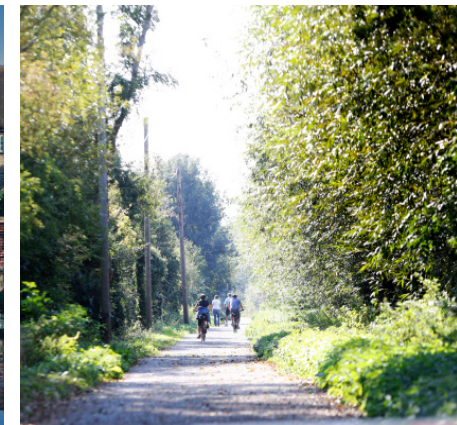
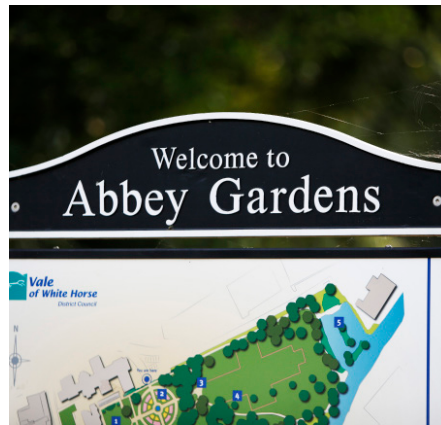


# Vale of White Horse District Council

# Corporate Performance Report



**2022/23 Quarter Two**  
**October 2022**

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# Background

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- The Council monitors performance and progress towards achieving the aims and priorities set out in the Vale of White Horse 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. 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

## Providing the homes people need



Our future housing needs will now be addressed by the **Joint Local Plan** since the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 ended



We completed the **Pebble Hill mobile home park** project plan and budget to deliver additional mobile home berths



As part of the Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan, we commissioned the **Didcot Area Travel Plan** to help us promote the active travel network

## Tackling the climate emergency



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



**£50,000**  
The total amount of **Climate Action Funding** allocated to **13** community groups since April 22



We received a draft report from the **Energy Saving Trust** to help us reduce our carbon footprint focused on our cars and staff mileage

## Building healthy communities



Cabinet approved the **Active Communities Strategy** we are now preparing a delivery plan



**2,770**  
The number of people we engaged through our **activity programmes**



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

## Building stable finances



We submitted a bid for funding from the **Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme** for two of our Leisure Centres



We compiled and submitted investment plans to unlock conditional allocations from:

- the **UK Shared Prosperity Fund**
- the **Rural England Prosperity Fund**



We appointed consultants to review operations at The Beacon to improve its financial viability

## Working in partnership



**114**  
The number of traders registered with our **Virtual High Street** initiative



**12,113**  
The number of **White Horse Community Lottery** tickets sold



We are working with the county council to develop **electric vehicle infrastructure** and **car clubs**

## Working in an open and inclusive way



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



**476**  
The number of information requests received and we responded to **95%** of these within the target time of 20 working days



We created a **data hub** on our website to highlight reports and data on our responsibilities, projects and programmes



# Theme 1: Providing the homes people need

## We will:

- find ways to provide more genuinely affordable housing, including housing for social rent, to better provide for the needs of the Vale residents
- aim to provide a mix of tenures in each development to build sustainable homes in balanced and sustainable communities
- use our influence on decision makers, where the responsibility lies outside of Vale.

## We will do this by:

- exploring and considering opportunities to bring forward the delivery of homes people can afford
- adopting a policy framework that ensures those homes could be delivered in a way that supports the environment and people living healthy lives.

*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

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

As part of the Vale's efforts to explore and consider opportunities to bring forward the delivery of homes that people can afford, the Property and Affordable Housing teams began a joint project to assess the suitability of pieces of land owned by the Vale for the development of affordable housing schemes. Work also continued on the development of the Housing Delivery Strategy. This strategy will provide a narrative on the provision of low-cost housing and the impact upon affordability based upon the ability to pay. It will also set out several short-term actions aimed at improving housing availability and quality – it is scheduled to come forward for consideration during quarter three.





Throughout the quarter, officers from the Planning and Housing teams also worked on the development of an Affordable Housing Guidance Note. This will be presented to the Joint Scrutiny Committee in quarter three.

The Pebble Hill site plan (to provide additional mobile home berths), constraints and costings were completed during quarter two. A Cabinet report has been drafted seeking approval of the project plan and budget – subject to approval the expected delivery of is scheduled for Autumn 2023.

During quarter two 2022/23, the Vale continued to hold discussions with both the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) and the parish councils on advancing Dalton Barracks Garden Village (including the masterplan for the project). The DIO is currently awaiting the finalisation of the Oxfordshire Mobility Model – expected to be completed by the end of 2022 – which will support the transport modelling requirement for the site.

With the aim of adopting a policy framework that ensures that homes can be delivered in a way that support the environment and the living of healthy lives, 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 matters relating to both the environment and healthy lifestyles.

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 of project, to examine the recommended improvement schemes in more detail, will commence in quarter three.

In addition, scoping work was carried out for the 27 projects within the newly revised Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan.





## Theme 2: Tackling the climate emergency

### We will:

- do everything we can to help tackle the Climate Emergency
- reduce council emissions by 75% by 2025
- become a carbon neutral council by 2030
- reduce all emissions across the Vale District by 75% by 2030
- aspire to be a carbon neutral Vale district by 2045.

### We will do this by:

- a Climate Emergency programme, focussed on what the council has control over, working
- towards our own targets for our own buildings, vehicles, leisure and arts centres
- a Climate Emergency programme focussed on encouraging the wider district community
- to reduce its carbon footprint in order to meet the Climate Emergency targets
- a programme around exercising our influence with partners on wider policy, working with neighbouring authorities, lobbying Government, and identifying environmental policy gaps.

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

### Key Activities in quarter one

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

Emissions from our leisure facilities make up a significant proportion of the Council's carbon footprint. In line with our commitment to become a carbon neutral district by 2045, in quarter two, the Vale developed a bid for the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) for both the Wantage Leisure Centre and White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre, based on new criteria announced in August. The bid will be submitted in October.

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



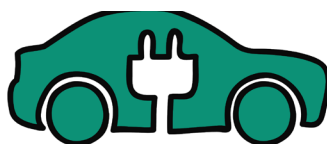
The role of the Council as a planning authority is important in tackling the Climate Emergency and is vital to fulfilling the Vale's aim to be a carbon neutral district by 2045. The Planning Policy team continued to progress policy on sustainable construction as part of the wider development of the Joint Local Plan. Working with the Community Engagement team, officers continued to work on the Joint Local Plan Regulation Part 1 Issues Consultation Report. This consultation (held in quarter 1) asked for views on a draft vision for the Joint Local Plan. The submissions received show good levels of support for lower-carbon construction. Officers will now develop research and policies to deliver this.

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 and nature recovery will continue through the Joint Local Plan.

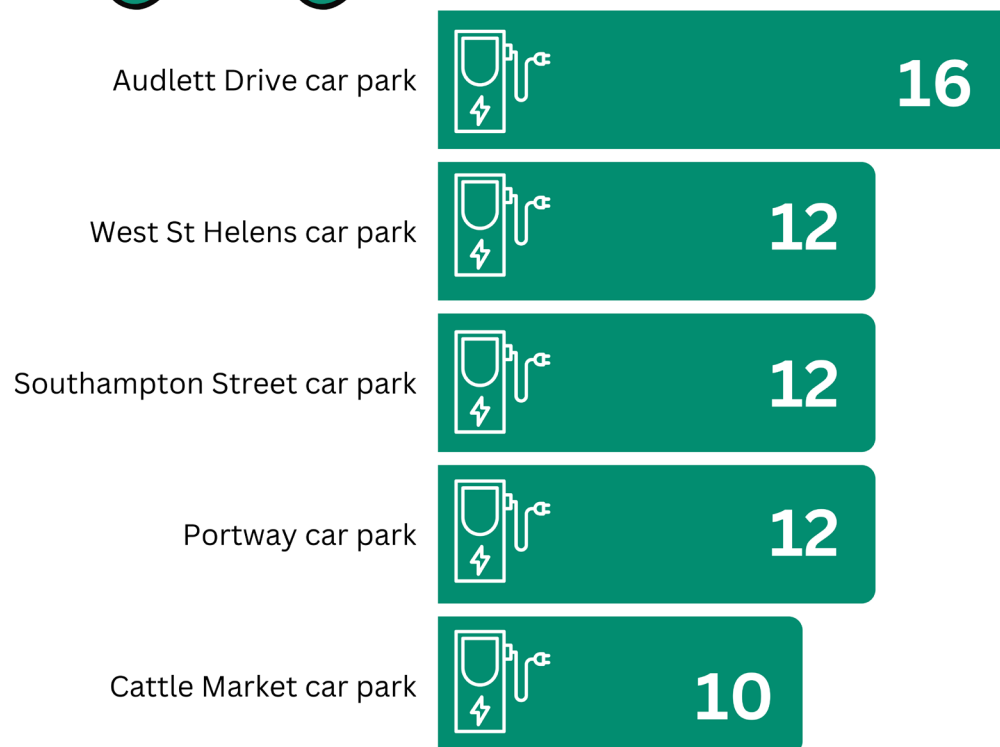
During this quarter, the Leader of the Council wrote to the Chair of the Arc Leadership Group to confirm that the Vale does not support the proposal to continue to seek to develop a pan-regional partnership across the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.

Working with neighbouring authorities continues to be a significant aspect of our work to tackle the Climate Emergency. Through our membership of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership, officers and Members were involved in the development of a route map and action plan for the Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire project. The Partnership also agreed the ending of the Oxfordshire Plan Advisory Group and the formation of a new Planning Advisory Group to provide of form for discussion of strategic planning issues across the county.

During quarter two, the Council learned that our joint application with Oxfordshire County Council for Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding was unsuccessful. Officers are now considering a countywide procurement option for a specialist electric vehicle contractor on a fully funded basis if a second round of LEVI funding becomes available.



### Breakdown of electric charging points in Vale of White Horse District Council car parks:





Work has continued on better measuring and 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. The Particulate Matter Monitor in Marcham was in operation throughout the quarter and has provided provisional data. There were no instances where levels of particulate matter in the air exceeded national air quality objectives.

The Council continued to encourage the wider district community to reduce its carbon footprint through a series of communications campaigns including on tree planting, promoting the Great Big Green Week, highlighting the award of Climate Action Funding to community groups in the district and supporting Oxfordshire County Council's Climate Action Oxfordshire Campaign. Focused on litter and waste reduction, communications campaigns also supported free litterbug activity trails during the school holidays and a litter mapping project.

In response to the cost of living crisis, the Council has launched a new energy saving webpage which includes information on retrofitting and sources of advice on reducing energy consumption.

The Vale's Climate Action Plan (CAP) was published in February 2022 and progress towards its delivery continues to be monitored. Vale's Climate Emergency Advisory Committee (CEAC) were briefed during this quarter, on the planned approach for reporting on the CAP. The first CAP quarterly report was published, reporting on quarter one.



## Theme 3: Building healthy communities

### We will:

- contribute to making people's lives healthier by encouraging the switch to more active travel, improving air quality where people work and live, and providing active opportunities.

### We will do this by:

- building strong communities and connections with a sense of place and strong community identity
- promoting healthy place shaping and active communities for everyone
- safeguarding and supporting our vulnerable residents

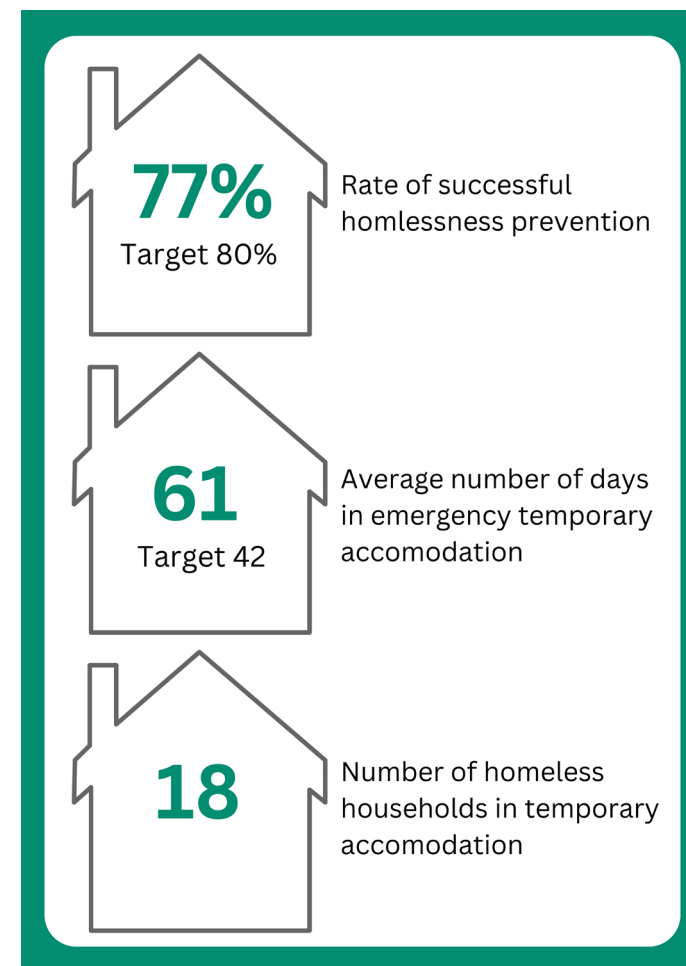
*Strategic Lead - Adrianna Partridge (Deputy Chief Executive / Transformation and Operations)*

### Key Activities in quarter one

See Theme 3 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 32

**O**n 30 September, the Council recorded only one rough sleeper. 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 18 – 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 61 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 the Vale was 77.0 per cent. This was marginally below the target of 80.0 per cent (the average rate of homelessness prevention in the South East region is 55.0 per cent).





As part of the Vale's commitment to safeguarding and supporting the district's vulnerable residents, the Council has actively participated in the countywide Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and is a member of both the countywide Homelessness Steering Group and the Homelessness Directors Group.

The Council has also, through its 'Crashing' and 'Chelsea's Story' surveys, worked with schools to support awareness about sexual exploitation.

Throughout the quarter, the Council continued to assist those in our communities that are most in need – an issue that has become increasingly resonant in light of the cost-of-living crisis. Activities in this area have included the sharing of information, the provision of advice and, where appropriate, the delivery of food parcels or funding.

With the aim of building strong communities and connections with a sense of place, the Planning Policy and Community Engagement teams continued to work on processing the responses the Council received to the Joint Local Plan consultation. This consultation (held in quarter one) included consideration of the following statement: "A place where history is still visible, where heritage and landscape character are safeguarded and valued, and the beauty and the distinctive local identity of our towns and villages have been enhanced."

The Vale has also maintained its support for the Homes for Ukraine scheme with ongoing work regarding community integration and rematching work continuing apace.

The Planning Policy team also held an all-councillor roundtable meeting on 12 July on the topic of town centres and retail. The event was well-attended and captured member's ideas on the distinctiveness, qualities and challenges facing the area's main settlements.

Further, as part of Great Big Green Week, the Vale ran a social media campaign that highlighted the support available to green community projects and encouraged people to get involved in local events.

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.





With the intention of promoting healthy place shaping and active communities for everyone, the Cabinet approved an Active Communities Strategy in July 2022. Work is continuing on the development of the delivery plan and staffing structure required to implement the strategy.

The Council have commissioned SYSTRA Ltd to develop a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Didcot and its surrounding area. 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 held in autumn.

The Active Communities team have submitted plans 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. The team have also prepared a Bugs Trails Walking route project which is designed to support residents to become more active.



The Council have provisionally awarded a contract to engage consultants to develop new Air Quality Plans for the district, with work expected to commence in quarter three.

Throughout quarter two, the Vale undertook a considerable amount of work to promote healthy communities within the district. Through its summer programme of health and wellbeing activities for residents and young people, the Council promoted the You Move programme (designed to help families on low incomes engage with physical activity) across the school holidays as well as highlighting its own schedule of activities. In addition, officers from across several teams worked closely together to deliver a range of free events for young people and their families. Between July and September, 2,270 people took part in the Vale's regular activities and an additional 500 joined in with the Council's summer holiday events.

During quarter two work was completed on updating the database of cultural and physical activities that are currently available in the Vale. Links are now being made with the Council's settlement assessments and green space mapping project to ensure a joined-up approach.

The Strategic Property team also started to review sites which would potentially be suitable for community garden projects. To help further this work a cross-service officer working group was established to discuss how to take these projects forward.



## Theme 4: Building stable finances

### We will:

- manage the council's resources responsibly and make effective use of the council's assets
- do our best to build financial resilience to protect the council against future uncertainties
- work across the public sector to influence and maximise funding for local government, in order to continue to invest and provide the services residents and businesses need.

### We will do this by:

- exploring and actively considering all avenues to deliver financial stability, including maximising income available to the council
- making effective use of the council's assets acting in a manner that ensures the long-term financial viability for the benefit of our residents and the environment.

*Strategic Lead - Simon Hewings (Head of Finance)*

### Key Activities in quarter one

See Theme 4 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 40

With the aim of managing the Council's resources responsibly and to make effective use of its assets, the Vale'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.

During quarter two, the Senior Management Team considered a paper regarding income generation. The initial focus of the Vale's activities in this area will be on ensuring budgets accurately reflect the income due and that the current level of discretionary fees/charges cover the Council's costs in delivering the service.

In September, the Council appointed a consultant to review activities at the Beacon. They are due to report at the end of quarter three.



The Council's Ground Maintenance depot moved from Kingston Bagpuise to a temporary location at the former South Oxfordshire District Council site at Crowmarsh. Officers are also in negotiations with Taylor Wimpey about a potential long-term depot at Great Western Park.

As part of the Vale's ongoing project to improve the performance of the Council's finance systems, progress continued to be made on utilising Unit four to deliver budget setting. In quarter two, further discussions on the development of the reporting available to finance business partners and budget holders were held – a demonstration for finance staff and budget holders is expected to take place in quarter three.

With the intention of building financial resilience to protect the Council against future uncertainties, 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.

In order to help deliver on the Vale's ambition to work across the public sector to influence and maximise funding for local government, work has continued during quarter two, 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 the Vale's goals.

Moreover, during the quarter, the Council developed an external funding bid for the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) for both the Wantage Leisure Centre and the White Horse Tennis and Leisure Centre. The application for funding is now ready for submission (the opening of the next PSDS funding round will take place in October).

The pipeline of external funding opportunities was also maintained and assessed throughout quarter two to identify and maximise opportunities for additional resources to deliver Council objectives.





## Theme 5: Working in partnership

### We will:

- work in partnership with other councils, authorities and businesses, non-profit organisations, community and residents' groups, to achieve our aims and objectives effectively, efficiently and fairly
- provide support to residents and organisations to effect and drive change in the community
- provide all the support we can to businesses in the Vale to help them succeed.

### We will do this by:

- working in partnership to influence and shape regional and national agendas to maximise opportunities for our communities and businesses
- working with and supporting our residents, businesses and communities to effect and enable change.

*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 5 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 45

To help realise the Council's commitment to provide support to businesses in order to help them succeed, work continued to consolidate independent traders on a single e-commerce platform as part of the Vale's Digital District Programme (Virtual High Street Initiative). A total of 114 traders are registered on the portal, with over 1,713 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).



During quarter two, the Vale's Economic Development team focused upon compiling and submitting investment plans to unlock the Council's conditional allocations from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). If the bids are successful, the funding will enable a three-year pipeline of projects for the Vale including supporting small and medium sized enterprises through the development of the visitor economy and facilitating business decarbonisation.

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.

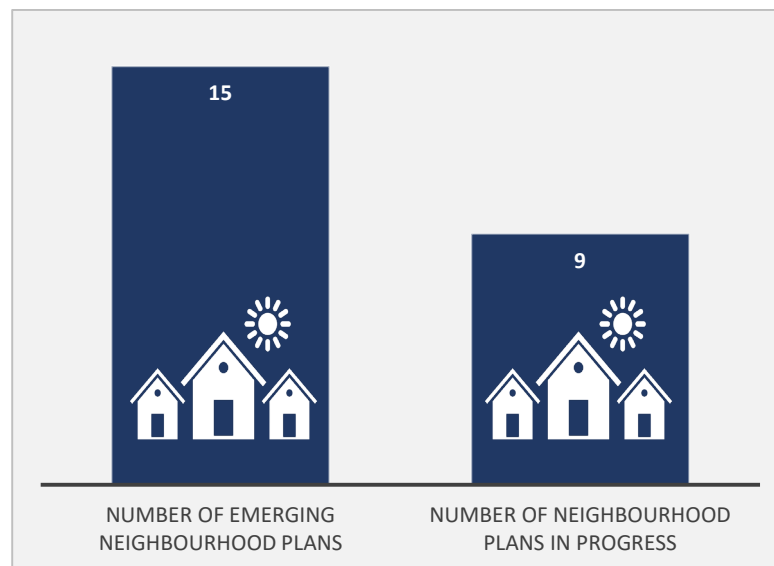
During quarter two, the Vale has continued to promote the White Horse Community Lottery Scheme. One new "good cause" was approved between July and September. Throughout the quarter, 12,113 lottery tickets were sold generating an annual estimated income of £29,234 for the voluntary sector.

As part of the Vale's efforts to support residents and organisations to effect and drive change in the community, the Council continued their pilot of a simpler approach to neighbourhood planning in quarter two. This included the delivery of five capacity building workshops on the following topics:

1. Identifying areas their Neighbourhood Priority Statements could focus on
2. Exploring why and how to engage their communities
3. Developing a draft template/agreed format for their Neighbourhood Priority Statements
4. Gathering and assessing evidence
5. Adding value to planning and place-making

The Vale has been working towards hosting workshops between parish councils with made neighbourhood plans and officers from the Development Management team.

These events will start in October and will provide neighbourhood planning groups with an opportunity to explain their policies and give an insight into how they contribute towards meeting the neighbourhood plan's objectives.



It will also give planning officers an opportunity to highlight any potential challenges that the neighbourhood planning groups may face in implementing their proposals. Officers have also kept, where differing views exist, advising town and parish councils of their recommendations on planning applications. This has helped to explain why decisions are being made and in turn has improved relationships between the Vale and these organisations.





Preparations have also been made for the reopening of the Vale Climate Action Fund (scheduled for October 2022). Furthermore, a partnership grant paper has been developed seeking a decision on the future of the Council's Partnership Grant Fund. This issue will be considered by Cabinet later in the year.

With the intention of progressing our goal of working in partnership to influence and shape regional and national agendas, the Council continued to respond to external consultations (one during quarter two) with the intention of helping to guide and mould both regional and national policy in a way that reflects the Vale's ambitions. Work also progressed throughout the quarter on assessing the impact of the Council's previous submissions.

During quarter two 2022/23, 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 2023.

In addition, the Vale also contributed to discussions with the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) regarding the Partnership's plans to refresh the economic recovery plan, the Local Industrial strategy (LIS) and the county's economic baseline data.



## Theme 6: Working in an open and inclusive way

### We will:

- work openly and transparently, promoting a world in which all can participate equally
- listen to feedback from local residents, communities, businesses, partners and our own officers
- ensure our work particularly aims to include those groups that have historically been
- marginalised or those that have been hard to reach
- ensure we are accountable and that our decisions are open to appropriate scrutiny, and we will admit when we get things wrong.

### We will do this by:

- improving our use of technology to increase understanding and access to what we do, how we work and the decisions we make
- increasing meaningful engagement and communication with everyone
- strengthening our governance framework and address our policy gaps, improving transparency.

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

### Key Activities in quarter one

See Theme 6 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 54

In order to facilitate the Council's commitment to working openly and transparently, the Vale completed the procurement of a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. The supplier is currently building the platform and the Council expects it to go live during quarter three /quarter four.

The CRM will be key to increasing online access and improving the customer experience. It will also provide better-quality information/data around both customer contact and fulfilment which can then be used to make further enhancements.

Also, the performance management report for quarter one was published on the Vale's website. The report is intended to increase the public's understanding of what the Council does, how it is delivering on the aims of the Corporate Plan and the decisions that it makes/takes. In addition, further enhancements and modifications have been made to the data hub (also on the Council's website) which contains reports and data on the Vale's responsibilities, projects and programmes.

It is the Council's intention to continue to increase the amount of information that it provides through this route.

As part of the Vale's ambition to improve its use of technology to increase understanding and access to what the Council does, it continued to livestream all public meetings during quarter two 2022/23. This not only helped to ensure a greater degree of accessibility for residents, but also allowed them an insight into our decision-making processes.

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 the Beacon).

With the aim of increasing meaningful engagement with everyone, the Vale has streamlined its consultation processes to make it easier to collect feedback and has updated its reporting template to ensure responses can be presented in a concise and straightforward manner. Work has also begun on procuring a new consultation and engagement portal.



It is hoped that by allowing the embedding of different types of media into surveys, an updated system will help create even more engaging content.

As part of the draft Diversity and Inclusion Strategy consultation (launched during quarter two), the Vale invited a range of groups (based around faith, age, disability and other protected characteristics) to participate as part of ongoing efforts to increase the Council's level of engagement with under-represented communities. Materials, documentation and videos related to this survey were also made available in a variety of languages.

The Vale also carried out initial communication planning for the elections, including looking at the activities and actions of other local authorities in relation to initiatives and opportunities to encourage voter registration.

With the intention of delivering on the Vale's commitment to strengthening the Council's governance framework, progress continued to be made on the first tranche of amendments to the Constitution during quarter two 2022/23. These will be taken to Full Council in October.

In addition, new procurement rules and a whistleblowing/anti-fraud policy have been developed and will be taken to the Constitution Working Group in late October (with a view to referring them to the Full Council for adoption in December).

#### **Vale of White Horse quarter one independent cabinet member decisions**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
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 relations management - to use the approved funds to procure a solution.
08/07/2022	Faringdon Leisure Centre works.
14/07/2022	Food and farming champion - to appoint Councillor Paul Barrow as the Council's Food and Farming Champion.
15/07/2022	Office accommodation – to approve funds for changes to office accommodation.
21/07/2022	UK Shared Prosperity Fund - to approve submission of a three-year investment plan to secure funding.
02/08/2022	Section 106 funding - Wetlands habitat creation at Grove and Garford - to approve the funding request.
17/08/2022	Revised Milton Park Local Development Order - to approve the draft order for statutory consultation.
08/09/2022	Thames Water funding and maintenance agreement.
08/09/2022	Surface water flooding - to accept a grant and enter into a legal agreement.
16/09/2022	Financial management system - to approve contract arrangements.

## Theme 1: Providing the homes people need - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q1 Performance Update
PROGRAMME 1	Explore and consider opportunities to bring forward the delivery of homes people can afford	Narrative report of newly identified opportunities to bring forward/expedite the delivery of affordable homes	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>The council continues to seek to build upon the success of delivering two affordable housing projects using commuted S.106 sums. Bidding remains open for registered providers and community land trusts to submit applications for grant funding to deliver new affordable housing schemes.</p> <p>In addition, during Q2, the Property and Affordable Housing teams began a joint project to assess the suitability of pieces of land owned by the Vale for the development of affordable housing schemes.</p>
PHPN1.1	Explore a council-owned holding company/vehicle, to focus on delivering a wide range of regeneration and community benefits including housing, community facilities, land maintenance and health	Narrative update on the potential opportunities/challenges around the creation of a holding company/SPV (special purpose vehicle)	Cllr Judy Roberts	Master Planning Lead	<p>During Q2 2022/23, the Vale continued to have conversations with a range of landowners and promotes to progress housing and residential-led, mixed-use schemes (including Dalton Barracks and Ock Valley Park).</p> <p>The option of a council-owned holding company is not currently being explored.</p>
PHPN1.2	Explore how the council can provide low-cost sustainable housing. Include working with developers, registered providers, community trusts, as well as new partnerships. Include council owned housing. Include a definition of affordability relative to ability to pay, not to market value, and social rent definitions	Narrative report on provision of low cost housing, focusing on partnership working, including an update on the shifting metric of affordability based on relative ability to pay rather than market value and social rent definitions	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>During Q2 2022/23, several meetings were held between the council and local registered housing providers. These were designed to help give officers an understanding of their approach to low-cost sustainable housing and their plans for retrofitting properties.</p> <p>Also, in Q2, work continued on the development of the Housing Delivery Strategy. This will provide a narrative on the provision of low-cost housing and the impact upon affordability based upon the ability to pay. It will also set out several short-term actions aimed at improving housing availability and quality. The strategy is scheduled to come forward for consideration during Q3.</p> <p>Throughout the quarter, officers from the Planning and Housing teams worked on the development of an Affordable Housing Guidance Note. This will be presented to Joint Scrutiny in Q3.</p>



## Theme 1: Providing the homes people need - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q1 Performance Update
PHPN1.3	Review our affordable housing planning policies and ensure they are providing what's needed in the Vale	Narrative report on review of planning policies	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Housing and Environment	During Q2 2022/23, work continued on the development of the Housing Delivery Strategy. This will present the aspirations for the council (and other developers within the district) in relation to types of housing, tenure mix and demographic. It will also set out several short-term actions aimed at improving housing availability and quality. The strategy is scheduled to come forward for consideration during Q3.
PHPN1.4	Review our strategy for spending s106 sums paid in lieu of onsite affordable housing and identify how earmarked funds, including retained S106 monies, can be best utilised to deliver affordable homes	<p>"Narrative report on s106 spend, focusing on the stated aim and any updates to the existing strategy</p> <p>Additional quantitative elements - s106 spend/units provided from spend"</p>	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>The council continues to seek to build upon the success of delivering two affordable housing projects using commuted S.106 sums. Bidding remains open for registered providers and community land trusts to submit applications for grant funding to deliver new affordable housing schemes.</p> <p>In addition, during Q2 2022/23, work continued on the development of the Housing Delivery Strategy. This will contain an action plan that includes a review of criteria for the allocation of S.106 funds. The strategy is scheduled to come forward for consideration during Q3.</p>
PHPN1.5	Explore how mobile homes might be better used as affordable homes, reviewing sites and policies to ensure good use of available space	Narrative update on utilisation of mobile homes/mobile home sites or opportunities for creating such sites	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	During Q2 2022/23, the Pebble Hill site plan, constraints and costings were completed. A Cabinet report was also drafted seeking approval of the project plan and budget – subject to approval the expected delivery of additional mobile home berths is scheduled for Autumn 2023.

## Theme 1: Providing the homes people need - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q1 Performance Update
PHPN1.6	Use Garden Villages and Towns designation as a mechanism to introduce innovative housing to meet our needs for high quality, low energy, zero-carbon homes	Narrative report on garden village and town designation utilisation and any projects which fall within this designation. Also to include initiatives which will result in low energy, zero carbon homes.	Cllr Judy Roberts	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>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> <p>During Q2 2022/23, the Vale continued to hold discussions with both the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) and the parish councils on advancing Dalton Barracks Garden Village (including the masterplan for the project). The DIO is currently awaiting the finalisation of the Oxfordshire Mobility Model – expected to be completed by the end of 2022 – which will support the transport modelling requirement for the site.</p>



## Theme 1: Providing the homes people need - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q1 Performance Update
PROGRAMME 2	Adopt a policy framework that ensures those homes could be delivered in a way that supports the environment and people living healthy lives	Narrative report against the Programme aim	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Policy and Programmes	<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 matters relating to both the environment and healthy lifestyles.</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 progress made to date on themes like climate change, healthy places and nature recovery will now continue through South and Vale's Joint Local Plan.</p>
PHPN2.1	Develop a s106 obligations strategy to inform negotiations between planners and developers	Narrative report on strategy development/adherence (once delivered)	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Policy and Programmes	No progress to report Q2 2022/23 – Project completed.
PHPN2.2	Update the CIL spending strategy and associated procedures to accelerate the delivery of local infrastructural improvements for our communities both in line with our corporate objectives and, where appropriate, to support current spending on existing infrastructure	<p>"Narrative update on CIL spend to support the delivery of local infrastructure</p> <p>Total CIL spend + CIL spend breakdown"</p>	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Finance	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.
PHPN2.3	Consider ways we can encourage lower-carbon construction in Vale	Narrative update to include any activity supporting lower-carbon construction in the Vale	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Policy and Programmes	During Q2 2022/23, the Planning Policy and Community Engagement teams continued to work on processing the responses the council received to the Joint Local Plan consultation. This consultation (held in Q1) had asked several questions on climate change (e.g. on the requirement for new homes and buildings to minimise energy use through their layout and design). 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.

## Theme 1: Providing the homes people need - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q1 Performance Update
PHPN2.4	Develop an affordable housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Evidence of housing needs, housing mix, self-build, rural exception sites. Include definition of 'affordable'	Narrative update on the development of an affordable housing SPD, additionally include information on planning permissions granted with affordable housing numbers	Cllr Debby Hallett	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>Following a meeting in May between lead members and officers, it was agreed that the most effective approach for delivering the aims of an Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document was to pursue policy changes through the Joint Local Plan.</p> <p>It was also decided during Q1 2022/23 that the Vale's existing affordable housing policies should be brought together into a single guidance document for both developers and registered providers. Therefore, throughout Q2, officers from the Planning and Housing teams have been working on the development of this Affordable Housing Guidance Note. This will be presented to Joint Scrutiny in Q3.</p>
PHPN2.5	Develop a Land Use strategy to inform and guide OxPlan2050 and Vale Local Plan with proposed need for housing, retail, employment, leisure, open spaces	Narrative update on progression against stated aim of PHPN 2.6 in the corporate plan.	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Policy and Programmes	<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 the land use strategy (spatial strategy) will transfer to the Joint Local Plan to join the existing developing topics which cover retail, employment, leisure and open spaces etc.</p> <p>Progress continued to be made on the Joint Local Plan during Q2. This included officers advancing the development of the Joint Local Plan Regulation Part 1 Issues Consultation Report.</p>
PHPN2.6	Update the Local Development Plan to reflect the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS) and connecting our strategic housing sites with employment land	Narrative update on progression against stated aim of PHPN 2.7 in the corporate plan.	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Policy and Programmes	<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 covered topics including infrastructure needs and connecting homes/jobs.</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 will now continue through the Joint Local Plan.</p>



## Theme 1: Providing the homes people need - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q1 Performance Update
PHPN2.7	Update Vale's Local Plan and OxPlan2050 with modern environmental policies in support of government's and Vale's goals	Narrative update on progression against stated aim of PHPN 2.8 in the corporate plan.	Cllr Debby Hallett	Head of Policy and Programmes	<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 matters relating to the environment.</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 themes like climate change and nature recovery will continue through the Joint Local Plan.</p>
PHPN2.8	Develop a Housing Policy: that outlines the types of housing we are going to provide, in what mix of design and for what demographic and tenure, to inform our Local Plan and future work. Include affordable housing aspirations, consideration of an aging population, and environmental policies for housing	<p>"Narrative update on housing policy and adherence.</p> <p>Include quantitative measures for housing mix, tenure, and affordable and shared ownership."</p>	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>During Q2 2022/23, work continued on the development of the Housing Delivery Strategy. This will present the aspirations for the council (and other developers within the district) in relation to types of housing, tenure mix and demographic. It will also set out several short-term actions aimed at improving housing availability and quality. The strategy is scheduled to come forward for consideration during Q3.</p> <p>The quantitative measures regarding housing mix, tenure and affordability will be determined as the development of the strategy progresses.</p>
PHPN2.9	Work with partners to produce an Active Travel Network map of current and required coverage across the Vale to include commercial and community buses, cycle paths and storage facilities, pavements and footpaths, green and blue infrastructure, and local taxi firms. Encourage systems that increase use of the Active Travel Network	Narrative update on progress toward completion of map, once map completed, this should transition to an annual review of the accuracy of map	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Policy and Programmes	<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"> <li>- baseline mapping and analysis</li> <li>- network development</li> <li>- network prioritisation</li> <li>- a design toolkit and recommendations</li> </ul> <p>In addition, as part of the Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan, Oxfordshire 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>

## Theme 2: Tackling the climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
PROGRAMME 1	A climate emergency programme, focussed on what the council has control over, working towards our own targets for our own buildings, vehicles, leisure and arts centres	A narrative summary comprised of all new activity to reduce the carbon footprint of all Council assets on a quarterly basis		Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2 2022/23, the Vale developed a bid for the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) for both the Wantage Leisure Centre and the White Horse Tennis and Leisure Centre – this involved significant additional work due to changes in the criteria for the PSDS announced in August. The application for funding is now ready for submission (the opening of the next PSDS funding round is expected in October).</p> <p>In addition, the Vale 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>
TCE1.1	Develop a Climate Emergency Strategy for the Council, setting out how we will reach Zero Carbon for all Vale assets by 2030. Identify energy saving opportunities in council-owned buildings and fleets	A narrative report of activity underway to design the plan to achieve a zero carbon position for all Vale assets by 2030.	Cllr Sally Povolotsky	Head of Policy and Programmes	The monitoring of the activities and actions undertaken by the Vale as part of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) during Q1 2022/23 has been completed and the CAP Performance Report published on the council's website. Progress on the delivery of the CAP will be tracked and reviewed on a quarterly basis.
TCE1.2	Complete the CEAC Year One Climate Action Plan and plan for future years	Narrative report on progress	Cllr Sally Povolotsky	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>The monitoring of the activities and actions undertaken by the Vale as part of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) during Q1 2022/23 has been completed and the CAP Performance Report published on the council's website. Progress on the delivery of the CAP will be tracked and reviewed on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>One meeting of the CEAC was held during Q2 2022/23. During this, members received a briefing from officers on the planned approach for CAP reporting.</p>



## Theme 2: Tackling the climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
TCE1.3	Include in Councils Open Space Strategy opportunities to increase biodiversity, increase tree cover, and (other things we want to do on Council's open spaces)	Narrative report on specific opportunities which have arisen for the council to improve open spaces. Also include any additional policy developments.	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Policy and Programmes	During Q2 2022/23, officers have been exploring options for undertaking additional tree planting on council-owned land. This has involved the Climate Action and Parks teams working together to identify suitable locations.
PROGRAMME 2	A climate emergency programme focussed on encouraging the wider district community to reduce its carbon footprint in order to meet the Climate Emergency targets	A narrative update of the work of the comms team in promoting measures/initiatives which will help the community to reduce its carbon footprint.		Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2 2022/23, the Vale ran several successful comms campaigns and initiatives designed to increase awareness of the Climate Emergency and to help the community to reduce its carbon footprint. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• encouraging communities to get involved in local tree planting and to plan for the upcoming planting season</li> <li>• supporting Oxfordshire County Council's Climate Action Oxfordshire Campaign (including the launch of a new website)</li> <li>• highlighting the awarding of Climate Action Funding to 13 community projects</li> <li>• promoting the Great Big Green Week to residents and community groups</li> </ul>
TCE2.1	Complete those tasks in Year one Climate Action Plan that have to do with reducing carbon in the wider district	Narrative report on progress	Cllr Sally Povolotsky	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>The monitoring of the activities and actions undertaken by the Vale as part of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) during Q1 2022/23 has been completed and the CAP Performance Report published on the council's website. Progress on the delivery of the CAP will be tracked and reviewed on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>One meeting of the CEAC was held during Q2 2022/23. During this, members received a briefing from officers on the planned approach for CAP reporting.</p>

## Theme 2: Tackling the climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
TCE2.2	Introduce policies for zero carbon construction requirements	Narrative update on progress toward design guide implementation, transitioning into review of relevant information/developments in this area	Cllr Sally Povolotsky	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2 2022/23 work continued with the Future Oxfordshire Partnership to develop a Net Zero Route map and Action Plan which will inform this project. Officers and members have been involved in workshops and focus groups on topics related to zero carbon construction requirements for both new builds and the retrofitting of existing homes. These efforts culminated in the creation of a list of proposed priority actions which will help to inform future policy in the area – this is due to be published in Q3.</p> <p>Also, in Q2, the Planning Policy and Community Engagement teams continued to work on processing the responses the council received to the Joint Local Plan consultation. 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.</p>
TCE2.3	Introduce sustainable growth and environmental policies to our Local Plan	Narrative update on the progress towards development of new local plan, specifically referring to details in TCE2.3/4	Cllr Sally Povolotsky	Head of Policy and Programmes	<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 matters relating to climate change, sustainable growth and the natural environment.</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 progress made to date on themes like climate change and nature recovery will continue through the Joint Local Plan.</p>



## Theme 2: Tackling the climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
TCE2.4	Ensure our Local Plan contains policies to make new buildings carbon zero to build and to live/work in	Narrative update on the progress towards development of new local plan, specifically referring to details in TCE2.3/4	Cllr Debby Hallett	Head of Policy and Programmes	During Q2 2022/23, the Planning Policy team continued to progress policy on sustainable construction as part of the wider development of the Joint Local Plan. In addition, officers also continued to work on 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 related to sustainable construction. 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.
TCE2.5	Develop a year two plan with CEAC for meeting our Climate emergency goals	High level narrative on progress towards approval of two year plan	Cllr Sally Povolotsky	Head of Policy and Programmes	The two year Climate Action Plan (CAP) was published in February 2022. The CAP is now subject to regular quarterly reporting and scrutiny. This action is now complete.
TCE2.6	Improve how we measure air quality. Explore particulate measurement in our sensitive areas. Explore ways to publish AQ measurements in live time, so people can make decisions on whether it's healthy outside for them today	Narrative containing updates/ changes to AQ monitoring techniques, an update on work with partners to monitor AQ and details of published AQ measures	Cllr Sally Povolotsky	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>Particulate Matter (PM) and Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) monitoring in Marcham continued throughout Q2 2022/23. Provisional results (to date) show no exceedances in national air quality objectives for NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>. (NB: This provisional data will need to be corrected and ratified at the end of the calendar year).</p> <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>Real Time Air Quality Data for sites within Vale of White Horse is available at <a href="https://www.airqualityengland.co.uk">https://www.airqualityengland.co.uk</a>.</p>
TCE2.7	Update the Air Quality Action Plans for our Air Quality Management Areas	Until funding confirmed for development of new AQAP's, narrative update on any significant deviation from last relevant AQAP. Once funding confirmed, this can report on the development of the new AQAP.	Cllr Sally Povolotsky	Head of Housing and Environment	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.

## Theme 2: Tackling the climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
TCE2.8	Explore setting up a Habitat Bank to deliver biodiversity offsetting requirements and facilitate tree planting	Narrative update as to progress of potential pilot and other relevant initiatives	Cllr Sally Povolotsky	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>Work on the Habitat Banking Pilot Scheme continued to be affected during Q2 2022/23 by delays to the publication of HM Government's regulations and guidance on Biodiversity Net Gain.</p> <p>Progress has, however, been made in the development of the pilot site at Duxford and it is anticipated that the sale of Biodiversity Credits will start in either Q3 or Q4.</p>
PROGRAMME 3	A programme around exercising our influence with partners on wider policy, working with neighbouring authorities, lobbying Government and identifying environmental policy gaps	General Narrative update		Head of Policy and Programmes	The Vale – through its membership of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership Environment Advisory Group – continued to work with neighbouring authorities in relation to climate and environmental matters. During Q2 2022/23, officers and members were involved, including through a series of themed focus groups and workshops, in the development of a route map and action plan for the Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire project.
TCE3.1	Complete the CEAC Year One Action Plan and plan for future years	Narrative report on progress	Cllr Sally Povolotsky	Head of Policy and Programmes	The action is complete. The Climate Action Plan (CAP) is being monitored as part of the Vale'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.



## Theme 2: Tackling the climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
TCE3.2	Work with partners to define a waste reduction scheme: including ways to reduce bulky waste headed to landfill and reduce recycling contamination	Narrative report to outline steps to influence partners and our actions to reduce overall waste	Cllr Sally Povolotsky	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>The June 2022 recycling rate was 59.78%, the landfill rate was 0.20% and the contamination rate was 10.69%. These figures were not available for Q1 reporting.</p> <p>The July 2022 recycling rate was 56.56%, the landfill rate was 0.21% and the contamination rate was 11.51%.</p> <p>The August 2022 recycling rate was 57.26%, the landfill rate was 0.23% and the contamination rate was 11.48%.</p> <p>The figures for September have yet to be finalised.</p> <p>During Q2 2022/23, the Vale ran several comms campaigns. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• free litterbug activity trails for children in the school summer holidays</li> <li>• a litter mapping project</li> <li>• highlighting the introduction of new waste collection routes from the autumn</li> </ul>
TCE3.3	Develop a tree-planting strategy and work with partners to plant more trees across the district	Narrative update to include development of the tree policy and subsequent activity	Cllr Sally Povolotsky	Head of Policy and Programmes	During Q2 2022/23, officers have been exploring options for undertaking additional tree planting on council-owned land. This has involved the Climate Action and Parks teams working together to identify suitable locations.
TCE3.4	Develop a Biodiversity Net Gain Targeting Strategy and contribute to a Nature Recovery Network for Oxfordshire	Narrative update on related work, including but not limited to the work to support the Oxfordshire Plan.	Cllr Sally Povolotsky	Head of Policy and Programmes	No progress to report owing to a delay from government in releasing the supplementary regulations and guidance required for this area.

## Theme 2: Tackling the climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
TCE3.5	Work with partners to provide electric charging points in Vale car parks and at our buildings, and increase charging infrastructure across Oxfordshire	<p>A narrative update to include work to promote and develop EV infrastructure across the district.</p> <p>Quantitative element - breakdown of existing/planned EV charging points</p>	Cllr Sally Povolotsky	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>Number of EV Charging Points:  Audlett Drive – 16  Cattle Market – 10  West St Helens – 12  Southampton Street – 12  Portway – 12</p>
TCE3.6	Take an active role in the Oxford-Cambridge arc to influence the inclusion of sustainable growth and environmental policies	A narrative update on the work of the Oxford-Cambridge arc and our influencing activity	Cllr Emily Smith	Head of Policy and Programmes	During Q2 2022/23, the Leader of the Council wrote to the Chair of the Arc Leadership Group to confirm that the Vale does not support the proposal to continue to seek to develop a pan-regional partnership across the Oxford-Cambridge Arc. The Vale Leader formally withdrew from the Arc Leaders group at the end of September 2022.



## Theme 2: Tackling the climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
TCE3.7	Take an active role in the Growth Deal and the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 to influence the inclusion of sustainable growth and environmental policies	Narrative report on work to support the Oxfordshire Plan in accordance with TEC3.7	Cllr Emily Smith	Head of Policy and Programmes	<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 progress made to date on themes like sustainable growth, climate change and the environment will continue through the Joint Local Plan.</p> <p>In late September, the Future Oxfordshire Partnership agreed to both the ending of the Oxfordshire Plan Advisory Group and the formation of a new Planning Advisory Group (including the city, district and county councils) to provide a forum for discussion on strategic planning issues, which will include sustainable development with the potential for some joint work with the FOP Environment Advisory Group.</p>
TCE3.8	Work with local partners and Government to encourage retrofitting houses with sustainable energy schemes; help residents take advantage of schemes that come along to help with costs	Narrative report on work influencing work, comms activity and direct engagement with residents.	Cllr Sally Povolotsky	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2 2022/23, the Vale 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 3: Building healthy communities - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
PROGRAMME 1	Building strong communities and connections, with a sense of place and strong community identity	Narrative update		Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2 2022/23, the Planning Policy and Community Engagement teams continued to work on processing the responses the council received to the Joint Local Plan consultation. This consultation (held in Q1) included consideration of the following statement: "A place where history is still visible, where heritage and landscape character are safeguarded and valued, and the beauty and the distinctive local identity of our towns and villages have been enhanced.""</p> <p>The Planning Policy team also held an all-councillor roundtable meeting on 12 July on the topic of town centres and retail. The event was well-attended and captured member's ideas on the distinctiveness, qualities and challenges facing the area's main settlements.</p>
BHC1.1	Review the use of Community buildings and other facilities owned or managed by the council to maximise usage, income for the council and ensure communities have spaces in which to come together.	Narrative update as to the progress/outcomes from the Strategic Property Review	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q2 2022/23, the District Centre on Great Western Park continued to see some growth in community usage.</p> <p>In September, the council appointed a consultant to review activities at the Beacon. They are due to report at the end of Q3.</p>
BHC1.2	Establish a Public Arts policy	Narrative update on the progress towards developing a public arts policy	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Policy and Programmes	No progress to report Q2 2022/23
BHC1.3	Maintain and develop the council's Community Enablement function to respond to changing needs because of Covid-19	Narrative update on relevant areas of the Council response to Covid 19 as the needs/ requirements change	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2 2022/23, the Community Enablement team continued to provide ongoing support and advice to support voluntary sector organisations in their recovery from the impact of Covid-19.</p> <p>In addition, the council's Move Together project continued to support residents, particularly those with mental health needs.</p>

### Theme 3: Building healthy communities - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
BHC1.4	Work with others to promote Active Travel and support the development of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure plans to help shape new developments that link homes to work, recreation and social spaces within communities	<p>Narrative report on the work with partners to promote active travel and encouragement of cycling and walking infrastructure</p> <p>Quantitative measure of amount of new footpaths/cycle paths approved since last report/YTD etc.</p>	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Policy and Programmes	<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. The team have also prepared a Bugs Trails Walking route project which is also designed to support residents to become more active.</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"> <li>• baseline mapping and analysis</li> <li>• network development</li> <li>• network prioritisation</li> <li>• a design toolkit and recommendations</li> </ul> <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 3: Building healthy communities - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
BHC1.5	Develop planning policies to ensure careful consideration of the effect of air pollution on the lives of people who will live there	<p>Narrative update to include information relevant to BHC1.5,</p> <p>Quantitative measure - the number of neighbourhood plans and the stage they are current at</p>	Cllr Debby Hallett	Head of Policy and Programmes	<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 matters relating to air quality.</p> <p>The council has provided input into the development of the draft East Hanney Neighbourhood Plan. The draft plan details local air quality issues and includes a policy which seeks to mitigate them.</p> <p>In Q2 2022/23, the Vale continued their pilot of a simpler approach to neighbourhood planning. Officers delivered five capacity building workshops in Q2. These workshops aimed at helping the pilot groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify areas their Neighbourhood Priority Statements could focus on</li> <li>• explore why and how to engage their communities</li> <li>• develop a draft template/agreed format for their Neighbourhood Priority Statements</li> <li>• gather and assess evidence</li> <li>• add value to planning and place-making</li> </ul> <p>The pilot project also provides an opportunity for communities to explore how to tackle air quality issues locally.</p> <p>As of 30 September 2022, there are 15 made Neighbourhood Plans in the district (one of which is currently under review). There are nine plans in progress, three of which have completed pre-submission consultations.</p>

### Theme 3: Building healthy communities - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
BHC1.6	Update the Air Quality Management Action Plans for the Vale's air pollution hotspots; Work with Oxfordshire County Council to improve how we measure and report air pollution and how we will work with schools and community groups to raise awareness of our clean air campaigns	Narrative update on activity related to BHC 1.6	Cllr Sally Povolotsky	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>
PROGRAMME 2	Promoting healthy place shaping and active communities, for everyone	Narrative update		Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2 2022/23, work was completed on updating the database of cultural and physical activities currently available in the Vale. Links are now being made with the council's settlement assessments and green space mapping project to ensure a joined-up approach.</p> <p>Participants in the Move Together programme continue to be signposted to both existing (and new) physical activities located within their vicinity.</p> <p>Between July and September, 2,270 people took part in the Vale's regular activities and an additional 500 joined in with the council's summer holiday events.</p>
BHC2.1	Produce an Active communities strategy; setting out how the council will work with our communities and partners and enable everyone to participate in physical activities	Narrative update on progress against strategy development and work with partners to encourage involvement in physical activities	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>The Active Communities Strategy was approved by Cabinet in July 2022. Work is continuing on the development of the delivery plan and staffing structure required to implement the strategy.</p> <p>The Vale continues to work with its partners (particularly Active Oxfordshire) to encourage involvement in physical activities.</p>

### Theme 3: Building healthy communities - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
BHC2.2	Work with Active Oxfordshire to target get active projects in our most deprived communities	Narrative update on proposals from Active Oxfordshire	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>The 'You Move' project aimed at families with children and in receipt of benefits (including refugee children and young carers) is fully funded by the public health team of Oxfordshire County Council. Vale now has 336 participants signed up to the project.</p> <p>Applications to Sport England for the 'Together Fund' have been approved for activities in Faringdon and work is continuing to get a funding bid for Wantage.</p> <p>The 'Move Together' project, designed to help people with long term health conditions to become more active, had 349 people registered on its pathway scheme at the end of Q2 2022/23.</p>
BHC2.3	Promote use of the Council's public green spaces for exercise and activity.	Narrative update on the work to promote green spaces for exercise and activity	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2 2022/23, additional outdoor table tennis tables were ordered for Grove, Charney Bassett and East Hendred.</p> <p>Work was also undertaken to scope a new 'bug trail' project for South Abingdon with the aim of encouraging family outdoor activities.</p>
BHC2.4	Identify councils owned land for community gardening and allotments projects	Narrative update on the work/ outcomes from the Strategic Property Review	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q2 2022/23, the Strategic Property team started to review sites which would potentially be suitable for community garden projects. They also established a cross-service officer working group to discuss how to take these projects forward.</p>



### Theme 3: Building healthy communities - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
BHC2.5	Active engagement with the Oxfordshire Health Improvement Board and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ensure the Vale has strong representation in countywide health forums	Narrative update on work with the Oxfordshire Health Improvement Board/Health overview and Scrutiny Committee	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>The Oxfordshire Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee met in July and September 2022. At these events, the Committee received updates on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxfordshire Integrated Improvement Programme</li> <li>• ICB Development</li> <li>• Healthwatch Oxfordshire Annual Impact Report 2021/22</li> <li>• Muscular Skeletal Services Update</li> <li>• Oxfordshire Tobacco Control Strategy</li> <li>• Health Inequalities in Rural Areas</li> <li>• South Central Ambulance Service</li> </ul> <p>The Health Improvement Board met on 29 September 2022 and received updates on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health Protection</li> <li>• Performance Report</li> <li>• Report from Healthwatch Ambassador</li> <li>• MECC (Make Every Contact Count) Implementation in Oxfordshire</li> <li>• Tobacco Control Strategy</li> <li>• Domestic Abuse Strategy</li> </ul>
PROGRAMME 3	Safeguarding and supporting our vulnerable residents	Narrative report on support provided by the VCS and potentially the number of properties approved with special adaptations (drawn from AMR data, available annually)	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Legal and Democratic	<p>During Q2 2022/23, 13 safeguarding concerns were raised with the council – the majority of these were for poor mental health. Six of these resulted in referral to Oxfordshire Safeguarding Teams.</p> <p>Five closure orders were issued during Q2 (a closure order acts to safeguard access to properties where vulnerable tenants are being exploited). This was a decrease on the previous quarter.</p>

### Theme 3: Building healthy communities - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
BHC3.1	Work as part of the South and Vale Community Safety Partnership on the agreed priorities: tackling Domestic abuse; exploitation of vulnerable people and children (including modern slavery, county lines); and reducing knife crime, harm and vulnerability caused by drugs and alcohol	Narrative report on work with partners, to include relevant published statistics as quantitative measure for information	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Legal and Democratic	<p>The data from the domestic abuse service for Quarter 2 2022/23 will be available at the beginning of Q3 2022/23.</p> <p>During Q1 2022/23, the countywide service received 1,113 calls to their helpline, a decrease on the previous quarter. Of these, 404 were new contacts, 86 of whom came from South and Vale. Across Oxfordshire, 68 cases were referred for outreach – of which 27 came from South and Vale.</p> <p>In Q2 2022/23, there were 21 referrals to the South and Vale domestic abuse sanctuary scheme. This was a slight increase on Q1 2022/23 (20).</p>
BHC3.2	Develop a new framework on vulnerability, responding to changes in needs arising from the Covid-19 pandemic	Narrative update on related work	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2 2022/23, the council worked to assist those most in need – particularly in light of the cost-of-living crisis. This has included advice, signposting and where appropriate funding or food parcels.</p> <p>The Vale has also continued to support the Homes for Ukraine scheme.</p>
BHC3.3	Review and Revise the Joint Taxi Licensing Policy	Narrative update on the JTLP	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Legal and Democratic	The work to review, revise and embed the new Joint Taxi Licensing Policy was completed during Q2 2021/22.

### Theme 3: Building healthy communities - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
BHC3.4	Take a key role in countywide homelessness prevention and provision for young people, those with mental health conditions and review of adult homelessness pathway	<p>Narrative update on influencing/partnership activity, new initiatives.</p> <p>Quantitative update on successful homelessness cases + other homelessness stats, TA stats including average length of stay etc.</p>	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>Vale of White Horse recorded only one rough sleeper 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 18 – 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 61 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 the Vale was 77.0 per cent. This was marginally below the 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 &amp; Rough Sleeping Strategy and is a member of both the countywide Homelessness Steering Group and the Homelessness Directors Group.</p>



## Theme 4: Building stable finances - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
PROGRAMME 1	Explore and actively consider all avenues to deliver financial stability, including maximising income available to the council	Narrative update on initiatives to deliver financial stability and maximise income across the Council	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Finance	SMT considered a paper on income generation during Q2 2022/23. The initial focus will be on ensuring that budgets accurately reflect the income due and that the current level of discretionary fees/charges cover the council's costs in delivering the service.
BSF1.1	Introduce an Investment Strategy and associated Investment Policy which gives the Council greater ability to invest in a wider range of assets to maximise its return on capital and therefore improve its income	Narrative update on the introduction of an introduction of the investment strategy and subsequent decision-making around investing	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Finance	No progress to report in Q2 2022/23.

## Theme 4: Building stable finances - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
BSF1.2	Commit resources to identify more third-party income, including government and other grants, to help pay for our services	Narrative update as to current initiatives to increase external funding for Council activities, with details of additional resources committed to support these activities	Cllr Andrew Crawford	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 the Vale'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, the Vale developed a bid for the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) for both the Wantage Leisure Centre and the White Horse Tennis and Leisure Centre – this involved significant additional work due to changes in the criteria for the PSDS announced in August. The application for funding is now ready for submission (the opening of the next PSDS funding round is expected in October).</p> <p>The pipeline of external funding opportunities was also maintained and assessed throughout the quarter.</p>
BSF1.3	Identify opportunities to generate additional income from our services and assets and review these annually as part of the budget setting process	Narrative describing activity/ referring to programme 1 narrative	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Finance	No progress to report in Q2 2022/23.

## Theme 4: Building stable finances - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
BSF1.4	Review the schedule of existing contracts to identifying opportunities for rationalisation and savings	Narrative update initially detailing BAU activity to support this aim, until specific project is kicked off at which point reporting would be based on the project activity	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Finance	No progress to report Q2 2022/23. This action is identified in the procurement plan for 2022/23.
BSF1.5	Upgrade the council's finance IT systems to improve functionality and support in-year budget monitoring	Narrative report on the implementation of new systems, and then a yearly light-touch review	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Finance	The council's budget setting activity is primarily being undertaken on Unit4. During Q2 2022/23, discussions on the further development of the reporting available to finance business partners and budget holders continued – a demonstration for finance staff and budget holders is expected to take place in Q3.
BSF1.6	Lobby for the ability to set our Council Tax at a level that can sustain council services while seeking opportunities to reduce council tax for those on the lowest incomes	Narrative report covering external influencing/lobbying work (and work with partners) and additionally, relevant information pertaining to Council Tax decisions within the Council	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Policy and Programmes	Revenues and Benefits initiated work to extend the Council Tax Reduction Scheme so as to provide increased benefit to those on the lowest incomes. We intend to extend CTRS relief from 91.5% to 100% for eligible households subject to Council approval and to take effect from the start of the municipal year 2023/24.
BSF1.7	Lobby for a fairer distribution of government funding and more devolution of funding to councils to sustain essential local services	Narrative report detailing lobbying activity over the period and any successes occurring as a result	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Policy and Programmes	No progress to report in Q2 2022/23.



## Theme 4: Building stable finances - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
PROGRAMME 2	Make effective use of the council's assets acting in a manner that ensures the long-term financial viability for the benefit of our residents and the environment	Narrative report on the progress of the Strategic Property review and other relevant initiatives	Cllr Andrew Crawford	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>
BSF2.1	Develop a comprehensive and ethical Procurement Policy that reflects our corporate goals and aims	Narrative update reporting on completion of activity and an annual review of success	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Finance	No progress to report in Q2 2022/23.
BSF2.2	Conduct a Strategic Property Review to identify opportunities to enhance, redevelop, transfer the councils assets to maximise income and/or benefit to the district	Narrative report on the progress of the SPR	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	The Strategic Property Review was completed in Q3 2021/22.
BSF2.3	Complete an asset management plan to provide a comprehensive policy to inform how assets may be most efficiently maintained	Narrative report on progress of this within the SPR	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	No progress to report in Q2 2022/23.
BSF2.4	Undertake a full review of all leases and licences to ensure council income is collected when due and maximised	Narrative report on progress of this within the SPR	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	The review was completed during Q1 2021/22.

## Theme 4: Building stable finances - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
BSF2.5	Undertake a detailed review of the financial position of the Beacon in Wantage and determine what changes to its operations can be made to improve its viability	Narrative update on the review of financial position of the Beacon	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	In September, the council appointed a consultant to review activities at the Beacon. They are due to report at the end of Q3.
BSF2.6	Insourcing our grounds maintenance and public conveniences contracts to save funds and increase flexibility over how our public spaces are used and managed	Narrative update on the activities of the new insourced team and the initiatives being undertaken	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q2 2022/23, the council undertook job evaluations of the Grounds Maintenance team and are now awaiting written confirmation of the results. The next stage of this exercise is to arrange for a formal consultation of the grounds maintenance staff to consider contractual terms and conditions (with a view to bringing them inline with the council's policies).</p> <p>Also, in Q2, the Grounds Maintenance depot moved to a temporary location at the former South Oxfordshire District Council site at Crowmarsh. Officers are in negotiations with Taylor Wimpey about a potential long-term depot at Great Western Park.</p> <p>The council have continued to explore the acquisition of electric vehicles for the Grounds Maintenance team during Q2. Unfortunately, however, the specification required to tow large grass cutting machinery/equipment is not yet available on the market (further, the infrastructure required to charge such vehicles would only be installed after the Grounds Maintenance depot had moved to a permanent location). Officers have, therefore, prepared an update for SMT and will submit a growth bid to continue the leasing of existing vehicles.</p>

## Theme 5: Working in partnership - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
PROGRAMME 1	Work in partnership to influence and shape regional and national agendas to maximise opportunities for our communities and businesses	Narrative report on work with partners across the organisation which will maximise opportunities for communities and businesses		Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2 2022/23, the Economic Development team engaged with multiple partners to define approaches to apply for (and allocate any money awarded through) both the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Rural England Prosperity Fund.</p> <p>The External Funding Lead and the Technical Services team, in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council, worked on ways of developing electric vehicle infrastructure and car clubs across the county. As part of these efforts they looked to ensure that their strategy/strategies aligned with the needs of communities and businesses within the Vale.</p>
WIP1.1	Create a partnerships protocol. Map our current partnerships and assess the effectiveness of each. clarify which local, regional, and national partnerships Vale needs to have an active presence in and focus resource accordingly.	Narrative update on the position of this work and an annual review after it's completion	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Policy and Programmes	No progress to report Q2 2022/23 – this work was completed during Q4 2021/22. It will now be subject to an annual review.
WIP1.2	Develop an enhanced consultations strategy and process to ensure we respond to consultations and proactively lobby national government and other bodies on matters that impact our corporate priorities	<p>Narrative update on proactive work to lobby govt and key organisations, update on key consultations responded to within the period.</p> <p>Quantitative -- Number of consultations replied to.</p>	Cllr Neil Fawcett	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2 2022/23, the Vale responded to one external consultation: The Building Safety Regulator (BSR) Operating Standard Rules consultation. The BSR will be operating as part of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) from April 2023.</p> <p>In addition, work continued on assessing the impact of the council's submissions. This is designed to ensure that responses are consistent and lead to demonstrable change in policy/decisions.</p>
WIP1.3	Create a framework that sets out how we will engage with developers, other councils, and members to maximise opportunities for our priorities to shape development	Narrative update on the work of planning and engagement activity	Cllr Judy Roberts	Master Planning Lead	During Q2 2022/23, several meetings have been held with developers, promoters and public/private landowners. Officers have also continued to meet with members, town/parish council, other interested stakeholders, Oxfordshire County Council and Homes England. These events are part of the Vale's framework of coordinated activity in this area.



## Theme 5: Working in partnership - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
WIP1.4	Work with businesses to undertake economic development review to ensure that council is providing support to SMEs, homebased businesses, supporting skills development, and ensuring that businesses are playing a role in place making	<p>A narrative report of activity to undertake an economic development review and details of how the Council is supporting SME's at this time.</p> <p>Quantitative information from CRM detailing number of businesses engaged with</p>	Cllr Neil Fawcett	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q2 2022/23, the Economic Development team focused upon compiling and submitting investment plans to unlock the council's conditional allocations from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). If the bids are successful, the funding will enable a three-year pipeline of projects for the Vale (including supporting SMEs through the development of the visitor economy and facilitating business decarbonisation) and would substantially uplift the council's Economic Development budget.</p> <p>Nine enquiries were logged in Tractivity, with 267 emails triaged through the business support inbox during this period.</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>

## Theme 5: Working in partnership - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
WIP1.5	Strengthen any existing network of local business groups to increase awareness of the council's ED programmes and communication throughout the district	Detail engagement with small business newsletter, number of recipients, clickthrough	Cllr Neil Fawcett	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>

## Theme 5: Working in partnership - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
WIP1.6	Input into countywide and Arc-wide economic recovery plans to maximise understanding of the local impact of Covid-19 and to help shape the support available to our local economy	Narrative update on activity supporting WIP 1.5	Cllr Neil Fawcett	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q2 2022/23, 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>The council also contributed to discussions with the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) regarding the Partnership’s plans to refresh the economic recovery plan, the Local Industrial strategy (LIS) and the county’s economic baseline data.</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>The Economic Development team also focused upon compiling and submitting investment plans to unlock the council’s conditional allocations from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) in Q2. If the bids are successful, the funding will enable a three-year pipeline of projects for the Vale.</p>
WIP1.7	Work with Oxfordshire County Council to introduce civil parking enforcement for the Vale	Narrative update on progress in this area, if impacts are seen in other areas as a result of this activity, those impacts should be included (PnD parking income for example)	Cllr Neil Fawcett	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	During Q2, the Vale 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: Working in partnership - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
PROGRAMME 2	Work with and support our residents, businesses and communities to effect and enable change	<p>Narrative update on work with Parish Councils, particularly relating to the transfer of management of assets. Update on other activity that directly supports residents and business effecting change</p> <p>Quantitative elements - number of neighbourhood plans adopted, number of community initiatives undertaken, breakdown of assets where management has been transferred</p>		Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>In Q2 2022/23, the Vale continued their pilot of a simpler approach to neighbourhood planning. Officers delivered five capacity building workshops in Q2. These workshops aimed at helping the pilot groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify areas their Neighbourhood Priority Statements could focus on</li> <li>• explore why and how to engage their communities</li> <li>• develop a draft template/agreed format for their Neighbourhood Priority Statements</li> <li>• gather and assess evidence</li> <li>• add value to planning and place-making</li> </ul> <p>As of 30 September 2022, there are 15 made Neighbourhood Plans in the district (one of which is currently under review). There are nine plans in progress, three of which have completed pre-submission consultations.</p> <p>The Vale's Planning Policy team also continued to work on the development of the Joint Local Plan in Q2. As part of these efforts, they invited all parish councils to complete a questionnaire about the services and facilities in their area. The responses received will feed into an assessment of the district's settlements to determine their profile and the level of services available locally – having a strong understanding of the nature of the Vale's towns and villages is a key part of the council's Joint Local Plan evidence base.</p>

## Theme 5: Working in partnership - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
WIP2.1	Support new business start-ups and support schemes for businesses and residents through post Covid-19 economic recovery initiatives, by implementing the “Opening Up High Streets Safely Fund” and associated schemes	Narrative update on support schemes for businesses and residents. Updates on any relevant schemes should be included	Cllr Neil Fawcett	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 114 traders are registered on the portal, with over 1,713 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>During Q2 2022/23, the Economic Development team focused upon compiling and submitting investment plans to unlock the council's conditional allocations from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). If the bids are successful, the funding will enable a three-year pipeline of projects for the Vale including supporting SMEs through the development of the visitor economy and facilitating business decarbonisation</p>

## Theme 5: Working in partnership - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
WIP2.2	Find ways to elevate the understanding of and promote Neighbourhood Plans in planning decisions with a review of development appraisal and communications with all parties prior to an application coming to committee	<p>Narrative update on activity to support and promote Neighbourhood plan adoption.</p> <p>Quantitative measure - number of Neighbourhood plans adopted</p>	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>Officers have continued to use internal planning communications to confirm new neighbourhood plans and the appropriate weight they carry when determining planning applications. All relevant parish councils are informed of the council's decision to progress and make neighbourhood plans and webpages are updated accordingly.</p> <p>During Q2 2022/23, the Vale has been working towards hosting workshops between parish councils with made neighbourhood plans and officers from the Development Management team. These events will start in October and will provide neighbourhood planning groups with an opportunity to explain their policies and give an insight into how they contribute towards meeting the neighbourhood plan's objectives. It will also give planning officers an opportunity to highlight any potential challenges that the neighbourhood planning groups may face in implementing their proposals.</p> <p>As of 30 September 2022, there are 15 made Neighbourhood Plans in the district (one of which is currently under review). There are nine plans in progress, three of which have completed pre-submission consultations.</p>



## Theme 5: Working in partnership - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
WIP2.3	Review the planning committee process to identify ways to maximise public understanding, engagement and participation as well as supporting member input into the committee meetings with opportunities for training and development	<p>Narrative update on activities to review and promote the activities and understanding of the planning committee.</p> <p>Quantitative elements - Online engagement figures relating to the planning portal/planning sections of the website.</p>	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Planning	<p>During Q2 2022/23, the Vale maintained the processes that had been developed around the Planning Committee. This meant that the Weekly Chair Briefing sessions continued – including debriefs on the meetings of the Committee.</p> <p>In addition, the Chair and the Deputy Chair, along with the Development Manager, have regularly reviewed all call-in requests to determine whether they should be referred to the Planning Committee. They have also decided which Committee items require a site visit.</p> <p>The Chair and Deputy Chair continue to receive the Planning Committee decision monitoring report, which in conjunction with the Weekly Chair Briefings, help to inform any requirements for member training sessions – in September, training was provided for all councillors in relation to appeals and looked at Planning Committee overturn decisions.</p> <p>The Vale have continued with the Town and Parish Council Surgeries during Q2 2022/23. Uptake has, however, remained low (officers are looking at ways to improve this).</p> <p>Officers also continue, where differing views exist, to advise town and parish councils of their recommendations on planning applications. This helps to explain why decisions are being made and improves partnership working between the Vale and these organisations.</p> <p>Five Planning Committee meetings were held between July and September 2022.  06-07-2022 – this had 133 views  27-07-2022 – this had 148 views  17-08-2022 – this had 1,500 views  07-09-2022 – this had 314 views  28-09-2022 – this had 62 views</p>

## Theme 5: Working in partnership - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
WIP2.4	Review developer contribution collection and spend policy and improve ward member and parish council involvement with a clear timetable that is triggered by officers, with improved communication from the council	<p>A narrative update on activities relating to the spend of CIL</p> <p>Quantitative element - Breakdown of CIL spend by type/amount/area</p>	Cllr Judy Roberts	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, the Vale approved CIL funding of £46,381 to upgrade the Faringdon Leisure Centres power supply.</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>
WIP2.5	Refresh our community grants scheme and introduce a Community Lottery to raise funds for groups to develop in line with our corporate objectives	Narrative report on activity relating to new community grants, information relating to the implementation of the Community Lottery, and once implemented performance metrics	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2 2022/23, the Council continued to promote the White Horse Community Lottery Scheme. One new “good cause” was approved between July and September. Throughout the quarter, 12,113 lottery tickets were sold generating an annual estimated income of £29,234 for the voluntary sector.</p> <p>Preparations were made for the reopening of the Vale Climate Action Fund (scheduled for October 2022).</p> <p>Officers also drafted a partnership grant paper seeking a decision on the future of the council’s Partnership Grant Fund during Q2. This is scheduled to be considered by Cabinet later in the year.</p>

## Theme 6: Working in an open and inclusive way - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
PROGRAMME 1	Improve our use of technology to increase understanding and access to what we do, how we work and the decisions we make.	Narrative update on any work relating to technological implementation/adaptation and processes making greater use of existing technology to bring about efficiency or increase accessibility.	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Corporate Service	<p>During Q2 2022/23, the Vale completed the procurement of a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. The supplier is currently building the platform and the council expects it to go live during Q3/Q4.</p> <p>The CRM will be key to increasing online access and improving the customer experience. It will also provide better-quality information/data around both customer contact and fulfilment which can then be used to make further enhancements.</p> <p>The initial focus of the CRM will be on customer accounts, garden waste and general enquiries.</p>
WIOI1.1	Provide and maintain a new Vale website with increased accessibility to services and information, on multiple devices	Quantitative report on website usage	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Corporate Service	<p>During Q2 2022/23, web traffic was slightly down on the previous reporting period (this was due in part to this quarter covering the summer months). Planning, recycling/waster and council tax remain the top pages for traffic.</p> <p>Q2 Web Usage Figures:  174,157 unique visitors  468,017 page views  2m05s average visit duration.</p> <p>The Vale website now also includes a data hub where it regularly publishes reports and data on its responsibilities, projects and programmes. The council continues to increase the amount of information that it provides through this route.</p>

## Theme 6: Working in an open and inclusive way - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
WIOI1.2	Develop our use of social media platforms to reach and engage with more residents and local businesses	<p>Narrative report on new social media initiatives</p> <p>Quantitative report on social media engagement</p>	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Corporate Service	<p>During Q2 2022/23, the council's Facebook reach was slightly down on the previous quarter. This was partly due to a small decrease in the total number of posts.</p> <p>Facebook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Posts: 233</li> <li>• Reach: 378,095</li> <li>• New fans: 255</li> <li>Total fans: 6,063</li> </ul> <p>Reach on Instagram, however, was up by over 1,000 despite a negligible increase in the number of posts compared to Q1.</p> <p>Instagram</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Posts: 138</li> <li>• Reach: 6,848</li> <li>• New followers: 39</li> <li>Total followers 567</li> </ul> <p>Twitter impressions were down in Q2, but this was likely due to a significantly lower number of tweets being issued.</p> <p>Twitter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tweets: 216</li> <li>• Impressions: 95,028</li> <li>• New followers: 47</li> <li>Total followers: 9,220</li> </ul> <p>In addition to the quarterly reporting cycle, the Vale is now also tracking social media reach and impact to study the long-term trends in the effectiveness of its work in this area.</p>



## Theme 6: Working in an open and inclusive way - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
WIOI1.3	Introduce live streaming and recordings of public meetings to increase accessibility and understanding of the democratic process	Number/Percentage of public meetings streamed live  Number/percentage of public meetings available to watch online	Cllr Debby Hallett	Head of Legal and Democratic	<p>The council has now vacated the offices at Milton Park. All future meetings, with the exception of Full Council, will now be held at Abbey House. IT has been installed that not only ensures that these meetings can be livestreamed, but also allows both members and the general public to interact without the use of Surface Pros.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the Vale will not be able to livestream Full Council meetings (which will be held at the Beacon). Officers are, however, currently exploring potential solutions.</p> <p>During Q2 2022/23, 100% of public meetings were broadcast.</p>
WIOI1.4	Review the current use of online surveys assessing their take up over time, and by subject, as well as reviewing survey design	Narrative update on survey utilisation/progress towards this review/details of any particularly successful surveys	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Corporate Service	<p>During Q2 2022/23, the Vale 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>In order to both increase participation rates and to improve the interactivity of consultations, the Vale began to work on procuring a new engagement portal. It is hoped that by allowing the embedding of different types of media into surveys, an updated system will help officers create even more engaging content.</p>

## Theme 6: Working in an open and inclusive way - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
PROGRAMME 2	Increase meaningful engagement and communication with everyone	Narrative update on successful communication initiatives		Head of Corporate Service	<p>In Q2, the Vale ran 33 campaigns. 10 of these highlighted/publicised events and council news, 20 promoted behavioural change and three promoted diversity and inclusion. (The behavioural change campaigns included the highlighting of flytipping prosecutions with the intention of helping to deter this type of activity).</p> <p>Between July and September, the council produced three town and parish and residents' newsletters and disseminated five InFocus newsletters to share important stories and information with our communities. The Vale also promoted the Community Governance Review consultations to local residents.</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 the Vale's other regular communications and campaigns were paused throughout the period of national mourning.</p> <p>During Q2 2022/23, the Vale launched a consultation on the draft Diversity and Inclusion Strategy. 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>

## Theme 6: Working in an open and inclusive way - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
WIOI2.1	Ensure the creation of community liaison groups form part of all early stages of development planning, to understand local infrastructure needs and support community cohesion	<p>Narrative update on the creation and utilisation of community liaison groups and the development of the policy</p> <p>Quantitative measure - number of community liaison groups</p>	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Policy and Programmes	<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 considered a wide range of topics from the environment and healthy lifestyles to infrastructure needs. As part of this exercise, the team reached out to stakeholder contacts and community groups.</p> <p>The Vale's Planning Policy team also continued to work on the development of the Joint Local Plan in Q2. As part of these efforts, they invited all parish councils to complete a questionnaire about the services and facilities in their area. The responses received will feed into an assessment of the district's settlements to determine their profile and the level of services available locally – having a strong understanding of the nature of the Vale's towns and villages is a key part of the council's Joint Local Plan evidence base.</p> <p>No community liaison groups were established between July and September.</p>
WIOI2.2	Refresh Town and Parish Forums so they are more interactive and useful for communities and develop the Connecting Communities Policy	Narrative update on Town and Parish Forums and the development of the connected communities policy	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Policy and Programmes	No progress to report in Q2 2022/2023.

## Theme 6: Working in an open and inclusive way - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
WIOI2.3	Work with communities, schools and other local organisations on shared campaigns and initiatives that help further our corporate objectives	Narrative update on comms and engagement activities which interface with communities, schools and other local organisations	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Corporate Service	<p>During Q2 2022/23, the Vale 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 Abingdon on 26 September.</p> <p>Through its 'Crashing' and 'Chelsea's Story' surveys, the Vale continued to work with schools to support awareness about sexual exploitation. This project included the organisation of theatre performances at schools followed by completion of feedback forms that have been developed in partnership with the Community Safety team.</p> <p>During Q2 2022/23, officers from the council also worked with local schools on the development of a survey for students and teachers on topics related to waste and recycling.</p> <p>The Vale undertook a considerable amount of work to promote healthy communities within the district. Through its summer programme of health and wellbeing activities for residents and young people, the council promoted the You Move programme (designed to help families on low incomes engage with physical activity) across the school holidays as well as highlighting its own schedule of activities. In addition, officers from across several teams worked closely together to deliver a range of free events for young people and their families.</p> <p>To help reduce anti-social behaviour during the holidays, the council also promoted the Summer of Skate sessions organised by the Community Safety team to engage with young people.</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>(this update continue on page 61)</p>



## Theme 6: Working in an open and inclusive way - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
WIOI2.3	Work with communities, schools and other local organisations on shared campaigns and initiatives that help further our corporate objectives	Narrative update on comms and engagement activities which interface with communities, schools and other local organisations	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Corporate Service	<p>As part of Great Big Green Week, the Vale 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. Throughout the summer the Vale also promoted free Litterbug activity trails for children and its litter mapping project.</p> <p>Q2 2022/23 also marked the first anniversary of the White Horse Community Lottery. The council, therefore, undertook work to highlight the difference that it has made to organisations across the district.</p>
WIOI2.4	Reinstating residents surveys in a refreshed form - deliver effective ways for the public to have their say, to reach more people, mechanisms for feedback, more timely dialogue, educate and provide subject matter information to facilitate opinions being more informed	Narrative update to be provided on the progress of this work	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Corporate Service	<p>During Q2 2022/23, the Vale carried out the communications and engagement plan for the Diversity and Inclusion Strategy. This included raising awareness of the campaign with the council's external stakeholders via corporate comms channels.</p> <p>The Vale also promoted the Community Governance Review consultations to local residents to ensure that they know about the potential changes for their area.</p> <p>The procurement of a new consultation and engagement portal will help with the delivery of refreshed surveys. The council have also streamlined consultation processes to make it easier to collect feedback and has updated its reporting template to ensure responses can be presented in a concise and straightforward manner.</p>
WIOI2.5	Explore initiatives to increase voter registration and turnout levels at elections, especially amongst young people	Narrative update on individual initiatives and opportunities to encourage voter registration	Cllr Debby Hallett	Head of Corporate Service	<p>During Q2 2022/23, the Vale carried out initial comms planning for the elections. It also started to look at the activities and actions of other local authorities in relation to initiatives and opportunities to encourage voter registration – the bulk of this work ahead of the 2023 local elections will take place in Q3/Q4.</p>

## Theme 6: Working in an open and inclusive way - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
WIOI2.6	Ensure council's consultations engage specifically with young people and other under-represented groups	A narrative report with input from the engagement/ comms teams and the equalities officer on activity to encourage these groups	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Corporate Service	<p>The Vale provided a mandarin introduction to the draft Diversity and Inclusion Strategy survey within the offer of fully translated materials. The consultation was also supported by videos available in multiple languages.</p> <p>As part of the council's efforts to increase levels of engagement with under-represented people and communities, a range of groups based around faith, age, disability and other protected characteristics were invited to take part in the draft Diversity and Inclusion Strategy consultation.</p>
PROGRAMME 3	Strengthen our governance framework and address our policy gaps, improving transparency	Narrative update on policies/ strategies currently in development/awaiting approval/recently approved.		Head of Policy and Programmes	During Q2 2022/23, the Planning Policy team continued to work on the development of the Joint Local Plan.
WIOI3.1	Work to adopt new CIPFA financial management code to enhance our financial governance	Narrative update detailing the elements of the code which have been implemented, which are underway and which are yet to be started	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Finance	No progress to report in Q2 2022/23.
WIOI3.2	Council reporting and decision-making templates to include impact on the climate emergency	Narrative update on significant decisions which have key environmental considerations, additionally any updates to key policies which have an focus on the climate emergency	Cllr Debby Hallett	Head of Legal and Democratic	The action is complete. All council reporting and decision making templates have been updated to include climate change considerations.

## Theme 6: Working in an open and inclusive way - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
WIOI3.3	Review the councils constitution and scheme of delegation annually	Narrative update with the outcome of the review	Cllr Debby Hallett	Head of Legal and Democratic	<p>Progress continued to be made on the first tranche of amendments to the Constitution during Q2 2022/23. These will be taken to Full Council in October.</p> <p>In addition, new procurement rules and a whistleblowing/ anti-fraud policy have been developed and will be taken to the Constitution Review Group in late October (with a view to referring them to the Full Council for adoption in December).</p>
WIOI3.4	Increase and improve publicly available information – e.g.- code of conduct complaints (decision noted) FOIs (responses), corporate complaints (data) Improve accessibility of corporate information through publishing on our website	<p>Narrative update on relevant reviews/newly available information/website improvements and metrics</p> <p>Quantitative - FOI/ Complaints data</p>	Cllr Debby Hallett	Head of Corporate Service	<p>The Vale website includes a data hub where it regularly publishes reports and data on its responsibilities, projects and programmes. The council continues to increase the amount of information that it provides through this route.</p> <p>During Quarter 2 2022/23, the performance management report for Q1 2022/23 was published on the Vale's website. This is intended to increase the public's understanding of what the council does, how it works and how decisions are made.</p> <p>In Q2 2022/23, the Vale received 476 FOI/EIRs. 95% of these were responded to within the target time of 20 working days – this is in line with the ICO's target.</p> <p>The Council received 26 stage one complaints, six stage two complaints and 0 new Local Government Ombudsman complaints between July and September 2022. The Stage one complaints break down as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18 Finance (inc. council tax &amp; benefits)</li> <li>• 5 Planning</li> <li>• 1 Corporate Services</li> <li>• 1 Development and Corporate Landlord</li> <li>• 1 Housing and Environment</li> </ul>




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