



# Strategic Performance Report

Quarter Four 2021/22

May 2022

# CONTENTS

STRATEGIC CONTEXT .....	4
PERFORMANCE SUMMARY .....	6
THEME 1. PROVIDING THE HOMES PEOPLE NEED .....	7
THEME 2: TACKLING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY .....	13
THEME 3: BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES.....	21
THEME 4: BUILDING STABLE FINANCES .....	30
THEME 5: WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP.....	36
THEME 6: WORKING IN AN OPEN AND INCLUSIVE WAY .....	45
COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY .....	53

## 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 Q4 (1 January to 31 March 2022), 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 fourth 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

Domination of the news this quarter was the devastating invasion of Ukraine by Russia, The war in Ukraine has caused a humanitarian crisis and by 23 March, there were over six million internally displaced people and over two million people had sought refuge in Poland.<sup>1</sup> In response to the invasion, the Vale of White Horse District Council expressed that it stood with the people of Ukraine and committed to helping “in any way we can.” HM Government condemned the Russian government’s war against Ukraine and put into action a range of economic, humanitarian and defensive military assistance to Ukraine. The Government launched a Homes for Ukraine scheme on 14 March for those who do not have family in the UK. This scheme offers the opportunity for individuals in the UK to sponsor named guests to come and live with them in their home. In practice this scheme offers an avenue for fostering the community spirit and desire to help those in need that we see so much of in our district. In conducting accommodation and safeguarding checks, as well as providing advice and referrals to support services, the Council is part of a system-wide response to this scheme. Building on the recognised and successful partnership working arrangements developed through the response to the Covid-19 pandemic. This scheme and the associated response happened at pace over this quarter and the Council’s support to those affected by the war will continue as needed, into the next reporting year 2022/23.

In tandem, this quarter has additionally been marked with national headlines of economic hardship, with the Office for National Statistics reporting that inflation was at a 30 year high after rising at an annual rate of 7% in March, up from 5.5% in January. This surge has been driven by soaring global prices for energy, petrol, food and durable goods. These issues demonstrate the need for an adaptive and responsive council response to support the most vulnerable in our districts. The Council’s Community Hub continued to offer practical support and advice to residents this quarter and distributed grants to residents in need of help with purchase of essentials, such as food, clothing, and utilities, following the government’s announcement of the Household Support Fund. This quarter the Council adopted its Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2022-24, which brings to the forefront the importance of sourcing alternative, renewable energy sources and supporting a transition to increased electric vehicle usage across the district. The CAP also recognises that climate action brings co-benefits to health and wellbeing and opportunities for economic growth.

Additionally, March of this quarter saw the release of the Chancellor’s Spring Statement, which outlined measures designed to combat the soaring costs of fuel, energy and food. Among the announcements were a raising of the threshold for paying National Insurance, a 5p cut to fuel duty and an extension of the Household Support Fund for councils to provide targeted welfare support to low-income households. In a letter to the Chancellor before the Statement, LGA Chairman Cllr James Jamieson warned that rising inflation and energy prices made the financial settlement for councils in 2022/23 “more challenging”.

---

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs



This quarter data was released which revealed that UK house price rises surpassed wage growth in over 90 per cent of England and Wales last year, according to data from the Office for National Statistics. Figures showed that a home in England now typically costs an average of 9.1 times earnings, an increase on 7.9 times earnings in 2020 and up from just 3.5 times in 1997. Providing the homes people need in the Vale is a key priority for the Council. The Council is in part responding to these challenges through monitoring delivery and build of affordable properties in the district, the delivery of affordable homes in Vale of White Horse 2021/22 at 298 surpassed the years target of 250.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic continued into this quarter, following the significant rise of the Covid-19 variant Omicron, at the end of quarter three. In March this year, infections reached the highest level recorded since the beginning of the pandemic, as documented by the Office for National Statistics. However, the accelerated winter booster vaccination programme which started at the end of quarter three, alongside the opening of the spring booster programme for those most at risk at the end of this quarter, saw a reduction of risk of serious, life threatening, illness for those who contracted Covid-19. In February, the Prime Minister set out the Government's plans to live with and manage the virus and reiterated that vaccines will remain the first line of defence. All domestic legal restrictions ended on 24 February and the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test also ended this quarter. Self-isolation support payments and national funding for practical support ceased and by the end of the quarter, the general public were no longer able to access free symptomatic and asymptomatic testing. This is a milestone Government address and plan for many and is set to change the way in which residents' lives are impacted by Covid-19 and the Council's response, from the next reporting year, 2022/23.

# PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

## Providing the homes people need



**298** TOTAL NEW  
affordable homes were  
delivered this year

The Housing team completed **2 major** affordable housing projects, funded by grants from the Oxfordshire Growth Deal and Vale's committed s.106 sums

**£3 million** - the amount of budgeted capital expenditure we agreed to fund from our retained CIL receipts over next 5 years



## Working in partnership

**£45,000**

The amount secured by us to pilot a simpler approach to neighbourhood planning



**110**

The number of businesses who registered for our Digital Skills workshop events



**12,061**

The number of White Horse Lottery Community Scheme tickets sold

## Tackling the climate emergency



We adopted the **Vale Climate Action Plan**

We facilitated the planting of



**1500**

trees at Rye Farm Meadows

**5**

The number of car parks where we installed Electric Vehicle charging points



## Building stable finances



**£250,000**

The amount we identified for future transformation activity

We successfully recruited an **External Funding Lead** - this post will significantly enhance our ability to identify third party income



## Building healthy communities



**£25,000**

Additional funding we received from Sport England to help fund county wide project 'You Move', supporting low income families to become more active

**10KM**



Total distance of cycling and walking paths improved as part of Phase 1 of the Science Vale Active Travel network

## Working in an open and inclusive way



We ran **8** engagement activities which generated **329** responses

We ran **45** campaigns, issued **36** press releases and produced **8** newsletters to share important stories and information

**100%** of our public meetings were livestreamed and uploaded on YouTube

We saw a **36%** increase in our Facebook reach during Q4 2021/22



## 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 Q4:

To support our aim to find ways to provide more genuinely affordable housing in the Vale of White Horse, 298 new affordable homes were delivered during 2021/22 exceeding our target of 250.

Contracts were exchanged for two major affordable housing projects funded by commuted s.106 sums and grants from the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal. The Oxfordshire Community Land Trust and Heylo Housing will be receiving £304,000 and £366,400 respectively. Officers have also made plans to promote new applications for grant funding and are intending to update both the funding criteria and application process.

The acceleration of local infrastructural improvements continues. In February, the Council agreed to fund over £3 million of its budgeted capital expenditure from its retained Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts over the next five years. In March we held the first meeting of the newly constituted member/officer working group to consider CIL spending, which will inform infrastructure investments for 2022/23.

Development of a new Housing Strategy has started which will focus on key themes within Vale's Corporate Plan. It is anticipated that the realignment of services within Housing & Environment (including the creation of a Housing Delivery Manager role) will help to drive this work forward during 2022/23. The strategy will include quantitative measures regarding housing mix, tenure and affordability.

A public consultation on the new Joint Design Guide (JDG) was launched in January 2022. The JDG incorporates new guidance on zero and low carbon construction. During the quarter, the Vale's Climate Action Plan (CAP) was adopted by the Cabinet. This includes measures designed to encourage lower-carbon construction within the district. Following a successful public consultation, the Dalton Barracks Supplementary Planning Document (which creates the core principles for the site) will be considered for approval by Vale Cabinet on 8 April. This work supports our commitment to deliver innovative housing to meet our aims for high quality, low energy, zero-carbon homes.

A new policy framework to help deliver homes in a way that supports peoples' wellbeing and the environment continues to be developed through the Joint Local Plan and Oxfordshire Plan 2050. During the quarter, a report summarising the responses to the Oxfordshire Plan Regulation 18 (2) consultation was drafted and published for review. The scoping of new policies for inclusion in the Joint Local Plan has continued, including a Councillor Roundtable on the issue of climate change which was held in January. Work also continues on developing an agreed definition of true housing affordability, with the first major public consultation on the Joint Local Plan expected in Q1 2022/23.



## 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 Housing and Environment	<p>During Q4 2021/22 the possibility of using commuted s.106 funds to help secure additional affordable housing started to deliver results. Applications for grants are now being received from Registered Providers and Community Land Trusts where appropriate.</p> <p>With the quarter, the Housing team exchanged contracts for two major affordable housing projects which will utilise both commuted s.106 sums and grants from the Oxfordshire Growth Deal to help deliver additional affordable homes within the Vale (8 – from the Oxfordshire Community Land Trust, 45 – from Heylo Housing).</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	Master-planning Lead	<p>During Quarter 4 2021/22, good progress has been in discussions with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation about their masterplan proposals for Dalton Barracks Garden Village.</p> <p>Progress also continued to be made on the Central Abingdon Regeneration Framework. It is now moving towards the engagement and consultation stages.</p>
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 Housing and Environment	<p>During Q4 2021/22, officers from Housing continued to work with their colleagues in Planning to develop a new Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document. In addition, the Affordable Housing team engaged with the Planning Policy team regarding the definition of true affordability. This measure will be included in the new Joint Local Plan.</p>

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 Housing and Environment	A new Housing Strategy is currently being developed by the Council. This will not only focus on the issue of affordability but also key themes within the Vale's Corporate Plan (e.g. low or net zero carbon developments).
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	Narrative report on s106 spend, focusing on the stated aim and any updates to the existing strategy  Additional quantitative elements - s106 spend/units provided from spend	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Housing and Environment	During Q4 2021/22, the Housing team completed two major affordable housing projects funded by grants from both the Oxfordshire Growth Deal and Vale's commuted s.106 sums. The Oxfordshire Community Land Trust and Heylo Housing will be receiving £304,000 and £366,400 respectively to deliver additional affordable housing within the district.  Officers have also made plans to promote new applications for grant funding and are intending to update both the funding criteria and application process.
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 recommending additional mobile home berths at Pebble Hill went to Cabinet Briefing in March. Work on the next stage of this project has now commenced.
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 Policy and Programmes	Following a successful public consultation period during Q4, the Dalton Barracks Supplementary Planning Document (which creates the core principles for the site) will be considered for approval by Vale Cabinet on 8 April.
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 Policy and Programmes	During Q4 2021/22, a report summarising the responses to the Oxfordshire Plan Regulation 18 (2) consultation was drafted and published for review. Following several planned amendments – resulting from feedback from Scrutiny Committees across the county – this report will carry forward into Q1 2022/23.

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
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 Policy and Programmes	No progress to report Q4 2021/22 - project completed.
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	Narrative update on CIL spend to support the delivery of local infrastructure  Total CIL spend + CIL spend breakdown	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Finance	In February, the Vale agreed to fund over £3 million of its budgeted capital expenditure from its retained CIL receipts over the next five years.  In addition, the first meeting of the newly constituted member/officer working group to consider CIL spending was held in March.
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 Policy and Programmes	A public consultation on the new Joint Design Guide (JDG) was launched in January 2022. The JDG incorporates new guidance on zero and low carbon construction.  In addition, during Q4 2021/22, the Vale's Climate Action Plan (CAP) was adopted by the Cabinet. This includes measures designed to encourage lower-carbon construction within the district.
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 Housing and Environment	Progress on the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) slowed because of other work pressures during Q4 2021/22. The proposed public consultation is, therefore, likely to be delayed. Scoping work on the SPD will, nevertheless, recommence in Q1 2022/23.  Throughout 2021/22, the Vale achieved a total of 298 completions of new affordable homes and, thereby, exceeded our target for the year of 250.
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 Policy and Programmes	During Q4 2021/22, a report summarising the responses to the Oxfordshire Plan Regulation 18 (2) consultation was drafted and published for review. Following several planned amendments – resulting from feedback from Scrutiny Committees across the county – this report will carry forward into Q1 2022/23. (The development of the Joint Local Plan is closely following the progress being made in creating the Oxfordshire Plan 2050).

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 Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2021/22, the Future Oxfordshire Partnership Board considered the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy Phase 1 report.</p> <p>At the Joint Local Plan level, preparations are currently underway for launching – during Q1 2022/23 – an initial public consultation.</p>
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 Policy and Programmes	<p>At the strategic level, work continued on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 during Q4 2021/22. This included the drafting and publication of a report summarising the responses to the Oxfordshire Plan Regulation 18 (2) consultation. Following several planned amendments to this report – resulting from feedback from Scrutiny Committees across the county – it will carry forward into Q1 2022/23.</p> <p>At the Joint Local Plan level, scoping of new policies has continued to take place during Q4 2021/22 (for example, an All-Councillor Roundtable on the issue of climate change was held in January). Preparations are currently underway for launching – during Q1 2022/23 – the first major public consultation on the Joint Local Plan (this will include a chapter and questions on environmental and climate change matters).</p>
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 Housing and Environment	<p>A new Housing Strategy is currently being developed by the Council. This will focus on key themes within Vale's Corporate Plan. It is anticipated that the realignment of services within Housing &amp; Environment (including the creation of a Housing Delivery Manager role) will help to drive this work forward during 2022/23.</p> <p>Quantitative measures regarding housing mix, tenure and affordability will be determined during the strategy development process.</p>
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	<p>The target of creating an Active Travel Network Map of current and required coverage across the Vale has been transferred to the Community Wellbeing team. It will be included within the Active Communities Delivery Plan for 2022/23.</p>



## 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 Q4:

Quarter 4 saw the adoption of the Council's Climate Action Plan (CAP). The CAP will play an important part in achieving the Council's objective of becoming carbon neutral by 2030. Progress against the measures within the CAP will be reported to the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee and Cabinet each quarter from Q1 2022/23.

The Particulate Matter Monitor in Marcham was in operation throughout the quarter and has provided provisional data. There were no instances where levels of particulate matter in the air exceeded national air quality objectives.

Work has commenced on the Council's annual Air Quality Status Report. Funding to resource the development of new Air Quality Action Plan has been approved. Tender documents are being prepared to recruit air quality consultants to undertake this work.

Since the adoption of the Tree Planting on Council Owned Land Policy at the end of Q2 2021/22, the Council has received and approved two full applications. 1,500 trees were planted at Rye Farm Meadow, Abingdon and work at Memorial Park, Wantage is scheduled for 2022/23.

Further development of the Habitat Banking Pilot Scheme also took place over Q4, with proposals for the sale of Biodiversity Credits on land in the Vale. Forthcoming HM Government regulations and guidance on Biodiversity Net Gain will be crucial in determining the final design of the scheme.

During this quarter, the Council has continued to work with Concept Energy on assessments and plans for the decarbonisation of our leisure centres. Although this work has been delayed due to the availability of contractors, the Council now anticipates that the work for both Wantage Leisure Centre and White Horse Tennis and leisure centre will be completed by May.

Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points are being installed in five car parks in the Vale as part of the Oxfordshire wide "Park and Charge" project. They are due to be operational in May 2022.

The role of the Council as a planning authority is a key aspect of our role in tackling the climate emergency and is vital in the Vale's aspiration to be a carbon neutral district by 2045. Scoping of new policies for the Joint Local Plan continued throughout Q4. The Member Steering Group shaped this work through the input and feedback that they have provided throughout the quarter, including during an All-Councillor Roundtable on climate change held in January. The forthcoming public consultation on the Plan is expected in Q1 2022/23, to broaden the reach of the consultation we will also be sending it to climate action community groups across the district and the National Farmers Union (NFU) South East.

The work of the communications team has continued to be important in encouraging the wider Vale community to play their part in tackling the climate and biodiversity emergencies. Following its promotion of the Council's tree-cycling service and ideas for reducing waste in the new year, Communications highlighted both the Food Waste Action Week and the Keep Britain Tidy: Great British Spring Clean later in the quarter. Work to promote HM Government's Green Homes Grant scheme to residents was also undertaken. The team have also emphasised the Council's work in relation to the CAP, the EV 'Park and Charge' project, our tree planting work and the electric waste vehicle trial.

During Q4, the Council continued to influence neighbouring authorities on climate change and the environment through its membership of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership Environment Advisory Group, which held one formal meeting in March.

## Performance Measures

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
PROGRAMME 1	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 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 Q4 2021/22, the Vale continued to work with Concept Energy to bring together decarbonisation assessments and plans for both the Wantage Leisure Centre and the White Horse Tennis and Leisure Centre. There have, nevertheless, been difficulties in conducting the soft market testing for these assessments – this is because contractors have not had the availability, due to increased demand/workload, to provide cost estimates. This unfortunately has led to delays and forced Concept Energy to both subcontract the soft market testing to cost consultants and use book industry standard pricing in order to fulfil the original brief. The Council is now anticipating that the assessment for the Wantage Leisure Centre will be completed by the end of April (that for the White Horse Tennis and Leisure Centre is expected in May).</p> <p>The Vale does not currently have a timeframe for the launch of the next phase of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS).</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 Q4 2021/22, the Vale's Climate Action Plan (CAP) was adopted by the Cabinet. Following this decision, work has commenced on planning for its delivery. This has included the allocation of officers within the Climate team to support the delivery of projects in other service areas (so-called "project buddies") and preparatory work on how the Council will report on the progress made in delivering the CAP (a proof-of-concept design has been created and will be shared with relevant members and the CEAC Chair for early comments).</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 Q4 2021/22, the CEAC held one meeting (10 January). At this event, they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reviewed the Council's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report for 2021/22.</li> <li>• considered the Climate Action Plan (CAP) and recommended its adoption to the Cabinet.</li> <li>• assessed the Climate Action Fund (CAF) policy guidelines and recommended its adoption to the Cabinet.</li> <li>• received an update from the Climate and Environment portfolio holder on the successful tree planting on council land applications from Abingdon Carbon Cutters and Sustainable Wantage.</li> </ul>

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	The Tree Planting on Council Owned Land Policy represents a specific opportunity for the Vale to facilitate the improvement of open spaces within the district. Since its adoption at the end of Q2 2021/22, the Council has received two full applications – from Abingdon Carbon Cutters for a scheme on Rye Farm Meadow and from Sustainable Wantage (in partnership with Wantage Town Council) for a project at Memorial Park. After these were formally approved during Q4, planting at Rye Farm Meadow commenced (with future work at Memorial Park already scheduled). Further promotion of the scheme to encourage communities to come forward with tree planting proposals on council owned land was undertaken.
PROGRAMME 2	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 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>During Q4 2021/22, the Vale ran several successful comms campaigns and initiatives designed to increase awareness of the Climate Emergency and to help the community to reduce its carbon footprint. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a social media campaign on ideas to reduce waste.</li> <li>• the promotion of the Council's tree-cycling service in January.</li> <li>• a consultation on the Joint Design Guide.</li> <li>• the promotion of the EV Park and Charge project and the installation of EV chargers at some of our carparks.</li> <li>• the promotion of the Climate Action Plan.</li> <li>• the promotion of the Climate Action Fund.</li> <li>• social media posts on tree planting at Rye Farm Meadow.</li> <li>• a campaign around the electric waste vehicle trial.</li> <li>• the promotion of HM Government's Green Homes Grant to residents.</li> </ul>
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	The Climate Action Plan (CAP) was adopted during Q4 2021/22. This is a key delivery vehicle in achieving the Council's plans to deliver a zero carbon position for all Vale assets by 2030. Work has now commenced on both project delivery and on how progress will be monitored/reported.
TCE2.2	Introduce policies for zero carbon construction requirements	Narrative update on progress toward design guide implementation, transitioning into review of relevant	Cllr Catherine Webber	Head of Policy and Programmes	After an extensive consultation on the Joint Design Guide (JDG) during Q3 2021/22, this quarter saw officers undertake work to incorporate the feedback and comments harvested from this engagement exercise into the completion of the Guide. It is anticipated that the JDG will be adopted in Q1 2022/23.



		information/ developments in this area			
--	--	--	--	--	--

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 Policy and Programmes	During Q4 2021/22, the Planning Policy team developed the text – in which the themes of sustainable growth and the environment feature prominently – for the forthcoming consultation on the Joint Local Plan. The Member Steering Group helped to shape this work through the input and feedback that they have provided throughout the quarter.
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 Policy and Programmes	The scoping of new policies for the Joint Local Plan – including those related to climate change issues – have continued to take place during Q4 2021/22 (for example, an All-Councillor Roundtable on the subject of climate change was held in January). Preparations are currently underway for launching – during Q1 2022/23 – the first major public consultation on the Joint Local Plan (this will include a chapter and questions on climate change opportunities).
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 Vale's Climate Action Plan (CAP) was adopted during Q4 2021/22. It will be a key document in helping the Council to achieve its Climate Emergency targets. Progress against the measures within the CAP will be reported to the CEAC each quarter – starting in Q1 2022/23 – as part of our corporate performance management framework.
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	<p>Particulate Matter (PM) and Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) monitoring in Marcham continued throughout Q4 2021/22. Provisional air quality results (to date) show no exceedances in national air quality objectives for NO2, PM10 and PM2.5. (NB: This provisional data will need to be corrected and ratified at the end of the calendar year). This information is available in real time at <a href="https://www.airqualityengland.co.uk">https://www.airqualityengland.co.uk</a></p> <p>In addition, Defra also published their Annual Status Report template. Officers have now started work on compiling our report.</p>

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	A growth bid to resource the development of new Air Quality Action Plans has been approved as part of the 2022/23 budget setting process. Tender documents are currently being prepared to recruit air quality consultants to undertake this work.
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	During Q4 2021/22, the Habitat Banking Pilot Scheme has been further refined with proposals being developed for the sale of Biodiversity Credits on land in the Vale. The final shape and design of the Scheme is, however, yet to be determined – it will need to be further informed by forthcoming HM Government regulations and guidance on Biodiversity Net Gain.
PROGRAMME 3	A programme around exercising our influence with partners on wider policy, working with neighbouring authorities, lobbying Government and identifying environmental policy gaps	General Narrative update		Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2021/22, the Vale continued to influence neighbouring authorities on climate change and the environment through its membership of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership Environment Advisory Group. At the Group's meeting on 24 March, it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>discussed a county-wide climate communications project which will see a resident survey and website launched in Q1 2022/23.</li> <li>received an update on work on the Pathway to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire.</li> <li>listened to a presentation from OxTrees.</li> </ul>
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	The Vale's Climate Action Plan (CAP) was adopted during Q4 2021/22. It will be a key document in helping the Council to achieve its Climate Emergency targets. Progress against the measures within the CAP will be reported to the CEAC each quarter – starting in Q1 2022/23 – as part of our corporate performance management framework.

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
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	<p>The January 2022 recycling rate was 61.43% compared to the previous January rate of 63.40%.</p> <p>The February 2022 recycling rate was 61.17% compared to the previous February rate of 63.08%.</p> <p>The figures for March have yet to be finalised. During Q4 2021/22, the Vale ran several comms campaigns. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• advertising the Council's tree-cycling service.</li> <li>• highlighting Food Waste Action Week.</li> <li>• a new year's promotion on ideas for reducing waste.</li> <li>• publishing the waste collections calendar.</li> <li>• publicising Global Recycling Day.</li> <li>• highlighting the electric waste vehicle trial.</li> <li>• promoting the Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean.</li> </ul>
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	Since the adoption of the Tree Planting on Council Owned Land Policy at the end of Q2 2021/22, the Council has received two full applications – from Abingdon Carbon Cutters for a scheme on Rye Farm Meadow and from Sustainable Wantage (in partnership with Wantage Town Council) for a project at Memorial Park. After these were formally approved during Q4, the planting of 1,500 trees took place at Rye Farm Meadow – work at the other site is scheduled for 2022/23.
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 Policy and Programmes	In Q4, Oxfordshire County Council accepted, in-principle, the designation to lead the production of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). The Strategy will include a Nature Recovery Network which will form the main focus for the targeting of Biodiversity Net Gain funding. All of Oxfordshire's local authorities (along with many other stakeholders) will be involved as partners in the production of the LNRS – the process of producing this document is, however, dependent on the release of additional supplementary regulations and guidance from Defra.
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 Development and Corporate Landlord	Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points are being installed in five car parks in the Vale as part of the Oxfordshire wide "Park and Charge" project. They are due to be operational by 1 May 2022.

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
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 Policy and Programmes	The Leader attended an Arc Leaders Group meeting in March where the need to have a clear plan for council involvement in the Arc project by September, when the funding to pay for the Arc staff team runs out, was discussed. A letter from the chair of the Arc leaders group was also sent to HM Government requesting clarity on their plans.
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 Emily Smith	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2021/22, a report summarising the responses to the Oxfordshire Plan Regulation 18 (2) consultation was drafted and published for review. Following several planned amendments – resulting from feedback from Scrutiny Committees across the county – this report will carry forward into Q1 2022/23.</p> <p>Cllr Emily Smith Chaired, and Cllr Hallett attended three Oxfordshire Plan 2050 sub group meetings during Q4. These meetings focused on possible spatial options for the plan and how to agree growth targets that balance housing need, climate and infrastructure.</p>
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	During Q4 2021/22, the Vale promoted HM Government's Green Homes Grant Scheme to residents – the Scheme is designed to support and encourage individuals to retrofit their property.



## 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 Q4:**

We continue to deliver a range of work to eliminate homelessness across the Vale and to support the promotion of healthy communities and to safeguard and support vulnerable residents. Two rough sleepers were recorded at the end of the quarter.

The number of homeless households in temporary accommodation (TA) in March 2022 was 14. The average length of stay in emergency accommodation TA was 59 nights which is above the ceiling target of 42 – a reflection of the complex needs of these clients. For 2021/22, the rate of successful homelessness prevention was 85.0%, above the target of 80.0%.

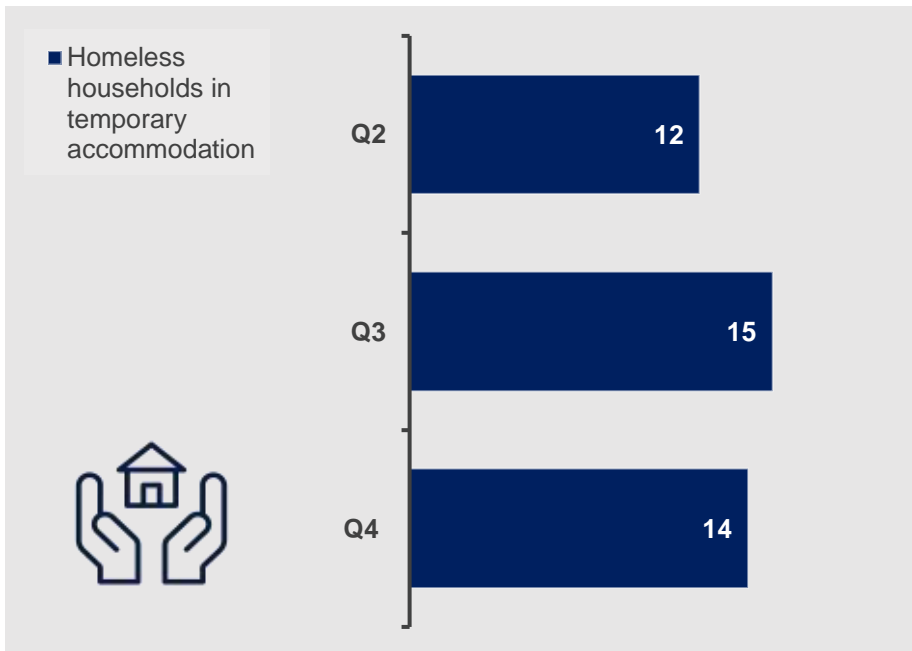
In Q4, Councillors continued to engage with our strategic partners on Oxfordshire health partnership boards to support county wide working on key health issues. This included attendance at the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee where topics such as children and young people's emotional wellbeing and mental health and the Oxfordshire Community Services Strategy were discussed.

To deliver our commitment to promote active and healthy communities, a draft Active Communities Strategy and delivery plan were developed. These include a focus to "create healthier communities through walking and cycling" and proposals to promote active travel. The Council completed stage 1 of the Science Vale Active Travel Network for the Didcot Garden Town and Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plans this quarter. The five completed routes on the Active Travel Network contribute 10km of improved provision for cyclists and pedestrians. Plans are now being made for the creation and development of wayfinding opportunities for these routes.

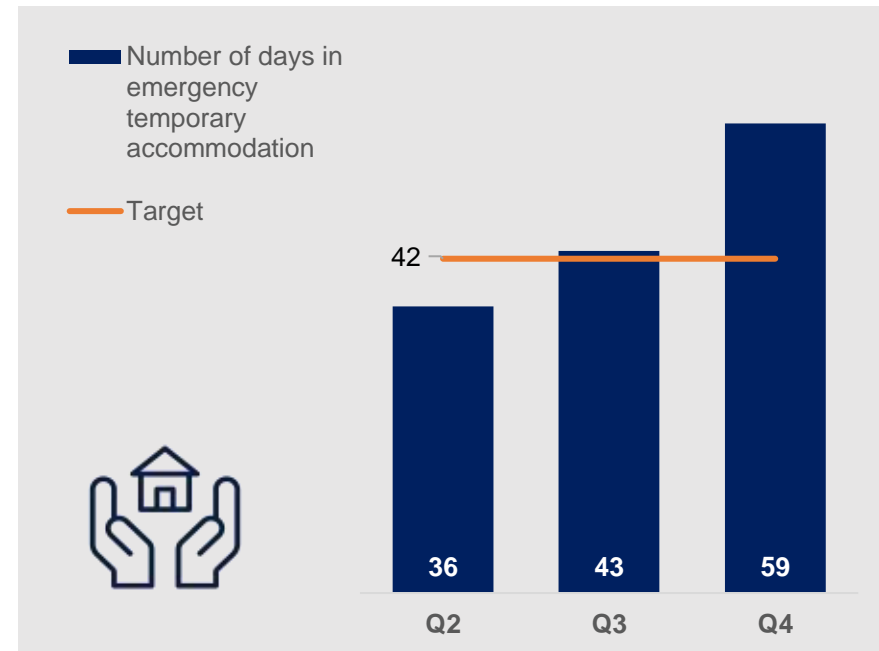
There has been a continuation and expansion of physical and cultural activities designed to help build healthy communities. The Active Communities team (in partnership with Active Oxfordshire) secured funding from Public Health to launch a new project called You Move which will target families on low incomes to help engage them in physical activity. A recruitment exercise for Activators to help deliver the scheme is currently underway. This work will be complimented by an additional £25k from the Sport England Together Fund. A review of potential sites for additional orienteering routes and trails in the district has been undertaken and the identification of suitable venues for community gardens is underway. Funding has been secured for additional outdoor table tennis tables, with local parishes being consulted on where they will be installed.

To promote the development of strong community identity and a sense of place, the Council is continuing to focus on the ongoing response and recovery to the Covid-19 pandemic. During Q4, practical support for those self-isolating ended. Officers involved in the Community Hub are now in the process of reviewing the assistance provided and are sharing relevant information to support the voluntary sector in its recovery from the impact of the pandemic. All existing monies were allocated through the Household Support Fund (HSF) to residents. However, following HM Government's announcement in March, the scheme is to be extended.

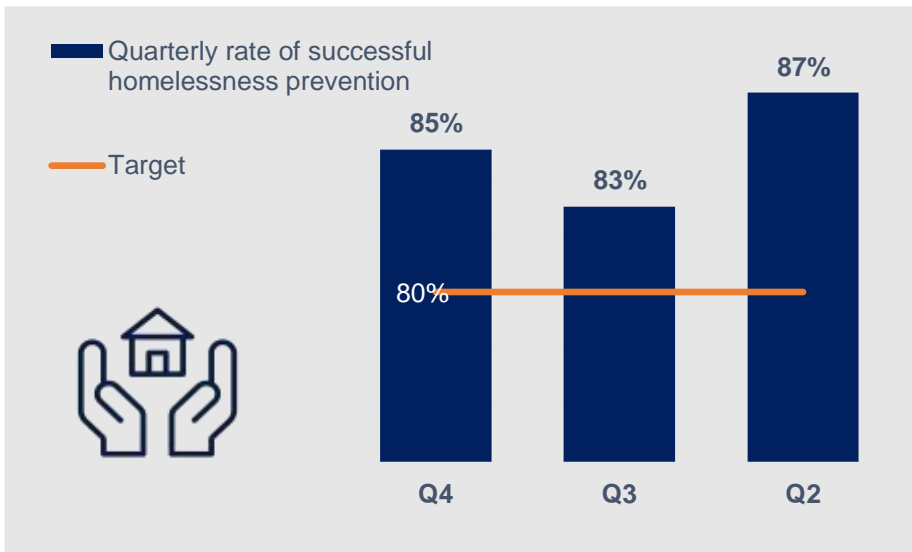
**Chart A BHC3.4: Number of homeless in temporary accommodations**



**Chart B BHC3.4: Average length of stay in temporary accommodation against target**



**Chart C BHC3.4: Successful homelessness prevention rate**



## 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>During Q4 2021/22, a consultation was held on the Joint Design Guide. This contained content regarding a sense of place.</p> <p>In addition, the Planning Policy team developed material for the forthcoming Joint Local Plan consultation. This includes wording on the importance of high-quality design and local distinctiveness and was shaped by members through the Joint Local Plan Steering Group.</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	<p>During Q4 2021/22, the final legal engrossment of the Deed of Variation was submitted to GLL (the council's leisure centre operator) for completion. Individual Cabinet Member Decisions have been issued to both the finance and leisure portfolio holders. Work continues to review community buildings to determine best operational models, this will continue in Q1 2022/23.</p>
BHC1.2	Establish a Public Arts policy	Narrative update on the progress towards developing a public arts policy	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2021/22, a draft Public Arts Plan was prepared by officers. It is now ready for internal consultation.</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 Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2021/22, practical support for those self-isolating ended. Officers involved in the Community Hub are now in the process of completing reports on the assistance that was provided.</p> <p>In addition, the Vale fully allocated the existing monies provided through the Household Support Fund (HSF) to residents – following HM Government's announcement in March that the scheme is to be extended, officers are now awaiting further details from the Department for Work and Pensions.</p> <p>The Community Enablement team maintained close connections with colleagues in the Community Hub throughout the quarter. They also circulated relevant information to support the voluntary sector in its recovery from the impact of Covid-19 either directly or through the team's newsletter.</p>

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 Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2021/22, a draft Active Communities Strategy was developed. This document includes a theme to “create healthier communities through walking and cycling” and contains actions regarding safe cycling courses, the provision of refurbished bicycles for low-income families and the benefits of active travel as a way of improving health and wellbeing. This will be reviewed at Cabinet on 22 July 2022.</p> <p>In addition, the Didcot Garden Town team completed Stage 1 of the Department for Transport’s guidance on the preparation of Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plans. This work was informed by the key priorities raised through the sounding boards and a report on the local area from HarBUG (Harwell Campus Bicycle Users Group).</p> <p>Phase 1 of the Science Vale Active Travel Network was also finished during Q4 2021/22 and will help to support the placemaking agenda for Didcot Garden Town. The five completed routes – which are currently undergoing a naming exercise involving local partners – contribute 10km of improved provision for both cyclists and pedestrians. Plans are now being made for the creation and development of wayfinding opportunities for this part of the Active Travel Network.</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 Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2021/22, the Planning Policy team continued to work on developing the Joint Local Plan. Preparations are currently underway for launching – during Q1 2022/23 – the first major consultation on this document. This engagement exercise will contain a chapter and questions on Healthy Lifestyles and Safe Communities (this will include details relating to keeping people safe from pollution, flooding and the effects of climate change).</p> <p>As of 31 March 2022, there are 15 made Neighbourhood Plans in the district (one of which is currently under review). There are nine plans in progress, three of which have completed pre-submission consultations.</p> <p>Of the 15 made Neighbourhood Plans, North Hinksey, Drayton and West Hanney have policies dealing with air quality considerations. Those for Cumnor and Chilton address the topic through supporting text or community action plans.</p> <p>Furthermore, in conjunction with South Oxfordshire, the Vale secured £45,000 to pilot a simpler approach to neighbourhood planning. This should help to provide communities with an additional tool to effect and enable change – the Council has sought expressions of interest from those wishing to take part in testing this new method.</p>





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	A growth bid to resource the development of new Air Quality Action Plans has been approved as part of the 2022/23 budget setting process. Tender documents are currently being prepared to recruit air quality consultants to undertake this work.
PROGRAMME 2	Promoting healthy place shaping and active communities, for everyone	Narrative update		Head of Policy and Programmes	Q4 2021/22 saw the continuation and expansion of various physical and cultural activities designed to help build healthy communities. During the quarter, these programmes primarily focussed on providing support for those suffering with mental health issues.
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 Policy and Programmes	During Q4 2021/22, a draft Active Communities Strategy was developed. It contains six themes that directly reflect the priorities of the Vale Corporate Plan. The strategy will be reviewed by Cabinet on 22 July 2022.
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 Policy and Programmes	The Active Communities team (in partnership with Active Oxfordshire) secured funding from Public Health in Q4 2021/22 to launch a new project called You Move which will target families on low incomes to help engage them in physical activity. The Council is now in the process of recruiting Activators to help deliver the scheme. This work will be complimented by an additional £25k from the Sport England Together Fund.
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 Policy and Programmes	During Q4 2021/22, the Active Communities team undertook a review of the potential sites for additional orienteering routes and trails in the district. The exact locations will be confirmed after the most suitable venues have been identified and the You Move project is up and running.  In addition, the Vale, having secured funding for additional outdoor table tennis tables, has started working with local parishes to confirm in which open green spaces they will be installed.

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
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	During Q4 2021/22, the Strategic Property team, in collaboration with their Active Community colleagues, commenced work on identifying suitable locations for community gardens. In addition, they also agreed to start developing a protocol which will help to guide/shape this work – it will likely be similar to the tree application process.
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	The Oxfordshire Joint Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee met in March 2022. At this event, the Committee received updates on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Covid-19.</li> <li>• children and young people’s emotional wellbeing and mental health.</li> <li>• access and waiting times for selected health areas.</li> <li>• the transfer of functions from the Clinical Commissioning Group to the new Integrated Care Board.</li> <li>• the Oxfordshire Community Services Strategy.</li> </ul>
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	During Q4 2021/22, 15 safeguarding concerns were raised with the Council – the majority of these were for ‘self-neglect’. Twelve of these resulted in referrals to County Safeguarding Teams.  Two closure order were issued during Q4 (a closure order acts to safeguard access to properties where vulnerable tenants are being exploited).  Throughout 2021/22, the Housing team continued to accelerate the delivery of the Disabled Facility Grants. A total of 169 adaptations were facilitated during the year enabling residents to remain safely in their homes.
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	The data from the domestic abuse service for Quarter 4 2021/22 will be available in the middle of Q1 2022/23.  During Q3 2021/22, the countywide service received 1,355 calls to their helpline – the overwhelming majority of which were from women. Of these, 382 were new contacts, 96 of whom came from South and Vale.  Across Oxfordshire, 26 new clients were referred for outreach. The countywide service is currently supporting 52 victims through this, of which 20 are from South and Vale.  In addition, there continues to be an increase in the number of referrals to the domestic abuse sanctuary scheme. The total for 2021/22 was 97 (25 in Q1, 22 in Q2, 19 in Q3 and 31 in Q4).

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
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 Q4 2021/22, the overarching aims of the Oxfordshire Recovery and Renewal Strategy and the continuation of system-wide working were agreed by the Cabinet. The forthcoming Wellbeing Strategy will align with these agreed objectives.</p> <p>The Community Hub team are now – following events in Eastern Europe – focused upon the Homes for Ukraine scheme. Working at pace, they are establishing contact with existing and prospective sponsor households to arrange accommodation checks. The team are also working with partners and Asylum Welcome on community integration.</p>
BHC3.3	Review and Revise the Joint Taxi Licensing Policy	Narrative update on the JTLP	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Housing and Environment	No progress to report Q4 2021/22 - the work to review, revise and embed the new Joint Taxi Licensing Policy was completed during Q2 2021/22.
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>The Vale recorded two rough sleepers at the end of Q4 2021/22. The very low levels of rough sleeping seen within the district reflects the success of the Council's preventative approach.</p> <p>The number of homeless households in temporary accommodation (TA) in March 2022 was 14. The average length of stay in emergency accommodation TA was 59 nights which is above the ceiling target of 42 – this is a reflection of the complex needs of these clients.</p> <p>Phase 2 of Housing First was successfully completed during Q4 2021/22. All six residents have now been successfully accommodated and are maintaining their tenancies.</p> <p>For 2021/22, the rate of successful homelessness prevention was 85.0%. This was above the target of 80.0%.</p> <p>The Vale also continues to actively participate in the countywide Homelessness &amp; Rough Sleeping Strategy. It is also helping to deliver the county's innovative alliance approach to single homelessness services.</p>

## 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 Q4:

With the aim of managing the Council's resources responsibly and to make effective use of its assets, the Vale was able to set a balanced budget for 2022/23 and a fully funded medium term financial plan to 2026/27 during Q4 2021/22. As part of the budget setting process, the Council was able to identify a further £250,000 for future transformation activity.

Budget savings measures for the Beacon have also been included in the Vale's plans for 2022/23. The team are currently working through options for their implementation.

The second meeting of the Vale's Asset Management Group was held during Quarter 4. The aim of the Group is to assess the Council's land ownerships in a holistic manner and consider opportunities for their development, usage or disposal.



Following the Vale's approval of the Strategic Property Review (in Q3 2021/22), the Council's focus during this quarter has been on potential housing sites and their promotion via the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA).

The council also continued to engage with the Chartered Institute of Public Accountability and Finance (CIPFA) as part of its ongoing work on the design and implementation of the Corporate Landlord model. The development of Corporate Asset Management documentation – which will be a key deliverable of this project – is scheduled to commence in Q1 2022/23.

As part of the Vale's ongoing project to improve the performance of the Council's finance systems, officers explored the potential use "Workspaces" in Unit4. Workspaces is designed to help improve the day-to-day efficiency of users by allowing them to access all the information and functionality they need with one click through a "dashboard" style interface. The aim is for this to be rolled out during 2022/23.

With the intention of building financial resilience to protect the Council against future uncertainties, the Vale agreed in Q4 2021/22 to changes to the Capital Strategy which will allow for the consideration of investments in property, loans to companies and renewable energy. The Council also approved a Treasury Management Strategy which gives more flexibility in counterparties.

The Vale also continues to work with Link Asset Services on a review of funds to provide options for treasury investments. The Council is looking to diversify the instruments that it can invest in to seek better returns whilst still complying with the Treasury Management code of practice requirements.

In order to help deliver on the Vale's ambition to work across the public sector to influence and maximise funding for local government, the Council ran a successful recruitment campaign for an External Funding Lead during Q4 2021/22. This post will significantly enhance the Vale's ability to identify third party income. A service induction has been prepared for the role, with their initial focus being on creating a compelling story around three potential bids into the next round of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme – this will build upon technical work completed by Concept Energy. If appropriate, the External Funding Lead will also explore any potential opportunities arising from round 2 of the Levelling Up Fund, announced by HM Government at the Spring Statement.

## 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	In February 2022, the Vale was able to set a balanced budget for 2022/23 and a fully funded medium term financial plan to 2026/27. In addition, a further £250,000 was identified – as part of the council’s budget setting process – for future transformation activity.
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>In February 2022, the Vale agreed to proposed changes to the Capital Strategy which would allow for the consideration of investment in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• property</li> <li>• loans to companies</li> <li>• renewable energy</li> </ul> <p>The Council also approved a Treasury Management Strategy which gives more flexibility in counterparties.</p> <p>In addition, officers continue to engage 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>During Q4 2021/22, the Vale ran a successful recruitment campaign for an External Funding Lead. This post will significantly enhance the Council’s ability to identify third party income. A service induction has been prepared for the role, with their initial focus being on creating a compelling story around three potential bids into the next round of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme – this will build upon the technical work completed by Concept Energy.</p> <p>HM Government, as part of the Spring Statement, also published the prospectus for round 2 of the Levelling Up Fund. If appropriate, the External Funding Lead will explore any potential opportunities arising from this with partners.</p>

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 Budget agreed by the Vale in February reflected the base budget challenge activity undertaken 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	The Budget agreed by the Vale in February reflected the base budget challenge activity undertaken during Q3 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	During Q4 2021/22, work was undertaken on "Workspaces" in Unit4. (Workspaces is designed to help improve the day-to-day efficiency of users by allowing them to access all the information and functionality they need with one click through a "dashboard" style interface). The aim is for this to be rolled out in 2022/23.
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	No progress to report Q4 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	No progress to report Q4 2021/22.

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	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Following Cabinet approval of the Strategic Property Review in Q3 2021/22, an Asset Management Group has been established to progress implementation of the Review and to consider assets in line with the council's corporate priorities
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	No progress to report Q4 2021/22 - the Procurement Policy was agreed by Vale Cabinet during Q3.
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	The second meeting of the Asset Management Group (AMG) was held during Q4 2021/22. The AMG will assess the Vale's land ownerships and consider opportunities for their development, usage and disposal.  The Strategic Property Review is designed to be an ongoing process. The Council's focus during this quarter has been on potential housing sites and their promotion via the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA).
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	During Q4 2021/22, the Vale continued to engage with CIPFA as part of our ongoing work on the design and implementation of the corporate Landlord model. The development of Corporate Asset Management documentation – which will be a key deliverable of this work – is scheduled to commence in Q1 2022/23.
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	No progress to report Q4 2021/22 - the review was completed during Q1 2021/22.

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
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 Development and Corporate Landlord	Budget savings measures for the Beacon have been included in the Vale's plans for 2022/23. The team are currently working through options for their implementation.
BSF2.6	Insource 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 Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q4 2021/22, officers reviewed potential vehicle procurement options for use on the Grounds Maintenance service.</p> <p>The Vale started to evaluate the Job Description Questionnaires of the Grounds Maintenance staff with the aim of ensuring their roles accord with other posts at the council. Consideration is also being given to the potential options for bringing the terms and conditions of their contracts in line with council policy. As the Grounds Maintenance staff transferred under TUPE regulations, changes will require formal consultation (this is scheduled to occur during 2022/23).</p>



## THEME 5: WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

**Strategic Leads – Adrianna Partridge – Deputy Chief Executive – Transformation and Operations and Suzanne Malcolm - Deputy Chief Executive – Place**

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 Q4:

To help realise the Council's commitment to provide support to businesses in order to help them succeed, the Vale issued £1,285,380 of Additional Restriction Grants to 193 businesses during Q4 2021/22. The Council also used Contain Outbreak Management Funding to undertake activities that were previously scheduled to take place under the auspices of the Reopening High Streets Safely Fund.

Furthermore, South and Vale finalised a contract for the Virtual High Street Initiative during Q4 2021/22. This Initiative will enable the consolidation of South and Vale based independent retailers on a single e-commerce platform. A total of 40 businesses in the Vale signed up between January and March 2022. The project will officially be launched during Q1 2022/23.

As part of the Vale's efforts to support residents and organisations to effect and drive change in the community, the Council have continued to promote and register new causes to the White Horse Community Lottery Scheme – five “good causes” were approved during Q4. In addition, during Q4, the Vale designated the Abingdon Neighbourhood Area. This will help enable the Town Council to exercise neighbourhood planning rights and access both funding and technical support. They also provided advice – focused on climate action, regeneration, infrastructure and design quality – to Faringdon Town Council to help them initiate a review of their made Neighbourhood Plan.

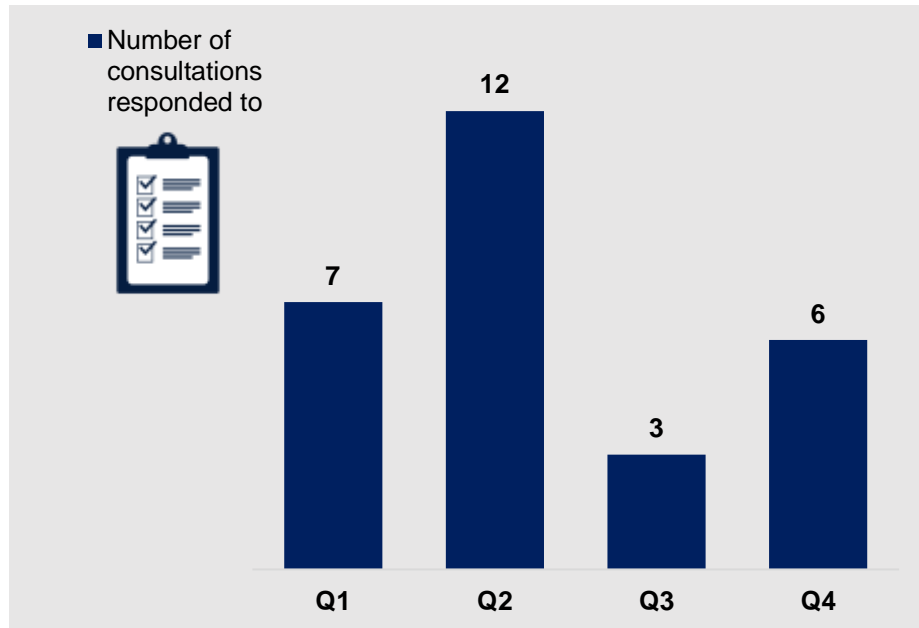
The Vale (in conjunction with South Oxfordshire) secured £45,000 to pilot a simpler approach to neighbourhood planning. This should help to provide communities with an additional tool to effect and enable change – the Council has sought expressions of interest from those wishing to take part in testing this new method – and is a reaffirmation of the Vale's commitment to neighbourhood planning.

With the intention of progressing the Vale's goal of working in partnership to influence and shape regional and national agendas, the Council shared its work on the mapping of the health policy and partnership landscape with system partners in Q4 2021/22. The feedback received from this exercise has helped to prompt further work in this area.

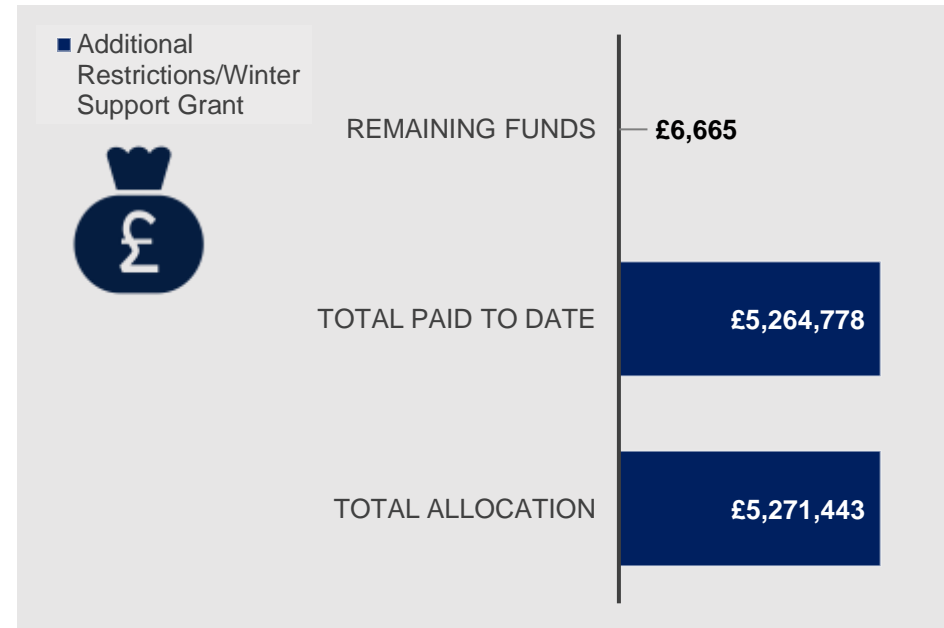
The Council continued to respond to external consultations (six during Q4) with the intention of helping to guide and mould both regional and national policy in a way that reflects the Vale's ambitions. Work also progressed throughout the quarter on assessing the impact of the council's previous submissions.

During Q4 2021/22, the Vale's Economic Development team provided feedback to OxLEP on their targeted plans for economic recovery interventions in the coming year. This information will be used to help shape future funding bids. In addition, early-stage meetings were held between the Council and HM Government's Cities and Local Growth Unit. These were intended to establish connections and lines of communication.

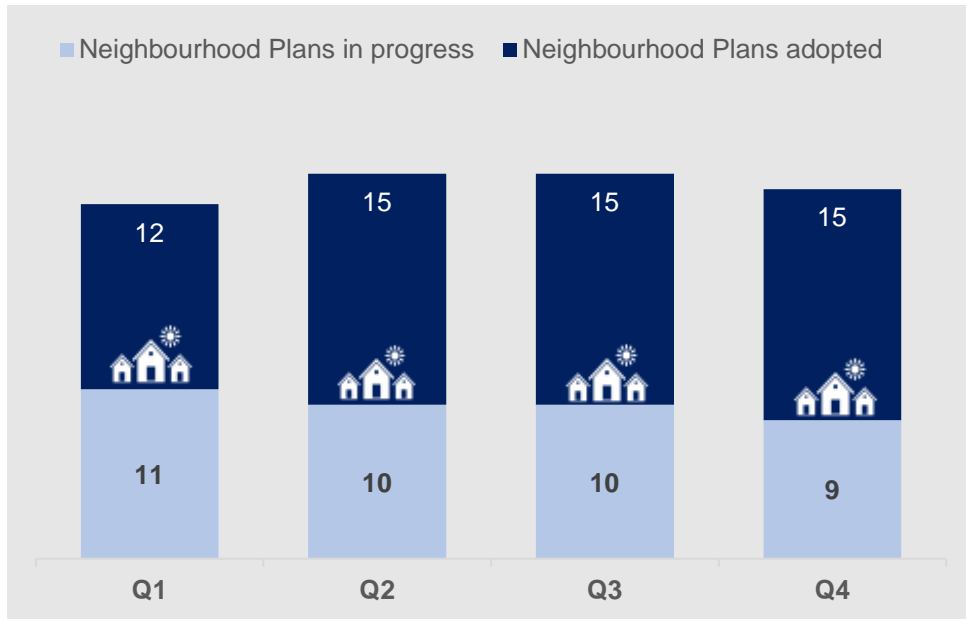
**Chart D WIP1.2: Number of consultations responded to by quarter**



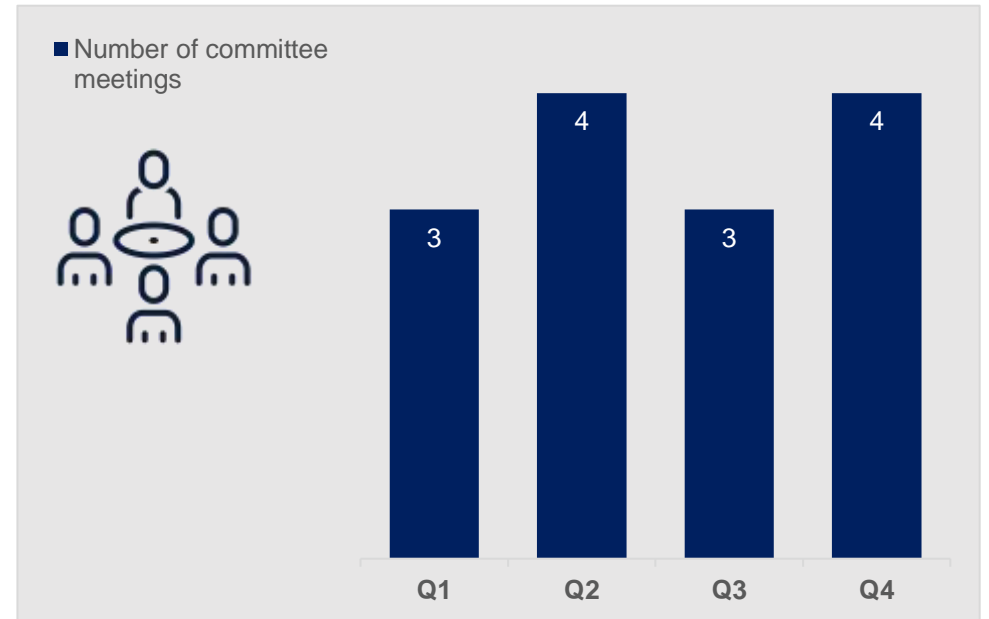
**Chart E WIP2.1: Financial support distributed to SME (small and medium-sized enterprises)**



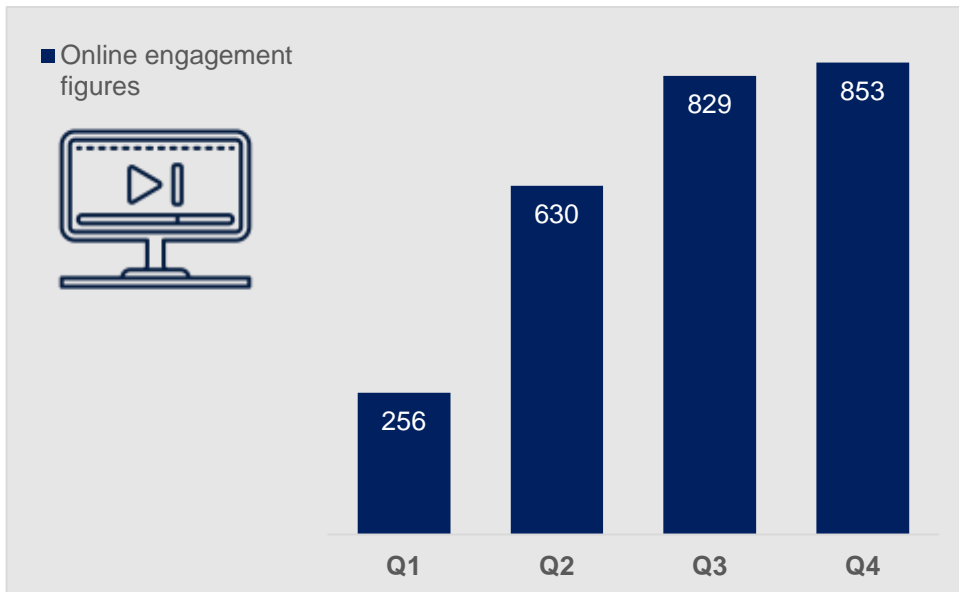
**Chart F WIP2.2: Number of Neighbourhood Plans in progress and adopted**



**Chart G.1 WIP2.3: Number of Planning Committee meetings and online engagement figures**



**Chart G.2 WIP2.3: Number of Planning Committee meetings and online engagement figures**



## 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	Updates below on action taken to maximise opportunities for communities and business during Quarter 4 2021/22.
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	During Q4 2021/22, the Vale's work on mapping our health policy and partnership landscape was shared with system partners at a Community Resilience Cell meeting. Feedback has since been received from Oxford City Council who host a funded partnership role for the district councils and attend many of the county's health, wellbeing and partnership boards on our behalf. This has prompted us to examine this arrangement more closely to ensure that it meets our requirements and that we receive regular updates.
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	Narrative update on proactive work to lobby govt and key organisations, update on key consultations responded to within the period.  Quantitative -- Number of consultations replied to.	Cllr Neil Fawcett	Head of Policy and Programmes	As of Q4 2021/22, the Vale has responded to six external consultations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Government Provisional Settlement 2022/23.</li> <li>• WRSE (Water Recourse South East) Consultation.</li> <li>• Oxfordshire County Council's Local Transport and Connectivity Plan.</li> <li>• Consultation on Biodiversity Net Gain Regulations and Implementation.</li> <li>• Defra Consultation – Landscape Review (National Parks and AONBs): Implementing the Review.</li> <li>• Defra Consultation – Environmental Target.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, work continued on assessing the impact of the Council's submissions. This is designed to ensure that our responses are consistent and lead to demonstrable change in policy/decisions.</p>
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	Master-planning Lead	During Q4 2021/22, several meetings have been held with developers, promoters and landowners. Officers have also continued met with members, interested stakeholders, Oxfordshire County Council and Homes England. These events are part of the Vale's framework of coordinated activity in this area.



Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
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>During Q4 2021/22, the priority for the Economic Development team was the administration of the Additional Restrictions Grant top-up funding announced by HM Government late in Quarter 3. This top-up funding of £261,996 was combined with £1,030,049 retained from previous rounds of funding. Before the scheme's deadline of 31 March, the Vale issued £1,285,380 of grants to 193 businesses.</p> <p>Also, during Q4 2021/22 six enquiries were logged on Tractivity. The figure was slightly lower than in previous quarters as a result of the team's focus on the administration of the Additional Restrictions Grant.</p> <p>Unfortunately, due to technical issues caused by the volume of incoming e-mails, it is not possible to provide accurate data on the number of incoming enquiries received between January and March 2022.</p>
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>By the end of Q4 2021/22, there were 2,449 subscribers to South and Vale's economic development newsletter. A grand total of 16,708 newsletters were sent between January and March, resulting in 10,024 opens and 3,826 clickthroughs – our open rate sits at 60.20% which compares favourably to the average for a business services newsletter of 8.01%.</p> <p>In addition, the Council also sent out 13 Start Your Own Business Guides and 26 Greening the Web Guides during the quarter.</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>During Q4 2021/22, the Economic Development team provided feedback to OxLEP on their targeted plans for economic recovery interventions in the coming year. This information would be used to help support future funding bids.</p> <p>In addition, early stage meetings were held with colleagues from HM Government's Cities and Local Growth Unit. These were intended to establish connections and lines of communication.</p>
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 Development and Corporate Landlord	Civil parking enforcement – undertaken by Oxfordshire County Council contractors – has now been introduced in the district. The direct impact of this change on the Pay and Display income in the Vale's off-street car parks is not, however, identifiable due to changes in usage levels caused by the pandemic and home working.

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
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 Q4 2021/22, the Vale designated the Abingdon Neighbourhood Area. This will enable the Town Council to exercise neighbourhood planning rights and access both funding and technical support.</p> <p>The Vale also provided detailed comments on the East Hanney Neighbourhood Plan. This was in response to the Parish Council's pre-submission consultation.</p> <p>In addition, the Vale also provided advice – focused on climate action, regeneration, infrastructure and design quality – to Faringdon Town Council to help them initiate a review of their made Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>As of 31 March 2022, there are 15 made Neighbourhood Plans in the district, one of which is currently under review. There are nine plans in progress, three of which have completed pre-submission consultations.</p> <p>Furthermore, in conjunction with South Oxfordshire, the Vale secured £45,000 to pilot a simpler approach to neighbourhood planning. This should help to provide communities with an additional tool to effect and enable change – the Council has sought expressions of interest from those wishing to take part in testing this new method.</p>
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	<p>Narrative update on support schemes for businesses and residents. Updates on any relevant schemes should be included</p>	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Quarter 4 2021/22, South and Vale finalised a contract for the Virtual High Street Initiative. This Initiative will enable the consolidation of South and Vale based independent retailers on a single e-commerce platform. A total of 40 businesses in the Vale signed up in Q4. The project will officially be launched during Q1 2022/23.</p> <p>The Council have also use Contain Outbreak Management Funding to undertake activities that were previously to take place under the auspices of the Reopening High Streets Safely Fund.</p> <p>Winter Support Grants totalling £1,285,380 were also issued to 193 businesses in the Vale under the Additional Restrictions Grant Scheme.</p>

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
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 Policy and Programmes	<p>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>As of 31 March 2022, there are 15 made Neighbourhood Plans in the district (one of which is currently under review). There are nine plans in progress, three of which have completed pre-submission consultations.</p>
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 Q4 2021/22, the Weekly Chair briefings continued. In addition, call-in requests from members were reviewed on a weekly basis with both the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee. Monthly monitoring reports are also provided to these individuals and the Cabinet Member for Planning.</p> <p>Councillors were given Planning Committee training during the quarter. Members were only, however, able to undertake a virtual session – the 'in-person' training needs to be rearranged.</p> <p>In Q4, the Council sent to all members a schedule of training and briefing sessions. This timetable provides not only sessions on topics where officers consider that members need to be provided with a refresher/update, but also opportunities for councillors to suggest potential subjects that they would like to be considered for future training/briefing purposes.</p> <p>Four Planning Committee meetings were held between January and March 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13/01/2022 – this had 75 views.</li> <li>• 15/02/2022 – this had 673 views (the redevelopment of the former Esso research laboratory was on the agenda and attracted considerable local interest).</li> <li>• 09/03/2022 – this had 66 views.</li> <li>• 30/03/2022 – this had 39 views.</li> </ul>

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
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 Finance	<p>In February, the Vale agreed to fund over £3 million of its budgeted capital expenditure from its retained CIL receipts over the next five years.</p> <p>In addition, the first meeting of the newly constituted member/officer working group to consider CIL spending was held in March.</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 Policy and Programmes	<p>The Council have continued to promote and register new causes to the White Horse Lottery Community Scheme – five “good causes” were approved during Q4.</p> <p>Between January and March, 12,061 tickets were sold. This generated an annual estimated income of £29,500 for the voluntary sector.</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 Q4:

In order to facilitate the Council's commitment to working openly and transparently, the Vale completed a statement of requirements for the procurement of a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system during Q4 2021/22. The CRM system will help us to build relationships with our customers, streamline processes and improve the services that we provide to residents – several potential suppliers of such a system have already been identified.

The Council is also currently preparing the specification for new integrated communications software and working up the model for a customer service centre. These will form the foundation/building blocks of our customer service transition.

Furthermore, during Q4 2021/22, the performance management report for Q3 was published on the Vale's website. This is intended to increase the public's understanding of what the Council does, how it works and how decisions are made.

As part of the Vale's ambition to improve its use of technology to increase understanding and access to what the Council does, it continued to livestream all public meetings during Q4 2021/22. This not only helped to ensure a greater degree of accessibility for residents, but also allowed them an insight into our decision-making processes. Officers have also started working on contingency plans to ensure that all public meetings can continue to broadcast after the Council has vacated the offices at Milton Park.

During Q4 2021/22, the Vale created a short video on the Council's planning enforcement approach for the website. This was intended to trial a new approach to help people better understand our processes. Following its success, we hope to provide more of these guides in the future. In addition, the Planning Policy team, as part of their work preparing text for the forthcoming initial consultation on the Joint Local Plan, utilised a new approach (the ArcGIS Storymap) to create more engaging content that should encourage individuals and the public to get more involved in the process.

With the intention meaningful engagement and communication with everyone – especially those from marginalised/under-represented groups – the Council agreed an overarching Communications and Engagement Strategy during the quarter. This Strategy incorporates initiatives to increase and improve our interactions with all of our communities/peoples.

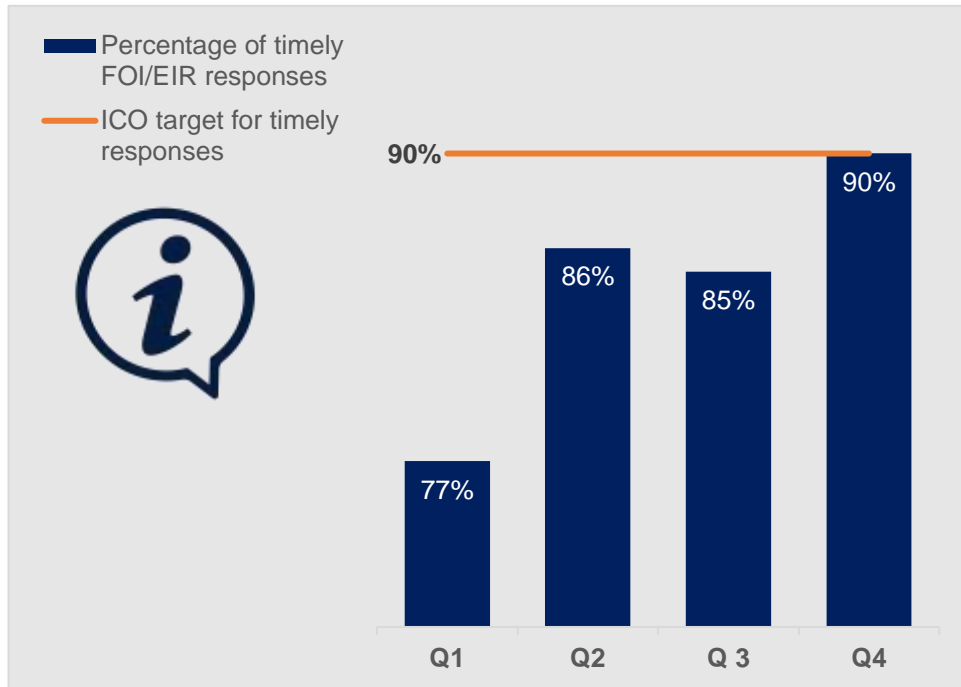
Work has also continued on the Vale's social media review. Officers continue to experiment with different styles, formats and content in order to improve our presence across a variety of platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram).

As part of the Vale's commitment to strengthening the Council's governance framework, the Constitution Review Group agreed a work plan with the Monitoring Officer during Q4 2021/22. The items that are taking priority are the Articles of the Constitution and the Scheme of Delegation. In addition, the Monitoring Officer has been providing training to officers on local government law and process – with a particular focus on governance, delegation of powers, report writing/content and decision making.



## Performance Measures

Chart H 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	Deputy Chief Executive – Transformation and Operations	<p>During Q4 2021/22, the Vale created a short video on the Council's planning enforcement approach for the website. This was intended to trial a new approach to help people better understand our processes. Following its success, the Council hopes to provide more of these guides in the future.</p> <p>Following the approval – in Q3 2021/22 – of the Customer Services Strategy, work has now been completed on a statement of requirements for the procurement of a Customer Relationship Management system.</p>
WIO1.1	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	Deputy Chief Executive – Transformation and Operations	<p>During Q4 2021/22, the Council identified an analytics tool that is compatible with our cookie control system. It will be trialled during Q1 2022/23 and if successful should provide broader and more reliable information regarding website usage – this data will be used as a benchmark going forwards.</p> <p>The Vale have also amended and updated the website to fully comply with HM Government's accessibility guidelines (this followed a spot-check carried out in Q3). It is our plan to rollout training during Q1 2022/23 to ensure that all future content is fully accessible to all.</p>
WIO1.2	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	Deputy Chief Executive – Transformation and Operations	<p>The Vale saw a 36.0% increase in Facebook reach during Q4 2021/22. This was mainly due to a very strong presence in March driven by posts on car parking changes and help with the cost of living. It is the Council's hope that this increase will result in future posts being more visible in our followers' feeds – this would help to grow both our audience and our ability to spread messaging.</p> <p>Facebook reach 139,798. Twitter impressions, however, were down on the previous quarter (just over 20.0%). The reasons behind this are unclear and, therefore, the Council is unsure whether this is merely a temporary blip or something more endemic. Consequently, officers are looking into the possible explanations and will rectify any that are within our control.</p> <p>Twitter impressions 101,000. There was little growth in the Vale's Instagram reach in Q4. This may be due to limitations on eye-catching imagery and, therefore, will be an area of focus going forwards. Instagram reach 1,465.</p> <p>The Council, nevertheless, expects there to be some fluctuations in performance across platforms between quarters – especially as we continue to experiment with different styles of content as part of our ongoing social media review.</p>

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
WIOI1.3	Introduce live streaming and recordings of public meetings to increase accessibility and understanding of the democratic process	Number/Percentage of public meetings streamed live  Number/percentage of public meetings available to watch online	Cllr Emily Smith	Head of Legal and Democratic	All meetings continue to be livestreamed. Officers are currently working on business continuity plans to ensure that this continues when the Council vacates the offices at Milton Park.  During Q4 2021/22, 100% of public meetings were broadcast.
WIOI1.4	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	Deputy Chief Executive – Transformation and Operations	The Vale now have a Consultation and Engagement Lead in post who will be able to lead the review of our online surveys.  During Q4 2021/22, the Council ran eight consultation/engagement activities which gathered 329 responses. This represented a 50.0% decrease on the number of consultation/engagement activities undertaken during Q3 (consequently this also resulted in a much lower number of responses being received). The decline in activity between January and March was partly due to the large number of consultations/engagement activities that closed just prior to the start of Q4. It also reflects the fact that a number of the activities started in Q4 only commenced towards the end of March.
PROGRAMME 2	Increase meaningful engagement and communication with everyone	Narrative update on successful communication initiatives		Deputy Chief Executive – Transformation and Operations	During Q4 2021/22, the Vale agreed an overarching Communications and Engagement Strategy. This Strategy will incorporate initiatives to increase and improve the Council's interactions with all of its residents. It will also help to demonstrate our leadership role in delivering better outcomes for our communities.  In Q4, the Vale ran 45 campaigns. 26 of these encouraged behavioural change, twelve highlighted/publicised council news and seven promoted diversity/inclusion.  Between January and March 2022, the Vale also issued 36 press releases, produced three town and parish newsletters and disseminated five InFocus newsletters to share important stories and information with our communities.
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	Narrative update on the creation and utilisation of community liaison groups and the development of the policy  Quantitative measure - number of community liaison groups	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Policy and Programmes	During Q4 2021/22, the Planning Policy team prepared text for the forthcoming initial consultation on the Joint Local Plan. As part of this work, they utilised a new approach (the ArcGIS Storymap) to create more engaging content that should encourage individuals and the public to get more involved in the process.  The Council also established the North Abingdon Community Liaison Group.

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
WIO12.2	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 Policy and Programmes	No progress to report Q4 2021/22.
WIO12.3	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	Deputy Chief Executive – Transformation and Operations	<p>During Q4, the Council shared/amplified communications from our partners to encourage the take-up of Covid-19 booster jabs and to broadcast the latest advice on living with the pandemic.</p> <p>In addition, the Vale also promoted both the county-wide Move Together programme and our own Active Communities events. These are designed to help boost the mental and physical wellbeing of residents.</p> <p>Work also began, in conjunction with the other local authorities in Oxfordshire, on a county-wide climate action campaign. The Council also launched – alongside several community groups – our Policy for Planting Trees on Council Land.</p>
WIO12.4	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	Deputy Chief Executive – Transformation and Operations	<p>The Vale now have a Consultation and Engagement Lead in post and an agreed Communications and Engagement Strategy that sets out the Council's intentions in this area. This Strategy will incorporate initiatives to increase and improve the Vale's interactions with all of its residents.</p> <p>During Q4 2021/22, an engagement plan to support the draft Diversity and Inclusion Strategy was discussed at Cabinet Briefing. The Strategy will now be subject to a six-month engagement period.</p>
WIO12.5	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	Deputy Chief Executive - Transformation and Operations	No progress to report Q4 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	Deputy Chief Executive – Transformation and Operations	<p>The Vale now have a Consultation and Engagement Lead in post and an agreed Communications and Engagement Strategy that sets out the Council's intentions in this area. This Strategy will incorporate initiatives to increase and improve the Vale's interactions with young people and underrepresented groups.</p> <p>During Q4 2021/22, an engagement plan to support the draft Diversity and Inclusion Strategy was discussed at Cabinet Briefing. The Strategy will now be subject to a six-month engagement period.</p>
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	The planned engagement relating to the creation of a policy/strategy library with the Cabinet Leads did not take place during Q4 2021/22. It is now scheduled to take place in Q1 2022/23 as part of a project to improve the Corporate Plan/Performance webpages.
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 Q4 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	The action is complete. All council reporting and decision-making templates have been updated to include climate change considerations.
WIOI3.3	Review the councils constitution and scheme of delegation annually	Narrative update with the outcome of the review	Cllr Emily Smith	Head of Legal and Democratic	During Q4 2021/22, the Constitution Review Group agreed a work plan with the Monitoring Officer. The items that are taking priority are the Articles of the Constitution and the Scheme of Delegation.

Corporate Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update
WIOI3.4	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	Narrative update on relevant reviews/newly available information/website improvements and metrics  Quantitative - FOI/Complaints data"	Cllr Debby Hallett	Deputy Chief Executive - Transformation and Operations	<p>During Quarter 4 2021/22, the performance management report for Q3 was published on the Vale's website. This is intended to increase the public's understanding of what the council does, how it works and how decisions are made.</p> <p>Freedom of Information (FOI) and Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) contact with the council remains high. In Q4 2021/22, Vale received 335 FOI/EIRs. 90% of these were responded to within the target time of 20 working days – this is in line with the ICO's target.</p> <p>The council received 34 stage one complaints, 10 stage two complaints and 2 Local Government Ombudsman complaints between January and March 2022.</p>

### Individual Cabinet Member Decisions - 01 January – 31 March 2022

Date	Description
05/01/2022	Car Parks Contractor Performance 2020/21
01/02/2022	Additional Restrictions Grant Winter 2021 Omicron Update
16/03/2022	Great Coxwell Conservation Area Appraisal
25/03/2022	Mobile Home Parks Pitch Fees
29/03/2022	Community Infrastructure Levy Funding to Oxfordshire County Council
29/03/2022	You Move Project Funding
<b>Total: 6</b>	

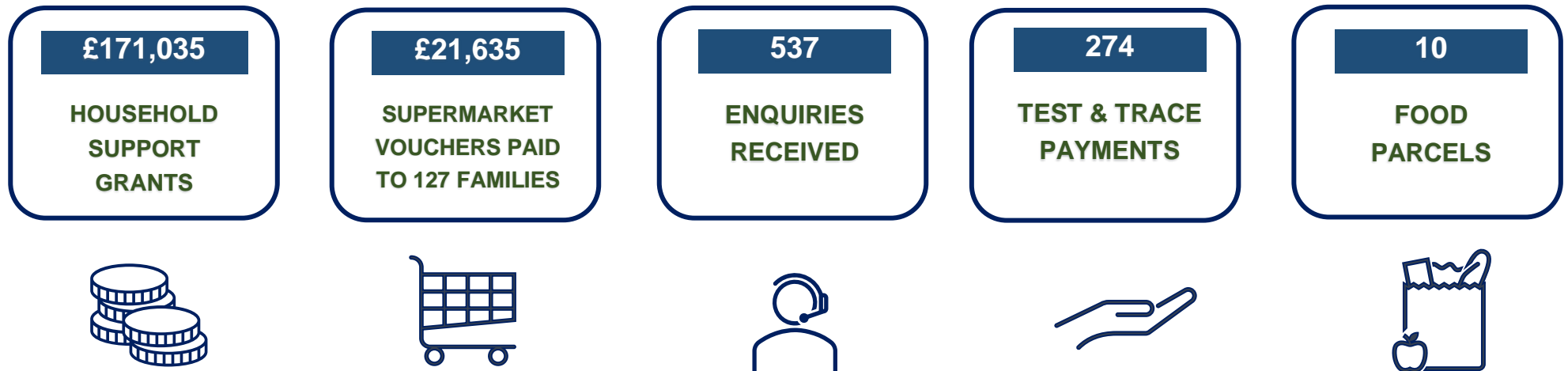


## COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

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.

From 24 February 2022 people were no longer legally required to self-isolate and this meant that Test and Trace Support Payments also came to an end. During 2021/22, a total of 817 test and trace support payments were made to residents in the Vale of White Horse. Chart I show the quarterly breakdown of the number of people who received a £500 Test and Trace support payment.

### Covid-19 Community Hub Support distributed between 01 January to 31 March 2022:



**Chart I: Test and Trace Support Payments made to self-isolating residents**

