

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

PERFORMANCE REPORT

2022/23

QUARTER FOUR

APRIL 2023



**Vale
of White Horse**
District Council



Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Quarter context	4
Quarter four performance highlights	6
THEME 1 Our ways of working	7
THEME 2 Our service delivery	8
THEME 3 Our people	9
THEME 4 Our land	10
THEME 5 Our buildings	11
THEME 6 Our communities	12
THEME 7 Our partners	13
Theme 1: Our ways of working - Performance updates against reporting measures	14
Theme 2: Our service delivery - performance updates against reporting measures	21
Theme 3: Our people - performance updates against reporting measures	26
Theme 4: Our land - performance updates against reporting measures	30
Theme 5: Our buildings - performance updates against reporting measures	32
Theme 6: Our communities - performance updates against reporting measures	35
Theme 7: Our partners - performance updates against reporting measures	41



Introduction

The Vale of White Horse District Council **Climate Action Plan** (CAP) 2022-24 sets out to demonstrate and deliver the council's commitment to the Corporate Plan objective of Tackling the Climate Emergency and target of becoming a carbon neutral council by 2030, with a 75 per cent emissions reduction by 2025.

Progress on the actions and outputs in the CAP are reported quarterly, in line with the council's Corporate Performance Management Framework. This report is the second iteration, and it is expected that it will evolve in line with the approach to Performance Management being embedded by the council, as well as from feedback from senior officers and Members. This report provides a strategic overview of the climate action performance across the council for Quarter four 2022/2023 (01 January to 31 March 2022) and should be reviewed in context with the council's quarterly **Corporate Plan Performance Report**. The council's **greenhouse gas emissions** are also reported and published annually.

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

Quarter context

The Environment Act

The Environment Act received its royal assent in November 2021 and covers a broad range of issues across the four priority areas of air quality, biodiversity, water and waste. The Act is a vehicle for a number of different environmental policies and sets out the legal framework for significant reforms to local authority waste and recycling services, as well as creating new statutory duties for local authorities on nature recovery. In December 2022, HM Government published its legally binding environmental targets, followed by the publication this quarter of its Environmental Improvement Plan which sets out the detail of how it intends to achieve the targets, including setting interim targets.

At the end of February, the Government published its response to the consultation on Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), which provided some much-needed clarity about the ways that the new BNG requirements will be implemented. We now know the types of application that are likely to be excluded from BNG requirements, and that BNG will have a phased introduction starting in November 2023 for major development sites with all other in scope applications being subject to BNG from April 2024.

Defra Published the guidance and regulations for Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) on 23 March. The regulations and guidance set out how LNRS will be delivered, establishing a statutory role for the City and Districts as 'Supporting Authorities' in the production of the LNRS with the County as the 'Responsible Body'. Work began ahead of the publication of the regulations and guidance in January to establish a steering group to project manage the production of the LNRS.

Committee on Climate Change Report

At the end of quarter four, the Committee on Climate Change published and presented to Parliament, its annual assessment of England's progress in adapting to climate change, as required under the Climate Change Act. Their assessment presents concern that adaptation is needed at scale to fully prepare for climate risks facing the UK across cities, communities, infrastructure, economy and ecosystems. The report also highlights the impacts from extreme weather in the UK over the last year, and the urgency of adapting to climate change as a consequence. The record-breaking temperatures seen in summer 2022 caused heat-related deaths, wildfire incidents and significant infrastructure disruption.



Sustainable Travel

According to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, carbon dioxide emissions in the transport sector account for around 30% of a developed country's emissions. Interventions and incentives in the transport sector are necessary for the transition to net zero.

HM Government announced in February plans to provide further funding so that bus operators can continue to cap single bus fares outside of London at £2 until the end of June, encouraging people to use bus services, which are an important part of a sustainable travel model.

The transition to electric vehicles is also a key element of a sustainable transport model. Electric vehicles also have zero tailpipe emissions of air pollutants, and their motors are more efficient than combustion engines. However, it was reported this quarter that there has been a 27 per cent drop in the sale of electric cars since June 2022, due to the rise in the cost of energy, according to an Auto Trader report.

Trees

Almost half of England's neighbourhoods have under 10 per cent tree cover, with lower-income areas more likely to have fewer trees, according to research released this quarter by Friends of the Earth. The country's tree cover is 12.8 per cent with woodland making up 10 per cent. The Government plans to increase tree cover to 16.5 per cent by 2050.

The end of this quarter marked the official end of The Queen's Green Canopy initiative, which was created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 and invited everyone across the UK to plant trees. Following the death of Her Majesty The Queen, the initiative was extended to the end of March 2023. The Queen's Green Canopy reports that over three million trees were planted across the United Kingdom.



Quarter four performance highlights



We delivered **Procurement Strategy training** to senior managers, ensuring **carbon reduction** objectives and criterion are met when procuring goods and services

The **Sustainable Design Measures Statement** is now a validation requirement for all applications seeking planning permission

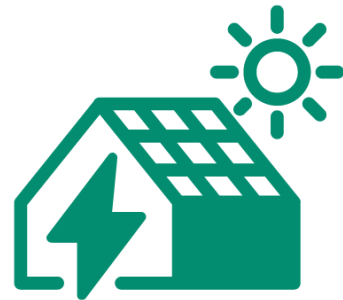


We launched an **online climate change training module** for all staff

We created '**retrofitting your home**' and '**how to reduce your home energy use and costs**' pages on our website



£5,992,916



The amount of funding we received from the **Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme**, towards solar panels, air source heat pumps and insulation measures at Wantage Leisure Centre and White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre, Abingdon



We launched **Electric Vehicle Car Clubs** with three electric vehicles now available to hire across our car parks in Abingdon and Wantage

We are changing the cutting regime on council-owned land to encourage wildflowers and other plants to thrive and improve biodiversity as part of our '**Let it Bee**' initiative



GOAL

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



THEME 1 Our ways of working

See Theme 1 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 14

QUARTER FOUR ——— KEY ACTIVITIES ———

In quarter four the Corporate Delivery Framework guide was updated to include the consideration of climate impacts and carbon emissions. The framework is the councils' project management system that aims to ensure there is a consistent and transparent approach to project management that includes all relevant considerations and is critical in ensuring climate is a central theme in all new projects. During quarter four a draft Climate Impact Assessment toolkit was developed for internal use at South and Vale. The proposed tool records the impacts of projects on greenhouse gases, air quality, sustainable transport, land use change, biodiversity, soil and waterway health, climate change adaptation, energy use, sustainable materials and waste. The testing process of this tool will be rolled out next quarter.

These actions are key to the progression of our aim to ensure the climate and environmental impact of our work is considered and embedded within our day-to-day activities and processes.

In addition, the council has reviewed the carbon reduction plans of the asset managers of its externally managed funds. The council's current fund managers are founding members of the Net Zero Asset Managers Initiative and are committed to achieving net zero targets. This now meets our target to consider carbon reduction plans as part of decision making for the treasury management strategy.



GOAL

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

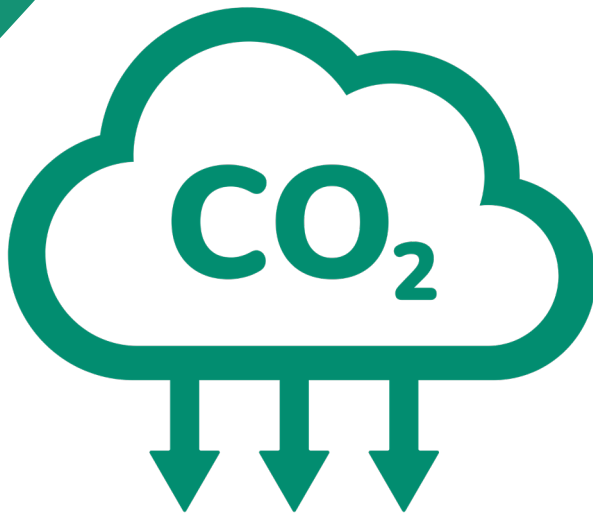
THEME 2 Our service delivery

See Theme 2 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 21

QUARTER FOUR ——— KEY ACTIVITIES ———

This quarter, work continued in developing the strategic approach to our future waste services, in recognition that the waste collection service accounts for just over 35% of the council's greenhouse gas emissions. This work included a report on future vehicle procurement, setting out a desire to maximise the number of new waste collection vehicles operating on an alternative fuel source.

The Sustainable Design Measures Statement (SDMS) developed last quarter is now a validation requirement for all planning applications. The SDMS requires applicants to submit details of energy efficiency measures and allows officers to better understand the environmental impact of developments. In addition, notification was received this quarter of a £5000 grant shared with South Oxfordshire, from the Natural England Green Infrastructure Grant. This will be used to develop recommendations for how to embed Natural England's new Green Infrastructure standards into our Local Plan.



GOAL

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

THEME 3 Our people

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

QUARTER FOUR ————— KEY ACTIVITIES —————

To support staff to understand more about climate change and put climate action at the forefront of their work, a new online training module on climate change was launched this quarter. The module includes information on understanding climate change, how we can respond to climate change, the South and Vale story so far and how climate action is a role for everyone.

The climate training module also highlights green volunteering as one way to learn more about, and engage in, protecting our planet. Staff volunteering information on our intranet has been created to highlight case studies and ideas on how to get involved in community-based conservation or other climate activities and will also be further championed by the council's well-being group for its mental health benefits.



GOAL

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

THEME 4 Our land

QUARTER FOUR ————— KEY ACTIVITIES

Our commitment to enhancing biodiversity on council owned land continued this quarter, with nine regularly mown sites across Abingdon, Faringdon and Wantage being identified as suitable sites to allow biodiversity to thrive by stopping cutting during the growing season, allowing wildflowers and grasses to grow and provide nectar for pollinators.

This quarter we also created a new wildflower meadow in Abingdon, adding to the other six existing wildflower meadows in Abingdon, Cumnor, Faringdon and Wantage. In addition, 14 trees were planted at several location across the Vale, supporting natural carbon capture.

Building on the Park and Charge project completed in earlier this year, which implemented 62 EV charging bays across council car parks in the Vale of White Horse, this quarter officers engaged in an Oxfordshire wide project to deliver one EV car club vehicle in each of three car parks in the Vale of White Horse. These launched this quarter and are operated by Co-wheels in Abingdon (two vehicles) and Wantage (one vehicle).



GOAL

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



THEME 5 Our buildings

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

QUARTER FOUR ————— KEY ACTIVITIES

We received notification of a successful award of £5,992,916 this quarter, following our submission to HM Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme for funding towards the installation of solar panels, air source heat pumps and insulation measures at Wantage Leisure Centre and White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre, Abingdon. This work will be significant in progressing the council's aim to ensure our buildings are fit for the future.

This quarter we also commissioned the decarbonisation assessments for the Beacon, Wantage, whilst a decarbonisation assessment at the Abbey Meadow pool, Abingdon is underway.



GOAL

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

THEME 6 Our communities

QUARTER FOUR ——— KEY ACTIVITIES ———

In line with the council's aims to work with communities, businesses, the voluntary sector and residents to address the climate emergency, this quarter we helped communities preparing neighbourhood plans to incorporate climate measures and promoted the substantial discounts in taxi licence fees available for zero emission vehicles.

As part of the council's ongoing activity to respond of the cost-of-living crisis and recognising the links this has with energy saving, we promoted our new retrofitting webpages, which provide information on reducing your energy use, insulation options and installing renewable energy sources at home. In addition, a webpage was created which specifically offers a step-by-step guide to improving the energy efficiency of community buildings. We also highlighted food waste action week and offered advice and tips on how to reduce food waste.



GOAL

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

THEME 7 Our partners

QUARTER FOUR ————— KEY ACTIVITIES

The CAP aims to build on the council's partnership work as key to achieving our climate emergency targets. We have worked to support town and parish councils and community groups and encourage their climate action initiatives. This quarter, a total of £42,835 was awarded to 15 community groups and town and parish councils across the Vale, through the council's Climate Action Fund. The Fund is aimed at projects that help to tackle climate change and increase people's awareness and knowledge of the climate emergency. This round's funded projects focus on areas such as the natural environment, waste and consumption, energy and transport.

A free introductory webinar was held for 20 registered businesses, community organisations and town and parish councils this quarter. The webinar was led by Bioregional, as part of the council's Greentech sustainable business partnership.

Officers have also continued our work with other Oxfordshire councils, in applying for Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding and scoping proposals for spending the funding.

At the end of this quarter, we were notified that we were successful in attracting a LEVI grant of £3.655m capital and £215k revenue for Oxfordshire, to spend in 2023/24 on implementation of more EV charging points across the county. Work also continued this quarter to prioritise strategic routes for walking and cycling, based on local demand and/or the likelihood of converting car trips to cycle trips. This work will help in the production of a District level Active Travel Map.

To progress our aim to support coordinated retrofit action across Oxfordshire, at the meeting of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee (CEAC) this quarter, a paper setting out the actions that the council could take to accelerate retrofitting across the district was discussed. Following this discussion, two new webpages on retrofitting homes and retrofitting community buildings were uploaded to the website. We are also cooperating with other local authorities across the county and participated in a retrofitting roundtable hosted by Oxfordshire County Council and the Low Carbon Hub, exploring opportunities for joint working to accelerate retrofitting across Oxfordshire.



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

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
WOW1	Update the Corporate Delivery Framework to include considerations for climate impact and carbon emissions	Report on the climate impact and carbon emission considerations included in the Corporate Delivery Framework providing examples	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Transformation	Head of Policy and Programmes	The Corporate Delivery Framework Documentation has been updated to reflect climate impacts and carbon emissions.		
WOW2	Implement internal governance to progress and monitor the Climate Action Plan	Update on the internal governance including its structure and approach to progressing and monitoring the Climate Action Plan	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Transformation	Head of Policy and Programmes	Action WOW2 completed in Q2 2023/2023.		
WOW3	Publish an internal toolkit with guidance for staff on how to assess the climate implications of projects and proposals	Update on the content of the toolkit and examples of projects and proposal that have used learning from the toolkit for the climate implications section of reports	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Transformation	Head of Policy and Programmes	In Q4 a draft Climate Impact Assessment toolkit was developed for internal use at South and Vale, building on example toolkits received from other local authorities. The proposed tool records the impacts of projects on greenhouse gases, air quality, sustainable transport, land use change, biodiversity, soil and waterway health, climate change adaptation, energy use, sustainable materials and waste. The tool has subsequently been tested by members of the climate and biodiversity team on several council projects. The testing process will be rolled out to other council teams in Q1 2023/2024.		This action is slightly behind schedule. The toolkit will be tested more widely in Q1 2023/24. Once the testing is complete it will be rolled out more widely.
WOW4	Develop and implement measures for monitoring procurement contracts based on carbon emissions and climate action	Update on monitoring of procurement contracts based on carbon emissions and climate action, providing examples of relevant contracts	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Assets	Head of Finance	In Q4 further meetings and demonstrations were held with Scanmarket to review their solution. We are currently awaiting the final cost proposal from Scanmarket. The next step is to request funding to progress this during 2023/24.		If funding is approved implementation will start during 2023/24

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

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
WOW5	Update the contract evaluation quality scoring procedure to include carbon reduction criteria	Report on how the contract evaluation quality scoring criteria has been updated to include carbon reduction criteria, providing examples of relevant awarded contracts	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Assets	Head of Finance	Action WOW5 is complete. This action is now business as usual.		
WOW6	Deliver staff training on the Procurement Strategy which includes understanding of carbon reduction objectives and criterion	Percentage of staff who completed the procurement training quarterly / report on how the training has impacted procurement contracts, providing relevant examples	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Transformation	Head of Finance	Staff training on carbon reduction objectives and criterion forms part of the Procurement Strategy training which was delivered to the Senior Management Team this quarter. The climate and biodiversity team have supported with the relevant training content. The roll-out of further training has been delayed and will be delivered in Q1 2023/24.		See performance update column.
WOW7	Conduct a review of all report writing templates, adding a climate implications section where missing	Percentage of report writing templates that include a climate implications section / Narrative on the updates to report writing templates	Short Term (1 year)	Leader of the Council	Head of Legal and Democratic	Action WOW7 completed in Q3 2022/2023.		
WOW8	Divest direct investments from environmentally harmful activities where possible, whilst protecting the security of tax-payer funds	Narrative update on the introduction of the investment strategy and subsequent decision-making around investing	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Assets	Head of Finance	Action WOW8 is complete. This action is now business as usual.		

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

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
WOW9	Incorporate a policy statement on environment/social/governance factors in the financial implications section of reports	Update on the statement included in Council templates under financial implications	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Assets	Head of Finance	Following a review of this action officers have concluded that there is a significant overlap with action WOW7, with climate and biodiversity implications now clearly being identified in all report writing templates. This action is now complete.		
WOW10	Engage with the council's investment portfolio to ask for and review their carbon reduction plans as part of decision making for the treasury management strategy	Number of investment portfolios reviewed for their carbon reduction plans / narrative on any changes in investments based on investment portfolio carbon reduction plans / percentage of Council portfolio in Paris Agreement aligned companies	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Assets	Head of Finance	The council has reviewed the carbon reduction plans of the asset managers of its externally managed funds. The council's current fund managers are founding members of the Net Zero Asset Managers Initiative and are committed to achieving net-zero targets. This action is now complete and considered BAU.		
WOW11	Review internal audit processes and where appropriate include risk considerations for the climate emergency	Report on how the internal audit processes have been updated to include carbon emission considerations	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Assets	Head of Finance	Action WOW11 completed in Q3 2022/2023.		

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

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
WOW12	Refine criteria for community infrastructure levy (CIL) funding to maximise opportunities for including carbon reduction measures in projects and supporting climate action projects	<p>Narrative update on CIL spend to support the delivery of local infrastructure</p> <p>Quantitative elements - Total CIL spend and spend break down</p>	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member Development and Infrastructure	Head of Policy and Programmes / Head of Finance	<p>In Q4 new allocations of CIL funding totalling £2,132,291 were approved as part of the budget setting process and have been included in the new capital programme. These allocations are directly linked to climate action and are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSDS funding scheme (Decarbonisation) contribution - Wantage Leisure Centre = £247,540 • PSDS funding scheme (Decarbonisation) contribution - WHLTC = £1,659,751 • Replacement of all roof coverings at Wantage Leisure Centre - £225,000 <p>An update on all Vale CIL allocations will be provided in 23/24 Q1 following the end of year budget process.</p>		
WOW13	Promote community infrastructure levy (CIL) criteria to all relevant staff to ensure they maximise carbon emission reductions in all CIL projects	Percentage of CIL projects that include carbon emission reduction considerations/ relevant project proposals, providing examples	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member Development and Infrastructure	Head of Policy and Programmes / Head of Finance	<p>There has been no additional promotion of CIL funding during Q4 as the focus has been on getting the funding referred to in WOW12 into the capital programme. The next round of requests for projects would be in Q2 however, the Vale CIL allocation is currently fully committed until 26/27. The balance of available funds will be subject to review and if funds become available then the promotion of the funding will include promotion of environmental initiatives as part of the request. Any in-year requests that come through will also be reminded of the requirement for all projects to be done in consultation with the Climate Team.</p>		

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

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
WOW14	Include more ambitious climate criteria in the conditions of our affordable housing grant funding	Updates on changes to the climate criteria of the affordable housing grant funding and how this has impacted new affordable housing developments, providing examples	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member Development and Infrastructure	Head of Housing and Environment	In Q4, the report to update the policy and process for Section 106 grant funding was completed and is due to be taken to Cabinet for decision in Q1 2023/24. These updates will ensure carbon impacts of new housing is considered and taken into account when awarding grant funding.		
WOW15	Include policies in the Joint Local Plan that will help deliver zero carbon development and encourage more sustainable choices	Narrative update on sustainable and net zero planning policies being developed and included in the emerging JLP	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member Corporate Services and Transformation	Head of Policy and Programmes	In Q4 the council selected consultants after a competitive tendering process to prepare a Net Zero Carbon Evidence base for the Joint Local Plan. This will provide recommendations on the best policy approach to take in the Joint Local Plan to secure zero carbon development.		
WOW16	Produce an options paper for setting up a carbon offsetting scheme for developers as part of the new Joint Local Plan	Report on options paper development and suggested ways forward	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member Development and Infrastructure	Head of Policy and Programmes	The Net Zero Carbon Evidence base, which was commissioned in Q4, includes specialist advice on questions like 'Could offsetting help us reach net zero carbon status? If so, what should it include? Should we allow offsetting if policy requirements cannot be met? What options do we have regarding setting up a potential carbon offsetting scheme for developers?' Work on this action is likely to be explored in the evidence base and incorporated into the Joint Local Plan, rather than progressed as a separate options paper.		

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

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
WOW17	Produce an options paper for pool electric vehicles for use by council staff to reduce emissions from business mileage, implementing if approved	Update on the development of options paper for piloting pool electric vehicles, including on the carbon emission savings and decision making progress	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Transformation	Head of Policy and Programmes	No progress to report Q4 2022/2023.		
WOW18	Develop and implement an internal communications plan to keep staff updated on climate action work, including useful advice and guidance on how to incorporate climate action into projects and programmes	Data on the number of internal communications campaigns on climate action work and a narrative update on the type of information shared and any feedback from staff on the use of the information	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member Community Engagement	Head of Corporate Services	During Q4, through the weekly staff email update and Jarvis news items, staff were encouraged to take part in the staff climate action training programme on LEAH. They were also kept informed about climate action projects, including the Let It Bee project to increase biodiversity on council land. Staff were also alerted to green job volunteering opportunities.		
WOW19	Move to a digital by default approach for virtual meetings where possible given the current conditions around decision making in Local Government	Percentage of virtual meetings taken place, benchmark to include CEAC, Scrutiny, Cabinet and Council meetings	Short Term (1 year)	Leader of the Council	Head of Legal and Democratic	Action WOW19 is complete. This action is now business as usual.		
WOW20	Improve our use of existing technology to move to digital by default working	Update on the use of technology for meetings; data on percentage of MFD printing	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Transformation	Head of Corporate Services	Action WOW20 is complete. This action is now business as usual.		

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

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
WOW21	Develop and implement an anti-idling policy for staff and contractors on council business, to ensure engines are turned off when appropriate	Update on the development of the policy and examples of anti-idling implementation from staff and contractors	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency and Environment	Head of Corporate Service	No progress to report Q4 2022/2023.		

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

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
SD1	a) Prepare new waste management approach to align with provisions of the Environment Bill	Narrative report to outline steps to influence partners and our actions to reduce overall waste	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member Climate Emergency and Environment	Head of Housing and Environment	Work has continued on developing the strategic approach to future waste services to help inform preparations for the new waste contract. This quarter, a report was taken to Cabinet which outlined the future direction, and a decision was achieved on the short/medium future of the service, with plans for a longer term solution due to come in the next 12 months.		
SD2	b) Specify new waste management contract with route optimisation, collection frequency and vehicle size to minimise carbon emissions	Narrative report to outline steps to influence partners and our actions to reduce overall waste	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member Climate Emergency and Environment	Head of Housing and Environment	New waste round optimisation changes are now business as usual. Other elements to minimise carbon emissions such as collection frequency and vehicle size hinge on the strategic approach to waste management being developed as per SD1.		
SD3	c) Trial electric refuse vehicles and other relevant vehicle options, to identify the most suitable vehicles for reducing carbon emissions whilst maintaining service delivery	Narrative report to outline steps to influence partners and our actions to reduce overall waste	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member Climate Emergency and Environment	Head of Housing and Environment	A report on future vehicle procurement was agreed by Cabinet in Q4. This included the desire to, subject to operational and capital constraints, maximise the number of new vehicles that were operating on an alternative fuel source.		
SD4	d) Replace end of life waste collection vehicles with electric fleet where range available allows	Narrative report to outline steps to influence partners and our actions to reduce overall waste	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member Climate Emergency and Environment	Head of Housing and Environment	A report on future vehicle procurement was agreed by Cabinet in Q4. This included the desire to, subject to operational and capital constraints, maximise the number of new vehicles that were operating on an alternative fuel source.		

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

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
SD5	Explore opportunities for a new waste depot including research into renewable energy supplies	Update on proposals for a new waste depot, including potential carbon reduction figures	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member Climate Emergency and Environment	Head of Housing and Environment	During Q4, work continued on developing the strategic approach to future waste services to help inform preparations for the new waste contract. A report was taken to Cabinet which outlined the future direction, and a decision was achieved on the short/medium future of the service, with plans for a longer term solution due to come in the next 12 months.		

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

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
SD6	Develop a business case and implement a delivery plan for council vehicles to be zero emission by 2025, where available on the market	Data on potential carbon reduction savings from switching vehicles to zero emission; narrative report on business case development and delivery plan for doing so, including market options for EVs	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Assets	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	The public conveniences cleaning team are seeking approval for leasing five electric vehicles (Two vans for the Supervisor and Assistant Supervisor and three other vehicles for the cleaners to share). Chargers in the Council-owned car parks can be used to charge the vehicles overnight and whilst the cleaners are carrying out their duties in the toilet facilities. The Facilities team will be reviewing the use of either electricity supply from Abbey House or the EV chargers located in the nearby council owned carparks. The Energy Savings Trust report shows that suitable vehicles are now available as EV and therefore when selecting a new vehicle the facilities team will consider this. There is no current infrastructure for the Grounds Maintenance service to charge EV vehicles and the location of a permanent depot with an EV charging facility will need to be resolved before it becomes practical for vehicles to be charged. Suitable Electric Vehicles are currently available for some of the grounds maintenance fleet but not those that require the capacity to tow the equipment used to maintain the open spaces in South/Vale.		

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

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
SD7	Install electric vehicle (EV) charge points in council depot and other locations as necessary to meet needs of council fleet	Data on the number of EV charge points installed for use by council fleet; narrative update on the location of the EV charge points and how they meet the needs of the council fleet	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Assets	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	The planning application for the Grounds Maintenance depot on Great Western Park (to include EV charging points) was withdrawn this quarter. This will be reviewed early 2023/24.		The planning application did not fully explain reasoning behind the location chosen and there was no public engagement. Due to the high profile and sensitive nature of the site, it was agreed to withdraw the planning application and look at a more thorough comms campaign post elections (May 2023).
SD8	Feedback on planning applications to include signposting to information sources to improve the energy efficiency of proposals	Data on the percentage of applications that include sign posting to energy efficiency advice	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member Community Engagement	Head of Planning	During Q4 the Sustainable Design Measures Statement became a validation requirement for all applications seeking planning permission. This action is now considered BAU.		
SD9	Update the council planning and development webpages to signpost to advice on energy efficiency considerations for inclusion in planning applications	Update on the energy efficiency information provided on the council webpages; data on the number of clicks on the links	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member Community Engagement	Head of Planning	The content of the webpages was finalised in Q4, providing guidance and advice on sustainable, energy efficiency measures. This content will be added to the websites in Q1 2023/24.		Implementation delayed.

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

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
SD10	Work with our town and parish councils who are developing projects that reduce carbon emissions locally by providing advice on planning permissions needed for their projects to be a success	Report on support provided to town and parish councils on their carbon reduction projects; data on number of carbon emissions reduction projects submitted by town and parish councils	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Development and Infrastructure	Head of Planning	Action SD10 continues to be business as usual. Town and Parish Engagement sessions continue to be held monthly. This provides an opportunity for representatives from our Town and Parish Councils to meet with officers to discuss planning matters, local planning issues. This forum also provides a platform for Town and Parishes to raise local projects and seek advice on planning-related carbon emissions and sustainable design.		
SD11	Support the implementation of the air quality action plan across the district	Narrative containing updates/changes to AQ monitoring techniques, an update on work with partners to monitor AQ and details of published AQ measures	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member Climate Emergency and Environment	Head of Housing and Environment	During Q4 the draft Air Quality Action Plans were reviewed by officers, and the long list of potential actions were discussed with the Cabinet Leader, Portfolio holder and ward members where there is currently an Air Quality Management Area. The information was also shared with Oxfordshire County Council and Highways England to enable them to play their part in improving air quality. This information will feed into the final plans which will go for public consultation in Q1 2023/24.		

Theme 3: Our people - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
P1	Provide all-staff and councillor training on the council's climate action plan and carbon literacy	Data on percentage of staff that have taken the climate action plan training; narrative on how staff have integrated the training into their work, using case studies	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Transformation	Head of Corporate Services	Action P1 is complete, training module was launched to officers in Q4. During Q4, out of the 655 LEAH (our online training platform) users, 53 completed the training module on climate change, equating to 8%.		
P2	Provide enhanced specialist training on latest carbon reduction or climate action approaches to relevant staff and councillors	Data on percentage of specialist training delivered to staff; narrative on how staff identify the training they need and how they have used the training in their work	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Transformation	Head of Corporate Services / Head of Policy and Programmes	In Q4, four officers from across the council attended APSE Energy's (Association of Public Service Excellence) Big Energy Summit held across two days. Subjects included decarbonising fleet and buildings, implementing solar projects, accessing energy insights, the transition to electric vehicles and engaging communities in the transition to net zero.		

Theme 3: Our people - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
P3	Ensure there is relevant skill and capacity to support grant application writing and bidding for climate related funds, maximising the opportunities to include carbon emissions reductions and energy efficiency in all projects	Dedicated bid writing resource secured; Data on the number of applications to grants and funds that relate to climate action and carbon emission reduction; narrative report on grant writing skills and training that has taken place to maximise opportunities on bid writing	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Transformation	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 Vale of White Horse district council was notified of successful awards from: The Public Sector Decarbonisation scheme Pahse 3b - £5,992,916 for funding towards: replacing gas fired boilers with air source heat pumps, installing solar panels, external wall insulation, double glazing and associated electrical network upgrades, at Wantage Leisure Centre replacing gas fired boilers with air source heat pumps, installing solar panels and associated electrical network upgrades, at Whiet Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre, Abingdon.</p> <p>Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) pilot funding - £698,407 as part of a joint application with all Oxfordshire councils to fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cable gullies enabling Oxfordshire residents with properties on the street without off street parking to run an Electric Vehicle (EV) charging cable under the pavement to charge their EVs. • Vale of White Horse residents will be able to apply for grants, which will be administered by Oxfordshire County Council <p>Natural England Green Infrastructure grant - £2500 (£5000 total grant shared with South) towards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioning consultants to develop recommendations on how to embed Natural England's Green Infrastructure Strategy recommendations into Local Plans <p>(update continued on next page)</p>		

Theme 3: Our people - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
P3	Ensure there is relevant skill and capacity to support grant application writing and bidding for climate related funds, maximising the opportunities to include carbon emissions reductions and energy efficiency in all projects	Dedicated bid writing resource secured; Data on the number of applications to grants and funds that relate to climate action and carbon emission reduction; narrative report on grant writing skills and training that has taken place to maximise opportunities on bid writing	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Transformation	Head of Policy and Programmes	Other proposals submitted in Q4 include: UKRI Net Zero Fast Followers - £298,023 joint bid with Vale of White Horse, Cherwell, and West Oxfordshire District Councils to fund: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two year full-time Net Zero Innovation and Delivery Officer • Two year project to pilot approach to nature-based carbon offsetting in Oxfordshire • South Oxfordshire will lead the project and manage officer if funding is successful <p>Officers involved in developing bids were given guidance to upskill and increase bid writing capacity.</p>		
P4	Implement a green travel plan for all staff and councillors, including a digital by default approach where possible to reduce travel	Data on staff mileage once this plan is implemented and narrative report on the changes to staff travel as a result of the plan	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Transformation	Head of Corporate Services	No progress to report Q4 2022/2023.		Options for taking this action forward will be considered in Q1 2023/24.
P5	Set up green champions network for interested staff to support climate work	Report on outcomes of green champion network meetings, including case studies of green champions to highlight key areas of work and impact of the champions	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Transformation	Head of Corporate Services	In Q4, a paper was prepared to present different options to promote employee engagement in climate action and biodiversity. This follows research into green champion networks used by other local authorities and other 'champion' models currently used by different services within the council. It links with CAP actions P1, P2 and P6 where staff training and green volunteering are also working towards embedding a culture of sustainability amongst staff. It will be presented to senior managers in Q1 2023/34.		

Theme 3: Our people - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
P6	Incorporate climate action opportunities within council volunteering scheme for staff	Data on the number of climate action opportunities within council volunteering scheme and data on the number of take up of these opportunities; case studies from staff on how they have engaged with this opportunity	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Transformation	Head of Corporate Services	Action completed in Q4 2022/23. Officers have developed a communications plan which incorporates green volunteering opportunities as part of ongoing staff engagement in climate action and biodiversity. Staff volunteering information on Jarvis has been updated to highlight case studies and ideas to get involved in community-based conservation or other climate activities, and will be further championed by the council's well-being group for its mental health benefits. Green volunteering is also highlighted within the council's climate training module, launched in Q4, to promote further commitment amongst staff.		

Theme 4: Our land - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
L1	Following the grounds maintenance operational review, update grounds maintenance operations to enhance biodiversity and tree cover including considering the need for mowing, opportunities to allow for wilding, and reducing the use of pesticides and herbicides where possible	Report sharing the updates to the grounds maintenance operations that address the climate emergency and how they support biodiversity	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member Finance and Corporate Assets	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>In Q4, a total of nine amenity sites across Abingdon, Faringdon and Wantage were identified which will not be cut all season to allow wildflowers and plants to grow. The 'Let it Bee' awareness campaign was launched to explain how this is helping to increase biodiversity on the land we manage. We have put up signs to identify the areas on the ground and put location maps and FAQs on the website. In addition, we have created a new wildflower meadow at Heron's Walk in Abingdon to add to the other six existing wildflower sites in Abingdon, Cumnor, Faringdon and Wantage.</p> <p>The review of grounds maintenance operations under a 'Transformation' project was started during Q4.</p>		
L2	Identify sites for new tree planting and wilding opportunities on Our land or through partnership opportunities on privately owned land to support natural carbon capture	Report on identification of sites for new tree planting opportunities, including plans to plant trees on these sites	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Assets	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q4 2022/23, 14 standard trees were planted at several locations across Abingdon (Darrel Way, Clifton Drive, Drayton Rd, Gainsborough Green and Abbey Meadows) and Faringdon (Southampton St car park). From Q1 2023/24, officers will create a quarterly report based on the outcomes from the 'Strategic Property Review' that will list assets (land) that could be explored for further tree planting or biodiversity enhancements by the relevant working groups.</p>		

Theme 4: Our land - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
L3	Prepare a business case and, if approved, implement a local renewable energy project, such as a solar farm, to address unavoidable council emissions	Data on the amount of renewable energy produced and emissions offset; Narrative update on the progression of plans for this project and how the renewable energy produced neutralises council emissions	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Assets	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	In Q4 we appointed APSE Energy to prepare a feasibility study and outline business case. This will include potential solar farm projects at a couple of locations in the Vale.		
L4	Deliver the Park and Charge scheme, installing EV charge points in our car parks, in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council	Data on the number of EV charge points installed in council car parks; narrative update on the partnership approach for delivering this project	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Assets	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Action L4 complete in Q2 2022/2023. Building on this action, this quarter officers supported and engaged in an Oxfordshire wide project to deliver one EV car club vehicle in each of three Park and Charge council car parks across the district. Operated by Co-wheels, EV cars are now available for hire in Abingdon and Wantage.		
L5	Develop an options paper for installing public EV charging points on additional council premises, including funding sources available	Update on the business case development for installing public EV charging points; data on energy use of the points, including how much charge they provide to EVs	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Assets	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	In Q4, officers have continued to work with Oxfordshire County Council in applying for LEVI (local electric vehicle infrastructure) funding and scoping proposals for spending the funding. At the end of Q4, we were notified that a LEVI grant of £3.655m capital and £215k revenue was awarded to Oxfordshire County Council to spend in 2023/24 on implementation of more EV charging points across Oxfordshire.		

Theme 5: Our buildings - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
B1	a) Complete energy efficiency and site decarbonisation assessments for all leisure centres	Data on the energy efficiency of all leisure centres; narrative report on site decarbonisation assessments, with projections for how the sites will be decarbonised	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Assets	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>At Q4, Faringdon Leisure Centre decarbonisation works are near completion, which is anticipated April 2023.</p> <p>At White Horse and Wantage Leisure Centres, funding has been secured from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Phase 3b and appointment of consultant is now underway. A site decarbonisation assessment at the Abbey Meadow pool is due in the next quarter.</p>		
B1	b) Following site assessments of leisure centres, prepare for external funding opportunities, including soft market testing	<p>Narrative update as to current initiatives to increase external funding for Council activities, with details of additional resources committed to support these activities</p> <p>Specific elements which should be included - proportion of spend on leisure/ community facilities vs amount funded by Council; externally funded Capital schemes; total external funding received figure</p>	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Assets	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	No progress to report Q4 2022/2023. To follow after implementation of CAP Action B1a.		

Theme 5: Our buildings - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
B2	a) Complete energy efficiency and site decarbonisation assessments for all non-leisure operational properties	Data on the energy efficiency of all non-leisure centres; Narrative report on site decarbonisation assessments, with projections for how the sites will be decarbonised	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Assets	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	The decarbonisation survey for the Beacon was commissioned this quarter, and is due next quarter. Other buildings are included in Project 2 of the survey programme and will take place across 2023/24.		
B2	b) Prepare for external funding opportunities for non-leisure properties, particularly properties with an end-of-use heating plant, including carrying out soft market testing	<p>Narrative update as to current initiatives to increase external funding for Council activities, with details of additional resources committed to support these activities</p> <p>Specific elements which should be included - proportion of spend on leisure/ community facilities vs amount funded by Council; externally funded Capital schemes; total external funding received figure</p>	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Assets	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	No progress to report Q4 2022/2023. To follow after implementation of CAP Action B2a.		

Theme 5: Our buildings - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
B3	Include carbon and energy reduction targets in management plans for the monitoring of site operations including all leisure centres to enforce and encourage low carbon operational behaviour in council assets	Report on the changes to the carbon and energy reduction targets in the criteria for monitoring operations and report on the changes to operational procedures to meet carbon and energy reduction targets; data on carbon emissions from operations	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member Development and Infrastructure	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>Detailed monitoring information is available for the Leisure Centres and reviewed regularly.</p> <p>Meter readings and data gathering has been reviewed during Q4 for other buildings. Resource requirements for reporting and monitoring regime to be reviewed and developed in next quarter.</p>		Team resourcing measures have delayed the reporting for other properties.
B4	Develop a policy to agree an energy efficiency standard for new asset acquisitions and council owned builds	Update on the development of the energy efficiency standards policy for new asset acquisitions and builds, including case studies of how this has been implemented	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Assets	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	No progress to report in Q4 2022/23.		Any policy / agreed approach will need to align with acquisitions / new build projects in the pipeline.

Theme 6: Our communities - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
C1	Implement an external communications plan which shares updates on the climate action work undertaken by the council, and advice and guidance to residents, businesses and the voluntary and community sector on reducing carbon emissions. To include:	Narrative update on comms and engagement activities which interface with communities, schools and other local organisations	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member Community Engagement	Head of Corporate Services	<p>During Q4 many communications campaigns were run, aiming to encourage the community to reduce its carbon emissions. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting our new retrofitting pages on our website which gives information for those looking to reduce their energy use by insulating their properties and installing renewable energy sources. • Working with the planning team to draft new pages on whether permission is needed to install solar panels on homes. • Issuing a press release on the doubling of EV charge point usage that has taken place as part of the Park and Charge scheme in our car parks. • Continuing to work with the Climate Action Oxfordshire website by promoting their articles on the amount of energy that could be saved by insulating properties. • Promoting a new webpage which gives a step-by-step guide to improving the energy efficiency of community buildings. 		
C2	Advice and guidance on circular economy principles and how to implement them, especially for businesses and the voluntary and community sector	Narrative update on comms and engagement activities which interface with communities, schools and other local organisations	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member Community Engagement	Head of Corporate Services	<p>During Q4 the communications team continued to support and promote the work of the Economic Development team. This includes their joint work programme with Oxfordshire Greentech which involves plans for a Business Eco Fair in Abingdon. We also promoted the One Planet Living business training organised by the council, Oxford Greentech and Bioregional. The two-hour free training session aimed to help local businesses become more sustainable and was well attended.</p>		

Theme 6: Our communities - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
C3	Advice and guidance on energy efficiency of operations, including consideration for delivery options and the energy efficiency of buildings used by businesses and the voluntary and community sector	Narrative update on comms and engagement activities which interface with communities, schools and other local organisations	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member Community Engagement	Head of Corporate Services	In Q4 officers continued to promote retrofitting and energy saving among businesses and also offer step by step advice for retrofitting, with new webpages which give advice on improving the energy efficiency of community and private buildings. During Q4 additional energy efficiency advice was published on the website to help businesses and the voluntary sector, this aligns with the council's response to the cost-of-living crisis.		
C4	Share climate friendly lifestyle changes, including ways to make homes more energy efficient	Narrative update on comms and engagement activities which interface with communities, schools and other local organisations	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member Community Engagement	Head of Corporate Services	During Q4, officers continued to develop the web section titled 'Reduce your energy cost' with more information for the public on energy saving and also grants available for home improvements which increase energy efficiency. We also added the 'Retrofitting your home' section on the website and promoted this on our social media. We promoted the county's Welcome the Warmth grants for energy efficiency measures for eligible householders.		
C5	Promote climate funding opportunities for businesses, voluntary and community sectors, and residents	Narrative update on comms and engagement activities which interface with communities, schools and other local organisations	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member Community Engagement	Head of Corporate Services	In Q4 a new web page was created called 'Where to get funding for your community climate action project' aimed at community groups and town or parish councils. This highlighted seven funding opportunities including the council's Climate Action Fund.		

Theme 6: Our communities - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
C6	Promote community sharing and reuse to reduce waste and unnecessary consumption	Narrative update on comms and engagement activities which interface with communities, schools and other local organisations	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member Community Engagement	Head of Corporate Services	In Q4 the comms team promoted the national campaign - food waste action week – by offering advice and information about the amount of food that is thrown away each week and how to avoid it and save money – additionally linked to cost of living crisis.		
C7	Promote relevant housing energy efficiency schemes, including grants, to residents, landlords and housing associations	Narrative update on comms and engagement activities which interface with communities, schools and other local organisations	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member Community Engagement	Head of Corporate Services	During Q4, in addition to a new website section titled 'Retrofitting your home', which was created to provide more information to the public on energy efficiency, officers added information to the web section on loans and grants available to reduce energy. We also promoted the county's Welcome the Warmth grants for energy efficiency measures for eligible householders.		

Theme 6: Our communities - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
C8	Include in Community Employment Plans considerations for addressing the councils climate neutral targets through commitments such as green skills training, sourcing through a local and sustainable supply chain, supporting local social enterprises and charities and accessing local employment	Update on the conditions of Community Employment Plans that address the climate emergency and how they are being implemented by developers; data on the number of Community Employment Plans implemented with conditions that address the climate emergency	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member Community Engagement	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	No progress to report in Q4 2022/23.		Appropriate measures can currently be evidenced as included within CEPs, but are not specifically included as sustainability / climate targets. Further policy development is required to ensure that climate considerations form a central theme of future CEPs. Although this forms part of conversations with officers developing the joint local plan, inclusion of an appropriate CEP clause is not guaranteed.

Theme 6: Our communities - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
C9	Support communities with their neighbourhood planning by providing up-to-date advice and guidance on climate measures and actions, encouraging climate considerations to be at the core of neighbourhood plans	Data on the number of neighbourhood plans developed; Narrative update on the types of climate actions incorporated into neighbourhood plans	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Transformation	Head of Policy and Programmes	In Q4 work continued to assist communities preparing neighbourhood plans, including encouraging the insertion of climate measures. There are 9 neighbourhood plans (including 1 plan review) currently being prepared. In Q4 the council has commented on the East Hanney neighbourhood plan and design code and provided advice on the development and refinement of policies and local guidance supporting development proposals for local renewable and low carbon energy generation and innovative approaches to the construction of low carbon buildings.		
C10	Support taxi drivers in switching to electric vehicles, including reviewing options to incentivise the switch through fees and charges	Data on the number of taxi drivers driving electric vehicles and narrative update on the support to taxi drivers for doing so	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member Healthy Communities	Head of Legal and Democratic	At Q4, out of 324 licensed vehicles there are zero electric vehicles, although 111 are hybrid (34%). The council offers substantial discounts in licence fees for zero emission vehicles.		We continue to promote the reduced fees for zero emission vehicles and an aim within the taxi policy is for all licensed vehicles to be zero carbon by 2030 at the latest. However, this will be constrained by the available infrastructure and in particular the ability for fast charging given the nature of the trade.

Theme 6: Our communities - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
C11	Organise quarterly climate focused network meetings for town and parish councils, and voluntary and community organisations, linking with existing networks	Data on number of meetings held; narrative update on the agendas, outcomes and actions from the meetings	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member Community Engagement	Head of Corporate Services	No progress to report Q4 2022/2023.		

Theme 7: Our partners - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
OP1	Build relationships with town and parish councils to support and encourage their climate action initiatives	Update on how the council has worked with town and parish councils on climate action initiatives, including case studies	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member Community Engagement	Head of Policy and Programmes	In Q4, a total of £42,835 was awarded to 15 community groups and town and parish councils, across the Vale of White Horse during the second round of the Climate Action Fund, with project themes including the natural environment, lifestyle changes, education and engagement, transport and energy saving. The results from the Community First Oxfordshire T&P survey circulated in Q2 were published, highlighting the importance of collaborative working with community groups to tackle the climate emergency and peer-to-peer learning to drive projects forward. A new webpage on where to get funding for your community climate and biodiversity project was prepared and uploaded. A free introductory webinar was held for 20 registered businesses, community organisations and Town & Parish councils on the One Planet Living sustainability framework, led by Bioregional (as part of our Greentech partnership). A briefing for town and parish councils on domestic retrofit advice and financial support available for residents was drafted and will be published in Q1 2023/24.		

Theme 7: Our partners - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
OP2	Identify areas in our community that are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change to ensure they are properly supported and protected to promote wider community wellbeing	Update on the identification of areas most vulnerable to the effects of climate change and how the council has supported them to adapt to these changes, including through initiatives such as Better Housing Better Health	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member Corporate Services and Transformation	Head of Policy and Programmes	During Q4, officers took part in a workshop with Oxfordshire County Council and key stakeholders to progress a county wide plan to help identify the climate vulnerability and health impacts of climate change for communities in Oxfordshire. The first stage will be to gather evidence which looks at current vulnerability to climate risks as well as future vulnerability over the next 30 years. The second phase will be to develop a climate adaptation and resilience strategy and action plans. In addition, promotion of OCC's Welcome to the Warmth campaign offered information on current grant funding to improve the energy efficiency of low-income and low energy performance homes across Oxfordshire as part of the Government's Sustainable Warmth Home Upgrade Grant scheme.		

Theme 7: Our partners - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
OP3	Work with Oxfordshire County Council to support active and sustainable travel infrastructure initiatives	Narrative update on progress toward completion of map, once map completed, this should transition to an annual review of the accuracy of map	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member Corporate Services and Transformation	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>In Q4, officers attended two Strategic Active Travel Network Steering Group sessions which considered the long list of strategic routes across Oxfordshire for walking and cycling, and then considered prioritisation of routes across the County based on demand / likelihood of converting trips to cycling. The map produced by this workstream will go to some lengths to address the need to produce a District map showing active travel, albeit this will comprise existing and proposed infrastructure for walking and cycling. Officers also attended a Cycle Safari in February for the Didcot LCWIP project where part of the steering group cycled around Didcot to review key cycling pinch points and issues within Didcot, as well as explore good cycling infrastructure available currently. An officer also attended a Steering Group session in March 2023 which considered where cycling infrastructure may be best placed within Didcot to promote cycling and facilitate modal shift away from the private car. These will then be considered, alongside map annotated consultation responses, when reviewing the key corridors in the next stage of the LCWIP project. For Abingdon, officers attended the first Abingdon Area Travel Plan meeting which seeks to build on the work of the LCWIP and consider all travel within the Abingdon area. This workstream forms part of the second stage of the LTCP work to deliver on the policies, in this case Policy 52 of the LTCP.</p> <p>(update continue on next page)</p>		

Theme 7: Our partners - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
OP3	Work with Oxfordshire County Council to support active and sustainable travel infrastructure initiatives	Narrative update on progress toward completion of map, once map completed, this should transition to an annual review of the accuracy of map	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member Corporate Services and Transformation	Head of Policy and Programmes	In addition, officers worked with Oxfordshire County Council this quarter to launch EV car club vehicles available to hire from council car parks, operated by commercial companies. Car clubs offer an alternative, sustainable transport option for residents. These are available in Abingdon and Wantage.		
OP4	Work with the Future Oxfordshire Partnership on a county-wide approach to reducing carbon emissions, building on the strategic vision and Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire	Update on progress on the Future Oxfordshire Partnership's county-wide approach to reducing carbon emissions, including examples of projects and programmes that address the strategic vision and Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Strategic Partnerships and Place	Head of Policy and Programmes	In Q4 the Oxfordshire Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan was finalised and published. On 20th March 2023 the Future Oxfordshire Partnership reviewed and endorsed the document which sets out 14 actions that are most effectively delivered through joint working between the Oxfordshire local authorities and key stakeholders. Recognising resource constraints, the Environment Advisory Group officer group were asked to identify a sub-group of five actions which should be urgent priorities for the short term. Work on these has already begun.		

Theme 7: Our partners - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
OP5	With Our partners, support the development of a coordinated retrofit programme for Oxfordshire through our role in the Environmental Advisory Group of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership	Narrative report on work influencing work, comms activity and direct engagement with residents.	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member Strategic Partnerships and Place	Head of Policy and Programmes	In Q4, a paper setting out the actions that the council could take to facilitate retrofitting was finalised and discussed at the CEAC meeting on 23rd January 2023. Two webpages on retrofitting homes and retrofitting community buildings were uploaded to the website. A member of the Climate and Biodiversity Team participated in a retrofitting roundtable hosted by Oxfordshire County Council and the Low Carbon Hub which explored opportunities for joint working to accelerate retrofitting, and will be the start of further joint working. The Senior Climate Communications Officer promoted funding available to residents through Oxfordshire County Council's Sustainable Warmth grants.		
OP6	Support Registered Social Landlords in applying for retrofit funding, such as Social Housing Decarbonisation Funding	Narrative update on engagement with Registered Social Landlords on retrofit funding	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member Healthy Communities	Head of Housing and Environment	In Q4 a report was taken to Cabinet Briefing which provided some initial data on the number of RPs in the district, their portfolio size and age of stock. It also began the work to outline the retrofit plans to meet future legislative needs.		

Theme 7: Our partners - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
OP7	Use our membership of Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) to ensure rapid growth of the green economy	Update on the council's influence in OxLEP to ensure rapid growth of the green economy, including examples of projects and programmes that address this work	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Strategic Partnerships and Place	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Economic Development are working with OxLEP on several workstreams to help ensure growth of the green economy, this includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emerging Strategic Economic Plan for Oxfordshire that includes articulation of the opportunities related to business sustainability and the drive for net-zero. - Development of the Destination Management Plan for Oxfordshire, which will have a strong emphasis on developing sustainable tourism. - Countywide discussions to take a collaborative approach to business decarbonisation, and green skills development using shared prosperity funding. 		
OP8	Support and influence the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 ensuring climate considerations are integrated throughout the plan	Narrative report on work to support the Oxfordshire Plan in accordance with TCE3.7	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member for Strategic Partnerships and Place	Head of Policy and Programmes	Work on OP2050 has ceased and this action will not be updated.		
OP9	Utilise the opportunity of the Oxford to Cambridge Arc to advance corporate objectives around the Climate Emergency	Narrative update on the work of the Oxford-Cambridge arc and our influencing activity	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Strategic Partnerships and Place	Head of Policy and Programmes	The council has taken the decision to no longer engage with the Oxford to Cambridge Arc (now known as the Oxford-Cambridge Partnership)		

Theme 7: Our partners - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
OP10	Support the Thames Valley Rivers network to meet their aims and use this group to facilitate and influence work cross party and cross boundary to end pollution in the river and promote the sustainable use and enjoyment of the River Thames	Update on work with the Thames Valley Rivers network, including case studies of projects and programmes that have been implemented to meet the aims of the network	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member Climate Emergency and Environment	Head of Policy and Programmes	In Q4 Officers attended the Ock Catchment Partnership meeting as well as attending individual meetings with representatives of the catchment partnership. Discussions have included , mitigation for farmland birds impacted by developments adjacent to the Letcombe Brook and looking at opportunities for habitat creation in the catchment. A new council webpage was also created and uploaded this quarter, on 'rivers and waterways' highlighting the importance of rivers and the benefits they bring.		
OP11	Engagement across the energy sector on activity required to move to carbon neutral and work with them to tackle the challenge of grid capacity, time of day demand and energy infrastructure	Update on engagement with the energy sector and examples of work with them to tackle the challenge of grid capacity, time of day demand and energy infrastructure	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member Corporate Services and Transformation	Head of Policy and Programmes	In Q4 the Future Oxfordshire Partnership approved the Oxfordshire Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan. Local grid constraints will be tackled as one of the five Priority Actions. A local area energy planning approach (LAEP) will involve ongoing dialogue between network operators, local planning authorities and other key stakeholders to ensure a joined-up approach to identifying and supporting necessary upgrades to local energy networks.		
OP12	Partner with Good Food Oxfordshire to support their Good Food Strategy for Oxfordshire, ensuring climate considerations are included throughout the strategy	Update on the development of the Good Food Strategy for Oxfordshire, including examples of climate considerations	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member Corporate Services and Transformation	Head of Policy and Programmes	In Q4, work progressed with Good Food Oxfordshire and relevant cabinet members to agree the draft terms of reference for a local food action plan steering group. The first meeting of the new group will be held next quarter.		




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

Policy and Programmes

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

Email: climateaction@southandvale.gov.uk

Follow us

-  @whitehorsedc
-  @WhiteHorseDC
-  @valeofwhitehorsedc