

South Oxfordshire District Council

Corporate Performance Report



2022/23 Quarter Three

January 2023

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Background

- The Council monitors performance and progress towards achieving the aims and priorities set out in the South Oxfordshire District Council **Corporate Plan 2020-2024**.
- This report provides a strategic overview of the performance for **quarter three (01 October to 31 December 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.



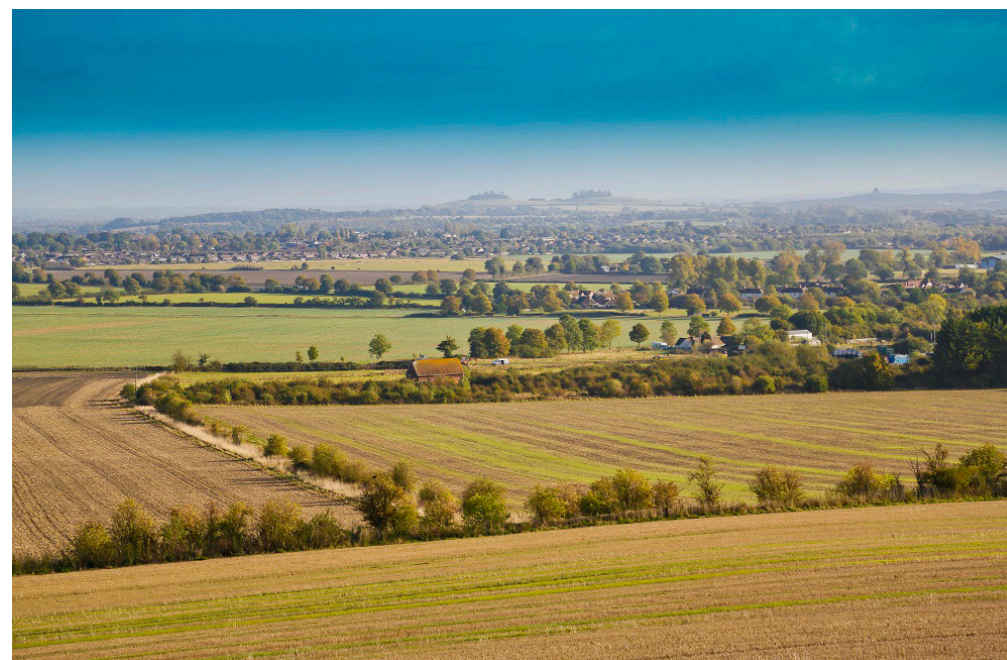
Strategic context

During quarter three of 2022/23, the global economic situation remained precarious. Soaring prices have driven inflation across the world and placed individuals, families and businesses under increasing financial pressures.

Within the UK, the rate of inflation rose by 10.5 per cent in the 12 months to December 2022. This was down from 10.7 per cent in November. (Inflation peaked at 11.1 per cent in October 2022 – the highest rate since 1981).

The very slight easing in the rate of inflation was driven by falls in the rate of inflation for transport (specifically motor fuels, where average petrol and diesel prices fell by 8.3 and 8.8 pence respectively between November and December), clothing & footwear, and recreation & culture. The downward trends in these sectors were, however, largely offset by rising prices in restaurants & hotels and for food & non-alcoholic beverages (Food and non-alcoholic beverage prices rose by 16.9 per cent in the 12 months to December 2022, up from 16.5 per cent in November – according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) modelled estimates, this would be the highest rate seen since September 1977, when it stood at 17.6 per cent).

The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), as part of their remit to keep inflation under control, raised interest rates to 3.5 per cent in December (the highest level since October 2008 but still significantly below the long-term historic average of 5.9 per cent). Since the end of 2021, the MPC has approved nine consecutive increases in the Bank Rate. 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.



In its Quarterly Monetary Policy Report (November 2022), the Bank of England forecast that inflation will remain very high in the near-term before falling sharply from mid-2023 – this anticipated decrease reflects a negative contribution from energy prices, as well as the emergence of an increasing degree of economic slack and a steadily rising unemployment rate.

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 ONS show that in September to November 2022, total and regular pay, when adjusted for inflation, fell by 2.6 per cent on the year – one of the largest falls seen since comparable records began in 2001 (the record fall was in April to June 2022 – 3.0 per cent).

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 provision of advice and signposting and where necessary, the delivery of food parcels or funding.

The pressures on household and businesses, combined with the ongoing economic uncertainties, has impacted on overall economic growth. In the three months to November 2022, the economy shrank by 0.3 per cent (this was driven by falls across most sectors of the economy, including a 1.4 per cent reduction in the production sector).

The economic fallout from the announcement of HM Government's Growth Plan (and the open-ended nature of both the Energy Price Guarantee and the Energy Bill Relief Scheme) led to a change in Prime Minister and the abandonment of much of the previous incumbent's agenda. Almost all the tax cuts set out in the ill-fated Growth Plan were reversed.

In November, the Chancellor of the Exchequer unveiled HM Government's Autumn Statement. The stated priorities for the package of measures introduced were 'stability, growth and public services'.

Industrial action has continued to take place across many sectors of the economy in relation to both pay and conditions. Negotiations in many of these disputes appear to have reached impasses, with more strikes and disruption expected in the coming weeks and months.

The devastating war in Ukraine continued during quarter three 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).

During quarter three, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities published its Local Government Finance Policy Statement 2023-24 to 2024-25. This set out HM Government's intentions in this area for the next two years.

The Met Office announced that 2022 was the UK's hottest year on record, with an average temperature of over 10°C recorded for the first time. The UK's ten warmest years have all been in the past two decades.

In December, the ONS released its latest mid-year population estimates. This suggested that, as of June 2021, 150,024 people lived in the district.



Quarter three performance highlights

Protect and restore our the natural world



We consulted with South Oxfordshire's **Area Of Natural Beauty** to help inform our bid to the **Rural England Prosperity Fund** and we invited them to join our local partnership group

£730,000

The amount of funding we applied for from the **Rural England Prosperity Fund** to support rural businesses and communities



We developed plans for a new **wildflower meadow** at Cronshaw Close in Didcot and **tree planting** at five sites in the district

Openness and accountability



We ran **communication campaigns** including #CostofLivingHelp and promoted multi-cultural celebrations e.g. Black History Month, Diwali and Christmas performances



We added both a **governance map** and a **Managers Assurance Statement** to our governance framework



We improved our information governance by utilising the Information Commissioner's **Information Governance Toolkit**

Action on climate emergency



We are preparing to work with an architect-led team to design **net-zero homes** on a council-owned site in Didcot



We hosted an **Eco-Business Fair** featuring a market of local environmentally sustainable traders, family friendly engagement activities and information on energy solutions



£375,000

The amount of funding we applied for from the **Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme** for Cornerstone, Didcot

Improved economic and community well-being



186

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



We endorsed the **Oxfordshire Food Strategy** and started work on the development of a local food strategy action plan



£1,334,148

The amount of **Community Infrastructure Levy** payments made to parish councils

Homes and infrastructure that meets local need



We progressed to Stage 3 of the Department for Transport's framework for developing the **Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan**



We commissioned studies on landscape, countryside, sport and leisure to inform the **Joint Local Plan** and assist communities in development of their neighbourhood plans

Investment that rebuilds our financial viability

£1,000,000

The amount of funding we secured from the **UK Shared Prosperity Fund** for a variety of projects to develop our local economy

£137,970



The amount of funding received from **Public Health, Active Oxfordshire, County Council** and the **Contain Outbreak Management Fund** to support the health and wellbeing of our residents

Theme 1: Protect and restore our natural world

Why?

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

So:

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

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

Key Activities in quarter three

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

During quarter three, the Economic Development team submitted a bid to the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) to unlock circa £730k of funding. To help inform the application, officers consulted with a wide range of farming businesses and representatives as well as with representatives of the district's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. If the bid is successful, the money will be used to support rural businesses and communities in a variety of ways including around improving environmental sustainability and protecting our natural assets. A decision on funding allocations is expected in early 2023.

In December, the council secured £1m of funding through HM Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). In line with our commitment to connect communities to their local green spaces and restore nature to urban environments, the council's plans for this money include using £125,000 to create or improve local green spaces in 2024/25. Officers from the Economic Development team have now started work on a delivery action plan detailing how this funding will be made available to appropriate organisations.

To effectively promote our rural district for tourism, leisure and wellbeing, work has also begun on a tender document for the development of a visitor economy strategy for the district. It is anticipated that this strategy will include a focus on South Oxfordshire's natural capital.

Work has continued to restore nature to urban environments in our district. Tree planting will take place at five sites in the district: one in Woodcote and four in Didcot. In addition, a wildflower meadow will be planted at Cronshaw Close in Didcot. Planting will take place during quarter four. Furthermore, a partnership opportunity to plant more trees and wildflowers was identified at a location in Wallingford.

Theme 2: Openness and accountability

Why?

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

So:

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

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

Key Activities in quarter three

See Theme 2 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 25

In order to maintain and improve the services that the council provides, work continued on the preparations for the migration of the garden waste service to the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. This has involved close collaboration between Customer Services, IT and Waste.

Customer Services and Planning have also kept working together on implementing the “quick wins” identified in the Planning Advisory Service review. In addition, IT, Planning and Environment have pushed on with their arrangements for the replacement of the council’s planning system.

As part of South Oxfordshire’s efforts to champion openness and transparency, it continued to livestream – with the notable exception of the Full Council (due to logistical/ IT issues) – all public meetings during quarter three 2022/23 (they will also remain available to view on the South’s YouTube channel for a year).



This not only helped to ensure a greater degree of accessibility for residents, but also allowed them an insight into our decision-making processes.

With the ambition of increasing the council's level of engagement with residents – especially those from marginalised/under-represented groups – the council began the process of creating an equalities database. This is intended to fill the information gaps that South Oxfordshire currently has in this area. The database will initially cover protected characteristics such as age, gender, ethnicity and disability – in time, it is anticipated that its scope will increase.

South Oxfordshire is also now collecting equalities data for all its surveys. This will allow the council to be more informed about who is participating in these engagement exercises.

Following the analysis of the feedback received from the draft Diversity and Inclusion Strategy consultation – and the creation of a report on its findings – the Cabinet approved the strategy in December. It will be rolled out during quarter four 2022/23.

As part of South Oxfordshire's goal of increasing accountability and improving decision-making, progress continued to

be made during quarter three 2022/23 on governance issues. Improvements have been made to the Code of Corporate Governance and the Annual Governance Statements, and the council have added both a governance map and a Managers Assurance Statement to its governance framework.

South Oxfordshire has also enhanced its procurement process with the aim of ensuring that a more strategic approach is taken to commissioning. In addition, improvements have been made to the council's governance of information by utilising the Information Commissioner's Information Governance Toolkit.



Theme 3: Action on climate emergency

Why?

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

So:

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



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

Key Activities in quarter three

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

Throughout quarter three, the Council has continued to work to take action and transform our operations in response to the Climate Emergency. The Council submitted a bid to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme for the Cornerstone arts centre. A decision on this application is expected in January. The council also sent out to tender decarbonisation survey work for its other main property assets. Applications will be reviewed in quarter four. Also working towards achieving our zero carbon target for our own operations by 2025, LED lighting was installed in public toilets in Wallingford and Dorchester.

With a view to meeting our aim of being a zero carbon district by 2030, the Planning Policy team continued to work on researching policy approaches for greener construction and enhancing biodiversity. The team have commissioned a set of studies on environmental topics and prepared a brief for a Zero Carbon Study. Once completed, these assessments will help to inform the Joint Local Plan, provide mapping and local area evidence for planning decisions, and assist communities in the development of their Neighbourhood Plans.



Also, this quarter, the Climate Action and Planning Policy teams worked with consultants and South Oxfordshire's partners across the county, to finalise the Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan.

As part of ensuring a safe future for our residents, the council is working on the development of new Air Quality Action Plans and has formally awarded a contract to consultants for this project. This has included a research exercise, the results of which will be analysed during quarter four.

Building on our commitment to active travel including public transport, officers from the council worked on a steering group for the Oxfordshire Strategic Active Travel Network (SATN) project. Alongside the other Oxfordshire councils, South Oxfordshire are also participating in the new Enhancement Partnership Board, which will manage both local and national funds for the Bus Service Improvement Plan. This work is crucial in helping our communities and businesses to reduce carbon emissions associated with travel.

Supporting businesses in our district to respond effectively to the challenges of climate change and natural recovery remained an important priority. In November, the Economic Development team hosted an Eco-Business Fair at Cornerstone.

It featured a market of local environmentally sustainable traders, family friendly engagement activities and information on energy solutions. The event was well attended, with 38 exhibitors and over 800 guests visiting on the day.

Also in quarter three, registrations opened for the council's "green business expo" scheduled to take place in Thame on 16 March 2023. There are currently eight businesses signed up to exhibit.

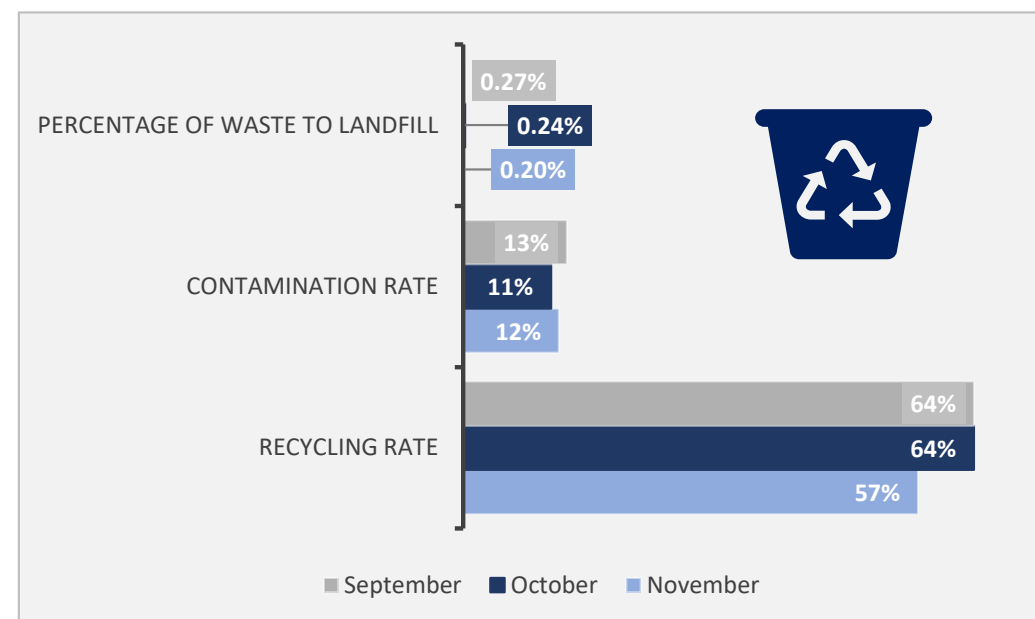
The council continued to use information campaigns and resources to promote behaviour change across our community in response to climate change and the ecological emergency. The communications team and colleagues worked to encourage the planting of trees during National Tree Week, promoted a joint bid for bathing water status at Wallingford and increased awareness of community councillor grants, which can be used to help deliver climate action projects. The council also delivered a campaign promoting the first Didcot Eco Fair.



In October, the council announced the winner of its Litter Bug activity trails for children. These activities were aimed at primary school children and were intended to promote recycling and reuse messages. In November and December, the council promoted its 'Christmas Reduce, Reuse and Recycling' campaign. This included encouraging people to take part in a Christmas recycling quiz (which received more than 1,500 entries) and highlighted a variety of useful resources and ideas on reducing, reusing and recycling, including on South's Christmas waste and recycling webpage.



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



This chart includes September 2022 rates which were not available for the quarter two report - December 2022 data will be published in our next report.

**Corporate Plan ID reference found in performance update tables on pages 20-46*

Theme 4: Improved economic and community well-being

Why?

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

So:

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

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

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

Key Activities in quarter three

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

To support the economic recovery and future prospects of our district, South Oxfordshire secured £1m of funding through HM Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). After the council accepted the award, work began immediately on implementing the planned programme of works.

Throughout the quarter, South Oxfordshire's Digital District Programme (Virtual High Street Initiative) continued to grow. There are now 186 businesses registered on the portal, with 1,281 products for sale. Work has now begun on extending the contract with ShopAppy (the website hosting the e-commerce platform) for a further 12 months.

Officers attended the quarterly steering group meeting for the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economic Partnership (OIEP) and offered to support the promotion of the OIEP Charter launch event. (The OIEP Steering Group seeks to drive business and community engagement through educational attainment, inclusive recruitment and social value in

procurement). In addition, having provided feedback on the tender to procure consultants to help develop the Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan (SEP), the council attended the SEP working group meeting to ensure that the development of the plan continues to align with South's objectives.



South Oxfordshire continued to work with the Oxfordshire Digital Infrastructure Partnership (DIP) Board regarding the rollout of broadband infrastructure. In quarter three 2022/23, the council attended the DIP board meeting where officers received an update on the GigaHub and Broadband in Rural Oxfordshire projects. A full assessment (and appropriate data) will be made available to members in early 2023 via a briefing organised by the County Council. Following the DIP meeting, Economic Development shared the details of the County Council's new Broadband Streetworks Advisor with Planning and Communications colleagues. This will help South Oxfordshire to proactively manage and direct complaints related to the disruptive installation of broadband.

How we used our planning powers to preserve our valuable green spaces - see **ECW5** performance update on p.35



Throughout the quarter, South Oxfordshire has continued to assist those in our communities that are most in need – particularly in light of the cost-of-living crisis. This has included advice, signposting and where appropriate funding or food parcels. The council have also continued to liaise with partners – in health and across the voluntary and community sector (VCS) – to support vulnerable communities through these challenging times.

During quarter three 2022/23, officers have kept collecting information to assist in the development of the new Community Wellbeing Strategy – in this work they were able to utilise newly released health and census data. The council have also now started work on the development of a local food strategy action plan following the Cabinet's endorsement of the Oxfordshire Food Strategy.

Fly tipping data - see **ECW7**
performance update on p. 37

51 Number of fly tips in
October 2022



60 Number of fly tips in
November 2022



48 Number of fly tips in
December 2022



**There were no prosecutions for waste crimes
during quarter three**

South Oxfordshire continued to take action
against flytippers between October and
December. In quarter three, the council issued
eight Fixed Penalty Notices for waste crimes
– while there were no prosecutions for waste
crimes, five cases are pending.



Theme 5: Homes and infrastructure that meet local needs

Why?

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

So:

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

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

Key Activities in quarter three

See Theme 5 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 38

At the end of quarter three 2022/23, the council recorded no rough sleepers. The very low levels of rough sleeping in the district reflects the success of South Oxfordshire's preventative approach.

The number of homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of December 2022 was 26 – a further significant increase on the previous quarter that reflects 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 49 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 three 2022/23, the rate of successful homelessness prevention in South Oxfordshire was 81.0 per cent. This was above the very challenging target of 80.0 per cent (the average rate of homelessness prevention in the South East region is 55.0 per cent).



Rate of successful homelessness prevention



Average number of days in emergency temporary accommodation



Number of homeless households in temporary accommodation



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

With the aim of ensuring that new homes and infrastructure meet local needs, are sustainable, zero carbon and high quality in design, the council's Planning Policy team continued to progress the Joint Local Plan Regulation Part 1 Issues Consultation Report. This consultation (held in quarter one) asked for views on a draft vision for the Joint Local Plan and included the consideration of issues such as the energy efficiency of new buildings. Further, the Planning Policy team, as part of their wider work on developing the Plan, commissioned consultants to ensure that the council's policies are based on appropriate data in relation to the provision of facilities and amenities conducive to the promotion of healthy lifestyles.

Officers have also been reviewing potential ways for how district councils can best help to accelerate the uptake of retrofit within their areas. During quarter three 2022/23, the draft Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan was developed and reviewed by officers. After amendment, it was presented to the Environmental Advisory Group in November. The Route Map and Action Plan (and their associated documentation) are currently being finalised prior to their consideration by the Future Oxfordshire Partnership.

In addition, officers have finalised an options paper looking at the ways that South Oxfordshire can accelerate its work on retrofit. This will be presented to the CEEAC for discussion during quarter four. Several new pages on retrofit have been developed and published on the council's website. These new pages are designed to provide further information to residents and to signpost potential sources of funding and expertise.

Moreover, during quarter three 2022/23, the council (working with an external project manager) progressed documentation relating to the procurement of an architect-led team to design net-zero homes on a council-owned site in Didcot (specifically on the Broadway).

Scoping work continued to be carried out for the 27 projects within the newly revised Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan in quarter three. A budget has now been allocated to advance several priority projects over the next two years – key headlines include:

- £100,000 for tree planting and biodiversity enhancements
- £60,000 for wayfinding
- £54,000 for the Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan
- £40,000 to help implement soft community initiatives related to the environment and sustainability
- £10,000 to advance a meanwhile space project
- £30,00 to progress a Didcot-focused Public Arts and Cultural Strategy
- Funding to resource a Community Development and Outreach Officer
- £20,000 for a leisure and recreation strategy for Didcot
- £45,000 to advance community projects to increase health and wellbeing
- £20,00 to progress a Town Centre and Retail Strategy
- £75,000 to support a long-term legacy project



Following the completion of the draft Didcot Placemaking Strategy, a list of potential improvement schemes are now in the process of being identified. These proposals are currently going through RAG rating where they will be assessed against a set of criteria focusing on active travel, economic investment, sustainability and community assets. Once priorities have been set, additional option appraisal work will commence. The project is due for completion during quarter four 2022/23.

During quarter three 2022/23, South Oxfordshire consulted with the Berinsfield Steering Group on a draft delivery plan for the village. Comments are currently being collated and will be discussed at the next group meeting. The parish council has also agreed to bring forward a new Neighbourhood Plan for Berinsfield.

Oxford Architects were officially appointed to lead on the Berinsfield Community Facilities Project. Local organisations have been engaging with them (and their sub-contractors) to explain their operational needs and requirements. In addition, surveys of Berinsfield's community buildings have been undertaken to provide information on their potential future long-term use – South Oxfordshire has also identified further external funding for a decarbonisation and community energy audit.

To help deliver on South Oxfordshire's commitment to providing homes that people can afford to live in, a total of 38 affordable housing units were delivered across the district between October and November 2022. During the year to date (April 2022 to November 2022), 197 affordable homes have been delivered across South Oxfordshire.

The council also agreed a Housing Delivery Strategy – and associated action plan – in November. This outlines South Oxfordshire’s aspirations for achieving an increase in low carbon, affordable housing. It also sets out several short-term actions aimed at improving housing availability and quality.

Furthermore, an Affordable Housing Guidance Note was presented to the Joint Scrutiny Committee in quarter three. The document aims to assist planning applicants and others with the identification of relevant published policy and guidance where it relates to the provision of affordable housing. Updates have been made to the council’s website to reflect this information.

As part of the council’s efforts to prioritise active travel and to make sure that new developments are accessible, progress continued to be made on the development of the Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). Stages 1 and 2 of the Department for Transport’s framework for developing LCWIPs have been completed and work has now started on Stage 3.

In order to ensure that the LCWIP meets local needs, a steering group has also been launched. This body will have a high-level overview of the Didcot LCWIP’s aims and ambitions – it will also support the making of key decisions. The membership of the steering group has been drawn from a number of different stakeholders, including parish/town councils, local authority members, user groups, representatives from the voluntary/community sector and residents.



Theme 6: Investment that rebuilds our financial viability

Why?

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

So:

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

Strategic Lead - Simon Hewings (Head of Finance)

Key Activities in quarter three

See Theme 6 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 46

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

The Strategic Property team continued to lease vacant properties, progress lease renewals and review rents during quarter three 2022/23. They also, in collaboration with colleagues in Housing, made progress in their work regarding potential housing development sites – one site has now been identified as a realistic opportunity (further work is ongoing in relation to smaller sites).

With the ambition of improving its effectiveness as an organisation, South Oxfordshire kept working on the introduction of

the new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. 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. The council expects to transition the garden waste service to the CRM in quarter four.

As part of South Oxfordshire's commitment to maximise external funding opportunities to support services and to enrich the district's leisure, the council submitted a bid (for £375k) to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme for Cornerstone. A decision on this application is expected in January 2023.

The External Funding Lead continued to collaborate with colleagues from Economic Development on South Oxfordshire's investment plans for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Rural England Prosperity Fund. They also supported Oxfordshire County Council's application to the Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2. If successful, this will help to support homes that are defined as off the gas grid to install energy efficiency measures.

During quarter three, South Oxfordshire received Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) funding to support a Nature Trail in Didcot (£44,000) – with an additional £22,000 coming from Oxfordshire County Council to enhance this project. The council also obtained £10,000 of COMF funding for outdoor table tennis tables. In addition, the Active Communities team received external support from Public Health (via Active Oxfordshire) for an extension to Move Together (£39,970) and funding for You Move (£40,750).

The pipeline of external funding opportunities was also maintained and assessed throughout the quarter.

South Oxfordshire quarter three independent cabinet member decisions

Date	Description
03/10/2022	Section 106 funds to Chinnor Parish Council
03/10/2022	Section 106 funds to Wallingford Sports Trust
03/11/2022	Section 106 funding for improved public transport in Chinnor
11/11/2022	Leisure management contractor's performance
15/11/2022	Purchase of IT hardware
22/11/2022	Rural England Prosperity Fund
28/11/2022	Play areas
29/11/2022	Henley and Harpesden Neighbourhood Plan
05/12/2022	Joint Local Plan
11/12/2022	Cuxham Conservation Area Appraisal for Consultation
11/12/2022	Dorchester and Overy Conservation Area Appraisals for Consultation
22/12/2022	Waste management contractor's performance
29/12/2022	Riverside campsite, Wallingford
29/12/2022	Riverside campsite, Wallingford

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
PRN1	With partners, promote in-depth mapping and surveying of ecosystems across the district, planning for restoration of the natural world and working closely with land-owners and specialist agencies	Narrative report to include information on work with partners, and Habitat and Species data + changes/trends on a 12 month basis	Cllr Sue Cooper	Head of Planning	No progress to report in Q3 2022/23
PRN2	Celebrate, protect and enhance our natural assets, including the River Thames and the AONBs and their setting, promoting our rural district for tourism, leisure and wellbeing	Narrative report to include information on work to manage natural assets and ANOBs (both internally and with partners)	Cllr Andrea Powell	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q3 2022/23, the Economic Development team consulted with South Oxfordshire's AONBs to help inform a bid to the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). Valuable insight was gained from the experiences of AONB representatives involved with the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FIPL) programme – which has similarities to the REPF. The AONBs were also invited to join the local partnership group that will guide the delivery of the REPF-funded scheme. South Oxfordshire's bid was submitted on 30 November, with a decision on funding expected in early 2023.</p> <p>In December, the council secured £1m of funding through HM Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). Work has now started on progressing a tender for the development of a visitor economy strategy for the district – it is anticipated that this strategy will, at least in part, focus on South Oxfordshire's natural capital.</p>
PRN3	Encourage the use of natural processes to combat risks arising from climate change, such as meadows and trees to reduce flooding	Narrative report to include direct and indirect information on use of natural processes to combat risks of climate change. This should include new policy development and direct activity undertaken by the Council	Cllr Sue Cooper	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>South Oxfordshire received no new applications relating to the Tree Planting on Council Owned Land during Q3 2022/23.</p> <p>Work has continued to restore nature to urban environments in our district. Tree planting will take place at five sites in the district: one in Woodcote and four in Didcot. In addition, a wildflower meadow will be planted at Cronshaw Close in Didcot. Planting will take place during quarter four. Furthermore, a partnership opportunity to plant more trees and wildflowers was identified at a location in Wallingford.</p>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
PRN4	Recognise and support the vital role of farming in economic and ecosystem resilience, local food provision and the recovery of soils and natural processes	Narrative report on activity undertaken with partners to encourage and support the vital role of farming in economic and ecosystem resilience (where possible, although this may be implicitly included in the information above)	Cllr Sue Cooper	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q3 2022/23, the Economic Development team submitted a bid to the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) to unlock circa £730k of funding. (As part of this work, officers consulted with a wide range of farming businesses and representatives to help inform their application). If successful, this money will be used to support rural businesses and communities in a variety of ways e.g., environmental sustainability. A decision on funding is expected in early 2023.</p> <p>Through the contacts made in preparing the council's REPF bid, the Economic Development team been able to acquire a much deeper understanding of the issues affecting rural communities and farm businesses.</p>
PRN5	Call for the establishment of a Local Nature Partnership for Oxfordshire to promote an ambitious nature recovery programme, including tree and meadow planting, rewilding and providing habitats for wildlife including wildlife corridors	Narrative report - accepting that much of the activity to support PRN3 will be relevant here	Cllr David Rouane	Head of Policy and Programmes	This is an annual measure. No progress to report Q3 2022/23.
PRN6	Work in partnership with the Earth Trust, Chilterns Conservation Board, North Wessex Downs AONB, the Environment Agency and others to improve access to green spaces in and around our towns, reinforcing access to nature as a priority for community wellbeing	Narrative report on activity with partners (including those named, and others), with a particular focus on work supporting the link between green spaces and community wellbeing	Cllr Sue Cooper	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	In December, South Oxfordshire secured £1m of funding through HM Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). The council's plans for this money include using £125,000 to create or improve local green spaces in 2024/25. Officers from the Economic Development team have now started work on a delivery action plan detailing how this funding will be made available to appropriate organisations.

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
OA1	Enhance trust and accountability in democratic decision-making, including live-streaming and recording of meetings, ensuring full accessibility of facilities and monitoring progress in an open and transparent way	<p>Narrative update to include information on the performance management framework, communications update on Cabinet/Council decisions, IAG around the operations/activity of the Council</p> <p>% of Public Council meetings within 12 months available online</p>	Cllr Andrea Powell	Deputy Chief Executive - Transformation and Operations	With the notable exception of the Full Council (due to logistical/IT issues), all other meetings during Q3 2022/23 were livestreamed (they will also remain available to view on the council's YouTube channel for a year).
OA2	Ensure that council departments work collaboratively to deliver best outcomes for residents	Narrative report detailing significant, non-recurring examples of inter-departmental working which have secured concrete outcomes for residents	Cllr Andrea Powell	Deputy Chief Executive - Transformation and Operations	<p>During Q3 2022/23, the preparatory work for the migration of the garden waste service to the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system has continued. This has involved close collaboration between Customer Services, IT and Waste. Customer Services and Planning have also continued to work together on implementing the "quick wins" identified in the Planning Advisory Service review. In addition, IT, Planning and Environment have pushed on with their arrangements for the replacement of the council's planning system.</p> <p>In Q3, staff from Customer Services received training on council tax and benefit enquiries. This has not only allowed them to provide support to colleagues but also resolve basic customer enquiries at Abbey House reception (something that has received positive feedback from residents).</p> <p>Other notable collaborations in Q3 included the continued cross-departmental collaboration on the council's response to the cost-of-living crisis and ongoing support for the Homes for Ukraine programme.</p>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
OA3	Embed an organisational culture that celebrates diversity, inclusion and respect	Narrative report on work undertaken to celebrate diversity, inclusion and respect. Should include standard recurring activity, one off supporting activity. This should be a joint report primarily from HR/Comms but include comments from others	Cllr Maggie Filipova-Rivers	Deputy Chief Executive - Transformation and Operations	<p>The council's Diversity and Inclusion Strategy was approved by the Cabinet in December. It will be rolled out during Q4 2022/23.</p> <p>During Q3, South Oxfordshire helped to promote local events taking place to mark Black History Month. The council also highlighted the Diwali celebrations being hosted by Cornerstone – these included a series of dance events on 21-22 October. The Cornerstone was also the venue for a series of relaxed and signed performances of A Christmas Carol during December.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire helped to promote the new East West Rail Accessibility Advisory Panel which aims to help understand the barriers faced by disabled rail passengers.</p>
OA4	Apply good governance and transparency in all our working and decision-making, exploring optimal structures and mechanisms for best practice in local government	Narrative report on significant change initiatives which have resulted in restructures/new processes to deliver local govt services	Cllr Pieter Paul Barker	Head of Legal and Democratic	<p>Progress continued to be made during Q3 2022/23 on governance issues. Improvements have been made to the Code of Corporate Governance and the Annual Governance Statements, and the council have added both a governance map and a Managers Assurance Statement to its governance framework.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire has also enhanced its procurement process with the aim of ensuring that a more strategic approach is taken to commissioning.</p> <p>In addition, improvements have been made the council's governance of information by utilising the Information Commissioner's Information Governance Toolkit.</p>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
OA5	Engage effectively with residents, Parish and Town Councils and other community organisations, using plain English in our communications and using appropriate methods and technologies to ensure equal and fair access for all	Narrative report on activities communications/engagement specific activities	Cllr Andrea Powell	Deputy Chief Executive - Transformation and Operations	<p>Between October and December, the council produced three town and parish and residents' newsletters and disseminated five InFocus newsletters to share important stories and information with our communities. A second edition of the Berinsfield Garden Village newsletter was also produced. This updated residents on the local Grant Scheme awards and a new study that will be taking place looking at community buildings and facilities in the village.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire engaged with residents, town/parish councils and community organisations about both the remembrance services taking place in the district and the Chair of the Council's wreath donation for the Poppies to Paddington. Throughout the quarter, the council also promoted its Active Communities events to help residents with their physical health and wellbeing.</p> <p>The council, using its new visual identity for the #CostofLivingHelp campaign, shared information on support services over Christmas via our Community Hub. It also provided out of hours contact details for emergency support. In addition, South Oxfordshire encouraged local venues to sign up as Warm Spaces, distributed Cost of Living leaflets to the public and continued to promote low-cost activities and events.</p> <p>The council also raised awareness of the work of the Housing Needs team in conjunction with World Homelessness Day in October. Moreover, during the cold weather in early December, they helped to promote the availability of emergency beds and encouraged residents to report anyone they saw sleeping rough.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire has continued to see the number of its followers grow on Facebook and Instagram. The council's reach across all platforms continues to remain high – it is, however, slightly down on the previous quarter when there were a few very high performing posts.</p> <p>(update continues on page 27)</p>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
OA5	Engage effectively with residents, Parish and Town Councils and other community organisations, using plain English in our communications and using appropriate methods and technologies to ensure equal and fair access for all	Narrative report on activities communications/engagement specific activities	Cllr Andrea Powell	Deputy Chief Executive - Transformation and Operations	<p>Facebook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posts: 227 • Reach: 251,387 users • New fans: 158 <p>Total fans: 6,237</p> <p>Instagram</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posts: 134 • Reach: 5,479 • New followers: 27 <p>Total followers: 604</p> <p>Twitter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tweets: 197 • Impressions: 73,454 • New followers: -7 <p>Total followers: 11,296</p> <p>During Q3 2022/23, web traffic was 4.0 per cent down on the previous reporting period (there was a drop off in usage in the weeks leading up to Christmas). Views, however, peaked during the holidays, with the top pages for traffic being waste/recycling (driven by people looking for information on collection days) and the planning application register.</p> <p>Q3 Web Usage Figures 188,749 unique visitors 512,610 page views 55.0 % Bounce rate 2m5s average visit duration</p>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
ACE1	Achieve our own zero carbon target by 2025 and support others to achieve the district target of zero carbon by 2030	Narrative report on strategic projects which will help to deliver net zero carbon for 2025/2030. This should be split between Council specific and District specific activities	Cllr Sue Cooper	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q3 2022/23, South Oxfordshire submitted a bid to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme for Cornerstone. A decision on this application is expected in January 2023.</p> <p>The council also sent out to tender the decarbonisation survey work of its other main property assets – this is due for review in January.</p> <p>LED lighting was installed in public toilets in Wallingford and Dorchester.</p>
ACE2	Develop an annually approved climate emergency programme and adequately finance it	Quantitative measure - delivery of an annual CEP Y/N	Cllr Sue Cooper	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>The Climate Action Plan (CAP) is being monitored as part of South's corporate performance management framework and will provide a detailed overview of all actions that may have an impact on reducing carbon in the wider district.</p> <p>The CAP Performance Report for Q2 2022/23 has been completed and is published on the council's website.</p>
ACE3	Deliver Council-owned net-zero homes and use grants, planning policy and advocacy to ensure the same standards throughout the district	Narrative Update on the current activities which WILL result in the delivery of Council owned homes (and details of those homes where possible)	Cllr Robin Bennett	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q3 2022/23, the council (working with an external project manager) progressed documentation relating to the procurement of an architect-led team to design net-zero homes on a council-owned site in Didcot (specifically on the Broadway).</p>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
ACE4	Promote and encourage behavioural change with informational campaigns and leading by example	Narrative update to include the number of communications campaigns undertaken which promote/encourage behavioural change (with examples)	Cllr Andrea Powell	Deputy Chief Executive - Transformation and Operations	<p>In Q3 2022/23, South Oxfordshire delivered 40 public information campaigns across community wellbeing, environmental, social issues. Of these campaigns, 16 promoted behavioural change, 14 highlighted important events and increased awareness of specific issues, and ten promoted diversity and inclusion.</p> <p>South encouraged the planting of trees during National Tree Week, promoted a joint bid for bathing water status at Wallingford and increased awareness of community councillor grants – which can be used to help deliver climate action projects. The council also delivered a campaign promoting the first Didcot Eco Fair.</p> <p>In November and December, the council promoted its 'Christmas Reduce, Reuse and Recycling' campaign. This included encouraging people to take part in a Christmas recycling quiz (which received more than 1,500 entries); sharing messages on how to reuse and reduce items that are usually thrown away over Christmas; highlighting a variety of useful resources and ideas on reducing, reusing and recycling; and encouraging people to visit South's special Christmas waste and recycling page.</p>
ACE5	Take positive action on single-use plastics, air quality improvement measures and sustainable transport	Suggested combined narrative update on Comms relating to single use plastics/comms relating to AQ initiatives and metrics relating to AQ (with an appreciation that this data will be skewed in 2020 due to lockdown(s))	Cllr Sue Cooper	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>During Q3 2022/23, the council formally awarded a contract to consultants for the development of new Air Quality Action Plans. Work has now started on this project – this has included a research exercise, the results of which will be analysed during Q4.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the final draft Air Quality Actions Plans will come forward for formal consultation in 2023/24.</p>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
ACE6	Mitigate climate change through planning and land use, enhancing biodiversity on our own land and strengthening the planning system to enforce environmental standards	Narrative update to focus on planning initiatives which support the potential deliverables where possible (primarily the development of the joint 2041 Local Plan, the joint Design Guide and carbon reduction in planning (DES8/10)	Cllr Anne-Marie Simpson	Head of Planning	<p>The Planning Policy team continued to work on researching policy approaches for greener construction and enhancing biodiversity. During Q3 2022/23, officers prepared a brief for a Zero Carbon Study – the results of which will inform the sustainable construction policies in the Joint Local Plan. It will go out for procurement in Q4.</p> <p>In addition, the Planning Policy team commissioned a set of studies on environmental topics. Once completed, these assessments will help to inform the Joint Local Plan, provide mapping and local area evidence for planning decisions, and assist communities in the development of their neighbourhood plans.</p> <p>Also, during Q3 2022/23, the Climate Action and Planning Policy teams worked with consultants and South's Oxfordshire partners to finalise the Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan.</p>
ACE7	Promote the circular economy (reduce, re-use and recycle), including in our waste management contracts	<p>Narrative measure on comms activity relating to waste/recycling</p> <p>Quantitative information on recycling rate, contamination rates, % of residual waste to landfill</p> <p>See Chart A</p>	Cllr Sue Cooper	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>During Q3 2022/23, web traffic was 4.0 per cent down on the previous reporting period (there was a drop off in usage in the weeks leading up to Christmas). Views, however, peaked during the holidays, with the top pages for traffic being waste/recycling (driven by people looking for information on collection days) and the planning application register.</p> <p>Q3 Web Usage Figures 188,749 unique visitors 512,610 page views 55.0 % Bounce rate 2m5s average visit duration</p>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
ACE8	Support and encourage local businesses to respond to climate change and nature recovery	Narrative update on the work influencing work undertaken to support and encourage local businesses relating to climate change and nature recovery	Cllr Robin Bennett	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>In November, the Economic Development team hosted an Eco-Business Fair at Cornerstone. It featured a market of local environmentally sustainable traders, family friendly engagement activities and information on energy solutions. The event was well attended, with 38 exhibitors and over 800 guests visiting on the day. The feedback that has been received – from both traders and attendees – has largely been positive.</p> <p>Also, in Q3, registrations opened for the council's "green business expo" scheduled to take place in Thame on 16 March 2023. There are currently eight businesses signed up to exhibit.</p> <p>In December, South Oxfordshire secured £1m of funding through HM Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). Officers from the Economic Development team have now started work on plans to deliver support to businesses in regards to climate change.</p>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
ACE9	Promote waste minimisation initiatives such as Repair Cafés	Unless specific activity relating to Repair Café's and Freecycle can be reported on, suggest that this is covered in previous narratives	Cllr Sue Cooper	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>Although there was no specific activity during Q3 2022/23 relating to Repair Cafés and Freecycle, South Oxfordshire did run several comms campaigns to highlight ways to reduce waste. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter Bug trail winners In October, the council announced the winner of its Litter Bug activity trails for children. These activities were aimed at primary school children and were intended to promote recycling and reuse messages, as well as explain the damage that litter does to the environment. • Halloween The council shared messages on its social media channels aimed at reducing food waste from pumpkins. • Christmas campaign In November and December, the council promoted its 'Christmas Reduce, Reuse and Recycling' campaign. This included encouraging people to take part in a Christmas recycling quiz (which received more than 1,000 entries); sharing messages on how to reuse and reduce items that are usually thrown away over Christmas; highlighting a variety of useful resources and ideas on reducing, reusing and recycling; and encouraging people to visit the South's special Christmas waste and recycling page. <p>South also continued to promote the use of Repair Cafés through the council's website.</p>
ACE10	Work with Oxfordshire County Council to build on our commitment to active travel including walking, public transport and cycling infrastructure	<p>Narrative update on work with Oxfordshire County Council</p> <p>Optional Quantitative metrics on the amount of new footpaths/ cycle paths</p>	Cllr Sue Cooper	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>In Q3 2022/23, officers from the council worked on a steering group for the Oxfordshire Strategic Active Travel Network (SATN) project.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire are also participating in the new Enhancement Partnership Board (alongside Oxfordshire's other councils), which will manage – in addition, to local funding – HM Government's financial support for the Bus Service Improvement Plan.</p>

Theme 4: Improved economic and community well-being

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
ECW1	Partner with regional agencies to ensure economic recovery, quality employment, thriving businesses and vibrant communities, avoiding the blight of “dormitory towns”	<p>Narrative report on work with partners in this area</p> <p>Quantitative metrics relating to employment rates (trends, actuals) - unemployment rate, trajectory/trend, earnings information</p>	Cllr Robin Bennett	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q3 2022/23, the council’s Digital District Programme (Virtual High Street Initiative) continued to grow. There are now 186 traders registered on the portal, with 1,281 products for sale. Work has now begun on extending the contract with ShopAppy (the website hosting the e-commerce platform) for a further 12 months.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire attended the quarterly steering group meeting for the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economic Partnership. The council has offered its support to ensure the promotion of the charter launch event through South and Vale Business Support channels.</p> <p>Having provided feedback on the tender to procure consultants to help develop the Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan (SEP), the council attended the SEP working group meeting to ensure that the development of the plan continues to align with South's objectives.</p> <p>Nomis data indicated that, at mid-quarter, the unemployment rate in South Oxfordshire stood at 2.4 per cent. This is 0.82 per cent lower than in October 2021.</p> <p>Across the wider Oxfordshire region there has been a slight increase in the number of unemployment claimants and a decrease in job vacancy postings – seasonality and the cost-of-living crisis are likely to be contributory factors.</p> <p>Average weekly earnings in South Oxfordshire were £752.50.</p>

Theme 4: Improved economic and community well-being

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
ECW2	Provide advice on access to grants, training and diversification programmes, helping local businesses to build agility and resilience	Quantitative measures - number of businesses we engage with, social media hits, newsletter subscribers, clickthrough rate, numbers of business grants awarded	Cllr Robin Bennett	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q3 2022/23, the Economic Development team was required to provide data to HMRC on several Covid-19 Grant programmes. This work diverted resources away from other projects.</p> <p>By the end of Q3 2022/23, there were 2,424 subscribers to South and Vale's economic development newsletter. There was 1,053 clickthroughs from these – and the average open rate was 52.04 per cent.</p> <p>From October to December, there were 7,058 pageviews of the South and Vale Business Support Website – 2,436 new users visited the website.</p> <p>Twitter activity undertaken during the quarter created 12,928 impressions, gained four new followers and generated 746 profile visits.</p> <p>At the end of Q3 2022/23, South and Vale Business Support's Facebook page created 13,260 impressions, generated 176 engagements and there were 598 page visits.</p> <p>There are currently no business support grants available through Economic Development.</p>

Theme 4: Improved economic and community well-being

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
ECW3	Plan for communities connected by walking & cycling networks, with sustainable, accessible and affordable public transport and reliable Broadband, learning the lessons from the Covid-19 experience and enabling more home-working	<p>Narrative update on work support reliable broadband (where possible)</p> <p>Narrative update on transport initiatives</p> <p>Quantitative - new footpath/ cycle paths delivered</p>	Cllr Anne-Marie Simpson	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>In Q3 2022/23, South Oxfordshire attended the Digital Infrastructure Partnership (DIP) board meeting where officers received an update on the GigaHub and Broadband in Rural Oxfordshire projects. A full assessment (and appropriate data) will be made available to members in early 2023 via a briefing organised by the County Council.</p> <p>Following the DIP meeting, Economic Development shared the details of the County Council's new Broadband Streetworks Advisor with Planning and Communications colleagues. This will help South Oxfordshire to proactively manage and direct complaints related to the disruptive installation of broadband.</p> <p>During Q3 2022/23, progress on the Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) continued. Stages 1 and 2 of the Department for Transport's framework for developing LCWIPs have been completed and work has now started on Stage 3. In order to ensure that the LCWIP meets local needs, the council have launched a steering group. This body will have a high-level overview of the Didcot LCWIP's aims and ambitions – it will also support the making of key decisions. The membership of the steering group has been drawn from a number of different stakeholders, including parish/town councils, local authority members, user groups, representatives from the voluntary/ community sector and residents.</p> <p>Following the completion of the draft Didcot Placemaking Strategy, a list of potential improvement schemes are now in the process of being identified. These proposals are currently going through RAG rating where they will be assessed against a set of criteria focusing on active travel, economic investment, sustainability, and community assets. Once priorities have been set, additional option appraisal work will commence. The project is due for completion during Q4 2022/23.</p> <p>In Q3 2022/23, officers from the council worked on a steering group for the Oxfordshire Strategic Active Travel Network (SATN) project.</p>

Theme 4: Improved economic and community well-being

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
ECW4	Launch a new community wellbeing strategy to encourage and support culture, leisure and the arts	Approval/Launch of 'Community Wellbeing Strategy' Y/N (document should encompass large parts of information above)	Cllr Maggie Fillipova-Rivers	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q3 2022/23, officers continued to collect information to assist in the development of the new Community Wellbeing Strategy – in this work they were able to utilise newly released health and census data.</p> <p>In December, the Cabinet endorsed the Oxfordshire Food Strategy. Officers have now started work on the development of a local food strategy action plan.</p>
ECW5	Use our planning powers to preserve our valuable green spaces, particularly in urban areas	Number of Neighbourhood Plans implemented/green spaces secured	Cllr Anne-Marie Simpson	Head of Planning	<p>During Q3 2022/23, the council adopted three neighbourhood plans (Cholsey, Woodcote and Henley & Harpsden).</p> <p>The neighbourhood plan review for Cholsey does not identify any specific green spaces for protection but does contain a policy requiring development to make appropriate provision for green infrastructure.</p> <p>The neighbourhood plan reviews for Woodcote and Henley & Harpsden include policies protecting a total of 22 locally important green spaces.</p>
ECW6	Work with our communities to maximise Community Infrastructure Levy funds and to allocate these to achieve best outcomes for residents in the District	<p>Narrative update about work in this area to include detail of new CIL spending strategy, communication with parishes</p> <p>Quantitative elements - CIL Spend broken down by type, by parish</p>	Cllr Robin Bennett	Head of Finance	<p>The October CIL payment (made in accordance with regulations) to parish councils totalled £1,334,148. This funding will be used directly by them to support development in their respective areas.</p> <p>The Statutory Infrastructure Funding Statement was published in December. It can be found at: https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/01/South-IFS-2021-22-20221216.pdf</p> <p>Recommendations for the allocation of CIL in the 2023/24 capital programme will be considered as part of the budget setting process. The allocations will be reported during Q4 2022/23.</p>

Theme 4: Improved economic and community well-being

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
ECW7	Take enforcement action on fly-tipping and dog fouling	<p>Small narrative on Fly Tipping/dog following activity (with Comms input on any campaigns)</p> <p>Qualitative data on fly tipping - what we collect, where from, how much, nature of enforcement action undertaken, hotspot map</p>	Cllr Sue Cooper	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>In October 2022, there were 51 fly tips in South Oxfordshire. This was a decrease on the 63 fly tips recorded in October 2021.</p> <p>In November 2022, there were 60 fly tips in South Oxfordshire. This was a decrease on the 66 fly tips recorded in November 2021.</p> <p>In December 2022, there were 48 fly tips in South Oxfordshire. This was a decrease on the 61 fly tips recorded in December 2021.</p> <p>During Q3 2022/23, the council issued eight Fixed Penalty Notices for waste crimes.</p> <p>There were no prosecutions for waste crimes between October and December – five prosecutions do, however, remain pending.</p> <p>In addition, officers received 86 abandoned vehicle reports between October and December. Of these, 46 vehicles were not on site, 26 were identified as not abandoned, one was removed, and five investigations remain ongoing (the other eight were duplicate reports).</p>
ECW8	Work with local partners to introduce civil parking enforcement as a district responsibility	Narrative update on progress	Cllr David Rouane	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	No progress to report Q3 2022/23 – civil parking enforcement started successfully in South off-street car parks on 1 November 2022.

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
HILN1	Didcot Garden Town priority projects as identified by the Advisory Board, specifically a sustainable plan to redevelop the Didcot Gateway site, a public transport and active walking and cycling network, community facilities and accessible green spaces for Didcot residents	Narrative update against the stated aim, to include as many of the potential deliverables as possible, but not limited in scope to this	Cllr Robin Bennett	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>Scoping work continued to be carried out for the 27 projects within the newly revised Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan. A budget has now been allocated to advance several priority projects over the next two years – key headlines include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £100,000 for tree planting and biodiversity enhancements • £60,000 for wayfinding • £54,000 for the Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan • £40,000 to help implement soft community initiatives related to the environment and sustainability • £10,000 to advance a meanwhile space project • £30,00 to progress a Didcot-focused Public Arts and Cultural Strategy • Funding to resource a Community Development and Outreach Officer • £20,000 for a leisure and recreation strategy for Didcot • £45,000 to advance community projects to increase health and wellbeing • £20,00 to progress a Town Centre and Retail Strategy • £75,000 to support a long-term legacy project <p>During Q3 2022/23, progress on the Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) continued. Stages 1 and 2 of the Department for Transport's framework for developing LCWIPs have been completed and work has now started on Stage 3. In order to ensure that the LCWIP meets local needs, the council have launched a steering group. This body will have a high-level overview of the Didcot LCWIP's aims and ambitions – it will also support the making of key decisions. The membership of the steering group has been drawn from a number of different stakeholders, including parish/town councils, local authority members, user groups, representatives from the voluntary/community sector and residents.</p> <p>(update continues on page 39)</p>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
HILN1	Didcot Garden Town priority projects as identified by the Advisory Board, specifically a sustainable plan to redevelop the Didcot Gateway site, a public transport and active walking and cycling network, community facilities and accessible green spaces for Didcot residents	Narrative update against the stated aim, to include as many of the potential deliverables as possible, but not limited in scope to this	Cllr Robin Bennett	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>Following the completion of the draft Didcot Placemaking Strategy, a list of potential improvement schemes are now in the process of being identified. These proposals are currently going through RAG rating where they will be assessed against a set of criteria focusing on active travel, economic investment, sustainability and community assets. Once priorities have been set, additional option appraisal work will commence. The project is due for completion during Q4 2022/23.</p> <p>In Q3 2022/23, officers from the council also worked on a steering group for the Oxfordshire Strategic Active Travel Network (SATN) project.</p> <p>The drafting of the Didcot Public Arts and Culture Strategy was completed in Q3 2022/23.</p>
HILN2	The transformation of Berinsfield into a thriving Garden Village with improved facilities that are developed in line with the community's needs and aspirations	Narrative update against the stated aim, to include as many of the potential deliverables as possible, but not limited in scope to this	Cllr Robin Bennett	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q3 2022/23, the council consulted with the Berinsfield Steering Group on a draft delivery plan for the village. Comments are currently being collated and will be discussed at the next group meeting.</p> <p>The parish council has agreed to bring forward a new Neighbourhood Plan for Berinsfield.</p> <p>Oxford Architects were officially appointed to lead on the Community Facilities Project. Local organisations have been engaging with them (and their sub-contractors) to explain their operational needs and requirements. In addition, surveys of Berinsfield's community buildings have been undertaken to provide information on their potential future long-term use.</p> <p>The council has also identified further external funding for a decarbonisation and community energy audit.</p>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
HILN3	New council-owned homes with a focus on quality of design, affordability and local requirements	Narrative Update on the current activities which WILL result in the delivery of Council owned homes (and details of those homes where possible) Also reporting on progress of Design Guide	Cllr Robin Bennett	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	During Q3 2022/23, the council (working with an external project manager) progressed documentation relating to the procurement of an architect-led team to design net-zero homes on a council-owned site in Didcot (specifically on the Broadway).
HILN4	Support and encouragement for the retrofit of our existing housing stock for low-carbon performance and to eliminate fuel poverty	Narrative update on current/ completed activities and influencing activity	Cllr Sue Cooper	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q3 2022/23, the draft Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan was developed and reviewed by officers. After amendment, it was presented to the Environmental Advisory Group in November. The Route Map and Action Plan (and their associated documentation) are currently being finalised prior to their consideration by the Future Oxfordshire Partnership.</p> <p>Officers have finalised an options paper looking at the ways that South Oxfordshire can accelerate its work on retrofit. This will be presented to the CEEAC for discussion during Q4. Several new pages on retrofit have also been developed and published on the council's website. These new pages are designed to provide further information to residents and to signpost potential sources of funding and expertise.</p>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
HILN5	Elimination of homelessness in our District	<p>Narrative update on progress in this area</p> <p>Quantitative information on - Homelessness rates, homeless cases and TA numbers, length of stay in TA and effectiveness of interventions (avoided homelessness)</p>	Cllr Maggie Fillipova Rivers	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>South Oxfordshire recorded no rough sleepers at the end of Q3 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 31 December was 26 – another significant increase on the previous quarter (16) 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 49 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 Q3 2022/23, the rate of successful homelessness prevention in South Oxfordshire was 81.0 per cent. This was above the very challenging target of 80.0 per cent (the average rate of homelessness prevention in the South East region is 55.0 per cent).</p> <p>The council continues to actively participate in the countywide Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy and is a member of both the countywide Homelessness Steering Group and the Homelessness Directors Group.</p>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
HILN6	Bringing empty properties back into use	Narrative update on any relevant initiatives to reduce the number of empty properties and any data on empty property levels in South Oxfordshire	Cllr Robin Bennett	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>The funding for the Meanwhile in Oxfordshire programme has come to an end and, therefore, there are currently no initiatives to bring vacant commercial premises back into use.</p> <p>The Economic Development team are currently exploring the possibility of using grant funding secured through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to unlock enterprise infrastructure in South Oxfordshire by making use of vacant premises. This work is, however, at a very early stage – funding will not be available until 2024/25.</p> <p>Empty rateable premises data for Q3 2022/23 is not available.</p> <p>The vacancy rates for the district's largest towns (July to September) were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Didcot Town Centre: 10.8 per cent • Henley: 9.9 per cent • Thame: 8.0 per cent • Wallingford: 10.3 per cent <p>This compares to a vacancy rate of 9.6 per cent across the wider South East region</p>
HILN7	Ensuring that our teams are ready to access or signpost to any Government schemes or funding that is made available	Narrative update on signposting activity and if possible, update on take-up	Cllr Robin Bennett	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>South Oxfordshire submitted a bid to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme for Cornerstone. A decision on this application is expected in January 2023.</p> <p>During Q3 2022/23, the External Funding Lead supported Oxfordshire County Council's application to the Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2. If successful, this will help to support homes that are defined as off the gas grid to install energy efficiency measures. The External Funding Lead also continued to collaborate with colleagues from Economic Development on South Oxfordshire's investment plans for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Rural England Prosperity Fund.</p> <p>The pipeline of external funding opportunities was also maintained and assessed throughout the quarter.</p>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
HILN8	New homes are future-proofed, meeting the highest environmental standards and enhancing nature through sensitive, high quality design	Narrative update around refresh of the design guide, local plan, and information around DES10	Cllr Anne-Marie Simpson	Head of Planning	<p>During Q3 2022/23, the Planning Policy team continued to work on ensuring that, through planning policy, South Oxfordshire responds to the climate emergency, sets robust evidence-based carbon reduction targets and delivers net zero carbon development. To help further this ambition, officers prepared a brief for a Zero Carbon Study – the results of which will inform the sustainable construction policies in the Joint Local Plan. It will go out for procurement in Q4.</p> <p>The Climate Action and Planning Policy teams also worked with consultants and the Vale's Oxfordshire partners to finalise the Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan.</p> <p>In November, officers updated and published the 'Advice Note on DES10: Carbon Reduction' for developers. This reflected improvements to Building Regulations.</p>
HILN9	Spatial planning embeds public health, wellbeing and sustainability	Narrative update on work around planning reinforcing wellbeing and sustainability. This should include 'health based planning data' where possible - information on public gym equipment - footpaths, cycle paths etc.	Cllr Anne Marie Simpson	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q3 2022/23, progress continued on the development of the Joint Local Plan. As part of this work, officers are advancing planning policies that will help to reinforce wellbeing and sustainability.</p> <p>In order to help protect the environment, the Planning Policy team commissioned a set of studies on landscape and countryside. Once completed, these assessments will help to inform the Joint Local Plan, provide mapping and local area evidence for planning decisions, and assist communities in the development of their neighbourhood plans.</p> <p>In addition, the council appointed consultants to undertake two studies on sport and leisure (on playing pitches and a leisure facilities strategy respectively) which will also be utilised in the development of the Joint Local Plan.</p>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
HILN10	Changes over time in our stock of homes meet local needs	<p>Narrative update based on information available from 3rd parties and the impact this has on the local area</p> <p>Bedroom mix in new developments breakdown every 6 months</p>	Cllr Anne-Marie Simpson	Head of Planning	<p>During September 2022, the final month of Q2, a further 34 affordable properties were reported as delivered, taking the Q2 total to 74. The type and size of the 34 units delivered in September 2022 was as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 x 1 bed maisonettes - 1 x 2 bed maisonette - 9 x 2 bed flats - 17 x 2 bed houses - 4 x 3 bed houses <p>During October and November 2022, 38 affordable properties have been reported as delivered.</p> <p>The type and size of the 38 units currently delivered in Q3 is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 x 1 bed flats - 6 x 2 bed flats - 11 x 2 bed houses - 15 x 3 bed houses - 3 x 4 bed house <p>A quarterly total, including December, will be made available towards the end of January.</p> <p>2022/23 to date has seen the delivery of 197 affordable homes.</p> <p>It should be noted that over the life of a development, different dwelling and tenure types will be delivered at varying rates depending upon the developer's build programme.</p>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
HILN11	Sustainable transport solutions prioritise walking, cycling and public transport to reduce car dependency and air pollution	Narrative update on overall progress relating to sustainable transport solutions - particularly EV elements	Cllr Anne Marie Simpson	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>The Park and Charge project to install EV charging points in five of the council's car parks was completed during Q1 2022/23. All of the EV charging points were operational in Q3. The monthly reports from EZ Charge show a steady increase in usage over the first six months of operation – there has been a particularly large take-up in Henley.</p> <p>During Q3 2022/23, progress on the Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) continued. Stages 1 and 2 of the Department for Transport's framework for developing LCWIPs have been completed and work has now started on Stage 3. In order to ensure that the LCWIP meets local needs, the council have launched a steering group. This body will have a high-level overview of the Didcot LCWIP's aims and ambitions – it will also support the making of key decisions. The membership of the steering group has been drawn from a number of different stakeholders, including parish/ town councils, local authority members, user groups, representatives from the voluntary/community sector and residents.</p> <p>Following the completion of the draft Didcot Placemaking Strategy, a list of potential improvement schemes are now in the process of being identified. These proposals are currently going through RAG rating where they will be assessed against a set of criteria focusing on active travel, economic investment, sustainability and community assets. Once priorities have been set, additional option appraisal work will commence. The project is due for completion during Q4 2022/23.</p> <p>In Q3 2022/23, officers from the council worked on a steering group for the Oxfordshire Strategic Active Travel Network (SATN) project.</p>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
IRFV1	Develop and implement an innovative Transformation Strategy to diversify our revenue streams, improve our effectiveness and secure our on-going viability	<p>Narrative measure relating to the development of an overarching Transformation Strategy and any overall narrative linking to potential deliverables</p> <p>Quantitative data - Income relative to Net expenditure (in context), this could be broken down by service</p>	Cllr Leigh Rawlins	Deputy Chief Executive - Transformation and Operations	
IRFV2	“Invest to save” for the District, including the delivery of sustainable new Council offices – on time and within budget – to realise future operational efficiencies	Narrative on progress of the Corporate Office project, including data on current spend on office accommodation which will no longer be spent once project completed. Further narrative to discuss impact of new building finances	Cllr Leigh Rawlins	Deputy Chief Executive - Transformation and Operations	Work on the detailed design of the delivery of the new council offices and the masterplan continued during Q3 2022/23.

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
IRFV3	Exercise strong Stewardship of all Council assets including property and financial investments, optimising their performance for the benefit of our residents	Narrative update on the progress of the SPR, in the initial period detailing the scope and scape, then once SPR has been delivered, the outcomes and future measures (quant element)	Cllr Leigh Rawlins	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q3 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 – one site has now been identified as a realistic opportunity (further work is ongoing in relation to smaller 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>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
IRFV4	Maximise external funding opportunities to support our services and to enrich our leisure, sporting and community activities	<p>Narrative update relating to external funding utilisation, both funding received direct to the council, and projects which have received part external funding or are in progress if not already delivered</p> <p>Specific elements which should be included - Proportion of spend on leisure/community facilities vs amount funded by Council.</p> <p>CIL/106 spend broken down by type/parish</p> <p>Externally funded Capital schemes</p> <p>Total External funding received figure - narrative should be clear that this is not the total figure</p>	Cllr Maggie-Fillipova Rivers	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>South Oxfordshire submitted a bid (for £375k) to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme for Cornerstone. A decision on this application is expected in January 2023.</p> <p>The External Funding Lead continued to collaborate with colleagues from Economic Development on South Oxfordshire's investment plans for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Rural England Prosperity Fund.</p> <p>The Active Communities team have received external support from Public Health (via Active Oxfordshire) for an extension to Move Together (£39,970) and funding for You Move (£40,750). An additional £3,200 has also come from Active Oxfordshire for GP referrals.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire has received COMF funding to support a Nature Trail in Didcot (£44,000) – with an additional £22,000 coming from Oxfordshire County Council to enhance this project. The council has also obtained £10,000 of COMF funding for outdoor table tennis tables.</p>
IRFV5	Invest responsibly and ethically with the Climate Emergency at the heart of what we do	Narrative update detailing changes which have included climate elements into regularised decision making	Cllr Leigh Rawlins	Head of Finance	As a consequence of the uncertain economic climate, officers are not currently pursuing a funds review to find alternative potential investment opportunities.



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South Oxfordshire District Council
Abbey House
Abbey Close
Abingdon
OX14 3JE

Email: performance@southoxon.gov.uk

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