

Vale of White Horse District Council

Corporate Performance Report



2022/23 Quarter Three
January 2023

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Background

- The Council monitors performance and progress towards achieving the aims and priorities set out in the Vale of White Horse District Council **Corporate Plan 2020-2024**.
- This report provides a strategic overview of the performance for **quarter three (01 October to 31 December 2022)**, focusing on the activity to deliver our priorities in the Corporate Plan.
- 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.



Strategic context

During quarter three of 2022/23, the global economic situation remained precarious. Soaring prices have driven inflation across the world and placed individuals, families and businesses under increasing financial pressures.

Within the UK, the rate of inflation rose by 10.5 per cent in the 12 months to December 2022. This was down from 10.7 per cent in November. (Inflation peaked at 11.1 per cent in October 2022 – the highest rate since 1981).

The very slight easing in the rate of inflation was driven by falls in the rate of inflation for transport (specifically motor fuels, where average petrol and diesel prices fell by 8.3 and 8.8 pence respectively between November and December), clothing & footwear, and recreation & culture. The downward trends in these sectors were, however, largely offset by rising prices in restaurants & hotels and for food & non-alcoholic beverages (Food and non-alcoholic beverage prices rose by 16.9 per cent in the 12 months to December 2022, up from 16.5 per cent in November – according to the ONS' modelled estimates, this would be the highest rate seen since September 1977, when it stood at 17.6 per cent).

The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), as part of their remit to keep inflation under control, raised interest rates to 3.5 per cent in December (the highest level since October 2008 but still significantly below the long-term historic average of 5.9 per cent). Since the end of 2021, the MPC has approved nine consecutive increases in the Bank Rate. In the medium-term it is expected that these actions will dampen demand within the economy and, therefore, hopefully push down the rate of inflation.



In its Quarterly Monetary Policy Report (November 2022), the Bank of England forecast that inflation will remain very high in the near-term before falling sharply from mid-2023 – this anticipated decrease reflects a negative contribution from energy prices, as well as the emergence of an increasing degree of economic slack and a steadily rising unemployment rate.

The high rate of inflation has meant that household finances have been squeezed as incomes have failed to keep pace with the rising cost of living. Figures from the Office for National Statistics show that in September to November 2022, total and regular pay, when adjusted for inflation, fell by 2.6 per cent on the year – one of the largest falls seen since comparable records began in 2001 (the record fall was in April to June 2022 – 3.0 per cent).

Quarter three performance highlights

Providing the homes people need



We published our **Housing Delivery Strategy** and associated action plan outlining our aspiration for achieving an increase in low carbon, affordable housing

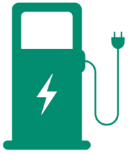


We started to request **retrofitting plans** from registered housing providers, to ensure their homes are brought up to the relevant EPC ratings



We presented an **Affordable Housing Guidance Note** to the Joint Scrutiny Committee - this will assist planning applicants with key information regarding affordable housing provision

Tackling the climate emergency



We received the Energy Saving Trust report on **decarbonising our fleet** which demonstrated a business case for changing most vehicles to electric



We developed plans for a new **wildflower meadow** at Herons Walk and **tree planting** at two other sites in Abingdon

Building healthy communities



We extended the **Partnership Grant scheme** to Citizens Advice, Vale Community Impact and Community First Oxfordshire who will continue to assist us in distributing the **Household Support Fund**



We progressed to Stage 3 of the Department for Transport's framework for developing the **Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan**



1,817
The number of people we engaged through our **physical activity programmes**

Building stable finances

£528,034

The amount of funding we applied for from the **Rural England Prosperity Fund** to support our rural areas



£5,992,916

We applied for funding from the **Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme** to help us reduce our carbon emissions across our property portfolio by **25%** through solar panel installation and replacement of gas-fired boilers with air source heat pumps

Working in partnership

£1,000,000

The amount of funding we secured through HM Government's **UK Shared Prosperity Fund** to support our business sector for the next three years



We worked with consultants and Oxfordshire partners to finalise the **Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan**



We endorsed the **Oxfordshire Food Strategy** and started developing a local food strategy action plan in collaboration with businesses and community groups

Working in an open and inclusive way



We produced a **monthly newsletter** on the local elections for residents' turning 18 and published a new **guide for first time voters**



We ran **39 campaigns**:

14 highlighted events and council news
15 promoted behavioural change
10 promoted diversity and inclusion



We held the first of a series of regular, localised **town and parish council briefings**

Theme 1: Providing the homes people need

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.

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

Key Activities in quarter three

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

As part of the Vale's efforts to explore and consider opportunities to bring forward the delivery of homes that people can afford, the council agreed a Housing Delivery Strategy – and associated action plan – in November. This outlines the Vale's aspirations for achieving an increase in low carbon, affordable housing. It also sets out several short-term actions aimed at improving housing availability and quality.

Also, in quarter three, an Affordable Housing Guidance Note was presented to the Joint Scrutiny Committee. The document aims to assist planning applicants and others with the identification of relevant published policy and guidance where it relates to the provision of affordable housing. Updates have been made to the council's website to reflect this information.

During quarter three 2022/23, work began on updating the policies and processes for the allocation of Section 106 funds to organisations that apply for support to bring forward affordable housing.





Progress was also made on a project to assess the suitability of pieces of land owned by the Vale for the development of affordable housing schemes. Officers from the Strategic Property team visited these sites to evaluate their potential future use and to consider whether they could potentially be developed.

The Vale continued to hold discussions with both the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) and the parish councils on advancing Dalton Barracks Garden Village (including the masterplan for the project). The DIO is currently awaiting the finalisation of the Oxfordshire Mobility Model (OMM) which will support the transport modelling requirement for the site – while the OMM was supposed to be completed by the end of 2022, it has been delayed.

Conversations were also held with a range of landowners and promoters to progress housing and residential-led, mixed-use schemes (including at Ock Valley Park).

With the aim of adopting a policy framework that ensures that homes can be delivered in a way that supports the environment and the living of healthy lives, the council's Planning Policy team continued to develop the Joint Local Plan during quarter three. In addition to preparing a report on the Joint Local Plan Regulation Part 1 Issues Consultation, the council began consideration of a spatial strategy for the Plan.

To help facilitate this, officers undertook further preliminary work on the proposed needs for different land uses. They also prepared briefs for an Employment Land Needs Assessment and a Specialist Housing Needs Assessment (both of which have gone out for procurement) – work is already underway on a Town Centres & Retail Study. Moreover, the Vale appointed consultants to undertake two studies on sport and leisure (on playing pitches and a leisure facilities strategy respectively) which will be utilised in the development of the Joint Local Plan too.

In order to help protect the environment, the Planning Policy team commissioned a set of studies on landscape and countryside. Once completed, these assessments will help to inform the Joint Local Plan, provide mapping and local area evidence for planning decisions, and assist communities in the development of their neighbourhood plans.

Following the completion of the draft Didcot Placemaking Strategy, a list of potential improvement schemes are in the process of being identified. These proposals are currently going through RAG rating where they will be assessed against a set of criteria focusing on active travel, economic investment, sustainability and community assets. Once priorities have been set, additional option appraisal work will commence. The project is due for completion during quarter four 2022/23.

Scoping work continued to be carried out for the 27 projects within the newly revised Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan in quarter three. A budget has now been allocated to advance several priority projects over the next two years – key headlines include:

- £100,000 for tree planting and biodiversity enhancements
- £60,000 for wayfinding
- £54,000 for the Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan
- £40,000 to help implement soft community initiatives related to the environment and sustainability
- £10,000 to advance a meanwhile space project
- £30,00 to progress a Didcot-focused Public Arts and Cultural Strategy
- Funding to resource a Community Development and Outreach Officer
- £20,000 for a leisure and recreation strategy for Didcot
- £45,000 to advance community projects to increase health and wellbeing
- £20,00 to progress a Town Centre and Retail Strategy



- £75,000 to support a long-term legacy project

Progress was also made on the development of the Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). Stages 1 and 2 of the Department for Transport's framework for developing LCWIPs have been completed and work has now started on Stage 3.

In order to ensure that the LCWIP meets local needs, a steering group has been launched. This body will have a high-level overview of the Didcot LCWIP's aims and ambitions – it will also support the making of key decisions. The membership of the steering group has been drawn from a number of different stakeholders, including parish/town councils, local authority members, user groups, representatives from the voluntary/community sector and residents.



Theme 2: Tackling the climate emergency

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 by:

- 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.

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

Key Activities in quarter three

See Theme 2 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 31

The Council aims to reduce council emissions by 75% by 2025 and become a carbon neutral council by 2030. To this end, in October, the Vale submitted a bid for heating decarbonisation, solar energy and insulation improvements at the Wantage Leisure and White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centres to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. The application has been subject to technical assessment by the fund managers. The council has successfully responded to all of their technical queries. The announcement of successful bids is expected in quarter four.

During this quarter, the Energy Saving Trust completed a report on decarbonising the Council's fleet, which demonstrated a business case for changing most vehicles to electric.

With a view to meeting our aspiration to be a zero carbon district by 2045, the Planning Policy team continued to work on researching policy approaches for greener construction and enhancing biodiversity.



Officers continued to work on processing the responses the council received to the Joint Local Plan consultation. The submissions show good levels of support for lower-carbon construction.

To facilitate sustainable growth, the Planning Policy team commissioned several studies which will be used during the development of the Joint Local Plan and will hold to the Good Growth Principles contained within the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision. An Employment Land Needs Assessment and a Specialist Housing Needs Assessment are out for procurement. In addition, a Town Centres & Retail Study was launched and the team also prepared a brief for a Zero Carbon Study which will go out for procurement in quarter four. Once completed, these assessments will provide mapping and local area evidence for planning decisions and assist communities in the development of their Neighbourhood Plans.

Through its membership of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership Environment Advisory Group, the Council continued to work with neighbouring authorities in relation to climate and environmental matters. The draft Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan was developed and reviewed by officers and presented to the Environmental Advisory Group in November. The Route Map and Action Plan are currently being finalised prior to their consideration by the Future Oxfordshire Partnership.

The Council also responded to Oxford City's local plan consultation. It recommended that the City meets its housing needs within the boundaries of Oxford.

In line with our commitment to increase tree cover and biodiversity in our district, the Climate Action and Parks teams have developed and agreed a proposal to both create an area of wildflower meadow at Herons Walk in Abingdon and undertake tree planting at two sites in the town. This will be funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy. The proposed planting will be delivered in quarter four.

Maintaining good air quality in the district is important to ensure the health of residents. The monitoring of particulate matter at the Marcham site came to its conclusion at the end of this quarter. Throughout the project, there were no instances where levels of particulate matter in the air exceeded national air quality objectives.



Following a provisional award in quarter two, the council formally awarded a contract to consultants for the development of new Air Quality Action Plans. Work has started on this project, including a research exercise, the results of which will be analysed during quarter four.

The Vale's Air Quality Annual Status Report, submitted in quarter one, has been signed off by Defra and is now available on the council's website.

All EV charging points on Council sites were operational during quarter three. The monthly reports from EZ Charge show a steady increase in usage over the first six months of operation though demand remains relatively low.

With a view to further increasing charging infrastructure across the district, discussions were held with Oxfordshire County Council regarding the potential for establishing EV car clubs within the Vale. Several parishes have expressed an interest in promoting this.

EV infrastructure was also part of the Council's bid to the Rural England Prosperity Fund, made during this quarter, with proposals to provide grant funding to support community centres and village halls in installing EV chargers.

The council continued to use information campaigns and resources to increase awareness of the climate and ecological emergencies and to help the community to reduce its carbon footprint. These campaigns included work to encourage the planting of trees during National Tree Week; emphasising the benefits of the Climate Action Fund by publicising the extension to the deadline for applications to the beginning of quarter four; and promoting the use of EV chargers by highlighting the completion of the Park and Charge scheme across Oxfordshire.

Communication campaigns have also centred around waste reduction. In October, the council announced the winner of its Litter Bug activity trails for children. These activities were aimed at primary school children and were intended to promote recycling and reuse messages. In November and December, the council promoted its 'Christmas Reduce, Reuse and Recycling' campaign. This included encouraging people to take part in a Christmas recycling quiz (which received more than 1,500 entries) and highlighted a variety of useful resources and ideas on reducing, reusing and recycling, including on South's Christmas waste and recycling webpage.



Theme 3: Building healthy communities

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

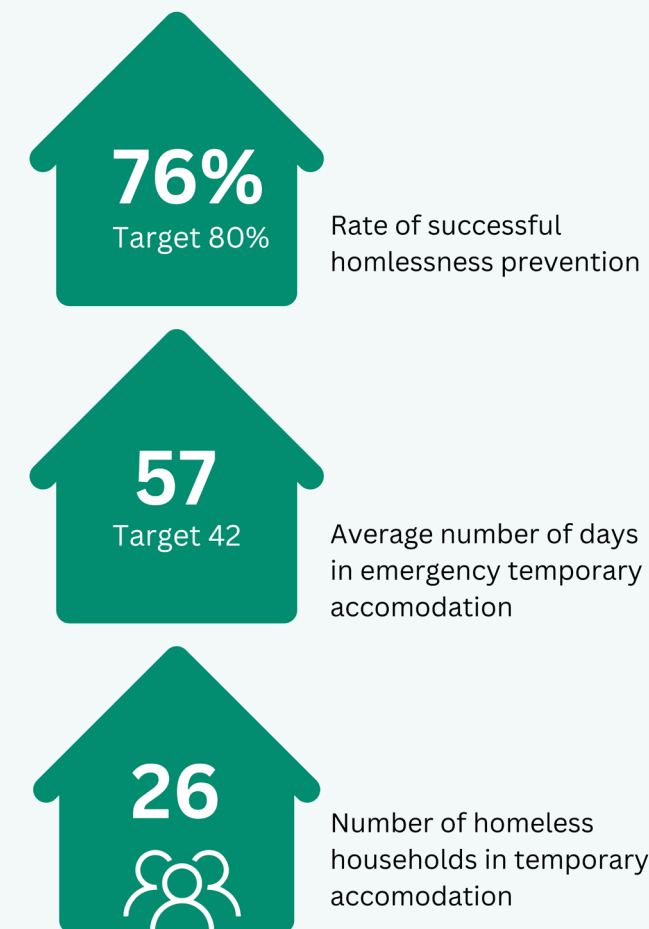
Strategic Lead - Adrianna Partridge (Deputy Chief Executive / Transformation and Operations)

Key Activities in quarter three

See Theme 3 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 40

At the end of quarter three 2022/23, the council recorded two rough sleepers. The very low levels of rough sleeping in the district reflects the success of the Vale's preventative approach.

The number of homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of December 2022 was 26 – another significant increase on the previous quarter and a further reflection of the impacts of the cost-of-living crisis and issues related to the Homes for Ukraine scheme. The average length of stay in emergency accommodation was 57 nights, above the ceiling target of 42 (this has been driven by the higher numbers of homeless clients coming forwards and the complexity of their needs). During quarter three 2022/23, the rate of successful homelessness prevention in the Vale was 76.0 per cent. This was marginally below the target of 80.0 per cent (the average rate of homelessness prevention in the South East region is 55.0 per cent).



As part of the Vale's commitment to safeguarding and supporting the district's vulnerable residents, the council continues to actively participate in the countywide Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy and is a member of both the countywide Homelessness Steering Group and the Homelessness Directors Group.

Throughout the quarter, the Vale continued to assist those in our communities that are most in need. This has included advice, signposting and, where appropriate, funding or food parcels. The council have also continued to liaise with partners – in health and across the voluntary and community sector (VCS) – to support vulnerable residents through these challenging times.

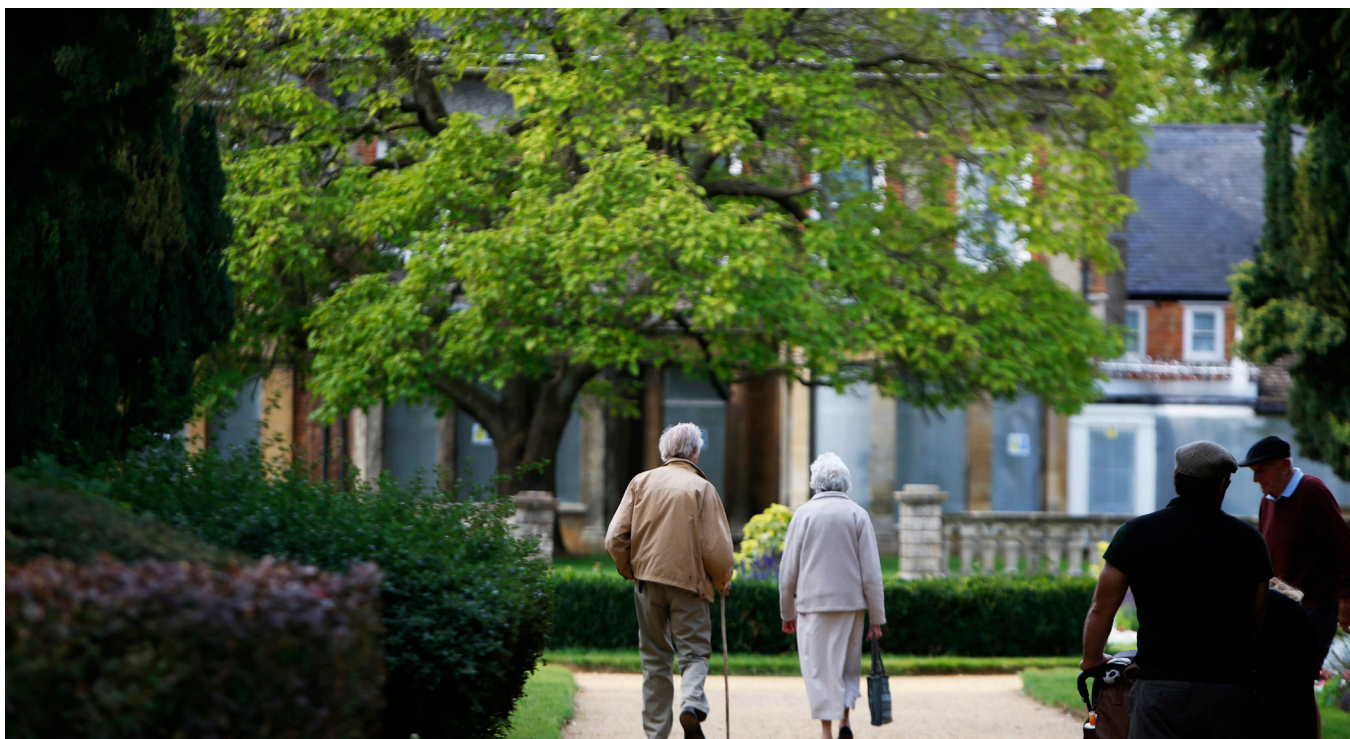
In recognition of the difficulties being faced by people across the district, on 7 December, Full Council agreed to introduce a more generous Council Tax support scheme to provide much needed assistance to individuals and households struggling with the rising cost-of-living. In addition, during quarter three, the Cabinet approved a report to extend the Partnership Grant scheme to Citizens Advice, Vale Community Impact and Community First Oxfordshire into 2023/24. Agreement was also reached to allow these organisations to assist in the distribution of Household Support Fund 3.

The Vale is also currently working to support residents through the launch of a voluntary and community sector food bank grant scheme.

Moreover, the council has continued to maintain their support for our Ukrainian guests and their hosts.

With the aim of building strong communities and connections with a sense of place, work continued on progressing the Joint Local Plan Regulation Part 1 Issues Consultation Report. Officers analysed the responses received in relation to questions concerning how it important it is to people to 'limit and control new sources of air, water, noise and light pollution'. They also collated suggestions on how the Vale could use the Joint Local Plan to keep residents and visitors safe from pollution, flooding, and the effects of climate change.

The Vale has also, through its membership and participation in county-wide initiatives through the Future Oxfordshire Partnership, kept working for the realisation of the Good Growth Principles in the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.



In addition, an initial draft of the Vale's public art policy was prepared in quarter three. The council is now awaiting the completion of further work on an internal review of its community buildings before a consultation on the policy can commence.

With the intention of promoting healthy place shaping and active communities for everyone, work continued on the development of a delivery plan and staffing structure for the implementation of the Active Communities Strategy.

Progress was made on the Ride Revolution pilot project in Abingdon. The council has secured additional funding for the scheme and has reached agreement on a site for the storage of the bikes.

During quarter three 2022/23, the 'Bugs Trail' project in Abingdon was renamed 'Nature Trails' and the route is now being consulted on with external stakeholders – the council has also secured the procurement of suppliers for the posts, maps and art works. The majority of the installations will take place on land owned by the Vale. The Community Wellbeing and Property teams are currently working together to agree this. Officers have also been liaising with Sovereign Housing and Oxfordshire County Council to agree the routes.



Throughout quarter three, the Vale undertook a considerable amount of work to promote healthy communities within the district. The council has kept working with its partners (particularly Active Oxfordshire) to encourage involvement in physical activities and now has 491 people signed up to the 'You Move' project (aimed at families with children and in receipt of benefits) and 472 people enrolled on the 'Move Together' project (designed to help people with long-term health conditions become more active).

The Vale has also collaborated with Active Oxfordshire to improve the health and wellbeing of the district's residents – especially those in our most deprived areas. During quarter three 2022/23, an agreement for additional funding to help support this work was agreed - £3,200 for GP referrals and £11,000 for falls prevention.

In addition, progress has continued to be made on the Vale's cultural and physical activities database. Options are currently being explored for displaying this information in an interactive map form.

Theme 4: Building stable finances

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.

Strategic Lead - Simon Hewings (Head of Finance)

Key Activities in quarter three

See Theme 4 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 49

With the aim of managing the council's resources responsibly and to make effective use of its assets, the Vale's Asset Management Group (established during quarter three 2021/22) continues to meet on a quarterly basis to progress implementation of the Strategic Property Review. 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. Any outcomes from these meetings are progressed as business as usual.

During quarter three, officers and members undertook a revenue base budget challenge as part of 2023/24 budget setting. This work included a review of income budgets to ensure that they are accurate and that the council is maximising its revenue from fees.



In late December, the Vale received a draft report from the consultant appointed to review activities at the Beacon. The document is currently being assessed.

As part of our ongoing project to improve the performance of the Vale's finance systems, the council's budget setting activity for 2023/24 was primarily undertaken on Unit4. This made reporting and analysis considerably easier than in previous years when this work had been primarily done on spreadsheets.

With the intention of building financial resilience to protect the council against future uncertainties, the Strategic Property Team continued to lease vacant properties, progress lease renewals and review rents during quarter three 2022/23. Progress was also made on work regarding potential housing development sites

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 submitted bids to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Phase 3b and the Rural England Prosperity Fund. The award notifications for both applications are expected during quarter four.

The pipeline of external funding opportunities was also maintained and assessed throughout quarter three.



Theme 5: Working in partnership

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.

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

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

Key Activities in quarter three

See Theme 5 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 54

During quarter three 2022/23, the Vale secured £1m of funding through HM Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). This money will be used to enable a three-year pipeline of projects and will help the council to realise its commitment to providing support to businesses in order to help them succeed. After the Vale accepted the award, work began immediately on implementing the planned programme of works, that will support a variety of business sectors over the following three years – these include:

- The visitor economy (including accommodation, hospitality and leisure businesses)
- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) looking to decarbonise or develop 'Green Skills'
- SMEs looking to unlock enterprise infrastructure

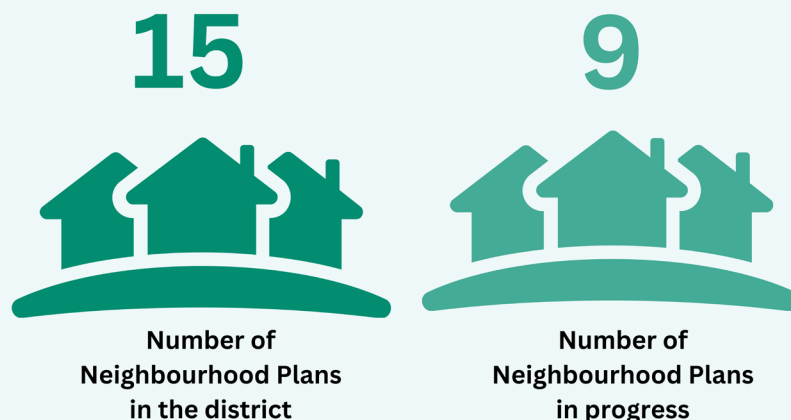
In addition, the Economic Development team filed an addendum to the Vale's UKSPF plan.

It is hoped that this will unlock an additional £528k of funding from the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) and could enable the council to support businesses and community organisations operating in rural areas of the district. A funding decision is expected during quarter four.

Throughout the quarter, the Vale's Digital District Programme (Virtual High Street Initiative) continued to grow. There are now 130 businesses registered on the portal, with over 1,800 products for sale. Work has now begun on extending the contract with ShopAppy (the website hosting the e-commerce platform) for a further 12 months.

As part of the Vale's efforts to support residents and organisations to effect and drive change in the community, the council continued its pilot project on a simpler approach to neighbourhood planning. Officers met regularly with the pilot groups and prepared Terms of Reference to facilitate the delivery of grant funding to support the preparation of Neighbourhood Priority Statements.

During quarter three, the Vale carried on with its preparations for the hosting of workshops between parish councils with made neighbourhood plans and Development Management officers. These workshops (originally planned for the Autumn) have been postponed to the Spring 2023 and will provide neighbourhood planning groups with an opportunity to explain their policies and give an insight into how they contribute towards meeting the neighbourhood plan's objectives. It will also give planning officers an opportunity to highlight any potential challenges that the neighbourhood planning groups may face in implementing their proposals. The hope is that this process will inform any future review of the neighbourhood plans and help align expectations.



The Vale continued to promote the White Horse Community Lottery Scheme. Throughout the quarter, 11,862 lottery tickets were sold generating an annual estimated income of £29,296 for the voluntary sector. The council also received 18 applications to the Vale Climate Action Fund.



The Vale have also persisted with the Town and Parish Council Surgeries during quarter three 2022/23. Uptake has, however, remained low (officers are looking at ways to improve this). Officers also continue, where differing views exist, to advise town and parish councils of their recommendations on planning applications. This helps to explain why decisions are being made and improves partnership working between the Vale and these organisations.

In November, the Cabinet agreed to extend the current Partnerships Grant for 2023/24. They also decided to commence a new funding scheme from April 2024 onwards – officers are currently drafting a new policy which is scheduled for approval in quarter one 2023/24.

With the intention of progressing our goal of working in partnership to influence and shape regional and national agendas, officers attended the quarterly steering group meeting for the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economic Partnership (OIEP) and offered to support the promotion of the OIEP Charter launch event.

In addition, having provided feedback on the tender to procure consultants to help develop the Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan (SEP), the council attended the SEP working group meeting to ensure that the development of the plan continues to align with Vale's objectives.

The Vale also continues to remain involved in shaping and participating in county-wide initiatives through the Future Oxfordshire Partnership.

Theme 6: Working in an open and inclusive way

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.

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

Key Activities in quarter three

See Theme 6 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 63

In order to facilitate the council's commitment to working openly and transparently, the Vale continues to increase the amount of information that it provides through the data hub section of its website. During quarter three 2022/23, the performance management and climate action reports for quarter two 2022/23 were published – these are intended to increase the public's understanding of what the council does, how it works and how decisions are made. In addition, the annual reviews of complaints are now linked to the performance section of the council's website. This will help to provide greater transparency on the complaints that the Vale receives (and how it responds).

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 – with the notable exception of the Full Council (due to logistical/IT issues) – all public meetings during quarter three 2022/23 (they will also remain available to view on the Vale's YouTube channel for a year).



The Vale also kept working on the introduction of the new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. The CRM will be key to increasing online access and improving the customer experience. It will also provide better-quality information/data around both customer contact and fulfilment which can then be used to make further enhancements. The council expects to transition the garden waste service to the CRM in quarter four.

Also, in quarter three, progress continued to be made on procuring a new consultation and engagement platform. After reviewing the products offered by four key suppliers, the council is now in the process of arranging demonstrations to assess which system best fits the Vale's needs.

With the aim of increasing meaningful engagement with everyone, the council began the process of creating an equalities database. This is intended to fill the information gaps that the Vale currently has in this area. The database will initially cover protected characteristics such as age, gender, ethnicity and disability – in time, it is anticipated that its scope will increase.

The Vale is also now collecting equalities data for all its surveys. This will allow the council to be more informed about who is participating in these engagement exercises.

Following the analysis of the feedback received from the draft Diversity and Inclusion Strategy consultation – and the creation of a report on its findings – the Cabinet approved the strategy in December. It will be rolled out during quarter four 2022/23.

During quarter three 2022/23, the Vale wrote to the heads of all sixth forms and colleges across the district informing them about the upcoming local elections and asking for their help in engaging with young people about voting. Officers have also produced a newsletter on the local elections to go to individuals on the electoral register who are turning 18 – this will go out automatically each month.



A new guide for first time voters has also been added to the council's website. In addition, the Vale started working on a flyer which will tell people about the elections and inform them about the new Voter ID requirement – this leaflet will be included with council tax bills.

The council held the first of a planned series of regular, smaller scale Town and Parish briefings in quarter three. This initial event was on the topics of Code of Conduct and Parish Precept Setting.

With the intention of delivering on the Vale's commitment to strengthening the council's governance framework, two tranches of amendments to the Constitution were taken to Full Council for approval during quarter three.

These included:

- new procurement rules
- a whistleblowing policy
- an anti-fraud, corruption and bribery policy

The Head of Finance has also been working with CIPFA on an informal financial management review. This will conclude in quarter four and will be used to inform any additional activity required to ensure the council's compliance with CIPFA's Financial Management Code.

Vale of White Horse quarter one independent cabinet member decisions

Date	Description
30/10/2022	Toilets refurbishment at Portway, Wantage
30/10/2022	Funding for temporary community facilities at Grove and Wantage
01/11/2022	Transfer of land to assist the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme
10/11/2022	Leisure management contractor performance
21/11/2022	Rural England Prosperity Fund
24/11/2022	Play areas - to provide the supply and installation of new play equipment
08/12/2022	Drayton Conservation Area Appraisal Draft for Consultation
08/12/2022	Stanford in the Vale Conservation Area Appraisal Draft for Consultation
15/12/2022	Section 106 funding to East Hanney Parish Council
15/12/2022	Homes for Ukraine Guest Discretionary Payment Policy
22/12/2022	Waste management contractor performance

Theme 1: Providing the homes people need - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
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>The Housing Delivery Strategy – and associated action plan – was agreed and published during November. This outlines the Vale's aspirations for achieving an increase in low carbon, affordable housing.</p> <p>During Q3 2022/23, pieces of council-owned land were visited by officers to assess their potential future use. This information is being used by the Strategic Property team to determine the best course of action for each site. Where land has been identified as suitable for housing development, the Housing Delivery team will become involved. They will ensure that affordable housing plays a significant part in finals outcomes.</p>
PHPN1.1	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 (special purpose vehicle)	Cllr Judy Roberts	Master Planning Lead	<p>During Q3 2022/23, the Vale continued to have conversations with a range of landowners and promoters to progress housing and residential-led, mixed-use schemes (including Dalton Barracks and Ock Valley Park).</p> <p>The option of a council-owned holding company is not currently being explored.</p>
PHPN1.2	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>The Housing Delivery Strategy – and associated action plan – was agreed and published during November. This outlines the Vale's aspirations for achieving an increase in low carbon, affordable housing.</p> <p>In November, an Affordable Housing Guidance Note was presented to the Joint Scrutiny Committee. The document aims to assist planning applicants and others with the identification of relevant published policy and guidance, where it relates to the provision of affordable housing. Updates have been made to the council's website to reflect this information.</p> <p>During Q3 2022/23, the council requested retrofitting plans from registered providers of housing. This is to ensure that their homes are brought up to the relevant EPC ratings.</p>

Theme 1: Providing the homes people need - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
PHPN1.3	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	<p>The Housing Delivery Strategy – and associated action plan – was agreed and published during November. This outlines the Vale's aspirations for achieving an increase in low carbon, affordable housing. It also sets out several short-term actions aimed at improving housing availability and quality.</p> <p>During Q3 2022/23, work began on updating the policies and processes for the allocation of Section 106 funds to organisations that apply for support to bring forward affordable housing.</p> <p>Progress also continued on the development of the Joint Local Plan.</p>
PHPN1.4	Review our strategy for spending s106 sums paid in lieu of onsite affordable housing and identify how earmarked funds, including retained S106 monies, can be best utilised to deliver affordable homes	<p>"Narrative report on s106 spend, focusing on the stated aim and any updates to the existing strategy</p> <p>Additional quantitative elements - s106 spend/units provided from spend"</p>	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>The Housing Delivery Strategy – and associated action plan – was agreed and published during November. This outlines the Vale's aspirations for achieving an increase in low carbon, affordable housing. It also contains an action plan that includes a review of criteria for the allocation of S.106 funds.</p> <p>During Q3 2022/23, work began on updating the policies and processes for the allocation of Section 106 funds to organisations that apply for support to bring forward affordable housing.</p> <p>The council also continues to seek to build upon the success of delivering two affordable housing projects using commuted S.106 sums. Bidding remains open for registered providers and community land trusts to submit applications for grant funding to deliver new affordable housing schemes.</p>
PHPN1.5	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	No progress in Q3 2022/23 – the Cabinet report for the Pebble Hill mobile home berth has been postponed while clarity is sought on the proposed charging mechanism to recover the development costs of the project.

Theme 1: Providing the homes people need - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
PHPN1.6	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	<p>Scoping work continued to be carried out for the 27 projects within the newly revised Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan. A budget has now been allocated to advance several priority projects over the next two years – key headlines include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £100,000 for tree planting and biodiversity enhancements • £60,000 for wayfinding • £54,000 for the Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan • £40,000 to help implement soft community initiatives related to the environment and sustainability • £10,000 to advance a meanwhile space project • £30,00 to progress a Didcot-focused Public Arts and Cultural Strategy • Funding to resource a Community Development and Outreach Officer • £20,000 for a leisure and recreation strategy for Didcot • £45,000 to advance community projects to increase health and wellbeing • £20,00 to progress a Town Centre and Retail Strategy • £75,000 to support a long-term legacy project <p>During Q3 2022/23, progress on the Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) continued. Stages 1 and 2 of the Department for Transport's framework for developing LCWIPs have been completed and work has now started on Stage 3. In order to ensure that the LCWIP meets local needs, the council have launched a steering group. This body will have a high-level overview of the Didcot LCWIP's aims and ambitions – it will also support the making of key decisions. The membership of the steering group has been drawn from a number of different stakeholders, including parish/town councils, local authority members, user groups, representatives from the voluntary/ community sector and residents.</p> <p>(update continues on page 26)</p>

Theme 1: Providing the homes people need - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
PHPN1.6	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	<p>Following the completion of the draft Didcot Placemaking Strategy, a list of potential improvement schemes are now in the process of being identified. These proposals are currently going through RAG rating where they will be assessed against a set of criteria focusing on active travel, economic investment, sustainability and community assets. Once priorities have been set, additional option appraisal work will commence. The project is due for completion during Q4 2022/23.</p> <p>The drafting of the Didcot Public Arts and Culture Strategy was completed in Q3 2022/23.</p> <p>During Q3 2022/23, the Vale continued to hold discussions with both the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) and the parish councils on advancing Dalton Barracks Garden Village (including the masterplan for the project). The DIO is currently awaiting the finalisation of the Oxfordshire Mobility Model (OMM) which will support the transport modelling requirement for the site – while the OMM was supposed to be completed by the end of 2022, it has been delayed.</p>
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	<p>During Q3 2022/23, progress continued on the development of the Joint Local Plan. As part of this work, officers are advancing planning policies that will help to protect the environment and allow people to live healthier lifestyles.</p> <p>In order to help protect the environment, the Planning Policy team commissioned a set of studies on landscape and countryside. Once completed, these assessments will help to inform the Joint Local Plan, provide mapping and local area evidence for planning decisions, and assist communities in the development of their neighbourhood plans.</p> <p>In addition, the council appointed consultants to undertake two studies on sport and leisure (on playing pitches and a leisure facilities strategy respectively) which will also be utilised in the development of the Joint Local Plan.</p>

Theme 1: Providing the homes people need - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
PHPN2.1	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 Q3 2022/23 – Project completed.
PHPN2.2	Update the CIL spending strategy and associated procedures to accelerate the delivery of local infrastructural improvements for our communities both in line with our corporate objectives and, where appropriate, to support current spending on existing infrastructure	<p>"Narrative update on CIL spend to support the delivery of local infrastructure</p> <p>Total CIL spend + CIL spend breakdown"</p>	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Finance	<p>The October CIL payment (made in accordance with regulations) to parish councils totalled £483,501. This funding will be used directly by them to support development in their respective areas.</p> <p>The Statutory Infrastructure Funding Statement was published in December. It can be found at: https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/01/Vale-IFS-2021-22-20221216.pdf</p> <p>Recommendations for the allocation of CIL in the 2023/24 capital programme will be considered as part of the budget setting process. The allocations will be reported during Q4 2022/23.</p>
PHPN2.3	Consider ways we can encourage lower-carbon construction in Vale	Narrative update to include any activity supporting lower-carbon construction in the Vale	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Policy and Programmes	During Q3 2022/23, officers prepared a brief for a Zero Carbon Study – the results of which will inform the sustainable construction policies in the Joint Local Plan. It will go out for procurement in Q4.

Theme 1: Providing the homes people need - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
PHPN2.4	Develop an affordable housing Supplementary Planning Document (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	<p>Following a meeting in May 2022 between lead members and officers, it was agreed that the most effective approach for delivering the aims of an Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document was to pursue policy changes through the Joint Local Plan.</p> <p>The Housing Delivery Strategy – and associated action plan – was agreed and published during November. This outlines the Vale's aspirations for achieving an increase in low carbon, affordable housing.</p> <p>In November, an Affordable Housing Guidance Note was presented to the Joint Scrutiny Committee. The document aims to assist planning applicants and others with the identification of relevant published policy and guidance, where it relates to the provision of affordable housing. Updates have been made to the council's website to reflect this information.</p> <p>During Q3 2022/23, the council requested retrofitting plans from registered providers of housing. This is to ensure that their homes are brought up to the relevant EPC ratings.</p> <p>Progress also continued on the development of the Joint Local Plan.</p>
PHPN2.5	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	<p>During Q3 2022/23 (and following the cessation of work on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050), the council began considering the spatial strategy for the Joint Local Plan. To help facilitate this, officers undertook further preliminary work on the proposed needs for different land uses. They also prepared briefs for an Employment Land Needs Assessment and a Specialist Housing Needs Assessment (both of which have gone out for procurement). In addition, work is already underway on a Town Centres & Retail Study.</p> <p>The Vale has also appointed consultants to undertake two studies on sport and leisure (on playing pitches and a leisure facilities strategy respectively) which will also be utilised in the development of the Joint Local Plan.</p>

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Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
PHPN2.6	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 Q3 2022/23, officers prepared a report on the Joint Local Plan Regulation Part 1 Issues Consultation. The results of this engagement exercise have allowed the council to get a better understanding of the public's views on the importance of connecting homes/housing with employment opportunities.</p> <p>Officers have also attended several county-wide meetings on transport projects that will be needed to accompany planned development.</p>
PHPN2.7	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>During Q3 2022/23, officers prepared a brief for a Zero Carbon Study – the results of which will inform the sustainable construction policies in the Joint Local Plan. It will go out for procurement in Q4.</p> <p>In addition, the Planning Policy team commissioned a set of studies on environmental topics. Once completed, these assessments will help to inform the Joint Local Plan, provide mapping and local area evidence for planning decisions, and assist communities in the development of their neighbourhood plans.</p> <p>Also during Q3 2022/23, the Climate Action and Planning Policy teams worked with consultants and the Vale's Oxfordshire partners to finalise the Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan.</p>
PHPN2.8	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>The Housing Delivery Strategy – and associated action plan – was agreed and published during November. This outlines the aspirations for the council (and other developers within the district) in relation to types of housing, tenure mix and demographic. It also sets out several short-term actions aimed at improving housing availability and quality.</p> <p>The quantitative measures regarding housing mix, tenure and affordability will be determined on a site-by-site basis at the point that they are brought forward.</p>

Theme 1: Providing the homes people need - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
PHPN2.9	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 Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q3 2022/23, progress on the Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) continued. Stages 1 and 2 of the Department for Transport's framework for developing LCWIPs have been completed and work has now started on Stage 3. In order to ensure that the LCWIP meets local needs, the council have launched a steering group. This body will have a high-level overview of the Didcot LCWIP's aims and ambitions – it will also support the making of key decisions. The membership of the steering group has been drawn from a number of different stakeholders, including parish/town councils, local authority members, user groups, representatives from the voluntary/ community sector and residents.</p> <p>In Q3 2022/23, officers from the council worked on a steering group for the Oxfordshire Strategic Active Travel Network (SATN) project. Comments have also been provided on a draft set of strategic walking and cycling maps (https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2022/12/Vale-Letter-SATN-22.12.22_Redacted.pdf). The Vale has also submitted formal feedback welcoming the progress so far made on the SATN.</p>

Theme 2: Tackling the climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 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>In October, the Vale submitted a bid for heating decarbonisation, solar energy and insulation improvements at the Wantage Leisure and White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centres to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. The application has been subject to technical assessment by the fund managers – to date, the council has successfully responded to all of their technical queries. The announcement of successful bids is expected in Q4.</p> <p>The Energy Saving Trust completed a report on decarbonising the council's fleet. This demonstrated a business case for changing most vehicles to electric.</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 Sally Povolotsky	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q3 2022/23, the Quarter 2 Climate Action Plan (CAP) report was published on the Vale's website – the Quarter 1 report was also discussed by the climate Emergency Advisory Committee on 10/10/2022.</p> <p>The progress made against the CAP targets is detailed in the published CAP reports.</p>
TCE1.2	Complete the CEAC Year One Climate Action Plan and plan for future years	Narrative report on progress	Cllr Sally Povolotsky	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>The Vale Climate Emergency Advisory Committee (CEAC) Year One Action Plan has been completed. The actions contained within it have now been further developed in the Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2022-24.</p> <p>During Q3 2022/23, the Quarter 2 CAP report was published on the Vale's website – the Quarter 1 report was also discussed by the climate Emergency Advisory Committee on 10/10/2022.</p> <p>The progress made against the CAP targets is detailed in the published CAP reports.</p>

Theme 2: Tackling the climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 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 Judy Roberts	Head of Policy and Programmes	During Q3 2022/23, the Climate Action and Parks teams have developed and agreed a proposal (funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy) to both create an area of wildflower meadow and undertake tree planting at two sites in Abingdon. The proposed planting will be delivered in Q4.
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 Q3 2022/23, 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"> • a press release and social media campaign during National Tree Week encouraging communities to get involved in local tree planting. • the introduction of a new section to the website called 'Reduce Your Energy Cost.' This was created to provide more information to the public on their energy efficiency options. • continuing to support Oxfordshire County Council's Climate Action Oxfordshire website by providing content entitled 'Make savings not waste this Christmas'. • emphasising the benefits of the Climate Action Fund by publicising the extension to the deadline for applications to the beginning of Q4. Photos and details of previously funded projects were used to inspire and encourage applications. • promoting the use of EV chargers by highlighting the completion of the Park and Charge scheme across Oxfordshire.

Theme 2: Tackling the climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
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 Sally Povolotsky	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>The Vale Climate Emergency Advisory Committee (CEAC) Year One Action Plan has been completed. The actions contained within it have now been further developed in the Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2022-24.</p> <p>The monitoring of the activities and actions undertaken by the Vale as part of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) during Q2 2022/23 has been completed and the CAP Performance Report published on the council's website. Progress on the delivery of the CAP will be tracked and reviewed on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>One meeting of the CEAC was held during Q3 2022/23. During this, members discussed progress on the CAP actions.</p>
TCE2.2	Introduce policies for zero carbon construction requirements	Narrative update on progress toward design guide implementation, transitioning into review of relevant information/developments in this area	Cllr Sally Povolotsky	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q3 2022/23, officers prepared a brief for a Zero Carbon Study – the results of which will inform the sustainable construction policies in the Joint Local Plan. It will go out for procurement in Q4.</p> <p>Also, in Q3, officers continued to work on processing the responses the council received to the Joint Local Plan consultation. The submissions received show good levels of support for lower-carbon construction.</p> <p>In addition, the Climate Action and Planning Policy teams worked with consultants and the Vale's Oxfordshire partners to finalise the Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan.</p>

Theme 2: Tackling the climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 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 Sally Povolotsky	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q3 2022/23, the Planning Policy team considered the issue of sustainable growth following the cessation of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050. To help facilitate this, they commissioned several studies which will be used during the development of the Joint Local Plan and will hold to the Good Growth Principles contained within the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision. As part of this work, briefs were prepared for an Employment Land Needs Assessment and a Specialist Housing Needs Assessment (both of which have gone out for procurement). In addition, a Town Centres & Retail Study was commissioned and launched.</p> <p>Also, during Q3 2022/23, officers prepared a brief for a Zero Carbon Study – the results of which will inform the sustainable construction policies in the Joint Local Plan. It will go out for procurement in Q4.</p> <p>In Q3, the Vale responded to Oxford City's local plan consultation. It recommended that the City meets its housing needs within the boundaries of Oxford.</p>
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	<p>During Q3 2022/23, the Planning Policy team continued to work on researching policy approaches for greening construction. Officers prepared a brief for a Zero Carbon Study – the results of which will inform the sustainable construction policies in the Joint Local Plan. It will go out for procurement in Q4.</p> <p>In addition, the Climate Action and Planning Policy teams worked with consultants and the Vale's Oxfordshire partners to finalise the Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan.</p>
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 Sally Povolotsky	Head of Policy and Programmes	No progress to report Q3 2022/23 – This action is now complete.

Theme 2: Tackling the climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
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 Sally Povolotsky	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>Throughout Q3 2022/23, indicative Particulate Matter (PM) and Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) monitoring continued in Marcham (this work concluded at the end of the calendar year). Provisional results 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 – this is expected during Q4 2022/23).</p> <p>The Vale's Air Quality Annual Status Report – submitted Q1 2022/23 – has been signed off by Defra and is now available on the council's website.</p> <p>Real Time Air Quality Data for sites within Vale of White Horse is available at https://www.airqualityengland.co.uk.</p>
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 Sally Povolotsky	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>During Q3 2022/23, the council formally awarded a contract to consultants for the development of new Air Quality Action Plans. Work has now started on this project – this has included a research exercise, the results of which will be analysed during Q4.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the final draft Air Quality Actions Plans will come forward for formal consultation in 2023/24.</p>
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 Sally Povolotsky	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q3 2022/23, officers a webinar at which the main findings of the Habitat Banking Pilot scheme were presented. The knowledge gleaned from these early projects will now be used to help the local Wildlife Trust with the setting up of further habitat banking sites.</p> <p>Negotiations over the initial sales of Biodiversity Credits at the pilot site at Duxford are still ongoing.</p>

Theme 2: Tackling the climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
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	The Vale – through its membership of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership Environment Advisory Group – continued to work with neighbouring authorities in relation to climate and environmental matters. During Q3 2022/23, the draft Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan was developed and reviewed by officers. After amendment, it was presented to the Environmental Advisory Group in November. The Route Map and Action Plan (and their associated documentation) are currently being finalised prior to their consideration by the Future Oxfordshire Partnership.
TCE3.1	Complete the CEAC Year One Action Plan and plan for future years	Narrative report on progress	Cllr Sally Povolotsky	Head of Policy and Programmes	No progress to report Q3 2022/23 – This action is now complete.
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 Sally Povolotsky	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>The September 2022 recycling rate was 67.89%, the landfill rate was 0.20% and the contamination rate was 12.00%. These figures were not available for Q2 reporting.</p> <p>The October 2022 recycling rate was 62.68%, the landfill rate was 0.24% and the contamination rate was 11.25%.</p> <p>The November 2022 recycling rate was 55.73%, the landfill rate was 0.26% and the contamination rate was 13.39%.</p> <p>The figures for December are not yet available.</p> <p>During Q3 2022/23, the Vale ran several communication campaigns. These included:</p> <p>(update continues on page 29)</p>

Theme 2: Tackling the climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 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 Sally Povolotsky	Head of Housing and Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter Bug trail winners In October, the council announced the winner of its Litter Bug activity trails for children. These activities were aimed at primary school children and were intended to promote recycling and reuse messages, as well as explain the damage that litter does to the environment. • Extra garden waste The council used social media and other comms channels to remind subscribers to its garden waste service that they could leave out extra waste during one week in October. • Halloween The council shared messages on its social media channels aimed at reducing food waste from pumpkins. • Adverse weather disruption During the week starting 12 December, the council provided daily updates to residents and councillors about the disruption caused to bin services by snow and ice. This included messages via the BINZONE app and text service (as well as through the council's social media channels). • Christmas campaign In November and December, the council promoted its 'Christmas Reduce, Reuse and Recycling' campaign. This included encouraging people to take part in a Christmas recycling quiz (which received more than 1,000 entries); sharing messages on how to reuse and reduce items that are usually thrown away over Christmas; highlighting a variety of useful resources and ideas on reducing, reusing and recycling; and encouraging people to visit the Vale's special Christmas waste and recycling page. <p>During this time, the council also informed people about changes to waste and recycling collections over the holiday period.</p>

Theme 2: Tackling the climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
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 Sally Povolotsky	Head of Policy and Programmes	During Q3 2022/23, the Climate Action and Parks teams have developed and agreed a proposal (funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy) to undertake tree planting at two sites in Abingdon. The proposed planting will be delivered in Q4.
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 Sally Povolotsky	Head of Policy and Programmes	No progress to report Q3 2022/23.
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 Sally Povolotsky	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>The Park and Charge project to install EV charging points in five of the council's car parks was completed during Q1 2022/23. All of the EV charging points were operational in Q3. The monthly reports from EZ Charge show a steady increase in usage over the first six months of operation – take-up, however, is not yet suggestive of substantial demand.</p> <p>Number of EV Charging Points: Audlett Drive – 16 Cattle Market – 10 West St Helens – 12 Southampton Street – 12 Portway – 12</p> <p>Also, during Q3, discussions were held with Oxfordshire County Council regarding the potential for establishing EV car clubs within the Vale – several parishes have expressed an interest in promoting this.</p> <p>The council made an application to the Rural England Prosperity Fund in Q3 2022/23. In the bid, the Vale included proposals to provide grant funding to support community centres and village halls in installing EV chargers.</p>

Theme 2: Tackling the climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 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 Bethia Thomas	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>No progress to report Q3 2022/23 – This action is now complete.</p> <p>The Vale does not support the proposed development of a pan-regional partnership across the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.</p>
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 Bethia Thomas	Head of Policy and Programmes	While work has ceased on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, the Vale remains involved in shaping and participating in county-wide initiatives through the Future Oxfordshire Partnership. In this forum, officers and members continue to work for the realisation of the Good Growth Principles in the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.
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 Sally Povolotsky	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q3 2022/23, the draft Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan was developed and reviewed by officers. After amendment, it was presented to the Environmental Advisory Group in November. The Route Map and Action Plan (and their associated documentation) are currently being finalised prior to their consideration by the Future Oxfordshire Partnership.</p> <p>In addition, the council has continued to promote the 'Reduce Your Energy Cost' section of the website – this provides information to the public on their energy efficiency options.</p>

Theme 3: Building healthy communities - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 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>While work has ceased on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, the Vale remains involved in shaping and participating in county-wide initiatives through the Future Oxfordshire Partnership. In this forum, officers and members continue to work for the realisation of the Good Growth Principles in the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.</p> <p>During Q3 2022/23, the Planning Policy team commissioned several studies which will be used during the development of the Joint Local Plan. As part of this work, briefs were prepared for an Employment Land Needs Assessment and a Specialist Housing Needs Assessment (both of which have gone out for procurement). In addition, a Town Centres & Retail Study was commissioned and launched.</p> <p>In addition, during Q3, the Community Wellbeing team continued to work with communities across the district to support them through the cost-of-living crisis. They also maintained the support provided for the Vale's Ukrainian guests and their hosts.</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 Q3 2022/23, there was a slight downturn in use across Great Western Park's community centres. This was caused by a regular booking for a youth group moving elsewhere.</p> <p>A draft report from the consultant appointed to review activities at the Beacon was received at the end of December. It is now under review.</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 Q3 2022/23, an initial draft of the Vale's public art policy was prepared. The council is now awaiting the completion of further work on an internal review of its community buildings before a consultation on the policy can commence.</p>

Theme 3: Building healthy communities - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
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 Q3 2022/23, the Community Enablement team continued to provide ongoing support and advice to support voluntary sector organisations in their recovery from the impact of Covid-19.</p> <p>The Cabinet approved a report in Q3 to extend the Partnership Grant scheme to Citizens Advice, Vale Community Impact and Community First Oxfordshire into 2023/24. Agreement was also reached to allow these organisations to assist in the distribution of Household Support Fund 3.</p> <p>The Community Hub continued to work with the voluntary and community sector in response to the cost-of-living crisis (particularly in relation to food initiatives and the provision of support for those in most need).</p> <p>The Vale is also working to support residents through the launch of a voluntary and community sector food bank grant scheme.</p> <p>In addition, the council continued to support residents (especially those in need) through the Move Together and You Move schemes.</p>

Theme 3: Building healthy communities - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 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>Progress continued on the Ride Revolution pilot project in Abingdon in Q3 2022/23. The council has secured additional funding for the scheme and has reached agreement on a site for the storage of the bikes.</p> <p>The 'Bugs Trail' project in Abingdon has been renamed 'Nature Trails' and the route is now being consulted on with external stakeholders.</p> <p>Work continued on the development of a delivery plan and staffing structure for the implementation of the Active Communities Strategy.</p> <p>During Q3 2022/23, progress on the Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) continued. Stages 1 and 2 of the Department for Transport's framework for developing LCWIPs have been completed and work has now started on Stage 3. In order to ensure that the LCWIP meets local needs, the council have launched a steering group. This body will have a high-level overview of the Didcot LCWIP's aims and ambitions – it will also support the making of key decisions. The membership of the steering group has been drawn from a number of different stakeholders, including parish/town councils, local authority members, user groups, representatives from the voluntary/community sector and residents.</p> <p>In Q3 2022/23, officers from the council worked on a steering group for the Oxfordshire Strategic Active Travel Network (SATN) project. Comments have also been provided on a draft set of strategic walking and cycling maps (https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2022/12/Vale-Letter-SATN-22.12.22_Redacted.pdf). The Vale has also submitted formal feedback welcoming the progress so far made on the SATN.</p>

Theme 3: Building healthy communities - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
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 BHC1.5,</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 Q3 2022/23, work continued on progressing the Joint Local Plan Regulation Part 1 Issues Consultation Report. This consultation (held in Q1) asked for views on a draft vision for the Joint Local Plan. Officers analysed the responses received in relation to questions concerning how important it is to people to 'limit and control new sources of air, water, noise and light pollution'. They also collated suggestions on how the Vale could use the Joint Local Plan to keep residents and visitors safe from pollution, flooding, and the effects of climate change.</p> <p>The council continued its pilot project on a simpler approach to neighbourhood planning. Officers met regularly with the pilot groups and prepared Terms of Reference to facilitate the delivery of grant funding to support the preparation of Neighbourhood Priority Statements. The pilot project provides an opportunity for communities to explore how to tackle air quality issues locally.</p> <p>As of 31 December 2022, there are 15 made Neighbourhood Plans in the district (one of which is currently under review). There are nine plans in progress, four of which have completed pre-submission consultations.</p>
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 Sally Povolotsky	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>During Q3 2022/23, the council formally awarded a contract to consultants for the development of new Air Quality Action Plans. Work has now started on this project – this has included a research exercise, the results of which will be analysed during Q4.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the final draft Air Quality Actions Plans will come forward for formal consultation in 2023/24.</p>

Theme 3: Building healthy communities - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
PROGRAMME 2	Promoting healthy place shaping and active communities, for everyone	Narrative update		Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q3 2022/23, progress continued to be made on the Vale's cultural and physical activities database. Options are currently being explored for displaying this information in an interactive map form.</p> <p>Between October and December, 1,817 people took in the Vale's regular activities.</p>
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	<p>Progress continued to be made on the development of a delivery plan for the Active Communities Strategy.</p> <p>The Vale also kept working with its partners (particularly Active Oxfordshire) to encourage involvement in physical activities.</p>
BHC2.2	Work with Active Oxfordshire to target get active projects in our most deprived communities	Narrative update on proposals from Active Oxfordshire	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>The Vale continued to collaborate with Active Oxfordshire to improve the health and wellbeing of the district's residents – especially those in or most deprived areas. During Q3 2022/23, an agreement for additional funding to help support this work was agreed - £3,200 for GP referrals and £11,000 for falls prevention.</p> <p>The council now has 491 people signed up to the 'You Move' project (aimed at families with children and in receipt of benefits). It also has 472 people enrolled on the 'Move Together' project (designed to help people with long-term health conditions become more active).</p>

Theme 3: Building healthy communities - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
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	<p>During Q3 2022, the 'Bugs Trail' project in Abingdon was renamed 'Nature Trails' and the route is now being consulted on with external stakeholders – the council has also secured the procurement of suppliers for the posts, maps and art works.</p> <p>The majority of the installations will take place on land owned by the Vale. The Community Wellbeing and Property teams are currently working together to agree this. Officers have also been liaising with Sovereign Housing and Oxfordshire County Council to agree the routes.</p> <p>Preparations have also been made for the installation of outdoor table tennis tables over the coming weeks in Abingdon, Wantage and Ardington.</p>
BHC2.4	Identify councils owned land for community gardening and allotments projects	Narrative update on the work/ outcomes from the Strategic Property Review	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	No progress to report in Q3 2022/23
BHC2.5	Active engagement with the Oxfordshire Health Improvement Board and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ensure the Vale has strong representation in countywide health forums	Narrative update on work with the Oxfordshire Health Improvement Board/Health overview and Scrutiny Committee	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>The Oxfordshire Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee met on 24 November 2022. At this event, the Committee received the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Primary Care •The Integrated Care Programme for Oxfordshire •Serious Mental Health •Healthwatch <p>The Health Improvement Board met on 17 November 2022 and considered the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Health Protection Update •Performance Report •Integrated Care System's (ICS) Strategy •Mental Wellbeing Prevention Concordat Update and Priorities •Healthwatch

Theme 3: Building healthy communities - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
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)	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Legal and Democratic	<p>During Q3 2022/23, 19 safeguarding concerns were raised with the council – the majority of these were for poor mental health or domestic abuse. 13 of these resulted in referrals to Oxfordshire Safeguarding Teams.</p> <p>Eight new closure orders were issued during Q3 (a closure order acts to safeguard access to properties where vulnerable tenants are being exploited). This was an increase on the previous quarter (five).</p>
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 Legal and Democratic	<p>The data from the domestic abuse service for Quarter 3 2022/23 will be available at the beginning of Q4 2022/23.</p> <p>During Q2 2022/23, the countywide service received 1,152 calls to their helpline, an increase on the previous quarter (1,113). Of these, 425 were new contacts, 97 of whom came from South and Vale. Across Oxfordshire, 52 cases were referred for outreach – of which 24 came from South and Vale.</p> <p>In Q3 2022/23, there were 24 referrals to the South and Vale domestic abuse sanctuary scheme. This was a slight increase on Q2 2022/23 (21).</p>

Theme 3: Building healthy communities - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 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 Q3 2022/23, the Vale worked to assist those most in need – particularly in light of the cost-of-living crisis. This has included advice, signposting and where appropriate funding or food parcels. The council have also continued to liaise with partners – in health and across the voluntary and community sector (VCS) – to support vulnerable communities through these challenging times.</p> <p>The Cabinet approved a report in Q3 to extend the Partnership Grant scheme to Citizens Advice, Vale Community Impact and Community First Oxfordshire into 2023/24. Agreement was also reached to allow these organisations to assist in the distribution of Household Support Fund 3.</p> <p>On 7 December, Full Council agreed to introduce a more generous Council Tax support scheme to provide much needed assistance to individuals and households struggling with the rising cost-of-living.</p> <p>In addition, The Vale is working to support residents through the launch of a voluntary and community sector food bank grant scheme.</p> <p>Throughout Q3, the council has continued to support the Homes for Ukraine scheme.</p>
BHC3.3	Review and Revise the Joint Taxi Licensing Policy	Narrative update on the JTLP	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Legal and Democratic	No progress to report Q3 2022/23 - the work to review, revise and embed the new Joint Taxi Licensing Policy was completed during Q2 2021/22.

Theme 3: Building healthy communities - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
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>Vale of White Horse recorded two rough sleepers at the end of Q3 2022/23. The very low levels of rough sleeping in the district reflects the success of the council's preventative approach.</p> <p>The number of homeless households in temporary accommodation (TA) on 31 December 2022 was 26 – another significant increase on the previous quarter (18) that reflects the impacts of the cost-of-living crisis and the Homes for Ukraine scheme.</p> <p>The average length of stay in emergency accommodation was 57 nights, above the ceiling target of 42 (this is a reflection of both the higher numbers of homeless clients coming forwards and the complexity of their needs).</p> <p>During Q3 2022/23, the rate of successful homelessness prevention in the Vale was 76.0 per cent. This was marginally below the target of 80.0 per cent (the average rate of homelessness prevention in the South East region is 55.0 per cent).</p> <p>The council continues to actively participate in the countywide Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy and is a member of both the countywide Homelessness Steering Group and the Homelessness Directors Group.</p>

Theme 4: Building stable finances - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
PROGRAMME 1	Explore and actively consider all avenues to deliver financial stability, including maximising income available to the council	Narrative update on initiatives to deliver financial stability and maximise income across the Council	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Finance	During Q3 2022/23, officers and members undertook a revenue base budget challenge as part of 2023/24 budget setting. This work included a review of income budgets to ensure that they are accurate and that fees are maximised.
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 introduction of the investment strategy and subsequent decision-making around investing	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Finance	No progress to report Q3 2022/23.

Theme 4: Building stable finances - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
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 Q3 2022/23, the Vale made submissions for funding to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Phase 3b - £5,992,916 to decarbonise Wantage Leisure and White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centres (award notification expected January 2023). • The Rural England Prosperity Fund - £528,032 (award notification expected Q4 2022/23). This application is broken down into: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capital grants for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas - £264,016 - Capital grants for growing the local social economy and supporting innovation - £132,008 - Capital grants for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups - £132,008 <p>The pipeline of external funding opportunities was also maintained and assessed throughout the quarter.</p>
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	No progress to report Q3 2022/23.
BSF1.4	Review the schedule of existing contracts to identifying opportunities for rationalisation and savings	Narrative update initially detailing BAU activity to support this aim, until specific project is kicked off at which point reporting would be based on the project activity	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Finance	No progress to report Q3 2022/23 – the council has, however, successfully recruited for an additional procurement resource. The new employee will start in January 2023.

Theme 4: Building stable finances - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
BSF1.5	Upgrade the council's finance IT systems to improve functionality and support in-year budget monitoring	Narrative report on the implementation of new systems, and then a yearly light-touch review	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Finance	The council's budget setting activity was primarily undertaken on Unit4. This made reporting and analysis considerably easier than in previous years where this work had been done mainly on spreadsheets.
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 Q3 2022/23.
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 Q3 2022/23.
PROGRAMME 2	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	Narrative report on the progress of the Strategic Property review and other relevant initiatives	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q3 2022/23, the Strategic Property team continued to progress lease renewals, review rents and – where appropriate – seek new tenants.</p> <p>The Strategic Property team, in collaboration with colleagues in Housing, made progress in their work regarding potential housing development sites.</p> <p>In addition, the Asset Management Group (established during Q3 2021/22) continued to meet on a quarterly basis to progress implementation of the Strategic Property Review and to consider assets in line with the council's corporate priorities.</p>
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	After an assessment, officers concluded a further review of the existing procurement policy (introduced during 2022) was not required at this time.

Theme 4: Building stable finances - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
BSF2.2	Conduct a Strategic Property Review to identify opportunities to enhance, redevelop, transfer the councils 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	No progress to report Q3 2022/23 – the Strategic Property Review was finalised in Q3 2021/22, and this action is now completed.
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	No progress to report Q3 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 Q3 2022/23 – the review of leases and licences was completed during Q1 2021/22.
BSF2.5	Undertake a detailed review of the financial position of the Beacon in Wantage and determine what changes to its operations can be made to improve its viability	Narrative update on the review of financial position of the Beacon	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	A draft report from the consultant appointed to review activities at the Beacon was received by the council at the end of December. It is now under review.

Theme 4: Building stable finances - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
BSF2.6	Insourcing our grounds maintenance and public conveniences contracts to save funds and increase flexibility over how our public spaces are used and managed	Narrative update on the activities of the new insourced team and the initiatives being undertaken	Cllr Sally Povolotsky	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q3 2022/23, the Vale completed the job evaluations of the Grounds Maintenance team (with a view to bringing them in-line with the council's policies). The proposed changes to the contractual terms and conditions are, however, still to be agreed.</p> <p>Officers also prepared an awareness campaign on how the Vale are increasing biodiversity by altering the cutting regimes for the council's grasslands (this will build on the 'No Mow May' campaign of Q1 2022/23).</p> <p>The Energy Saving Trust completed a report on decarbonising the council's fleet in Q3. This demonstrated a business case for changing most vehicles to electric. Following a presentation to senior managers on 30 November, the development of delivery plans is now the responsibility of the teams managing the Facilities and Grounds Maintenance fleets.</p>

Theme 5: Working in partnership - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 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	<p>During Q3 2022/23, the Economic Development team engaged with multiple partners to define approaches to apply for (and allocate any money awarded through) both the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Rural England Prosperity Fund.</p> <p>The Vale attended the quarterly steering group meeting for the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economic Partnership. The council has offered its support to ensure the promotion of the charter launch event through South and Vale Business Support channels.</p> <p>In Q3 2022/23, officers from the council worked on a steering group for the Oxfordshire Strategic Active Travel Network (SATN) project. Comments have also been provided on a draft set of strategic walking and cycling maps (https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2022/12/Vale-Letter-SATN-22.12.22_Redacted.pdf). The Vale has also submitted formal feedback welcoming the progress so far made on the SATN.</p> <p>During Q3 2022/23, the draft Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan was developed and reviewed by officers. After amendment, it was presented to the Environmental Advisory Group in November. The Route Map and Action Plan (and their associated documentation) are currently being finalised prior to their consideration by the Future Oxfordshire Partnership.</p> <p>The Vale remains involved in shaping and participating in county-wide initiatives through the Future Oxfordshire Partnership. In this forum, officers and members continue to work for the realisation of the Good Growth Principles in the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.</p> <p>(update continues on page 49)</p>

Theme 5: Working in partnership - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 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	<p>Also, during Q3, discussions were held with Oxfordshire County Council regarding the potential for establishing EV car clubs within the Vale – several parishes have expressed an interest in promoting this.</p> <p>The Vale continued to collaborate with Active Oxfordshire to improve the health and wellbeing of the district's residents – especially those in or most deprived areas. During Q3 2022/23, an agreement for additional funding to help support this work was agreed.</p>
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 it's completion	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Policy and Programmes	No progress to report Q3 2022/23 – This work was completed during Q4 2021/22. It will now be subject to an annual review.
WIP1.2	Develop an enhanced consultations strategy and process to ensure we respond to consultations and proactively lobby national government and other bodies on matters that impact our corporate priorities	<p>Narrative update on proactive work to lobby govt and key organisations, update on key consultations responded to within the period.</p> <p>Quantitative -- Number of consultations replied to.</p>	Cllr Neil Fawcett	Head of Policy and Programmes	
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 Q3 2022/23, meetings have been held with developers, promoters and public/private landowners. Officers have also continued to meet with members, town/parish councils, other interested stakeholders, Oxfordshire County Council and Homes England. These events are part of the Vale's framework of coordinated activity in this area.

Theme 5: Working in partnership - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 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 Neil Fawcett	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q3 2022/23, the Vale secured £1m of funding through HM Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). This money will be used to enable a three-year pipeline of projects. After the council accepted the award, work began immediately on implementing the planned programme of works, that will support a variety of business sectors over the following three years – these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The visitor economy (including accommodation, hospitality and leisure businesses) • SMEs looking to decarbonise or develop 'Green Skills' • SMEs looking to unlock enterprise infrastructure <p>The Economic Development team also filed an addendum to the council's UKSPF plan. This it is hoped will unlock an additional £528k of funding from the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). This money would enable the Vale to support businesses and community organisations operating in rural areas of the district. A funding decision is expected during Q4.</p> <p>Seven complex enquiries were logged by the Economic Development team in Q3. All of these dealt with businesses seeking advice on space for expansion or relocation.</p>

Theme 5: Working in partnership - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
WIP1.5	Strengthen any existing network of local business groups to increase awareness of the council's ED programmes and communication throughout the district	Detail engagement with small business newsletter, number of recipients, clickthrough	Cllr Neil Fawcett	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>By the end of Q3 2022/23, there were 2,424 subscribers to South and Vale's economic development newsletter. There was 1,053 clickthroughs from these – and the average open rate was 52.04 per cent.</p> <p>From October to December, there were 7,058 pageviews of the South and Vale Business Support Website – 2,436 new users visited the website.</p> <p>Twitter activity undertaken during the quarter created 12,928 impressions, gained four new followers and generated 746 profile visits.</p> <p>At the end of Q3 2022/23, South and Vale Business Support's Facebook page created 13,260 impressions, generated 176 engagements and there were 598 page visits.</p>
WIP1.6	Input into countywide and Arc-wide economic recovery plans to maximise understanding of the local impact of Covid-19 and to help shape the support available to our local economy	Narrative update on activity supporting WIP 1.5	Cllr Neil Fawcett	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>The Vale attended the quarterly steering group meeting for the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economic Partnership. The council has offered its support to ensure the promotion of the charter launch event through South and Vale Business Support channels.</p> <p>Having provided feedback on the tender to procure consultants to help develop the Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan (SEP), the council attended the SEP working group meeting to ensure that the development of the plan continues to align with Vale's objectives.</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	No progress to report Q3 2022/23 – civil parking enforcement started successfully in Vale off-street car parks on 1 November 2022.

Theme 5: Working in partnership - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 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>The council continued its pilot project on a simpler approach to neighbourhood planning – one parish (Kennington) has, however, decided to withdraw from the scheme. Officers met regularly with the remaining pilot groups and prepared Terms of Reference to facilitate the delivery of grant funding to support the preparation of Neighbourhood Priority Statements.</p> <p>As of 31 December 2022, there are 15 made Neighbourhood Plans in the district (one of which is currently under review). There are nine plans in progress, four of which have completed pre-submission consultations.</p> <p>The Community Hub continued to work with the voluntary and community sector in response to the cost-of-living crisis (particularly in relation to food initiatives and the provision of support for those in most need).</p> <p>In December, the cabinet endorsed the Oxfordshire Food Strategy. Officers have now started on the development of a local food strategy action plan in collaboration with businesses, community groups etc. The Vale is also working to support residents through the launch of a voluntary and community sector food bank grant scheme.</p> <p>The Cabinet approved a report in Q3 to extend the Partnership Grant scheme to Citizens Advice, Vale Community Impact and Community First Oxfordshire into 2023/24. Agreement was also reached to allow these organisations to assist in the distribution of Household Support Fund 3.</p> <p>During Q3 2022/23, the council awarded £50,000 (through the Everyone Active grant scheme) to local groups and individuals to support communities to become more active and/or sustain existing events.</p>

Theme 5: Working in partnership - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
WIP2.1	Support new business start-ups and support schemes for businesses and residents through post Covid-19 economic recovery initiatives, by implementing the “Opening Up High Streets Safely Fund” and associated schemes	Narrative update on support schemes for businesses and residents. Updates on any relevant schemes should be included	Cllr Neil Fawcett	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>In December, the Vale secured £1m of UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) for the district. This money will be used to enable a three-year pipeline of projects – including supporting SMEs. After the council accepted the award, work began immediately on implementing the planned programme of works, with the initial area focus being the development of the visitor economy.</p> <p>During Q3 2022/23, the council's Digital District Programme (Virtual High Street Initiative) continued to grow. There are now 130 businesses registered on the portal, with over 1,800 products for sale. Work has now begun on extending the contract with ShopAppy (the website hosting the e-commerce platform) for a further 12 months.</p>

Theme 5: Working in partnership - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 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 Judy Roberts	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>Officers have continued to use internal planning communications to confirm new neighbourhood plans and the appropriate weight they carry when determining planning applications. All relevant parish councils are informed of the council's decision to progress and make Neighbourhood Plans and webpages are updated accordingly.</p> <p>During Q3 2022/23, the Vale has continued to work towards preparing to host workshops between parish councils with made neighbourhood plans and Development Management officers. These workshops (originally planned for the Autumn) have been postponed to the Spring 2023 and will provide neighbourhood planning groups with an opportunity to explain their policies and give an insight into how they contribute towards meeting the neighbourhood plan's objectives. It will also give planning officers an opportunity to highlight any potential challenges that the neighbourhood planning groups may face in implementing their proposals. The hope is that this process will inform any future review of the neighbourhood plans and help align expectations.</p> <p>As of 31 December 2022, there are 15 made Neighbourhood Plans in the district (one of which is currently under review). There are nine plans in progress, four of which have completed pre-submission consultations.</p>

Theme 5: Working in partnership - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
WIP2.3	Review the planning committee process to identify ways to maximise public understanding, engagement and participation as well as supporting member input into the committee meetings with opportunities for training and development	<p>Narrative update on activities to review and promote the activities and understanding of the planning committee.</p> <p>Quantitative elements - Online engagement figures relating to the planning portal/planning sections of the website.</p>	Cllr Judy Roberts	Head of Planning	<p>During Q3 2022/23, the Vale maintained the processes that had been developed around the Planning Committee. This meant that the Weekly Chair Briefing sessions continued – including debriefs on the meetings of the Committee.</p> <p>In addition, the Chair and the Deputy Chair, along with the Development Manager, have regularly reviewed all call-in requests to determine whether they should be referred to the Planning Committee.</p> <p>The Chair and Deputy Chair continue to receive the Planning Committee decision monitoring report, which in conjunction with the Weekly Chair Briefings, help to inform any requirements for member training sessions – in November, a training session was held which provided a general update on planning and building control (the meeting also included a presentation from Oxfordshire County Council on the new parking standards).</p> <p>The Vale have continued with the Town and Parish Council Surgeries during Q3 2022/23. Uptake has, however, remained low (officers are looking at ways to improve this).</p> <p>Officers also continue, where differing views exist, to advise town and parish councils of their recommendations on planning applications. This helps to explain why decisions are being made and improves partnership working between the Vale and these organisations.</p> <p>Four Planning Committee meetings were held between October and December 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26-10-2022 - this had 389 views • 9-11-2022 – this had 89 views • 30-11-2022 – this had 69 views

Theme 5: Working in partnership - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 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>The October CIL payment (made in accordance with regulations) to parish councils totalled £483,501. This funding will be used directly by them to support development in their respective areas.</p> <p>During Q3 2022/23, the Vale approved CIL funding of £45,000 to support the refurbishment of the Portway public toilets in Wantage.</p> <p>Recommendations for the allocation of CIL in the 2023/24 capital programme will be considered as part of the budget setting process. The allocations will be reported during Q4 2022/23.</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>During Q3 2022/23, the council continued to promote the White Horse Community Lottery Scheme. Throughout the quarter, 11,862 lottery tickets were sold generating an annual estimated income of £29,296 for the voluntary sector.</p> <p>The Vale Climate Action Fund received 18 applications to the value of £55,592 against a budget of £50,000.</p> <p>In November, the cabinet agreed to extend the current Partnerships Grant for 2023/24. They also decided to commence a new funding scheme from April 2024 onwards – officers are currently drafting a new policy which is scheduled for approval in Q1 2023/24.</p>

Theme 6: Working in an open and inclusive way - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
PROGRAMME 1	Improve our use of technology to increase understanding and access to what we do, how we work and the decisions we make.	Narrative update on any work relating to technological implementation/adaptation and processes making greater use of existing technology to bring about efficiency or increase accessibility.	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Corporate Services	During Q3 2022/23, work continued on the introduction of the new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. The council expects to transition the garden waste service to the CRM in Q4.
WIOI1.1	Provide and maintain a new Vale website with increased accessibility to services and information, on multiple devices	Quantitative report on website usage	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Corporate Services	<p>During Q3 2022/23, web traffic was 11.0 per cent down on the previous reporting period (there was a drop off in usage in the weeks leading up to Christmas). Views, however, peaked during the holidays, with the top pages for traffic being waste/recycling (driven by people looking for information on collection days) and council tax. The bounce rate for the website is down 2.0 per cent on Q2 – this suggests that more visitors are finding the information that they need.</p> <p>Q3 Web Usage Figures 154,776 unique visitors 427,387 page views 54.0 % Bounce rate 2m10s average visit duration</p> <p>Improvements also continued to be made to the data hub on the Vale website. The council continues to increase the amount of information that it provides via this route.</p>

Theme 6: Working in an open and inclusive way - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
WIOI1.2	Develop our use of social media platforms to reach and engage with more residents and local businesses	<p>Narrative report on new social media initiatives</p> <p>Quantitative report on social media engagement</p>	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Corporate Services	<p>During Q3 2022/23, the council's Facebook reach was down on the previous quarter, but its number of followers continued to increase.</p> <p>Facebook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posts: 207 • Reach: 207,924 • New fans: 110 Total fans: 6,158 <p>On Instagram, however, the council's number of followers and reach increased compared to Q2.</p> <p>Instagram</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posts: 140 • Reach: 7,277 • New followers: 31 Total followers 592 <p>The council's Twitter impressions were slightly down on the previous quarter.</p> <p>Twitter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tweets: 194 • Impressions: 87,747 • New followers: (-) 42 Total followers: 9,178 <p>In addition to the quarterly reporting cycle, the Vale is also continuing to track its social media reach and impact to study the long-term trends in the effectiveness of the council's work in this area.</p>

Theme 6: Working in an open and inclusive way - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 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 Debby Hallett	Head of Legal and Democratic	With the notable exception of the Full Council (due to logistical/ IT issues), all other meetings during Q3 2022/23 were livestreamed (they will also remain available to view on the council's YouTube channel for a year).
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	Head of Corporate Services	<p>In Q3 2022/23, the feedback from the draft Diversity and Inclusion Strategy consultation was analysed. The findings from this engagement exercise were used to amend the document. Officers also produced a report outlining all of the results from the consultation – this was presented to the Cabinet in December.</p> <p>Progress continued to be made on procuring a new consultation and engagement platform. The council reviewed the platforms of four key suppliers and are now in the process of arranging demonstrations to assess which system best fits the Vale's needs.</p>

Theme 6: Working in an open and inclusive way - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
PROGRAMME 2	Increase meaningful engagement and communication with everyone	Narrative update on successful communication initiatives		Head of Corporate Services	<p>In Q3 2022/23, the Vale ran 39 campaigns. 14 of these highlighted/ publicised events and council news, 15 promoted behavioural change and ten promoted diversity and inclusion.</p> <p>Between October and December, the council produced three town and parish and residents' newsletters and disseminated five InFocus newsletters to share important stories and information with our communities.</p> <p>During Q3, the Vale promoted free and low-cost activities for kids and families over half term. These included events at The Beacon and free 'real play' sessions for young children across the district.</p> <p>The council, using its new visual identity for the #CostofLivingHelp campaign, shared information on support services over Christmas via our Community Hub. It also provided out of hours contact details for emergency support. In addition, the Vale encouraged local venues to sign up as Warm Spaces, distributed Cost of Living leaflets to the public and continued to promote low-cost activities and events.</p> <p>The council also raised awareness of the work of the Housing Needs team in conjunction with World Homelessness Day in October. Moreover, during the cold weather in early December, they helped to promote the availability of emergency beds and encouraged residents to report anyone they saw sleeping rough.</p>

Theme 6: Working in an open and inclusive way - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
WIOI2.1	Ensure the creation of community liaison groups form part of all early stages of development planning, to understand local infrastructure needs and support community cohesion	<p>Narrative update on the creation and utilisation of community liaison groups and the development of the policy</p> <p>Quantitative measure - number of community liaison groups</p>	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q3 2022/23, officers progressed the Joint Local Plan Regulation Part 1 Issues Consultation Report. This consultation (held in Q1) asked for views on a draft vision for the Joint Local Plan and considered a wide range of topics from the environment and healthy lifestyles to infrastructure needs. As part of this exercise, the team reached out to stakeholder contacts and community groups. Through this work, the Planning Policy Team has increased its understanding of the views of residents on what is needed in the Vale.</p> <p>The Vale's Planning Policy team also continued to work on the development of the Joint Local Plan in Q3.</p> <p>No community liaison groups were established between October and December.</p>
WIOI2.2	Refresh Town and Parish Forums so they are more interactive and useful for communities and develop the Connecting Communities Policy	Narrative update on Town and Parish Forums and the development of the connected communities policy	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Policy and Programmes	During Q3, the council held the first of a planned series of regular, smaller scale Town and Parish briefings. This initial event was on the topics of Code of Conduct and Parish Precept Setting.

Theme 6: Working in an open and inclusive way - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
WIOI2.3	Work with communities, schools and other local organisations on shared campaigns and initiatives that help further our corporate objectives	Narrative update on comms and engagement activities which interface with communities, schools and other local organisations	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Corporate Services	<p>During Q3 2022/23, the Vale continued to promote the White Horse Community Lottery. It highlighted the difference that the lottery had made to organisations and voluntary/charitable groups across the district.</p> <p>The council ran several behavioural change campaigns between October and December. These included White Ribbon Day which aims to end male violence towards women. The Vale also promoted tree planting during National Tree Week and encouraged people to take part in recycling and litter bug trails. In addition, the council suggested to residents that they may wish to support businesses through initiatives such as ShopAppy.</p> <p>In October, the Vale presented Wootton St Peters School with a rainbow bench after they took the top prize in the council's summer activity trails for primary schools.</p> <p>The council wrote to the heads of all sixth forms and colleges across the Vale informing them about the upcoming local elections and asking for their help in engaging with young people about voting.</p> <p>Officers have produced a newsletter on the local elections to go to individuals on the electoral register who are turning 18 – this will go out automatically each month. A new guide for first time voters has also been added to the council's website.</p>

Theme 6: Working in an open and inclusive way - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
WIOI2.4	Reinstating residents surveys in a refreshed form - deliver effective ways for the public to have their say, to reach more people, mechanisms for feedback, more timely dialogue, educate and provide subject matter information to facilitate opinions being more informed	Narrative update to be provided on the progress of this work	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Corporate Services	<p>The Vale is now collecting equalities data for all its surveys. This will allow the council to be more informed about who is participating in these engagement exercises. Officers have also streamlined the Vale's consultation/engagement information and documents, thereby, making it easier for people to contribute.</p> <p>Progress continued to be made on procuring a new consultation and engagement platform. The council reviewed the platforms of four key suppliers and are now in the process of arranging demonstrations to assess which system best fits the Vale's needs. The procurement of a new consultation and engagement portal will help with the delivery of refreshed surveys.</p>
WIOI2.5	Explore initiatives to increase voter registration and turnout levels at elections, especially amongst young people	Narrative update on individual initiatives and opportunities to encourage voter registration	Cllr Debby Hallett	Head of Corporate Services	<p>During Q3 2022/23, the council wrote to the heads of all sixth forms and colleges across the Vale informing them about the upcoming local elections and asking for their help in engaging with young people about voting.</p> <p>Officers have produced a newsletter on the local elections to go to individuals on the electoral register who are turning 18 – this will go out automatically each month. A new guide for first time voters has also been added to the council's website.</p> <p>In addition, the Vale started working on a flyer which will tell people about the elections and inform them about the new Voter ID requirement – this leaflet will be included with council tax bills.</p>

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Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
WIOI2.6	Ensure council's consultations engage specifically with young people and other under-represented groups	A narrative report with input from the engagement/ comms teams and the equalities officer on activity to encourage these groups	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Corporate Services	<p>During Q3 2022/23, the Vale began the process of creating an equalities database. This is intended to fill the information gaps that the council currently has in this area. The database will initially cover protected characteristics such as age, gender, ethnicity and disability – in time, it is anticipated that its scope will increase.</p> <p>The Vale is also now collecting equalities data for all its surveys. This will allow the council to be more informed about who is participating in these engagement exercises. In addition, officers have streamlined the Vale's consultation/engagement information and documents, thereby, making it easier for people to contribute.</p> <p>The Cabinet approved the Diversity and Inclusion Strategy in December. It will be rolled out during Q4 2022/23.</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	<p>The Housing Delivery Strategy – and associated action plan – was agreed and published during November. This outlines the Vale's aspirations for achieving an increase in low carbon, affordable housing.</p> <p>In December, the Cabinet endorsed the Oxfordshire Food Strategy. Officers have now started on the development of a local food strategy action plan in collaboration with businesses, community groups etc. The Cabinet also approved the Diversity and Inclusion Strategy. It will be rolled out during Q4 2022/23.</p> <p>In addition, the Planning Policy team continued to work on the development of the Joint Local Plan.</p>
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	<p>During Q3 2022/23, the Head of Finance has been working with CIPFA on an informal financial management review. This will conclude in Q4 and will be used to inform any additional work required to ensure the council's compliance with CIPFA's Financial Management Code.</p>

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Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 Performance Update
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 an focus on the climate emergency	Cllr Debby Hallett	Head of Legal and Democratic	No progress to report Q3 2022/23 – this action has been completed.
WIOI3.3	Review the councils constitution and scheme of delegation annually	Narrative update with the outcome of the review	Cllr Debby Hallett	Head of Legal and Democratic	<p>During Q3 2022/23, two tranches of amendments to the Constitution were taken to Full Council for approval. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new procurement rules • a whistleblowing policy • an anti-fraud, corruption and bribery policy <p>The Vale will continue to progress the workplan for reviewing the Constitution throughout 2023.</p>

Theme 6: Working in an open and inclusive way - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q3 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	<p>“Narrative update on relevant reviews/newly available information/website improvements and metrics</p> <p>Quantitative - FOI/ Complaints data”</p>	Cllr Debby Hallett	Head of Corporate Services	<p>The Vale website includes a data hub where it regularly publishes reports and data on its responsibilities, projects and programmes. The council continues to increase the amount of information that it provides through this route. During Q3 2022/23, the performance management report for Q2 2022/23 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>In Q3 2022/23, the Vale received 243 FOI/EIRs. 97.0% of these were responded to within the target time of 20 working days – this is above the ICO’s target.</p> <p>The Council received 26 stage one complaints, 2 stage two complaints and 3 new Local Government Ombudsman complaints between October and December 2022.</p> <p>The annual review of complaints will be considered by the Joint Audit & Governance Committee in late January 2023. These reviews are now linked to the performance section of the Vale’s website to provide greater transparency on the complaints the council receives and its response.</p>




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Policy and Programmes Team

Vale of White Horse District Council
Abbey House
Abbey Close
Abingdon
OX14 3JE

Email: performance@southandvale.gov.uk

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