

South Oxfordshire District Council

Corporate Performance Report



2023/24 Quarter Two
October 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 two (01 July to 30 September 2023)**, focusing on the activity to deliver our priorities in the Corporate Plan.
- As well as giving a performance update on delivering 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 two of 2023/24, the global economic situation remained precarious. Soaring prices have driven inflation across the world and placed individuals, families and businesses under increasing financial pressures. Nevertheless, wholesale prices have fallen from some of the highs seen in recent months and global supply chain disruptions have continued to ease.

Within the UK, the rate of inflation rose by 6.7 per cent in the 12 months to September 2023 – the same as in August (inflation peaked at 11.1 per cent in October 2022 – the highest rate since 1981). This was largely the result of the falls in September of the rate of inflation for food & non-alcoholic beverages (where prices fell on the month for the first time since September 2021) and furniture & household goods being offset by upward contributions from the rising costs for transport (the average price of petrol rose by 5.1 pence per litre and diesel by 6.3 pence between August and September) and restaurants & hotels.

The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), as part of their remit to keep inflation under control, raised interest rates to 5.25 per cent in August 2023 (the highest level since February 2008 but still below the long-term historic average of 5.9 per cent). This was the fourteenth consecutive time that the MPC had increased the Bank Rate in an effort to get inflation under control. At their meeting in September, the MPC – for the first time since the end of 2021 – voted not to raise interest rates.



In its Quarterly Monetary Policy Report (August 2023), the Bank of England forecast that inflation will fall to around 5.0 per cent by the end of the year (owing to lower energy, and to a lesser degree, food and core goods price inflation). The Bank are also predicting that inflation will not return to the 2.0 per cent target until Q2 2025 (later than they suggested in their previous quarterly report, where inflation returned to the 2.0 per cent target in Q4 2024).

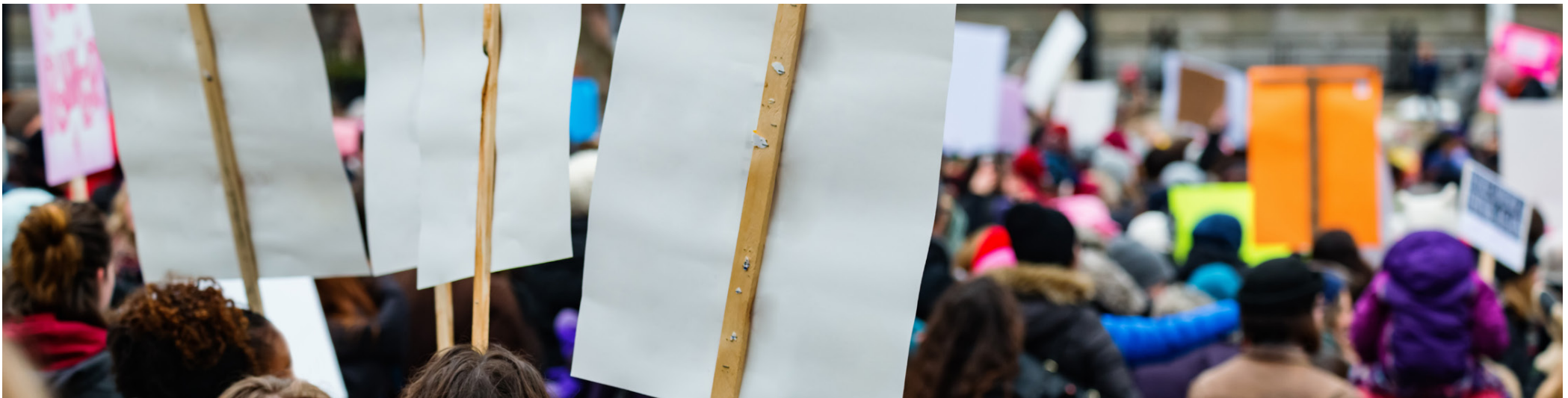
For the first time in nearly two years, average wage growth in the UK rose above the rate of inflation – easing some of the pressures of the rising cost of living. Figures from the Office for National Statistics show that between June and August 2023 growth in total and regular pay rose in real terms, when adjusted for CPIH (Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers' housing costs) inflation, by 1.3 per cent and 1.1 per cent respectively on the year.

In September 2023, the number of registered company insolvencies in England and Wales was 17.0 per cent higher than in September 2022. It is suggested that this increase is partly being driven by firms struggling with higher costs and rising interest rates.

In the three months to August 2023, economic growth was estimated to have increased by 0.3 per cent. Output increased across all sectors of the economy – services, construction and production.

Revised figures from the Office for National Statistics showed that the UK made a stronger recovery from the pandemic than had previously been thought. These changes added almost 2.0 per cent to the size of the economy.

Industrial action has continued to take place across sectors of the economy in relation to both pay and conditions. While negotiations have led to some of these disputes being resolved, others are ongoing, with more strikes and disruption expected in the coming weeks and months.





The summer of 2023 was Earth's hottest since global records began in 1880 according to an analysis by scientists at NASA's Goddard Institute of Space Studies. The months of June, July, and August combined were 0.23°C warmer than any other summer in their database and 1.2°C warmer than the average summer between 1951 and 1980.

The UK experienced its joint-warmest September on record (in a series stretching back to 1884). The average mean temperature was 15.2°C, 2.2°C higher than the usual temperature for September. There were seven consecutive days where the temperature was above 30.0°C somewhere in the UK – something that has never happened before in September.

England and Wales had their respective warmest September on record according to mean temperature. England's provisional figure of 16.7°C topped the previous record of 16.5°C set in 2006. Wales' 15.6°C also beat its 2006 figure of 15.2°C.

Northern Ireland saw its joint-warmest on record with an average mean temperature of 14.2°C putting it level with both 2006 and 2021's figures.

Scotland had its third warmest September on record, with an average mean temperature of 12.8°C. Only 2021 and 2006 were warmer according to September mean temperature.

The State of Nature Report 2023, featuring work from research and conservation organisations, showed that the UK's nature and wider environment continues to decline and degrade. Amongst its headline findings is that 16.0 per cent of species within Great Britain are threatened with extinction.

In mid-July, the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs unveiled its third National Adaptation Programme. This outlines how HM Government will protect infrastructure, promote a greener economy and ensure resilient food production.

During September, the Prime Minister announced a New Approach to Net Zero. This sets out HM Government's revised plans to meet the UK's environmental targets.

Thames Water published its revised draft Water Resources Management Plan. This sets out the actions and investment it believes are needed to deliver a secure and sustainable water supply. Amongst the proposed projects is a new reservoir near Abingdon.

NHS figures show that a record 7.75 million people were waiting for planned NHS treatment in England at the end of August. The pandemic, increased demand, record staff vacancies and industrial action have all been cited as major contributory factors towards this growing backlog.



In September, the Department for Health and Social Care published a Suicide Prevention Strategy for England: 2023 to 2028. This presents HM Government's plans and ambitions in relation to reducing suicide rates, helping those affected by these tragic events and improving support for those who self-harm.

In August, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport published Get Active: A Strategy for the Future of Sport and Physical Activity. This lays out how HM Government will work to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to be active.

The average UK house price increased by 0.2 per cent in the 12 months to August 2023 (provisional estimate) – the average house price was £291,000. In England, the average house price remained relatively unchanged at £310,000. Across the South East region (excluding London), the average house price decreased by 0.6 per cent – the average house price was £393,417.

During July, the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities outlined HM Government's Long-term Plan for Housing. This sets out their approach to regeneration, inner-city densification and housing delivery across England. HM Government also announced proposals to fast-track major infrastructure projects through the planning process.

At the end of the month, the Secretary of State for Transport announced The Plan for Drivers. This lays out how HM Government is working to improve the experience of driving and services provided for motorists.

Oxfordshire County Council's (OCC) Planning Committee rejected the Didcot HIF1 road scheme in July. There was a further OCC meeting 27 September where they withdrew their rejection. The decision was called in for review by HM Government – the date for the inquiry into the outcome has been set for February 2024.

England's Economic Heartland published its Swindon-Didcot-Oxford connectivity study. This identifies potential interventions to improve the transport system between these three areas.

Quarter two performance highlights

Protect and restore our natural world



We are in the process of recruiting a **Nature Recovery Officer** who will be looking at how we can change our land management practices to facilitate the recovery of nature



We have been working with Oxfordshire County Council on the installation of natural **flood management** measures in Wheatley



We started work on a proposal to use UK Shared Prosperity Funding to support the development of **multi-functional green spaces** in Berinsfield and Didcot

Openness and accountability



We are looking at ways to **automate resident's reports** on enviro-crimes e.g. fly-tipping



We celebrated and recognised several significant days: **Yom Kippur, World Car Free Day, Youth Mental Health Day** and raised awareness of **Plastic Free July, Alcohol Awareness Week**



We are investigating the potential benefits of using **newer social media channels** e.g., WhatsApp Communities, Nextdoor and Threads

Action on climate emergency



We appointed a project manager who will specifically focus upon **energy efficiency projects**



We held an **online town and parish forum** on improving the energy efficiency of community buildings and the support we can offer to manage these buildings



We launched a '**Check it before you chuck it**' campaign to assist residents in making sure items fit in their recycling bins

Improved economic and community well-being



We submitted letters of support for Oxfordshire County Council's consortium bid for the **strategic enhancement of 5G infrastructure** - if successful, this could help to unlock opportunities for sustainable economic growth



We are supporting the development of the new **Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy** and making sure our residents are taking part in relevant consultations and workshops

Homes and infrastructure that meets local need



We consulted with residents on the draft **Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan**



We published a briefing on **retrofitting homes and community buildings** for district, town and parish councils



We approved the **Berinsfield Community Delivery Plan** - which will support the transformation of the village and improve the health and wellbeing of its residents

Investment that rebuilds our financial viability



We submitted a planning application after agreeing the master plan for the **new council office building**



We appointed a new **Transformation Programme Manager** to shape and drive our programme of transformational projects and activities

£285,465



The amount of funding secured from the **Swimming Pool Fund** to help cover increased utility and chemical costs of our pools

Theme 1: Protect and restore our natural world

Why?

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

So:

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

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

Key Activities in quarter one

See Theme 1 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 23

During Q2 2023/24, South Oxfordshire's land drainage engineers have been working with Oxfordshire County Council on the installation of natural flood management measures in Wheatley. In addition, new legislative requirements have placed a duty on the council's land drainage engineers to verify the installation of sustainable urban drainage installations when work concludes on major developments.

Progress was made in relation to the issue of nature recovery, with the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre supplying an update to the council on the draft nature recovery network.

South Oxfordshire is actively engaged in the production of the Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy, with officers contributing to meetings and workshops throughout Q2.

The council are looking to appoint a Nature Recovery Officer. One of their key responsibilities will be to put forward proposals for how the council can alter its land management practices.



TSE Research, as part of the initial stages of the development and promotion of the visitor economy research project, presented data from a public engagement exercise undertaken during the quarter. Businesses, residents and visitors were surveyed, and a full draft report will be shared with the council in Q3. South Oxfordshire also continues to be a member of OxLEP's steering group for development of the Oxfordshire Destination Management Plan – with the intention of ensuring that the steering group's work complements the council's own visitor economy strategy.

The expression of interest (EOI) process for Rural England Prosperity Funding closed during Q2 2023/24. The council received 43 submissions from South Oxfordshire-based organisations – just under half of these were for the creation or expansion of rural tourism businesses.

Officers from the Economic Development and Garden Communities teams have worked together on a proposal to use UK Shared Prosperity Funding to support the development of green infrastructure in Berinsfield and Didcot. The plan will be presented to SMT in Q3.



Theme 2: Openness and accountability

Why?

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

So:

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

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

Key Activities in quarter one

See Theme 2 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 26

To maintain and improve the services that the council provides, work continued on scoping how best to utilise the Customer Relationship Management system to automate/improve the council's garden waste processes and its online enviro-crime reporting.

Officers finalised the contractual arrangements for South Oxfordshire's new consultation platform. This system will enable more tailored engagement to be undertaken. Work on the implementation of the new systems has now commenced.

A new telephony platform for Customer Services went live on 26 September. The transition caused minimal levels of disruption and will allow for improved access to call management data.

Officers are preparing to carry out a review and refresh of the council's webpages. Work has already started on evaluating the waste and recycling section.

South Oxfordshire is also beginning to explore the potential opportunities offered by newer social media channels e.g., WhatsApp Communities, Nextdoor and Threads.

South Oxfordshire continued to promote diversity and inclusion through the recognition of events contained within its Diversity and Social Campaign Calendar. Between July and September, the council celebrated/recognised several significant days (including Yom Kippur, World Car Free Day and Youth Mental Health Day) and raised awareness of a number of campaigns (e.g., Plastic Free July and Alcohol Awareness Week).

As part of South Oxfordshire's efforts to champion openness and transparency, it continued to livestream all public meetings (except for the Full Council – due to logistical/IT issues) during Q2. These recordings will remain available on South's YouTube channel for a year.

South also continued to increase the amount of information that it provides through the data hub section of its website. During Q2 2023/24, the performance management report for Q1 2023/24 was published on South's website. This is intended to increase the public's understanding of what the council does, how it works and how decisions are made.

With the ambition of increasing meaningful engagement with everyone, officers drafted the Annual Consultation and Engagement Report for 2022/23 for discussion at Cabinet. It includes data on the council's level of engagement with different communities and demographics (e.g., by age) which will be used to provide a benchmark for South's future engagement activities.

Work has continued on reviewing the council's constitution. Meetings of the Constitution Review Group have taken place and they are currently considering/working on the council's Code of Corporate Governance.

South Oxfordshire are also introducing a new and improved Annual Governance Statement. This will be presented to the Joint Audit and Government Committee in Q3.



Theme 3: Action on climate emergency

Why?

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

So:

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

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

Key Activities in quarter one

See Theme 3 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 31

During Q2 2023/24, South Oxfordshire undertook preparatory work for an application to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme – Phase 3c. This is scheduled to open in Q3.

Also, in Q2, the council appointed a project manager who will specifically focus upon energy efficiency projects. They are scheduled to start in Q4 2023/24.

In line with our commitment to mitigate climate change through planning and land use measures, the Planning Policy team have continued to make significant progress on the development of the Joint Local Plan. Activities included:

- the holding of four All-Councillor Roundtable meetings to talk through the emerging policy direction for the Joint Local Plan
- the receiving and processing of written feedback from the Joint Local Plan Steering Group
- undertaking both a sustainability appraisal and equalities assessment to understand the impacts of proposed policy options.



In addition, Bioregional (the council's net zero carbon consultants) continued to work on the evidence base for the Joint Local Plan. This included testing different archetypes to assess the feasibility of policies that deliver various levels of ambition on net zero carbon. They also provided assistance with the emerging preferred options and draft policy text.

During Q2, South Oxfordshire identified an architect-led team to design net zero homes at a council-owned site in Didcot. In the procurement exercise they scored full marks on the climate responsibility question and also demonstrated their ability to deliver the project in accordance with South Oxfordshire's climate objectives.

The council commissioned a research study (to be undertaken by Oxford Brookes) on understanding the net zero challenge for SMEs in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. This will increase South's understanding of the attitude of local businesses to the concept of net zero and their awareness of decarbonisation goals. It will also provide recommendations on how the council can best provide support for business decarbonisation through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

The draft Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) consultation concluded in Q2. The AQAP outlines the progress made since the last iteration of the plan and sets out the future direction for the current Air Quality Management Areas within South Oxfordshire. The results of the consultation have been reviewed by officers and the council is now working with other parties to ensure that the completed AQAP can be brought forward for approval in Q3.

In addition, South received feedback from Defra on the Annual Status Report (submitted during Q1). The report has now been published.



A new countywide website monitoring air quality was also launched during Q2. This can be found at www.oxonair.uk.

During September, the council launched its 'Check it before you chuck it' campaign. This aims to help cut down on recycling contamination by encouraging residents to verify whether things can go in their recycling bins. (This campaign will continue into Q3).

South Oxfordshire stressed the importance of reducing waste by marking Zero Waste Week and Second-Hand September. As part of this work, the council publicised community action groups, repair cafes and refill shops operating within the district – they also highlighted the benefits of composting.

South Oxfordshire also encouraged parents to download our Waste and Recycling Activity Pack. This contained fun activities that children can do to learn about recycling and waste reduction.

The council has started work on evaluating the waste and recycling section of its website – a specific section has already been created to inform people about what happens to their waste. South Oxfordshire also published its Waste and Recycling Services Guide for members. This provides a summary of the service and includes information about what the council does in this area.

The external funding lead has been working with colleagues at Oxfordshire County Council to determine how the allocated Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Funding (LEVI) grant will be spent. Officers are currently making preparations to accept the grant/money and outlining where the chargers will be located.

In addition, the council promoted the use of electric vehicles by contributing to a countywide press release (published around World EV Day) highlighting offers for EV charging and car clubs.



Theme 4: Improved economic and community well-being

Why?

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

So:

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

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

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

Key Activities in quarter one

See Theme 4 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 38

TSE Research, as part of the initial stages of the development and promotion of the visitor economy research project, presented data from a public engagement exercise undertaken during the quarter. Businesses, residents and visitors were surveyed, and a full draft report will be shared with the council in Q3.

South Oxfordshire tendered for a research study on understanding the net zero challenge for SMEs in the district. This will increase the council's understanding of the attitude of local businesses to the concept of net zero and their awareness of decarbonisation goals. It will also allow South to critically assess the available tools/resources in this area – and will help to inform its use of 2024/25 UK Shared Prosperity Fund funding.

An expression of interest process for organisations to pitch projects for Rural England Prosperity Funding closed during Q2 – there were 43 submissions from South Oxfordshire-based organisations.

Officers from Economic Development continued to assist in the development of the draft Employment Land Needs Assessment for the Joint Local Plan. This will help to ensure that the assessment and resulting draft policies are relevant to the needs/requirements of the area's business community.

South Oxfordshire – through its work with the Digital Infrastructure Partnership – wrote letters of support for Oxfordshire County Council's consortium bid for the strategic enhancement of 5G infrastructure. If successful, this could help to unlock opportunities for sustainable economic growth.

Economic Development have maintained their connection to the working group overseeing the development of the emerging Strategic Economic Plan for Oxfordshire. Officers have represented the council at meetings and workshops with the purpose of ensuring that the Plan continues to align with South's objectives.

South Oxfordshire continues to be a member of OxLEP's steering group for development of the Oxfordshire Destination Management Plan – with the intention of ensuring that the steering group's work complements the council's own visitor economy strategy.

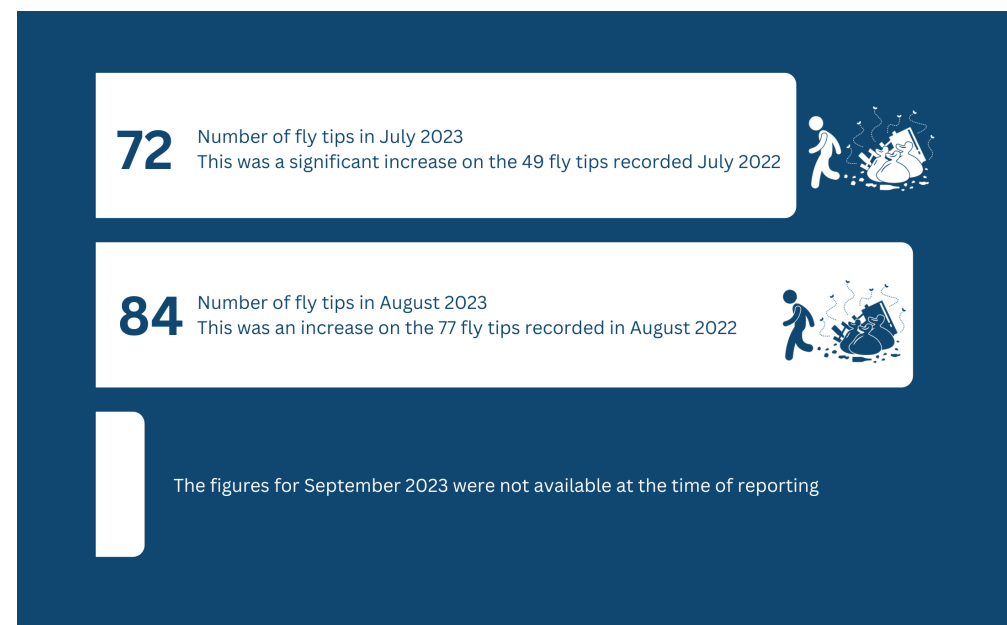
Progress was made on the creation of work programmes for the Future Oxfordshire Partnership's advisory groups. These programmes will include activities related to affordable housing, energy planning and the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS).

The council also remains involved in more broadly shaping and participating in countywide initiatives through its wider contribution to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership (FOP). In this forum, officers and members continue to work for the realisation of the Good Growth Principles in the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.

Throughout the quarter, the Community Hub has continued to work with the voluntary and community sector in response to the cost-of-living crisis (particularly in relation to food initiatives and the provision of support for those in most need). The council has also supported the development of local action plans related to the Oxfordshire Food Strategy with the officers from Economic Development specifically exploring links to the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF).

South Oxfordshire asked for progress updates on the projects awarded CIL funding in the Q1 update. They also requested submissions for schemes seeking CIL funding for 2024/25.

Between July and September, South Oxfordshire continued to take action against fly-tippers. In Q2, the council issued 11 Fixed Penalty Notices for waste crimes. There were also seven prosecutions for fly-tipping – a further four prosecutions are pending.



Fly tipping data - see **ECW7** performance update on p.41

Theme 5: Homes and infrastructure that meet local needs

Why?

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

So:

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

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

Key Activities in quarter one

See Theme 5 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 42

At the end of Q2 2023/24, the council recorded four rough sleepers. The low levels of rough sleeping in the district reflects the success of the council's preventative approach.

The number of homeless households in temporary accommodation (TA) on 30 September 2023 was 17 – only one higher than the previous quarter (despite the increasing pressures on the service – the council is currently dealing with a record homelessness caseload – caused by the cost-of-living crisis and the demands of refugee resettlement schemes).

The rolling six-month average length of stay in emergency accommodation was 67 nights, above the ceiling target of 42, and a reflection of the number and complexity of the cases.

During Q2 2023/24, the rate of successful homelessness prevention in South Oxfordshire was 79.0 per cent. This was marginally below the very challenging target of 80.0 per cent (the average rate of homelessness prevention in the South East region is 56.0 per cent).



As part of South Oxfordshire's commitment to safeguarding and supporting the district's vulnerable residents, the council continues to work closely with partners across Oxfordshire to tackle homelessness and is an active member of the countywide Homelessness Steering Group, the Young Persons 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 Planning Policy team have continued to make significant progress on the development of the Joint Local Plan. Activities included:

- the holding of four All-Councillor Roundtable meetings to talk through the emerging policy direction for the Joint Local Plan.
- the receiving and processing of written feedback from the Joint Local Plan Steering Group.
- engaging with officers from both South's Development Management team and Oxfordshire County Council to help finalise recommendations for the Joint Local Plan preferred options consultation – scheduled for January 2024.
- the receipt of the draft findings/outputs from consultancy studies on retail needs; playing pitches and leisure facilities; employment land; and specialist housing needs – all of which will underpin the special strategy of the Joint Local Plan.

In addition, Bioregional (the council's net zero carbon consultants) continued to work on the evidence base for the Joint Local Plan. They also provided assistance with the emerging preferred options and draft policy text.

Progress was made in relation to the issue of nature recovery, with the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre supplying an update to the council on the draft nature recovery network – this will feed into the Joint Local Plan.

Officers met with developers working on mixed-use town centre projects to ensure that their plans provide appropriate spaces and facilities for the local community.

The Garden Communities team have appointed consultants to help advance the Didcot Wayfinding Strategy, the Green Infrastructure Strategy and the Public Arts Plan.

The Berinsfield Community Delivery Plan – outlining projects which will support the transformation of the village and improve the health/wellbeing of its residents – was approved by Cabinet.

South Oxfordshire held initial discussions, through the Future Oxfordshire Partnership Infrastructure Advisory Group, on a new phase of joint work on the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy.

In order to help ensure that new and existing buildings are zero-carbon in their operation, work continued on implementing the priority actions identified in the adopted Oxfordshire Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan. A proposal was submitted to Innovate UK for the FutureFit Oxfordshire project. This aims to create an 'enabling environment' for retrofitting services. South Oxfordshire is a listed partner in the FutureFit Oxfordshire project – which, if the bid to Innovate UK is successful, will start in early 2024.

The first stage of the Community Energy Feasibility Study was progressed during Q2. This will allow the council to understand the opportunities for schemes in Berinsfield. Information will be reported back to CEAC in Q3.

Also, in Q2, South published a briefing on retrofitting homes and community buildings for district, town and parish councils. This consolidated the existing information on retrofitting financing and support. The council also promoted retrofitting and grants for energy saving home improvements through its media channels.

The Climate team held an online town and parish forum on improving the energy efficiency of community buildings and the support that South Oxfordshire can offer to the groups that manage these buildings. Preparations are now underway for the next session – this will focus on retrofitting domestic properties.

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 Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). During Q2, a Part B public consultation was held on the LCWIP. This invited the public to give feedback on the draft report and its proposed interventions. The plan will be considered by both South Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire County Council in Q3.

South Oxfordshire also responded to Oxfordshire County Council's consultation on the Strategic Travel Network (SATN). The consultation included an interactive map of proposed cycling and walking routes, for which the council provided feedback.

To help deliver on their commitment to providing homes that people can afford to live in, South Oxfordshire identified an architect-led team to design net zero homes at a council-owned site in Didcot. In the procurement exercise they scored full marks on the climate responsibility question and also demonstrated their ability to deliver the project in accordance with South Oxfordshire's climate objectives.



Theme 6: Investment that rebuilds our financial viability

Why?

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

So:

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

Strategic Lead - Simon Hewings (Head of Finance)

Key Activities in quarter one

See Theme 6 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 48

In order to invest, save and act responsibly with our financial resources, South Oxfordshire began revenue budget setting for 2024/25 – base budgets are due to be completed by early October. A budget challenge exercise has also been scheduled for Q3. This will review the council's income budgets.

South Oxfordshire engaged CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) to review the council's approach to finance business partnering – including its use of finance systems. CIPFA will share their findings with core Senior Management Team in Q3.

An Arts Centre Review paper is in the process of being developed. This will consider potential future options for Cornerstone and is due to be finalised/delivered in Q3.

With the intention of building financial resilience to protect the council against future uncertainties, South Oxfordshire recruited a new Transformation Programme Manager – due to start in Q3.

They will help to shape and drive the council's programme of transformational projects and activities.

In addition, during Q2, the Transformation team has been benchmarking the Grounds Maintenance service. They have been examining process maps and KPIs to determine the next stage of the process – the intention is for them to recommend ways of improving performance and flexibility.



The master plan for the new office building was agreed with partners. A planning application was submitted on 2nd August. Work is underway on developing the procurement pack and finalising the employer’s requirements in preparation for the start of the process to appoint a main contractor.

South successfully secured £285,465 from the Swimming Pool Support Fund (SPSF). The SPSF aims to prevent swimming pool closures/a reduction in provision by helping to cover increased utility and chemical costs. The funding will go to GLL.

South Oxfordshire (in conjunction with the Vale) also submitted an application to the Planning Skills Delivery Fund for £89,050. If successful, this money will be used to provide online and in-person training to upskill the existing Planning and Planning Policy teams.

Preparatory work has been undertaken on developing proposals for an application to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme – Phase 3c.

South Oxfordshire quarter two 2023/24 individual cabinet member decisions

Date	Description
14/07/2023	IT Hardware Purchases
18/07/2023	Provision of the Home Improvement Agency Service
24/07/2023	UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund
03/08/2023	The Council Tax 'top up' Support Award
04/08/2023	Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy
07/08/2023	Section 106 funds to Chinnor Rugby Club
15/08/2023	Transfer of capital from the provisional to the approved programme for a biodiversity grant scheme with the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment
31/08/2023	Affordable homes project at 116-120 Broadway, Didcot
04/09/2023	Abbey Sports Centre, Berinsfield
15/09/2023	Funding agreement for Housing Support Fund, Discretionary Housing Payments and Council Tax Support
22/09/2023	Berinsfield Community Delivery Plan
29/09/2023	Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Neighbourhood Plan

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
PRN1	With partners, promote in-depth mapping and surveying of ecosystems across the district, planning for restoration of the natural world and working closely with land-owners and specialist agencies	Narrative report to include information on work with partners, and Habitat and Species data + changes/ trends on a 12 month basis	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Planning	No progress to report in Q1 2023/24 - data is available on an annual reporting basis and will be provided during Q4.
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)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>South Oxfordshire continues to be a member of OxLEP's steering group for development of the Oxfordshire Destination Management Plan – with the intention of ensuring that the steering group's work complements the council's own visitor economy strategy.</p> <p>TSE Research, as part of the initial stages of the development and promotion of the visitor economy research project, presented data from a public engagement exercise undertaken during the quarter. Businesses, residents and visitors were surveyed, and a full draft report will be shared with Economic Development in Q3.</p> <p>The expression of interest (EOI) process for Rural England Prosperity Funding closed during Q2 2023/24. The EOI highlighted the opportunity that this provides for rural communities and organisations to bid for capital funds to help deliver projects related to tourism, leisure, nature and net zero. The council received 43 submissions from South Oxfordshire-based organisations – just under half of these were for the creation or expansion of rural tourism businesses.</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	Q2 Performance Update
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	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q2 2023/24, South Oxfordshire's land drainage engineers have been working with Oxfordshire County Council on the installation of natural flood management measures in Wheatley.</p> <p>Also, in Q2, new legislative requirements have placed a duty on the council's land drainage engineers to verify the installation of sustainable urban drainage installations when work concludes on major developments.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire are looking to appoint a Nature Recovery Officer. One of their key responsibilities will be to put forward proposals for how the council can alter its land management practices.</p>
PRN4	Recognise and support the vital role of farming in economic and ecosystem resilience, local food provision and the recovery of soils and natural processes	Narrative report on activity undertaken with partners to encourage and support the vital role of farming in economic and ecosystem resilience (where possible, although this may be implicitly included in the information above)	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>The expression of interest (EOI) process for Rural England Prosperity Funding closed during Q2 2023/24. The EOI highlighted the opportunity that this provides for rural businesses to bid for capital funds that could be used for the diversification of agricultural businesses (where it involves conversion of farm buildings) and equipment related to the processing and marketing of local foods. The council received 43 submissions from South Oxfordshire-based organisations – around a sixth of these requested funding for food processing equipment.</p> <p>The council has supported the development of local action plans related to the Oxfordshire Food Strategy with the officers from Economic Development specifically exploring links to the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF).</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	Leader of the Council	Head of Policy and Programmes	No update required – action complete.

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
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	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	During Q2 2023/24, Economic Development and Garden Communities worked together on a proposal to use UK Shared Prosperity Funding to support the development of green infrastructure in Berinsfield and Didcot. The plan will be presented to SMT in Q3.

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
OA1	Enhance trust and accountability in democratic decision-making, including live-streaming and recording of meetings, ensuring full accessibility of facilities and monitoring progress in an open and transparent way	<p>Narrative update to include information on the performance management framework, communications update on Cabinet/Council decisions, IAG around the operations/activity of the Council</p> <p>% of Public Council meetings within 12 months available online</p>	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Corporate Services	With the exception of the Full Council (due to logistical/IT issues), all other meetings during Q2 2023/24 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	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Deputy Chief Executive - Transformation and Operations	<p>During Q2 2023/2024, work continued on reviewing how best to automate and improve the council's garden waste processes. In addition, officers have been exploring proposals for utilising the Customer Relationship Management System (CRM) to automate resident's reports of enviro-crimes e.g., fly tipping. This has involved close collaboration between Customer Services, IT and Waste.</p> <p>Also, in Q2, a cross-departmental team continued to work on developing the various housing schemes to support people from Afghanistan and Ukraine.</p>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
OA3	Embed an organisational culture that celebrates diversity, inclusion and respect	Narrative report on work undertaken to celebrate diversity, inclusion and respect. Should include standard recurring activity, one off supporting activity. This should be a joint report primarily from HR/Comms but include comments from others	Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Head of Corporate Services	<p>During Q2 2023/24, South Oxfordshire continued to promote diversity and inclusion through the marking of events contained within the council's Diversity and Social Campaign Calendar.</p> <p>Between July and September, the council celebrated/recognised several significant days (including Yom Kippur, World Car Free Day and Youth Mental Health Day) and raised awareness of a number of campaigns (e.g., Plastic Free July and Alcohol Awareness Week).</p> <p>South Oxfordshire organised and promoted an all-staff event (scheduled for October) which will feature stalls run by the council's Diversity and Inclusion Champions, the Wellbeing Group, UNISON and the Climate Team (amongst others). South Oxfordshire also publicised the launch of the new wellbeing hour for staff.</p> <p>Throughout the quarter, the council has highlighted how teams are getting out and about in the community.</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	Cabinet Member for Legal and Democratic	Head of Legal and Democratic	<p>The council's constitution has remained under constant review throughout Q2 2023/24.</p> <p>Meetings of the Constitution Review Group have taken place and they are currently considering/working on the Code of Corporate Governance.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire are also introducing a new and improved Annual Governance Statement. This will be presented to the Joint Audit and Government Committee in Q3.</p> <p>Further enhancements and modifications have been made to the council's data hub – a readily accessible resource which contains reports and data on South Oxfordshire's responsibilities, projects and programmes.</p>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
OA5	Engage effectively with residents, Parish and Town Councils and other community organisations, using plain English in our communications and using appropriate methods and technologies to ensure equal and fair access for all	Narrative report on activities communications/engagement specific activities	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Corporate Services	<p>Over the summer, South Oxfordshire engaged, through social media, posters and press releases, with parish and town councils about the launch of the free activities associated with the Didcot Garden Party.</p> <p>The council also launched a comprehensive campaign highlighting the exciting activities (for all ages) arranged by the Active Communities team taking place across the district.</p> <p>The council encouraged parents to download our Waste and Recycling Activity Pack. This contained fun activities that children can do to learn about recycling and waste reduction.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire has been working with internal and external stakeholders to produce updates on the progress of facilities at Great Western Park for the use of ward members.</p> <p>Targeted messages have been shared with certain towns and villages through Nextdoor.</p> <p>Officers have engaged with town and parish councils to help distribute the council's social media messages and posters.</p> <p>There were decreases in both the number of unique website visitors (-23.0%) and page views (-20.0%) compared to the previous reporting quarter. It is believed that this is possibly due to a seasonal drop-off, with fewer people visiting the council's website over the summer months.</p> <p>South is now preparing to carry out a review and refresh of its webpages, with work having already started on evaluating the waste and recycling section. In addition, the council is also looking to increase promotion of the website.</p> <p>(update continues on page 29)</p>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
OA5	Engage effectively with residents, Parish and Town Councils and other community organisations, using plain English in our communications and using appropriate methods and technologies to ensure equal and fair access for all	Narrative report on activities communications/engagement specific activities	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Corporate Services	<p>Q2 Web Usage Figures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 198k unique web visitors. • 228k total visits. • 509k page views. • 2.23 views per visit. • 57.0% bounce rate. • 2m 06s visit duration. <p>During Q2 2023/24, South Oxfordshire’s social media activity continued to be impacted by the absence of a social media management system – an issue which officers are currently working to address. In addition, the ongoing flux at both Facebook and X/Twitter is still affecting the council’s activities/performance in this area. (Levels of engagement on social media may also have been impacted by a seasonal drop off over the summer months).</p> <p>On Facebook, South’s reach has slightly declined compared to the benchmark set in Q1. Follower growth, nevertheless, remains steady.</p> <p>Facebook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach – 190,734. • Posts – 277. • New Followers – 294. • Total Followers – 8,042. <p>A similar picture can be seen in relation to South’s presence on Instagram. Compared to Q1, reach is down but follower growth is up (this is an encouraging sign, given the younger demographic on the platform).</p> <p>Instagram</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach – 914 • Posts – 139 posts, 13 stories, 22 reels. • New Followers – 76. • Total Followers – 726. <p>(update continues on page 30)</p>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
OA5	Engage effectively with residents, Parish and Town Councils and other community organisations, using plain English in our communications and using appropriate methods and technologies to ensure equal and fair access for all	Narrative report on activities communications/engagement specific activities	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Corporate Services	<p>X/Twitter impressions were down compared to Q1 – follower growth was also significantly down. Elon Musk’s takeover, and the changes that have been introduced, continue to negatively impact upon this channel. South will, therefore, monitor performance with a view to assessing its future.</p> <p>Twitter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impressions – 107,300. • Tweets – 211. • New Followers – 21. • Total Followers – 11,356. <p>South Oxfordshire is also beginning to explore the potential opportunities offered by newer social media channels e.g., WhatsApp Communities, Nextdoor and Threads.</p>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
ACE1	Achieve our own zero carbon target by 2025 and support others to achieve the district target of zero carbon by 2030	Narrative report on strategic projects which will help to deliver net zero carbon for 2025/2030. This should be split between Council specific and District specific activities	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q2 2023/24, the council appointed a project manager who will specifically focus upon energy efficiency projects. They are scheduled to start in Q4 2023/24.</p> <p>The Cornerstone Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funded project was unfortunately delayed – it is still, however, scheduled for delivery in 2024.</p> <p>Preparatory work has been undertaken for an application to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme – Phase 3c.</p>
ACE2	Develop an annually approved climate emergency programme and adequately finance it	Quantitative measure - delivery of an annual CEP Y/N	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>The Climate Action Plan (CAP) is being monitored as part of South's corporate performance management framework and will provide a detailed overview of all actions that may have an impact on reducing carbon in the wider district.</p> <p>The CAP Performance Report for Q1 2023/24 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)	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q2 2023/24, South Oxfordshire identified an architect-led team to design net zero homes at a council-owned site in Didcot. In our procurement exercise they scored full marks on the climate responsibility question and also demonstrated their ability to deliver the project in accordance with South Oxfordshire's climate objectives.</p>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
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)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Corporate Services	<p>During Q2 2023/24, South Oxfordshire marked Plastic Free July. Through its media channels, the council encouraged residents to take part.</p> <p>To publicise World EV Day in September, South promoted the use of EV vehicles through a countywide press release (this highlighted offers for EV charging and car clubs).</p> <p>The council also stressed the importance of reducing waste by marking Zero Waste Week and Second-Hand September. As part of this work, South Oxfordshire publicised community action groups, repair cafes and refill shops operating within the district – they also highlighted the benefits of composting.</p> <p>The council continued to promote retrofitting to residents and advertised events such as the Didcot Garden Party Environment Day.</p> <p>Across Q2, South shared a series of messages across its social media channels urging people to not put fire-risk items in their bins.</p> <p>The council encouraged parents to download our Waste and Recycling Activity Pack. This contained fun activities that children can do to learn about recycling and waste reduction.</p> <p>During September, South Oxfordshire launched its ‘Check it before you chuck it’ campaign. This aims to help cut down on recycling contamination by encouraging residents to verify whether things can go in their recycling bins. (This campaign will continue into Q3).</p> <p>In Q2 2023/24, the Climate team held an online town and parish forum on improving the energy efficiency of community buildings and the support that South Oxfordshire can offer to the groups that manage these buildings. Preparations are now underway for the next session – this will focus on retrofitting domestic properties.</p>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
ACE5	Take positive action on single-use plastics, air quality improvement measures and sustainable transport	Suggested combined narrative update on Comms relating to single use plastics/comms relating to AQ initiatives and metrics relating to AQ (with an appreciation that this data will be skewed in 2020 due to lockdown(s))	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>During Q2 2023/24, the draft Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) consultation concluded. The AQAP outlines the progress made since the last iteration of the plan and sets out the future direction for the current Air Quality Management Areas within South Oxfordshire. The results of the consultation have been reviewed by officers and the council is now working with other parties to ensure that the completed AQAP can be brought forward for approval in Q3.</p> <p>In addition, South received feedback from Defra on the Annual Status Report (submitted during Q1). The report has now been published.</p> <p>A new countywide website monitoring air quality was also launched during Q2. This can be found at www.oxonair.uk.</p>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
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)	Cabinet Member for Planning	Head of Planning	<p>During Q2 2023/24, continued progress was made on the development of the Joint Local Plan. Significant work was undertaken on creating the draft preferred options and policies. Activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •the holding of four All-Councillor Roundtable meetings to talk through the emerging policy direction for the Joint Local Plan. •the receiving and processing of written feedback from the Joint Local Plan Steering Group. •undertaking both a sustainability appraisal and equalities assessment to understand the impacts of the proposed policy options. •engaging with officers from South’s Development Management team and Oxfordshire County Council to help finalise recommendations for the Joint Local Plan preferred options consultation – scheduled for January 2024. <p>Bioregional (the council’s net zero carbon consultants) continued to work on the evidence base for the Joint Local Plan. This included testing different archetypes to assess the feasibility of policies that deliver various levels of ambition on net zero carbon.</p> <p>Bioregional also provided assistance with the emerging preferred options and draft policy text to ensure that South’s sustainable construction proposals are robust and up-to-date.</p> <p>Also, in Q2, the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre supplied an update to the council on the draft nature recovery network – this information will feed into the Joint Local Plan.</p>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
ACE7	Promote the circular economy (reduce, re-use and recycle), including in our waste management contracts	<p>Narrative measure on comms activity relating to waste/ recycling</p> <p>Quantitative information on recycling rate, contamination rates, % of residual waste to landfill</p>	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>The June 2023 recycling rate was 68.84%, the landfill rate was 0.02% and the contamination rate was 12.97%. These figures were not available for Q1 2023/24 reporting.</p> <p>The July 2023 recycling rate was 61.15%, the landfill rate was 0.03% and the contamination rate was 11.09%.</p> <p>The August 2023 recycling rate was 62.30%, the landfill rate was 0.02% and the contamination rate was 10.21%.</p> <p>The figures for September are not yet available.</p> <p>Across Q2, South Oxfordshire shared a series of messages across its social media channels urging people to not put fire-risk items in their bins.</p> <p>During September, South launched its 'Check it before you chuck it' campaign. This aims to help cut down on recycling contamination by encouraging residents to verify whether things can go in their recycling bins. (This campaign will continue into Q3).</p> <p>The council encouraged parents to download our Waste and Recycling Activity Pack. This contained fun activities that children can do to learn about recycling and waste reduction.</p>
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	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	The council commissioned a research study (to be undertaken by Oxford Brookes) on understanding the net zero challenge for SMEs in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. This will increase our understanding of the attitude of local businesses to the concept of net zero and their awareness of decarbonisation goals. It will also provide recommendations on how South Oxfordshire can best provide support for business decarbonisation through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
ACE9	Promote waste minimisation initiatives such as Repair Cafés	Unless specific activity relating to Repair Café's and Freecycle can be reported on, suggest that this is covered in previous narratives	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>During Q2 2023/24, South Oxfordshire published its Waste and Recycling Services Guide for members. This provides a summary of the service and includes information about what the council does in this area.</p> <p>In July, the communications campaign around South's waste services survey concluded. The council received more than 2,200 responses to this engagement exercise.</p> <p>South shared details across its media channels about the August Bank Holiday bin changes.</p> <p>Across Q2, South Oxfordshire shared a series of messages across its social media channels urging people to not put fire-risk items in their bins.</p> <p>During September, South Oxfordshire launched its 'Check it before you chuck it' campaign. This aims to help cut down on recycling contamination by encouraging residents to verify whether things can go in their recycling bins. (This campaign will continue into Q3).</p> <p>The council encouraged parents to download our Waste and Recycling Activity Pack. This contained fun activities that children can do to learn about recycling and waste reduction.</p> <p>The council stressed the importance of reducing waste by marking Zero Waste Week and Second-Hand September. As part of this work, South Oxfordshire publicised community action groups, repair cafes and refill shops operating within the district – they also highlighted the benefits of composting.</p> <p>South has started work on evaluating the waste and recycling section of its website – a specific section has already been created to inform people about what happens to their waste.</p>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
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>	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	No progress to report Q2 2023/2024.

Theme 4: Improved economic and community well-being

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
ECW1	Partner with regional agencies to ensure economic recovery, quality employment, thriving businesses and vibrant communities, avoiding the blight of “dormitory towns”	<p>Narrative report on work with partners in this area</p> <p>Quantitative metrics relating to employment rates (trends, actuals) - unemployment rate, trajectory/trend, earnings information</p>	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>South Oxfordshire remains involved in shaping and participating in countywide initiatives through the Future Oxfordshire Partnership. In this forum, officers and members continue to work for the realisation of the Good Growth Principles in the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.</p> <p>The Economic Development team have maintained their connection to the working group overseeing the development of the emerging Strategic Economic Plan for Oxfordshire. Officers have represented the council at meetings and workshops with the purpose of ensuring that the Plan aligns with South’s objectives.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire also continues to be a member of OxLEP’s steering group for development of the Oxfordshire Destination Management Plan – with the intention of ensuring that the steering group’s work complements the council’s own visitor economy strategy.</p> <p>In Q2 2023/24, Economic Development continued to assist in the development of the draft Employment Land Needs Assessment for the Joint Local Plan. This work will help to ensure that the assessment and resulting draft policies are relevant to the needs/ requirements of the area’s business community.</p> <p>Office of National Statistics September publication of the Claimant Count for unitary and local authorities put South Oxfordshire's claimant count at 1.8 per cent of population. This is a 0.1 per cent increase year on year, but a decrease on previous employment figures.</p> <p>Office of National Statistics September publication of the Claimant Count for unitary and local authorities put South Oxfordshire's claimant count at 1.8 per cent of population. This is a 0.1 per cent increase year on year, but a decrease on previous employment figures.</p> <p>(update continues on page 39)</p>

Theme 4: Improved economic and community well-being

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
ECW1	Partner with regional agencies to ensure economic recovery, quality employment, thriving businesses and vibrant communities, avoiding the blight of “dormitory towns”	<p>Narrative report on work with partners in this area</p> <p>Quantitative metrics relating to employment rates (trends, actuals) - unemployment rate, trajectory/trend, earnings information</p>	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Recent studies show that the median gross weekly earnings of residents of South Oxfordshire are approximately £753 of which is considerably higher than the regional (£685) and national (£643) rates. The median gross weekly earnings of those working in South Oxfordshire are approximately £697. The difference between resident-based and workplace-based earnings suggests that a portion of South Oxfordshire’s residents may commute out of the district to access higher-paying jobs. (Average earnings figures tend to be updated annually and are difficult to analyse on a quarterly basis).
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	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q2 2023/24, Economic Development sent 10 newsletters. These achieved a 55.0 per cent open rate and a 14.0 per cent clickthrough rate – both of which were higher than the industry standards (the most clicked link was the Rural England Prosperity Fund expression of interest form).</p> <p>On social media, Economic Development shared 80 posts. These created 8,315 individual impressions and 403 engagements.</p> <p>There are currently no business grants being offered in South Oxfordshire.</p>

Theme 4: Improved economic and community well-being

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
ECW3	Plan for communities connected by walking & cycling networks, with sustainable, accessible and affordable public transport and reliable Broadband, learning the lessons from the Covid-19 experience and enabling more home-working	<p>Narrative update on work support reliable broadband (where possible)</p> <p>Narrative update on transport initiatives</p> <p>Quantitative - new footpath/ cycle paths delivered</p>	Cabinet Member for Planning	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q2 2023/24, South Oxfordshire – through its work with the Digital Infrastructure Partnership – wrote letters of support for Oxfordshire County Council’s consortium bid for the strategic enhancement of 5G infrastructure. If successful, this could help to unlock opportunities for sustainable economic growth.</p> <p>In August, South responded to Oxfordshire County Council’s consultation on the Strategic Travel Network (SATN). The consultation included an interactive map of proposed cycling and walking routes, for which the council provided feedback.</p> <p>Also, in Q2, the Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan Part B public consultation was held. The public were invited to give feedback on the draft report and its proposed interventions.</p>
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)	Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Head of Policy and Programmes	During Q2 2023/24, work on the Community Wellbeing Strategy remained paused as officers continued to contribute to the development of the new Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy - this included ensuring that members and residents were provided with the opportunity to take part in consultation surveys and workshops.
ECW5	Use our planning powers to preserve our valuable green spaces, particularly in urban areas	Number of Neighbourhood Plans implemented/green spaces secured	Cabinet Member for Planning	Head of Planning	No progress to report Q2 2023/2024, no new neighbourhood plans made with Local Green Space designations this quarter.

Theme 4: Improved economic and community well-being

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
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>	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration	Head of Finance	<p>During Q2 2023/24, South Oxfordshire received no amendments to the projects allocated funding in the Quarter 1 update. The council have now requested progress updates on these schemes.</p> <p>South has also requested submissions for projects seeking CIL funding for 2024/25. (Details of the number of projects that directly address the climate emergency will be included as part of the Q3 update).</p> <p>All district council projects delivered using CIL funding will now be required to consult with the Climate team. This will help to ensure that all of the environmental implications are considered.</p>
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>	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>In July 2023, there were 72 fly tips in South Oxfordshire. This was a significant increase on the 49 fly tips recorded in July 2022.</p> <p>In August 2023, there were 84 fly tips in South Oxfordshire. This was an increase on the 77 fly tips recorded in August 2022.</p> <p>The figures for September are not yet available.</p> <p>During Q2 2023/24, the council issued 11 Fixed Penalty Notices for waste crimes. There were seven prosecutions for waste crimes between July and September. Another four prosecutions are pending.</p> <p>In addition, officers received 98 abandoned vehicle reports during Q2 2023/24. Of these, 28 vehicles were not on site, 36 were identified as not abandoned, none were removed, and 27 investigations remain ongoing (the other seven were duplicate reports).</p>
ECW8	Work with local partners to introduce civil parking enforcement as a district responsibility	Narrative update on progress	Leader of the Council	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	No update required – action complete.

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
HILN1	Didcot Garden Town priority projects as identified by the Advisory Board, specifically a sustainable plan to redevelop the Didcot Gateway site, a public transport and active walking and cycling network, community facilities and accessible green spaces for Didcot residents	Narrative update against the stated aim, to include as many of the potential deliverables as possible, but not limited in scope to this	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2 2023/23, the Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan Part B public consultation was held. The public were invited to give feedback on the draft report and its proposed interventions. The plan will be considered by both South Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire County Council in Q3.</p> <p>The Garden Communities team have appointed consultants to help advance the Didcot Wayfinding Strategy, the Green Infrastructure Strategy and the Public Arts Plan.</p> <p>The Didcot Garden Party – in its third year – provided a free summer programme of activities for residents. Over 1,200 people attended.</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	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2 2023/24, the Berinsfield Community Delivery Plan – outlining projects which will support the transformation of the village and improve the health/wellbeing of its residents – was approved by Cabinet.</p> <p>The first stage of the Community Energy Feasibility Study was progressed during Q2. This will allow the council to understand the opportunities for schemes in Berinsfield. Information will be reported back to CEAC in Q3.</p> <p>Work started on a health and wellbeing project designed to tackle health inequalities within Berinsfield. In conjunction with Oxfordshire County Council, South Oxfordshire have secured £65,000 to advance this priority.</p>
HILN3	New council-owned homes with a focus on quality of design, affordability and local requirements	Narrative Update on the current activities which WILL result in the delivery of Council owned homes (and details of those homes where possible) Also reporting on progress of Design Guide	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q2 2023/24, South Oxfordshire identified an architect-led team to design net zero homes at a council-owned site in Didcot. In our procurement exercise they scored full marks on the climate responsibility question and also demonstrated their ability to deliver the project in accordance with South Oxfordshire's climate objectives.</p>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
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	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2 2023/24, work continued on operationalising the priority actions identified in the adopted Oxfordshire Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan. A proposal was submitted to Innovate UK for the FutureFit Oxfordshire project. This aims to create an ‘enabling environment’ for retrofitting services. South Oxfordshire is a listed partner in the FutureFit Oxfordshire project – which, if the bid to Innovate UK is successful, will start in early 2024.</p> <p>Also, in Q2, South published a briefing on retrofitting homes and community buildings for district, town and parish councils. This consolidated the existing information on retrofitting financing and support.</p> <p>In addition, the Climate team held an online town and parish forum on improving the energy efficiency of community buildings and the support that South Oxfordshire can offer to the groups that manage these buildings. Preparations are now underway for the next session – this will focus on retrofitting domestic properties.</p> <p>Funding for retrofitting remains available to eligible residents within South through Oxfordshire County Council.</p>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
HILN5	Elimination of homelessness in our District	<p>Narrative update on progress in this area</p> <p>Quantitative information on - Homelessness rates, homeless cases and TA numbers, length of stay in TA and effectiveness of interventions (avoided homelessness)</p>	Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>South Oxfordshire recorded four rough sleepers at the end of Q2 2023/24. The low levels of rough sleeping in the district reflects the success of the council's preventative approach.</p> <p>The number of homeless households in temporary accommodation (TA) on 30 September 2023 was 17 – only one higher than the previous quarter (despite the increasing pressures on the service – the council is currently dealing with a record homelessness caseload – caused by the cost-of-living crisis and the demands of refugee resettlement schemes).</p> <p>The rolling six-month average length of stay in emergency accommodation was 67 nights, above the ceiling target of 42, and a reflection of the number and complexity of the cases.</p> <p>During Q2 2023/24, the rate of successful homelessness prevention in South Oxfordshire was 79.0 per cent. This was marginally below the very challenging target of 80.0 per cent (the average rate of homelessness prevention in the South East region is 56.0 per cent).</p> <p>The council continues to work closely with partners across Oxfordshire to tackle homelessness and is an active member of the countywide Homelessness Steering Group, the Young Persons Steering Group and the Homelessness Directors Group.</p>
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	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>Although there are currently no funded initiatives to bring vacant commercial premises back into use in South Oxfordshire, Economic Development are continuing to develop plans to offer UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) as a grant to organisations looking to utilise/occupy empty properties.</p> <p>In Q2, the Economic Development Manager has met with developers working on mixed-use town centre projects to ensure that their plans provide appropriate spaces and facilities for the local community.</p> <p>The individual vacancy rates for the district's market towns are currently unavailable.</p>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
HILN7	Ensuring that our teams are ready to access or signpost to any Government schemes or funding that is made available	Narrative update on signposting activity and if possible, update on take-up	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2 2023/24, South Oxfordshire successfully secured £285,465 from the Swimming Pool Support Fund (SPSF). The SPSF aims to prevent swimming pool closures/a reduction in provision by helping to cover increased utility and chemical costs. The funding will go to GLL.</p> <p>The council was, however, unfortunately unsuccessful in its bid to the GWR Customer and Community Fund for funding to undertake a Didcot Transport Hub Feasibility Study. Officers have requested feedback and have arranged a meeting with GWR to discuss how they still might be able to assist with the proposed study.</p> <p>Also, in Q2, South (in conjunction with Vale of White Horse) submitted an application to the Planning Skills Delivery Fund for £89,050. If successful, this money will be used to provide online and in-person training to upskill the existing Planning and Planning Policy teams.</p> <p>In addition, preparatory work has been undertaken for an application to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme – Phase 3c.</p> <p>The external funding lead has also been working with colleagues at Oxfordshire County Council to determine how the allocated Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Funding (LEVI) grant will be spent within the districts.</p>
HILN8	New homes are future-proofed, meeting the highest environmental standards and enhancing nature through sensitive, high quality design	Narrative update around refresh of the design guide, local plan, and information around DES10	Cabinet Member for Planning	Head of Planning	<p>During Q2 2023/24, Bioregional (the council's net zero carbon consultants) continued to work on the evidence base for the Joint Local Plan. They also provided assistance with the emerging preferred options and draft policy text to ensure that South's sustainable construction proposals are robust and up-to-date.</p>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
HILN9	Spatial planning embeds public health, wellbeing and sustainability	Narrative update on work around planning reinforcing wellbeing and sustainability. This should include 'health based planning data' where possible - information on public gym equipment - footpaths, cycle paths etc.	Cabinet Member for Planning	Head of Policy and Programmes	No progress to report Q2 2023/2024.
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>	Cabinet Member for Planning	Head of Planning	<p>During July and August 2023, 45 affordable properties have been reported as delivered.</p> <p>The type and size of the 45 units currently delivered in Q2 is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 7 x 1 bed flats - 21 x 2 bed flats - 16 x 2 bed houses - 1 x 3 bed houses <p>A quarterly total, including September, will be made available towards the end of October.</p> <p>2023/24 to date has seen the delivery of 75 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	Q2 Performance Update
HILN11	Sustainable transport solutions prioritise walking, cycling and public transport to reduce car dependency and air pollution	Narrative update on overall progress relating to sustainable transport solutions - particularly EV elements	Cabinet Member for Planning	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q2 2023/24, the pilot county-wide EV car club scheme continued. Vehicles are available to hire in Henley and Wallingford through 'Co-Wheels'.</p> <p>In August, South responded to Oxfordshire County Council's consultation on the Strategic Travel Network (SATN). The consultation included an interactive map of proposed cycling and walking routes, for which the council provided feedback.</p> <p>Also, in Q2, the Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan Part B public consultation was held. The public were invited to give feedback on the draft report and its proposed interventions.</p>

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
IRFV1	Develop and implement an innovative Transformation Strategy to diversify our revenue streams, improve our effectiveness and secure our on-going viability	<p>Narrative measure relating to the development of an overarching Transformation Strategy and any overall narrative linking to potential deliverables</p> <p>Quantitative data - Income relative to Net expenditure (in context), this could be broken down by service</p>	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property Assets	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2 2023/24, South Oxfordshire recruited a new Transformation Programme Manager – due to start in Q3. They will help to shape and drive the council’s programme of transformational projects and activities.</p> <p>A new telephony platform for Customer Services went live on 26 September. The transition caused minimal levels of disruption and will allow for improved access to call management data.</p>
IRFV2	“Invest to save” for the District, including the delivery of sustainable new Council offices – on time and within budget – to realise future operational efficiencies	Narrative on progress of the Corporate Office project, including data on current spend on office accommodation which will no longer be spent once project completed. Further narrative to discuss impact of new building finances	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property Assets	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2 2023/24, the master plan for the new office building was agreed with partners. A planning application was submitted on 2nd August.</p> <p>Work is underway on developing the procurement pack and finalising the employer’s requirements in preparation for the start of the process to appoint a main contractor.</p>
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)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property Assets	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	The Strategic Property Review was completed during 2021/22. No further progress on related initiatives to report Q2 2023/24.

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

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q2 Performance Update
IRFV4	Maximise external funding opportunities to support our services and to enrich our leisure, sporting and community activities	<p>Narrative update relating to external funding utilisation, both funding received direct to the council, and projects which have received part external funding or are in progress if not already delivered</p> <p>Specific elements which should be included - Proportion of spend on leisure/community facilities vs amount funded by Council.</p> <p>CIL/106 spend broken down by type/parish</p> <p>Externally funded Capital schemes</p> <p>Total External funding received figure - narrative should be clear that this is not the total figure</p>	Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>Between July and September, 1,095 people took part in South Oxfordshire's summer holiday activities.</p> <p>During Q2 2023/24, Active Oxfordshire confirmed that their bid for an additional three years of funding for the Move Together and You Move programmes had been successful. As a result, the council will be able to continue this work with residents who have long-term health conditions and families on low incomes. South now has 1,291 people signed up to the 'You Move' project (aimed at families with children and in receipt of benefits). It also has 836 people enrolled on the 'Move Together' project (designed to help people with long-term health conditions become more active).</p> <p>During Q2 2023/24, South Oxfordshire successfully secured £285,465 from the Swimming Pool Support Fund (SPSF). The SPSF aims to prevent swimming pool closures/a reduction in provision by helping to cover increased utility and chemical costs. The funding will go to GLL.</p> <p>The council was, however, unfortunately unsuccessful in its bid to the GWR Customer and Community Fund for funding to undertake a Didcot Transport Hub Feasibility Study. Officers have requested feedback and have arranged a meeting with GWR to discuss how they still might be able to assist with the proposed study.</p> <p>In addition, preparatory work has been undertaken for an application to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme – Phase 3c.</p> <p>South has requested submissions for projects seeking CIL funding for 2024/25.</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	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property Assets	Head of Finance	<p>No progress to report Q2 2023/24.</p> <p>As a consequence of the uncertain economic climate, officers are not currently pursuing a funds review to find alternative potential investment opportunities. They will, however, continue to monitor the situation and liaise with the council's treasury advisors.</p>



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Policy and Programmes

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