

## Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan - programme update 20 November 2023


Status	Delivery Plan Objective	Ref	Project name	Outcome	Project summary	Update and 2023-24 Q2 progress	£ DGT allocation	£ committed / spent	£ balance
On track	INFRASTRUCTURE and the BUILT ENVIRONMENT	5	Didcot Central Corridor Placemaking Strategy and Options Appraisal	Approved strategy and options appraisal	Placemaking Strategy for the Cultural Spine (Jubilee roundabout & Broadway), Gateway Spine (Station Rd.) and Foxhall Road, including consultation with stakeholders on capital projects options.	The public realm improvements consultation ended on 4 July. OCC will informally consult the District Councils on a shortlist of schemes in the autumn and the final appraisal detailing options for the next stage of work is due Winter 2023/24.	External funding		
On track	INFRASTRUCTURE and the BUILT ENVIRONMENT	7	Didcot Gateway - masterplan	Approved masterplan	The council-led masterplan sets the context for the Didcot Gateway mixed use scheme of homes, offices and public open space on multiple sites and enhance arrival at Didcot Parkway.	Planning application <a href="#">P22/S0491/O</a> is under consideration following consultation.	External funding		
On track	INFRASTRUCTURE and the BUILT ENVIRONMENT	8	Didcot Gateway - council offices	Full infrastructure delivery on the ground	Delivery of a highly sustainable, district council headquarters, including lettable office space, landscaped amenity areas and a public plaza.	Planning approval was granted to extend the temporary use of the site as a car park for a further two years. Consultation on planning application <a href="#">P23/S2621/FUL</a> for the council offices was submitted on 2 August 2023.	External funding		
On track	INFRASTRUCTURE and the BUILT ENVIRONMENT	9	Wayfinding strategy	Approved strategy	A strategy to identify, specify and design wayfinding route options to enhance inclusive access to Didcot's spaces and support active travel. Linked to Didcot's LCWIP (project 10) and Public Arts Strategy (project 19a).	David Lock Associates Ltd has prepared a first draft wayfinding strategy and will make a presentation to the November Advisory Board. By January 2024, the completed strategy will incorporate specifications, options and costings to expedite procurement of works on the ground.	25,000	19,500	5,500
On track	ACTIVE TRAVEL and INNOVATION	10	Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)	Complete approved strategy	To identify local level cycling and walking infrastructure improvements for leisure and commuting. The community-led plan will provide for all abilities across Didcot and the surrounding villages.	The statutory Part B consultation ended on 20 September 2023 with district council approval of the report being sought via ICMD and via CMD for the county council.	54,000	54,266	-266
On track	ACTIVE TRAVEL and INNOVATION	11	Science Vale Active Travel Network	Complete, approved strategy	To plan active travel routes across Science Vale, connecting three main employment zones to town centres including Didcot.	10km of improved cycle and pedestrian paths, is now complete and open to the public. OCC is currently reviewing outcomes of the July-August 2023 Strategic Active Travel Network final draft consultation and will then consider phase 2 for Science Vale Active Travel.	TBA		
On track	ACTIVE TRAVEL and INNOVATION	12	MultiCAV Autonomous vehicle trials	Completed trials	Nationally innovative trials by a private consortium, including UK transport operator FirstGroup, for an autonomous public transport service between Didcot Parkway and Milton Park. The trials could lead to plans for a route connecting Science Vale hubs at Harwell, Milton Park and Culham with central Didcot and Didcot Parkway, reflecting the DGT Delivery Plan's visions for science and innovation.	Following the success of the first two trial phases, a larger, single decker, 28-seater, autonomus bus is operating a service called M-Link between Milton Park and stand R4 at Didcot Parkway railway station. The bus is 100% electric and emissions free, open to all and fully accessible to wheelchair users. The bus operators will make a presentation to the November DGT Advisory Board	External funding		
On track	HIGH QUALITY HOUSING and PLACEMAKING	14	DGT development principles in development	DGT principles embedded in planning applications	Respond to Didcot major planning applications to help to embed DGT principles in planning decisions, working with the planners, developers, infrastructure providers, health and wellbeing stakeholders to ensure high quality aims are delivered and design panel and/or design code options considered.	DGT is represented at regular OCC Strategic Sites and Policy liaison meetings and has commented on the East Hagbourne draft Neighbourhood Plan.	n/a		
On track	HIGH QUALITY HOUSING and PLACEMAKING	15	DGT principles in planning policy	DGT principles embedded in policy	Coordinate with Planning Policy team and town and parish councils to influence embedding of DGT principles in emerging planning policy.	DGT continues to input to the draft Joint Local Plan's Didcot Garden Town and Town Centre policies and looks forward to the Preferred Options consultation later in the year.	n/a		
On track	GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE and LEISURE	16	Green infrastructure strategy	Approved strategy and phasing plan	To review neighbourhoods across Didcot and identify where green infrastructure can improve public realm, how open space access can be strengthened for health and wellbeing benefits and provide a phasing plan for measurable biodiversity netgain and additional green infrastructure.	Arkwood Ltd is preparing the green infrastructure strategy, which will incorporate specifications, options and costings to expedite procurement of works on the ground. In addition to taking part in the Healthy Didcot Launch on 13 September, Arkwood , will make a presentation for the January Advisory Board.	20,000	19,787	213

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On track	COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES	17	Environment and sustainability activation including Didcot Wildlife Garden Charter	Programme of projects planned and implemented and community engagement via a charter	Work with local partners to deliver a series of projects connected with the environment and sustainability, including but not limited to community gardens, tree planting and the Didcot Nature Charter project, by the Residents Sounding Board, which is a pledge that residents can choose to take to make their gardens more nature friendly.	DGT included Environment Day in the Didcot Garden Party and supported Sustainable Didcot's Fair. In liaison with the Low Carbon Hub, training is being arranged for local volunteers to become Energy Champions and local people have responded to our tree giveaway, requesting 3,000 trees so far. A cross-service team is also working on a process to help local groups provide community gardens on council owned land. At all events in Didcot the team continues to plug the Didcot Wildlife Garden Charter, launched with Sustainable Didcot in May 2023, for households to pledge "to help wildlife thrive in our garden!" Residents are encouraged to send in photos of their nature gardens and the plaques given out include Sustainable Didcot's Facebook link and a QR code that gives neighbours or passers-by a pledge link.	40,000	2,277	37,723
On track	COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES	18	Meanwhile uses	Meanwhile uses delivered	Plan and deliver temporary to semi-permanent meanwhile uses in collaboration with partners and the community. Plan and deliver, in collaboration with partners and the community, temporary pop-up uses for unused public realm buildings and retail units in Didcot for social and economic benefits.	Homes England is seeding meadow areas on their currently vacant Gateway near Lydalls Road in October and the DGT team is arranging for county owned verges near the station to be landscaped. The team has also started to pull together data on retail and other vacancies in Didcot and may merge this project with work on the planned Town Centre and Retail Study.	10,000	0	10,000
On track	COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES	19	Didcot Public Arts and Culture Strategy	Complete and approved strategy	Didcot Public Art Plan to identify art placements that will revitalise areas such as underpasses, public spaces and gateways and reinforce character areas.	FrancisKnight Ltd has been appointed to carry out the plan and will make a presentation to the January Advisory Board.	30,000	24,486	5,514
On track	COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES	21	Healthy Didcot project, Active Communities and Nourish and Flourish schools programme	Updated Didcot health data, a programme of healthy activities and a two-year food programme in Didcot Schools	A community insight project to understand community views on health needs, health data profiling and action plan of activities and recreational provision for all abilities. Working with the Active Communities team to help plan and implement a programme of activities and recreational provision for all abilities to contribute to improved health. A 2-year programme of school of food focused engagement. <a href="https://www.sofea.uk.com/our-purpose-projects/nourish-and-flourish/">https://www.sofea.uk.com/our-purpose-projects/nourish-and-flourish/</a>	The Healthy Didcot project had a good launch on 13 September at the District Community Centre in Great Western Park. Working with links that were made at the launch and Dicot focused health data, the team will undertake in-depth community insight work. The Active Communities team provided a full team of activities over the summer including: 'Xplorer orienteering', Mini Warriors boot camp style activity, skateboarding and scooter sessions, yoga in the park and health walks. Engendering considerable praise, the Nourish and Flourish team will make a presentation on the 2-year programme in nine Didcot schools to the Advisory Board.	45,000	15,000	30,000
On track	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	23	Apprenticeships, skills and training	Improved skills and training data	A project arising from the Business Sounding Board, with partners building on local business networks to influence programmes and identify opportunities for skill and apprenticeship fairs.	The emerging Joint Local Plan is expected to require major developments to include Community Employment Plans. Under the auspices of OxLEP the SOFEA and Aspire online platform 'No Limits Oxfordshire' is helping to remove barriers to work, education and training.	External funding		
On track	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	24	Co-working space	Greater digital inclusion on the ground	Work with partners to improve Didcot's digital inclusion in Didcot via digital hubs, public Wi-Fi and promoting use of meanwhile spaces to promote outreach.	The DGT team has carried out an informal survey of local co-working spaces, compiling data on what co-working space is available in Didcot and how easy it is to access. In accordance with OCC's 2022 Digital Inclusion Strategy and Charter, the DGT team is highlighting where its projects may provide opportunities to improve digital inclusion and tackle inequality.	External funding		
On track	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	26	Milton Bio-Science Centre	Full infrastructure delivery on the ground	Project to support construction of state of the art bio-science centre to increase economic investment and job opportunities in DGT, as approved via Milton Park LDO.	Breaking ground for the project is imminent and completion is expected in quarter 4 of 2024-25. This will trigger the second tranche payment by DGT to MEPC who own Milton Park.	7,000,000	2,330,218	4,669,782

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On track	COMMUNICATIONS and LEGACY	27	Identity, legacy and stewardship and Didcot Garden Party (2022-24)	6-week programme of activities attended by Didcot residents	Helping to foster a legacy plan to ensure garden town principles are sustainable in the long-term and working with communications leads to develop branding for the garden town that will contribute to placemaking. This year's Garden Party activities involved children and adults in a healthy, entertaining 6-week programme of events across Didcot and the villages, free sports & activities, arts and crafts, evening activities for all and four community days: 8 August, Environment Day 10 August, Keeping Active Day 11 August, Food and Finances Day 24 Aug, Ukraine's Independence Day.	In managing all projects in the Delivery Plan the team is seeking ways to plan for and achieve long-term continuity via local people and organisations. The Garden Party is an action packed programme of free activities from the end of July to the end of August were held in public spaces across Didcot with many events at the space outside Cornerstone. This was transformed into a welcoming garden with newly purchased temporary fencing carrying Didcot Garden Party and Cornerstone logos. Also new this year, were four successful community days focusing on environment, keeping active, food & finances and Ukrainian Independence, where local people were welcomed with support and advice from seventeen local partners and seven other council teams.	75,000	£37,830	37,170
Implementation on the ground of projects below is due to start in 2024, subject to budgets, once the relevant strategy or plan has been approved									
INFRASTRUCTURE and the BUILT ENVIRONMENT	9	Wayfinding implementation	Infrastructure on the ground	Implementing the best options of the Wayfinding Strategy.	This project will start following approval of the DGT Wayfinding Strategy, subject to sufficient funding.	35,000	0	35,000	
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE and LEISURE	16	Green infrastructure improvements	Implemented improvements on the ground	Implement green infrastructure schemes across DGT and area of influence that are possible in the short-term and identify funding for longer-term improvements	This project will start following approval of the DGT green infrastructure strategy, subject to sufficient funding.	100,000	0	100,000	
COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING	19	Public arts implementation	Implemented arts works and events	Building on Didcot arts and culture strategies, delivering projects and events to increase outreach and the town's cultural offer and work with partners to build on Didcot's Cultural Spine, promoting Didcot as a destination.	Strongly linked to the Didcot Garden and associated events. Further works pending outcomes of the Public Art Plan.	TBA			
The Didcot focused strategies or studies below are due to be procured in 2024, subject to budgets, once the relevant county or district-wide strategy or plan has been approved									
ACTIVE TRAVEL and INNOVATION	13	DGT Area Transport Strategy	Complete, approved strategy	A local level transport strategy for Didcot Garden Town to improve services for users and consider transport connectivity including a multimodal transport hub to complement and increase public transport use.	Outcomes of the OCC district level Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) Area Strategy, due Autumn 2023, will inform this more detailed Didcot focused study.	TBA			
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE and LEISURE	20	Didcot Leisure & Recreation Strategy	Complete, approved strategy	Building on the district-wide strategy, a detailed review of Didcot's leisure needs, with recommendations for current and future leisure need, allowing for identified housing growth.	The district-wide Leisure and Recreation and Playing Pitch strategies, due summer 2023, will inform a Didcot focused strategy.	20,000	0	20,000	
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	22	Didcot Town Centre and Retail Study	Complete, approved study	Building on the emerging district-wide Town Centre and Retail Study, a Didcot focused study of interventions to improve the town's viability and vitality, including realistic, achievable short and long-term actions for Didcot.	Subject to the outcomes of the district-wide study, which will be consulted on as part of the Joint Local Plan 2041 Preferred Options Consultation due Autumn 2023.	20,000	0	20,000	
Projects below are paused or likely to be subject to delay									
ACTIVE TRAVEL and INNOVATION	13	Didcot Parkway Transport Hub Feasibility Study	These	A feasibility study for a Didcot Parkway, multimodal transport hub with links to the Gateway project and stations at Culham and Appleford.	Unfortunately the bid for £65,000 Great Western Railway grant, submitted in May 2023 for a transport hub feasibility study was unsuccessful but the team is committed to taking the project forward in some form.	TBA			
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	25	Local Development Orders (LDOs)	Adopted Local Development Orders	To help improve Didcot economic investment and job opportunities, the team liaises with the councils' Strategic Partnerships and Planning teams to input to Local Development Orders (LDOs).	An amended D-Tech LDO for Appleford Farm (P17/V2490/LDO) was under consideration following consultation but, because the proposed road to Culham passes through the site, that decision is halted until the HIF1 application is determined.	5,000	0	5,000	
INFRASTRUCTURE and the BUILT ENVIRONMENT	6	Northern Perimeter Road (NPR3)	Infrastructure completed on the ground	Design and implementation of the A4130 Didcot northern perimeter road extension as part of Didcot's strategic transport infrastructure.	£6.2m government funding to OCC is to be agreed and a planning submission is due Winter 2023	6,200,000	6,200,000	0	
INFRASTRUCTURE and the BUILT ENVIRONMENT	1 2 3 4	Science Bridge A4130 capacity improvements Clifton Hampden Bypass New River Thames crossing at Culham	Infrastructure completed on the ground	Four linked Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF1) Highways schemes to improve connectivity, unlock delivery of new homes and jobs and improve cycling and pedestrian provision.	The Secretary of State having called in the application for determination by the Planning Inspectorate, a Planning Inquiry is due to start early in 2024.	External funding			
							13,679,000 allocated	8,703,354 committed	4,975,636 balance

Sign off by Head of Policy and Programmes:  .....

Date: 6 November 2023