

PERFORMANCE REPORT CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

2023/24
QUARTER THREE
OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2023.



**Vale
of White Horse**

District Council



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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 the 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 provides a strategic overview of the climate action performance across the council for Quarter three 2023/2024 (01 October to 31 December 2023) and should be reviewed in context with the council's quarterly [Corporate Plan Priorities Strategic Performance Report](#) (link). The [council's greenhouse gas emissions](#) are also reported and published annually (link).

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 where necessary.

QUARTER CONTEXT

COP28

During quarter three, the **28th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP28)**, was held 30 November to 13 December in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates. The resulting COP28 deal was the first to note the need to move away from the fossil fuels that drive global warming. The agreement includes global targets to triple the capacity of renewable energy like wind and solar power, and to double the rate of energy efficiency improvements, both by 2030.

Energy Act 2023

The **Energy Act 2023 received Royal Assent** this quarter, on 26 October. HM Government state that the wide-ranging Act will help ensure energy is affordable for households and businesses and make the UK more energy independent in the long-term. In addition to, helping unlock private investment in energy infrastructure, scaling up jobs and growth and setting measures to accelerate development of offshore wind and help deliver net zero commitments.





Nature

This quarter, **HM Government announced a new nature package**, with measures designed to improve access to green space and connect the public with the natural world. This will include a search for a new National Park in England, new landscape recovery projects, new forests and funding to help more children get outdoors and immersed in nature.

Additionally, it was announced that **Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty were to be rebranded as 'National Landscapes'**.

Commenting, Tony Juniper, chair of Natural England, said the change “marks the beginning of a new phase for our National Landscapes, as they strengthen their existing partnerships, and forge new ones that will secure in perpetuity the huge range of benefits that come from these special places.”

Record-breaking Temperatures and Carbon Emissions

Data released this quarter revealed that **2023 is on track to be the UK's second warmest year on record**. Globally, the Earth's warmest October on record continued the journey to the hottest year on record.

Moreover, the Global Carbon Project science team reported that **global carbon emissions from fossil fuels increased to record levels in 2023** - the annual Global Carbon Budget, a comprehensive study involving over 120 scientists from around the world, projected fossil carbon dioxide emissions to be 36.8 billion tons this year, marking a 1.1 percent increase from 2022.

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

We **promoted recycle week and national repair day**, to help provide information on how and where items could be recycled and repaired, to minimise waste



We **launched a Food and Warmth Grant Scheme** for voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations.



A webinar was held for community groups and town and parish councils, on **how they can encourage and facilitate energy efficiency upgrades to domestic homes** in the district. Attendees heard inspiring case studies from across the district



We introduced a **new 'climate impact assessment tool'** which is to be used by staff when reporting on any new council projects. We held a webinar for staff on the new tool and how it can help assess climate and ecological impacts



The Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan was approved – the Plan sets out how to improve the active travel network around Didcot, Science Vale and surrounding villages, to reduce reliance on private vehicles and cut congestion



£89,050

For our **Planning Skills Delivery Fund**, shared with South Oxfordshire District Council

This funding will help support staff with upcoming planning reforms, including Biodiversity Net Gain requirements.



THEME 1 – OUR WAYS OF WORKING

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.

KEY ACTIVITIES

During this quarter a new 'climate impact assessment tool' was launched for officers' use, to help ensure the climate and environmental impact of our work is considered and embedded within our decision making. The tool creates a colour-coded wheel as a visual highlight of the positive and negative climate and environmental impacts of the proposed work, alongside supporting commentary.

Work also continued this quarter on the net zero evidence base for the forthcoming Joint Local Plan; the appointed consultants worked on the role and weighting of offsetting policies in achieving net zero carbon status.

Additionally, the council's Driving at Work policy was consulted on with internal services. Aspects of the Policy considers the impacts of corporate vehicles on the environment, and also applies to personal vehicles used for work purposes. The next step for this Policy is for it to be approved and published. Alongside this Policy, there will also be the introduction of telematics to enable monitoring of corporate vehicles which will include idling activity, with the aim of reducing idling and improving air quality.

PERFORMANCE UPDATE

See Theme 1 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 13.



THEME 2 – OUR SERVICE DELIVERY

GOAL

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

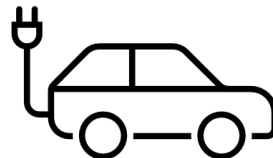
KEY ACTIVITIES

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 an important part of our journey to net zero. Following a successful trial of an electric food waste vehicle last quarter, as part of an order for new, replacement waste vehicles this quarter, one of these (a food waste vehicle) will be a battery electric.

Moreover, work continued on the new Air Quality Action Plan this quarter. The Plan has been agreed by partners following the conclusion of the consultation phase last quarter. The next step is for it to be presented to Cabinet for sign-off, before being reviewed and approved by Licensing Committee next quarter.

PERFORMANCE UPDATE

See Theme 2 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 19.



THEME 3 – OUR PEOPLE

GOAL

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

KEY ACTIVITIES

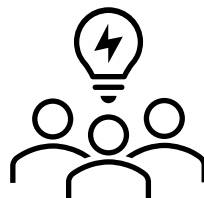
At a staff event held in October, the climate and biodiversity team had a stall which aimed to engage with staff on climate through interactive activities. These included signing a climate pledge, guessing the carbon emission savings which could be achieved through switching to council EVs and identifying energy saving tips for a 'Barbie Eco House'.

This quarter the council was notified of a successful bid to support officers in preparing for upcoming planning reforms, including the Biodiversity Net Gain requirements. This was for £89,050 from the Planning Skills Delivery Fund, in partnership with South Oxfordshire District Council. This funding will deliver training and 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 use their monthly wellbeing hour to take part in climate action or nature-based activities. A 'lunch and learn' webinar was also organised for staff interested in improving the climate impact of their projects, which introduced the council's new climate impact assessment tool.

PERFORMANCE UPDATE

See Theme 3 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 23.



THEME 4 – OUR LAND

GOAL

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

KEY ACTIVITIES

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. The feedback will support recommendations for developing the scheme next year, including the potential for an increased number of sites.

Community tree planting was also encouraged in the district, through the council’s grant schemes, and campaigns around National Tree Week and the Oxfordshire Garden Tree Giveaway, of which the council funded 300 trees.

PERFORMANCE UPDATE

See Theme 4 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 28.



THEME 5 – OUR BUILDINGS

GOAL

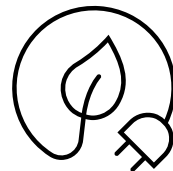
To decarbonise our buildings and their operations to ensure they are fit for the future.

KEY ACTIVITIES

At quarter three, project delivery at Faringdon Leisure Centre is near completion - awaiting District Network Operator connection, and at White Horse Tennis and Leisure Centre and Wantage Leisure Centre, funding was secured for decarbonisation schemes and the appointment of consultant to enable progression is imminent. These decarbonisation works will progress throughout quarter four.

PERFORMANCE UPDATE

See Theme 5 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 30.



THEME 6 – OUR COMMUNITIES

GOAL

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

KEY ACTIVITIES

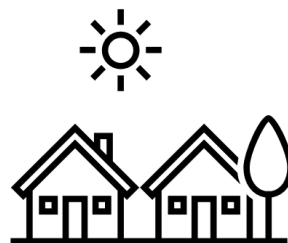
In line with the council's aims to work with communities, businesses, the voluntary sector and residents to address the climate emergency, this quarter we continued to promote retrofitting and energy saving for organisations and the council's offer of thermal imaging camera loan service for local groups was also promoted. The cameras help identify where energy efficiency measures can be made on buildings and increase resident's awareness of heat loss. An online webinar on domestic retrofitting options for town and parish councils and community organisations was also held this quarter, to help them advise residents and share information.

Moreover, a Food and Warmth grant scheme was launched, to support community organisations working with vulnerable households with cost-of-living support, including projects which help residents improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

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

PERFORMANCE UPDATE

See Theme 6 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 34.



THEME 7 – OUR PARTNERS

GOAL

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

KEY ACTIVITIES

The CAP aims to build on the council's partnership work as key to achieving our climate emergency targets and we have continued work to support Town and parish councils and community groups and encourage their climate action initiatives. This quarter, town & Parish Councils, community groups and businesses were invited to apply for funds from the Rural England Prosperity Fund to support a range of climate action projects including retrofitting community buildings, renewable energy schemes, EV charging infrastructure and nature recovery projects. Awards will be made next quarter.

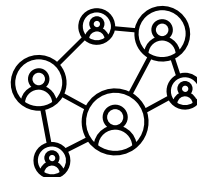
Economic Development continued to actively participate in OxLEP's Net Zero Joint Oxfordshire Business Support group this quarter, and shared progress reports from the 'Understanding of the net zero challenge for SMEs in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse' research project with participants and fed back on the proposed workplan resulting from the groups discussions.

Additionally, this quarter officers have been involved in several partnership meetings supporting the enhancement of rivers and waterways. Including, attending 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. Alongside, the Ock Catchment Partnership meeting and the Letcombe Brook Project Steering Group meeting.

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 attended the first meeting of the Energy Planning Working Group for Local Area Energy Planning in Oxfordshire.

PERFORMANCE UPDATE

See Theme 7 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 43.



PERFORMANCE UPDATES AGAINST REPORTING MEASURES

Theme: Our Ways of Working								
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)	Cllr Andy Foulsham	Head of Policy and Programmes	Action WOW1 is complete.		
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)	Cllr Andy Foulsham	Head of Policy and Programmes	Action WOW2 is complete.		
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)	Cllr Andy Foulsham	Head of Policy and Programmes	In Q3 the climate and biodiversity team launched a new climate impact assessment tool for a six-month introductory period, after which use of the tool will be mandatory for most, if not all, council decisions. The tool will help the council consistently assess the climate and ecological impacts so that decisions can be taken with full acknowledgement of the impacts. The output of the tool is a colour-coded wheel highlighting the positive and negative impacts of the work. Guidance on using the tool has been added to Jarvis, along with some video demonstrations. An online lunch and learn session was held for staff to introduce the tool and how to use it.		

Theme: Our Ways of Working								
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)	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Finance	As work on this matter progressed this quarter it became apparent that, despite earlier advice from the supplier, the identified product isn't available from the Government's G-Cloud platform. Officers are now considering the procurement options.		Once procurement options are considered officers will discuss way forward with the Head of Finance
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)	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Finance	Action WOW5 is complete.		
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)	Cllr Andy Foulsham	Head of Finance	All training on the procurement strategy was completed in Q2 2023/24. This action is complete. Examples of where carbon reduction objectives have been included in procurements will be captured 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)	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Legal and Democratic	Action WOW7 is complete.		
WOW8	Divest direct investments from environmentally harmful activities where possible, whilst protecting the security of taxpayer funds	Narrative update on the introduction of the investment strategy and subsequent decision-making around investing	Short Term (1 year)	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Finance	Action WOW8 is complete.		

Theme: Our Ways of Working								
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)	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Finance	Action WOW9 is 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)	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Finance	Action WOW10 is complete.		
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)	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Finance	Action WOW11 is complete.		
WOW12	Refine criteria for community infrastructure levy (CIL) funding to maximise opportunities for including carbon reduction measures in projects and supporting climate action projects	Narrative update on CIL spend to support the delivery of local infrastructure Quantitative elements - Total CIL spend and spend break down	Medium Term (2 years)	Cllr Sue Caul	Head of Policy and Programmes / Head of Finance	Requests for projects seeking CIL funding for 2024/25 have been collated and reviewed by the CIL Member Working Group. A final review of the eligible projects will take place in January (Q4) and recommendations will be made for inclusion as part of budget setting next quarter. For the shortlisted projects, environmental impacts will be considered as part of the decision-making process.		

Theme: Our Ways of Working								
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
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)	Cllr Sue Caul	Head of Policy and Programmes / Head of Finance	The call out request for projects asked officers to ensure that climate emergency considerations formed part of the projects and reminded them that the Climate and Biodiversity team are a statutory consultee on all council projects.		
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)	Cllr Sue Caul	Head of Housing and Environment	Following approval of the new policy in Q2, the new policy and process for a ward Section 106 affordable housing grants was live in Q3. This now makes clear to those who wish to develop affordable housing, and need grants to do so, the various criteria involved. This includes having low energy homes.		
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)	Cllr Andy Foulsham	Head of Policy and Programmes	During Q3 2023/24 Bioregional (the council's net zero carbon consultants) completed Tasks 1-5 of their commission and prepared their report for publication alongside the Joint Local Plan in January. The planning policy team held an All-Councillor Roundtable on net zero carbon which was well attended by Members from South and Vale, setting out the recommended approach for ambitious new policies in the Joint Local Plan.		

Theme: Our Ways of Working								
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
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)	Cllr Sue Caul	Head of Policy and Programmes	In Q3, 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.		
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)	Cllr Andy Foulsham	Head of Policy and Programmes	In Q3, a second draft of the options paper was produced, 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 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)	Cllr Lucy Edwards	Head of Corporate Services	During Q3, through the 12 weekly staff email updates and eight Jarvis news items, staff were encouraged to take part in various climate action initiatives. The highest profile of these was the introduction of the new climate impact assessment tool which is to be used by staff when reporting on any new council projects. We promoted the lunch 'n' learn webinar on the new tool which was attended by 29 members of staff (not including the climate team) and the recording has been subsequently viewed 41 times. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive from staff. We also		

Theme: Our Ways of Working								
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
						encouraged staff with other climate friendly campaigns such as 'eat your pumpkin' to reduce food waste, green volunteering opportunities on International Day of Climate Action and also invited staff to take part in a climate literacy quiz. The climate team also promoted climate action among staff with a stall at the staff event in October and devised a new Climate Challenge for them to sign up to.		
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)	ClIr Bethia Thomas	Head of Legal and Democratic	Action WOW19 is complete. Considered BAU.		
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)	ClIr Andy Foulsham	Head of Corporate Services	Action WOW20 is complete.		
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)	ClIr Bethia Thomas	Head of Corporate Services	During Q3 the Driving at Work policy was shared and consulted on (services and Unison) final draft will be submitted to SMT in January 2024 for sign off. The policy will then be published to staff and added to LEAH. Alongside this policy there will be the introduction of telematics to enable monitoring of corporate vehicles which will include idling activity.		

Theme: Our Service delivery								
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)	Cllr Bethia Thomas	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.		
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)	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Housing and Environment	This quarter, an extension to the current waste contract was agreed. The contract will now end in June 2026.		
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)	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Housing and Environment	As part of a joint order with South Oxfordshire District Council for nine new, replacement waste vehicles this quarter, one of these (a food waste vehicle) will be a battery electric.		
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)	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Housing and Environment	In Q3, one of the nine replacement waste vehicles ordered – which will be shared with South Oxfordshire District Council - has been specified to be electric (the food waste vehicle). As part of this decision, officers needed to consider a range of factors to ensure that the vehicles were able to operate immediately		

Theme: Our Service delivery								
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
						<p>and to provide an efficient and effective service. Whilst electric trucks are less polluting, and can be charged from sustainable fuel sources, these vehicles are still relatively new to the market, expensive and, most importantly would need to complete a round on a single charge and be charged at the end of each working day at the depot.</p> <p>The food waste vehicle, as the smallest and lightest waste collection vehicle being purchased, will be able to complete the necessary rounds, as well as access the limited overnight charging option at the current depot. This vehicle will also provide an opportunity to test and learn about the operation of electric vehicles in our area.</p> <p>During Q3, work continued on developing a waste vehicle strategy, which lays out the process for the council to follow in vehicle acquisition going forwards. Annually, as part of preparing for fleet replacement,</p>		

Theme: Our Service delivery								
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
						officers shall appraise the current fleet, then assess the market on suitable replacements with latest technology and carbon efficiency."		
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)	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Housing and Environment	In Q3, work continued to secure a future site for a new waste depot. The council is in a non-disclosure agreement with a landowner regarding a potential site, so no further information is available at this time.		
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)	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Corporate Services	During Q3, the Development and Corporate Landlord service worked with Legal colleagues on the details for a vehicle lease arrangement. Work also started on a risk assessment for this arrangement, a draft of which will then be shared with the Head of Service for sign off.		There have been some queries in the detail of the lease agreement terms and conditions and Legal have raised issues such as insurance liabilities and GDPR.
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)	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	At Q3, suitable locations for a depot are still being explored. EV charging will be considered in any future sites.		The site selection for a future depot is ongoing.

Theme: Our Service delivery								
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)	Cllr Diana Lugova	Head of Planning	During Q3, the draft content was further refined by the Planning and Climate and Biodiversity Teams. It is anticipated that we will be in a position to publish the content on our webpages next quarter.		
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)	Cllr Diana Lugova	Head of Planning	During Q3, the draft content was further refined by the Planning and Climate and Biodiversity Teams. It is anticipated that we will be in a position to publish the content on our webpages next quarter.		
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)	Cllr Diana Lugova	Head of Planning	During Q3, monthly Town and Parish engagement sessions continued to be offered but interest and uptake remains slow. Feedback received from the town and parishes who have booked onto sessions have found them to be positive and a valuable service. We will continue to promote the service.		

Theme: Our Service delivery								
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
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)	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Housing and Environment	In Q3, The Air Quality Action Plan was agreed by partners and will now be presented to Cabinet for sign-off in January (Q4) before being reviewed and approved by Licensing Committees in February.		

Theme: Our People								
CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer ead	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)	Cllr Andy Foulsham	Head of Corporate Services	At the end of Q3, 66 users have completed the training equating to 14.04% of all Staff. Six members have completed the training equating to 2.5% 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)	Cllr Andy Foulsham	Head of Corporate Services / Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>"In Q3, climate and biodiversity officers hosted a 'lunch and learn' session for staff on the new Climate Impact Assessment tool and how it can support the development of council projects and ensure climate implications are considered throughout. Officers also carried out specialist training on the tool for Planning managers.</p> <p>At the staff event held in October, the climate and biodiversity team had a stall which aimed to engage with staff on climate through interactive activities – signing a climate pledge, guessing the carbon emission savings which could be achieved through switching to council EVs and identifying energy saving tips for a 'Barbie Eco House'.</p>		

Theme: Our People								
CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer ead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
						<p>The team also provided an introduction to fuel poverty and energy efficiency training session to the Community Wellbeing team at the beginning of November.</p> <p>Climate and biodiversity officers attended a site visit to Cornwell Solar Farm, Stoke Talmage this quarter. The visit provided information on the sustainable construction methods being used at the site, and how impacts of solar farms on local residents can be recognised and mitigated.</p> <p>An officer also completed a 10 week 'Introduction to sustainable finance' course with Oxford University, designed to improve understanding within the public sector around sustainable investment decisions. This will support the council's work to help identify a strategy to secure the significant levels of finance needed to deliver net zero.</p>		

Theme: Our People								
CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer ead	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)	Cllr Andy Foulsham	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>" In Q3, an Individual Cabinet Member Decision (ICMD) was agreed, to support Oxfordshire County Council's (OCC) submission for Oxfordshire's allocation of LEVI grant funding and to agree to receive the funding on approval from the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV).</p> <p>The council was also notified in Q3 of a successful bid to the Planning Skills Delivery Fund – £89,050 was jointly awarded to South and Vale for training to address skills gaps and prepare for upcoming planning reforms, including Biodiversity Net Gain.</p> <p>In addition this quarter, Innovate UK - Net Zero Fast Followers - offered funding for a bid submitted in February 2023. The council is liaising with Innovate UK around the detail of funding offer, which could include a training programme to support journey to net zero carbon and a research project for nature-based solutions to carbon offsetting.</p>		

Theme: Our People								
CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer ead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
						In Q3 work started on a funding bid to Innovate UK's Transport Decarbonisation fund. The proposal is for a research project to trial Electric Refuse Collection Vehicle for recycling and household waste. Submission is expected next quarter. "		
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)	Cllr Andy Foulsham	Head of Corporate Services	"No progress to report for Q3 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)	Cllr Andy Foulsham	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. See WOW18 for details on internal communications to staff during Q3 2023/24. In addition, the council's staff have been encouraged to use their		

Theme: Our People								
CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer ead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
						monthly wellbeing hour to take part in climate action or nature-based activities. WOW3 also details the 'lunch and learn' organised for staff interested in improving the climate impact of their projects, which introduced the council's new climate impact assessment tool."		
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)	Cllr Andy Foulsham	Head of Corporate Services	Action P6 is complete.		

Theme: Our Land								
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)	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	This quarter letters were sent out to residents to obtain feedback on the 'Let it Bee' campaign. This feedback will support the drafting of a report and recommendations to SMT for implementing and developing the scheme next year, including the potential for an increased number of sites. To date, feedback received has been generally good, positive responses, but quite low numbers of responses have been received so far.		
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)	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	In Q3, the council's Garden Communities Team worked to identify opportunities for tree planting in Didcot and Berinsfield. We also continued to encourage community tree planting in the district, through the council's grant schemes, and campaigns around National Tree Week and the Oxfordshire Garden Tree Giveaway, for which the Didcot Garden Town provided funding towards 300 trees.		

Theme: Our Land								
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)	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	In Q3, officers worked with APSE Energy to finalise the initial draft reports considering suitable sites for the Council to explore further.		
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)	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Action L4 is complete.		
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)	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	In Q3, an Individual Cabinet Member Decision (ICMD) was agreed, to support Oxfordshire County Council's (OCC) submission for Oxfordshire's allocation of LEVI grant funding and to agree to receive the funding if successful. The IMCD also delegated to the Head of Development and Corporate Landlord, the authority to finalise the locations for the subsequent EV charge points.		

Theme: Our buildings								
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)	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Action 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</p>	Medium Term (2 years)	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	At Q3, 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 a consultant was made in October.		

Theme: Our buildings								
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
		funding received figure						
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)	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Action Complete		
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</p>	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	All decarbonisation reports have been reviewed to ensure operational recommendations have been implemented where feasible, to improve energy efficiency.		

Theme: Our buildings								
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
		funding received figure						
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)	Cllr Sue Caul	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>Detailed monitoring information is available for the Leisure Centres and reviewed regularly. The day-to-day operation of the Leisure centres is contracted to 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.</p> <p>In Q3, the Leisure Facilities Team Leader attended CEAC (07 December) to present the trajectory the leisure facilities were taking in our delivery towards our Climate Action Plan actions and journey to carbon neutral. Future projections were also presented in the wake of completing both Salix Phase 1 and Phase 3b decarbonisation funded projects.</p>		

Theme: Our buildings								
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
						Officers continue to identify a number of proactive capital improvement projects to continue the reduction in carbon footprint at all estate wide leisure facilities. Recent inclusions have been a pool cover at Abbey Meadow Outdoor Pool and Destratification units at White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre, with future a project planned for Faringdon Leisure Centre.		
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)	Cllr Andrew Crawford	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	No further progress to report for Q3 2023/2024. SMT report on approach to new asset acquisitions and builds will be submitted in the coming months, for consideration for next steps.		

Theme: Our Communities								
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)	Cllr Lucy Edwards	Head of Corporate Services	<p>During Q3 2023 the Vale ran many successful comms campaigns updating on the council's climate action work while also encouraging behaviour change around tackling climate change. These included:</p> <p>Promoting recycle week by highlighting how different items can be recycled locally and with the council; publicising national repair day and local repair shops such as those run by Sustainable Wantage; announcing the food and warmth grants which fund voluntary groups to help people with items including low energy slow cookers and energy saving DIY kits as well as other household essentials; announcing the new Section 106 affordable housing grant to build affordable homes that meet the councils' climate criteria; publicising the programme of decarbonisation works at our leisure centres including destratification fans installation at the White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre;</p>		

Theme: Our Communities								
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
						promoting a tree giveaway to Oxfordshire residents which was part funded by Didcot Garden Town; working with the planning team to set up new pages on whether permission is needed to install retrofitting measures on homes.		
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)	Cllr Lucy Edwards	Head of Corporate Services	<p>During Q3 the communications team continued to support and promote the work of the Economic Development team, including promoting their joint survey with Oxford Brookes Business School of local SMEs about the challenges they face to make their organisations more climate friendly.</p> <p>The council's donation of 97 old staff laptops for reuse by local charity SOFEA, was promoted this quarter, encouraging behaviour change by leading by example.</p> <p>During recycle week advice and guidance was offered on how different items could be recycled through the council and with other organisations –</p>		

Theme: Our Communities								
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
						including a new service by Oxfordshire County Council to recycle vapes. National repair day was also promoted, alongside local repair shops such as those run by Sustainable Wantage.		
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)	Cllr Lucy Edwards	Head of Corporate Services	<p>In Q3 we continued to promote retrofitting and energy saving for organisations by publicising the programme of energy efficient decarbonisation works at our leisure centres including destratification fans installation at the White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre (leading by example).</p> <p>The council's offer of thermal imaging camera loan service for local groups was also promoted. The cameras help identify where energy efficiency measures can be made on buildings. An event on the use of thermal imaging cameras was held to support loanees with how to use the cameras.</p> <p>In Q3, an online webinar on domestic retrofitting options for town and parish councils and</p>		

Theme: Our Communities								
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
						community organisations was held, to help them advise residents and share information.		
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)	Cllr Lucy Edwards	Head of Corporate Services	<p>During Q3, as throughout the year, we promoted retrofitting in homes, including insulation and joining an EV car club such as the ones at our car parks in Abingdon and Wantage.</p> <p>We encouraged staff and residents to take advantage of the free tree giveaway to Oxfordshire residents which was part funded by Didcot Garden Town. Tree planting was promoted during National Tree Week.</p>		
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)	Cllr Lucy Edwards	Head of Corporate Services	<p>In Q3 we promoted the council's Climate Action Fund by issuing a press release and social media campaign on the successful applicants in the most recent round of the fund. These included buying water butts for Watchfield residents and insulating Littleworth Village Hall. A total of 14 organisations including parish councils, climate community groups, a pre-school and a drama</p>		

Theme: Our Communities								
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						group were collectively offered more than £56,000 in the last round of funding in Q3 to help with a wide variety of projects which aimed to save energy, help nature recovery or educate residents on how they can help tackle climate change.		
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)	Cllr Lucy Edwards	Head of Corporate Services	In Q3 we promoted national Recycle Week by highlighting how different items can be recycled locally and with the council; publicising national repair day and local repair shops such as those run by Sustainable Wantage. In the run up to Christmas the waste team ran a competition to promote and highlight the issue of festive food waste and during a month-long campaign offered ways to reduce this waste. This followed the 'eat your pumpkin' campaign after Halloween aiming to reduce food waste.		
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,	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cllr Lucy Edwards	Head of Corporate Services	During Q3 the food and warmth grants, which fund items including low energy slow cookers and energy saving DIY kits as well as other household essentials,		

Theme: Our Communities								
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		schools and other local organisations				<p>were promoted.</p> <p>The new Section 106 affordable housing grant was also promoted, to build affordable homes that meet the councils' climate criteria.</p> <p>In addition, we promoted the Home Upgrade Grants, which fund energy efficient improvements to eligible householders and is administered by Oxfordshire County Council.</p>		
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)	Cllr Lucy Edwards	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	No progress to report Q3 2023/24.		There is no significant update for Q3, while there are eight CEPs currently in Vale, implementation of Green Skills as a key component of these remains a longer term ambition. During the quarter, the Future Oxfordshire Partnership endorsed the LEP's 2023 CEPs Evidence Paper, that acknowledged that as demand for renewable technologies, retrofitting practices and

Theme: Our Communities								
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								other low carbon technologies and practices (modular methods of construction, Passivhaus design etc.) increase within development, there will be greater opportunity within the development cycle to embed further green skills and training initiatives; this can be maximised using activities identified in CEPs.
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)	Cllr Andy Foulsham	Head of Policy and Programmes	In Q3 work continued to assist communities preparing neighbourhood plans, including encouraging the insertion of climate measures. There are 10 neighbourhood plans (including plan reviews) currently being prepared. In Q3 the neighbourhood plan for Steventon has reached the post submission consultation stage. The council has formally commented on this plan and where appropriate provided encouragement and advice on the inclusion or refinement of policies addressing the		

Theme: Our Communities								
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
						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)	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Legal and Democratic	At Q3, out of 355 licensed vehicles there are 2 electric vehicles, although 135 are hybrid (38%). 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.
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)	Cllr Lucy Edwards	Head of Corporate Services	In Q3 the Climate and Biodiversity team hosted an online forum for South and Vale community groups and town and parish councils on how they can encourage and facilitate energy efficiency upgrades to domestic homes in the district. Attendees heard about inspiring projects from Thame Green Living and Greener Great Coxwell, both of which are working, in very different ways, to		

Theme: Our Communities								
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						save energy from the homes in their areas. Information was also given about the support that the county and district councils can offer on this topic. A recording of the event and presentation slides are available on the council website.		

Theme: Our Partners								
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)	Cllr Lucy Edwards	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>In Q3 the Climate and Biodiversity team hosted an online forum for community groups and town and parish councils on how they can encourage and facilitate energy efficiency upgrades to domestic homes in the district. Attendees heard about inspiring projects from Thame Green Living and Greener Great Coxwell, both of which are working, in very different ways, to save energy from the homes in their areas. Information was also given about the support that the county and district councils can offer on this topic.</p> <p>On 02 November the Climate and Biodiversity team also organised a thermal imaging camera training session for community groups and town and parish councils. The highly informative session was led by a retrofitting officer at Oxfordshire County Council and covered how to use a thermal imaging camera, including the optimum conditions for getting the best images, and how to interpret the images. All town and</p>		

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						<p>parish councils were contacted about the offer of loaning a thermal imaging camera from the district council.</p> <p>Town & Parish Councils, community groups and businesses were invited to apply for funds from the Rural England Prosperity Fund to support a range of climate action projects including retrofitting community buildings, renewable energy schemes, EV charging infrastructure and nature recovery projects. Awards will be made in Q4.</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)	Cllr Andy Foulsham	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>In Q3, the council launched a Food and Warmth grant scheme to support community organisations working with vulnerable households with cost-of-living support, including projects which help residents improve the energy efficiency of their homes.</p> <p>The Oxfordshire climate vulnerability assessment is in the final stages of review. The next phase of the project will also include a more detailed</p>		

Theme: Our Partners								
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						biodiversity assessment.		
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)	Cllr Andy Foulsham	Head of Policy and Programmes	In Q3, Didcot Garden Town team officers developed the Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). The project was undertaken by consultants Systra and included liaison between Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), district officers and relevant stakeholders to establish where infrastructure for walking and cycling could be improved. The project produced a map of existing and proposed walking and cycling routes in Didcot, Science Vale and connected villages and provided a prioritised list of infrastructure improvements. The LCWIP has now been approved by VOWH cabinet, as well as OCC cabinet, as the statutory highway authority.		
OP4	Work with the Future Oxfordshire Partnership on a county-wide approach to	Update on progress on the Future Oxfordshire	Short Term (1 year)	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Policy and Programmes	In Q3, work continued to operationalise the five prioritised action areas		

Theme: Our Partners								
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
	reducing carbon emissions, building on the strategic vision and Pathways to Zero Carbon 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				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.		
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)	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>In Q3 the council was notified that unfortunately Oxford City Council's FutureFit Oxfordshire (FOx) funding bid in Q2, to Innovate UK's Net Zero Pathfinder Places programme which planned to create an 'enabling environment' for retrofitting one stop shops (such as Cosy Homes Oxfordshire and Energy Solutions Oxfordshire) was unsuccessful. The partnership will be regrouping to discuss next steps and how we can build on the work we have already done.</p> <p>Funding for retrofitting remains available to eligible residents within South Oxfordshire through Oxfordshire</p>		

Theme: Our Partners								
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
						County Council's Home Upgrade Grant.		
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)	Cllr Helen Pighills	Head of Housing and Environment	In Q3, Registered Housing Providers were engaged with, around updating their retrofit aspirations following HM Government's announcement on the postponing of targets for improving the environmental performance of rental properties. A subsequent report is being collated.		
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)	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	In Q3, Economic Development continued to actively participate in OxLEP's Net Zero Joint Oxfordshire Business Support group and have shared progress reports from the UNDERSTANDING THE NET ZERO CHALLENGE FOR SME'S IN SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE AND VALE OF WHITE HORSE research project with participants (with a view to full results being shared at a later date) and feedback on the proposed workplan resulting from the groups discussions.		
OP8	Support and influence the Oxfordshire Plan 2050	Narrative report on work to support	Medium Term (2 years)	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Policy and Programmes	Update not required		

Theme: Our Partners								
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	ensuring climate considerations are integrated throughout the plan	the Oxfordshire Plan in accordance with TCE3.7						
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)	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Policy and Programmes	Update not required		
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)	Cllr Bethia Thomas	Head of Policy and Programmes	In Q3, officers have been involved in several partnership meetings supporting the enhancement of rivers and waterways. Including, attending 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. Alongside, the Ock Catchment Partnership meeting and the Letcombe Brook Project Steering Group meeting.		
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)	Cllr Andy Foulsham	Head of Policy and Programmes	In Q3, the first meeting of the Energy Planning Working Group for Local Area Energy Planning in Oxfordshire took place. Discussions are ongoing about the approach that will be taken.		
OP12	Partner with Good Food Oxfordshire to support their	Update on the development of	Medium Term (2 years)	Cllr Andy Foulsham	Head of Policy and Programmes	The Joint South and Vale Food Action		

Theme: Our Partners								
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
	Good Food Strategy for Oxfordshire, ensuring climate considerations are included throughout the strategy	the Good Food Strategy for Oxfordshire, including examples of climate considerations				Steering Group met in Q3. The meeting focussed on economic development issues and began to form ideas for an action plan.		