

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

PERFORMANCE REPORT

2023/24

QUARTER TWO

OCTOBER 2023



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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 two 2023/2024 (01 July to 30 September 2023) and should be reviewed in context with the council's quarterly **Corporate Plan Performance Report**. The council's **greenhouse gas emissions** are also reported and published annually.

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

Quarter context

HM Government and Net Zero

At the beginning of this quarter, HM Government unveiled its third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3), which sets out a strategic five-year plan with aims to boost resilience and protect people, homes, businesses and the UK's cultural heritage against climate change risks such as flooding, drought and heatwaves. The Climate Change Act requires the government to prepare for a changing climate and publicly report on the impact of climate change and plans to adapt to the risks and opportunities posed by climate change. The NAP is part of the response to this and every 5 years, the government produces an assessment of the risks and opportunities from climate change and reports on how we will adapt in the NAP.

In July, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) published its UK Energy in Brief 2023 report, which stated that solar photovoltaics (PV) increased its generation by 10% between 2021 and 2022. DESNZ detailed that this increase was driven by longer average sunlight hours and 5.3% increase in capacity.

This is helping to generate a total of 135TWh of electricity from renewable energy sources – a new record for the UK. According to DESNZ's UK Energy in Brief 2023 report, the increase on the year before is primarily due to "more favourable weather conditions and new offshore wind capacity". Offshore wind generation increased the most out of the renewable sources.

Moreover, in September, Communities Secretary Michael Gove lifted restrictions on building onshore windfarms in England, overturning a ban that has been in place since 2015. The new rules require local authorities to consider the views of the entire community rather than a single objection. They will be allowed to identify new onshore wind in other ways apart from a local plan, and the government plans to introduce an incentive scheme to make sure local residents benefit from new developments. The changes aim to speed up the delivery of wind power projects where there is community support.



In September, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak also announced HM Government's decision to delay the ban on new diesel and petrol cars from 2030 to 2035. The Prime Minister set out in his speech that the revised path will provide flexibility while also helping grow the economy, through offering certainty for manufacturers and helping families make the switch to electric. The implications of this change, together with others announced by the Prime Minister, are not easy to predict but are likely to have an impact on the council's targets for achieving a net zero district.

Additionally at the end of this quarter, HM government set out the timetable for 'Biodiversity Net Gain'. Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) was introduced through The Environment Act, which received its royal assent in November 2021. BNG is a way of making sure the habitat for wildlife is planned into new developments from the outset, leaving the environment in a better state than it was before development. Under the updated timetable developers in England will be required to deliver 10% "Biodiversity Net Gain" from January 2024 onwards when building new housing, industrial or commercial developments. By the end of November, the government have committed to publishing all guidance and plans to implement the BNG regulations.

Record-breaking Temperatures

The start of July was the hottest week on record for the planet, according to the World Meteorological Organisation. The UN body said that temperatures were breaking records on land and in the oceans, with "potentially devastating impacts on ecosystems and the environment". The world's September temperatures were also the warmest on record for September, and further, broke the previous high by a huge margin, according to the EU climate service. In the UK specifically, September was the joint-warmest September on record, in a series which goes back to 1884, according to provisional Met Office statistics.

Sustainable Transport

At the beginning of this quarter, HM Government announced 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 October. With the aim of encouraging people to use bus services, which are an important part of a sustainable travel model.

In July, Jaguar Land Rover-owner Tata confirmed plans to build its flagship electric car battery factory in the UK. The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said that the investment had come at a critical time for the UK. "With the global industry transitioning at pace to electrification, producing batteries in the UK is essential if we are to anchor wider vehicle production here for the long term," said SMMT chief executive.



Quarter two performance highlights



We successfully trialled an **electric food waste collection vehicle** and now plan to purchase our own



We published a **guide for district, town and parish councils** on the support and funding that is available in the district for **retrofitting** homes and community buildings

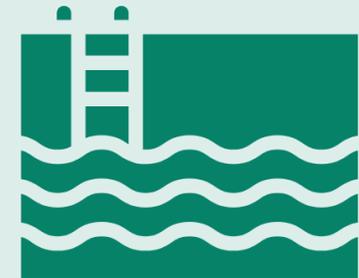


We hosted an **online forum** for town and parish councils and community groups about improving energy efficiency in community buildings



We approved a **new policy** on using Section 106 funds to deliver **affordable housing**, with a particular focus on using the funds for more sustainable schemes

We completed an energy efficiency and site decarbonisation **assessments** for all our leisure centres



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

QUARTER TWO ————— KEY ACTIVITIES —————

During this quarter, the delivery of staff training on the Procurement Strategy was completed. This training included content on understanding carbon reduction objectives and criterion and ensuring they form a part of procuring goods and services for the council.

Following the identification of a suitable product for monitoring the carbon emissions and impacts of procurement last quarter, this quarter, the internal consultation process was started to establish next steps and review its potential use.

Additionally, this quarter the updated policy on how Section 106 funds can be used to support the delivery of new affordable housing, was agreed by councillors and will be live from early October. Part of the new policy focused on how the Council encourages funds to be directed towards schemes that are more sustainable and consider carbon impacts. Increasing the energy efficiency of homes will also have the dual benefit of reducing costs for those that live in the homes, as well as reducing carbon emissions.

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.



GOAL

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

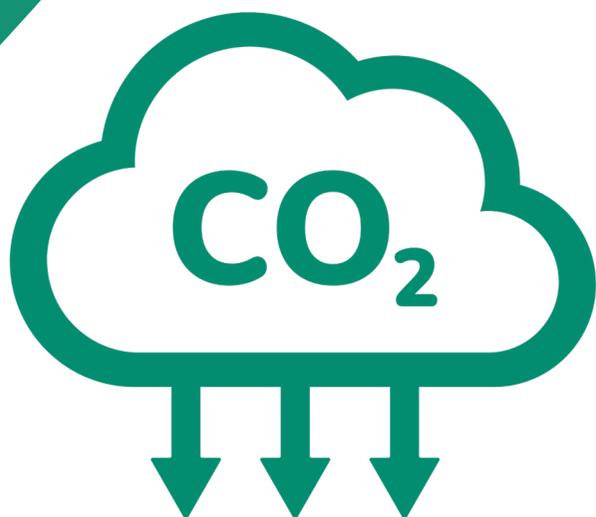
THEME 2 Our service delivery

QUARTER TWO ——— KEY ACTIVITIES ———

This quarter, work continued on 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.

Transition to electric vehicles (EVs) is a part of our journey to net zero. Following a successful trial this quarter of an electric food waste vehicle, it is intended to purchase one in line with the council's fleet replacement programme and associated timeline. Work also continued this quarter to understand the nature and condition of the waste fleet owned and operated by Biffa, to help inform further, future vehicle plans.

Officers have also been exploring the market to identify suitable EV providers that can meet the vehicle needs of specific service teams across the council. This quarter, the Development and Corporate Landlord service started the process to lease three EVs for the Parks and Cleaning teams. A trial of an electric van is also being arranged, to assess suitability for the Facilities team.



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 24

QUARTER TWO ————— KEY ACTIVITIES —————

This quarter, to support officers in preparing for upcoming planning reforms, including the Biodiversity Net Gain requirements, an application was submitted to the Planning Skills Delivery Fund for £89,050, in partnership with South Oxfordshire District Council. This application was for online and in-person training and will help upskill Planning and Planning Policy officers in respect of the reforms and continuing to put climate and biodiversity issues at the forefront of their work.

Moreover, this quarter through the council's regular staff communications, officers were encouraged to participate in, or learn more about, national climate action campaigns and initiatives. Including, Plastic Free July, Cycle to Work Day and Car Free Day as well as local opportunities such as becoming a tree guardian.



GOAL

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



THEME 4 Our land

QUARTER TWO ——— KEY ACTIVITIES ———

See Theme 4 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 26

The Council is committed to enhancing biodiversity on council owned land and this quarter, officers collated feedback on the 'Let it Bee' awareness campaign which ran over quarter one. Nine regularly mown sites across Abingdon, Faringdon and Wantage were 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.



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 28

QUARTER TWO ——— KEY ACTIVITIES

This quarter, the decarbonisation surveys and assessments for all Vale of White Horse District Council's Leisure centres were completed. Additionally, the Beacon decarbonisation survey was received and reviewed by officers. At quarter two 2023/24, the project to deliver energy efficiency measures and new renewable energy generation at Faringdon Leisure Centre is near completion. The appointment of consultants to take forward decarbonisation works at White Horse Tennis and Leisure Centre and Wantage Leisure Centre is imminent and will progress throughout quarter three.

These projects are all significant in our journey to net zero.



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 TWO ————— 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 new webpages in the economic development section of the council's website were created, to support and encourage businesses to take climate action. Additional content was created on the circular economy and how businesses can make their online services more energy efficient.

This quarter the Climate and Biodiversity team hosted an online forum for town and parish councils and community groups about improving energy efficiency in community buildings. This forum included sharing case studies and having speakers from local community groups who have experience of delivering projects to install energy saving measures and renewable energy technologies, such as solar panels, on their community buildings.

In addition, a briefing on retrofitting homes and community buildings for district, town and parish councils which consolidates information on retrofitting support and financing, was published and promoted and all town and parish councils were contacted about a new Carbon Emissions Tool to help them record and monitor the carbon emissions of their own operations.

This quarter we promoted retrofitting and grants for energy saving home improvements through social media and newsletters. This included highlighting local events such as the Energy Saving Homes – Open Door event in Botley where residents could visit local properties and find out how their neighbours had retrofitted their homes to increase energy efficiency.

Additionally, work continued on engaging with communities preparing neighbourhood plans and helping them to incorporate climate measures.



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 TWO

KEY ACTIVITIES

The CAP aims to build on the council's partnership work as key to achieving our climate emergency targets and this quarter, Vale of White Horse District Council partnered in Oxford City Council's 'FutureFit Oxfordshire' funding bid to Innovate UK's Net Zero Pathfinder Places programme. The project will aim to create an enabling environment for retrofitting one stop shops (such as Cosy Homes Oxfordshire and Energy Solutions Oxfordshire) to thrive and scale up activity. The funding application was submitted in September, with a decision expected in quarter three. This project is in line with our aim to support the development of a coordinated retrofit programme across Oxfordshire.

During this quarter, the council also responded to Oxfordshire County Council's consultation on the Strategic Active Travel Network (SATN). The SATN consultation included an interactive map of proposed cycling and walking routes, and the Council provided feedback on what should be on the map, including for example commenting that Watchfield and Wantage were not suitably prioritised. This work is part of planning for an improved active and sustainable travel network across the district.

Officers have been involved in several partnership meetings supporting the enhancement of rivers and waterways this quarter, including, attending the first of the 'Reclaim our Rivers Advocacy Board' hosted by environmental charity, Thames21, with the aim of collaborative working to improve river health for people and wildlife.

The council aims to engage with partners across the energy sector on activity required to tackle the challenges of grid capacity and energy infrastructure and this quarter officers met with the new Energy Planning lead at Oxfordshire County Council to discuss how the Local Area Energy Planning (LAE Planning) process would work for Vale of White Horse District Council. An LAE Planning Executive Steering Board has been established, which met for the first time this quarter, with the council being represented by the Deputy CEO – Place. The day-to-day work of driving the LAE plans forward will be overseen by an Energy Planning Working Group, which includes Vale of White Horse District Council officers.



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	Action completed.		
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 completed.		
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	No progress to report Q2 2023/2024. Discussions are ongoing about how to incorporate the climate impact assessment tool into the project management process with the aim of launching the tool to staff in Q3.		This action is slightly behind schedule. The aim is to launch the tool in Q3.

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
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	Following the identification of a suitable product for monitoring the carbon emissions and impacts of procurement contracts in Q1, this quarter, the GW1 was drafted to determine if the procurement can proceed. Once it is confirmed that the proposed solution complies with the councils' IT strategy, the GW1 will be sent to the Senior Management Team for their review.		
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 completed.		
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	At Q2 2023/24, all training on the procurement strategy is now complete. Officers will gather some examples of where carbon reduction objectives have been included in procurements, for ongoing monitoring purposes.		
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 completed.		

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
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 Property	Head of Finance	Action completed.		
WOW9	Incorporate a policy statement on environment/social/governance factors in the financial implications section of reports	Update on the statement included in Council templates under financial implications	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property	Head of Finance	Action completed.		
WOW10	Engage with the council's investment portfolio to ask for and review their carbon reduction plans as part of decision making for the treasury management strategy	Number of investment portfolios reviewed for their carbon reduction plans / narrative on any changes in investments based on investment portfolio carbon reduction plans / percentage of Council portfolio in Paris Agreement aligned companies	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property	Head of Finance	Action completed.		
WOW11	Review internal audit processes and where appropriate include risk considerations for the climate emergency	Report on how the internal audit processes have been updated to include carbon emission considerations	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property	Head of Finance	Action completed.		

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 Q2, progress updates were requested from the projects allocated CIL funding as set out in Q1 update.</p> <p>Requests for projects seeking CIL funding for 2024/25 were received this quarter. Details on the number of requested projects that directly address the climate emergency will be reported in Q3, with confirmation of funding allocations due at budget setting in Q4.</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	In Q2, projects seeking CIL funding were submitted and are currently being reviewed for consideration as to which of these may be put forward as recommendations as part of the budget setting process. The call out request for projects asked officers to ensure that climate emergency considerations formed part of the projects and reminded that the Climate and Biodiversity team are a statutory consultee on all council projects. Total number of climate related projects and approximate CIL allocation request will be provided as part of the Q3 update.		

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 Q2, an updated policy on how Section 106 funds can be used to support the delivery of new affordable housing was agreed by councillors and will be live from early October. Part of the new policy focused on how the Council encourages funds to be directed towards schemes that are more sustainable and consider carbon impacts. Increasing the energy efficiency of homes will also have the dual benefit of reducing costs for those that live in the homes, as well as reducing carbon emissions.		
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 Q2 the Council's net zero carbon consultants Bioregional made substantial progress on the evidence base for the Joint Local Plan, providing analysis and recommendation to underpin new sustainable construction policies.		
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	In Q2, consultants Bioregional, appointed to provide the net zero evidence base for the forthcoming Joint Local Plan, worked on advice on the role and weighting of offsetting policies in the Joint Local Plan in achieving net zero carbon status.		

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

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	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	In Q2, a draft options paper was written, which seeks to outline options for reducing the council's grey fleet emissions, including pool vehicles as one option to reduce these. The next step is for this paper to be refined and shared with the Head of Service for Policy and Programmes.		
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 Q2, through the 12 weekly staff email updates and regular Jarvis news items, staff were encouraged to take part in various climate action initiatives and campaigns, including Plastic Free July, Cycle to Work Day and Car Free Day. In addition to being involved in local opportunities such as an electric vehicle charger survey, becoming a tree guardian and haymaking at Barton Fields. They were also kept informed about council climate action projects, including an electric food waste truck trial and the new countywide air quality website.		
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 completed.		
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 completed.		

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 Action and the Environment	Head of Corporate Service	During Q2 a Driving at Work Policy was drafted. The next steps is for this to be subject to consultation with appropriate service teams and the council's recognised trades union in due course.		

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 for Climate Action and the Environment	Head of Housing and Environment	This quarter, work has continued on developing the strategic approach to future waste services to help inform preparations for the new waste contract, to be provided up to June 2026.		RAG will remain Amber until contract issues are formally resolved.
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 for Climate Action and the Environment	Head of Housing and Environment	No further information available this quarter - changes to the waste contract are currently confidential.		
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 for Climate Action and the Environment	Head of Housing and Environment	Following a successful two week trial this quarter, of an electric food waste vehicle, it is proposed to purchase a vehicle as part of the fleet replacement programme. It is anticipated this would arrive spring/summer 2024, pending final approval.		
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 for Climate Action and the Environment	Head of Housing and Environment	In Q2, work continued to understand the nature and condition of the waste fleet owned and operated by Biffa. This work is ongoing and information is being used to help develop future vehicle plans.		

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 for Climate Action and the Environment	Head of Housing and Environment	In Q2, work continued to investigate options for a new waste depot site. The council is in a non-disclosure agreement with a landowner regarding a potential site, so no further information is available at this time.		Work will remain Amber until the Heads of Terms with the landowner are agreed and planning permission received for the new depot site.
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 Property	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	In Q2, the Development and Corporate Landlord service started the process of organising the lease of three electric vehicles for the parks and cleaning teams and is aiming for a minimum of four EVs within the service by January 2024. The Facilities team is arranging a trial of an electric van to assess suitability.		This action is behind schedule and there is still no longer term delivery plan.
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 Property	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	This quarter, officers have continued to review suitable sites for the grounds maintenance team. Work on this action will be ongoing over the next quarter and beyond.		Work to continue next quarter with current work being made to find a suitable location.

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
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	Action completed.		
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	In Q2, the draft content was reviewed by the Planning team and comments returned to the Climate and Biodiversity team. The next steps are for a final draft to be worked up and agreed, prior to publishing the content.		
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 Community Engagement	Head of Planning	In Q2, Town and Parish engagement sessions continued to be offered on a monthly basis. These sessions are promoted, but uptake remains slow. Town and Parish training sessions are being rolled out next quarter during October/ November, where we will continue to encourage town and parish councils to engage.		

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	At the end of Q2, 66 users have completed the training equating to 12% of all Staff. Four members have completed the training equating to 5.5% of councillors for South and 5.2% of councillors for Vale.		
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	No progress to report Q2 2023/24		
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	In Q2, an application was submitted to the Planning Skills Delivery Fund for £89,050 total (for South and Vale). This application was for online and in-person training to upskill the existing Planning and Planning Policy Teams, to cover identified skills gaps and to prepare for upcoming planning reforms. This includes the development of skills in preparation for Biodiversity Net Gain requirements in upcoming planning reforms. Additionally this quarter, in collaboration with Oxfordshire County Council, work continued on developing the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) project application.		

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
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 for Q2 2023/2024. Capturing information on the cost of staff travel quarter on quarter is ongoing and reported to SMT on a regular basis. This data will help inform a future travel plan.		
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	This action is now considered BAU, following agreement in Q1 2023/24 to refocus this action by widening employee engagement in climate action and biodiversity, with the aim to embed a 'green' culture amongst all staff across the council. This will be achieved by utilising existing communication channels and linking into existing work streams to create opportunities for behavioural change in our ways of working. See WOW18 for details on internal communications to staff during Q2 2023/24. In addition, the results from the council's staff wellbeing survey were published in Q2, with 70% of respondents saying they would be interested in hearing more about Climate/Nature activities.		
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.		

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 Property	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>The GM review by Transformation team is still in progress. In Q2 Transformation team have been benchmarking the service, looking at process maps and KPIs to decide the next stage of the process.</p> <p>This year we have been trialling different nature-friendly approaches to the maintenance of council-owned land. Nine sites were identified in Vale/Eight sites were identified in South where we chose not to mow over the summer to enhance biodiversity and encourage wildflowers. In Q2 we collated feedback on the 'Let it Bee' campaign, and in Q3 we will be sending letters to residents to get comments on specific sites.</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 Property	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	No progress to report for Q2 2023/2024.		
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 Property	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	In Q2, officers reviewed the report from advisors APSE, which provided commentary and a feasibility assessment of 4 sites across Vale on their suitability for use as a solar farm. Officers have been preparing to bring forward a report on the findings and next steps to advance the project on the most suitable site or sites.		

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
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 Property	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Action completed.		
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 Property	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	In Q2, officers continued to collaborate with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) on Oxfordshire's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding allocation of £3.655m capital and £500k revenue. Officers are working with OCC on how and where the grant will be spent by end of 2025. Officers will now be bringing a report to Cabinet in Q3 (November) to outline the proposals and how South and Vale's allocation will be spent.		

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 Property	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	In Q2, the evaluation report for Abbey Meadow pool was completed. This action is now complete.		
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 Property	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	In Q2, project delivery at Faringdon Leisure Centre is near completion (awaiting District Network Operator connection) At White Horse Tennis and Leisure Centre and Wantage Leisure Centre funding has been secured for decarbonisation schemes and the appointment of consultant to enable progression is imminent. The survey for Abbey Meadows pool has been completed and an initial review was undertaken. The site does not qualify for a Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme bid and at present the carbon benefits of major works are minimal so there are no proposals to undertake works at this time.		

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 Property	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	In Q2, the Beacon decarbonisation survey report was received and assessed for a Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme bid. Surveys were also undertaken on district centres. Further phase 2 surveys will be considered in Q3.		
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 Property	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	In Q2 the decision was made not to submit a Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme bid for the Beacon, as the available fund would be a low percentage of the overall project cost, and there is not available CIL or other funding at this time to fund the rest. A further review of carbon requirements will be considered after the Arts centre review paper has been considered.		

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 for other buildings. Resource requirements for reporting and monitoring regime to be reviewed and developed.</p> <p>Leisure centres – the day-to-day operation of the Leisure centres is in the hands of GLL. Their utility consumption reporting is reviewed every month by Council officers as part of monthly management meeting, and if any disparities are noted then these are discussed. Example issue raised with GLL was slowing the circulation pumps of pool water overnight , which has delivered notable energy saving. Officers have identified significant number of proactive capital improvement projects over the last 18 months and have delivered LED lighting, pump inverter drive improvement, destratification fans. All these initiatives have been monitored through regular monthly gas and electric usage to quantify their effect.</p> <p>Abbey House – historic utility usage has been collated to show any trend. Ongoing data is now reviewed by management on a monthly basis, and the utility bills checked against regular meter readings</p> <p>(update continues on next page)</p>		

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>As part of regular team meetings energy issues are considered. Recent initiatives include putting time clocks on teapoint water boilers, complete review of heating and mechanical systems operating hours as part of full replacement of Building Management System in early 2023, new LED lighting throughout ground floor area on sensor control in 2022, working with Climate action team to design labels for desks to remind staff to turn off monitors and power supplies at end of day.</p> <p>Beacon - historic utility usage has been collated to show any trend. Ongoing data is now reviewed by management on a monthly basis, and the utility bills checked against regular meter readings. As part of regular team meetings energy issues are consider. Recent initiatives in 2023 include, relocation of the Building Management System computer from the plantroom to the managers office, so that better and regular control of the heating and mechanical systems operational hours can be made.</p>		
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 Property	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	In Q2, an SMT paper was drafted to take forward an approach to new asset acquisitions and builds.		

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	In Q2, the Vale ran many successful climate campaigns as part of the communications campaign, including updating on the council's climate action work and encouraging behaviour change around tackling climate change. Some specific examples are: marking Plastic Free July and encouraging residents to take part; promoting electric vehicle use by contributing to a county wide press release highlighting offers for EV charging and car clubs available around World EV Day (9 September); working with the planning team to set up new pages on whether planning permission is needed to install retrofitting measures in homes (this is awaiting final sign off from planning); and continuing to promote the Climate Action Oxfordshire website, especially their articles on the energy saving benefits of insulating properties.		
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	In Q2, the communications team continued to support and promote the work of the economic development team. New web pages in the economic development section of the website were created to support businesses to take climate action. Additional content was created on the circular economy and how businesses can make their online services more energy efficient.		

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 Q2, we continued to promote retrofitting and energy saving among businesses as well as offering step-by-step advice on retrofitting with new pages added to the climate section of the council's website.		
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	In Q2, we continued to promote retrofitting and grants for energy saving home improvements through social media and newsletters. This included highlighting local events such as the Energy Saving Homes - Open Doors event in Botley.		
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 Q2 a new webpage on 'Where to get funding for your community climate action project' was created, aimed at community groups and town and parish councils. This highlights seven different funding opportunities, including the Climate Action Fund.		
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 Q2, we promoted Second Hand September and Zero Waste Week, linking to community action groups, repair cafes, refill shops and the benefits of composting.		

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
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	In Q2, we continued to promote the energy saving loans and grants that are available to residents, using the loans and grants to improve your home page.		
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	<p>In Q2, the Economic Development team explored the opportunities to link UK Shared Prosperity Fund Green Skills funding with Community Employment Plans by offering retraining and upskilling courses to both trades and new entrants (new entrants would be offered wraparound support). Procurement opportunities will follow in 2024, enabling local training providers to bid to provide green skills courses related to construction and retrofit, and wraparound support for new entrants.</p> <p>Our UK Shared Prosperity Fund commissioned study UNDERSTANDING THE NET ZERO CHALLENGE FOR SME'S IN SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE AND VALE OF WHITE HORSE should help us to address issues of local business sustainability, this can be linked to CEPs and building sustainable local supply chains.</p>		Current CEP policy is not explicitly aligned with climate outcomes, but opportunities exist to ensure CEP related training opportunities (inc. apprenticeships) can access appropriate green skills training in the local area. Whilst local supply chains should be climate positive, additional support is needed to ensure local businesses are able to decarbonise and operate in an environmentally sustainable manner.

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 Q2 work continued to assist communities preparing neighbourhood plans, including encouraging the insertion of climate measures. There are 8 neighbourhood plans (including 1 plan review) currently being prepared. In Q2 the neighbourhood plans for East Hanney and Sutton Courtenay have reached the examination stage. The council has formally commented on these plans and where appropriate provided encouragement and advice on the refinement of policies addressing the challenges of climate change.		
C10	Support taxi drivers in switching to electric vehicles, including reviewing options to incentivise the switch through fees and charges	Data on the number of taxi drivers driving electric vehicles and narrative update on the support to taxi drivers for doing so	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Community Health and Wellbeing	Head of Legal and Democratic	At Q2, out of 344 licensed vehicles there is 1 electric vehicle, although 127 are hybrid (37%). 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	In Q2, the Climate and Biodiversity team hosted an online forum for town and parish councils and community groups about improving energy efficiency in community buildings. This took place on 11 July and over 40 people registered to attend. A recording of the event is available on the retrofitting community buildings page of the council website.		

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	<p>During Q2, a briefing on retrofitting homes and community buildings for district, town and parish councils which consolidates information on retrofitting support and financing services was published and promoted. In July the council hosted an online forum for town and parish councils and community groups on how to retrofit community buildings, where the support that the councils can offer and the grants that are available were promoted.</p> <p>All town and parish councils were contacted about a new free carbon emissions calculator tool that the council can supply them with to measure their current carbon emissions.</p> <p>The Climate and Biodiversity team worked with Tree Opportunity Officers at Oxfordshire County Council to develop a new service for communities to develop tree planting projects. An expression of interest for this was launched in September.</p>		
OP2	Identify areas in our community that are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change to ensure they are properly supported and protected to promote wider community wellbeing	Update on the identification of areas most vulnerable to the effects of climate change and how the council has supported them to adapt to these changes, including through initiatives such as Better Housing Better Health	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member Corporate Services and Transformation	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q2, officers continued to be involved in the stakeholder group for developing a climate adaptation evidence base for Oxfordshire, the report of which was produced in Q2 and is due to be finalised and published in Q3.</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	During Q2 the Council responded to Oxfordshire County Council's consultation on the Strategic Active Travel Network (SATN), the response is available here: https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/08/Vale-Letter-SATN-2-04.08.23_Redacted.pdf . The SATN consultation included an interactive map of proposed cycling and walking routes, and the Council provided feedback on what should be on the map, including for example commenting that Watchfield and Wantage were not suitably prioritised. This work is part of planning for an improved active and sustainable travel network.		
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 Q2, work continued to operationalise the five prioritised action areas of the Oxfordshire Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan. This work is now considered business as usual and progress on each Oxfordshire Net Zero Map action will continue to be reported thematically under the relevant CAP action in this report.		

Theme 7: Our partners - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	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	<p>In Q2, both South and Vale councils were invited to be partners in Oxford City Council's FutureFit Oxfordshire funding bid to Innovate UK's Net Zero Pathfinder Places programme. The project will aim to create an enabling environment for retrofitting one stop shops (such as Cosy Homes Oxfordshire and Energy Solutions Oxfordshire) to thrive and scale up activity. The funding application was submitted in September, with a decision expected in Q3.</p> <p>A briefing on retrofitting homes and community buildings for district, town and parish councils which consolidates information on retrofitting support and financing services was published and promoted. In July the council hosted an online forum for town and parish councils and community groups on how to retrofit community buildings, where the support that the councils can offer and the grants that are available were promoted.</p> <p>Funding for retrofitting remains available to eligible residents within Vale of White Horse through Oxfordshire County Council's Home Upgrade Grant.</p>		
OP6	Support Registered Social Landlords in applying for retrofit funding, such as Social Housing Decarbonisation Funding	Narrative update on engagement with Registered Social Landlords on retrofit funding	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Community Health and Wellbeing	Head of Housing and Environment	No progress to report for Q2 2023/2024.		

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	<p>In Q2, the Economic Development team continued to ensure that Vale's views have been feed into local strategic documents, including the refresh of the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and Destination Management Plan (DMP), emphasising that the principles of "good growth" defined in Oxfordshire's Strategic Vision for Long Term Sustainable Development are enshrined within plans.</p> <p>Our plans to advance UKSPF backed interventions to develop Green Skills and support for decarbonisation whilst growing the economy have engaged with OxLEP and other regional partners, with a view to funding projects and programmes in 2024/25.</p>		
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 for Climate Action and the Environment	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>In Q2, officers have been involved in several partnership meetings supporting the enhancement of rivers and waterways. Including, attending the first of the 'Reclaim our Rivers Advocacy Board' hosted by environmental charity, Thames21, with the aim of collaborative working to improve river health for people and wildlife.</p> <p>Climate and Biodiversity officers also contributed positively to advising on reducing surface water run off at Portway Car Park, Wantage and Cattle Market Car Park, Abingdon. Reducing surface water run-off from council property reduces the amount of water entering the sewage treatment process and in turn reduces demand on the system, helping to contribute to reducing sewage overflows.</p>		
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	<p>In Q2 2023/24 Officers met with the new Energy Planning lead at Oxfordshire County Council to discuss how the Local Area Energy Planning (LAE Planning) process would work for the council. The governance structure has now been established and an Executive Steering Board established, which met for the first time on 13 September, the council is represented by the Deputy CEO – Place. The day-to-day work of driving the LAE plans forward will be overseen by an Energy Planning Working Group which includes officers from the council.</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
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 Q2, the first meetin of the Joint South and Vale Food Action Steering Group met on 5 September 2023 and agreed themes to review of education, health and wellbeing, planning, economic development and careers and institutional contracts.		

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Policy and Programmes

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