

Climate Action Plan

PERFORMANCE REPORT

2023/24

Quarter FOUR

June 2024



Listening Learning Leading

Table of contents

Introduction	3
Quarter context	4
Quarter four performance highlights	7
THEME 1 Our ways of working	8
THEME 2 Our service delivery	9
THEME 3 Our people	10
THEME 4 Our land	11
THEME 5 Our buildings	12
THEME 6 Our communities	13
THEME 7 Our partners	14
Theme 1: Our ways of working - performance updates against reporting measures	15
Theme 2: Our service delivery - performance updates against reporting measures	22
Theme 3: Our people - performance updates against reporting measures	26
Theme 4: Our land - performance updates against reporting measures	30
Theme 5: Our buildings - performance updates against reporting measures	32
Theme 6: Our communities - performance updates against reporting measures	36
Theme 7: Our partners - performance updates against reporting measures	42



Introduction

The South Oxfordshire District Council **Climate Action Plan** (CAP) 2022-24 sets out to demonstrate and deliver the council's commitment to the Corporate Plan objective of taking 'Action on the Climate Emergency' and target of becoming a carbon neutral council by 2025.

Progress on the actions and outputs in the CAP are reported quarterly, in line with the council's Corporate Performance Management Framework. This report provides a strategic overview of the climate action performance across the council for **Quarter four 2023/2024 (01 January to 31 March 2024)** and should be reviewed in context with the council's quarterly **Corporate Plan Performance Report**. The council's **greenhouse gas emissions** are also reported and published annually.

The CAP is one piece of a much larger picture, consisting of national, regional and local initiatives and plans, all of which influence our priorities. The CAP was designed to be a live document, where quarterly progress reporting may result in the reprioritisation or refocusing of actions by Cabinet where necessary.

Quarter context

HM Government and Net Zero

In July 2023, HM Government unveiled its third **National Adaptation Programme (NAP3)**, which set out a strategic five-year plan with aims to boost resilience and protect people, homes, businesses and the UK's cultural heritage against climate change risks such as flooding, drought and heatwaves. This quarter, the Climate Change Committee (an independent, statutory body established under the Climate Change Act 2008) produced an initial assessment of the NAP3. The committee concluded in its report that the NAP3's governance, investment and monitoring needs action and strengthening and encouraged its evolution over its five-year lifetime.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements **came into law** nationally in February, meaning developers in England will have to deliver at least ten per cent BNG when building new housing, industrial or commercial developments. BNG was introduced through The Environment Act, which received its royal assent in November 2021. BNG is however not a new concept for South Oxfordshire, where similar approaches to enhancing the wildlife value of new developments have been in effect since becoming the first authorities in the UK to successfully secure a BNG agreement in 2013. This was following the Vale of White Horse becoming the first planning authority nationally to secure an agreement to provide biodiversity net gain resulting from a development in Shrivenham - the resultant funding was used to restore an important chalk grassland site in South Oxfordshire.

Following the announcement in September 2023 of HM Government's decision to delay the ban on new diesel and petrol cars from 2030 to 2035, this quarter, **the zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) mandate** - the new pathway towards all new cars and vans being zero emission by 2035 – **was made law**. The ZEV mandate sets out the percentage of new zero emission cars and vans manufacturers will be required to produce each year up to 2030, with 80% of new cars and 70% of new vans sold in Great Britain to be zero emission by 2030, increasing to 100% by 2035.



Record-breaking Temperatures

Data released this quarter confirmed that **2023 was the UK's second warmest year on record**. Across the world, each month since June 2023 has seen new temperature highs for the time of year. Scientists attribute the temperature rises to in part, the Pacific's El Niño weather event (the warming of sea surface temperature that occurs every few years, typically concentrated in the central-east equatorial Pacific), alongside in the main, human-caused climate change.

In February, the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service revealed that the period from February 2023 to January 2024 reached 1.52 degrees Celsius of warming. This is the **first-time global warming has exceeded 1.5 degrees Celsius across an entire year**. Limiting long-term warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels has become a key symbol of international efforts to tackle climate change.

Energy

Drax, one of the country's largest electricity generators, released figures this quarter which show **Britain's energy mix** (the combination of different energy sources used to meet a country's total energy consumption) had its **greenest year on record in 2023**, with renewable and cleaner energy replacing fossil fuels in the energy mix. Drax said fossil fuels accounted for 35 per cent of the UK's energy mix in 2023, down from 43 per cent in 2022.

The annual **Earth Hour**, led by the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), was observed around the world in March. Households, along with national landmarks, switched off their lights for a set time, as part of an awareness campaign highlighting the importance of taking action to reduce carbon emissions.



Rivers

At the end of this quarter, the Environment Agency published its Event Duration Monitoring (EDM) data for 2023 showing the frequency and duration of spills from storm overflows in England. It is reported that **South Oxfordshire saw sewage from storm overflows flow into water bodies for 11,012 hours in 2023**, during 810 spills.

This quarter, the Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) launched a **national consultation on the proposed new sites to be awarded Bathing Water Status**, for the upcoming bathing season – 15 May to 30 September. The list of sites included a point on the **River Thames, in Wallingford**. The outcome of the consultation is expected next quarter. If a site has a designated bathing water status, bacteria harmful to human health (such as E. coli and Intestinal enterococci) are weekly monitored during the bathing season by environmental agencies and information on the water quality is displayed publicly.



Quarter four performance highlights



We launched the **Joint Local Plan consultation** with new, innovative draft policies on sustainable design and construction, net zero carbon buildings, reducing embodied carbon, sustainable retrofitting and renewable energy



The new joint **South and Vale Air Quality Action Plan** was adopted to improve air quality in the districts over the next four years



£1.49m secured from the **Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Phase 3c**



This money will go towards **decarbonising** Park Sports Centre, Wheatley and Didcot Wave Swimming Pool



Our website has been updated with advice and guidance on **retro-fitting homes** - modifying and making existing buildings more energy-efficient and reducing energy use



We launched a **climate survey** for town and parish councils asking how the council can better support local decarbonisation and nature recovery initiatives, and raise awareness of the services we currently offer

We selected sites in South Oxfordshire to continue our **'Let it Bee' meadow management** this season, allowing wildflowers and grasses to grow and provide nectar for pollinators

These sites total **10,250 m²** in South Oxfordshire in 2024



Jointly, with Vale of White Horse District Council, we have submitted a proposal for Ministry of Transport funding to carry out an initial **12 week trial of an Electric Refuse Collection Vehicle**

If our application is successful, this would show us how effective a battery powered large waste collection vehicle could be in the districts

GOAL

To make climate action inherent in all the council's work by designing and updating our policies, strategies and governance with the climate emergency at their core

See Theme 1 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 15

THEME 1 Our ways of working

QUARTER FOUR

KEY ACTIVITIES

The new 'climate impact assessment tool' started to be trialled by officers this quarter. The tool will help ensure the climate and environmental impact of our work is considered and embedded within our decision making. Officer feedback on use of the tool will enable it to be reviewed and updated before it becomes mandatory later in the year.

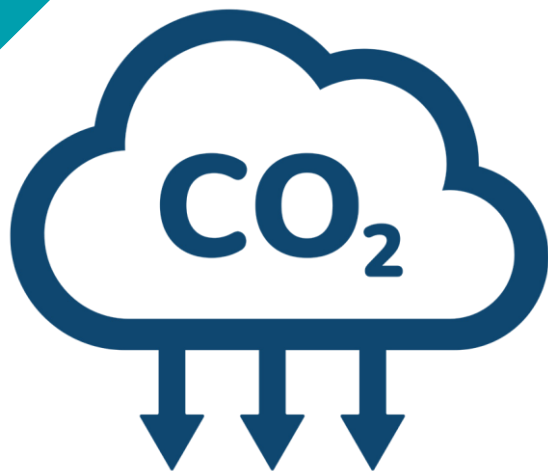
Work also continued this quarter on the net zero evidence base for the forthcoming Joint Local Plan; alongside the launch of the Joint Local Plan consultation, the Council published a report by consultants Bioregional, who are appointed to provide the net zero evidence base for the Joint Local Plan, and advice on the role and weighting of offsetting policies in the new Plan.

Additionally, the Council's Driving at Work policy was approved and published this quarter. Aspects of the Policy consider the impacts of corporate vehicles on the environment, alongside personal vehicles used for work purposes. The Policy also brings the introduction of telematics to enable monitoring of corporate vehicles, which will include idling activity with the aim of reducing idling and improving air quality.



GOAL

To plan and deliver services to our residents in ways that reduce carbon emissions and prepare our district for future ways of living



THEME 2 Our service delivery

QUARTER FOUR

KEY ACTIVITIES

This quarter, work continued to develop the strategic approach to our future waste services which, accounts for just over 40% of the Council's greenhouse gas emissions. A waste fleet replacement vehicle strategy was developed, which sets out a new process for the Council to follow when purchasing new vehicles. The proposed process includes assessing the condition of the current Biffa fleet, reviewing the fuel options available in the waste vehicle industry, analysing the costs and agreeing the capital budget provision as part of the budget setting cycle. The new strategy is anticipated to support decision-making, taking into account vehicle suitability alongside financial and climate implications. The next steps are for the strategy to be taken to Cabinet for approval.

Jointly, with Vale of White Horse District Council, this quarter a proposal was also submitted for Ministry of Transport funding, to carry out an initial 12-week trial of an Electric Refuse Collection Vehicle. If the application is successful, the trial would provide insight into how effective a battery powered large waste collection vehicle could be in the districts.

In February, the Air Quality Action Plan was approved by the Licensing Committee. The new plan looks to build on the successful reduction in the volume of nitrogen dioxide over the last five years. To achieve this, the plan aims to reduce traffic emissions by promoting healthier and cheaper options for short journeys, such as walking and cycling. Where vehicles are needed the councils will promote the increased use of public transport and low emission vehicles such as EVs.



See Theme 2 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 22

GOAL

To create a culture of climate action amongst staff and councillors in the workplace

THEME 3 Our people

QUARTER FOUR

KEY ACTIVITIES

Through the council's regular staff communications this quarter, officers were encouraged to contribute their ideas for the next Climate and Nature Recovery Plan 2024-2028 and the developing Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Oxfordshire. The weekly, internal staff news bulletin 'team talk' now includes a spotlight on climate news to highlight climate action across the council.

See Theme 3 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 26



GOAL

To approach our land management with sustainable and climate-friendly best practices

THEME 4 Our land

See Theme 4 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 30

QUARTER FOUR ——— KEY ACTIVITIES ———

The Council is committed to enhancing biodiversity on council owned land and this quarter, officers updated senior managers on the outcome of the 2023 'Let it Bee' resident's feedback consultation, alongside a review of the sites and proposals for the 2024 season. An additional area of 1,050m² will be managed as meadow in 2024, to make a total of 10,250m², allowing biodiversity to thrive by allowing wildflowers and grasses to grow and provide nectar for pollinators.

Oxfordshire's bid for its Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding allocation was approved this quarter, with £3.6 million allocated to the county. Officers from South Oxfordshire District Council have been working with Oxfordshire council partners on the plans for delivering the infrastructure project. It is planned that where feasible, most of the new public EV chargers will be installed in off-street parking locations such as council car parks, building on the success of the Park and Charge project.



GOAL

To decarbonise our buildings and their operations to ensure they are fit for the future

THEME 5 Our buildings

See Theme 5 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 32

QUARTER FOUR

KEY ACTIVITIES

The Council was notified of a successful bid this quarter, from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS). £1.49 million was awarded for the decarbonisation of Didcot Wave Leisure Centre and Park Sports Centre in Wheatley. Works from this funding will include removing fossil fuel heating systems and installing air source heat pumps. The council was also notified of a successful bid to Sport England's support fund for swimming pools, for Thame Leisure Centre. This funding is for installation of PV solar panels.

At quarter four, project delivery at Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot, continued, with preparations being undertaken for the procurement of a main contractor. These decarbonisation works will continue over into the next financial year.



GOAL

To guide and support the district's businesses, voluntary sector and communities to take action on the climate emergency

THEME 6 Our communities

See Theme 6 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 36

QUARTER FOUR ——— KEY ACTIVITIES ———

In line with the council's aims to work with communities, businesses, the voluntary sector and residents to address the climate emergency, this quarter we continued to promote retrofitting and energy saving for organisations and residents, sharing the newly created leaflet and council webpage on this subject.

Residents were also invited to contribute to the Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy, of which the council is a partner. Businesses were encouraged to respond to the Economic Development survey in conjunction with Oxford Brookes University, which aimed to discover how best to help local businesses on their climate journey.

This quarter the council also launched a climate survey for town and parish councils, asking how the council can support local decarbonisation and nature recovery initiatives and raise awareness of the services currently offered.



GOAL

To work in partnership to reduce carbon emissions across the district and support county-wide initiatives, making a greater impact together



THEME 7 Our partners

QUARTER FOUR

KEY ACTIVITIES

The CAP aims to build on the council's partnership work as key to achieving out climate emergency targets. Awards were made this quarter from the council's Rural England Prosperity Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Fund and went towards supporting a range of climate action projects including retrofitting community buildings, renewable energy schemes, EV charging infrastructure and nature recovery projects.

Economic Development continued to actively participate in OxLEP's Net Zero Joint Oxfordshire Business Support group this quarter, contributing ideas to the LEPs planned single entry point website for net-zero support and reviewing a potential accreditation scheme for eco-friendly tourism businesses.

Work has continued this quarter on agreeing an Oxfordshire wide approach to Local Area Energy Planning. A Local Area Energy Plan will set out the actions needed to transition to a net-zero energy system, including addressing grid capacity issues. In quarter four, officers have worked closely with neighbouring authorities to establish the governance structures, process and scope for our Local Area Energy Plans.



See Theme 7 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 42

Theme 1: Our ways of working - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	South Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
WOW1	Update the Corporate Delivery Framework to include considerations for climate impact and carbon emissions	Report on the climate impact and carbon emission considerations included in the Corporate Delivery Framework providing examples	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Policy and Programmes	Action WOW1 is complete.		
WOW2	Implement internal governance to progress and monitor the Climate Action Plan	Update on the internal governance including its structure and approach to progressing and monitoring the Climate Action Plan	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Policy and Programmes	Action WOW2 is complete.		
WOW3	Publish an internal toolkit with guidance for staff on how to assess the climate implications of projects and proposals	Update on the content of the toolkit and examples of projects and proposal that have used learning from the toolkit for the climate implications section of reports	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Policy and Programmes	In Q4, staff have started to use the climate impact assessment tool to assess the climate and ecological impacts of decisions. The climate and biodiversity team have been gathering the feedback on the tool and will review and update it accordingly before use of the tool becomes mandatory later in the year.		
WOW4	Develop and implement measures for monitoring procurement contracts based on carbon emissions and climate action	Update on monitoring of procurement contracts based on carbon emissions and climate action, providing examples of relevant contracts	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property Assets	Head of Finance	This quarter, officers continued to consider options for procurement, following notification last quarter that the previously identified product isn't available from the Government's G-Cloud platform.		Once procurement options are considered officers will discuss way forward with the Head of Finance

Theme 1: Our ways of working - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	South Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
WOW5	Update the contract evaluation quality scoring procedure to include carbon reduction criteria	Report on how the contract evaluation quality scoring criteria has been updated to include carbon reduction criteria, providing examples of relevant awarded contracts	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property Assets	Head of Finance	Action WOW5 is complete. Considered BAU.		
WOW6	Deliver staff training on the Procurement Strategy which includes understanding of carbon reduction objectives and criterion	Percentage of staff who completed the procurement training quarterly / report on how the training has impacted procurement contracts, providing relevant examples	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property Assets	Head of Finance	All scheduled training on the procurement strategy was completed in Q2 2023/24. This action is complete.		
WOW7	Conduct a review of all report writing templates, adding a climate implications section where missing	Percentage of report writing templates that include a climate implications section / narrative on the updates to report writing templates	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Partnerships and Legal Democratic	Head of Legal and Democratic	Action WOW7 is complete.		
WOW8	Divest direct investments from environmentally harmful activities where possible, whilst protecting the security of tax-payer funds	Narrative update detailing changes which have included climate elements into financial decision making	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property Assets	Head of Finance	Action WOW8 is complete.		

Theme 1: Our ways of working - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	South Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
WOW9	Incorporate a policy statement on environment/ social/governance factors in the financial implications section of reports	Update on the statement included in Council templates under financial implications	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property Assets	Head of Finance	Action WOW9 is complete.		
WOW10	Engage with the council's investment portfolio to ask for and review their carbon reduction plans as part of decision making for the treasury management strategy	Number of investment portfolios reviewed for their carbon reduction plans / narrative on any changes in investments based on investment portfolio carbon reduction plans / percentage of Council portfolio in Paris Agreement aligned companies	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property Assets	Head of Finance	Action WOW10 is complete.		
WOW11	Review internal audit processes and where appropriate include risk considerations for the climate emergency	Report on how the internal audit processes have been updated to include carbon emission considerations	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property Assets	Head of Finance	Action WOW11 is complete.		

Theme 1: Our ways of working - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	South Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
WOW12	Refine criteria for community infrastructure levy (CIL) funding to maximise opportunities for including carbon reduction measures in projects and supporting climate action projects	<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>	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member for Planning	Head of Finance	<p>This quarter, as part of annual budget setting, fourteen new infrastructure projects were allocated CIL funding in the 24/25 capital programme totalling £2,400,884.</p> <p>All projects require for environmental implications to be considered as part of the project delivery plans.</p> <p>Four of the projects allocated funding (£1,450,884) are directly aimed at taking action on the climate emergency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Didcot Wave Decarbonisation Scheme = £203,803 - Park Leisure Centre Decarbonisation Scheme = £1,012,081 - Strategic Partnership with Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment to protect the natural world = £225,000 (£56,250 PA for the next four years) - Brightwell Cum Sotwell Flood Alleviation Project = £10,000 		
WOW13	Promote community infrastructure levy (CIL) criteria to all relevant staff to ensure they maximise carbon emission reductions in all CIL projects	Percentage of CIL projects that include carbon emission reduction considerations/ relevant project proposals, providing examples	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Finance	<p>As approved by the council as part of budget setting, fourteen new Infrastructure projects have been allocated CIL funding in the 24/25 capital programme totalling £2,400,884. Each of these projects will be delivered by the council in accordance with the project management process which requires consultation with the Climate Action Team to ensure that all environmental implications are taken into account as part of the delivery of these projects.</p> <p>Of the projects allocated CIL funding, four of these are directly aimed taking action on the climate emergency, totalling £1,450,884.</p>		

Theme 1: Our ways of working - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	South Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
WOW14	Include more ambitious climate criteria in the conditions of our affordable housing grant funding	Updates on changes to the climate criteria of the affordable housing grant funding and how this has impacted new affordable housing developments, providing examples	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration	Head of Housing and Environment	No progress to report Q4 2023/2024 - no new affordable housing grants have been approved this quarter.		
WOW15	Include policies in the Joint Local Plan that will help deliver zero carbon development and encourage more sustainable choices	Narrative update on sustainable and net zero planning policies being developed and included in the emerging JLP	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Planning	Head of Policy and Programmes	During Q4 2023/24 the Joint Local Plan reached an important milestone with the launch of a Regulation 18 public consultation on 10 January, closing on 26 February 2024. The emerging plan contains new stronger policies on the environment including significantly higher environmental standards including on net zero carbon building and biodiversity net gain. These innovative new draft policies include policies CE1-CE5 on sustainable design and construction, net zero carbon buildings, reducing embodied carbon, sustainable retrofitting and renewable energy.		
WOW16	Produce an options paper for setting up a carbon offsetting scheme for developers as part of the new Joint Local Plan	Report on options paper development and suggested ways forward	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Planning	Head of Policy and Programmes	In Q4, alongside the Joint Local Plan consultation, the Council published a report by consultants Bioregional, who are appointed to provide the net zero evidence base for the Joint Local Plan, on the role and weighting of offsetting policies in the Joint Local Plan in achieving net zero carbon status.		

Theme 1: Our ways of working - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	South Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
WOW17	Produce an options paper for pool electric vehicles for use by council staff to reduce emissions from business mileage, implementing if approved	Update on the development of options paper for piloting pool electric vehicles, including on the carbon emission savings and decision making progress	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Policy and Programmes	In Q4, the options paper seeking to outline options for reducing the council's grey fleet emissions was discussed with the Head of Policy and Programmes. Next steps were agreed, including incorporating some of the options/recommendations into the next Climate and Nature Recovery Action Plan 2024-2028 and engaging with HR on the upcoming staff travel and expenses policy review.		
WOW18	Develop and implement an internal communications plan to keep staff updated on climate action work, including useful advice and guidance on how to incorporate climate action into projects and programmes	Data on the number of internal communications campaigns on climate action work and a narrative update on the type of information shared and any feedback from staff on the use of the information	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Corporate Services	During Q4 we promoted five climate and nature recovery projects to staff which included advice on how to save energy, promoting the use of EV car clubs in council-run car parks and inviting staff to contribute ideas to the next climate action and nature recovery plan. Communications were also sent out reminding staff of the new tool to help calculate the climate impacts of their work for the council and asking them to contribute to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, of which the council is a partner. Additionally, the Defra public consultation on designated bathing water sites was shared with staff - following Wallingford Beach in South Oxfordshire being one of the 27 proposed sites.		
WOW19	Move to a digital by default approach for virtual meetings where possible given the current conditions around decision making in Local Government	Percentage of virtual meetings taken place, benchmark to include CEAC, Scrutiny, Cabinet and Council meetings	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Democratic and Legal Services	Head of Legal and Democratic	Action WOW19 is complete.		

Theme 1: Our ways of working - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	South Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
WOW20	Improve our use of existing technology to move to digital by default working	Update on the use of technology for meetings; data on % of MFD printing	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Corporate Services	Action WOW20 is complete.		
WOW21	Develop and implement an anti-idling policy for staff and contractors on council business, to ensure engines are turned off when appropriate	Update on the development of the policy and examples of anti-idling implementation from staff and contractors	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Corporate Service	This quarter the Workplace Transport and Driving Policy was signed off and is available on the internal staff intranet. The Grounds Maintenance team, who are the first to use telematics in their vehicles, have been issued a letter and the relevant Privacy Notices so they are aware what data is being collected and why.		

Theme 2: Our service delivery - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	South Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
SD1	a) Prepare new waste management approach to align with provisions of the Environment Bill	Narrative measure on comms activity relating to waste/ recycling Quantitative information on recycling rate, contamination rates, percentage of residual waste to landfill		Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Housing and Environment	The future waste strategy is approaching finalisation and this quarter officers have built in comments made by stakeholder departments. The strategy will next be presented to SMT for review, before being finalised in preparation for Cabinet, anticipated Q1 2024/2025.		
SD2	b) Specify new waste management contract with route optimisation, collection frequency and vehicle size to minimise carbon emissions	Narrative measure on comms activity relating to waste/ recycling Quantitative information on recycling rate, contamination rates, percentage of residual waste to landfill	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Housing and Environment	This quarter ongoing preparation work continued, including work on the options available to the council regarding service delivery. Full details of the service configuration from June 2026 (extended contract end date) will be determined once further work has been completed and the provisions of the Environment Act are released by Government.		
SD3	c) Trial electric refuse vehicles and other relevant vehicle options, to identify the most suitable vehicles for reducing carbon emissions whilst maintaining service delivery	Narrative measure on comms activity relating to waste/ recycling Quantitative information on recycling rate, contamination rates, percentage of residual waste to landfill	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Housing and Environment	This quarter, the Council has jointly, with South Oxfordshire District Council, submitted a proposal for Ministry of Transport funding through Innovate UK's Transport Decarbonisation Demonstrators Fund. The funding applied for is to carry out an initial 12 week trial of an Electric Refuse Collection Vehicle (eRCV), in partnership with an external logistics optimisation software company and an eRCV manufacturer. If successful, the trial will give the councils real world data on how effective a battery powered large waste collection vehicle would be in both districts, which would then inform future vehicle procurements.		

Theme 2: Our service delivery - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	South Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
SD4	d) Replace end of life waste collection vehicles with electric fleet where range available allows	Narrative measure on comms activity relating to waste/recycling Quantitative information on recycling rate, contamination rates, percentage of residual waste to landfill	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>During Q4, a waste fleet replacement vehicle strategy was developed, which will be taken to Cabinet in April (Q1 2024/25) for approval.</p> <p>This strategy sets out a new process for the council to follow, starting with officers commissioning an assessment of the condition of the current Biffa fleet, reviewing the fuel options available in the waste vehicle industry and likely vehicle costs, the council agreeing the capital budget provision as part of the budget setting cycle, officers then finalising the vehicle specifications, before completing the procurements and placing the orders. By having this strategy and process in place the council can be confident that they will purchase the correct vehicles which are able to perform the intended role, which fall within the budget available and emit the lowest carbon emissions.</p>		
SD5	Explore opportunities for a new waste depot including research into renewable energy supplies	Update on proposals for a new waste depot, including potential carbon reduction figures	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Housing and Environment	In Q4, work continued to explore options for a future site for a new waste vehicle depot.		This project is currently being managed by the Property Team. No further information is available at this time.

Theme 2: Our service delivery - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	South Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
SD6	Develop a business case and implement a delivery plan for council vehicles to be zero emission by 2025, where available on the market	Data on potential carbon reduction savings from switching vehicles to zero emission; narrative report on business case development and delivery plan for doing so, including market options for EVs	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	No progress to report Q4 2023/2024.		Other projects have taken priority in Q4.
SD7	Install electric vehicle (EV) charge points in council depot and other locations as necessary to meet needs of council fleet	Data on the number of EV charge points installed for use by council fleet; narrative update on the location of the EV charge points and how they meet the needs of the council fleet	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	This project is currently on-hold due to consideration of a range of delivery options.		Long term council depot to be located.
SD8	Feedback on planning applications to include signposting to information sources to improve the energy efficiency of proposals	Data on the percentage of applications that include sign posting to energy efficiency advice	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Planning	Head of Planning	Action SD8 is complete.		

Theme 2: Our service delivery - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	South Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
SD9	Update the council planning and development webpages to signpost to advice on energy efficiency considerations for inclusion in planning applications	Update on the energy efficiency information provided on the council webpages; data on the number of clicks on the links	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Planning	Head of Planning	During Q4, the council's website was updated with content providing advice and guidance on retro-fitting energy efficiency measures.		
SD10	Work with our town and parish councils who are developing projects that reduce carbon emissions locally by providing advice on planning permissions needed for their projects to be a success	Report on support provided to town and parish councils on their carbon reduction projects; data on number of carbon emissions reduction projects submitted by town and parish councils	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Planning	Head of Planning	<p>During Q4, monthly Town and Parish engagement sessions continued to be offered but interest and uptake remains slow.</p> <p>Feedback received from the town and parishes who have booked onto sessions have found them to be positive and worthwhile. We will continue to promote the service.</p>		
SD11	Support the implementation of the air quality action plan across the district	Comms relating to AQ initiatives and metrics relating to AQ	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>This quarter the Air Quality Action Plan was approved by the Licensing Committee, on 08 February.</p> <p>Officers will now review how and when the annual update will be reported to the council.</p>		

Theme 3: Our people - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	South Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
P1	Provide all-staff and councillor training on the council's climate action plan and carbon literacy	Data on percentage of staff that have taken the climate action plan training; narrative on how staff have integrated the training into their work, using case studies	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Corporate Services	During Q4, one member and one officer completed the training. At the end of Q4 therefore, 68 users have completed the training.		
P2	Provide enhanced specialist training on latest carbon reduction or climate action approaches to relevant staff and councillors	Data on percentage of specialist training delivered to staff; narrative on how staff identify the training they need and how they have used the training in their work	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Corporate Services / Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>Officers attended the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) Big Energy Summit in Q4. The two day conference included presentations from Government's Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, as well as presentations and discussion points on key themes such as sustainable procurement, 'green investment', how to embed climate and sustainability in decision making and domestic retrofitting.</p> <p>Additionally this quarter an officer from the climate and biodiversity team attended a two-day training session on 'systems change' which explored approaches and frameworks for taking forward net-zero carbon challenges and projects. The council was invited to take part as a member of Innovate UK's net zero living programme.</p>		

Theme 3: Our people - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	South Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
P3	Ensure there is relevant skill and capacity to support grant application writing and bidding for climate related funds, maximising the opportunities to include carbon emissions reductions and energy efficiency in all projects	Dedicated bid writing resource secured; Data on the number of applications to grants and funds that relate to climate action and carbon emission reduction; narrative report on grant writing skills and training that has taken place to maximise opportunities on bid writing	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>Oxfordshire's bid for its Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding allocation was approved this quarter, with £3.6 million allocated to the county. The LEVI funding focus is on expanding the accessibility of standard 7kW chargers that residents without home chargers can use overnight at discounted rates. Most of the new EV chargers will be installed in off-street parking locations such as council car parks, building on the success of the Park and Charge project.</p> <p>The council was notified of a successful bid to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Phase 3c this quarter. £1.49m was awarded in February to continue to decarbonise Park Sports Centre, Wheatley and Didcot Wave Swimming Pool. This will involve removing fossil fuel heating systems and installing air source heat pumps, energy efficiency measures and solar panels. This is alongside a successful bid to the Swimming Pool Support Fund - Phase 2 for £160,351 to install Photo Voltaic solar panels at Thame Leisure Centre.</p> <p>A bid was also submitted this quarter to Innovate UK's Transport Decarbonisation fund. The proposal was for a research project to trial Electric Refuse Collection Vehicle for recycling and household waste.</p> <p>(update continues on page 28)</p>		

Theme 3: Our people - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	South Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
P3	Ensure there is relevant skill and capacity to support grant application writing and bidding for climate related funds, maximising the opportunities to include carbon emissions reductions and energy efficiency in all projects	Dedicated bid writing resource secured; Data on the number of applications to grants and funds that relate to climate action and carbon emission reduction; narrative report on grant writing skills and training that has taken place to maximise opportunities on bid writing	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>In addition, a bid was submitted to the GWR Customer and Community Infrastructure Fund for applications for pedestrian infrastructure improvements to railway station approaches in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henley • Cholsey • Shiplake <p>Also in Q4, a bid was assessed and developed for the Low Carbon Skills Fund Phase 5, for funding to develop heat decarbonisation plans. This is in readiness for submission in Q1 2024/25.</p>		
P4	Implement a green travel plan for all staff and councillors, including a digital by default approach where possible to reduce travel	Data on staff mileage once this plan is implemented and narrative report on the changes to staff travel as a result of the plan	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Corporate Services	No progress to report Q4 2024/25.		
P5	Set up green champions network for interested staff to support climate work	Report on outcomes of green champion network meetings, including case studies of green champions to highlight key areas of work and impact of the champions	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Corporate Services	This action is now considered BAU, following agreement in Q1 2023/24 to refocus this action by widening employee engagement in climate action and biodiversity, with the aim to embed a 'green' culture amongst all staff across the council. See WOW18 for details on internal communications to staff during Q4 2023/24, which now includes a weekly update on climate actions from across the council.		

Theme 3: Our people - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	South Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
P6	Incorporate climate action opportunities within council volunteering scheme for staff	Data on the number of climate action opportunities within council volunteering scheme and data on the number of take up of these opportunities; case studies from staff on how they have engaged with this opportunity	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Corporate Services	Action P6 is complete.		

Theme 4: Our land - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	South Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
L1	Following the grounds maintenance operational review, update grounds maintenance operations to enhance biodiversity and tree cover including considering the need for mowing, opportunities to allow for wilding, and reducing the use of pesticides and herbicides where possible	Report sharing the updates to the grounds maintenance operations that address the climate emergency and how they support biodiversity	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	This quarter, officers updated SMT with the outcome of the resident's feedback consultation on 'Let it Bee' and a review of the areas and proposals for 2024, which were agreed. All sites total 10,250 m2 in South for 2024.		
L2	Identify sites for new tree planting and wilding opportunities on Our land or through partnership opportunities on privately owned land to support natural carbon capture	Report on identification of sites for new tree planting opportunities, including plans to plant trees on these sites	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Over the 2023/24 tree planting season, the council planted an additional 5 trees as well as replacing others as required. In Q4, officers continue to work with the Parks and Garden Communities teams to identify more opportunities for tree planting and other biodiversity enhancements on council land for the 2024/25 season and beyond.		
L3	Prepare a business case and, if approved, implement a local renewable energy project, such as a solar farm, to address unavoidable council emissions	Data on the amount of renewable energy produced and emissions offset; narrative update on the progression of plans for this project and how the renewable energy produced neutralises council emissions	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	In Q4, Finance sought auditor view re capital investment for solar farm. The rationale for concept proposed is aligned to guidance, so work on the next steps will continue in Q1 2024/25.		

Theme 4: Our land - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	South Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
L4	Deliver the Park and Charge scheme, installing EV charge points in our car parks, in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council	Data on the number of EV charge points installed in council car parks; narrative update on the partnership approach for delivering this project	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Action L4 is complete.		
L5	Develop an options paper for installing public EV charging points on additional council premises, including funding sources available	Update on the business case development for installing public EV charging points; data on energy use of the points, including how much charge they provide to EVs	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Oxfordshire's bid for its Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding allocation was approved this quarter, with £3.6 million allocated to the county. It is planned that where feasible, most of the new public EV chargers will be installed in off-street parking locations such as council car parks, building on the success of the Park and Charge project. Oxfordshire County Council expect to receive the first 90% of funding for this project by the end of next quarter, Q1 2024/25. A press release was issued in Q4 to communicate the secured funding and aims for increasing charging infrastructure across the County.		

Theme 5: Our buildings - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	South Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
B1	a) Complete energy efficiency and site decarbonisation assessments for all leisure centres	Data on the energy efficiency of all leisure centres; narrative report on site decarbonisation assessments, with projections for how the sites will be decarbonised	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Action B1a is complete.		
B1	b) Following site assessments of leisure centres, prepare for external funding opportunities, including soft market testing	<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; externally funded Capital schemes; total external funding received figure</p>	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>In Q4, the council was notified of a successful bid to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) for the decarbonisation of Didcot Wave Leisure Centre and Park Sports Centre in Wheatley. £1.49m was awarded. Works will include removing fossil fuel heating systems and installing air source heat pumps.</p> <p>The council was also notified of a successful bid to Sport England's support fund for swimming pools for Thame Leisure Centre, for installation of PV solar panels. The bid for Abbey Sports Centre, Berinsfield was unsuccessful, however, is anticipated to form part of a future submission in the PSDS Phase 4. During Q4, consultants were employed and officers are working with them to formulate specifications to tender for a main contractor. Completion of this project is envisaged to be by March 2025.</p>		

Theme 5: Our buildings - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	South Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
B2	a) Complete energy efficiency and site decarbonisation assessments for all non-leisure operational properties	Data on the energy efficiency of all non-leisure centres; narrative report on site decarbonisation assessments, with projections for how the sites will be decarbonised	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	At Q4, all decarbonisation surveys are complete and opportunities to improve energy efficiency at these sites are in place. Action B2a is complete.		
B2	b) Prepare for external funding opportunities for non-leisure properties, particularly properties with an end-of-use heating plant, including carrying out soft market testing	<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; externally funded Capital schemes; total external funding received figure</p>	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	In Q4, officers continued to review and assess funding opportunities and develop bids where appropriate. Asset management is in place to ensure end of life mechanical and electrical equipment is replaced with energy efficient alternatives.		

Theme 5: Our buildings - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	South Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
B3	Prepare plan for Didcot Broadway site using sustainable designs and low carbon and water efficient standards, as well as including the provision for infrastructure that supports sustainable transport and has considered waste and recycling facilities	Report on the sustainable design and low carbon and water efficient standards used in the plans for the Didcot Broadway site; data on expected energy usage of the building	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	In Q4, work was undertaken on RIBA Stage 1 for the Broadway project, which has included consideration of a number of options and energy efficiency standards. The design options also explore a low / car free development, providing an emphasis on sustainable transport and additional land for enhanced biodiversity.		
B4	Prepare Didcot Gateway site project plan to achieve the Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) excellent standard in addition to a 40 per cent reduction in carbon emissions compared with a 2013 Building Regulations compliant base case, and with consideration for sustainability and environmental impact throughout the design and construction of the site	Report on the carbon emission reductions and prospective energy use of the building, including sustainability and environmental impact considerations included in the plan	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration	Head of Policy and Programmes	No further progress to report Q4 2023/24		

Theme 5: Our buildings - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	South Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
B5	Retrofit Cornerstone Arts Centre to ensure it is fit for purpose using energy efficient methods, including solar panels on the roof and low carbon heating system	Report on retrofit upgrades to the Cornerstone Arts Centre; data on carbon emissions savings from upgrades	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	During Q3, the Cornerstone decarbonisation project continued, with preparations being undertaken for the procurement of a main contractor, which will commence in Q1 2024/25.		
B6	Include carbon and energy reduction targets in management plans for the monitoring of site operations including all leisure centres to enforce and encourage low carbon operational behaviour in council assets	Report on the changes to the carbon and energy reduction targets in the criteria for monitoring operations and report on the changes to operational procedures to meet carbon and energy reduction targets; data on carbon emissions from operations	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Housing and Environment	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Detailed monitoring information is available for the Leisure Centres and reviewed regularly. The day-to-day operation of the Leisure centres is contracted to GLL. Their utility consumption reporting is reviewed every month by Council officers as part of monthly management meeting, and if any disparities are noted then these are discussed. For example, a recommendation was made to GLL to slow the circulation pumps of pool water overnight , which has delivered a notable energy saving.		
B7	Develop a policy to agree an energy efficiency standard for new asset acquisitions and council owned builds	Update on the development of the energy efficiency standards policy for new asset acquisitions and builds, including case studies of how this has been implemented	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Housing and Environment	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	In Q4, Employer Requirements continued to be developed for the Broadway and Depot projects, which will influence future policy and be captured within a overarching Asset Management Plan.		

Theme 6: Our communities - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	South Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
C1	Implement an external communications plan which shares updates on the climate action work undertaken by the council, and advice and guidance to residents, businesses and the voluntary and community sector on reducing carbon emissions. To include:	Narrative update on the influencing work undertaken to support and encourage local businesses relating to climate change and nature recovery; should be widened from just businesses to business, voluntary sector and residents (but still want to tie into the corporate plan objective when collecting data)	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Corporate Services	<p>During Q4 we communicated with residents on eleven climate and nature recovery projects and plans. These included the council's new leaflet on energy saving and webpages on retrofitting rules and planning. We also highlighted the work being done by the council to decarbonise its leisure buildings, including Didcot Wave and Park Sports Centre, and promoting the use of EV car clubs in council-run car parks. We invited residents to contribute to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, of which the council is a partner.</p> <p>Officers took the opportunity presented by the national introduction of Biodiversity Net Gain in February, to promote the fact the council adopted Biodiversity Net Gain a decade ago with significant results for nature recovery in the district.</p> <p>The Defra national consultation on bathing water status sites was also shared with residents through varying communication mediums, as Wallingford Beach in South Oxfordshire is one of the 27 proposed sites. This post resulted in a significant reach on Facebook (69K) and high engagement. Data shows in excess of 350 people clicked on the survey link from the council's Facebook site alone.</p>		

Theme 6: Our communities - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	South Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
C2	Advice and guidance on circular economy principles and how to implement them, especially for businesses and the voluntary and community sector	Narrative update on the influencing work undertaken to support and encourage local businesses relating to climate change and nature recovery; should be widened from just businesses to business, voluntary sector and residents (but still want to tie into the corporate plan objective when collecting data)	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Corporate Services	This quarter officers promoted the use of EV car clubs in council-run car parks – where vehicles are leased by the community as they are needed. Repair cafés run by local sustainable community groups were also promoted as well as the Economic Development survey in conjunction with Oxford Brookes University, which aimed to discover how best to help local businesses on their climate 'journey'. This is being funded from UKSPF.		
C3	Advice and guidance on energy efficiency of operations, including consideration for delivery options and the energy efficiency of buildings used by businesses and the voluntary and community sector	Narrative update on the influencing work undertaken to support and encourage local businesses relating to climate change and nature recovery; should be widened from just businesses to business, voluntary sector and residents (but still want to tie into the corporate plan objective when collecting data)	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Corporate Services	Please see update for Action C1.		

Theme 6: Our communities - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	South Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
C4	Share climate friendly lifestyle changes, including ways to make homes more energy efficient	Narrative update on the influencing work undertaken to support and encourage local businesses relating to climate change and nature recovery; should be widened from just businesses to business, voluntary sector and residents (but still want to tie into the corporate plan objective when collecting data)	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Corporate Services	During Energy Savers Week officers promoted energy saving measures and how to implement these in domestic homes - please see update for Action C1.		
C5	Promote climate funding opportunities for businesses, voluntary and community sectors, and residents	Narrative update on the influencing work undertaken to support and encourage local businesses relating to climate change and nature recovery; should be widened from just businesses to business, voluntary sector and residents (but still want to tie into the corporate plan objective when collecting data)	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Corporate Services	This quarter, officers continued to promote the Home Upgrade Grant and other financial support available to those eligible, for home retrofitting.		

Theme 6: Our communities - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	South Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
C6	Promote community sharing and reuse to reduce waste and unnecessary consumption	Narrative update on the influencing work undertaken to support and encourage local businesses relating to climate change and nature recovery; should be widened from just businesses to business, voluntary sector and residents (but still want to tie into the corporate plan objective when collecting data)	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Corporate Services	Please see update for Action C1.		
C7	Promote relevant housing energy efficiency schemes, including grants, to residents, landlords and housing associations	Narrative update on the influencing work undertaken to support and encourage local businesses relating to climate change and nature recovery; should be widened from just businesses to business, voluntary sector and residents (but still want to tie into the corporate plan objective when collecting data)	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Corporate Services	Please see update for Action C1.		

Theme 6: Our communities - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	South Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
C8	Include in Community Employment Plans (CEP) considerations for addressing the councils climate neutral targets through commitments such as green skills training, sourcing through a local and sustainable supply chain, supporting local social enterprises and charities and accessing local employment	Update on the conditions of Community Employment Plans (CEP) that address the climate emergency and how they are being implemented by developers; data on the number of Community Employment Plans implemented with conditions that address the climate emergency	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	No Community Employment Plans prepared in Q4 because the adopted South Oxfordshire Local Plan does not require these. However some news to report in that in Q4 the Council reached a milestone in the creation of the new planning policies, by holding a public consultation on preferred options and draft policies for the Joint Local Plan. This included proposals for introducing a new policy requiring Community Employment Plans for all residential, commercial, retail or employment development schemes over a certain size. This proposed policy in the Joint Local Plan is Policy JT4 Community Employment Plans.		South's Local Plan does not contain a relevant Community Employment clause.
C9	Support communities with their neighbourhood planning by providing up-to-date advice and guidance on climate measures and actions, encouraging climate considerations to be at the core of neighbourhood plans	Data on the number of neighbourhood plans developed; Narrative update on the types of climate actions incorporated into neighbourhood plans	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Policy and Programmes	In Q4 work continued to assist communities preparing neighbourhood plans, including the insertion of climate measures. There are 15 neighbourhood plans (including plan reviews) and one neighbourhood development order currently being prepared.		

Theme 6: Our communities - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	South Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
C10	Support taxi drivers in switching to electric vehicles, including reviewing options to incentivise the switch through fees and charges	Data on the number of taxi drivers driving electric vehicles and narrative update on the support to taxi drivers for doing so	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Head of Legal and Democratic	At Q4, out of 641 licensed vehicles there are 6 electric vehicles, although 216 are hybrid (34%). The council offers substantial discounts in licence fees for zero emission vehicles.		We continue to promote the reduced fees for zero emission vehicles and an aim within the taxi policy is for all licensed vehicles to be zero carbon by 2030 at the latest. However, this will be constrained by the available infrastructure and in particular the ability for fast charging given the nature of the trade.
C11	Organise quarterly climate focused network meetings for town and parish councils, and voluntary and community organisations, linking with existing networks	Data on number of meetings held; narrative update on the agendas, outcomes and actions from the meetings	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Corporate Services	In Q4, the climate and biodiversity team launched a survey for town and parish councils asking how the council can better support local decarbonisation and nature recovery initiatives and raise awareness of the services we currently offer. The results of this will help inform the delivery of future network meetings for town and parish councils, dependent on the needs of the surveyed councils.		

Theme 7: Our partners - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	South Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
OP1	Build relationships with town and parish councils to support and encourage their climate action initiatives	Update on how the council has worked with town and parish councils on climate action initiatives, including case studies	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>In Q4, the climate and biodiversity team launched a survey for town and parish councils asking how the council can better support local decarbonisation and nature recovery initiatives and raise awareness of the services we currently offer. The results will inform future strategy and will be reported in Q2 2024/25.</p> <p>Awards were also made to Town and Parish Councils, community groups and businesses in Q4 from the council's capital grants scheme, Rural England Prosperity Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Fund, supporting a range of climate action projects including retrofitting community buildings, renewable energy schemes, EV charging infrastructure and nature recovery projects.</p>		
OP2	Identify areas in our community that are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change to ensure they are properly supported and protected to promote wider community wellbeing	Update on the identification of areas most vulnerable to the effects of climate change and how the council has supported them to adapt to these changes, including through initiatives such as Better Housing Better Health	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>In Q4, work continued on finalising the Oxfordshire climate vulnerability assessment.</p> <p>Officers were involved in the final stages of an Exeter University project to create a Local Climate Adaptation Toolkit which is due to be published in due course.</p>		

Theme 7: Our partners - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	South Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
OP3	Work with Oxfordshire County Council to support active and sustainable travel infrastructure initiatives	Narrative update on work with Oxford County Council Optional quantitative metrics on the amount of new footpaths/cycle paths	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>Following the approval of the Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) in December 2023, this quarter officers have continued to work with OCC colleagues to coordinate recommendations and priorities for active travel schemes across a variety of different capital programmes. Including the Didcot Central Corridor and Northern Perimeter Road Phase 3.</p> <p>The Didcot Wayfinding and Green Infrastructure Strategies were developed to the final stages this quarter and will be considered to be approved by South Cabinet next quarter, which ties in with promoting the accessibility to active travel methods and connectivity.</p>		
OP4	Work with the Future Oxfordshire Partnership on a county-wide approach to reducing carbon emissions, building on the strategic vision and Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire	Update on progress on the Future Oxfordshire Partnership's county-wide approach to reducing carbon emissions, including examples of projects and programmes that address the strategic vision and Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire	Short Term (1 year)	Leader of the Council	Head of Policy and Programmes	In Q4, work continued to operationalise the five prioritised action areas of the Oxfordshire Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan. This work is now considered business as usual and progress on each Oxfordshire Net Zero Map action will continue to be reported thematically under the relevant CAP action in this report.		

Theme 7: Our partners - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	South Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
OP5	With Our partners, support the development of a coordinated retrofit programme for Oxfordshire through our role in the Environmental Advisory Group of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership	Narrative update on current/completed activities of EAG and influencing activity	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Leader of the Council	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>In Q4, the climate and biodiversity and planning teams have worked together to publish a new webpage explaining when planning consent is needed for retrofitting measures such as solar panels. We have also published a new leaflet which sets out the support and funding that is available in the district for energy saving home improvements.</p> <p>Funding for retrofitting remains available to eligible households within South Oxfordshire through Oxfordshire County Council's Home Upgrade Grant.</p>		
OP6	Support Registered Social Landlords in applying for retrofit funding, such as Social Housing Decarbonisation Funding	Narrative update on engagement with Registered Social Landlords on retrofit funding	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Head of Housing and Environment	The Housing team will continue to support Registered Housing Providers to pursue their retrofit aspirations, pending an update on the impact of the Government postponing of increasing EPC targets.		
OP7	Use our membership of Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) to ensure rapid growth of the green economy	Update on the council's influence in OxLEP to ensure rapid growth of the green economy, including examples of projects and programmes that address this work	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Leader of the Council	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	In Q4 Economic Development Officers continued to contribute to the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) led Joint Oxfordshire Business Support Net-Zero working group, that focuses on developing engagement and support for Oxfordshire's SMEs. This quarter officers contributed ideas to the LEPs planned single entry point website for net-zero support, shared initial findings from the Brookes report, and linked up with counterparts from West Oxfordshire to review a potential accreditation scheme for eco-friendly tourism businesses.		

Theme 7: Our partners - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	South Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
OP8	Support and influence the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 ensuring climate considerations are integrated throughout the plan	Update on the development of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 with particular comment on how the Plan includes climate considerations	Medium Term (2 years)	Leader of the Council	Head of Policy and Programmes	Work on OP2050 has ceased and this action will not be updated.		
OP9	Utilise the opportunity of the Oxford to Cambridge Arc to advance corporate objectives around the Climate Emergency	Update on the councils input into the Oxford to Cambridge spatial framework and the inclusion of climate emergency corporate objectives	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Leader of the Council	Head of Policy and Programmes	The council has taken the decision to no longer engage with the Oxford to Cambridge Arc (now known as the Oxford-Cambridge Partnership).		
OP10	Support the Thames Valley Rivers network to meet their aims and use this group to facilitate and influence work cross party and cross boundary to end pollution in the river and promote the sustainable use and enjoyment of the River Thames	Update on work with the Thames Valley Rivers network, including case studies of projects and programmes that have been implemented to meet the aims of the network	Short Term (1 year)	River Thames Champion	Head of Policy and Programmes	This quarter, the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) opened a national consultation on the designation of 27 proposed sites to be added to the list of designated bathing waters this year - with Wallingford Beach being one of them. The application for Henley-on-Thames was unsuccessful in reaching this second stage. The national consultation closed 10 March, and a decision regarding the awarding of Bathing Water Status is expected in due course.		

Theme 7: Our partners - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	South Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
OP11	Engagement across the energy sector on activity required to move to carbon neutral and work with them to tackle the challenge of grid capacity, time of day demand and energy infrastructure	Update on engagement with the energy sector and examples of work with them to tackle the challenge of grid capacity, time of day demand and energy infrastructure	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Policy and Programmes	Work is ongoing to agree an Oxfordshire wide approach to Local Area Energy Planning which is one of the prioritised actions in the Oxfordshire Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan. A Local Area Energy Plan will set out the actions needed to transition to a net-zero energy system, including addressing the grid capacity issues which are already having an impact on project delivery and timescales. The Future Oxfordshire Partnership has allocated £150K from the Oxfordshire Growth Fund for the Local Area Energy Planning process. Officers have spent a significant amount of time working closely with our neighbouring authorities to establish the governance structures, process and scope for our Local Area Energy Plans.		
OP12	Partner with Good Food Oxfordshire to support their Good Food Strategy for Oxfordshire, ensuring climate considerations are included throughout the strategy	Update on the development of the Good Food Strategy for Oxfordshire, including examples of climate considerations	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Policy and Programmes	The Joint South and Vale Food Action Steering Group met 3 times in quarter four. the meeting (January) focused on community food based conversations, the February meeting revolved around the joint Local Plan (2041) and the March meeting reviewed the draft action priorities to date.		



Listening Learning Leading

Alternative formats of this publication are available on request. Please contact customer services to discuss your requirements on 01235 422422.

Policy and Programmes


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

Email: climateaction@southoxon.gov.uk

Follow us

 @southoxfordshire

 @SouthOxonDC

 @southoxon