

# Climate Action Plan

## PERFORMANCE REPORT

2023/24

Quarter FOUR

June 2024



**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 four 2023/2024 (01 January to 31 March 2024)** 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 where necessary.

# Quarter context

## HM Government and Net Zero

In July 2023, HM Government unveiled its third **National Adaptation Programme (NAP3)**, which set 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. This quarter, the Climate Change Committee (an independent, statutory body established under the Climate Change Act 2008) produced an **initial assessment** of the NAP3. The committee concluded in its report that the NAP3's governance, investment and monitoring needs action and strengthening and encouraged its evolution over its five-year lifetime.

**Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)** requirements **came into law** nationally in February, meaning developers in England will have to deliver at least ten per cent BNG when building new housing, industrial or commercial developments. BNG was introduced through The Environment Act, which received its royal assent in November 2021. BNG is however not a new concept for the Vale of White Horse, where similar approaches to enhancing the wildlife value of new developments have been in effect since becoming the first authorities in the UK to successfully secure a BNG agreement in 2013.

Following the announcement in September 2023 of HM Government's decision to delay the ban on new diesel and petrol cars from 2030 to 2035, this quarter, **the zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) mandate** - the new pathway towards all new cars and vans being zero emission by 2035 – **was made law**. The ZEV mandate sets out the percentage of new zero emission cars and vans manufacturers will be required to produce each year up to 2030, with 80% of new cars and 70% of new vans sold in Great Britain to be zero emission by 2030, increasing to 100% by 2035.



## Record-breaking Temperatures

Data released this quarter confirmed that **2023 was the UK's second warmest year on record**. Across the world, each month since June 2023 has seen new temperature highs for the time of year. Scientists attribute the temperature rises to in part, the Pacific's El Niño weather event (the warming of sea surface temperature that occurs every few years, typically concentrated in the central-east equatorial Pacific), alongside in the main, human-caused climate change.

In February, the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service revealed that the period from February 2023 to January 2024 reached 1.52 degrees Celsius of warming. This is the **first-time global warming has exceeded 1.5 degrees Celsius across an entire year**. Limiting long-term warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels has become a key symbol of international efforts to tackle climate change.

## Energy

Drax, one of the country's largest electricity generators, released figures this quarter which show **Britain's energy mix** (the combination of different energy sources used to meet a country's total energy consumption) had its **greenest year on record in 2023**, with renewable and cleaner energy replacing fossil fuels in the energy mix. Drax said fossil fuels accounted for 35 per cent of the UK's energy mix in 2023, down from 43 per cent in 2022.

The annual **Earth Hour**, led by the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), was observed around the world in March. Households, along with national landmarks, switched off their lights for a set time, as part of an awareness campaign highlighting the importance of taking action to reduce carbon emissions.



# Quarter four performance highlights



**Energy saving measures** were a key part of the **refurbishment of public conveniences** at Portway, Wantage and the Charter Car Park, Abingdon



The Portway toilets also benefit from **solar panels** and **rainwater harvesting**



We launched the **Joint Local Plan consultation** with new, innovative draft policies on sustainable design and construction, net zero carbon buildings, reducing embodied carbon, sustainable retrofitting and renewable energy



We launched a **climate survey** for town and parish councils asking how the council can better support local decarbonisation and nature recovery initiatives, and raise awareness of the services we currently offer



The new joint **South and Vale Air Quality Action Plan** was adopted to improve air quality in the districts over the next four years



Our website has been updated with advice and guidance on **retro-fitting homes** - modifying and making existing buildings more energy-efficient and reducing energy use



Jointly, with South Oxfordshire District Council, we have submitted a proposal for Ministry of Transport funding to carry out an initial **12 week trial of an Electric Refuse Collection Vehicle**

If our application is successful, this would show us how effective a battery powered large waste collection vehicle could be in the districts

We selected sites in the Vale of White Horse to continue our **'Let it Bee' meadow management** this season, allowing wildflowers and grasses to grow and provide nectar for pollinators

These sites total **10,250 m<sup>2</sup>** for Vale of White Horse in 2024



## GOAL

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



# THEME 1 Our ways of working

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

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

The new 'climate impact assessment tool' started to be trialled by officers this quarter. The tool will help ensure the climate and environmental impact of our work is considered and embedded within our decision making. Officer feedback on use of the tool will enable it to be reviewed and updated before it becomes mandatory later in the year.

Work also continued this quarter on the net zero evidence base for the forthcoming Joint Local Plan; alongside the launch of the Joint Local Plan consultation, the Council published a report by consultants Bioregional, who are appointed to provide the net zero evidence base for the Joint Local Plan, and advice on the role and weighting of offsetting policies in the new Plan.

Additionally, the Council's Driving at Work policy was approved and published this quarter. Aspects of the Policy consider the impacts of corporate vehicles on the environment, alongside personal vehicles used for work purposes. The Policy also brings 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.



## GOAL

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

# THEME 2 Our service delivery

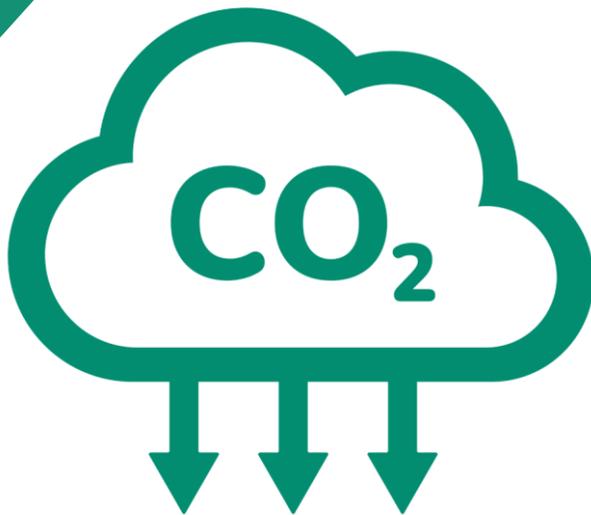
See Theme 2 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 20

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

This quarter, work continued to develop the strategic approach to our future waste services which, accounts for just over 35% of the Council's greenhouse gas emissions. A waste fleet replacement vehicle strategy was developed, which sets out a new process for the Council to follow when purchasing new vehicles. The proposed process includes assessing the condition of the current Biffa fleet, reviewing the fuel options available in the waste vehicle industry, analysing the costs and agreeing the capital budget provision as part of the budget setting cycle. The new strategy is anticipated to support decision-making, taking into account vehicle suitability alongside financial and climate implications. The next steps are for the strategy to be taken to Cabinet for approval.

Jointly, with South Oxfordshire District Council, this quarter a proposal was also submitted for Ministry of Transport funding, to carry out an initial 12-week trial of an Electric Refuse Collection Vehicle. If the application is successful, the trial would provide insight into how effective a battery powered large waste collection vehicle could be in the districts.

In February, the Air Quality Action Plan was approved by the Licensing Committee. The new plan looks to build on the successful reduction in the volume of nitrogen dioxide over the last five years. To achieve this, the plan aims to reduce traffic emissions by promoting healthier and cheaper options for short journeys, such as walking and cycling. Where vehicles are needed the councils will promote the increased use of public transport and low emission vehicles such as EVs.



## 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 FOUR ————— KEY ACTIVITIES

Through the council's regular staff communications this quarter, officers were encouraged to contribute their ideas for the next Climate and Nature Recovery Plan 2024-2028 and the developing Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Oxfordshire. The weekly, internal staff news bulletin 'team talk' now includes a spotlight on climate news to highlight climate action across the council.



## GOAL

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

# THEME 4 Our land

## QUARTER FOUR ————— KEY ACTIVITIES

The Council is committed to enhancing biodiversity on council owned land and this quarter, officers updated senior managers on the outcome of the 2023 'Let it Bee' resident's feedback consultation, alongside a review of the sites and proposals for the 2024 season.

An additional area of 10,250m<sup>2</sup> will be managed as meadow in 2024, to make a total of 61,900m<sup>2</sup>, allowing biodiversity to thrive by allowing wildflowers and grasses to grow and provide nectar for pollinators.

Oxfordshire's bid for its Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding allocation was approved this quarter, with £3.6 million allocated to the county. Officers from Vale of White Horse District Council have been working with Oxfordshire council partners on the plans for delivering the infrastructure project. It is planned that where feasible, most of the new public EV chargers will be installed in off-street parking locations such as council car parks, building on the success of the Park and Charge project.



## 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 29

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

At quarter four, project delivery at Faringdon Leisure Centre is near completion and awaiting District Network Operator connection. In addition, a decarbonisation assessment was commissioned for the swimming pool side at Faringdon Leisure Centre. At White Horse Tennis and Leisure Centre and Wantage Leisure Centre, following funding being secured for decarbonisation schemes last quarter, the appointment of consultants and main contractors has now taken place. These decarbonisation works will continue over into the next financial year.



## GOAL

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

# THEME 6 Our communities

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

In line with the council's aims to work with communities, businesses, the voluntary sector and residents to address the climate emergency, this quarter we continued to promote retrofitting and energy saving for organisations and residents, sharing the newly created leaflet and council webpage on this subject.

Residents were also invited to contribute to the Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy, of which the council is a partner. Businesses were encouraged to respond to the Economic Development survey in conjunction with Oxford Brookes University, which aimed to discover how best to help local businesses on their climate journey.

This quarter the council also launched a climate survey for town and parish councils, asking how the council can support local decarbonisation and nature recovery initiatives and raise awareness of the services currently offered.



## GOAL

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



# THEME 7 Our partners

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

The CAP aims to build on the council's partnership work as key to achieving our climate emergency targets. Awards were made this quarter from the council's Rural England Prosperity Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Fund and went towards supporting a range of climate action projects including retrofitting community buildings, renewable energy schemes, EV charging infrastructure and nature recovery projects.

Economic Development continued to actively participate in OxLEP's Net Zero Joint Oxfordshire Business Support group this quarter, contributing ideas to the LEPs planned single entry point website for net-zero support and reviewing a potential accreditation scheme for eco-friendly tourism businesses.

Work has continued this quarter on agreeing an Oxfordshire wide approach to Local Area Energy Planning. A Local Area Energy Plan will set out the actions needed to transition to a net-zero energy system, including addressing grid capacity issues. In quarter four, officers have worked closely with neighbouring authorities to establish the governance structures, process and scope for our Local Area Energy Plans.



## 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 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)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Transformation	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)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Transformation	Head of Policy and Programmes	In Q4, staff have started to use the climate impact assessment tool to assess the climate and ecological impacts of decisions. The climate and biodiversity team have been gathering the feedback on the tool and will review and update it accordingly before use of the tool becomes mandatory later in the year.		
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	This quarter, officers continued to consider options for procurement, following notification last quarter that the previously identified product isn't available from the Government's G-Cloud platform.		Once procurement options are considered officers will discuss way forward with the Head of Finance

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

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
WOW5	Update the contract evaluation quality scoring procedure to include carbon reduction criteria	Report on how the contract evaluation quality scoring criteria has been updated to include carbon reduction criteria, providing examples of relevant awarded contracts	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Assets	Head of Finance	Action WOW5 is complete.		
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	All scheduled training on the procurement strategy was completed in Q2 2023/24. This action is complete.		
WOW7	Conduct a review of all report writing templates, adding a climate implications section where missing	Percentage of report writing templates that include a climate implications section / Narrative on the updates to report writing templates	Short Term (1 year)	Leader of the Council	Head of Legal and Democratic	Action WOW7 is complete.		
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 WOW9 is complete.		

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

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
WOW9	Incorporate a policy statement on environment/social/governance factors in the financial implications section of reports	Update on the statement included in Council templates under financial implications	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property	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)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property	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)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property	Head of Finance	Action WOW11 is complete.		

## 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>This quarter, as part of annual budget setting, four new infrastructure projects were allocated CIL funding in the 24/25 capital programme totalling £857,157.</p> <p>Whilst none of the four projects' core focus is the 'tackling the climate emergency' corporate plan theme, environmental implications will be considered and reviewed as part of the projects' delivery plans.</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	As approved by the council as part of budget setting, four new Infrastructure projects have been allocated CIL funding in the 24/25 capital programme totalling £857,157. Each of these projects will be delivered by the council in accordance with the project management process which requires consultation with the Climate Action Team to ensure that all environmental implications are taken into account as part of the delivery of these 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)	Cabinet Member Development and Infrastructure	Head of Housing and Environment	No progress to report Q4 2023/2024 - no new affordable housing grants have been approved this quarter.		

## 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
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	During Q4 2023/24 the Joint Local Plan reached an important milestone with the launch of a Regulation 18 public consultation on 10 January, closing on 26 February 2024. The emerging plan contains new stronger policies on the environment including significantly higher environmental standards including on net zero carbon building and biodiversity net gain. These innovative new draft policies include policies CE1-CE5 on sustainable design and construction, net zero carbon buildings, reducing embodied carbon, sustainable retrofitting and renewable energy.		
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 Q4, alongside the Joint Local Plan consultation, the Council published a report by consultants Bioregional, who are appointed to provide the net zero evidence base for the Joint Local Plan, 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)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Transformation	Head of Policy and Programmes	In Q4, the options paper seeking to outline options for reducing the council's grey fleet emissions was discussed with the Head of Policy and Programmes. Next steps were agreed, including incorporating some of the options/recommendations into the next Climate and Nature Recovery Action Plan 2024-2028 and engaging with HR on the upcoming staff travel and expenses policy review.		

## 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
WOW18	Develop and implement an internal communications plan to keep staff updated on climate action work, including useful advice and guidance on how to incorporate climate action into projects and programmes	Data on the number of internal communications campaigns on climate action work and a narrative update on the type of information shared and any feedback from staff on the use of the information	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member Community Engagement	Head of Corporate Services	During Q4 we promoted five climate and nature recovery projects to staff which included advice on how to save energy, promoting the use of EV car clubs in council-run car parks and inviting staff to contribute ideas to the next climate action and nature recovery plan. Communications were also sent out reminding staff of the new tool to help calculate the climate impacts of their work for the council and asking them to contribute to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, of which the council is a partner.		
WOW19	Move to a digital by default approach for virtual meetings where possible given the current conditions around decision making in Local Government	Percentage of virtual meetings taken place, benchmark to include CEAC, Scrutiny, Cabinet and Council meetings	Short Term (1 year)	Leader of the Council	Head of Legal and Democratic	Action WOW19 is complete.		
WOW20	Improve our use of existing technology to move to digital by default working	Update on the use of technology for meetings; data on percentage of MFD printing	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Transformation	Head of Corporate Services	Action WOW20 is complete.		
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	This quarter the Workplace Transport and Driving Policy was signed off and is available on the internal staff intranet. The Grounds Maintenance team, who are the first to use telematics in their vehicles, have been issued a letter and the relevant Privacy Notices so they are aware what data is being collected and why.		

## 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	The future waste strategy is approaching finalisation and this quarter officers have built in comments made by stakeholder departments. The strategy will next be presented to SMT for review, before being finalised in preparation for Cabinet, anticipated Q1 2024/2025.		
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	This quarter preparatory work continued, including work on the options available to the council regarding service delivery. Full details of the service configuration from June 2026 (extended contract end date) will be determined once further work has been completed and the provisions of the Environment Act are released by Government.		
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	This quarter, the Council has jointly, with South Oxfordshire District Council, submitted a proposal for Ministry of Transport funding through Innovate UK's Transport Decarbonisation Demonstrators Fund. The funding applied for is to carry out an initial 12 week trial of an Electric Refuse Collection Vehicle (eRCV), in partnership with an external logistics optimisation software company and an eRCV manufacturer. If successful, the trial will give the councils real world data on how effective a battery powered large waste collection vehicle would be in both districts, which would then inform future vehicle procurements.		

## 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
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	<p>During Q4, a waste fleet replacement vehicle strategy was developed, which will be taken to Cabinet in April (Q1 2024/25) for approval.</p> <p>This strategy sets out a new process for the council to follow, starting with officers commissioning an assessment of the condition of the current Biffa fleet, reviewing the fuel options available in the waste vehicle industry and likely vehicle costs, the council agreeing the capital budget provision as part of the budget setting cycle, officers then finalising the vehicle specifications, before completing the procurements and placing the orders. By having this strategy and process in place the council can be confident that they will purchase the correct vehicles which are able to perform the intended role, which fall within the budget available and emit the lowest carbon emissions.</p>		
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 Q4, work continued to explore options for a future site for a new waste vehicle depot.		This project is currently being managed by the Property Team. No further information is available at this time.

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

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
SD6	Develop a business case and implement a delivery plan for council vehicles to be zero emission by 2025, where available on the market	Data on potential carbon reduction savings from switching vehicles to zero emission; narrative report on business case development and delivery plan for doing so, including market options for EVs	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	No progress to report Q4 2023/2024.	Amber	Other projects have taken priority in Q4
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 project is currently on-hold due to consideration of a range of delivery options.	Red	A location for the council depot has not been identified.
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 SD8 is complete.	Green	

## 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
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	During Q4, the council's website was updated with content providing advice and guidance in respect of retro-fitting energy efficiency measures.		
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	<p>During Q4, monthly Town and Parish engagement sessions continued to be offered but interest and uptake remains slow.</p> <p>Feedback received from the town and parishes who have booked onto sessions have found them to be positive and worthwhile. We will continue to promote the service.</p>		
SD11	Support the implementation of the air quality action plan across the district	Narrative containing updates/changes to AQ monitoring techniques, an update on work with partners to monitor AQ and details of published AQ measures	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Climate Action and the Environment	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>This quarter the Air Quality Action Plan was approved by the Licensing Committee, on 7 February.</p> <p>Officers will now review how and when the annual update will be reported to the council.</p>		

### Theme 3: Our people - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
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	During Q4, one member and one officer completed the training. At the end of Q4 therefore, 68 users have completed the training.		
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	<p>Officers attended the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) Big Energy Summit in Q4. The two day conference included presentations from Government's Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, as well as presentations and discussion points on key themes such as sustainable procurement, 'green investment', how to embed climate and sustainability in decision making and domestic retrofitting.</p> <p>Additionally this quarter an officer from the climate and biodiversity team attended a two-day training session on 'systems change' which explored approaches and frameworks for taking forward net-zero carbon challenges and projects. The council was invited to take part as a member of Innovate UK's net zero living programme.</p>		

### Theme 3: Our people - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
P3	Ensure there is relevant skill and capacity to support grant application writing and bidding for climate related funds, maximising the opportunities to include carbon emissions reductions and energy efficiency in all projects	Dedicated bid writing resource secured; Data on the number of applications to grants and funds that relate to climate action and carbon emission reduction; narrative report on grant writing skills and training that has taken place to maximise opportunities on bid writing	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Transformation	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>Oxfordshire's bid for its Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding allocation was approved this quarter, with £3.6 million allocated to the county. The LEVI funding focus is on expanding the accessibility of standard 7kW chargers that residents without home chargers can use overnight at discounted rates. Most of the new EV chargers will be installed in off-street parking locations such as council car parks, building on the success of the Park and Charge project.</p> <p>A bid was also submitted this quarter to Innovate UK's Transport Decarbonisation fund. The proposal was for a research project to trial Electric Refuse Collection Vehicle for recycling and household waste.</p> <p>Also in Q4, a bid was assessed and developed for the Low Carbon Skills Fund Phase 5, for funding to develop heat decarbonisation plans. This is in readiness for submission in Q1 2024/25.</p>		
P4	Implement a green travel plan for all staff and councillors, including a digital by default approach where possible to reduce travel	Data on staff mileage once this plan is implemented and narrative report on the changes to staff travel as a result of the plan	Medium Term (2 years)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Transformation	Head of Corporate Services	No progress to report for Q4 2024/25.		

### 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
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. See WOW18 for details on internal communications to staff during Q4 2023/24, which now includes a weekly update on climate actions from across the council.		
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 P6 is complete.		

## 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	This quarter, officers updated SMT with the outcome of the resident's feedback consultation on 'Let it Bee' and a review of the areas and proposals for 2024, which were agreed. These sites were selected through monitoring and feedback received over the 2023 season. Two sites in Vale have also been identified for active wildflower seeding. All sites total 61,900m2 in Vale for 2024.		
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	Over the 2023/24 tree planting season, the council planted an additional 10 trees as well as replacing others as required. In Q4, officers continue to work with the Parks and Garden Communities teams to identify more opportunities for tree planting and other biodiversity enhancements on council land for the 2024/25 season and beyond.		
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 Q4, Finance sought auditor view re capital investment for solar farm. The rationale for concept proposed is aligned to guidance, so work on the next steps will continue in Q1 2024/25.		

## 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 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)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Oxfordshire's bid for its Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding allocation was approved this quarter, with £3.6 million allocated to the county. It is planned that where feasible, most of the new public EV chargers will be installed in off-street parking locations such as council car parks, building on the success of the Park and Charge project. Oxfordshire County Council expect to receive the first 90% of funding for this project by the end of next quarter, Q1 2024/25. A press release was issued in Q4 to communicate the secured funding and aims for increasing charging infrastructure across the County.		

## 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 Q4, an assessment was commissioned for Faringdon leisure centre (swimming pool side). All other assessments are 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	<p>At Q4, project delivery at Faringdon Leisure Centre is near completion (District Network Operator finalisation of legal agreements is still outstanding).</p> <p>At White Horse Tennis and Leisure Centre and Wantage Leisure Centre, following funding being secured for decarbonisation schemes, the appointment of consultants and main contractors has now taken place.</p> <p>The survey due at Abbey Meadow pool has now been completed and initial review undertaken. The site does not qualify for Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme bids and at present the carbon benefits of major works are minimal. Therefore no proposals to undertake major works at this time.</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
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	At Q4, Abbey House assessment is outstanding, all other assessments are 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 funding received figure</p>	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	In Q4, officers continued to review and assess funding opportunities and develop bids where appropriate. Asset management is in place to ensure end of life mechanical and electrical equipment is replaced with energy efficient alternatives.		

## 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	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.		
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	No progress to report for Q4 2023/2024.		

## Theme 6: Our communities - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
C1	Implement an external communications plan which shares updates on the climate action work undertaken by the council, and advice and guidance to residents, businesses and the voluntary and community sector on reducing carbon emissions. To include:	Narrative update on comms and engagement activities which interface with communities, schools and other local organisations	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member Community Engagement	Head of Corporate Services	<p>During Q4 we communicated with residents on ten climate and nature recovery projects and plans. These included a new leaflet on energy saving and a webpage on the planning requirements for retrofitting. We also highlighted the work being done by the council to decarbonise its buildings and promoting the use of EV car clubs in council-run car parks. We invited residents to contribute to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, of which the council is a partner.</p> <p>Officers took the opportunity presented by the national introduction of Biodiversity Net Gain in February, to promote the fact the council adopted Biodiversity Net Gain a decade ago with significant results for nature recovery in the district.</p>		
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	This quarter officers promoted the use of EV car clubs in council-run car parks – where vehicles are leased by the community as they are needed. Repair cafés run by local sustainable community groups were also promoted as well as the Economic Development survey in conjunction with Oxford Brookes University, which aimed to discover how best to help local businesses on their climate ‘journey’. This is being funded from UKSPF.		

## 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	Please see update for Action C1 on page 32.		
C4	Share climate friendly lifestyle changes, including ways to make homes more energy efficient	Narrative update on comms and engagement activities which interface with communities, schools and other local organisations	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member Community Engagement	Head of Corporate Services	During Energy Savers Week officers promoted energy saving measures and how to implement these in domestic homes - please see update for Action C1 on page 32.		
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	<p>This quarter, officers continued to promote the Home Upgrade Grant and other financial support available to those eligible, for home retrofitting.</p> <p>In addition, officers used several communication mediums to promote the opening of the Climate Action Fund (CAF) in Q1 2024/25 and signpost potential applicants to the updated CAF guidance.</p>		

## Theme 6: Our communities - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
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	Please see update for Action C1 on page 32.		
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	Please see update for Action C1 on page 32.		

## Theme 6: Our communities - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
C8	Include in Community Employment Plans considerations for addressing the councils climate neutral targets through commitments such as green skills training, sourcing through a local and sustainable supply chain, supporting local social enterprises and charities and accessing local employment	Update on the conditions of Community Employment Plans that address the climate emergency and how they are being implemented by developers; data on the number of Community Employment Plans implemented with conditions that address the climate emergency	Long Term (2 years plus to deliver)	Cabinet Member Community Engagement	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>At Q4, eight CEPs are currently in operation in Vale, with implementation of Green Skills as a key component remaining a longer term ambition that may be advanced by the Future Oxfordshire Partnership's recent endorsed of OxLEP's 2023 CEPs Evidence Paper, that acknowledged that as demand for renewable technologies, retrofitting practices and 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.</p> <p>Recent CEP reports suggest that outcomes are already being achieved in terms of employing locally (and therefore keeping commuting miles lower) and use of local suppliers, but these are primarily objectives conceived to support the local economy, as opposed to address the climate emergency, and outcomes are reported in terms in terms of social and economic value. Monitoring and reporting is an area that could be addressed in future development cycles.</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 Q4 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.		
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 Q4, out of 358 licensed vehicles there are 2 electric vehicles, although 138 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)	Cabinet Member Community Engagement	Head of Corporate Services	In Q4, the climate and biodiversity team launched a survey for town and parish councils asking how the council can better support local decarbonisation and nature recovery initiatives and raise awareness of the services we currently offer. The results of this will help inform the delivery of future network meetings for town and parish councils, dependent on the needs of the surveyed councils.		

## 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>In Q4, the climate and biodiversity team launched a survey for town and parish councils asking how the council can better support local decarbonisation and nature recovery initiatives and raise awareness of the services we currently offer. The results will inform future strategy and will be reported in Q2 2024/25.</p> <p>Awards were also made to Town and Parish Councils, community groups and businesses in Q4 from the council's Rural England Prosperity Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Fund, supporting a range of climate action projects including retrofitting community buildings, renewable energy schemes, EV charging infrastructure and nature recovery projects.</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>In Q4, work continued on finalising the Oxfordshire climate vulnerability assessment.</p> <p>Officers were involved in the final stages of an Exeter University project to create a Local Climate Adaptation Toolkit which is due to be published in due course.</p>		

## Theme 7: Our partners - performance updates against reporting measures

CAP ID	Actions	Reporting Measure	Delivery Timescale	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead	Performance Update	RAG rate progress against each measure	Comments on AMBER or RED ratings
OP3	Work with Oxfordshire County Council to support active and sustainable travel infrastructure initiatives	Narrative update on progress toward completion of map, once map completed, this should transition to an annual review of the accuracy of map	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member Corporate Services and Transformation	Head of Policy and Programmes	In Q4 officers continued to provide support for Oxfordshire County Council officers working on the Strategic Active Travel Network (SATN). The SATN seeks to provide a web of strategic travel routes across Oxfordshire.		
OP4	Work with the Future Oxfordshire Partnership on a county-wide approach to reducing carbon emissions, building on the strategic vision and Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire	Update on progress on the Future Oxfordshire Partnership's county-wide approach to reducing carbon emissions, including examples of projects and programmes that address the strategic vision and Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire	Short Term (1 year)	Cabinet Member for Strategic Partnerships and Place	Head of Policy and Programmes	In Q4, 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.		
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 Q4, the climate and biodiversity and planning teams have worked together to publish a new webpage explaining when planning consent is needed for retrofitting measures such as solar panels. We have also published a new leaflet which sets out the support and funding that is available in the district for energy saving home improvements.</p> <p>Funding for retrofitting remains available to eligible households within Vale of White Horse through Oxfordshire County Council's Home Upgrade Grant.</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
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	The Housing team will continue to support Registered Housing Providers to pursue their retrofit aspirations, pending an update on the impact of the Government postponing of increasing EPC targets.		
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	In Q4, Economic Development Officers continued to contribute to the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) led Joint Oxfordshire Business Support Net-Zero working group, that focuses on developing engagement and support for Oxfordshire's SMEs. This quarter officers contributed ideas to the LEPs planned single entry point website for net-zero support, shared initial findings from the Brookes report, and linked up with counterparts from West Oxfordshire to review a potential accreditation scheme for eco-friendly tourism businesses.		
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	This quarter, the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) opened a national consultation on the designation of 27 proposed sites to be added to the list of designated bathing waters this year - with Wallingford Beach being one of them. The application for Henley-on-Thames was unsuccessful in reaching this second stage. The national consultation closed 10 March, and a decision regarding the awarding of Bathing Water Status is expected in due course.		
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	Work is ongoing to agree an Oxfordshire wide approach to Local Area Energy Planning which is one of the prioritised actions in the Oxfordshire Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan. A Local Area Energy Plan will set out the actions needed to transition to a net-zero energy system, including addressing the grid capacity issues which are already having an impact on project delivery and timescales. The Future Oxfordshire Partnership has allocated £150K from the Oxfordshire Growth Fund for the Local Area Energy Planning process. Officers have spent a significant amount of time working closely with our neighbouring authorities to establish the governance structures, process and scope for our Local Area Energy Plans.		
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	The Joint South and Vale Food Action Steering Group met 3 times in quarter four. The January meeting focused on community food based conversations; the February meeting revolved around the Joint Local Plan (2041) and the March meeting reviewed the draft action plan priorities to date.		

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### **Policy and Programmes**

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

Email: [climateaction@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:climateaction@southandvale.gov.uk)

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