the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF), a scheme launched by the Department for Environment, Farming, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in September.

Throughout the quarter, the Economic Development team also continued to work in countywide partnerships to identify support schemes for local businesses. A focus during quarter two was on the development of materials to support companies through the emerging cost-of-living-crisis.

In addition, the Economic Development team also supported the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economic Partnership (OIEP) Steering Group. The OIEP Steering Group seeks to drive

business and community engagement through educational attainment, inclusive recruitment and social value in procurement. Officers will continue to work with the OIEP as they build "pledges" from the local community ahead of a showcase event scheduled for January.

During quarter two, work continued to consolidate independent traders on a single e-commerce platform as part of South's Digital District Programme (Virtual High Street Initiative). A total of 82 traders are registered on the portal, with over 1,079 products available to order through the site.

The council also started to look at extending its contract with ShopAppy (the website hosting the e-commerce platform) beyond the initial pilot period (due to end March 2023).



The Council continued to work with the Oxfordshire Digital Infrastructure Partnership (DIP) Board regarding the rollout of broadband infrastructure. In quarter two, they assisted with the compiling of a list of social housing multiple dwelling units within South Oxfordshire – this information will be used by Openreach to help establish bulk wayleaves.

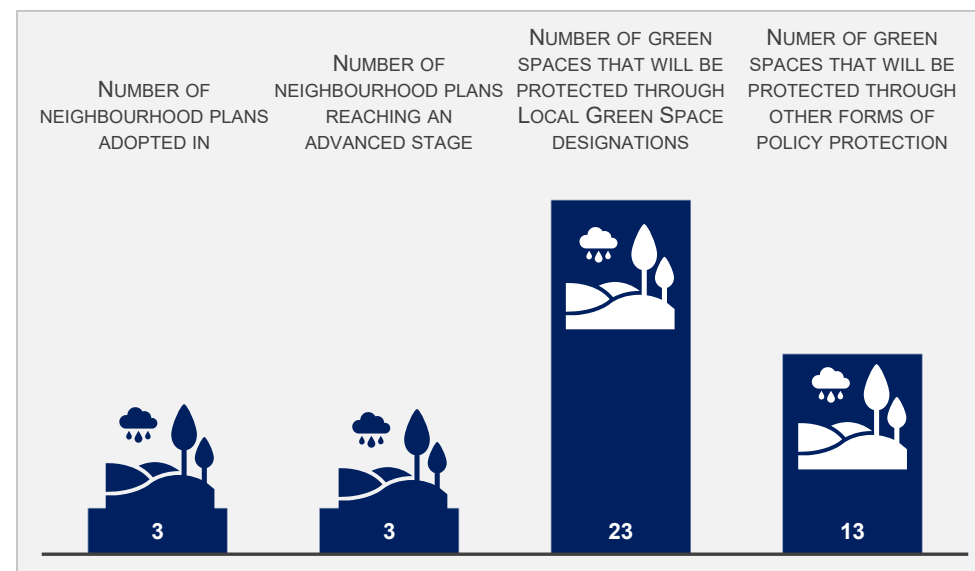
During quarter two, scoping work was carried out for the 27 projects within the newly revised Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan (this includes proposals for public transport, an active walking and cycling network, communal facilities and accessible green spaces). Progress also continued to be made on phase one of a placemaking strategy for the Didcot Central Corridor – this is expected to be finalised by the end of October. (Phase two, where the project will commence the optioneering phase to examine the recommended improvement schemes in more detail, will commence in quarter three).

Over 1,200 people are estimated to have joined this year's Didcot Garden Party. Around 1,000 of these attended the ten family friendly performances and arts activities (themed around health, wellbeing and the environment) across Cornerstone, while another 200 (children aged from five years to teenagers) got involved with sports provision. The feedback from participants was positive and emphasised the importance of having access to free or low-cost holiday programmes – especially during a cost-of-living crisis.

The council is committed to using its planning powers to preserve the district's green spaces. Between July and September, South Oxfordshire adopted three neighbourhood plans, while another three reached an advanced stage (beyond examination). In total, these plans contain proposals to protect 23 green spaces through **Local Green Space** designations. They also contain measures to safeguard a further 13 green spaces through other forms of policy protection.



Chart B / ECW5: How we used our planning powers to preserve our valuable green spaces



During quarter two 2022/23, the Cabinet also approved the Active Communities Strategy – one of the key themes of which is to: ‘create healthier communities through walking and cycling’. Work is now underway to prepare a delivery plan for the strategy. The Active Communities team have also submitted plans for the launch of a Ride Revolution bike project. Under this scheme, unwanted bikes would be restored and repaired before being given to individuals from disadvantaged families in the district.

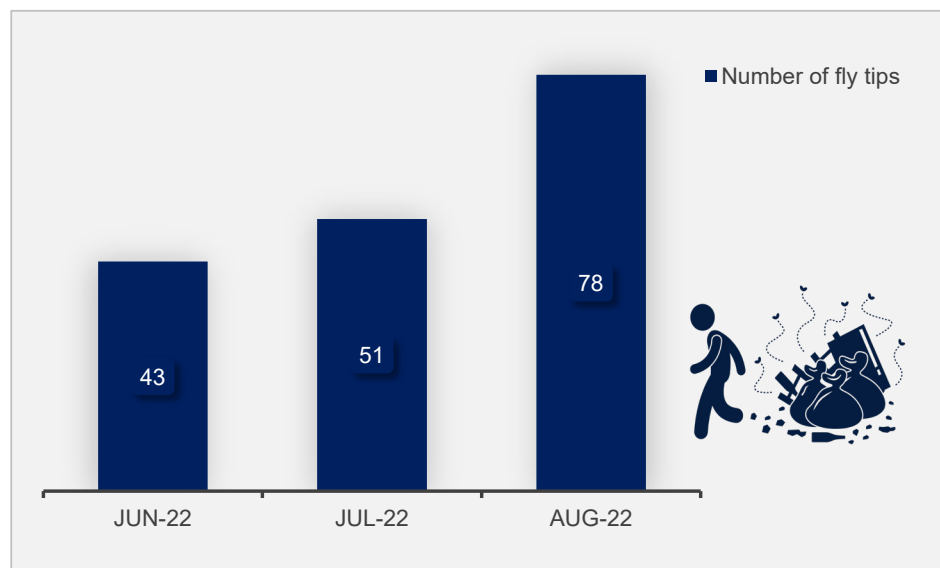
The Council have commissioned SYSTRA Ltd to develop a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Didcot and its surrounding area to promote community wellbeing. The project will run from October 2022 to April 2023. Oxfordshire County Council have also commissioned the development of a Didcot Area Travel Plan which will look at how to promote the active travel network. A public consultation on the travel plan will be held in autumn.



Projects to be considered for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding allocation as part of 2023/24 budget setting were submitted and collated during quarter two. These will be put forward for review by the CIL Member Working Group who will make recommendations to Cabinet – projects previously allocated CIL funding will also be reviewed.

During quarter two, South Oxfordshire continued to take action against flytippers. Between July and September, the council issued five Fixed Penalty Notices for waste crimes. There were also five fly-tipping prosecutions (all for incidents around Wheatley and Thame) – a further five prosecutions are pending.

Chart C / ECW7: 2022-23 Monthly fly-tipping activity



This chart includes June rates which were not available for the quarter one report - September data will be published in our next report.



Theme 5: Homes and infrastructure that meet local needs

Why?

The average price of a home is many times higher than the average salary, particularly for the young, and renting is also expensive. The pressure to build new homes in our district sometimes outweighs local wishes. Infrastructure like roads, schools and GP surgeries have not kept up with housing development. Too many houses being built today are not fit for a low carbon future.

So:

We will strive to ensure that new homes and infrastructure in South Oxfordshire meet local needs, are sustainable, zero carbon in their build and operation, and high quality in design. We will provide homes that people can afford to live in. New developments will be accessible with walking, cycling and public transport a priority. Neighbourhood plans and local participation will sit at the heart of our planning process. We will work with partners to ensure that development is appropriate for our communities.

Strategic Lead - Suzanne Malcolm (Deputy Chief Executive / Place)

Key Activities in quarter one

See Theme 5 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 45

At the end of quarter two 2022/23, the council recorded only two rough sleepers. The very low levels of rough sleeping in the district reflects the success of the council's preventative approach.

The number of homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of September 2022 was 16 – a significant increase on the previous quarter and a reflection of the impacts of the cost-of-living crisis and issues related to the Homes for Ukraine scheme. The average length of stay in emergency accommodation was 51 nights, above the ceiling target of 42 (this has been driven by the higher numbers of homeless clients coming forwards and the complexity of their needs).

During quarter two 2022/23, the rate of successful homelessness prevention in South Oxfordshire was 81.0 per cent. This was above the very challenging target of 80.0 per cent (the average rate of homelessness prevention in the South East region is 55.0 per cent).



Rate of successful homelessness prevention

Target 80%



Number of homeless households in temporary accommodation

The average rate of homelessness prevention in the South East region is 55%

Target 42



Average number of days in emergency temporary accommodation



Furthermore, South Oxfordshire continues to actively participate in the countywide Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and is a member of both the countywide Homelessness Steering Group and the Homelessness Directors Group.

Work on the strategic level plan for Oxfordshire (the Oxfordshire Plan 2050) ceased in August after the participating councils were unable to reach an agreement on the approach for future housing needs. The progress made to date will now continue through the Joint Local Plan.

With the aim of ensuring that new homes and infrastructure meet local needs, are sustainable, zero carbon and high quality in design, the council's Planning Policy team continued to progress the Joint Local Plan Regulation Part One Issues Consultation Report. This consultation (held in quarter one) asked for views on a draft vision for the Joint Local Plan and included the consideration of issues such as the energy efficiency of new buildings. Further, the Planning Policy team, as part of their wider work on developing the Plan, commissioned consultants to ensure that the Council's policies are based on appropriate data in relation to the provision of facilities and amenities conducive to the promotion of healthy lifestyles.

During quarter two, scoping work was carried out for the 27 projects within the newly revised Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan (this includes proposals for public transport, an active walking and cycling network, communal facilities and accessible green spaces). Progress also continued to be made on phase one of a placemaking strategy for the Didcot Central Corridor – this is expected to be finalised by the end of October. (Phase two, where the project will commence the optioneering phase to examine the recommended improvement schemes in more detail, will commence in quarter three). Likewise, officers also started to produce a brief on the Didcot Public Arts and Culture Strategy.

This draft strategy will focus on the role that arts and culture can play in delivering on the aspirations of the garden town project (by not only creating inspiring visual and decorative enhancements to improve the quality of the town, but also by bringing the local community and visitors together).

Moreover, the council started on the Berinsfield Garden Village Community Facilities project in quarter two. As part of this work, a procurement exercise was undertaken to obtain consultancy services to help develop the scheme – this will include a feasibility study to determine the conceptual design, layout, estimated costs, management and operation of new community hub facilities (including a leisure centre).

South also undertook the drafting and review of a funding agreement with Oxfordshire County Council for £6.2 million to support the delivery of new road provision.

As part of South Oxfordshire's commitment to providing homes that people can afford to live in, a total of 40 affordable housing units were delivered across the district between July and August 2022. Work also continued on the development of an Affordable Housing Guidance Note. This will be presented to Joint Scrutiny in quarter three.

As part of the council's efforts to prioritise active travel and to make sure that new developments are accessible, SYSTRA Ltd have been commissioned to develop a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Didcot and its surrounding area. This will support the work of Oxfordshire County Council who have also commissioned the development of a Didcot Area Travel Plan which will look at how to promote the active travel network.



Theme 6: Investment that rebuilds our financial viability

Why?

Coronavirus has cost, and lost, the Council money. Many years of austerity before that, as well as a failure to increase Council tax in line with growing costs, makes it hard to balance the books. The future funding picture for Councils from Government remains unclear. In order to deliver a progressive and ambitious agenda, we need to reduce the gap between income and expenditure in our Medium-Term Financial Plan.

So:

We will invest to save and act responsibly and ethically with our financial resources. We will work with other Councils for fair funding and will investigate new viable sources of revenue in order to maintain and improve vital services. We will ensure all financial operations and reporting support effective decision making and strong, ethical governance.

Strategic Lead - Simon Hewings (Head of Finance)

Key Activities in quarter one

See Theme 6 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 45

In order to invest, save and act responsibly with our financial resources, South Oxfordshire's Asset Management Group (established during quarter three 2021/22) continues to meet on a quarterly basis to progress implementation of the Strategic Property Review. The aim of the group is to assess the Council's land ownerships in a holistic manner and consider opportunities for their development, usage or disposal. Any outcomes from these meetings are progressed as business as usual.

The Strategic Property Team continued to lease vacant properties, progress lease renewals and review rents during quarter two 2022/23. Progress was also made on work regarding potential housing development sites.

Officers also held initial discussions with Link Asset Services regarding a funds review to find alternative potential investment opportunities. This work will continue during quarter three – any assessment would pay significant consideration to environmental, social and corporate governance factors.

With the ambition of improving its effectiveness as an organisation, work began in September on implementing the Council's Customer Relationship Management system.

In addition, during quarter two, an update was provided to Cabinet on the progress made in realising South Oxfordshire's agreed transformation programme.

The work of the transformation programme has been categorised into four themes:

1. Customer
2. Digital and technology
3. People
4. Future proof

With three overall outcomes:

1. Financially stable
2. Environmentally positive
3. Open and transparent

Both a project and a programme manager have been successfully recruited to the Core Transformation team to drive this work forwards.

The Cabinet also approved the business case and procurement route to transform the planning and regulatory services' systems and IT.

As part of South Oxfordshire's commitment to maximise external funding opportunities to support services and to enrich the district's leisure, sporting and community activities, work has continued during quarter two 2022/23 on embedding the External Funding Lead within the organisation. Further progress has also been made on introducing the necessary governance structures and documentation to ensure that any future funding bids are deliverable and align with South's goals.

Moreover, during the quarter, the Council developed a bid for the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) for Cornerstone. The application for funding is now ready for submission (the opening of the next PSDS funding round is expected in October).

South Oxfordshire also submitted an application to fund the installation of Changing Places Toilets, for people with severe disabilities, in Wallingford and Thame.

South Oxfordshire quarter two independent cabinet member decisions

Date	Description
06/07/2022	Covid-19 additional relief funding - to accept government funding and approve a discretionary scheme to assist local businesses.
08/07/2022	Customer relationship management - to use the approved funds to procure a solution.
14/07/2022	Henley Leisure Centre gym equipment - to authorise the Head of Development and Corporate Landlord to enter into a contract with Technogym UK Ltd under Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO) Framework 345 20 Lot 2 New Fitness Equipment to replace the gym equipment at Henley Leisure Centre in accordance with the leisure management contract.
15/07/2022	Everyone Active Grants Policy - to approve the new Everyone Active Grants Policy.
17/07/2022	Office accommodation - to approve funds for changes to office accommodation.
20/07/2022	Abbey Sports Centre - to refurbish the astro turf pitch.
20/07/2022	UK Shared Prosperity Fund - to approve the submission of South Oxfordshire District Council's investment plan for HM Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
11/08/2022	CCTV in South Oxfordshire - to procure BT to upgrade South Oxfordshire District Council's CCTV cameras in Wallingford from analogue to IP (digital) along with a five year rental of the CCTV transmission circuits for Wallingford, Thame, Henley and Didcot.
31/08/2022	Abbey Sports Centre, Berinsfield: wetside changing refurbishment – to create a budget for £70,051.32 from one S106 contribution, and release funds to South Oxfordshire District Council Active Communities (Leisure) Team, towards refurbishing the “wetside” changing facilities at Abbey Sports Centre, Berinsfield, OX10.

Theme 1: Protect and restore our natural world - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
PRN1	With partners, promote in-depth mapping and surveying of ecosystems across the district, planning for restoration of the natural world and working closely with land-owners and specialist agencies	Narrative report to include information on work with partners, and Habitat and Species data + changes/trends on a 12 month basis	Cllr Sue Cooper	Head of Planning	No progress to report in Q2 2022/23
PRN2	Celebrate, protect and enhance our natural assets, including the River Thames and the AONBs and their setting, promoting our rural district for tourism, leisure and wellbeing	Narrative report to include information on work to manage natural assets and ANOBs (both internally and with partners)	Cllr Andrea Powell	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q2 2022/23, the Economic Development team began work on compiling an investment plan to unlock South Oxfordshire's conditional allocation from the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). This is expected to build upon the council's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) investment plan submission which included various projects relevant to AONBs, rural tourism, leisure and wellbeing.</p> <p>The council is currently awaiting news on the outcome of its UKSPF bid from HM Government – an addendum covering the REPF will be submitted in November 2022.</p>
PRN3	Encourage the use of natural processes to combat risks arising from climate change, such as meadows and trees to reduce flooding	Narrative report to include direct and indirect information on use of natural processes to combat risks of climate change. This should include new policy development and direct activity undertaken by the Council	Cllr Sue Cooper	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>South Oxfordshire received no new applications relating to the Tree Planting on Council Owned Land Policy during Q2 2022/23. One tenant of council-owned property did, however, request that consent was granted to permit tree planting – this was approved.</p> <p>Officers have also continued to explore other opportunities to plant more trees across the district.</p>
PRN4	Recognise and support the vital role of farming in economic and ecosystem resilience, local food provision and the recovery of soils and natural processes	Narrative report on activity undertaken with partners to encourage and support the vital role of farming in economic and ecosystem resilience (where possible, although this may be implicitly included in the information above)	Cllr Sue Cooper	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	During Q2 2022/23, the Economic Development team began work on compiling an investment plan to unlock South Oxfordshire's conditional allocation from the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). If successful, this funding can be used to support rural communities and agricultural businesses. A briefing on this topic is scheduled to come before Cabinet in Q3.

Theme 1: Protect and restore our natural world - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
PRN5	Call for the establishment of a Local Nature Partnership for Oxfordshire to promote an ambitious nature recovery programme, including tree and meadow planting, rewilding and providing habitats for wildlife including wildlife corridors	Narrative report - accepting that much of the activity to support PRN3 will be relevant here	Cllr David Rouane	Head of Policy and Programmes	This is an annual measure. No progress to report in Q2 2022/23.
PRN6	Work in partnership with the Earth Trust, Chilterns Conservation Board, North Wessex Downs AONB, the Environment Agency and others to improve access to green spaces in and around our towns, reinforcing access to nature as a priority for community wellbeing	Narrative report on activity with partners (including those named, and others), with a particular focus on work supporting the link between green spaces and community wellbeing	Cllr Pieter-Paul Barker	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	During Q2 2022/23, the Economic Development team began work on compiling an investment plan to unlock South Oxfordshire's conditional allocation from the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). As part of this project, officers undertook consultation meetings with a series of appropriate partners. If successful, the bid will unlock funding that can be used to create and improve green spaces within the district.

Theme 2: Openness and accountability - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
OA1	Enhance trust and accountability in democratic decision-making, including live-streaming and recording of meetings, ensuring full accessibility of facilities and monitoring progress in an open and transparent way	<p>Narrative update to include information on the performance management framework, communications update on Cabinet/Council decisions, IAG around the operations/activity of the Council</p> <p>% of Public Council meetings within 12 months available online</p>	Cllr Andrea Powell	Deputy Chief Executive - Transformation and Operations	During Q2 2022/23, the Economic Development team began work on compiling an investment plan to unlock South Oxfordshire's conditional allocation from the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). As part of this project, officers undertook consultation meetings with a series of appropriate partners. If successful, the bid will unlock funding that can be used to create and improve green spaces within the district.
OA2	Ensure that council departments work collaboratively to deliver best outcomes for residents	Narrative report detailing significant, non-recurring examples of inter-departmental working which have secured concrete outcomes for residents	Cllr Andrea Powell	Deputy Chief Executive - Transformation and Operations	<p>During Q2 2022/23, the Customer Service and Planning teams continued to work together on implementing the "quick wins" identified in the Planning Advisory Service review. The Customer Service team has also been working with colleagues in Waste, IT, Finance and Communications to prepare for the migration of garden waste to the Customer Relationship Management system.</p> <p>Other notable collaborations in Q2 included cross-departmental collaboration on the council's response to the cost-of-living crisis and ongoing support for the Homes for Ukraine programme.</p>

Theme 2: Openness and accountability - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
OA3	Embed an organisational culture that celebrates diversity, inclusion and respect	Narrative report on work undertaken to celebrate diversity, inclusion and respect. Should include standard recurring activity, one off supporting activity. This should be a joint report primarily from HR/Comms but include comments from others	Cllr Maggie Filipova-Rivers	Deputy Chief Executive - Transformation and Operations	<p>During Q2 2022/23, South Oxfordshire launched a consultation on the draft Diversity and Inclusion Strategy. By the end of the quarter, the council had already received over 200 responses. This feedback will be analysed during Q3 and will inform the updated draft when it is considered by Scrutiny and the Cabinet.</p> <p>To assist with this work, materials were provided to members to support engagement with both colleagues and community groups. The survey was also promoted to all staff, with a drop-in session held for those wishing to address questions directly to the People and Culture team.</p> <p>Training modules have been developed which reinforce the council's statutory equality duties and staff responsibilities.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire also continued to mark awareness days and months that feature in the council's diversity and social campaigns calendar (this included Cycle-to-Work Day and Eid Al-Adha).</p>
OA4	Apply good governance and transparency in all our working and decision-making, exploring optimal structures and mechanisms for best practice in local government	Narrative report on significant change initiatives which have resulted in restructures/new processes to deliver local govt services	Cllr Pieter Paul Barker	Head of Legal and Democratic	Progress continued to be made during Q2 2022/23 on governance issues. South Oxfordshire has almost finished a review of information governance and work is also underway to update both the Annual Governance Statement and Code of Corporate Governance. The council has also nearly completed a significant task around the procurement process which aims to ensure that it takes a strategic approach to commissioning.

Theme 2: Openness and accountability - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
OA5	Engage effectively with residents, Parish and Town Councils and other community organisations, using plain English in our communications and using appropriate methods and technologies to ensure equal and fair access for all	Narrative report on activities communications/engagement specific activities	Cllr Andrea Powell	Deputy Chief Executive - Transformation and Operations	<p>In Q2 2022/23, South continued to implement its Style Guide as part of the wider Communications and Engagement Strategy. Officers also ensured that the information on the council's website was accessible.</p> <p>Between July and September, South Oxfordshire issued 26 press releases, produced three town and parish and residents' newsletters and disseminated five InFocus newsletters to share important stories and information with our communities.</p> <p>During Q2 2022/23, the council shared the latest cost-of-living information, support funding and advice with residents and members. As part of this work, the council created an information pack for a BBC Oxford event in Didcot on 27 August. In addition, South Oxfordshire – via its website, social media and letters to eligible households – informed residents about the discretionary council tax rebate.</p> <p>Following the death of Her Majesty the Queen, the council carried out its required communications as part of Operation London Bridge. This included sharing time sensitive information with stakeholders and keeping residents informed about key details such as the funeral and the location of books of condolence. All of South Oxfordshire's other regular communications and campaigns were paused throughout the period of national mourning.</p> <p>During Q2 2022/23, South launched a consultation on the draft Diversity and Inclusion Strategy. Within the engagement documentation, the council asked about preferred methods of contact. This data will be used to ensure that the council is using the most appropriate methods to reach its target audiences.</p> <p>In Q2, there was an increase in reach across all of South Oxfordshire's social media platforms despite the frequency of posts either being the same or fewer than during the last reporting period – thus demonstrating that the content and posts are more engaging. The Communications team will evaluate the content, timing and style of posts to elicit any best practice advice. (continue on next page)</p>

Theme 2: Openness and accountability - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
OA5	Engage effectively with residents, Parish and Town Councils and other community organisations, using plain English in our communications and using appropriate methods and technologies to ensure equal and fair access for all	Narrative report on activities communications/engagement specific activities	Cllr Andrea Powell	Deputy Chief Executive - Transformation and Operations	<p>Facebook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posts: 242 • Reach: 554,462 • New fans: 354 <p>Total fans: 6,083</p> <p>Instagram</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posts: 144 • Reach: 6,597 • New followers: 24 <p>Total followers 583</p> <p>Twitter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tweets: 211 • Impressions: 83,176 • New followers: 71 <p>Total followers: 11,303</p> <p>Following the introduction of a new analytics system, the council have been able to start getting reliable statistics on website traffic. This quarter can set the benchmark for future quarters. Planning, recycling/waste and council tax remain the top pages for traffic.</p> <p>Q2 Web Usage Figures: 197,173 unique visitors 593,393 page views 55% bounce rate (how many people leave after seeing that one page) 2m06s average visit duration</p>

Theme 3: Action on climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
ACE1	Achieve our own zero carbon target by 2025 and support others to achieve the district target of zero carbon by 2030	Narrative report on strategic projects which will help to deliver net zero carbon for 2025/2030. This should be split between Council specific and District specific activities	Cllr Sue Cooper	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q2 2022/23, the council developed a bid for the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) for Cornerstone. The application for funding is now ready for submission (the opening of the next PSDS funding round is expected in October).</p> <p>South Oxfordshire also received a draft report from the Energy Savings Trust examining potential options for the decarbonisation of both staff mileage and the council's vehicle fleet. The report is currently being reviewed by officers.</p> <p>In addition, the Economic Development team submitted a bid to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) in Q2. Key themes within South Oxfordshire's bid were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - supporting decarbonisation whilst growing the local economy - developing green skills - the provision of sustainable energy infrastructure for community buildings <p>If the bid is successful, the council will be able to unlock its conditional allocation to support projects in these areas – an outline delivery plan is scheduled to be brought before Cabinet in November.</p>
ACE2	Develop an annually approved climate emergency programme and adequately finance it	Quantitative measure - delivery of an annual CEP Y/N	Cllr Sue Cooper	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>The Climate Action Plan (CAP) is being monitored as part of South's corporate performance management framework and will provide a detailed overview of all actions that may have an impact on reducing carbon in the wider district.</p> <p>The CAP Performance Report for Q1 2022/23 has been completed and published on the council's website.</p>

Theme 3: Action on climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
ACE3	Deliver Council-owned net-zero homes and use grants, planning policy and advocacy to ensure the same standards throughout the district	Narrative Update on the current activities which WILL result in the delivery of Council owned homes (and details of those homes where possible)	Cllr Robin Bennett	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	During Q2 2022/23, South Oxfordshire completed the purchase of a second property in Didcot which will be used to provide temporary accommodation. As part of the work to bring these properties into use, consideration will be given to any modifications that would help to improve their energy efficiency.
ACE4	Promote and encourage behavioural change with informational campaigns and leading by example	Narrative update to include the number of communications campaigns undertaken which promote/encourage behavioural change (with examples)	Cllr Andrea Powell	Deputy Chief Executive - Transformation and Operations	<p>In Q2, South Oxfordshire ran 33 campaigns. 19 of these promoted behavioural change, 11 highlighted/publicised events and council news and three promoted diversity and inclusion. (The behavioural change campaigns included promoting free Litterbug activity trails for children in the school summer holidays and a litter mapping project).</p> <p>In Q2 2022/23, the council supported the launch of the new Climate Action Oxfordshire website. This provides communities and residents with guidance on actions they can take to help tackle climate change.</p> <p>As part of Great Big Green Week, South ran a social media campaign emphasising the work that the council is doing to reduce emissions, highlighting the support available to green community projects and encouraging people to get involved in local events.</p> <p>Between July and September, South Oxfordshire highlighted grant awardees who've used capital funding for projects to benefit their communities. It also promoted the Councillor Grant Scheme funding for environmental projects.</p> <p>The council also supported and attended the launch of new Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers in Thame.</p> <p>At a meeting of the Full Council, members passed a motion setting out South Oxfordshire's plans to help with sustainable food production and the reduction of food waste. This was promoted through the council's media channels.</p> <p>To help reduce anti-social behaviour during the holidays, the council promoted the Summer of Skate sessions organised by the Community Safety team to engage with young people.</p>

Theme 3: Action on climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
ACE5	Take positive action on single-use plastics, air quality improvement measures and sustainable transport	Suggested combined narrative update on Comms relating to single use plastics/comms relating to AQ initiatives and metrics relating to AQ (with an appreciation that this data will be skewed in 2020 due to lockdown(s))	Cllr Sue Cooper	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>The Air Quality Annual Status Report – submitted during Q1 – has been accepted by Defra and the council is now awaiting their response.</p> <p>During Q2 2022/23, the contract to engage consultants on the new Air Quality Plans was completed. A contract has now been provisionally awarded, with work on the development of the new plans due to start in Q3.</p> <p>The Communications Team promoted World Car Free Day (22 Sept) with reference to the council's own Turn It Off campaign.</p>
ACE6	Mitigate climate change through planning and land use, enhancing biodiversity on our own land and strengthening the planning system to enforce environmental standards	Narrative update to focus on planning initiatives which support the potential deliverables where possible (primarily the development of the joint 2041 Local Plan, the joint Design Guide and carbon reduction in planning (DES8/10))	Cllr Anne-Marie Simpson	Head of Planning	<p>During Q2 2022/23, officers progressed the Joint Local Plan Regulation Part 1 Issues Consultation Report. Amongst the topics raised in the consultation was how to reduce carbon emissions – as well as the potential opportunities that exist within the Joint Local Plan to help further this ambition.</p> <p>Work on the strategic level plan for Oxfordshire (the Oxfordshire Plan 2050) ceased in August after the participating councils were unable to reach an agreement on the approach for future housing needs. The work to date on climate change, biodiversity and environmental standards will continue through the Joint Local Plan.</p> <p>Throughout the quarter, regular internal meetings have continued to take place between the Planning Policy and Climate Action teams. These events are used to communicate updates, note progress, and provide any necessary advice and guidance.</p>

Theme 3: Action on climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
ACE7	Promote the circular economy (reduce, re-use and recycle), including in our waste management contracts	<p>Narrative measure on comms activity relating to waste/ recycling</p> <p>Quantitative information on recycling rate, contamination rates, % of residual waste to landfill</p> <p>See Chart A</p>	Cllr Sue Cooper	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>The June 2022 recycling rate was 69.46%, the landfill rate was 0.13% and the contamination rate was 10.69%. These figures were not available for Q1 reporting.</p> <p>The July 2022 recycling rate was 61.88%, the landfill rate was 0.37% and the contamination rate was 11.51%.</p> <p>The August 2022 recycling rate was 56.30%, the landfill rate was 0.34% and the contamination rate was 11.48%.</p> <p>The figures for September have yet to be finalised.</p> <p>During Q2 2022/23, South ran several comms campaigns. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • free litterbug activity trails for children in the school summer holidays • a litter mapping project • highlighting the introduction of new waste collection routes from the autumn
ACE8	Support and encourage local businesses to respond to climate change and nature recovery	Narrative update on the work influencing work undertaken to support and encourage local businesses relating to climate change and nature recovery	Cllr Robin Bennett	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q2 2022/23, officers from the Economic Development team contributed to the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) roundtable event: “What would need to happen to get every business in Oxfordshire to cut their carbon emission in half by 2030?”. They also attended consultation events linked to the development of a route map and action plan for the Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire project.</p> <p>The council’s submission to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) also has a significant focus on supporting decarbonisation whilst growing the local economy and the development of green skills.</p>

Theme 3: Action on climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
ACE9	Promote waste minimisation initiatives such as Repair Cafés	Unless specific activity relating to Repair Café's and Freecycle can be reported on, suggest that this is covered in previous narratives	Cllr Sue Cooper	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>Although there was no specific activity during Q2 2022/23 relating to Repair Cafés and Freecycle, South Oxfordshire did run several comms campaigns to highlight ways to reduce waste. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • free litterbug activity trails for children in the school summer holidays • a litter mapping project • highlighting the introduction of new waste collection routes from the autumn <p>South also continued to promote the use of Repair Cafés through the council's website.</p>
ACE10	Work with Oxfordshire County Council to build on our commitment to active travel including walking, public transport and cycling infrastructure	<p>Narrative update on work with Oxfordshire County Council</p> <p>Optional Quantitative metrics on the amount of new footpaths/ cycle paths</p>	Cllr Pieter-Paul Barker	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q2 2022/23, Oxfordshire County Council appointed PJA to create a Strategic Active Travel Network for Oxfordshire. PJA will work through four key stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • baseline mapping and analysis • network development • network prioritisation • a design toolkit and recommendations <p>In addition, the County Council have commissioned the development of a Didcot Area Travel Plan which will look at how to promote the active travel network. A public consultation on the travel plan will held in autumn.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire are also participating in the new Enhancement Partnership Board which will manage the additional £12.7 million in HM Government funding for the Bus Service Improvement Plan.</p>

Theme 4: Improved economic and community well-being

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
ECW1	Partner with regional agencies to ensure economic recovery, quality employment, thriving businesses and vibrant communities, avoiding the blight of “dormitory towns”	<p>Narrative report on work with partners in this area</p> <p>Quantitative metrics relating to employment rates (trends, actuals) - unemployment rate, trajectory/trend, earnings information</p>	Cllr Pieter-Paul Barker	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q2 2022/23, work continued to consolidate independent traders on a single e-commerce platform as part of the council’s Digital District Programme (Virtual High Street Initiative). A total of 82 traders are registered on the portal, with over 1,079 products available to order through the site. The council has also started to look at extending its contract with ShopAppy (the website hosting the e-commerce platform) beyond the initial pilot period (due to end March 2023).</p> <p>Also, in Q2, the Economic Development team supported the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economic Partnership (OIEP) Steering Group. The OIEP Steering Group seeks to drive business and community engagement through educational attainment, inclusive recruitment and social value in procurement. Officers will continue to work with the OIEP as they build “pledges” from the local community ahead of a showcase event scheduled for January.</p> <p>Throughout the quarter, the Economic Development team continued to work in countywide partnerships to identify support schemes for local businesses. A focus during Q2 was on the development of materials to support companies through the emerging cost-of-living-crisis.</p> <p>A business intelligence gathering exercise is scheduled to take place in Q3.</p> <p>At time of writing, Nomis / ONS employment data for Q2 have not yet been published.</p>

Theme 4: Improved economic and community well-being

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
ECW2	Provide advice on access to grants, training and diversification programmes, helping local businesses to build agility and resilience	Quantitative measures - number of businesses we engage with, social media hits, newsletter subscribers, clickthrough rate, numbers of business grants awarded	Cllr Robin Bennett	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>By the end of Q2 2022/23, there were 2,385 subscribers to South and Vale's economic development newsletter. There was 1,318 clickthroughs from these – and the average open rate was 50.61 per cent (much higher than the industry average).</p> <p>From July to September, there were 6,729 pageviews of the South and Vale Business Support Website – 2,222 new users visited the website.</p> <p>Twitter activity undertaken during the quarter created 10,316 impressions, gained 11 new followers and generated 1,941 profile visits.</p> <p>At the end of Q1 2022/23, South and Vale Business Support's Facebook page created 9,677 impressions, generated 596 engagements and there were 151 profile visits.</p> <p>Overall comms activity was affected by the national period of mourning in September. This forced the cancellation of two planned newsletters and social media comms.</p> <p>The sponsorship of the Business Buzz networking events came to an end in September due to a lack of appropriate budget.</p> <p>Economic Development Officers fed into the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economic Partnership (OIEP) steering group, that seeks to drive business and community engagement with educational attainment, inclusive recruitment, and social value in procurement. Officers will support the partnership as they build “pledges” from the community ahead of a January event showcase aimed at growing business engagement, showcasing case studies, and launching a charter.</p>

Theme 4: Improved economic and community well-being

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
ECW3	Plan for communities connected by walking & cycling networks, with sustainable, accessible and affordable public transport and reliable Broadband, learning the lessons from the Covid-19 experience and enabling more home-working	<p>Narrative update on work support reliable broadband (where possible)</p> <p>Narrative update on transport initiatives</p> <p>Quantitative - new footpath/ cycle paths delivered</p>	Cllr Anne-Marie Simpson	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>In Q2, the Economic Development team assisted the Digital Infrastructure Partnership to compile a list of social housing multiple dwelling units within South Oxfordshire. This information will be used by Openreach to help establish bulk wayleaves.</p> <p>During Q2 2022/23, the Cabinet approved the Active Communities Strategy – one of the key themes of which is to: ‘create healthier communities through walking and cycling’. Work is now underway to prepare a delivery plan for the strategy.</p> <p>Plans have been submitted by the Active Communities team for authority to launch a Ride Revolution bike project. Under this scheme, unwanted bikes would be restored and repaired before being given to individuals from disadvantaged families in the district.</p> <p>In addition, the council (after a successful procurement exercise) have commissioned SYSTRA Ltd to develop a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Didcot and its environs. The project will run from October 2022 to April 2023.</p> <p>During Q2 2022/23, Oxfordshire County Council appointed PJA to create a Strategic Active Travel Network for Oxfordshire. PJA will work through four key stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • baseline mapping and analysis • network development • network prioritisation • a design toolkit and recommendations <p>The County Council have also commissioned the development of a Didcot Area Travel Plan which will look at how to promote the active travel network. A public consultation on the travel plan will held in autumn.</p>

Theme 4: Improved economic and community well-being

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
ECW4	Launch a new community wellbeing strategy to encourage and support culture, leisure and the arts	Approval/Launch of 'Community Wellbeing Strategy' Y/N (document should encompass large parts of information above)	Cllr Maggie Fillipova-Rivers	Head of Policy and Programmes	During Q2 2021/22, officers continued to collect data to inform the development of the new Community Wellbeing Strategy. Progress was also made on drafting the document.
ECW5	Use our planning powers to preserve our valuable green spaces, particularly in urban areas	Number of Neighbourhood Plans implemented/green spaces secured	Cllr Anne-Marie Simpson	Head of Planning	During Q2 2022/23, the council adopted three neighbourhood plans, while another three reached an advanced stage (beyond examination). In total, these plans contain proposals to protect 23 green spaces through Local Green Space designations. They also contain measures to safeguard a further 13 green spaces through other forms of policy protection.
ECW6	Work with our communities to maximise Community Infrastructure Levy funds and to allocate these to achieve best outcomes for residents in the District	<p>Narrative update about work in this area to include detail of new CIL spending strategy, communication with parishes</p> <p>Quantitative elements - CIL Spend broken down by type, by parish</p>	Cllr Robin Bennett	Head of Finance	<p>Work is currently in progress for the transfer of the October CIL allocations to relevant town and parish councils. The total amount transferred will be reported in Q3.</p> <p>During Q2 2022/23, South Oxfordshire approved CIL funding of £19,000 for the Henton flood alleviation scheme.</p> <p>Projects to be considered for CIL funding allocation as part of 2023/24 budget setting were submitted and collated during Q2. These will be put forward for review by the CIL Member Working Group who will make recommendations to Cabinet – projects previously allocated CIL funding will also be reviewed.</p>

Theme 4: Improved economic and community well-being

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
ECW7	Take enforcement action on fly-tipping and dog fouling	<p>Small narrative on Fly Tipping/dog following activity (with Comms input on any campaigns)</p> <p>Qualitative data on fly tipping - what we collect, where from, how much, nature of enforcement action undertaken, hotspot map</p>	Cllr Sue Cooper	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>In June 2022, there were 43 fly tips in South Oxfordshire. This was a decrease on the 50 fly tips recorded in June 2021 (these figures were not available for Q1 reporting)</p> <p>In July 2022, there were 51 fly tips within the district. This was an increase on the 42 fly tips recorded in July 2021.</p> <p>In August 2022, there were 78 fly tips in South Oxfordshire. This was a decrease on the 88 fly tips recorded in August 2021</p> <p>The figures for September are not yet available.</p> <p>During Q2 2022/23, the council issued five Fixed Penalty Notices for waste crimes. There were also five fly-tipping prosecutions (all for incidents around Wheatley and Thame) – a further five prosecutions are pending.</p> <p>In addition, officers received 106 abandoned vehicle reports between July and September. Of these, 40 vehicles were not on site, 31 were identified as not abandoned, 1 was removed and 28 investigations remain ongoing.</p>
ECW8	Work with local partners to introduce civil parking enforcement as a district responsibility	Narrative update on progress	Cllr David Rouane	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	During Q2, South Oxfordshire published new draft car park orders that reflect civil parking enforcement legislation. Cabinet agreed to these in July – the council is scheduled to make the new orders in October and implement civil parking enforcement in its off-street carparks on 1 November 2022.

Theme 5: Homes and infrastructure that meet local need - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
HILN1	Didcot Garden Town priority projects as identified by the Advisory Board, specifically a sustainable plan to redevelop the Didcot Gateway site, a public transport and active walking and cycling network, community facilities and accessible green spaces for Didcot residents	Narrative update against the stated aim, to include as many of the potential deliverables as possible, but not limited in scope to this	Cllr Robin Bennett	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>In Q2 2022/23, scoping work was carried out for the 27 projects within the newly revised Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan.</p> <p>Throughout the quarter, progress continued to be made on phase one of creating a placemaking strategy for the Didcot Central Corridor – this is expected to be finalised by the end of October. (Phase two, where the project will commence the optioneering phase to examine the recommended improvement schemes in more detail, will commence in Q3).</p> <p>Also, during Q2, work was undertaken on the drafting and review of a funding agreement with Oxfordshire County Council for £6.2 million to support the delivery of new road provision.</p> <p>During Q2 2022/23, the council (after a successful procurement exercise) commissioned SYSTRA Ltd to develop a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Didcot and its environs. The project will run from October 2022 to April 2023.</p> <p>Work also commenced on the production of a brief to advance the Didcot Public Arts and Culture Strategy. The draft strategy will focus on the role that arts and culture can play in delivering on the aspirations of the garden town project (by not only creating inspiring visual and decorative enhancements to improve the quality of the town, but also by bringing the local community and visitors together).</p> <p>Over 1,200 people are estimated to have joined this year's Didcot Garden Party. Around 1,000 of these attended the ten family friendly performances and arts activities (themed around health, wellbeing and the environment) across Cornerstone, while another 200 (children aged from five years to teenagers) got involved with sports provision. The feedback from participants was positive and emphasised the importance of having access to free or low-cost holiday programmes – especially during a cost-of-living crisis.</p>

Theme 5: Homes and infrastructure that meet local need - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
HILN2	The transformation of Berinsfield into a thriving Garden Village with improved facilities that are developed in line with the community's needs and aspirations	Narrative update against the stated aim, to include as many of the potential deliverables as possible, but not limited in scope to this	Cllr Robin Bennett	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2 2022/23, the Berinsfield Garden Village Community Facilities project commenced. As part of this work, a procurement exercise was undertaken to obtain consultancy services to help develop the project – this will include a feasibility study to determine the conceptual design, layout, estimated costs, management and operation of new community hub facilities (including a leisure centre) within Berinsfield.</p> <p>In addition, awards for the Berinsfield Grants scheme have been determined and payments will be released in Q3 2022/23.</p>
HILN3	New council-owned homes with a focus on quality of design, affordability and local requirements	Narrative Update on the current activities which WILL result in the delivery of Council owned homes (and details of those homes where possible) Also reporting on progress of Design Guide	Cllr Robin Bennett	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	During Q2 2022/23, South Oxfordshire completed the purchase of a second property in Didcot which will be used to provide temporary accommodation. As part of the work to bring these properties into use, consideration will be given to any modifications that would help to improve their energy efficiency.
HILN4	Support and encouragement for the retrofit of our existing housing stock for low-carbon performance and to eliminate fuel poverty	Narrative update on current/ completed activities and influencing activity	Cllr Sue Cooper	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2 2022/23, South continued to work within the Future Oxfordshire Partnership on the development of a route map and action plan for the Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire project. Officers have also been reviewing potential ways for how district councils can best help to accelerate the uptake of retrofit within their areas. An options paper on this work is currently being progressed and will be reviewed once the draft Oxfordshire Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan are published in early October.</p> <p>In addition, the council has developed and launched a new Energy Saving webpage which focuses on tips that will help residents with the cost-of-living-crisis. It includes information on retrofitting and provides signposts to additional sources of advice and funding.</p>

Theme 5: Homes and infrastructure that meet local need - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
HILN5	Elimination of homelessness in our District	<p>Narrative update on progress in this area</p> <p>Quantitative information on - Homelessness rates, homeless cases and TA numbers, length of stay in TA and effectiveness of interventions (avoided homelessness)</p>	Cllr Maggie Fillipova Rivers	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>South Oxfordshire recorded only two rough sleepers at the end of Q2 2022/23. The very low levels of rough sleeping in the district reflects the success of the council's preventative approach.</p> <p>The number of homeless households in temporary accommodation (TA) on 30 September 2022 was 16 – a significant increase on the previous quarter that reflects the impacts of the cost-of-living crisis and the Homes for Ukraine scheme. The average length of stay in emergency accommodation was 51 nights, above the ceiling target of 42 (this is a reflection of both the higher numbers of homeless clients coming forwards and the complexity of their needs).</p> <p>During Q2 2022/23, the rate of successful homelessness prevention in South Oxfordshire was 81.0 per cent. This was above the very challenging target of 80.0 per cent (the average rate of homelessness prevention in the South East region is 55.0 per cent).</p> <p>The council continues to actively participate in the countywide Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy and is a member of both the countywide Homelessness Steering Group and the Homelessness Directors Group.</p>

Theme 5: Homes and infrastructure that meet local need - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
HILN6	Bringing empty properties back into use	Narrative update on any relevant initiatives to reduce the number of empty properties and any data on empty property levels in South Oxfordshire	Cllr Robin Bennett	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>The funding for the Meanwhile in Oxfordshire programme has come to an end and, therefore, there are currently no initiatives to bring vacant commercial premises back into use.</p> <p>While it was operating, the Meanwhile in Oxfordshire programme did help to bring vacant units at The Junction and Station Road Studios (both in Didcot) back into use - Station Road Studios is now home to a joint community benefit project involving SOFEA and Aspire Oxford.</p> <p>At the end of Q2 2022/23, there were 383 empty premises in South Oxfordshire that were registered for business rates.</p> <p>The vacancy rates for South Oxfordshire's high streets (April to June) were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Didcot - Vacancy rate 16.7 per cent • Henley-on-Thames - 9.9 per cent • Thame - 5.4 per cent • Wallingford - 10.7 per cent <p>This compared favourably to the vacancy rate of 14.0 per cent across the wider South East region. (Retail Insight Network)</p>

Theme 5: Homes and infrastructure that meet local need - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
HILN7	Ensuring that our teams are ready to access or signpost to any Government schemes or funding that is made available	Narrative update on signposting activity and if possible, update on take-up	Cllr Robin Bennett	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2 2022/23, work continued on embedding the External Funding Lead within the organisation. Further progress was also made on introducing the necessary governance structures and documentation to ensure that future funding bids are deliverable and align with South Oxfordshire's goals.</p> <p>The joint application with Oxfordshire County Council for Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding was unsuccessful – the feedback, nevertheless, rated the bid quality as excellent. Officers are now considering a countywide procurement for a specialist electric vehicle contractor on a fully funded basis if a second round of LEVI funding becomes available.</p> <p>In Q2, the External Funding Lead collaborated with colleagues from the Economic Development team on the investment plans for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Rural England Prosperity Fund.</p> <p>In addition, South Oxfordshire developed a bid for the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) for Cornerstone. The application for funding is now ready for submission (the opening of the next PSDS funding round is expected in October).</p> <p>Officers submitted an application to fund the installation of Changing Places Toilets in Wallingford and Thame.</p> <p>The pipeline of external funding opportunities was also maintained and assessed throughout the quarter.</p>
HILN8	New homes are future-proofed, meeting the highest environmental standards and enhancing nature through sensitive, high quality design	Narrative update around refresh of the design guide, local plan, and information around DES10	Cllr Anne-Marie Simpson	Head of Planning	<p>During Q2 2022/23, officers progressed the Joint Local Plan Regulation Part 1 Issues Consultation Report. This consultation (held in Q1) asked for views on a draft vision for the Joint Local Plan and included consideration of issues such as a requirement to minimise the energy use of new buildings and the need to ensure the highest standards of fabric efficiency. The submissions received show good levels of support for lower-carbon construction and officers will now make progress with commissioning evidence and developing policies to deliver this. They will also continue to review what evidence will be needed to support any ambitious environmental standards contained within the Joint Local Plan.</p>

Theme 5: Homes and infrastructure that meet local need - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
HILN9	Spatial planning embeds public health, wellbeing and sustainability	Narrative update on work around planning reinforcing wellbeing and sustainability. This should include 'health based planning data' where possible - information on public gym equipment - footpaths, cycle paths etc.	Cllr Anne Marie Simpson	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2 2022/23, the Planning Policy team continued to work on the development of the Joint Local Plan. This included the commissioning of consultants to ensure that the council's policies are based on appropriate data in relation to the provision of facilities and amenities conducive to the promotion of healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>Officers also progressed the Joint Local Plan Regulation Part 1 Issues Consultation Report. This consultation (held in Q1) asked for views on a draft vision for the Joint Local Plan and included matters relating to the environment and healthy lifestyles.</p>
HILN10	Changes over time in our stock of homes meet local needs	<p>Narrative update based on information available from 3rd parties and the impact this has on the local area</p> <p>Bedroom mix in new developments breakdown every 6 months"</p>	Cllr Anne-Marie Simpson	Head of Planning	<p>During June 2022, the final month of Q1, a further 32 affordable properties were reported as delivered, taking the Q1 total to 85. The type and size of the 32 units delivered in June 2022 was as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 x 1 bed maisonettes - 5 x 2 bed flats - 15 x 2 bed houses - 6 x 3 bed houses <p>During July and August 2022, 40 affordable properties have been reported as delivered. A quarterly total, including September, will be made available towards the end of October. The type and size of the 40 units currently delivered in Q2 is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 x 1 bed flats - 3 x 1 bed maisonettes - 1 x 2 bed maisonette - 19 x 2 bed houses - 12 x 3 bed houses - 1 x 4 bed house <p>It should be noted that over the life of a development, different dwelling and tenure types will be delivered at varying rates depending upon the developer's build programme.</p>

Theme 5: Homes and infrastructure that meet local need - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
HILN11	Sustainable transport solutions prioritise walking, cycling and public transport to reduce car dependency and air pollution	Narrative update on overall progress relating to sustainable transport solutions - particularly EV elements	Cllr Pieter-Paul Barker	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>The joint application with Oxfordshire County Council for Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding was unsuccessful. Officers are now considering a countywide procurement for a specialist electric vehicle contractor on a fully funded basis if a second round of LEVI funding becomes available.</p> <p>Officers are also due to report on the uptake of the EV Park and Charge project in the coming months. This will show a steady increase in the use of the electric vehicle charging bays at the council's car parks.</p> <p>During Q2 2022/23, the Cabinet approved the Active Communities Strategy – one of the key themes of which is to: 'create healthier communities through walking and cycling'. Work is now underway to prepare a delivery plan for the strategy.</p> <p>Plans have been submitted by the Active Communities team for authority to launch a Ride Revolution bike project. Under this scheme, unwanted bikes would be restored and repaired before being given to individuals from disadvantaged families in the district.</p> <p>In addition, the council (after a successful procurement exercise) have commissioned SYSTRA Ltd to develop a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Didcot and its environs. The project will run from October 2022 to April 2023.</p> <p>During Q2 2022/23, Oxfordshire County Council appointed PJA to create a Strategic Active Travel Network for Oxfordshire. PJA will work through four key stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • baseline mapping and analysis • network development • network prioritisation • a design toolkit and recommendations <p>The County Council have also commissioned the development of a Didcot Area Travel Plan which will look at how to promote the active travel network. A public consultation on the travel plan will held in autumn.</p>

Theme 6: Investment that rebuilds our financial viability - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
IRFV1	Develop and implement an innovative Transformation Strategy to diversify our revenue streams, improve our effectiveness and secure our on-going viability	<p>Narrative measure relating to the development of an overarching Transformation Strategy and any overall narrative linking to potential deliverables</p> <p>Quantitative data - Income relative to Net expenditure (in context), this could be broken down by service</p>	Cllr Leigh Rawlins	Deputy Chief Executive - Transformation and Operations	<p>During Q2 2022/23, an update was provided to Cabinet on the progress made in implementing the council's agreed transformation programme. The work of the transformation programme has been categorised into four themes: "Customer"; "Digital, Data and Technology"; "People"; and "Future Proof", with three overall outcomes: "Financially Stable", "Environmentally Positive" and "Open and Transparent". Both a project and a programme manager have been successfully recruited to the Core Transformation team to drive this work forwards.</p> <p>In Q2, the Cabinet also approved the business case and procurement route to transform the planning and regulatory services systems and IT.</p> <p>Work on implementing the council's Customer Relationship Management system began in September.</p>
IRFV2	"Invest to save" for the District, including the delivery of sustainable new Council offices – on time and within budget – to realise future operational efficiencies	Narrative on progress of the Corporate Office project, including data on current spend on office accommodation which will no longer be spent once project completed. Further narrative to discuss impact of new building finances	Cllr Leigh Rawlins	Deputy Chief Executive - Transformation and Operations	Work on the detailed design of the delivery of the new council offices and the masterplan continued during Q2 2022/23.

Theme 6: Investment that rebuilds our financial viability - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
IRFV3	Exercise strong Stewardship of all Council assets including property and financial investments, optimising their performance for the benefit of our residents	Narrative update on the progress of the SPR, in the initial period detailing the scope and scape, then once SPR has been delivered, the outcomes and future measures (quant element)	Cllr Leigh Rawlins	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q2 2022/23, the Strategic Property team continued to progress lease renewals, review rents and – where appropriate – seek new tenants.</p> <p>The Strategic Property team, in collaboration with colleagues in housing, made progress in their work regarding potential housing development sites.</p> <p>In addition, the Asset Management Group (established during Q3 2021/22) continued to meet on a quarterly basis to progress implementation of the Strategic Property Review and to consider assets in line with the council's corporate priorities.</p> <p>In Q2, plans were also put in place to get the Cornerstone's heating fully operational during October. Proposals have also been received for roof repair works – these will be discussed and agreed with the Legal team.</p>

Theme 6: Investment that rebuilds our financial viability - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
IRFV4	Maximise external funding opportunities to support our services and to enrich our leisure, sporting and community activities	<p>Narrative update relating to external funding utilisation, both funding received direct to the council, and projects which have received part external funding or are in progress if not already delivered</p> <p>Specific elements which should be included - Proportion of spend on leisure/community facilities vs amount funded by Council.</p> <p>CIL/106 spend broken down by type/parish</p> <p>Externally funded Capital schemes</p> <p>Total External funding received figure - narrative should be clear that this is not the total figure</p>	Cllr Maggie-Fillipova Rivers	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2 2022/23, work continued on embedding the External Funding Lead within the organisation. Further progress was also made on introducing the necessary governance structures and documentation to ensure that future funding bids are deliverable and align with South Oxfordshire's goals.</p> <p>The joint application with Oxfordshire County Council for Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding was unsuccessful – the feedback, nevertheless, rated the bid quality as excellent. Officers are now considering a countywide procurement for a specialist electric vehicle contractor on a fully funded basis if a second round of LEVI funding becomes available.</p> <p>In Q2, the External Funding Lead collaborated with colleagues from the Economic Development team on the investment plans for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Rural England Prosperity Fund.</p> <p>In addition, South Oxfordshire developed a bid for the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) for Cornerstone. The application for funding is now ready for submission (the opening of the next PSDS funding round is expected in October).</p> <p>Officers submitted an application to fund the installation of Changing Places Toilets in Wallingford and Thame.</p> <p>The pipeline of external funding opportunities was also maintained and assessed throughout the quarter.</p>
IRFV5	Invest responsibly and ethically with the Climate Emergency at the heart of what we do	Narrative update detailing changes which have included climate elements into regularised decision making	Cllr Leigh Rawlins	Head of Finance	During Q2 2022/23, officers have had an initial discussion with Link Asset Services regarding a funds review to find alternative potential investment opportunities. Any assessment would pay significant consideration to environmental, social and corporate governance factors. This work will continue into Q3.



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