



# Strategic Performance Report

Quarter Two 2021/22

November 2021



**Vale  
of White Horse**  
*District Council*

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# Background



1. The Council monitors performance and progress towards achieving the aims and priorities set out in the Corporate Plan
2. This report provides a strategic overview of the performance for Q2 (1 July to 30 September 2021), focusing on the activity to deliver the corporate priorities in the Vale of White Horse District Council Corporate Plan 2020-24.
3. In addition to providing a performance update and assurance against the delivery of the Council's six strategic themes in the Corporate Plan, this report will also provide any strategic context relevant to the Council's operations and, given the significant impact of Covid-19 on communities, services and staff, the report will include a section on Covid-19 response and recovery.
4. This report is the second iteration, and it is expected that it will evolve in line with the new approach to Performance Management being embedded in the Council, as well as from feedback from senior officers and Members.

## STRATEGIC CONTEXT

This Quarter, 01 July to 30 September 2021, saw the significant milestone of the Country moving to step four of the Government's roadmap plan, which meant an end to the majority of restrictions that had been in place in England to help stop the rapid spread of Covid-19. Therefore, from 19 July, large scale events recommenced, and residents could socialise with any number of people indoors. This final stage of the roadmap has important financial implications for the Council, with the potential for increased revenue through an anticipated increase of visitors to town centres and car parks again, as well as through the national rise in 'staycations' as people look to take holidays within the UK and explore areas closer to home, as international travel still holds many barriers and restrictions.

With the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) taking place in Quarter 3 of this year and the latest release from the IPCC in August 2021, outlining that observed increases in greenhouse gas concentrations since around 1750 have unequivocally been caused by human activities. The Council's commitment to addressing the climate emergency remains strong and work has increased this Quarter on developing the Council's Climate Action Plan, ready to launch towards the end of the year.

The Council also responded to challenges with a national shortages of HGV drivers this Quarter and on 02 August took the difficult decision to temporarily pause garden waste collection services in order to ensure rubbish, recycling and food waste collections were prioritised for residents across the district. In line with the Council's commitment in the Corporate Plan to work in an open and inclusive way, an extraordinary full council meeting was held on 21 September to discuss the issues impacting the garden waste service. Following negotiations with the contractor the garden waste collection service was resumed and customers' current subscriptions extended by three months.

The Council embedded its commitment to resident wellbeing this Quarter, through the creation of a new Community Wellbeing service area, as part of the Council's service area realignment to help provide a more balanced distribution of responsibilities and resources across the Council's structure and support delivery of the Corporate Plan priorities. The Community Wellbeing service area will continue to drive forward the work of the Community Hub, which delivers support to residents affected by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

A growing focus nationally for this Quarter and beyond, is the subject of women's safety in the community, with the sad emergence of recent high-profile cases in the UK, a spotlight has been shone on how safe women feel. Locally, the Council's involvement in the Community Safety Partnership is key to making progress in this area and as outlined in the Corporate Plan, the Council will review Community Safety Partnership measures and direction of travel indicators to ensure our communities feel safe.

Moreover, the Council's commitment to wellbeing was extended this Quarter, to refugees arriving in the UK from Afghanistan, following the country's fall back under the control of the Taliban. In August the Council expressed their readiness to work with local partners to offer help to people from Afghanistan who are granted refugee status, this included pivoting the Council's Community Hub to provide additional support.



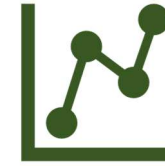
## PERFORMANCE SUMMARY



**141** people took place to an Xplore event and **23** pupils participated to the Litterbug trails around our green spaces



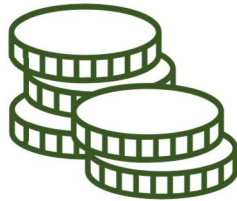
As of 30 September, there were **1,730** employees on furlough, compared to **2,100** on 31 August



The unemployment rate in the district was **3.1%** in August 2021 compared to **4.3%** in August 2020

Community Infrastructure Levy funds collected by the end of Q2, ready to transfer to Parish Councils:

**£381,509.94**



**100%** of Vale's Council public meetings were livestreamed and uploaded on YouTube



**15** new community employment plans in progress

We have delivered **17** emergency food parcels to residents in financial hardship or self-isolating due to COVID-19

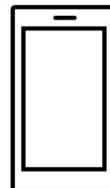


**59** New affordable homes were granted planning permission



Community Infrastructure Levy balance: **£1,630,731.08**

**+531%** Business Support Twitter profile visits in September **+12** new followers and **+72** mentions following the Eco Business Fair engagement activity



**105** new homeless applications received. with a successful homelessness prevention rate of **87%**. The average stay in temporary accommodation was 12 days (compared to 6-months rolling average of 36)

## THEME 1. PROVIDING THE HOMES PEOPLE NEED

### Strategic Lead – Suzanne Malcolm – Deputy Chief Executive – Place

We will:

- find ways to provide more genuinely affordable housing, including housing for social rent, to better provide for the needs of the Vale residents
- aim to provide a mix of tenures in each development to build sustainable homes in balanced and sustainable communities
- use our influence on decision makers, where the responsibility lies outside of Vale.

We will do this by:

- exploring and considering opportunities to bring forward the delivery of homes people can afford
- adopting a policy framework that ensures those homes could be delivered in a way that supports the environment and people living healthy lives.



### Key Activities in Q2:

In order to deliver on our commitment to provide genuinely affordable. During Q2 2021/22, work has continued to progress on the research and collation of data that will be used to underpin a report on newly identified opportunities to bring forward/expedite the delivery of affordable homes.

We continue to work with partners to investigate how to utilise s106 commuted sums to provide more genuinely affordable housing. An s106 affordable housing fund and application process is now operational. No applications have been received during Q2 and the Council is giving further consideration to how it may utilise s106 monies to deliver affordable homes directly.

To further our ambition to provide a mix of tenures in each development to build sustainable homes in balanced and sustainable communities work has continued on the research and collation of data that will feed into a refreshed housing policy. The policy will outline the types of housing provided, the mix of design and for what demographic and tenure and include affordable housing aspirations and environmental policies. Work has progressed on a joint review of planning policies to ensure that they support the delivery of homes that are needed in the Vale.

A new policy framework is being developed through the Joint Local Plan and the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 to help deliver homes in a way that supports peoples' wellbeing and the environment. During Q2 the governance arrangements for the Joint Local Plan were established and the first member steering group session was held. Lead officers for health, places, climate change and nature recovery were identified, and policy scoping work commenced. The Vale alongside other councils in Oxfordshire gave approval for the Regulation 18 consultation on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, the consultation document includes a range of environmental planning policies designed to create strong, sustainable communities.

We are continuing to use the Dalton Barracks Garden Villages and Towns designation as a mechanism to introduce innovative housing to meet our aims for high quality, low energy, zero-carbon homes. During Quarter 2 the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for Dalton Barracks was prepared to ensure a comprehensive approach to master-planning housing on the site, the consultation is scheduled to take place during Quarter 3.. An application for 4,254 new dwellings in Valley Park, Didcot has been approved with healthcare and environmental provisions assured from developers, including upgrading active travel infrastructure with an innovative use of traffic lights to prioritise cycling over motorised vehicles and over £3million for local healthcare provision in the area surrounding Valley Park or dedicated land for a health care centre on the site and £2.8million to be provided towards its construction.

At the end of Q2, the available Community Infrastructure Level (CIL) balance for the Vale stood at £1,630,731.08. These funds will help accelerate the delivery of local improvement projects, a statutory infrastructure funding statement – covering sums received, spent and their intended use – will be published by December each year. A Revised Vale CIL Charging Schedule and s106 Supplementary Planning Document which include mechanisms for securing developer contributions for affordable housing and community infrastructure, have been progressed and are subject to formal approval and adoption.

An Eco Business Fair was held in Henley-On-Thames with SODC, Greentech and Naked Planet. 150 delegates attended and 28 businesses exhibited. Discussions have also taken place regarding adding environmental targets to Community Employment Plans.

In order to influence decision makers that sit outside the Vale we have continued to explore the creation of a Council-owned holding company or vehicle with developers to identify sites for development in the Vale. This will enable us to deliver a wide range of regeneration and community benefits including housing, community facilities, land maintenance and health.

## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
PHPN1.1	Programme 1 - Explore and consider opportunities to bring forward the delivery of homes people can afford	Narrative report of newly identified opportunities to bring forward/expedite the delivery of affordable homes	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q2 2021/22, work progressed on the research and collation of data that will be used to underpin the report on newly identified opportunities to bring forward/expedite the delivery of affordable homes.</p> <p>The Vale also, in collaboration with partners (Registered Providers, community groups etc), continued to look for opportunities to identify and accelerate the delivery of affordable housing through the use of its own s106 commuted sums.</p>
PHPN1.2	Explore a council-owned holding company/vehicle, to focus on delivering a wide range of regeneration and community benefits including housing, community facilities, land maintenance and health	Narrative update on the potential opportunities/challenges around the creation of a holding company/SPV	Cllr Judy Roberts	Masterplanning Lead	Discussions with developers, landowners and promoters for sites in the Vale have continued. The focus of these meetings has been on achieving the council's Corporate Plan aspirations in regards to development.
PHPN1.3	Explore how the council can provide low-cost sustainable housing. Include working with developers, registered providers, community trusts, as well as new partnerships. Include council owned housing. Include a definition of affordability relative to ability to pay, not to market value, and social rent definitions	Narrative report on provision of low-cost housing, focusing on partnership working, including an update on the shifting metric of affordability based on relative ability to pay rather than market value and social rent definitions.	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Discussions were initiated with Registered Providers and other partners during Q2 2021/22



## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
PHPN1.4	Review our affordable housing planning policies and ensure they are providing what's needed in the Vale	Narrative report on review of planning policies	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Plans have been progressed regarding a joint review of planning policies. This will be carried out by Affordable Housing team with input from the Planning Policy team.
PHPN1.5	Review our strategy for spending s106 sums paid in lieu of onsite affordable housing and identify how earmarked funds, including retained S106 monies, can be best utilised to deliver affordable homes	<p>Narrative report on s106 spend, focusing on the stated aim and any updates to the existing strategy</p> <p>Additional quantitative elements - s106 spend/units provided from spend</p>	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	A s106 affordable housing fund and application process is now operational. No applications have been received during Q2 2021/22. Partly in light of this, the Council is giving further consideration to how it may utilise s106 monies to deliver affordable homes directly.
PHPN1.6	Explore how mobile homes might be better used as affordable homes, reviewing sites and policies to ensure good use of available space	Narrative update on utilisation of mobile homes/mobile home sites or opportunities for creating such sites	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	An options appraisal project has been drafted to consider additional mobile homes at the Pebble Hill site.

## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
PHPN1.7	Use Garden Villages and Towns designation as a mechanism to introduce innovative housing to meet our needs for high quality, low energy, zero-carbon homes	Narrative report on garden village and town designation utilisation and any projects which fall within this designation. Also, to include initiatives which will result in low energy, zero carbon homes.	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q2 2021/22, the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for Dalton Barracks was prepared by Planning (with input from Development and Regeneration). It is designed to ensure that a comprehensive approach to the master-planning of housing is taken on the site. It also aims to guarantee that Garden Village principles are adhered to. It will be subject to a wider consultation in Q3.</p> <p>In July, the Planning Committee agreed the application for Valley Park (a strategic site in Didcot Garden Town). Within the conditions of the approval, the Vale secured the following conditions from developers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•£200,000 payment for protecting biodiversity brought forward.</li> <li>•existing mature trees on the Valley Park site to be preserved.</li> <li>•Zero carbon housing standards to be implemented as early as possible.</li> <li>•Infrastructure to support active travel modes. This includes an innovative use of traffic lights to prioritise cycling over motorised vehicles.</li> <li>•An upgrade of cycle path from Cow Lane to the University Technical College on Great Western Park. This will help to provide an alternative route for users travelling from Harwell to Didcot (or vice versa).</li> <li>•Over £3million to be provided for local healthcare provision in the area surrounding Valley Park or dedicated land for a health care centre on the site and £2.8million to be provided towards its construction</li> <li>•The ringfencing of funding for healthcare provision in the local area.</li> </ul>

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
PHPN2.1	Programme 2 - Adopt a policy framework that ensures those homes could be delivered in a way that supports the environment and people living healthy lives	Narrative report against the Programme aim	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>A new policy framework is being developed through both the Joint Local Plan and the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 to help deliver homes in a way that supports peoples' wellbeing and the environment.</p> <p>During Q2 2021/22, the governance arrangements for the Joint Local Plan were established and the first member steering group session was held. In addition, officer leads for health places, climate change and nature recovery were identified, and policy scoping work commenced.</p> <p>The Oxfordshire Plan 2050, which includes a theme on healthy places, also progressed to the Regulation 18 (2) consultation stage. The Vale – alongside the other councils in Oxfordshire – approved for it to go out for consultation from July to October 2021.</p> <p>The Revised Vale CIL Charging Schedule and s106 Supplementary Planning Document also progressed to the readiness for adoption stage during Quarter 2. These include mechanisms for securing developer contributions for affordable housing and community infrastructure.</p>
PHPN2.2	Develop a s106 obligations strategy to inform negotiations between planners and developers	Narrative report on strategy development/adherence (once delivered)	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Planning	The s106 revised Supplementary Planning Document was taken through Vale's Scrutiny Committee in July. Feedback was given on expectations of internal officer protocol.
PHPN2.3	Update the CIL spending strategy and associated procedures to accelerate the delivery of local infrastructural improvements for our communities both in line with our corporate objectives and, where appropriate, to support current spending on existing infrastructure	<p>Narrative update on CIL spend to support the delivery of local infrastructure</p> <p>Total CIL spend + CIL spend breakdown</p>	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>Councillors can request reports on CIL income, spend and projects at any time. Cabinet members are also provided with quarterly CIL and s106 spend/income reports.</p> <p>A statutory infrastructure funding statement – covering sums received, spent and their intended use – will be published by December each year.</p> <p>At the end of Q2 2021/22, the available CIL balance for the Vale stood at £1,630,731.08. There was no spend from the council's CIL allocation during this period.</p>

## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
PHPN2.4	Consider ways we can encourage lower-carbon construction in Vale	Narrative update to include any activity supporting lower-carbon construction in the Vale	Cllr Catherine Webber	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>In September, Economic Development held an Eco Business Fair in Henley-on-Thames with SODC, Greentech and Naked Planet. 28 businesses exhibited and 8 presentations took place (including one from Greencore Construction that was well attended). Around 150 visitors attended the event.</p> <p>Discussions have taken place regarding adding environmental targets to Community Employment Plans.</p> <p>Members of the Economic Development and Garden Towns teams have attended tours of Green Unit's new manufacturing facility at Culham – Green Unit design and build ultra-low carbon modular buildings.</p>
PHPN2.5	Develop an affordable housing SPD. Evidence of housing needs, housing mix, self-build, rural exception sites. Include definition of 'affordable'	Narrative update on the development of an affordable housing SPD, additionally include information on planning permissions granted with affordable housing numbers	Cllr Debby Hallett	Head of Planning	<p>Scoping for the Affordable Housing Supplementary Document is being undertaken by Housing. In August, they met with the Planning Policy team for an initial discussion on this work.</p> <p>59 affordable homes were granted planning permission during Q2 2021/22."</p>
PHPN2.6	Develop a Land Use strategy to inform and guide OxPlan2050 and Vale Local Plan with proposed need for housing, retail, employment, leisure, open spaces	Narrative update on progression against stated aim of PHPN 2.6 in the corporate plan.	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Planning	The Oxfordshire Plan Regulation 18 (2) consultation was approved by Vale (and the other councils in Oxfordshire) for consultation from July to October 2021. The Oxfordshire Growth Needs Assessment, which provides evidence for housing need, was consulted upon at the same time.



## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
PHPN2.7	Update the Local Development Plan to reflect the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS) and connecting our strategic housing sites with employment land	Narrative update on progression against stated aim of PHPN 2.7 in the corporate plan.	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Planning	The Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy Stage 1 report on infrastructure priorities to 2040 went out for public consultation during July 2021. The responses are currently being assessed and will be used to update the document. The intention is for this reviewed Stage One report to go before the Future Oxfordshire Partnership by the end of the year.
PHPN2.8	Update Vale's Local Plan and OxPlan2050 with modern environmental policies in support of government's and Vale's goals	Narrative update on progression against stated aim of PHPN 2.8 in the corporate plan.	Cllr Debby Hallett	Head of Planning	The Oxfordshire Plan Regulation 18 (2) consultation was approved by Vale (and the other councils in Oxfordshire) for consultation from July to October 2021. The consultation document set out a range of environmental planning policies within themes 1 (addressing climate change) and 2 (improving environmental quality).
PHPN2.9	Develop a Housing Policy: that outlines the types of housing we are going to provide, in what mix of design and for what demographic and tenure, to inform our Local Plan and future work. Include affordable housing aspirations, consideration of an aging population, and environmental policies for housing	<p>Narrative update on housing policy and adherence.</p> <p>Include quantitative measures for housing mix, tenure, and affordable and shared ownership</p>	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Work is ongoing on the research and collation of data that will feed into the report on housing policy. The Vale is also still in the process of identifying and expediting the delivery of affordable housing opportunities through Growth Deal funding and s106 commuted sums.
PHPN2.10	Work with partners to produce an Active Travel Network map of current and required coverage across the Vale to include commercial and community buses, cycle paths and storage facilities, pavements and footpaths, green and blue infrastructure, and local taxi firms. Encourage systems that increase use of the Active Travel Network	Narrative update on progress toward completion of map, once map completed, this should transition to an annual review of the accuracy of map	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Active Travel will be explored with relevant teams at Oxfordshire County Council during Q3..

## THEME 2: TACKLING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

### Strategic Lead – Suzanne Malcolm – Deputy Chief Executive – Place

We will:

- do everything we can to help tackle the Climate Emergency
- reduce council emissions by 75% by 2025
- become a carbon neutral council by 2030
- reduce all emissions across the Vale District by 75% by 2030
- aspire to be a carbon neutral Vale district by 2045.

We will do this with:

- a Climate Emergency programme, focussed on what the council has control over, working towards our own targets for our own buildings, vehicles, leisure and arts centres
- a Climate Emergency programme focussed on encouraging the wider district community to reduce its carbon footprint in order to meet the Climate Emergency targets
- a programme around exercising our influence with partners on wider policy, working with neighbouring authorities, lobbying Government, and identifying environmental policy gaps.



### Key Activities in Q2:

The Council is committed to doing everything we can to help tackle the climate emergency. During Q2, meetings were held with Heads of Service, to ascertain what actions could help the council get to net zero. Each service proposed actions, which are currently subject to a process of challenge to ensure that they are robust. The actions will inform the Council's Climate Action Plan.

Good progress has been made on the Climate Action Plan throughout Q2. To ensure the plan has the greatest possible impact and is embedded within Council operations, work was commenced to ensure that it is designed consistently with the Vale of White Horse Corporate Plan (which sets out all priorities for the district). A strategic communications plan for the climate emergency has also been developed by the Communications team.

A new Tree Planting Policy was adopted during Q2, following its review by the Vale of White Horse Climate Emergency Advisory Committee (CEAC). The policy outlines how the Council will protect, plant, and manage trees on the land we own, and how community tree planting initiatives will be supported. The policy will protect and enhance tree cover on council land and seek to address the climate crisis and increase biodiversity. Since the policy's launch, the Council has received enquiries from one community group interested in planting trees in the district. Applications will be assessed in Q3 and reviewed by the Councils Asset Management Group. At the Q2 CEAC meeting, the Council endorsed the Oxfordshire Treescape Project. The map the project has produced will provide a useful tool in identifying where trees could be planted.

In July, it was confirmed that South and Vale (alongside partners) had been successful in their bid to the Natural Readiness Fund for the establishment of a Habitat Banking Pilot Scheme. Initial work is currently being undertaken with developers to ascertain likely net gain requirement. It is anticipated that the scheme will be launched in Q3.

During Q2, the Joint Local Plan Member Steering Group met to develop new policies, including on sustainability, the environment and how the Vale aims to achieve its Corporate Plan objectives on carbon reduction.

In line with our aim to introduce policies for zero carbon construction requirements, during Q2, the Joint Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document has been drafted for public consultation that includes updated guidance on zero and low carbon construction.

Work around monitoring and improving air quality around the district is another important area of work for the Council. During Q2, Vale of White Horse received its 2021 Air Quality Annual Status Reports appraisal from Defra. They have concluded that the Vale of White Horse reports are well structured, detailed and provide the information specified in their guidance. A quote has also been accepted for the installation of a particulate matter (PM) monitor in Marcham. The monitor will be operational January to December 2022. In addition, an essential growth bid is being developed for submission as part of the 2022/23 budget setting process to resource the necessary work for the development of new Air Quality Action Plans.

In Q2 preparatory work has been undertaken on a communication plan around COP26. These will explain how international policy and decisions at the conference will affect us in the district. The plan includes press releases and a video campaign that includes Councillors and community groups, encouraging engagement across the district.

In line with our commitment to engage with partners across Oxfordshire and exercise influence where required, during Q2 through its representation on the Future Oxfordshire Partnership Environment Advisory Group, the Council has worked with partners on wider policy matters

relating to climate and the environment. The South and Vale joint scrutiny retrofit task and finish group presented a report to members of the CEAC. Their findings and recommendations were welcomed by the committee and the report has now been circulated to neighbouring authorities on the Advisory Group.

The Council are preparing a corporate response to the government's 12 week 'Creating a vision for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc' consultation that comes to an end in Q3. Staff are also working with partners including other local authorities, in the preparation of joint responses to the consultation through the Future Oxfordshire Partnership and the Arc Leadership Group.



## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
PROGRAMME 1	<b>A climate emergency programme, focussed on what the council has control over, working towards our own targets for our own buildings, vehicles, leisure and arts centres</b>	A narrative summary comprised of all new activity to reduce the carbon footprint of all Council assets on a quarterly basis		Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2 2021/22, BEIS launched phase 3 of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. The scheme still has several barriers that inhibit local authorities from successfully applying – for example, the parameters of the scheme are poorly defined with an unconfirmed funding amount. These difficulties invariably make the resourcing and writing of bids problematic (especially if the local authority is run efficiently and, therefore, without significant spare capacity to dedicate to such projects).</p> <p>The Vale is, nevertheless, now undertaking speculative bid preparation work – with Concept Energy – to create a proposal for the White Horse Tennis and Leisure Centre. This will provide the council with a ‘model’ bid to submit into this (if it remains open) or future rounds of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. It will also provide an example of what a strong bid looks like.</p>
TCE1.1	Develop a Climate Emergency Strategy for the Council, setting out how we will reach Zero Carbon for all Vale assets by 2030. Identify energy saving opportunities in council-owned buildings and fleets	A narrative report of activity underway to design the plan to achieve a zero-carbon position for all Vale assets by 2030.	Cllr Catherine Webber	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2 2021/22, significant progress was made on the development of the Climate Action Plan (CAP). The Climate team met individually with Heads of Service to discuss how their service areas can help the Vale reduce its emissions. As a result of these meetings, every Head of Service has now tabled a series of proposed measures which will assist the council on its journey to net zero. In addition, design work on the CAP has also commenced to ensure that it visually aligns with the Corporate Plan and, therefore, delivers a greater impact.</p> <p>Officers have also, during quarter 2, collaborated with the leisure team to identify a series of operational energy inefficiencies in the council’s leisure provision.</p>
TCE1.2	Complete the CEAC Year One Climate Action Plan and plan for future years	Narrative report on progress	Cllr Catherine Webber	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2 2021/22, one meeting of the CEAC was held. At this meeting, an update on the development of the Climate Action Plan was provided and information was given on the engagement period with members.</p>

## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
TCE1.3	Include in Councils Open Space Strategy opportunities to increase biodiversity, increase tree cover, and (other things we want to do on Council's open spaces)	Narrative report on specific opportunities which have arisen for the council to improve open spaces. Also include any additional policy developments.	Cllr Catherine Webber	Head of Policy and Programmes	During Q2 2021/22, the CEAC reviewed – and Cabinet adopted – the Vale's joint policy for planting trees on council owned land. The council have received three enquiries from interested community groups since it was launched, and members continue to promote the policy in their areas. Officers are looking forward to assessing applications during Q3.
PROGRAMME 2	<b>A climate emergency programme focussed on encouraging the wider district community to reduce its carbon footprint in order to meet the Climate Emergency targets</b>	A narrative update of the work of the comms team in promoting measures/initiatives which will help the community to reduce its carbon footprint.		Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>A strategic communications plan for the climate emergency has been developed as part of the wider programme of work of creating such plans for each strategic theme.</p> <p>While a comprehensive campaign was created for the Great Big Green Week – which occurred during Q2 2021/22 – this was subsequently withdrawn due to a negative swell of activity prompted by the temporary pause to garden waste collections on 02 August.</p> <p>Progress has, however, been made around preparations for comms planning around COP26. These include a Council press release (how international policy and decisions at the conference will affect us in the district) and a video campaign on what does COP26 mean to you (from relevant Cllrs, towns, parishes and community groups).</p>
TCE2.1	Complete those tasks in Year one Climate Action Plan that have to do with reducing carbon in the wider district	Narrative report on progress	Cllr Catherine Webber	Head of Policy and Programmes	During Q2 2021/22, significant progress was made on the development of the Climate Action Plan (CAP). The Climate team met individually with Heads of Service to discuss how their service areas can help the Vale reduce its emissions. As a result of these meetings, every Head of Service has now tabled a series of proposed measures which will contribute to a decrease in the council's – and the wider district's – impact upon the environment.
TCE2.2	Introduce policies for zero carbon construction requirements	Narrative update on progress toward design guide implementation, transitioning into review of relevant information/developments in this area	Cllr Catherine Webber	Head of Planning	The Joint Design Guide (JDG) Supplementary Planning Document has been drafted for public consultation. This engagement exercise will commence in October, with the scheduled adoption of the JDG Supplementary Planning Document planned for Q4 2021/22. The new JDG incorporates updated guidance on zero and low carbon construction.

## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
TCE2.3	Introduce sustainable growth and environmental policies to our Local Plan	Narrative update on the progress towards development of new local plan, specifically referring to details in TCE2.3/4	Cllr Catherine Webber	Head of Planning	During Q2 2021/22, the Joint Local Plan member steering group met to develop new policies (including on sustainability and the environment) as part of the plan making process.
TCE2.4	Ensure our Local Plan contains policies to make new buildings carbon zero to build and to live/work in	Narrative update on the progress towards development of new local plan, specifically referring to details in TCE2.3/4	Cllr Debby Hallett	Head of Planning	During Q2 2021/22, the Joint Local Plan member steering group met to develop new policies (including on how the Vale aims to achieve its Corporate Plan objectives on carbon reduction) as part of the plan making process.
TCE2.5	Develop a year two plan with CEAC for meeting our Climate emergency goals	High level narrative on progress towards approval of two-year plan	Cllr Catherine Webber	Head of Policy and Programmes	The Climate Action Plan for the Vale is being developed. This will set out actions towards the climate emergency until 2024.
TCE2.6	Improve how we measure air quality. Explore particulate measurement in our sensitive areas. Explore ways to publish AQ measurements in live time, so people can make decisions on whether it's healthy outside for them today	Narrative containing updates/changes to AQ monitoring techniques, an update on work with partners to monitor AQ and details of published AQ measures	Cllr Catherine Webber	Head of Housing and Environment	A quote has been received and accepted for the installation of a particulate matter (PM) monitor in Marcham. The contract is currently being finalised, with the aim of it being in-situ by mid-December (the intention is for readings to be monitored from January 2022 to December 2022).

## Performance measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
TCE2.7	Update the Air Quality Action Plans for our Air Quality Management Areas	Until funding confirmed for development of new AQAP's, narrative update on any significant deviation from last relevant AQAP. Once funding confirmed, this can report on the development of the new AQAP.	Cllr Catherine Webber	Head of Housing and Environment	The Vale has received its 2021 Air Quality Annual Status Reports appraisal letter from Defra. They have concluded that the reports are well structured, detailed and provide the information specified in their guidance – the full commentary will be made available on the Council's website.
TCE2.8	Explore setting up a Habitat Bank to deliver biodiversity offsetting requirements and facilitate tree planting	Narrative update as to progress of potential pilot and other relevant initiatives	Cllr Catherine Webber	Head of Policy and Programmes	In July, it was confirmed that South and Vale (alongside their partners) had been successful in their bid to the Natural Readiness Fund for the establishment of a Habitat Banking Pilot Scheme. While this scheme will be officially launched in the autumn, initial work is currently being undertaken with developers to ascertain their likely net gain requirements.
PROGRAMME 3	<b>A programme around exercising our influence with partners on wider policy, working with neighbouring authorities, lobbying Government and identifying environmental policy gaps</b>	General Narrative update		Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2 2021/22, the Vale has worked with partners on wider policy matters relating to climate and the environment through its representation on The Future Oxfordshire Partnership Environment Advisory Group. This body enables neighbouring local authorities to come together to help address climate policy at scale across Oxfordshire.</p> <p>At its meeting in September, the Advisory Group received an update on the Local Transport Connectivity Plan from the County Council. It also discussed the potential for some follow-on work following the Future Oxfordshire Partnership's decision to adopt the Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire report as definitive evidence base. Members, recognising the need for a co-ordinated programme of work, also requested a briefing on retrofit schemes across Oxfordshire for their scheduled meeting in Q3 2021/22.</p>



## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
TCE3.1	Complete the CEAC Year One Action Plan and plan for future years	Narrative report on progress	Cllr Catherine Webber	Head of Policy and Programmes	A Climate Action Plan for the Vale is being developed. This will also incorporate the continued delivery of actions from the CEAC year one work programme.
TCE3.2	Work with partners to define a waste reduction scheme: including ways to reduce bulky waste headed to landfill and reduce recycling contamination	Narrative report to outline steps to influence partners and our actions to reduce overall waste	Cllr Catherine Webber	Head of Housing and Environment	No progress to report Q2 2021/22
TCE3.3	Develop a tree-planting strategy and work with partners to plant more trees across the district	Narrative update to include development of the tree policy and subsequent activity	Cllr Catherine Webber	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2 2021/22, the CEAC reviewed – and Cabinet adopted – the Vale’s joint policy for planting trees on council owned land. The council have received three enquiries from interested community groups since it was launched, and members continue to promote the policy in their areas.</p> <p>In addition, the council promoted the Oxfordshire Treescape Project during the Q2 meeting of the CEAC. The tree-planting opportunities map that the project has produced will show where tree cover might be increased in the county. It will also allow any interested parties to examine where trees can and cannot be introduced in Oxfordshire and what benefits they may bring in each area. This map can be used assist in the formation of policy and strategy, and to guide individual plantings anyone may wish to undertake.</p>
TCE3.4	Develop a Biodiversity Net Gain Targeting Strategy and contribute to a Nature Recovery Network for Oxfordshire	Narrative update on related work, including but not limited to the work to support the Oxfordshire Plan.	Cllr Catherine Webber	Head of Planning	<p>When the Environment Bill becomes law in late 2021, the production of a Nature Recovery Strategy will become a statutory requirement for local authorities. It is likely that the responsible body for producing such a strategy for Oxfordshire will be the County Council.</p> <p>Nature Recovery Networks and a Biodiversity Net Gain Targeting Strategy will form constituent parts of this wider Nature Recovery Strategy. It is, therefore, not possible for Vale to progress either in isolation.</p> <p>The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 will be considering the issues of nature recovery and biodiversity net gain in accordance with requirements of the Environment Bill.</p>

## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
TCE3.5	Work with partners to provide electric charging points in Vale car parks and at our buildings, and increase charging infrastructure across Oxfordshire	<p>A narrative update to include work to promote and develop EV infrastructure across the district.</p> <p>Quantitative element - breakdown of existing/planned EV charging points</p>	Cllr Catherine Webber	Head of Housing and Environment	The Individual Cabinet Member Decisions to sign off the contract with the Charge Point Operator – and the related leases – have been published. The Vale is aiming to execute the various contracts during the next Quarter.
TCE3.6	Take an active role in the Oxford-Cambridge arc to influence the inclusion of sustainable growth and environmental policies	A narrative update on the work of the Oxford-Cambridge arc and our influencing activity	Cllr Emily Smith	Head of Planning	<p>HM Government launched a 12-week consultation in July on 'Creating a vision for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc'. Work has been undertaken on preparing a corporate response for submission on behalf of the council.</p> <p>In addition, officers have liaised with other local authorities and partner organisations on the development of the joint responses from the Future Oxfordshire Partnership and the Arc Leadership Group.</p> <p>In collaboration with colleagues from Oxfordshire County Council, officers have also attended workshops and engaged with England's Economic Heartland's Arc corridor studies.</p>

## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
TCE3.7	Take an active role in the Growth Deal and the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 to influence the inclusion of sustainable growth and environmental policies	Narrative report on work to support the Oxfordshire Plan in accordance with TEC3.7	Cllr Catherine Webber	Head of Planning	The Oxfordshire Plan Regulation 18 (2) consultation was approved by Vale (and the other councils in Oxfordshire) for consultation from July to October 2021. The consultation document set out a range of sustainable growth and environmental planning policies within themes 1 (addressing climate change), 2 (improving environmental quality), 3 (creating strong and sustainable communities), 4 (planning for sustainable travel and connectivity) and 5 (creating jobs and providing homes).
TCE3.8	Work with local partners and Government to encourage retrofitting houses with sustainable energy schemes; help residents take advantage of schemes that come along to help with costs	Narrative report on work influencing work, comms activity and direct engagement with residents.	Cllr Catherine Webber	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>The joint retrofit task and finish group report was presented by members to the CEAC. Their findings and recommendations were welcomed by the committee.</p> <p>The report has also been circulated to neighbouring authorities as part of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership - Environment Advisory Group for their review. There is a broad consensus on the Advisory Group that, in order to make progress, a co-ordinated programme of work in relation to retrofitting in Oxfordshire is required. At their meeting in Q3 2021/22, the Group will, therefore, receive a presentation (delivered by officers from South and Vale) on retrofit, current capital schemes and potential next steps.</p>

## THEME 3: BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

### Strategic Lead – Adrianna Partridge – Deputy Chief Executive – Transformation and Operations

#### We will:

- contribute to making people's lives healthier by encouraging the switch to more active travel, improving air quality where people work and live, and providing active opportunities.

#### We will do this by:

- building strong communities and connections with a sense of place and strong community identity
- promoting healthy place shaping and active communities for everyone
- safeguarding and supporting our vulnerable residents



### Key Activities in Q2:

As part of our plan to build strong and well-connected communities with a sense of place and community identity, in Q2 we completed the Strategic Property Review (SPR). The aim of the SPR was to assess the current use of Council-owned or operated buildings and other facilities, to see how they can both meet the need for communal spaces and maximise their revenue potential. The findings were presented to and approved by Vale's Cabinet. In the months ahead we will undertake a study of the Council's own future property requirements.

A new concept design for the shared South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Council offices was approved by South Oxfordshire's Cabinet on 30 September. The design helps create both new communal spaces for residents and the opportunity to generate revenues.

In order to promote the development of strong community identity and a sense of place, during Q2 we produced a strategy for commissioning public art in the district through Section 106 revenues. The strategy's approval process will run through Q3. The theme of Building Healthy Communities will be driven forward through the creation of a new Community Wellbeing service area this Quarter.



In Q2 we produced an overview of the Active Communities Strategy, which will outline how the Council will work with stakeholders and partners to enable everyone to participate in physical activities, and an initial draft of Sports England Strategic Options Planning Guidance, to understand how Council-owned or operated facilities can contribute to promoting physical activity. On-site data collection is now progressing to produce further evidence in support of the project.

Work is ongoing to promote the use of the Council's public green spaces for exercise and activity. In Q2 we arranged the Litterbug trails within our parks, with 23 pupils participating, and an "Xplore" event which saw 141 people taking part to family-friendly navigation challenges around our green spaces.

An Active Reach partnership project, funded by Sports England's Tackling Inequalities Fund, accessed through Active Oxfordshire, was run in Faringdon during Q2. The project allowed local community groups and charities led by the Pump House to receive £10,000 for interventions that assist older and vulnerable residents access activities in their community.

In Q2 we started working with Public Health on a new project to tackle health inequalities through gathering evidence to better understand the challenges faced by the Abingdon Caldecott ward, which is among the ten most deprived wards in the county. Council officers have also attended county wide meetings on physical health inequalities, food sustainability and health, and Good Food Oxford steering meetings which input into the forthcoming Oxfordshire food strategy.

In Q2 we approved a consultation on the Oxfordshire Plan Regulation 18 (2), which outlines the new planning policy on air pollution being developed as part of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050. The regulation sets out to protect and enhance air quality by setting minimum countywide standards. Air quality policies can also form part of neighbourhood plans. All three plans that were going through the latest stages of approval in Q1 were officially adopted in Q2, bringing the total number of neighbourhood plans in the Vale to 15, with an additional ten currently in progress (please see chart BHC1.5). The Council has also received positive feedback from Defra regarding their 2021 Air Quality Annual Status Reports submitted in Q1.

Our commitment to healthier lives and improved air quality also includes promoting more active ways to travel. Progress on this was made in Q2 as part of the Didcot Garden Town project, with a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan being drafted. Furthermore, to encourage cycling we have worked with several partners (Active Oxfordshire, Sovereign, Abingdon and Witney College, Trax and Larkmead schools) to set up a "Ride Revolution" pilot in Abingdon, to provide free cycling tuitions and equipment to residents.

To deliver on our commitment to protect and safeguard the most vulnerable people in our district, in Q2 the Community Safety team have introduced the Violence Reduction Hub, which forms part of the Council's strategy to tackle violence and reduce demand on statutory services. The Hub will enhance partnership working on the priorities raised at monthly Joint Tasking Meetings.

Between July and September, the Community Safety team received 11 safeguarding referrals, the same as in Q1. There were also three closure orders, a significant reduction from the 20 issued in the previous quarter. Closure orders are intended to target those premises that could be considered 'high risk' and where there is evidence of exploitative or coercive practice or the involvement of children.

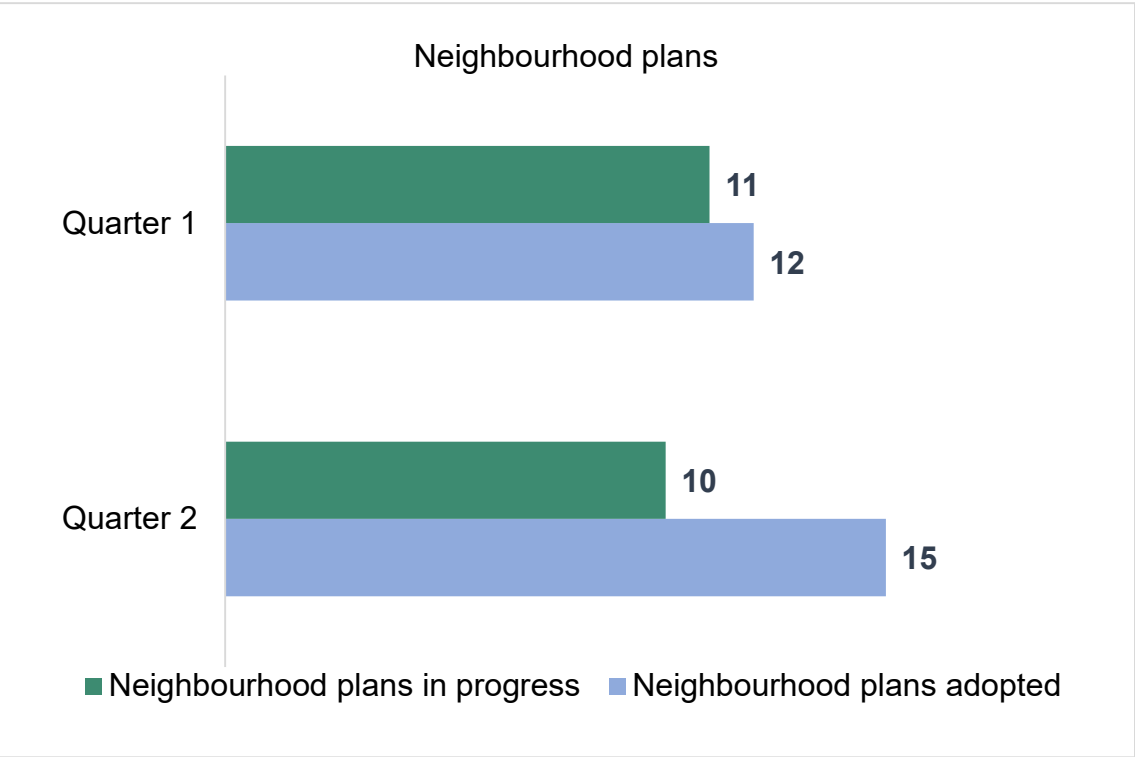
The South and Vale Community Safety Partnership, co-ordinated by the Council, provides funding for a sanctuary scheme to help vulnerable victims of crime stay and feel safe in their homes. In Q2 we have received 22 referrals for victims of domestic abuse. So far in 2021/22 there have been 47 referrals linked to this crime, which is an increase on the previous year. Councillors attending meetings of the Oxfordshire Health Improvement Board have discussed the need for a renewed Oxfordshire strategy to tackle domestic abuse.

In Q2 the Community Hub led on the communications for the county wide Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) development programme and sent a survey to 6,556 CEV people to assess the impact of the pandemic on their physical and mental health, and to understand their ongoing support needs. Findings from the survey will inform future policies and strategies to help CEV people recover and build back confidence and independence they may have lost during the pandemic. The new Community Wellbeing service will coordinate and strengthen collaboration in our response to Covid-19 to address current and future needs.

The homeless are among the most vulnerable people in our society. In Q2 the Council implemented the second phase of the South and Vale Housing First project, which aims to take entrenched rough sleepers off the streets by offering them intensive, tailored and open-ended support. This led to four out of six rough sleepers moving into properties whilst receiving support and advice within their accommodations, with an additional two currently waiting for suitable accommodation to be provided by SOHA housing association. In Q2 the Vale dealt with 105 new homeless applications and was successful at preventing homelessness in 87% of the cases.

Performance Measures

Chart A BHC1.5: Neighbourhood plans and their current stage



## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
PROGRAMME 1	Building strong communities and connections, with a sense of place and strong community identity	Narrative update		Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>South Cabinet approved the concept design of the new shared South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse council offices at their meeting on 30 September 2021. Work on the approach to confirming the contractual relationship between the two councils in an Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) was confirmed at the same meeting – the IAA was scheduled to be considered by Vale cabinet on 1 October 2021.</p> <p>The master planning work across the wider Didcot Gateway site has continued during Q2 2021/22 and is now in the process of being finalised.</p>
BHC1.1	Review the use of Community buildings and other facilities owned or managed by the council to maximise usage, income for the council and ensure communities have spaces in which to come together.	Narrative update as to the progress/outcomes from the Strategic Property Review	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	The Strategic Property Review (SPR) has been completed. The findings were agreed by Vale Cabinet in September. The next stage is for a study to be undertaken of the Council's own future property requirements.
BHC1.2	Establish a Public Arts policy	Narrative update on the progress towards developing a public arts policy	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Corporate Services	<p>A joint strategy for the commissioning of s106 public art across South and Vale has been drafted. This is scheduled to go through the necessary approval processes in the next couple of months.</p> <p>Instead of developing a dedicated arts policy, the council are looking to set out their approach to arts development/participation in the new community well-being strategy.</p>
BHC1.3	Maintain and develop the council's Community Enablement function to respond to changing needs because of Covid-19	Narrative update on relevant areas of the Council response to Covid 19 as the needs/requirements change	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Corporate Services	A new Community Wellbeing service has been created as part of the council's structural realignment. This will bring together all of the workstreams that are responding to the pandemic with the aim of delivering a more co-ordinated and collaborative approach to addressing current and future needs.

## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
BHC1.4	Work with others to promote Active Travel and support the development of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure plans to help shape new developments that link homes to work, recreation and social spaces within communities	<p>Narrative report on the work with partners to promote active travel and encouragement of cycling and walking infrastructure</p> <p>Quantitative measure of amount of new footpaths/cycle paths approved since last report/YTD etc.</p>	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>A Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure plan (LCWIP) is being drafted as part of the Vale's Didcot Garden Town project.</p> <p>The Council also continues to work with partners (Active Oxfordshire, Sovereign, Abingdon and Witney College, Trax and Larkmead School) to set up a 'Ride Revolution' pilot in Abingdon. This aims to provide residents with free cycling tuition and access to equipment.</p>
BHC1.5	Develop planning policies to ensure careful consideration of the effect of air pollution on the lives of people who will live there	<p>Narrative update to include information relevant to BHC 5.1,</p> <p>Quantitative measure - the number of neighbourhood plans and the stage they are current at</p>	Cllr Debby Hallett	Head of Planning	<p>The Oxfordshire Plan Regulation 18 (2) consultation was approved by Vale (and the other councils in Oxfordshire) for consultation from July to October 2021. The consultation document sets out the preferred policy approach for the protection and enhancement of air quality. The Joint Local Plan between the Vale and South Oxfordshire could also be used to provide further details regarding air quality where appropriate.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plans also provide an opportunity for communities to develop policy related to air quality. Three new neighbourhood plans were endorsed at referendum in Q2 2021/22, bringing the total number of adopted (made) plans in the Vale to 15. There are currently 10 more neighbourhood plans in progress. See chart A BHC1.5. page 27</p>



## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
BHC1.6	Update the Air Quality Management Action Plans for the Vale's air pollution hotspots; Work with Oxfordshire County Council to improve how we measure and report air pollution and how we will work with schools and community groups to raise awareness of our clean air campaigns	Narrative update on activity related to BHC 1.6	Cllr Catherine Webber	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>The Vale has received its 2021 Air Quality Annual Status Reports appraisal letter from Defra. They have concluded that the reports are well structured, detailed and provide the information specified in their guidance – the full commentary will be made available on the Council's website.</p> <p>During Q2 2021/22, the winner of the air quality superhero competition was announced. The competition, designed to highlight the issue of air pollution, challenged primary school children to create an air quality superhero.</p>
PROGRAMME 2	Promoting healthy place shaping and active communities, for everyone	Narrative update		Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2 2021/22, the Community Hub led on the county-wide direct communications for Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) development programme. CEV residents were contacted around ongoing support and have been invited to undertake a survey on the effects of the pandemic on their physical and mental health. 6,556 residents were contacted in Vale. The findings from this survey will help to inform future strategies and policies.</p> <p>There has also been continued partnership working across the county using the Contain Outbreak Management Funding (COMF). This has been used to create immediate support and legacy schemes to promote health initiatives for residents using active communities &amp; the arts.</p> <p>In addition, Insight and Policy have continued to develop a policy map for health and wellbeing activity at a national, regional, Oxfordshire and local level. A draft scoping document has also been created for the forthcoming community wellbeing strategy. This will be for the new community and wellbeing service to take forward.</p>

## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
BHC2.1	Produce an Active Communities strategy; setting out how the council will work with our communities and partners and enable everyone to participate in physical activities	Narrative update on progress against strategy development and work with partners to encourage involvement in physical activities	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>A first draft Sport England Strategic Options Planning Guidance report has been developed. Additional on-site data is now being collated to understand the current state of the Vale's owned/operated facilities.</p> <p>In addition, an overview of the structure of the Active Communities Strategy and an overarching vision have been created. These will be considered alongside the Covid-19 System Roadmap, the forthcoming community wellbeing strategy and other regional/national health and wellbeing priorities to define the scope of the Strategy.</p>
BHC2.2	Work with Active Oxfordshire to target get active projects in our most deprived communities	Narrative update on proposals from Active Oxfordshire	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q2 2021/22, Sport England's Tackling Inequalities Fund, through Active Oxfordshire, funded an Active Reach partnership project in Faringdon. Community groups, led by The Pump House, received £10,000 to support interventions that assist older people and those with long term health conditions to access activities.</p> <p>The Vale has also worked with Active Oxfordshire to access Contain Outbreak Management Funding (COMF) to help deliver the Move Together programme. This works with residents who have been shielding and whose health and wellbeing have been adversely affected by the pandemic.</p>
BHC2.3	Promote use of the Council's public green spaces for exercise and activity	Narrative update on the work to promote green spaces for exercise and activity	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Corporate Services	<p>Work is ongoing to promote the use of the Council's public green spaces for exercise and activity. Over the summer, the Vale promoted the Litterbug trails within our parks – pupils from 23 schools participated in these activities.</p> <p>The Council also supported the Leisure Participation team's Xplorer events. These are family friendly navigation challenges that utilise the Council's green spaces. During Q2 2021/22, 141 participated in an Xplorer event.</p>
BHC2.4	Identify councils owned land for community gardening and allotments projects	Narrative update on the work/outcomes from the Strategic Property Review	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	No progress to report Q2 2021/22

## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
BHC2.5	Active engagement with the Oxfordshire Health Improvement Board and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ensure the Vale has strong representation in countywide health forums	Narrative update on work with the Oxfordshire Health Improvement Board/Health overview and Scrutiny Committee	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2 2021/22, the Health Improvement Board (HIB) and the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) met. HIB considered the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) development programme, the Tobacco Control Strategy, Oxfordshire Mental Health Needs Assessment and the need for a renewed Domestic Abuse Strategy. The HOSC agenda was focussed on the new Health and Care Bill, which details the abolition of Clinical Commissioning Groups and the formation of new Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs). The Bill suggests that ICPs will be most effective if they focus on partnership working and delivery at place level whilst recognising the uniqueness of each locality in relation to population and geography. Insight and Policy prepared a briefing on the Health and Care Act for relevant members.</p> <p>Council officers have also been attending food sustainability and health, physical health inequalities system wide groups and Good Food Oxford steering meetings which input into the forthcoming Oxfordshire wide food strategy.</p>
PROGRAMME 3	Safeguarding and supporting our vulnerable residents	Narrative report on support provided by the VCS and potentially the number of properties approved with special adaptations (drawn from AMR data, available annually)		Head of Housing and Environment	<p>During Q2 2021/22, there were 11 safeguarding referrals in the Vale. There were also three closure issues ordered in the same period.</p>

## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
BHC3.1	Work as part of the South and Vale Community Safety Partnership on the agreed priorities: tackling Domestic abuse; exploitation of vulnerable people and children (including modern slavery, county lines); and reducing knife crime, harm and vulnerability caused by drugs and alcohol	Narrative report on work with partners, to include relevant published statistics as quantitative measure for information	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>Data from the domestic abuse service for Q2 2021/22 will be available during Q3.</p> <p>2021/22 has seen an increase in the number of referrals to the sanctuary scheme. So far this year there have been 47 domestic abuse referrals, of which 22 were received in Q2.</p> <p>The Community Safety Team have introduced a Violence Reduction Hub as part of the Council's statutory duty to implement a strategy to reduce violence. The work of the Hub is linked to the priorities raised at Joint Task Meetings and brings together stakeholders to try to solve problems and issues. The overall goal is not only to reduce violence but also lessen demands on statutory services.</p>
BHC3.2	Develop a new framework on vulnerability, responding to changes in needs arising from the Covid-19 pandemic	Narrative update on related work	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2 2021/22, the Community Hub continued to work on system recovery at Silver level. Officers also took action to consider covid related funding allocation to support our most vulnerable residents through the winter.</p> <p>In addition, officers have also been working with colleagues in Public Health to advance a project within the Abingdon Caldecott ward. This area was identified as one of the top 10 most deprived wards in Oxfordshire. Consequently, the Director for Public Health would like a profile completed to better understand the challenges in this ward and gain some community insight. We're expecting that the profile will include a range of quantitative data indicators along with qualitative information/community insight for the area. Engagement with relevant Councillors will commence during Q3 2021/22.</p>

## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
BHC3.3	Review and Revise the Joint Taxi Licensing Policy	Narrative update on the JTLP	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Housing and Environment	Following the adoption of the Revised Joint Taxi Licensing Policy during Q1 2021/22, the team are now working on embedding it into daily practices and procedures.
BHC3.4	Take a key role in countywide homelessness prevention and provision for young people, those with mental health conditions and review of adult homelessness pathway	<p>Narrative update on influencing/partnership activity, new initiatives.</p> <p>Quantitative update on successful homelessness cases + other homelessness stats, TA stats including average length of stay etc.</p>	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>Four of the six Housing First (HF) phase 2 rough sleepers have moved into their properties. They are now being supported within their accommodation. The final two candidates have been identified and are waiting for suitable properties from SOHA housing.</p> <p>The six residents from HF phase 1 remain in their properties and are continuing to receive ongoing support.</p> <p>The Vale are actively participating in delivering the countywide homelessness and rough sleeping strategy. In addition, the council is also a member of the countywide commissioning group that are procuring homelessness services with the aim of ending rough sleeping in Oxfordshire.</p> <p>During Q2 2021/22:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•the Council dealt with 105 new homeless cases.</li> <li>•the average length of stay in emergency accommodation was 12 days (compared to the 6-month rolling average of 36 days).</li> <li>•the Vale had a successful homelessness prevention rate of 87%."</li> </ul>

## THEME 4: BUILDING STABLE FINANCES

### Strategic Lead – Simon Hewings – Head of Finance

We will:

- manage the council's resources responsibly and make effective use of the council's assets
- do our best to build financial resilience to protect the council against future uncertainties
- work across the public sector to influence and maximise funding for local government, in order to continue to invest and provide the services residents and businesses need.

We will do this by:

- exploring and actively considering all avenues to deliver financial stability, including maximising income available to the council
- making effective use of the council's assets acting in a manner that ensures the long-term financial viability for the benefit of our residents and the environment.



### Key Activities in Q2:

With the aim of managing the council's resources responsibly and to make effective use of the council's assets, Cabinet approved the Strategic Property Review in September. In addition, a meeting of the Council's Asset Management Group has been scheduled for Q3 and will discuss the Group's Terms of Reference and establish a work programme.

Work has also commenced on a thorough review of the Vale's base budgets. This will progress into Q3 and include an evaluation of the council's fees and charges budgets. Evidence from the Council's benchmarking exercise in relation to fees and charges which was undertaken during Q1, will be used to inform this assessment.

During Q2, an internal review of the budget spend at the Beacon has been underway. The information gathered from this work will be used to inform any immediate savings that could be reflected in the 2022/23 budget.



The Vale's new Procurement Strategy has been finalised and is scheduled to go before the Cabinet in October.

The transition of the council's finance system to Unit4BW has bedded-in and is working well. The scoping work regarding phase 2 of the programme - including consideration of using Unit4BW to build base budgets for senior officers/portfolio holders – has continued throughout Q2.

In order to build financial resilience to protect the council against future uncertainties, the Council has developed a Property Investment Strategy. This is designed to give the Council a greater ability to invest in a wider range of assets and, therefore, maximise its returns and improve its income. It is scheduled to come before Cabinet in Q3.

Officers are also working with Link Asset Services (the Council's treasury management advisors) on a review of funds to provide options for treasury investments.

As part of the Vale's ambition to work across the public sector to influence and maximise funding for local government, options for enhancing the external funding capacity of the Council are currently being explored as part of the budget setting process.

In addition, plans have been finalised for the Council to lobby HM Government during Q3 for a fairer scheme for Public Sector Decarbonisation. We will reiterate the message that councils are well placed to deliver and provide local leadership, but that they need long-term funding arrangements that encourages support and collaboration rather than a competitive bidding process.

The Council is also currently undertaking speculative bid preparation work with Concept Energy, to create a Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme proposal for the White Horse Tennis and Leisure Centre. This will provide the Vale with both a 'model' bid to submit into this or future rounds of the Scheme and an example of a strong proposition which can be used as a template in future.

## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
PROGRAMME 1	<b>Explore and actively consider all avenues to deliver financial stability, including maximising income available to the council</b>	Narrative update on initiatives to deliver financial stability and maximise income across the Council	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Finance	<p>During Q2 2021/22, progress has continued to be made in several areas regarding the exploration and consideration of avenues to deliver financial stability. A thorough review of base budgets has commenced and will progress into Q3. This work will include a review of the council's fees and charge budgets.</p> <p>In addition, Link Asset Services have supported officers on a fund review. This will enable the council to consider different potential investments.</p>
BSF1.1	Introduce an Investment Strategy and associated Investment Policy which gives the Council greater ability to invest in a wider range of assets to maximise its return on capital and therefore improve its income	Narrative update on the introduction of an investment strategy and subsequent decision-making around investing	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Finance	<p>The Property Investment Strategy has been developed and will come to Cabinet for approval in late 2021. We continue to work with Link Asset Services on a review of funds to provide options for treasury investments.</p>
BSF1.2	Commit resources to identify more third-party income, including government and other grants, to help pay for our services	Narrative update as to current initiatives to increase external funding for Council activities, with details of additional resources committed to support these activities	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>Insight and Policy continue to provide support in signposting and scanning for external funding opportunities, we are looking to further enhance the external funding capacity within the Council by bringing in a specialist bid-writer. If we are not successful in securing additional resource to strengthen this area, the plan is to roll out bid training to relevant officers (as was previously proposed).</p> <p>One of the major challenges facing the Vale in respects of securing external funding, is the nature of HM Government funding announcements (and the timeframes given to local authorities). During Q3 2021/22, as part of lobbying for a fairer scheme for Public Sector Decarbonisation, we will reiterate the message that councils are well placed to deliver and provide local leadership, but that they need long-term funding arrangements that encourages support and collaboration rather than a competitive bidding process.</p> <p>The Vale is, however, undertaking speculative bid preparation work – with Concept Energy – to create a proposal for the White Horse Tennis and Leisure Centre. This will provide the council with a 'model' bid to submit into this (if it remains open) or future rounds of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. It will also provide an example of what a strong bid looks like.</p>

## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
BSF1.3	Identify opportunities to generate additional income from our services and assets and review these annually as part of the budget setting process	Narrative describing activity/referring to programme 1 narrative	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Finance	The Council have undertaken a benchmarking exercise in relation to fees and charges. This information will be used to inform a review of base budgets during Q3 2021/22.
BSF1.4	Review the schedule of existing contracts to identifying opportunities for rationalisation and savings	Narrative update initially detailing BAU activity to support this aim, until specific project is kicked off at which point reporting would be based on the project activity	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Finance	No progress to report Q2 2021/22
BSF1.5	Upgrade the council's finance IT systems to improve functionality and support in-year budget monitoring	Narrative report on the implementation of new systems, and then a yearly light-touch review	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Finance	The new finance system (Unit4BW) is now bedded-in and working well. The scope of phase 2 of the programme, which will include consideration of using Unit4BW to build budgets for senior manager/portfolio holders, is still being determined.
BSF1.6	Lobby for the ability to set our Council Tax at a level that can sustain council services while seeking opportunities to reduce council tax for those on the lowest incomes	Narrative report covering external influencing/lobbying work (and work with partners) and additionally, relevant information pertaining to Council Tax decisions within the Council.	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Policy and Programmes	The Vale did not submit any lobbying letters in respects to the level of Council Tax during Q2 2021/22.
BSF1.7	Lobby for a fairer distribution of government funding and more devolution of funding to councils to sustain essential local services	Narrative report detailing lobbying activity over the period and any successes occurring as a result	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Policy and Programmes	The Vale did not submit any lobbying letters in respects of either the fairer distribution of HM Government funding or financial devolution during Q2 2021/22.

## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
PROGRAMME 2	<b>Make effective use of the council's assets acting in a manner that ensures the long-term financial viability for the benefit of our residents and the environment</b>	Narrative report on the progress of the Strategic Property review and other relevant initiatives		Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Vale approved the Strategic Property Review (SPR) in September. It will go before Full Council in October.  The Council's Asset Management Group is scheduled to meet during Q3 2021/22 where it will agree its Terms of Reference and establish a work programme.
BSF2.1	Develop a comprehensive and ethical Procurement Policy that reflects our corporate goals and aims	Narrative update reporting on completion of activity and an annual review of success	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Finance	The Vale's new procurement policy has been finalised and submitted. It will go before Cabinet for approval on 1 October.
BSF2.2	Conduct a Strategic Property Review to identify opportunities to enhance, redevelop, transfer the council's assets to maximise income and/or benefit to the district	Narrative report on the progress of the SPR	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Vale approved the Strategic Property Review (SPR) in September.  The Council's Asset Management Group is scheduled to meet during Q3 2021/22 where it will agree its Terms of Reference and establish a work programme.
BSF2.3	Complete an asset management plan to provide a comprehensive policy to inform how assets may be most efficiently maintained	Narrative report on progress of this within the SPR	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Vale approved the Strategic Property Review (SPR) in September.  The Council's Asset Management Group is scheduled to meet during Q3 2021/22 where it will agree its Terms of Reference and establish a work programme.  The Asset Management Plan has not been completed. It will emerge from the ongoing, but not yet advanced, Corporate Landlord Work.

## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
BSF2.4	Undertake a full review of all leases and licences to ensure council income is collected when due and maximised	Narrative report on progress of this within the SPR	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	The full review of the Council's leases and licences was completed during Q1 2021/22.
BSF2.5	Undertake a detailed review of the financial position of the Beacon in Wantage and determine what changes to its operations can be made to improve its viability	Narrative update on the review of financial position of the Beacon	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Corporate Services	During Q2 2021/22, work has progressed on an internal review of budget spend at the Beacon. This will be used to inform any immediate savings that could be reflected in the 2022/23 budget. The review has considered the impact of lockdown and is currently considering the appointment of external consultants to draw up a commercial options appraisal.
BSF2.6	Insourcing our grounds maintenance and public conveniences contracts to save funds and increase flexibility over how our public spaces are used and managed	Narrative update on the activities of the new insourced team and the initiatives being undertaken	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Housing and Environment	No progress to report Q2 2021/22

## THEME 5: WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

### Strategic Lead – Adrianna Partridge and Suzanne Malcolm – Deputy Chief Executives

#### We will:

- work in partnership with other councils, authorities and businesses, non-profit organisations, community and residents' groups, to achieve our aims and objectives effectively, efficiently and fairly
- provide support to residents and organisations to effect and drive change in the community
- provide all the support we can to businesses in the Vale to help them succeed.

#### We will do this by:

- working in partnership to influence and shape regional and national agendas to maximise opportunities for our communities and businesses
- working with and supporting our residents, businesses and communities to effect and enable change.



### Key Activities in Q2:

To progress the Council's aim to work in partnership to influence and shape regional and national agendas, this Quarter the Vale worked in partnership to input into collaborative responses to the Government's Oxford-Cambridge Arc Spatial Framework Consultation as part of their representation on the Arc Leadership Group and The Future Oxfordshire Partnership. This ensured that the Vale (in combination with others) had a strong voice in the response, coming from a multi-organisational level. During Q2 we have responded to 12 consultations in total, compared to 7 in Q1 (please see chart WIP1.2). These related to Planning, Waste, Legal and Democratic and Insight and Policy services.

During Q2 work started on a mapping and review exercise to identify all boards the Council have a seat on, the councillor representatives and supporting officers assigned to them along with the council policy position for the relevant board. This work will ensure we are using our representation to maximum impact and effect.



Additionally, to provide support to businesses in the Vale in help them succeed, up to the end of Q2 2021/22, the Economic Development team paid out £3,979,398 to businesses from the Vale's Additional Restrictions Grant Fund allocation (see chart WIP1.4). The Council also launched an Autumn Business Survey to inform future grant assistance. The findings will help shape support going forwards and ensure that the Council meets the need of local businesses.

This Quarter the Council's work to support our residents, businesses and communities to effect and enable change, saw three new neighbourhood plans endorsed at referendum. This brought the total number of plans in effect and carrying full weight in decision making in Vale to 15. This will also further the Council's commitment to strongly support our neighbourhood planning groups in developing a shared vision for their area.

During Q2, the Vale has also made progress in providing support to organisations to effect and drive change in the community, through the successful launch of a community lottery in September. It already has over 400 supporters – which should generate approximately £29,000 of income for the local voluntary and community sector.

Four Planning Committee meetings were held between July and September 2021, for a total of 509 online views on the planning portal, compared to 256 in Q1 (see chart WIP2.3).

## Performance Measures

Chart B WIP1.2: Number of consultations responded to by quarter

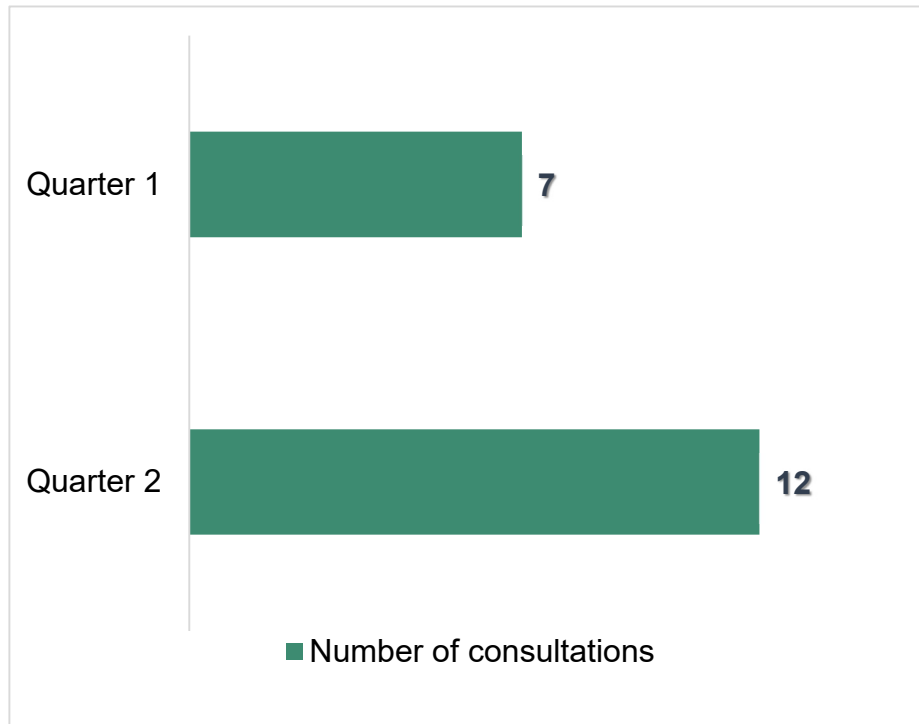


Chart C WIP1.4: Financial support distributed to SME (Small and medium-sized enterprises)

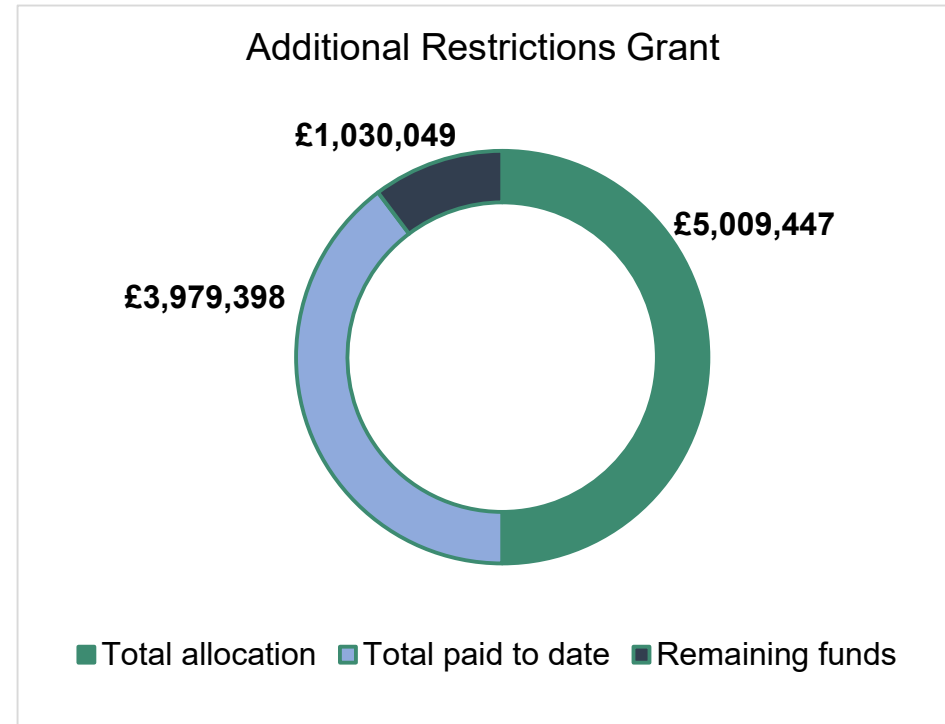
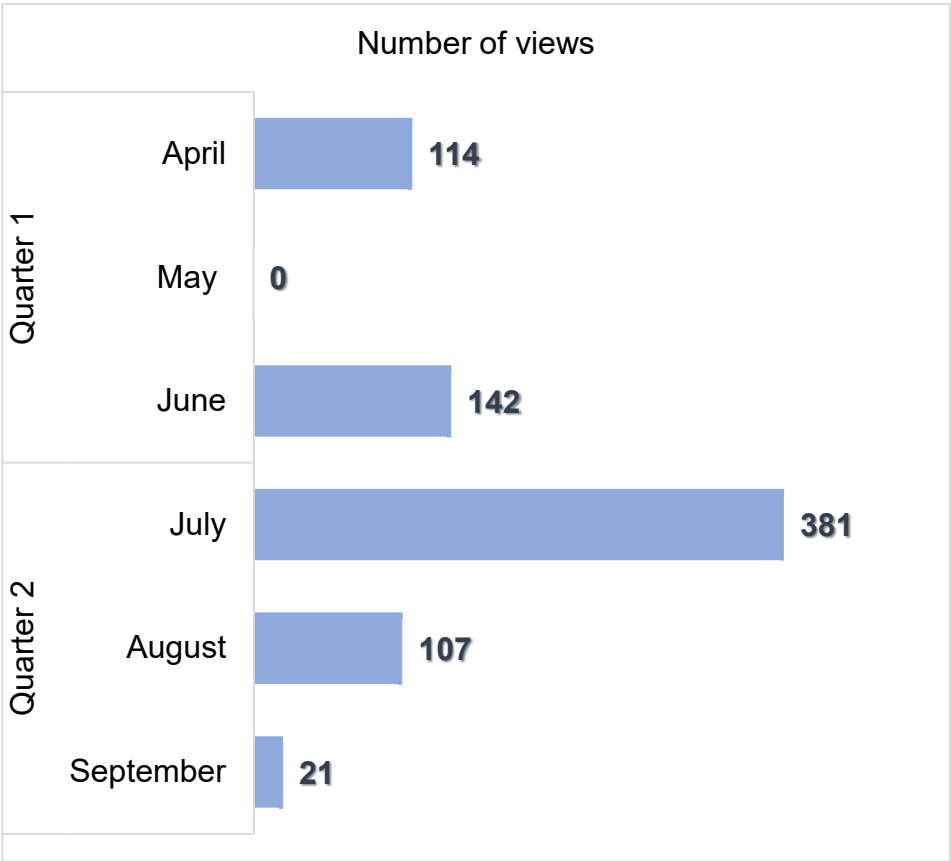


Chart D WIP2.3: Number of Planning Committee meetings and online engagement figures (as at 1/10/21)



## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
PROGRAMME 1	Work in partnership to influence and shape regional and national agendas to maximise opportunities for our communities and businesses	Narrative report on work with partners across the organisation which will maximise opportunities for communities and businesses		Head of Policy and Programmes	During Q2 2021/22, officers prepared a response to the Oxford-Cambridge Arc Spatial Framework Consultation. The consultation was seeking to understand priorities to help inform a vision for the area. It asked for people to consider what they want from the Arc and how they consider the importance of environmental, economic, connectivity and infrastructure and place-making considerations. The Vale also worked in partnership to input into responses as part of their representation on the Arc Leadership Group and The Future Oxfordshire Partnership.
WIP1.1	Create a partnerships protocol. Map our current partnerships and assess the effectiveness of each. clarify which local, regional, and national partnerships Vale needs to have an active presence in and focus resource accordingly.	Narrative update on the position of this work and an annual review after its completion	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Policy and Programmes	A draft Partnerships Protocol is being finalised for use in exploring future strategic partnerships for the Vale. During Q2 to support the Vale in achieving an active presence on partnership boards work has started on a list containing all boards we have a seat on, the councillor representatives and supporting officers assigned to them, and the council policy position for the relevant board to ensure we are using our representation to maximum impact and effect, this will be appending to the protocol once launched.
WIP1.2	Develop an enhanced consultations strategy and process to ensure we respond to consultations and proactively lobby national government and other bodies on matters that impact our corporate priorities	<p>Narrative update on proactive work to lobby govt and key organisations, update on key consultations responded to within the period.</p> <p>Quantitative -- Number of consultations replied to.</p>	Cllr Neil Fawcett	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>As of Q2 2021/22, there have been 12 consultations processed across the Planning, Legal and Democratic, Waste and Insight and Policy services. Insight and Policy continue to strengthen the council's voice in responses by ensuring consistency and reducing duplication. Please see Chart B WIP1.2. page 43.</p> <p>During Q3 2021/22, further work is planned to assess and measure the impacts of the Vale's submissions into consultations. It is of note for example, that three responses were submitted by the Vale into the Oxford-Cambridge Arc Spatial Framework consultation. Two of the responses were in partnership through the Future Oxfordshire Partnership and the Arc Leadership group – a review will take place during Q3 as to whether there was sufficient value added to dedicate resources to producing a third council response to supplement the partnership responses or if we want to approach future consultations differently.</p>

## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project Description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
WIP1.3	Create a framework that sets out how we will engage with developers, other councils, and members to maximise opportunities for our priorities to shape development	Narrative update on the work of planning and engagement activity	Cllr Judy Roberts	Masterplanning Lead	<p>Regular meetings have been established and held with land promoters/developers in order for the Vale to maximise opportunities to shape the future development of the district. Discussions have also been held with both Oxfordshire County Council (in terms of strategic infrastructure) and Homes England (in relation to the Garden Village initiative and potential site acquisitions).</p> <p>Meetings have also been held with councillors. This has allowed them to raise issues, state their aspirations, input their opinions and provide updates on third party engagement.</p> <p>This framework of coordinated activity has proven to be productive, and the intention is for it to continue.</p>
WIP1.4	Work with businesses to undertake economic development review to ensure that council is providing support to SMEs, homebased businesses, supporting skills development, and ensuring that businesses are playing a role in place making	<p>A narrative report of activity to undertake an economic development review and details of how the Council is supporting SME's at this time.</p> <p>Quantitative information from CRM detailing number of businesses engaged with</p>	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>Up to the end of Q2 2021/22, the Economic Development team paid out £3,979,398 to businesses from the Vale's Additional Restrictions Grant Fund allocation. Please see Chart C WIP1.4. page 43.</p> <p>On 7 September, the Council launched an Autumn Business Survey which will help to inform future grant assistance. An internal data report on its findings will be made available during Q3 2021/22.</p> <p>In addition, 28 new learner groups have been added to the IDEA programme by Economic Development. This should equate to 200 new users improving their digital skills in the next academic year.</p> <p>Across South and Vale, there are a potential 15 Community Employment Plans in the pipeline. These are managed by Economic Development in partnership with OxLEP.</p>

## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project Description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
WIP1.5	Strengthen any existing network of local business groups to increase awareness of the council's ED programmes and communication throughout the district	Detail engagement with small business newsletter, number of recipients, clickthrough	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>Economic Development have commissioned three new covid-safe networking groups using Contain Outbreak Management funding. These will enable businesses to more easily access Council information and support over the winter period.</p> <p>Following a data cleanse, the newsletter subscription circulation list was reduced to 2,266. A total of 15,541 newsletters were sent in Q2, resulting in 7,476 reads, and 1285 click throughs. The newsletter retains a healthy open (47 per cent) and clickthrough rate compared to industry averages.</p> <p>Twitter profile visits were up 531 per cent in September (with a total of 1055 profile visits). As a result of the Eco Business Fair engagement with live tweeting activity, we have 12 new followers and 72 new mentions.</p> <p>Economic Development communications via the website and newsletter will undergo a refresh in Q3 to enable a more user focused approach.</p>
WIP1.6	Input into countywide and Arc-wide economic recovery plans to maximise understanding of the local impact of Covid-19 and to help shape the support available to our local economy	Narrative update on activity supporting WIP 1.5	Cllr Neil Fawcett	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>The Council provides weekly business intelligence reports to OxLEP. This information feeds into both the Oxfordshire and the Department for Business, Energy &amp; Industrial Strategy economic recovery plans. In addition, officers attend meetings of the Oxfordshire Economic Recovery Task Group and Oxfordshire Business Support.</p>



## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project Description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
WIP1.7	Work with Oxfordshire County Council to introduce civil parking enforcement for the Vale	Narrative update on progress in this area, if impacts are seen in other areas as a result of this activity, those impacts should be included (PnD parking income for example)	Cllr Neil Fawcett	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) is on track to commence on 1 November 2021. This will be a soft launch, where in the first instance advisory notes will be issued rather than Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs).</p> <p>As part of the new CPE implementation, the first meeting of the steering group of lead members and officers has been scheduled for early October. This group is intended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•support the initial roll out of the project across South, Vale and Cherwell.</li> <li>•make strategic decisions to steer CPE and on-going management and parking strategies.</li> <li>•create a cohesive and consistent approach to on-street parking across the districts.</li> </ul>
PROGRAMME 2	Work with and support our residents, businesses and communities to effect and enable change	<p>Narrative update on work with Parish Councils, particularly relating to the transfer of management of assets. Update on other activity that directly supports residents and business effecting change.</p> <p>Quantitative elements - number of neighbourhood plans adopted, number of community initiatives undertaken, breakdown of assets where management has been transferred</p>		Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2 2021/22, a review of the town and parish forum events that took place earlier this year was completed. Work is now ongoing to collate a learning document, which will be used to plan for enhanced delivery of events in the future. In addition, progress has been made on draft communications plans for the Vale's climate and housing corporate priorities.</p> <p>Three new neighbourhood plans were endorsed at referendum during the quarter. This brought the total number of plans in effect and carrying full weight in decision making in Vale to 15. Once a Neighbourhood Plan has been made, the Neighbourhood Planning Group will be invited to attend a workshop with planning officers.</p>

## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project Description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
WIP2.1	Support new business start-ups and support schemes for businesses and residents through post Covid-19 economic recovery initiatives, by implementing the "Opening Up High Streets Safely Fund" and associated schemes	Narrative update on support schemes for businesses and residents. Updates on any relevant schemes should be included	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>The 'Reopening High Streets Safely Fund' project has progressed through the Gateway 1 stage of the project management process.</p> <p>The Council distributed a further 19 Start Your Own Business Guides during Q2.</p> <p>A Contain Outbreak Management Fund backed tender has been awarded by Economic Development to deliver an ecommerce site for South and Vale based independent retailers. This will enable cross-selling and delivery consolidation and help to encourage high street business resilience. In addition, the scheme will enable residents to easily support local businesses through an accessible portal offering effective, consolidated delivery options.</p>
WIP2.2	Find ways to elevate the understanding of and promote Neighbourhood Plans in planning decisions with a review of development appraisal and communications with all parties prior to an application coming to committee	<p>Narrative update on activity to support and promote Neighbourhood plan adoption.</p> <p>Quantitative measure - number of Neighbourhood plans adopted</p>	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Planning	<p>In line with reporting in Q1 2021/22, internal planning communications confirm new neighbourhood plans and the significant weight they carry when determining planning applications. All relevant parish councils are informed of the Council's decision to make Neighbourhood Plans and webpages are updated accordingly.</p> <p>Three new neighbourhood plans were endorsed at referendum in Q2. This brought the total number of plans in effect and carrying full weight in decision making in Vale to 15. Once a Neighbourhood Plan has been made, the Neighbourhood Planning Group will be invited to attend a workshop with planning officers.</p>

## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project Description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
WIP2.3	Review the planning committee process to identify ways to maximise public understanding, engagement and participation as well as supporting member input into the committee meetings with opportunities for training and development	<p>Narrative update on activities to review and promote the activities and understanding of the planning committee.</p> <p>Quantitative elements - Online engagement figures relating to the planning portal/planning sections of the website.</p>	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Planning	<p>During Q2 2021/22, the weekly briefings with the Chair of the Planning Committee continued. Call-in requests from members are also reviewed every week with the both the Chair and the Vice Chair. In addition, the Cabinet Member, the Chair and the Vice Chair receive monthly monitoring reports of the Committee's decisions.</p> <p>Four Committee meetings were held between July and September 2021. (07/07/21 received 69 views. 28.07.21 received 312 views, 08.07.21 received 107 views, 29.09.21 received 21 views.). Please see Chart D WIP2.3. page 44.</p> <p>In order to improve the openness and transparency of their work, the Chair has requested a review of the format and content of the reports that are brought before the Planning Committee.</p> <p>Training for councillors in relation to planning has been scheduled for Q3 2021/22.</p>
WIP2.4	Review developer contribution collection and spend policy and improve ward member and parish council involvement with a clear timetable that is triggered by officers, with improved communication from the council	<p>A narrative update on activities relating to the spend of CIL</p> <p>Quantitative element - Breakdown of CIL spend by type/amount/area</p>	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>An updated CIL charging schedule has been approved by council and will come into effect from 1 November 2021.</p> <p>The October release of CIL funds for parish councils is underway and those that are due CIL funding will receive their payment at end of October. The total amount of funds to be transferred is £381,509.94. This process has been communicated to all eligible parish councils and officers are available to respond to queries on how their allocations can be used.</p>
WIP2.5	Refresh our community grants scheme and introduce a Community Lottery to raise funds for groups to develop in line with our corporate objectives	Narrative report on activity relating to new community grants, information relating to the implementation of the Community Lottery, and once implemented performance metrics	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Corporate Services	<p>In September, the Vale successfully launched a community lottery. Around 50 good causes have registered, and it already has over 400 supporters – who should generate approximately £29,000 of income for the local voluntary and community sector.</p> <p>In addition, the Council has also reviewed its Partnership Grants Scheme and agreed to commission information and advice services across the district from 2023/24.</p>

## THEME 6: WORKING IN AN OPEN AND INCLUSIVE WAY

### Strategic Lead – Adrianna Partridge- Deputy Chief Executive – Transformation and Operations

We will:

- work openly and transparently, promoting a world in which all can participate equally
- listen to feedback from local residents, communities, businesses, partners and our own officers
- ensure our work particularly aims to include those groups that have historically been marginalised or those that have been hard to reach
- ensure we are accountable and that our decisions are open to appropriate scrutiny, and we will admit when we get things wrong.

We will do this by:

- improving our use of technology to increase understanding and access to what we do, how we work and the decisions we make
- increasing meaningful engagement and communication with everyone
- strengthening our governance framework and address our policy gaps, improving transparency.



### Key Activities in Q2:

In line with the Council's aim to increase meaningful engagement and communication with everyone, work has begun this Quarter on a Connecting Communities Strategy and a council wide Communications Strategy. Draft communications plans are also underway to support the Council's climate and housing corporate priorities.

In Q2 all public Council meetings were livestreamed and then later uploaded to YouTube, supporting the accessibility of Council meetings for residents.

To develop the Council's commitment to promoting a world in which all can participate equally, in Q2 the Council ran several campaigns and activities, such as Litterbugs and Xplorer events, to inspire people to get outdoors, get active and help the environment. The Council also undertook a marketing exercise to encourage people safely back to the district's towns and villages after lockdown restrictions. This campaign was shortlisted for the Best Covid Campaign award by the Chartered Institute of Public Relations.

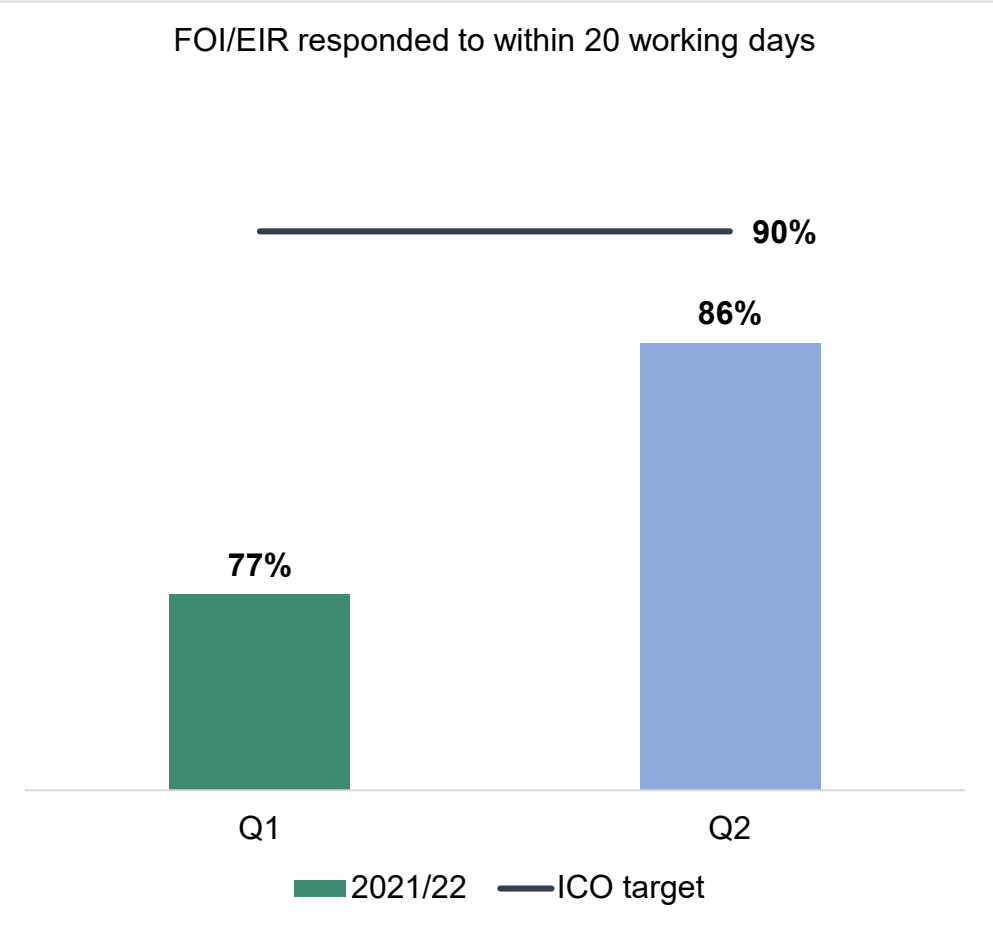
This Quarter, Vale received 151 Freedom of Information (FOI) and Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) contacts. 86% of these were responded to within the target time of 20 working days; this is up 9% on Q1 (see chart WIOI3.4).

We commenced the recruitment process to fill the vacant Consultation and Engagement Lead Officer role. The role will reinstate residents' surveys in a refreshed form, deliver effective ways for the public to have their say, increase reach, create mechanisms for feedback, implement more timely dialogue and educate and provide subject matter information to facilitate informed decision making.

In Q2 progress was made on developing our use of technology to increase understanding and access to what we do, how we work and the decisions we make with the implementation of several additional measures relating to the accessibility of the council's websites. Having applied Google Analytics to our online systems, we will be able to monitor usage from Q3 onwards.

Progress has also been made on a key part of the Council's governance framework this Quarter. A policy and strategy library has been created which will allow officers, councillors and residents a central directory to look up policies or strategies. The library will show the Corporate Plan theme that the policy or strategy links to, its owner, where it sits within the council's policy and strategy hierarchy, and any dependencies on other policies or strategies. This will be a key document in identifying any policy gaps. This work will progress throughout Q3, with the facilitation of engagement with relevant Cabinet leads on the next steps for this area of work.

**Chart E WIOI3.4: Proportion of FOI/EIR responded to within 20 working days compared to ICO target**





## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
PROGRAMME 1	Improve our use of technology to increase understanding and access to what we do, how we work and the decisions we make.	Narrative update on any work relating to technological implementation/adaptation and processes making greater use of existing technology to bring about efficiency or increase accessibility.	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Corporate Services	Our new digital communications lead has undertaken work to establish take up of our online services. This will provide benchmark data and enable the Council to identify opportunities for improvement and a further channel shift/self-service. To aid this work, we have implemented a new cookies control system that allows us to use Google Analytics. This will allow us to monitor online service usage from Q3 onwards.
WIO11.1	Provide and maintain a new Vale website with increased accessibility to services and information, on multiple devices	Quantitative report on website usage	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Corporate Services	Vale have implemented changes to the website to ensure we now meet the government's WCAG 2.0 AA standards, including making it easier to navigate the sites using a keyboard, changing colours to make it easier to read for anyone visually impaired, and improving hyperlinks so users can navigate the site better. We've also updated our accessibility statement, which is available on every webpage, so that anyone can find out how accessible our website is, which elements are not accessible and why, and what users can do if they require additional support. Having applied Google Analytics to our online systems, we will be able to monitor usage from Q3 onwards.
WIO11.2	Develop our use of social media platforms to reach and engage with more residents and local businesses	<p>Narrative report on new social media initiatives</p> <p>Quantitative report on social media engagement</p>	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Corporate Services	<p>During Q2 2021/22, the Vale's new Digital Communications Lead Officer commenced a project to review and improve our approach to social media; so far, the lead officer has carried out an audit of social media output, identified improvements and begun designing a training programme for the communications team to optimise content.</p> <p>In Q2, the council's posts reached the following number of people across our three main channels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Twitter - 199k impressions</li> <li>• Facebook - 105k reach</li> <li>• Instagram - Vale 595 reach</li> </ul>

WIO1.3	Introduce live streaming and recordings of public meetings to increase accessibility and understanding of the democratic process	<p>Number/Percentage of public meetings streamed live</p> <p>Number/percentage of public meetings available to watch online</p>	Cllr Emily Smith	Head of Corporate Services	<p>During Q2 2021/22, all public Council meetings were livestreamed and then later uploaded to YouTube (15 meetings for the period – including those of the planning and licensing committees – are currently viewable).</p> <p>Monthly strategic communications meetings were held with the Cabinet Member and the Leader of the Council to ensure proactive handling of committee decisions.</p>
WIO1.4	Review the current use of online surveys assessing their take up over time, and by subject, as well as reviewing survey design	Narrative update on survey utilisation/progress towards this review/details of any particularly successful surveys	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Corporate Services	A recruitment process has been agreed to fill the vacant Consultation and Engagement Lead Officer role. Once appointed, they will take this work forward.

## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
PROGRAMME 2	Increase meaningful engagement and communication with everyone	Narrative update on successful communication initiatives		Head of Corporate Services	<p>Work has begun on a Connecting Communities Strategy and a council wide Communications Strategy. Draft communications plans are also underway to support the council's climate and housing corporate priorities.</p> <p>Between July and September, the Council sent out 3 Town and Parish updates. It also sent 31 messages to town and parish councils including press releases and specific updates on issues such as garden waste and the Women's Cycling Tour.</p>
WIOI2.1	Ensure the creation of community liaison groups form part of all early stages of development planning, to understand local infrastructure needs and support community cohesion	<p>Narrative update on the creation and utilisation of community liaison groups and the development of the policy</p> <p>Quantitative measure - number of community liaison groups</p>	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Corporate Services	No progress to report Q2 2021/22
WIOI2.2	Refresh Town and Parish Forums so they are more interactive and useful for communities and develop the Connecting Communities Policy	Narrative update on Town and Parish Forums and the development of the connected communities policy	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Corporate Services	A review of the town and parish forum events that took place earlier this year has been completed. Work is now ongoing to collate a learning document. A draft framework for the Connecting Communities Strategy has also been developed.

## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
WIOI2.3	Work with communities, schools and other local organisations on shared campaigns and initiatives that help further our corporate objectives	Narrative update on comms and engagement activities which interface with communities, schools and other local organisations	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Corporate Services	<p>During Q2 2021/22, Vale ran campaigns and activities (including the Big Green Week, Litterbugs and Xplorer events) to inspire people to get outdoors, get active and help the environment. The Council also undertook a marketing exercise to encourage people safely back to the district's towns and villages – this was finalised for a CIPR award for Best Covid Campaign.</p> <p>Throughout the quarter, work also continued on supporting system wide and national behaviour campaigns to tackle the pandemic. This included encouraging people to get jabbed, take LFR and PCR tests and if necessary self-isolate.</p> <p>Vale have also worked with neighbouring local authorities within Oxfordshire to promote air quality work. This has included launching a new air quality website.</p>
WIOI2.4	Reinstating residents' surveys in a refreshed form - deliver effective ways for the public to have their say, to reach more people, mechanisms for feedback, more timely dialogue, educate and provide subject matter information to facilitate opinions being more informed	Narrative update to be provided on the progress of this work	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Corporate Services	A recruitment process has been agreed to fill the vacant Consultation and Engagement Lead Officer role. Once appointed, they will take this work forward.
WIOI2.5	Explore initiatives to increase voter registration and turnout levels at elections, especially amongst young people	Narrative update on individual initiatives and opportunities to encourage voter registration	Cllr Emily Smith	Head of Corporate Services	No progress to report Q2 2021/22

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
WIOI2.6	Ensure council's consultations engage specifically with young people and other under-represented groups	A narrative report with input from the engagement/comms teams and the equalities officer on activity to encourage these groups	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Corporate Services	A recruitment process has been agreed to fill the vacant Consultation and Engagement Lead Officer role. Once appointed, they will take this work forward.
PROGRAMME 3	Strengthen our governance framework and address our policy gaps, improving transparency	Narrative update on policies/strategies currently in development/awaiting approval/recently approved.		Head of Policy and Programmes	During Q2 2021/22, progress has been made on a key part of the council's governance framework. A policy/strategy library has been created which will allow officers, councillors and residents, a central directory to look up policies or strategies. The library will show the Corporate Plan theme that the policy/strategy links to, its owner, where it sits within the council's policy/strategy hierarchy, and any dependencies on other policies/strategies. This will be a key document in identifying any policy gaps. Engagement with relevant Cabinet leads on this matter is likely to take place in Q3 2021/22.
WIOI3.1	Work to adopt new CIPFA financial management code to enhance our financial governance	Narrative update detailing the elements of the code which have been implemented, which are underway, and which are yet to be started	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Finance	No progress to report Q2 2021/22
WIOI3.2	Council reporting and decision-making templates to include impact on the climate emergency	Narrative update on significant decisions which have key environmental considerations, additionally any updates to key policies which have a focus on the climate emergency	Cllr Debby Hallett	Head of Legal and Democratic	<p>A meeting has taken place with the Insight and Policy team to discuss how Vale can best assess climate implications. Potential suggestions include a screening toolkit and the introduction of climate impact assessments. Work to develop these is in progress.</p> <p>In addition, contact has been made with Stroud District Council. They are widely recognised as trailblazers in relation to climate action work.</p> <p>Climate implications should – as a matter of course – be included in all the Council's reports.</p>

## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
WIO13.3	Review the council's constitution and scheme of delegation annually	Narrative update with the outcome of the review	Cllr Emily Smith	Head of Legal and Democratic	<p>The Constitution Working group is scheduled to be convened to discuss and agree a work plan of issues.</p> <p>In addition, the Council's Monitoring Officer has been advising on the use of exemptions in reports. This is to help ensure that the Vale is as open and transparent in its decision-making processes as possible.</p> <p>Training on governance and good decision making for councillors and officers is planned for Q3 2021/22.</p>
WIO13.4	Increase and improve publicly available information – e.g.- code of conduct complaints (decision noted) FOIs (responses), corporate complaints (data)Improve accessibility of corporate information through publishing on our website	<p>Narrative update on relevant reviews/newly available information/website improvements and metrics</p> <p>Quantitative - FOI/Complaints data</p>	Cllr Emily Smith	Head of Corporate Services	<p>Freedom of Information (FOI) and Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) contact with the Council remains high. In Q2 2021/22, Vale received 151 FOI/EIRs. 86% of these were responded to within the target time of 20 working days. This is up 9% on Q1. The ICO target is 90%. Please see Chart E WIO13.4. page 53.</p> <p>There were 27 stage one complaints between July - September, 6 stage two and 3 referred to the Local Government Ombudsman.</p>

## Individual Cabinet Member Decisions - 01 July – 30 September 2021

Date	Description
09/07/2021	UK Resettlement Scheme
15/07/2021	Test and Trace support payments – amended criteria
30/07/2021	Great Western Park – transfer of open space
10/08/2021	Local Plan Governance Arrangements
10/08/2021	Local Plan Governance Arrangements – appendix
18/08/2021	Afghan Locally Employed Staff Resettlement Scheme
01/09/2021	UK Resettlement Scheme
05/09/2021	Insurance Services Contract
08/09/2021	Car Park Order
20/08/2021	S106 Funding for Northern Neighbourhood Park at Great Western Park
01/09/2021	Joint Statement of Community Involvement
17/09/2021	Faringdon Leisure Centre AstroTurf pitch and Car Park Project
20/09/2021	Appleton with Eaton Neighbourhood Plan
21/09/2021	Chilton Neighbourhood Plan
21/09/2021	West Hanney Neighbourhood Plan
23/09/2021	Banking Contract
29/09/2021	Increased Participation in the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme
<b>TOTAL: 17</b>	



## COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

Covid-19 has been an unprecedented challenge which required the Council to react quickly to changing circumstances, in order to support local businesses, the economy, the voluntary and community sector and local residents. We have worked hard to maintain essential services whilst redeploying staff to new areas of work to help deal with the crisis. The Council developed a Community Hub team during the pandemic to work effectively with voluntary sector partners and volunteers.

This team continue to collaborate with our partners at a County-wide level, including close coordination and good communication between the County, City and District Councils, with the NHS and OxLEP, to support vulnerable people and encourage vaccination uptake in the district. Q2 saw a steep increase in the number of test and trace payments made to residents in the district, administered by the Revenues and Benefits Team. The increase was due to a spike in the number of cases of Covid and the number of people asked to isolate. Nationally, the phenomenon became known at the time as the 'pingdemic'. Please see chart F. page 61.

### COVID-1 COMMUNITY HUB SUPPORT DISTRIBUTED BETWEEN 01 JULY AND 30 SEPTEMBER 2021:



**Chart F: Number of Test and Trace Payments made to self-isolating residents**

