



**2023/24**  
**QUARTER THREE**  
**OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2023.**

**PERFORMANCE REPORT**  
**CORPORATE PLAN**



# Strategic Context



The Met Office announced that 2023 was the second warmest year on record for the UK – the warmest was 2022 – in a series stretching back to 1884. The mean temperature was just below 10°C. (The ten warmest years in the UK have all occurred since 2003).

Eight of the 12 months of 2023 were warmer than average for the UK. June and September were particularly warm compared to the average. It was the hottest June on record for the UK by a wide margin (the mean temperature of 15.8°C beat the previous joint record set in 1940 and 1976 by 0.9°C), and the joint-hottest September (with a mean temperature of 15.2°C, 2.2°C higher than the usual temperature).

The Copernicus Climate Change Service have confirmed that 2023 was the warmest year on record globally (in a series going back to 1850) with an average temperature of 14.98°C - this beat the previous record set in 2016 by 0.17°C. Every month from June to December was warmer than the corresponding month in any previous year – and July and August were the warmest two months on record. 2023 was also the first time on record that every day within a year exceeded 1°C above the 1850-1900 pre-industrial level for that time of year.

The Met Office's global outlook for 2024 suggests that it could be another record breaker, with experts forecasting that the average temperature could be between 1.34°C and 1.58°C above the average for the pre-industrial period– this is the first time that values of 1.5°C or above cannot be

ruled out. It would also be the eleventh year in succession that temperatures will have reached at least 1.0°C above pre-industrial levels.

From 30 November to 13 December, COP28 was held in the UAE. At the summit, agreement was reached on the need to transition away from energy fossil fuels in energy systems. The agreement does not, however, compel countries to take action, nor does it specify a timescale for this change to occur.

During Quarter 3 of 2023/24, the global economic situation remained unsettled. While many of the immediate pressures that had driven inflation have eased, challenges, such as higher borrowing costs and elevated debt levels, remain. Furthermore, with the continuation of fighting in Ukraine and the potential risk of a protracted conflict in the Middle East, there is the potential for further economic shocks and disruption throughout 2024.

The UK's rate of inflation was 4.0 per cent in the 12 months to December 2023 – an increase of 0.1 per cent on the figure for November (inflation peaked at 11.1 per cent in October 2022 – the highest rate since 1981). The increase in the rate of inflation in December was mainly driven by rises in the rate of inflation for alcohol and tobacco. This was, nevertheless, partially offset by the continued slowing of the rate of inflation for food and non-alcoholic beverages.

The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted to keep interest rates at 5.25 per cent at their meetings in November and December. While this marked the third consecutive time that the MPC has held the interest rate, it follows a sustained series of rises which have increased borrowing costs to their highest levels since 2008. The Committee have also made clear that monetary policy (interest

rates) is likely to need to be restrictive for an extended period of time.

In the three months to November 2023, economic growth was estimated to have fallen by 0.2 per cent. Analysts suggest that this weakening in economic output has been driven by inflationary pressures and the tightening of monetary policy. Furthermore, the consensus of forecasts for the year ahead suggest that the economy will continue to see low/anaemic growth – a persistent and long-standing issue that has afflicted the UK since the financial crisis of 2008.



NHS figures show that 7.6 million people were waiting for planned NHS treatment in November. While this marks the second monthly fall in figures, waiting lists still remain near record highs. The pandemic, increased/sustained demand, staff vacancies and industrial action have all been cited as major contributory factors towards this backlog.

During October, HM Government announced that recycling in England will be standardised from 2026. All homes, businesses and schools will recycle the same materials and there will also be a once-a-week minimum requirement for food waste collection.

At the end of October, HM Government's Levelling Up and Regeneration Act became law. It is intended to speed up the planning system, hold developers to account, cut bureaucracy, and encourage more councils to put in place plans to enable the building of new homes.

HM Government's Energy Act 2023 also received Royal Assent in October. The aim of the Act is to transform the UK's energy system by strengthening energy security, supporting the delivery of net zero and ensuring household bills are affordable in the long-term.



In early November, the King's Speech set out HM Government's priorities for the new parliamentary session.

Towards the end of November, the Chancellor of the Exchequer unveiled HM Government's Autumn Statement. The stated priorities for the package of measures introduced were reducing debt, cutting

taxes, rewarding hard work and backing British businesses.

In December, the Department for Levelling Up, Communities, Housing and Local Government published the Local Government Finance Policy Statement 2024-25. This set out HM Government's intentions for local government finance for the coming year. Under these proposals, the council tax referendum principles for shire district councils will be set at up to 3.0 per cent or £5 – whichever is higher. Within the Policy Statement, HM Government also reiterated that they do not believe that this is the right time to introduce any fundamental reforms to the local government finance landscape.

Oxford City Council published the first draft of its Oxford Local Plan 2040. While this has identified the need for 26,400 more homes in Oxford by 2040, the City Council have only identified where 9,612 of these will be built. Concerns have been raised that this could push more homes into the surrounding districts.

In November, the ONS released their latest mid-year population estimates. This suggested that, as of June 2022, 151,820 people lived within South Oxfordshire (an increase of 1.2 per cent from June 2021).

## Q3 Performance Highlights

### Protect and restore our natural world



Economic Development ran an application scheme for round one of the **Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) grants programme**



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



TSE Research have now completed the initial stages of their **visitor economy research project**

### Openness and accountability



Officers implemented the council's **new consultation and engagement platform, "Join the Conversation" hosted on Citizen Space**. This should make it easier for residents to contribute/have their say on matters



Between October and December, the council **recognised several religious festivals and occasions** (Hanukkah, Diwali, Christmas Day), marked a number of significant days (World Homeless Day, World Mental Health Day, White Ribbon Day etc) and celebrated Black History Month

### Action on climate emergency



We held an online town and parish **forum on retrofitting domestic properties to improve their energy efficiency**



Our **new Air Quality Plan** was endorsed by the council's partners. It is now **scheduled to be reviewed by Cabinet** in January and by the Licensing Committee in February



Work continued on the **Cornerstone Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme** funded project

### Improved economic and community well-being



We **launched a Food and Warmth Grant Scheme** for voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations



The Community Hub launched **the Household Support Fund 4 grants**. These will enable organisations to refer residents for **financial support to help those struggling with the cost-of-living crisis**

### Homes and infrastructure that meets local need



**156** The number of **affordable home completions reported** to the council in 2023/24 (to date)



The **Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan was formally approved**. It outlines a variety of schemes to improve the overall active travel network within Didcot and the surrounding areas



Work started on Stage 1 of the **construction project to deliver net zero homes** at a council-owned site in Didcot

### Investment that rebuilds our financial viability



We **applied to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme** – Phase 3c for £1,490,475 for decarbonisation measures at Didcot Wave and Park Sports Centre, Wheatley



Officer-led and member-led **budget challenge exercises were held** as part of South's budget setting activity

# Theme 1 – Protect and Restore our Natural World

## Key Activity in Q3

TSE Research have now completed the initial stages of their visitor economy research project. A baseline report has been presented to officers and is available on request. TSE Research are scheduled to present a strategic recommendations report during Q4. This will include suggestions for the promotion of the district for tourism, leisure, and wellbeing. 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.

Economic Development ran an application scheme for round one of the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) grants programme. 23 applications were received from organisations within South Oxfordshire and included submissions relating to small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas. These are now being assessed and are scheduled to be reviewed by a grant panel in Q4.

Officers from Economic Development have also led conversations within the Food

Action Working Group regarding proposed mapping, marketing and business development activities linked to the Oxfordshire Food Strategy Action Plan.

During Q3 2023/24, South Oxfordshire arranged the transfer of £51,000 capital for a flood alleviation scheme at Wheatley. (This agreement also includes Environment Agency funding of £120,000 and a separate £29,000 awarded to Oxfordshire County Council). This project will involve the installation of natural flood management measures.

Economic Development have continued to work with the Garden Communities team regarding the use of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) funding to support small scale green infrastructure in Berinsfield and Didcot.



## Theme 2 – Openness and Accountability

### Key Activity in Q3

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 environmental crime reporting.

Officers introduced 'Join the Conversation', the council's new consultation and engagement platform. This should make it easier for residents to contribute/have their say.

The Communications team trialled several social media management systems with the intention of assessing them for potential permanent adoption. They are also continuing to explore the potential opportunities offered by newer social media channels.



South Oxfordshire continued to promote diversity and inclusion through the recognition of events contained within its Diversity and Social Campaign Calendar. Between October and December, the council recognised several religious festivals and occasions (Hanukkah, Diwali, Christmas Day), marked a number of significant days (World Homeless Day, World Mental Health Day, White Ribbon Day etc) and celebrated Black History Month.

Also, in Q3, South Oxfordshire ran an all-staff event which featured stalls run by the council's Diversity and Inclusion Champions, the Wellbeing Group, UNISON and the Climate Team (amongst others). In addition, the council held a free-to-access and very popular Menopause Webinar.

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 Q3. 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 Q3 2023/24, the performance management report for Q2 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.

Work has continued on reviewing the council's Constitution. South Oxfordshire has also introduced a new and improved Annual Governance Statement.

# Theme 3 – Action on the Climate Emergency

## Key Activity in Q3

During Q3 2023/24, South Oxfordshire applied to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme – Phase 3c for £1,490,475 for decarbonisation measures at Didcot Wave and Park Sports Centre, Wheatley. The council also submitted a bid to the Swimming Pool Support Fund – Phase 2 for the installation of energy efficiency measures and solar PV at the Abbey Sports Centre, Berinsfield (£157,527) and the Thame Leisure Centre (£160,351).

Work continued on the Cornerstone Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funded project. The council's consultants (Pellings LLP) are currently working with CX Utilities to engage the Distribution Network Operator in relation to the upgrading of cabling and substations. Once the costs of these improvements have been ascertained, officers will seek authority to proceed with this work. Pellings LLP are also producing the designs for the proposed activities – the council expects to receive these in Q4.

Work started on Stage 1 (as defined by the Royal Institute of British Architects) of the construction project to deliver net zero homes at a council-owned site in Didcot.

This activity included a review of the local requirements for housing need and affordability. Also, in Q3, the council appointed MICA to lead the design team for this development. They are currently engaged in assessing sustainability.

In line with our commitment to mitigate climate change through planning and land use measures, significant progress has continued to be made on the development of the Joint Local Plan. Activities included:

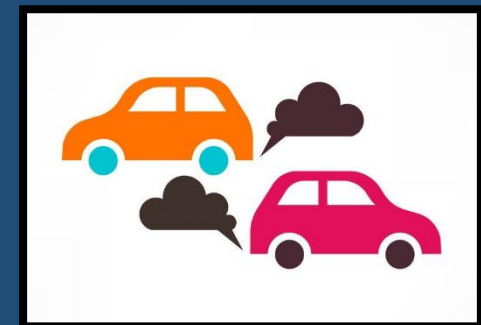
- The Planning Policy team taking the Joint Local Plan Preferred Options through Cabinet and to the Joint Scrutiny Committee.
- An All-Councillor Roundtable meeting on net zero carbon.
- Bioregional (the council's net zero carbon consultants) completing tasks 1-5 of their commission and preparing a report for publication – this is scheduled for release in Q4.

South Oxfordshire remains involved in shaping and participating in county-wide initiatives through 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. During Q3 2023/24, each of FOP's advisory groups made progress with setting their forward work programmes. These will include activities and items on affordable housing, energy planning and the updating of the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS).

The Climate team held an online town and parish forum on retrofitting domestic properties to improve their energy efficiency. Information was also given about the support that the county and district councils can offer on this topic.

South's new Air Quality Plan was agreed to by the council's partners. It is now scheduled to be reviewed by Cabinet in January and by the Licensing Committee in February.





# Theme 4 – Improved Economic and Community Wellbeing

## Key Activity in Q3

Work continued on the research study (being undertaken by Oxford Brookes) on understanding the net zero challenge for SMEs in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. The results of this exercise will help to improve the council's insight regarding the barriers experienced by local businesses in the journey to net zero and what support could potentially be offered to help them achieve their decarbonisation goals. A final report is due in March 2024 and will help to inform South Oxfordshire's use of UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF).

TSE Research completed the initial stages of their visitor economy research project. A baseline report has been presented to officers and is available on request.

Economic Development ran an application scheme for round one of the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) grants programme. 23 applications were received from organisations within South Oxfordshire. These submissions are now being assessed and are scheduled to be reviewed by a grant panel in Q4.

Officers from 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.

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.

South also remains involved in shaping and participating in county-wide initiatives through 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. During Q3 2023/24, each of FOP's advisory groups made progress with setting their forward work programmes. These will include activities and items on affordable housing, energy planning and the updating of the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS).



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).

During Q3, the Community Hub launched the Household Support Fund 4 grants. These will enable organisations to refer residents for financial support to help those struggling with the cost-of-living crisis. They also started a Food and Warmth Grant Scheme for voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations.

The council supported the development of local action plans related to the Oxfordshire Food Strategy. Officers from Economic Development have also led conversations within the Food Action Working Group regarding proposed mapping, marketing and business development activities linked to the Oxfordshire Food Strategy Action Plan.

Between October and December, South Oxfordshire continued to take action against fly-tippers. In Q3, the council issued six Fixed Penalty Notices for waste crimes. There was also one prosecution for fly-tipping – a further two prosecutions are pending.

**84**

Number of fly tips in October 2023

This was a significant increase on the 51 fly tips recorded October 2022



**83**

Number of fly tips in November 2023

This was an increase on the 60 fly tips recorded in November 2022



The figures for December 2023 were not available at the time of reporting

# Theme 5 – Homes and Infrastructure that Meet Local Needs

## Key Activity in Q3

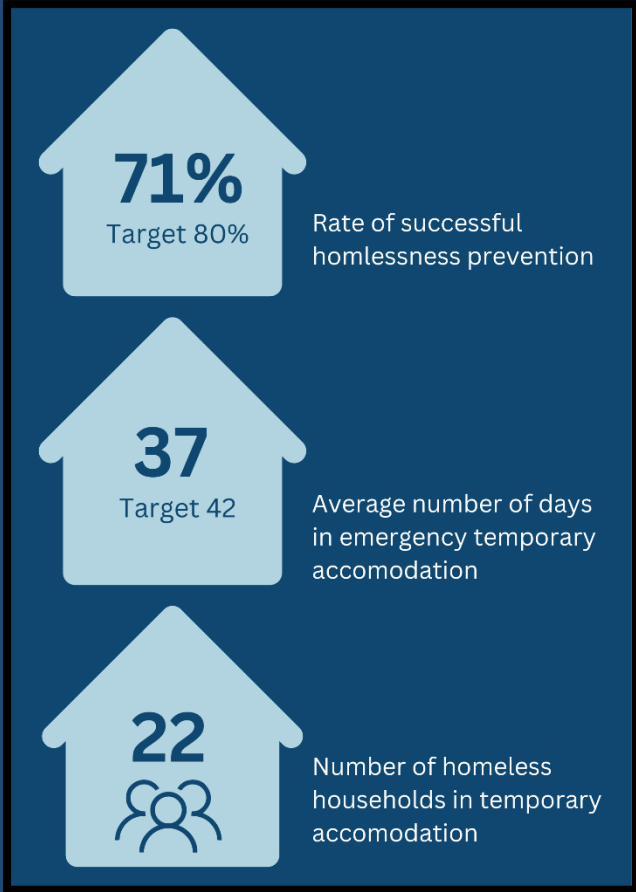
The council recorded three rough sleepers at the end of Q3 2023/24 – a decrease of one on the previous quarter. The low levels of rough sleeping in the district reflects the success of the council’s preventative approach.

The number of homeless households in temporary accommodation (TA) on 31 December 2023 was 22 – a slight increase on the previous quarter reflecting the increasing pressures on the service. The council is forecasting that there will be a record number of approaches for homelessness assistance this year caused by multiple factors including the cost-of-living crisis and the decline in availability of affordable private rented properties.

The rolling six-month average length of stay in emergency accommodation was 37 nights, below the council’s ceiling target of 42 nights.

During Q3 2023/24, the rate of successful homelessness prevention in South Oxfordshire was 71.0 per cent. This was below the very challenging target of 80.0 per cent, but remains significantly above the South East prevention rate of 53.0 per cent. The most likely outcome for households

where homelessness is not prevented is a stay in emergency or temporary accommodation which is both disruptive for the household and expensive for the council.



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. Progress is currently being made on the Countywide Homelessness Strategy Action Plan to tackle single person homelessness in Oxfordshire.

With the aim of ensuring that new homes and infrastructure meet local needs, are sustainable, zero carbon and high quality in design, significant progress has continued to be made on the development of the Joint Local Plan. Activities included:

- The Planning Policy team taking the Joint Local Plan Preferred Options through Cabinet and to the Joint Scrutiny Committee
- An All-Councillor Roundtable meeting on net zero carbon.
- Bioregional (the council's net zero carbon consultants) completing tasks 1-5 of their commission and preparing a report for publication – this is scheduled for release in Q4.

The Didcot Wayfinding Strategy, the Green Infrastructure Strategy and the Public Arts Plan are now in their final draft stages. They are scheduled to be considered by the Cabinet during Q4.

Pre-planning application discussions took place between South Oxfordshire and Ptargmigan to support the masterplanning and outline application process for Berinsfield Garden Village. Also, in Q3, officers secured UK Shared Prosperity Funding to advance a number of capital projects in Berinsfield and to further key priorities around placemaking and facilities.

As part of the council's efforts to prioritise active travel and to make sure that new developments are accessible, the Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan was formally approved. This document outlines a variety of schemes to improve the overall active travel network within Didcot and the surrounding areas.

In order to help ensure that new and existing buildings are zero-carbon in their operation, the Climate team held an online town and parish forum on retrofitting domestic properties to improve their energy efficiency. Information was also given about the support that the county and district councils can offer on this topic.

To help deliver on South Oxfordshire's commitment to providing homes that people can afford to live in, work started on Stage 1 (as defined by the Royal Institute of British Architects) of the construction project to deliver net zero homes at a council-owned site in Didcot. This activity included a review of the local requirements for housing need and affordability. Also, in Q3, the council appointed MICA to lead the design team for this development. They are currently engaged in assessing sustainability.



## Theme 6 – Investment that Rebuilds our Financial Viability

### Key Activity in Q3

South Oxfordshire continued with its budget setting activity for 2024/25. Both officer-led and member-led budget challenge exercises were held on selected areas of activity. These reviewed and assessed the council's income budgets.

The CIL Member Working Group collated and examined the requests received for projects seeking funding for 2024/25. A final review of the eligible schemes will take place in January and recommendations will then be made for inclusion as part of the budget setting process.

Innovate UK - Net Zero Fast Followers - offered funding for a bid submitted in February 2023. The council is liaising with Innovate UK around the details of the funding offer, which could include a training programme to support journey to net zero carbon and a research project for nature-based solutions to carbon offsetting.

Also, in Q3, South (in conjunction with the Vale) was awarded £89,050 from the

Planning Skills Delivery Fund. This will be used to provide online and in-person training to upskill the existing Planning and Planning Policy teams.

In addition, work has been undertaken on a proposal to Innovate UK for a research project to trial electric refuse collection vehicle for recycling and household waste. This application is scheduled for submission in Q4.

South Oxfordshire applied to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme – Phase 3c for £1,490,475 for decarbonisation measures at Didcot Wave and Park Sports Centre, Wheatley. The council also submitted a bid to the Swimming Pool Support Fund – Phase 2 for the installation of energy efficiency measures and solar PV at the Abbey Sports Centre, Berinsfield (£157,527) and the Thame Leisure Centre (£160,351).



## Individual Cabinet Member Decisions (ICMD)

Date	Description
09/10/2023	Leisure Management Contractor's Performance 2022/23
13/10/2023	Leader's Appointment to Champion Roles
20/10/2023	Capital Spend on Waste Vehicles
31/10/2023	Oxfordshire Food Strategy
08/11/2023	CCTV In Didcot and Henley
08/11/2023	Homes For Ukraine Scheme
10/11/2023	Chinnor Neighbourhood Plan
21/11/2023	Software Licensing Agreement
30/11/2023	Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure
05/12/2023	Lewknor Neighbourhood Plan
05/12/2023	Towersey Neighbourhood Plan
05/12/2023	Wheatley Neighbourhood Plan
05/12/2023	Car Parks Contractor Performance
07/12/2023	Wallingford Accessible Moorings
13/12/2023	Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan
15/12/2023	Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership
Total: 16	

Theme: Protect and restore our natural world					
Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
PRN1	With partners, promote in-depth mapping and surveying of ecosystems across the district, planning for restoration of the natural world and working closely with land-owners and specialist agencies.	Narrative report to include information on work with partners, and Habitat and Species data + changes/trends on a 12 month basis.	Cllr Sue Cooper	Head of Planning	No progress to report in Q3 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)	Cllr Andrea Powell	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	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. TSE Research have now completed the initial stages of their visitor economy research project. A baseline report has been presented to officers and is available on request. TSE Research are scheduled to present a strategic recommendations report during Q4. This will include suggestions for the promotion of the district for tourism, leisure, and wellbeing.
PRN3	Encourage the use of natural processes to combat risks arising from climate change, such as meadows and trees to reduce flooding	Narrative report to include direct and indirect information on use of natural processes to combat risks of climate change. This should include new policy development and direct activity undertaken by the Council.	Cllr Sue Cooper	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	During Q3 2023/24, South Oxfordshire arranged the transfer of £51,000 capital for a flood alleviation scheme at Wheatley. (This agreement also includes Environment Agency funding of £120,000 and a separate £29,000 awarded to Oxfordshire County Council). This project will

Theme: Protect and restore our natural world					
Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
					involve the installation of natural flood management measures.
PRN4	Recognise and support the vital role of farming in economic and ecosystem resilience, local food provision and the recovery of soils and natural processes	Narrative report on activity undertaken with partners to encourage and support the vital role of farming in economic and ecosystem resilience (where possible, although this may be implicitly included in the information above).	Cllr Sue Cooper	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q3 2023/24, Economic Development ran an application scheme for round one of the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) grants programme. 23 applications were received from organisations within South Oxfordshire and included submissions relating to small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas. These are now being assessed and are scheduled to be reviewed by a grant panel in Q4.</p> <p>The council has supported the development of local action plans related to the Oxfordshire Food Strategy. Officers from Economic Development have also led conversations within the Food Action Working Group regarding proposed mapping, marketing and business development activities linked to the Oxfordshire Food Strategy Action Plan.</p>
PRN5	Call for the establishment of a Local Nature Partnership for Oxfordshire to promote an ambitious nature recovery programme, including tree and meadow planting, rewilding and providing habitats for wildlife including wildlife corridors	Narrative report - accepting that much of the activity to support PRN3 will be relevant here.	Cllr David Rouane	Head of Policy and Programmes	No update required – action complete.



Theme: Protect and restore our natural world					
Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	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.	CLlr Sue Cooper	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	During Q3 2023/24, Economic Development continued to work with the Garden Communities team regarding the use of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) funding to support small scale green infrastructure in Berinsfield and Didcot.

Theme: Openness and Accountability

Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	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>	Clr Andrea Powell	Head of Corporate Services	<p>During Q3 2023/24, the performance management report for Q2 2023/24 was published on South Oxfordshire's website. This is intended to increase the public's understanding of what the council does, how it works and how decisions are made.</p> <p>In Q3 2023/24, South received 308 FOI/EIRs. 97.0% of these were responded to within the target time of 20 working days – this is above the ICO's target.</p> <p>The council received 17 stage one complaints, eight stage two complaints and one complaint from the Local Government Ombudsman between October and December 2023.</p> <p>With the exception of the Full Council (due to logistical/IT issues), all other meetings during Q3 2023/24 were livestreamed (they will also remain available to view on the council's YouTube channel for a year).</p>
OA2	Ensure that council departments work collaboratively to deliver best outcomes for residents	<p>Narrative report detailing significant, non-recurring examples of inter-departmental working which have secured concrete outcomes for residents</p>	Clr Andrea Powell	Head of Corporate Services	<p>During Q3 2023/24, officers completed a report on a proposed improved approach to garden waste customer contact and payments. This will be considered by Joint Scrutiny and the Cabinet.</p> <p>Officers continue to develop proposals for utilising the Customer Relationship Management System (CRM) to automate resident's reports of enviro-crimes e.g., fly tipping. This has involved</p>

Theme: Openness and Accountability					
Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
					<p>close collaboration between Customer Services, IT and Waste.</p> <p>Also, in Q3, a cross-departmental team continued to work on developing the various housing schemes to support people from Afghanistan and Ukraine.</p>
OA3	Embed an organisational culture that celebrates diversity, inclusion and respect	<p>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/</p>	Cllr Maggie Filipova-Rivers	Head of Corporate Services	<p>During Q3 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 October and December, the council recognised several religious festivals and occasions (Hanukkah, Diwali, Christmas Day), marked a number of significant days (World Homeless Day, World Mental Health Day, White Ribbon Day etc) and celebrated Black History Month.</p> <p>Also, in Q3, South Oxfordshire ran an all-staff event which featured stalls run by the council's Diversity and Inclusion Champions, the Wellbeing Group, UNISON and the Climate Team (amongst others). In addition, the council held a free-to-access and very popular Menopause Webinar.</p>

Theme: Openness and Accountability

Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
OA4	Apply good governance and transparency in all our working and decision-making, exploring optimal structures and mechanisms for best practice in local government	Narrative report on significant change initiatives which have resulted in restructures/new processes to deliver local govt services.	Cllr David Rouane	Head of Legal and Democratic	<p>The council's Constitution has remained under constant review throughout Q3 2023/24.</p> <p>Meetings of the Constitution Review Group have also taken place.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire introduced a new and improved Annual Governance Statement. This was presented to the Joint Audit and Government Committee in Q3. A new Code of Corporate Governance will be submitted to the Joint Audit and Governance Committee in Q4.</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>
OA5	Engage effectively with residents, Parish and Town Councils and other community organisations, using plain English in our communications and using appropriate methods and technologies to ensure equal and fair access for all	Narrative report on activities communications/engagement specific activities	Cllr Andrea Powell	Head of Corporate Services	<p>During Q3 2023/24, South Oxfordshire continued to highlight the cost-of-living help that the council offers. This included promoting grant funding opportunities for local organisations.</p> <p>When there were periods of cold weather between October and December, South Oxfordshire helped to promote the availability of emergency beds and explain the extra support in place to assist rough sleepers.</p>

Theme: Openness and Accountability

Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
					<p>The council publicised its revised Section 106 policy to support the delivery of new affordable housing through its media channels and by direct contact with the major housing associations operating within the district.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire promoted free and low-cost activities for kids and families over the October half term.</p> <p>The council publicised its £550,000 pledge to fund the Berinsfield Delivery Plan. The Plan focuses upon community health and wellbeing, sustainability and the environment, regeneration and development, community infrastructure, active travel, and governance and legacy.</p> <p>South's 'Check it before you chuck it' campaign continued during Q3. This aims to help cut down on recycling contamination by encouraging residents to verify whether things can go in their recycling bins. The campaign webpage has so far received over 10,200 visits.</p> <p>South also promoted Recycle Week. This highlighted how different items can be recycled with the council and/or locally.</p> <p>In the weeks before Christmas, South Oxfordshire – alongside its traditional seasonal waste messaging – ran a social media campaign</p>

Theme: Openness and Accountability

Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
					<p>encouraging people to ‘cut your festive food waste.’</p> <p>During Q3 2023/24, there were small decreases in unique web visitors and page visits (both down by 3.0%). There were also negligible falls in bounce rate and visit duration.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire continues to carry out a review and refresh of its webpages – including the waste and recycling section. In addition, the council is also looking to increase promotion of the website.</p> <p>Q3 Web Usage Figures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 192,184 unique visitors</li> <li>• 220,219 total visits</li> <li>• 493,383 page views</li> <li>• 2.24 views per visit</li> <li>• 56% bounce rate</li> <li>• 2m 2s visit duration</li> </ul> <p>In Q3, South Oxfordshire’s Communications team trialled several social media management systems with the intention of assessing them for potential permanent adoption. The ongoing flux at both Facebook and X/Twitter are also still affecting the council’s social media activities/performance.</p>

Theme: Openness and Accountability

Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
					<p>On Facebook, South’s reach has slightly declined but follower growth has, nevertheless, remained steady.</p> <p>Facebook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reach – 245,8677</li> <li>• Posts – 239</li> <li>• New Followers – 296</li> <li>• Total Followers – 8,300</li> </ul> <p>South Oxfordshire Instagram reach was also down. Nevertheless, despite the decline in reach, South did, however, see continued follower growth.</p> <p>Instagram</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reach – 601</li> <li>• Posts – 117 posts, 46 stories</li> <li>• New Followers – 40</li> <li>• Total Followers – 766</li> </ul> <p>The changes introduced since the takeover of Twitter/X continue to negatively impact upon this channel. Currently its analytics are missing several key metrics as it “makes improvements” and so it is not possible to produce reliable comparable quarterly figures.</p> <p>South is also continuing to explore the potential opportunities offered by newer social media</p>

Theme: Openness and Accountability					
Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
					channels. During Q3, the council achieved 23,552 impressions on Nextdoor.



Theme: Action on Climate emergency					
Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
ACE1	Promote and encourage behavioural change with informational campaigns and leading by example	Narrative report on strategic projects which will help to deliver net zero carbon for 2025/2030. This should be split between Council specific and District specific activities.	Cllr Sue Cooper	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q3 2023/24, work continued on the Cornerstone Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funded project. The council's consultants (Pellings LLP) are currently working with CX Utilities to engage the Distribution Network Operator in relation to the upgrading of cabling and substations. Once the costs of these improvements have been ascertained, officers will seek authority to proceed with this work. Pellings LLP are also producing the designs for the proposed activities – the council expects to receive these in Q4.</p> <p>Officers are exploring a framework agreement for the procurement of a main contractor for the Cornerstone Decarbonisation Project. This will help to speed up the tender process and has involved collaboration with colleagues in both the Legal and Procurement teams.</p> <p>The council's newly appointed Property Assets Project Lead Officer is scheduled to start at the beginning of Q4.</p> <p>In Q3, South Oxfordshire applied to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme – Phase 3c for £1,490,475 for decarbonisation measures at Didcot Wave and Park Sports Centre, Wheatley. The council also submitted a bid to the Swimming</p>

Theme: Action on Climate emergency					
Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
					Pool Support Fund – Phase 2 for the installation of energy efficiency measures and solar PV at the Abbey Sports Centre, Berinsfield (£157,527) and the Thame Leisure Centre (£160,351).
ACE2	Take positive action on single-use plastics, air quality improvement measures and sustainable transport	Quantitative measure - delivery of an annual CEP Y/N	CLlr Sue Cooper	Head of Policy and Programmes	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. The CAP Performance Report for Q2 2023/24 has been completed and is published on the council's website.
ACE3	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 on the current activities which WILL result in the delivery of Council owned homes (and details of those homes where possible)	CLlr Robin Bennett	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	During Q3 2023/24, work started on Stage 1 (as defined by the Royal Institute of British Architects) of the construction project to deliver net zero homes at a council-owned site in Didcot. This activity included a review of the local requirements for housing need and affordability. Also, in Q3, the council appointed MICA to lead the design team for this development. They are currently engaged in assessing sustainability.
ACE4	Promote the circular economy (reduce, re-use and recycle), including in our waste management contracts	Narrative update to include the number of communications campaigns undertaken which promote/encourage behavioural change (with examples).	CLlr Andrea Powell	Head of Corporate Services	South Oxfordshire's 'Check it before you chuck it' campaign continued during Q3. This aims to help cut down on recycling contamination by encouraging residents to verify whether things can go in their recycling bins. The campaign

Theme: Action on Climate emergency

Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
					<p>webpage has so far received over 10,200 visits.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire also promoted Recycle Week. This highlighted how different items can be recycled with the council and/or locally.</p> <p>In the weeks before Christmas, South – alongside its traditional seasonal waste messaging – ran a social media campaign encouraging people to ‘cut your festive food waste.’</p> <p>The council launched a Food and Warmth Grant Scheme which, among other things, offered financial support to local voluntary organisations to assist people in improving the energy efficiency of their homes.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire publicised the decarbonisation works being undertaken at the Didcot Wave Leisure Centre.</p> <p>The council promoted – and through Didcot Garden Town partly funded – a tree giveaway to residents.</p> <p>Also, during Q3, the Climate team held an online town and parish forum on retrofitting domestic properties to improve their energy efficiency. Information was also given about the support that</p>

Theme: Action on Climate emergency					
Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
					the county and district councils can offer on this topic.
ACE5	Support and encourage local businesses to respond to climate change and nature recovery	Suggested combined narrative update on Comms relating to single use plastics/comms relating to AQ initiatives and metrics relating to AQ (with an appreciation that this data will be skewed in 2020 due to lockdown(s))	Cllr Sue Cooper	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>During Q3 2023/24, South Oxfordshire's new Air Quality Plan was agreed to by the council's partners. It is now scheduled to be reviewed by Cabinet in January and by the Licensing Committee in February.</p> <p>Real Time Air Quality Data for sites within South Oxfordshire is available at <a href="https://www.airqualityengland.co.uk">https://www.airqualityengland.co.uk</a></p> <p>Local information is also available at <a href="http://www.oxonair.uk">www.oxonair.uk</a></p>
ACE6	Promote waste minimisation initiatives such as Repair Cafés	Narrative update to focus on planning initiatives which support the potential deliverables where possible (primarily the development of the joint 2041 Local Plan, the joint Design Guide and carbon reduction in planning (DES8/10))	Cllr Anne Marie Simpson	Head of Planning	<p>During Q3 2023/24, continued progress was made on the development of the Joint Local Plan. Significant work was undertaken in creating/preparing the draft preferred options and policies for consultation at the beginning of Q4.</p> <p>Activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Planning Policy team taking the Joint Local Plan Preferred Options through Cabinet and to the Joint Scrutiny Committee.</li> <li>• an All-Councillor Roundtable meeting on net zero carbon.</li> <li>• Bioregional (the council's net zero carbon</li> </ul>

Theme: Action on Climate emergency					
Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
					<p>consultants) completing tasks 1-5 of their commission and preparing a report for publication – this is scheduled for release in Q4.</p> <p>The spatial strategy within the emerging Joint Local Plan, as well as specific ideas in relation to employment, retail, housing etc, will collectively deliver a new land use approach for South Oxfordshire.</p>
ACE7	Work with Oxfordshire County Council to build on our commitment to active travel including walking, public transport and cycling infrastructure	<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>	Clr Sue Cooper	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>The September 2023 recycling rate was 60.94%, the landfill rate was 0.11% and the contamination rate was 10.55%. These figures were not available for Q2 2023/24 reporting.</p> <p>The October 2023 recycling rate was 66.27%, the landfill rate was 0.11% and the contamination rate was 12.10%.</p> <p>The November 2023 recycling rate was 64.02%, the landfill rate was 0.11% and the contamination rate was 12.12%.</p> <p>The figures for December are not yet available.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire’s ‘Check it before you chuck it’ campaign continued during Q3. This aims to help cut down on recycling contamination by encouraging residents to verify whether things</p>

Theme: Action on Climate emergency					
Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
					<p>can go in their recycling bins. The campaign webpage has so far received over 10,200 visits.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire also promoted Recycle Week. This highlighted how different items can be recycled with the council and/or locally.</p> <p>In the weeks before Christmas, South – alongside its traditional seasonal waste messaging – ran a social media campaign encouraging people to ‘cut your festive food waste.’</p>
ACE8	Promote and encourage behavioural change with informational campaigns and leading by example	Narrative update on the work influencing work undertaken to support and encourage local businesses relating to climate change and nature recovery	Cllr Robin Bennett	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q3 2023/24, work continued on the research study (being undertaken by Oxford Brookes) on understanding the net zero challenge for SMEs in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. The results of this exercise will help to improve the council’s insight regarding the barriers experienced by local businesses in the journey to net zero and what support could potentially be offered to help them achieve their decarbonisation goals. A final report is due in March 2024 and will help to inform South Oxfordshire’s use of UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF).</p> <p>Also, in Q3, the council offered a tender opportunity – funded through UKSPF – for organisations that could help encourage local</p>

Theme: Action on Climate emergency					
Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
					businesses/groups/associations to adopt sustainable practices. This will be awarded in Q4.
ACE9	Take positive action on single-use plastics, air quality improvement measures and sustainable transport	Unless specific activity relating to Repair Café's and Freecycle can be reported on, suggest that this is covered in previous narratives	CLlr Sue Cooper	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>South Oxfordshire's 'Check it before you chuck it' campaign continued during Q3. This aims to help cut down on recycling contamination by encouraging residents to verify whether things can go in their recycling bins. The campaign webpage has so far received over 10,200 visits.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire also promoted Recycle Week. This highlighted how different items can be recycled with the council and/or locally.</p> <p>In the weeks before Christmas, South – alongside its traditional seasonal waste messaging – ran a social media campaign encouraging people to 'cut your festive food waste.'</p>
ACE10	Mitigate climate change through planning and land use, enhancing biodiversity on our own land and strengthening the planning system to enforce environmental standards	<p>Narrative update on work with Oxfordshire County Council</p> <p>Optional Quantitative metrics on the amount of new footpaths/cycle paths</p>	CLlr Sue Cooper	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q3 2023/24, the Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan was formally approved by South Oxfordshire, the Vale and Oxfordshire County Council. It outlines a variety of schemes to improve the overall active travel network within Didcot and the surrounding areas.</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council's Strategic Active Travel Network (SATN), for which officers from South Oxfordshire provided support, is scheduled</p>

Theme: Action on Climate emergency					
Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
					to go before the County Council's Cabinet during Q4. The SATN seeks to provide a web of strategic travel routes across Oxfordshire.



Theme: Improved economic and community well-being					
Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
ECW1	Partner with regional agencies to ensure economic recovery, quality employment, thriving businesses and vibrant communities, avoiding the blight of “dormitory towns”	<p>Narrative report on work with partners in this area</p> <p>Quantitative metrics relating to employment rates (trends, actuals) - unemployment rate, trajectory/trend, earnings information</p>	Cllr Pieter-Paul Barker	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>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. South also continues to be a member of OxLEP’s steering group for development of the Oxfordshire Destination Management Plan and Vision for Oxfordshire. In both of these forums, officers have represented South with the purpose of ensuring that these activities continue to align with the council’s objectives. During Q3, feedback and briefings were offered on the development of these plans to South’s Future Oxfordshire Partnership members.</p> <p>Unfortunately, at the beginning of Q3, the council was informed that ShopAppy had ceased trading – thus, negating some of the specific ShopAppy related activities planned by the council for Q3. As a result, South Oxfordshire’s focus switched to supporting local high streets with a short form “shop local” campaign in the run up to Christmas,</p>

Theme: Improved economic and community well-being					
Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
					<p>comprising of radio, digital and print advertising.</p> <p>Officers are working with contacts in the district's town councils to understand their local priorities. This has resulted in the activation of small projects in Henley, Thame and Wallingford aimed at improving the visitor experience in those towns. South Oxfordshire has also committed UK Shared Prosperity Funding to projects including new visitor marketing events.</p> <p>As of December 2023, the unemployment rate in South Oxfordshire stood at 1.9 per cent.</p>
ECW2	Provide advice on access to grants, training and diversification programmes, helping local businesses to build agility and resilience	Quantitative measures - number of businesses we engage with, social media hits, newsletter subscribers, clickthrough rate, numbers of business grants awarded	Cllr Maggie-Filipova-Rivers	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>Between October and December, Economic Development responded to 156 enquiries via the business support inbox.</p> <p>Economic Development ran an application scheme for round one of the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) grants programme. 23 applications were received from organisations within South Oxfordshire. These submissions are now being assessed and are scheduled to be reviewed by a grant panel in Q4.</p> <p>During Q3 2023/24, Economic Development sent out 10 newsletters. These achieved a 52.0 per cent open rate and a 16.0 per cent clickthrough</p>

Theme: Improved economic and community well-being					
Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
					<p>rate. The most popular link was the application for the REPF.</p> <p>At the end of the quarter, the Economic Development newsletter has 2,493 subscribers (+12 on the figure for Q2).</p> <p>On social media, 56 posts were shared by Economic Development via X/Twitter. These created 7,000 impressions and 177 engagements. On Facebook, 56 posts were shared. These earned 4,127 impressions, five new web page likes and 924 engagements.</p>
ECW3	Plan for communities connected by walking & cycling networks, with sustainable, accessible and affordable public transport and reliable Broadband, learning the lessons from the Covid-19 experience and enabling more home-working	<p>Narrative update on work support reliable broadband (where possible)</p> <p>Narrative update on transport initiatives</p> <p>Quantitative - new footpath/cycle paths delivered</p>	Cllr Maggie Filipova-Rivers	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>The County Council's consortium bid for the strategic enhancement of 5G infrastructure was successful. Although this will not have an immediate effect on South Oxfordshire – the initial schemes are focusing on the Harwell Campus and the East-West Rail project – it may help to unlock future funding for similar initiatives.</p> <p>During Q3 2023/24, the Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan was formally approved by South Oxfordshire, the Vale and Oxfordshire County Council. It outlines a variety of schemes to improve the overall active travel network within Didcot and the surrounding areas.</p>

Theme: Improved economic and community well-being					
Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
					Oxfordshire County Council's Strategic Active Travel Network (SATN), for which officers from South Oxfordshire provided support, is scheduled to go before the County Council's Cabinet during Q4. The SATN seeks to provide a web of strategic travel routes across Oxfordshire.
ECW4	Launch a new community wellbeing strategy to encourage and support culture, leisure and the arts	Approval/Launch of 'Community Wellbeing Strategy' Y/N (document should encompass large parts of information above)	Cllr Maggie Filipova-Rivers	Head of Policy and Programmes	During Q3 2023/24, the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy was approved by the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board. This document will be used to inform South's work on its own Community Wellbeing Strategy.
ECW5	Use our planning powers to preserve our valuable green spaces, particularly in urban areas	Number of Neighbourhood Plans implemented/green spaces secured	Cllr Anne-Marie Simpson	Head of Planning	<p>During Q3 2023/24, the council adopted three neighbourhood plan reviews (Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, Wheatley and Chinnor) and two new neighbourhood plans (Lewknor and Towersey).</p> <p>The neighbourhood plan reviews have retained policies providing protection to 21 green spaces previously designated as Local Green Spaces. (Local Green Space designations provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities).</p> <p>In addition, the three neighbourhood plan reviews and two new neighbourhood plans include policies</p>

Theme: Improved economic and community well-being					
Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
					protecting a further 10 new green spaces through Local Green Space designations.
ECW6	Work with our communities to maximise Community Infrastructure Levy funds and to allocate these to achieve best outcomes for residents in the District	<p>Narrative update about work in this area to include detail of new CIL spending strategy, communication with parishes</p> <p>Quantitative elements - CIL Spend broken down by type, by parish</p>	Cllr Pieter-Paul Barker	Head of Finance	<p>During Q3 2023/24, the CIL Member Working Group collated and examined the requests received for projects seeking funding for 2024/25. A final review of the eligible schemes will take place in January and recommendations will then be made for inclusion as part of the budget setting process.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire published its statutory infrastructure statement for 2022/23. <a href="https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/12/South-IFS-2022-23-Final-1.pdf">https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/12/South-IFS-2022-23-Final-1.pdf</a></p> <p>Also, in Q3, £908,127 of CIL funding was released to town and parish councils that had experienced CIL liable development in their area during the previous six months.</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>	Cllr Maggie Filipova-Rivers	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>In October 2023, there were 84 fly tips in South Oxfordshire. This was a significant increase on the 51 fly tips recorded in October 2022.</p> <p>In November 2023, there were 83 fly tips in South Oxfordshire. This was also a significant increase on the 60 fly tips recorded in November 2022.</p> <p>The figures for December 2023 are not yet</p>

Theme: Improved economic and community well-being

Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
					<p>available.</p> <p>During Q3 2023/24, the council issued six Fixed Penalty Notices for waste crimes. There was one prosecution for waste crimes between October and December. Another two prosecutions are pending.</p> <p>In addition, officers received 91 abandoned vehicle reports during Q3 2023/24. Of these, 26 vehicles were not on site, 48 were identified as not abandoned, two were removed, and 12 investigations remain ongoing (the other three were duplicate reports).</p>
ECW8	Work with local partners to introduce civil parking enforcement as a district responsibility	Narrative update on progress	Cllr Pieter-Paul Barker	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	No update required – action complete.

Theme: Homes and Infrastructure that meet local needs					
Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
HILN1	Didcot Garden Town priority projects as identified by the Advisory Board, specifically a sustainable plan to redevelop the Didcot Gateway site, a public transport and active walking and cycling network, community facilities and accessible green spaces for Didcot residents	Narrative update against the stated aim, to include as many of the potential deliverables as possible, but not limited in scope to this.	Cllr Robin Bennett	Head of Policy and Programmes	During Q3 2023/24, the Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan was formally approved. This document outlines a variety of schemes to improve the overall active travel network within Didcot and the surrounding areas. The Didcot Wayfinding Strategy, the Green Infrastructure Strategy and the Public Arts Plan are developing.
HILN2	The transformation of Berinsfield into a thriving Garden Village with improved facilities that are developed in line with the community's needs and aspirations	Narrative update against the stated aim, to include as many of the potential deliverables as possible, but not limited in scope to this.	Cllr Robin Bennett	Head of Policy and Programmes	During Q3 2023/24, pre-planning application discussions took place between South Oxfordshire and Ptargmigan to support the masterplanning and outline application process. Also, in Q3, officers secured UK Shared Prosperity Funding to advance a number of capital projects in Berinsfield and to further key priorities around placemaking and facilities.
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) Potential direct link to ACE 3? Also reporting on progress of Design Guide.	Cllr Robin Bennett	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	During Q3 2023/24, work started on Stage 1 (as defined by the Royal Institute of British Architects) of the construction project to deliver net zero homes at a council-owned site in Didcot. This activity included a review of the local requirements for housing need and affordability. Also, in Q3, the council appointed MICA to lead the design team for this development.

Theme: Homes and Infrastructure that meet local needs

Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	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.	Cllr Sue Cooper	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q3 2023/24, the climate team held an online town and parish forum on retrofitting domestic properties to improve their energy efficiency. Information was also given about the support that the county and district councils can offer on this topic.</p> <p>Funding for retrofitting remains available to eligible residents within South Oxfordshire though Oxfordshire County Council.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the proposal submitted to Innovate UK for the FutureFit Oxfordshire project to create an 'enabling environment' for retrofitting one stop shops was unsuccessful.</p>
HILN5	Elimination of homelessness in our District	<p>Narrative update on progress in this area</p> <p>Quantitative information on - Homelessness rates, homeless cases and TA numbers, length of stay in TA and effectiveness of interventions (avoided homelessness)</p>	Cllr Maggie Filipova-Rivers	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>South Oxfordshire recorded three rough sleepers at the end of Q3 2023/24 – a decrease of one on the previous quarter. 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 31 December 2023 was 22 – a slight increase on the previous quarter reflecting the increasing pressures on the service. The council is forecasting that there will be a record number of approaches for homelessness assistance this year caused by</p>



Theme: Homes and Infrastructure that meet local needs					
Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
					<p>multiple factors including the cost-of-living crisis and the decline in availability of affordable private rented properties.</p> <p>The rolling six-month average length of stay in emergency accommodation was 37 nights, below the council's ceiling target of 42 nights.</p> <p>During Q3 2023/24, the rate of successful homelessness prevention in South Oxfordshire was 71.0 per cent. This was below the very challenging target of 80.0 per cent, but remains significantly above the South East prevention rate of 53.0 per cent. The most likely outcome for households where homelessness is not prevented is a stay in emergency or temporary accommodation which is both disruptive for the household and expensive for the council.</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. Progress is currently being made on the Countywide Homelessness Strategy Action Plan to tackle single person homelessness in Oxfordshire.</p>

Theme: Homes and Infrastructure that meet local needs

Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
HILN6	Bringing empty properties back into use	Narrative update on any relevant initiatives to reduce the number of empty properties and any data on empty property levels in South Ox	Cllr Robin Bennett	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 consider how future allocations of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) could be used to address the challenge of vacant units within the district.</p> <p>At the end of Q3, there were 362 commercial premises in South Oxfordshire that were listed as vacant on the business rates register – equating to collective rateable values of £6.1m.</p> <p>The individual vacancy rates for the district’s market towns are currently unavailable.</p>
HILN7	Ensuring that our teams are ready to access or signpost to any Government schemes or funding that is made available	Narrative update on signposting activity and if possible, update on take-up.	Cllr Robin Bennett	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q3 2023/24, an Individual Cabinet Member Decision (ICMD) was approved for South Oxfordshire to support the County Council’s submission for Oxfordshire’s allocation of Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Funding (LEVI) grant and to agree to receive the funding if the application is successful. The ICMD also delegates authority to the Head of Development and Corporate Landlord to finalise the locations for EV chargepoints secured via this route within the district. Oxfordshire County Council’s bid was for LEVI funding was submitted during Q3.</p>

Theme: Homes and Infrastructure that meet local needs

Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
					<p>South Oxfordshire applied to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme – Phase 3c for £1,490,475 for decarbonisation measures at Didcot Wave and Park Sports Centre, Wheatley. The council also submitted a bid to the Swimming Pool Support Fund – Phase 2 for the installation of energy efficiency measures and solar PV at the Abbey Sports Centre, Berinsfield (£157,527) and the Thame Leisure Centre (£160,351).</p> <p>In addition, this quarter Innovate UK - Net Zero Fast Followers - offered funding for a bid submitted in February 2023. The council is liaising with Innovate UK around the details of the funding offer, which could include a training programme to support journey to net zero carbon and a research project for nature-based solutions to carbon offsetting.</p> <p>Also, in Q3, South Oxfordshire (in conjunction with Vale) was awarded £89,050 from the Planning Skills Delivery Fund. This will be used to provide online and in-person training to upskill the existing Planning and Planning Policy teams. Work has been undertaken on a proposal to Innovate UK for a research project to trial electric refuse collection vehicle for recycling and household waste. This application is scheduled for submission in Q4.</p>

Theme: Homes and Infrastructure that meet local needs					
Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
HILN8	New homes are future-proofed, meeting the highest environmental standards and enhancing nature through sensitive, high quality design	Narrative update around refresh of the design guide, local plan, and information around DES10	Cllr Anne Marie Simpson	Head of Planning	<p>During Q3 2023/24, continued progress was made on the development of the Joint Local Plan. Significant work was undertaken in creating/preparing the draft preferred options and policies for consultation at the beginning of Q4.</p> <p>Activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Planning Policy team taking the Joint Local Plan Preferred Options through Cabinet and to the Joint Scrutiny Committee.</li> <li>• an All-Councillor Roundtable meeting on net zero carbon.</li> <li>• Bioregional (the council's net zero carbon consultants) completing tasks 1-5 of their commission and preparing a report for publication – this is scheduled for release in Q4.</li> </ul>
HILN9	Spatial planning embeds public health, wellbeing and sustainability	Narrative update on work around planning reinforcing wellbeing and sustainability. This should include 'health based planning data' where possible - information on public gym equipment - footpaths, cycle paths etc.	Cllr Anne Marie Simpson	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q3 2023/24, continued progress was made on the development of the Joint Local Plan. Significant work was undertaken in creating/preparing the draft preferred options and policies – including measures designed to reinforce healthy lifestyles, wellbeing and sustainability – for consultation at the beginning of Q4.</p>
HILN10	Changes over time in our stock of homes meet local needs	Narrative update based on information available from 3rd parties and the impact this has on the local area	Cllr Anne Marie Simpson	Head of Planning	<p>During September 2023, the final month of Q2 2023/24, a further nine affordable homes were reported as delivered. This took the quarterly total to 54.</p>

Theme: Homes and Infrastructure that meet local needs

Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
		<p>Bedroom mix in new developments breakdown every 6 months</p>			<p>The type and size of the 9 units delivered was as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 7 x 2 bed houses</li> <li>- 2 x 3 bed houses</li> </ul> <p>In October and November 2023, 72 affordable properties have been reported as delivered.</p> <p>The type and size of the 72 units currently delivered in Q3 is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4 x 1 bed maisonettes</li> <li>- 4 x 2 bed maisonettes</li> <li>- 34 x 2 bed houses</li> <li>- 30 x 3 bed houses</li> </ul> <p>A quarterly total, including December, will be made available towards the end of January.</p> <p>To date, 2023/24 has seen the delivery of 156 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: Homes and Infrastructure that meet local needs					
Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
HILN11	Sustainable transport solutions prioritise walking, cycling and public transport to reduce car dependency and air pollution	Narrative update on overall progress relating to sustainable transport solutions - particularly EV elements.	Cllr Anne Marie Simpson	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q3 2023/24, the pilot county-wide EV car club scheme continued. Vehicles are available to hire in Henley and Wallingford through 'Co-Wheels' and there has been a good uptake. (Unfortunately, the car club vehicle in Thame has been discontinued). Work has started on a communications plan for improved messages to highlight the EV car club locations.</p> <p>The Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan was formally approved by South Oxfordshire, the Vale and Oxfordshire County Council. It outlines a variety of schemes to improve the overall active travel network within Didcot and the surrounding areas.</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council's Strategic Active Travel Network (SATN), for which officers from South Oxfordshire provided support, is scheduled to go before the County Council's Cabinet during Q4. The SATN seeks to provide a web of strategic travel routes across Oxfordshire.</p>

Theme: Investment that rebuilds our financial viability					
Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
IRFV1	Develop and implement an innovative Transformation Strategy to diversify our revenue streams, improve our effectiveness and secure our on-going viability	Narrative measure relating to the development of an overarching Transformation Strategy and any overall narrative linking to potential deliverables  Quantitative data - Income relative to Net expenditure (in context), this could be broken down by service.	CLlr Pieter-Paul Barker	Head of Corporate Services	During Q3 2023/24, progress was made on reviewing/refreshing the Transformation Programme's governance and infrastructure.
IRFV2	"Invest to save" for the district, including the delivery of sustainable new Council offices – on time and within budget – to realise future operational efficiencies	Narrative on progress of the Corporate Office project, including data on current spend on office accommodation which will no longer be spent once project completed. Further narrative to discuss impact of new building finances.	CLlr Pieter-Paul Barker	Head of Corporate Services	During Q3 2023/24, officers responded to queries raised during the planning consultation process for the new office building.
IRFV3	Exercise strong Stewardship of all Council assets including property and financial investments, optimising their performance for the benefit of our residents	Narrative update on the progress of the SPR, in the initial period detailing the scope and scape, then once SPR has been delivered, the outcomes and future measures (quant element)	CLlr Pieter-Paul Barker	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	The Strategic Property Review was completed during 2021/22. No further progress on related initiatives to report Q3 2023/24.
IRFV4	Maximise external funding opportunities to support our services and to enrich our leisure, sporting and community activities	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.  Specific elements which should be included - Proportion of spend on leisure/community facilities vs amount funded by Council.  CIL/106 spend broken down by type/parish	CLlr Maggie Filipova-Rivers	Head of Policy and Programmes	Between October and December, 3,587 people took part in South Oxfordshire's regular Active Communities events.  South now has 1,573 people signed up to the 'You Move' project (aimed at families with children and in receipt of benefits). It also has 965 people enrolled on the 'Move Together' project (designed to help people with long-term health conditions become more active).

Theme: Investment that rebuilds our financial viability

Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
		<p>Externally funded Capital schemes</p> <p>Total External funding received figure - narrative should be clear that this is not the total figure.</p>			<p>South Oxfordshire applied to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme – Phase 3c for £1,490,475 for decarbonisation measures at Didcot Wave and Park Sports Centre, Wheatley. The council also submitted a bid to the Swimming Pool Support Fund – Phase 2 for the installation of energy efficiency measures and solar PV at the Abbey Sports Centre, Berinsfield (£157,527) and the Thame Leisure Centre (£160,351).</p> <p>In addition, this quarter Innovate UK - Net Zero Fast Followers - offered funding for a bid submitted in February 2023. The council is liaising with Innovate UK around the details of the funding offer, which could include a training programme to support journey to net zero carbon and a research project for nature-based solutions to carbon offsetting.</p> <p>Also, in Q3, South Oxfordshire (in conjunction with Vale) was awarded £89,050 from the Planning Skills Delivery Fund. This will be used to provide online and in-person training to upskill the existing Planning and Planning Policy teams.</p> <p>Work has been undertaken on a proposal to Innovate UK for a research project to trial electric refuse collection vehicle for recycling and household waste. This application is scheduled for submission in Q4.</p>



Theme: Investment that rebuilds our financial viability					
Corp Plan ID	State Aim / Project Description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
					<p>Also, during Q3, the CIL Member Working Group collated and examined the requests received for projects seeking funding for 2024/25. A final review of the eligible schemes will take place in January and recommendations will then be made for inclusion as part of the budget setting process.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire published its statutory infrastructure statement for 2022/23.  <a href="https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/12/South-IFS-2022-23-Final-1.pdf">https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/12/South-IFS-2022-23-Final-1.pdf</a></p> <p>£908,127 of CIL funding was released to town and parish councils that had experienced CIL liable development in their area during the previous six months.</p>
IRFV5	Invest responsibly and ethically with the Climate Emergency at the heart of what we do	Narrative update detailing changes which have included climate elements into regularised decision making.	Cllr Pieter-Paul Barker	Head of Finance	<p>No progress to report Q3 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>

