

South Oxfordshire District Council

# Corporate Performance Report



2023/24 Quarter Four  
June 2024

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# Background

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- The Council monitors performance and progress towards achieving the aims and priorities set out in the South Oxfordshire District Council **Corporate Plan 2020-2024**.
- This report provides a strategic overview of the performance for **quarter four (01 January 2024 to 31 March 2024)**, focusing on the activity to deliver our priorities in the South Oxfordshire Corporate Plan 2020-24.
- In addition to providing a performance update and assurance against delivering the Council's six strategic themes in the Corporate Plan, this report will also provide any strategic context relevant to the Council's operations.





## Strategic context

During quarter four of 2023/24, Met Office figures showed that in the eighteen months to March 2024, England experienced its highest amount of rainfall since comparable records began in 1836. England's three wettest eighteen-month periods on record have all occurred in the last decade. The increased frequency of periods of wet weather concurs with the projected impacts of a warming climate on the country (hotter, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters).

The UK experienced its second warmest February on record (since 1884). Four of the ten warmest Februarys have all occurred in the last five years.

On the global level, March 2024 was the tenth month in a row to set a global heat record according to figures from the Copernicus Climate Change Service. Every month since June 2023 has been warmer than the corresponding month in any previous year. Consequently, the global average temperature for the past twelve months (April 2023 – March 2024) was the highest on record – 0.70°C above the 1991-2020 average and 1.58°C above the 1850-1900 pre-industrial average.



The UK's rate of inflation was 3.2 per cent in the 12 months to March 2024 – a decrease of 0.2 per cent on the figure for February (inflation peaked at 11.1 per cent in October 2022 – the highest rate since 1981). The fall in the rate of inflation in March was mainly driven by decreases in the rate of inflation for food and non-alcoholic beverages.

The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted to keep interest rates at 5.25 per cent at their meetings in February and March. While this marked the fifth consecutive time that the MPC has held the interest rate, it follows a sustained series of rises which have increased borrowing costs to their highest levels since 2008.

In early March, the Chancellor of the Exchequer set out the Spring Budget 2024. The stated priorities for the package of measures introduced were to lower taxes, boost growth, deliver better public services and to keep public finances on a sustainable path.

Between 10 January and 26 February, South Oxfordshire held a Regulation 18 public consultation on the Joint Local Plan. This asked for views on the council's preferred policy options and draft policies. Officers are now reviewing all the comments that were received.

In February, South Oxfordshire agreed a balanced budget for the next financial year. To fund the delivery of services, council tax will increase by 3.6 per cent for 2024/25. For a Band D property this equates to £5 a year (just under 10p a week), bringing a total charge of £146.24 a year/£2.81 per week – this is over 30.0 per cent lower than the national average for a shire district council.





# Quarter four performance highlights

## Protect and restore our natural world



**Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC)** produced its Annual Monitoring Report using data collected from **surveys of Local Wildlife Sites** across the district



Four grant awards ranging from £30,000 to £61,000 were made under the **Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF)**. All the awards relate to tourism, leisure and wellbeing



We finalised a short-term action plan to **support the visitor economy** - focussed on support for businesses operating in the sector

## Openness and accountability



We continued to use the council's new online engagement platform **Join the Conservation** which allows officers to upload supporting information and background documents



We started drafting the **2023/24 Annual Consultation and Engagement Report** - this will include comparison data on the number of responses to surveys and consultations

To help ensure that South Oxfordshire listens to all residents and communities across the district, the council **recruited two Equalities & Wellbeing advisors** to the People & Culture team

## Action on climate emergency



**£1.49m** from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme for work to **decarbonise Park Sports Centre, Wheatley and Didcot Wave Swimming Pool**

**£160,351**

secured for **solar panels** at Thame Leisure Centre



South Oxfordshire was confirmed as having the **highest recycling rate in the country**



Jointly, with the Vale, we submitted a proposal to Innovate UK to fund a research project to **trial an electric refuse collection vehicle**

## Improved economic and community well-being



We launched a **CIL Grant Pilot Scheme** to support infrastructure projects delivered by third parties within the district



The draft findings of a research study (by Oxford Brookes) on understanding the **net zero challenge for SMEs in South and Vale** were presented to officers



We adopted three pledges from the **Oxfordshire Inclusive Economic Partnership's Charter** - two will directly affect how the council does business with local small-medium enterprises

## Homes and infrastructure that meets local need



We held a consultation on the **Joint Local Plan** for views on our preferred policy options and draft policies



The **Didcot Wayfinding and Green Infrastructure Strategies** were finalised. These strategies will be considered for approval by Cabinet in Q1 2024/25



**£90,000**

secured to advance the priorities of **Didcot Garden Town** from Homes England/ DLUHC

## Investment that rebuilds our financial viability



The council agreed a balanced budget for the next financial year. To fund services, **council tax will increase by 3.6 per cent for 2024/25**



South's **Treasury Management Strategy** included an **Environmental, Social and Governmental (ESG) statement** - South's treasury advisors have been asked to undertake a funds review



We produced a **Development action plan** for **Cornerstone** - to help secure the venue's long-term sustainability, maximise its community benefit and financial efficiency

# Theme 1: Protect and restore our natural world

## Why?

South Oxfordshire is a largely rural district, including parts of two National Landscapes and the Oxford Green Belt, as well as a long stretch of the River Thames. The natural world is proven to provide benefits to both mental and physical health, as well as having its own intrinsic value, and it needs our protection.

## So:

We will respect and protect our natural environment, especially our National Landscapes and other nature rich areas. We will champion the opportunity to restore our natural world in both biodiverse and bio-depleted areas through nature recovery networks and other means. We will connect urban communities to their local green spaces and restore nature to urban environments.

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

## Key Activities in quarter four

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

The Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) produced its Annual Monitoring Report. This is based on the data collected through its programme of rolling surveys of Local Wildlife Sites across the district. The report can be found on the council's [nature recovery webpage](#).

A short-term action plan to support the visitor economy was finalised. This focused upon tangible support schemes for businesses operating in the sector and established an improved digital promotional presence that can be directly managed by Economic Development. The council's work on the visitor economy will be its primary programme to celebrate the area's natural assets.

Four grant awards ranging from £30,000 to £61,000 were made under the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). All the awards relate to tourism, leisure and wellbeing.

Progress continued to be made on a natural flood management project at Littleworth. The Environment Agency have approved the design condition and a contractor has been appointed – work is due to commence in April 2024.

In addition, South Oxfordshire has discussed the wider Wheatley flood alleviation scheme with the parish council and the Environment Agency. Written updates have also been provided to the Shotover Estate.

The council has continued to support work of the Food Action Working Group and the development of local action plans related to the Oxfordshire Food Strategy.



## Theme 2: Openness and accountability

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

### Key Activities in quarter four

See Theme 2 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 24

#### Why?

The complexity of modern society and local government structures can be hard to navigate. Many services are delivered as part of external partnerships, so it can be hard for residents to see what we do and how we do it. There are some groups within our district with whom we have little engagement or interaction, so the diversity of our district is not always recognised and supported.

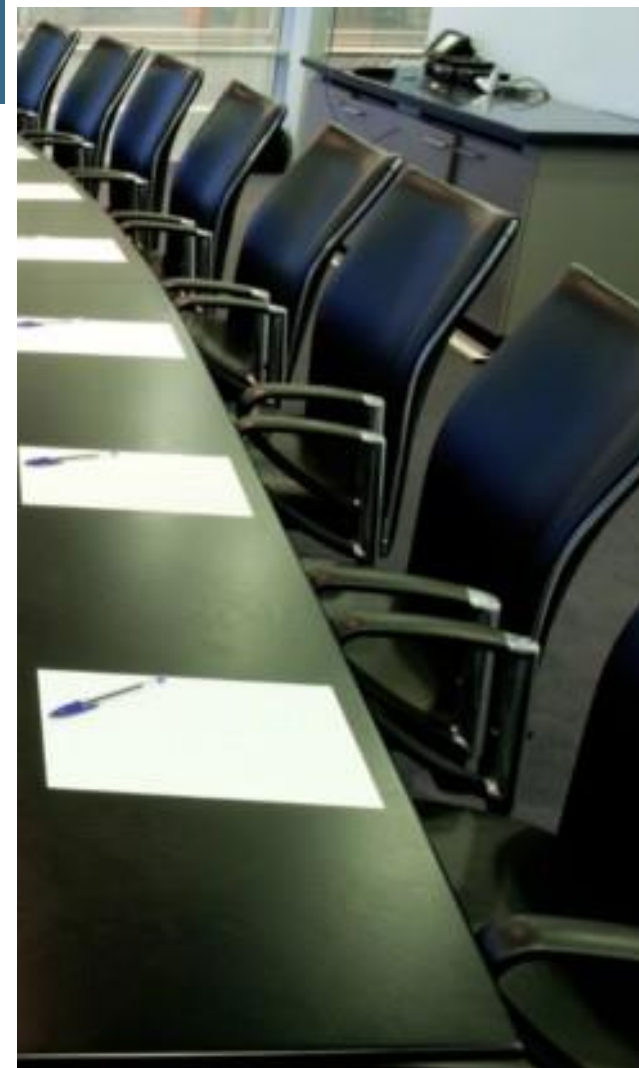
#### So:

We will maintain and improve high levels of satisfaction with the services we provide and will reach out to all sectors and age groups to foster a culture of openness, participation, and representation. We will use our influence to champion inclusion, diversity and transparency across all elected and unelected bodies in our region. We will empower and invest in our staff and conduct our operations with the highest level of integrity and accountability.

South Oxfordshire continues to increase the amount of information that it provides through the data hub section of its website. During Q4 2023/24, the performance management report for Q3 2023/24 was published on South's website. This is intended to increase the public's understanding of what the council does, how it works and how decisions are made.

South Oxfordshire livestreamed all public meetings (except for the Full Council – due to logistical/IT issues) during Q4. These recordings will remain available on South's YouTube channel for a year.

The council produced press releases on several important issues/topics during Q4 – including the adoption of a new Air Quality Plan, the future of the Cornerstone Arts Centre, the introduction of Biodiversity Net Gain, the passing of the council's budget for 2024/25 and the two-year anniversary of the war in Ukraine.





South Oxfordshire continued to develop and run surveys/consultations using the council's new online engagement platform - Join the Conversation. In addition to making it easier for residents to respond, the new platform also allows officers to upload supporting information and background documents.

The council has grown its presence on NextDoor – a more hyperlocal social media platform – and is exploring how to better utilise LinkedIn to engage with local businesses. Furthermore, the council has rolled out WhatsApp Channels which provides a direct news service to subscribers. Early signs have been encouraging and officers are now exploring creating dedicated channels for specific service areas with high demand e.g. waste services.

Officers continued to test the 'report it' functionality of the Customer Relationship Management System (CRM) to automate reports of enviro-crimes e.g. fly tipping. This has involved close collaboration between Customer Services, IT and Waste teams.

Work has started on drafting the 2023/24 Annual Consultation and Engagement Report. This will include comparison data on the number of responses the council has received to surveys and consultations. It will also provide a breakdown of respondent types. This information will then be used to highlight any gaps/ challenges that may exist.

As part of the Joint Local Plan consultation, the council held ten community drop-in events. These were designed to take the consultation out to the residents of the district. A special by-invitation gathering for community groups that the council has traditionally failed to reach also took place in February.



The Climate and Engagement teams launched a survey to find out where town and parishes were in their climate journeys and also what support they would like from the council. As part of this exercise, respondents were asked for their preferences in relation to the type/ manner of interactions they have with the council e.g. online or face-to-face-meetings. This information will be reviewed to determine how best to proceed.

The council provided a variety of election communications materials (including posters and content for newsletters) to parishes, community groups and businesses to share with residents. These materials are intended to encourage people to register to vote and to remind them of the need for voter ID. South Oxfordshire has also used social media channels to reach residents about the forthcoming election. This has included promoting the council's guide for first time voters.

During Q4 2023/24, South Oxfordshire continued to promote diversity and inclusion through the marking of events contained within the council's Diversity and Social Campaign Calendar.

To help ensure that South Oxfordshire listens to all residents and communities across the district, the council successfully recruited two Equalities & Wellbeing advisors to the People & Culture team. Officers also met with the representatives of local accessibility groups. In addition, two senior members of the People & Culture team attended training courses (of 3 days) on equality, diversity and inclusion.

Work has continued on reviewing the council's Constitution.





# Theme 3: Action on climate emergency

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

## Key Activities in quarter four

See Theme 3 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 28

South Oxfordshire was awarded £1.49m from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (Phase 3c) for work to decarbonise Park Sports Centre, Wheatley and Didcot Wave Swimming Pool. The council also secured £160,351 to install photovoltaic solar panels at Thame Leisure Centre.

In conjunction with the Vale, South Oxfordshire submitted a proposal to Innovate UK to fund a research project to trial Electric Refuse Collection Vehicle for recycling and household waste.

During Q4 2023/24, the Property Assets Project Lead Officer commenced their employment. They are currently working with the Facilities Manager on the Cornerstone decarbonisation project.

The council advertised for the recruitment of a Nature Recovery Officer. Their remit will include enhancing biodiversity on South Oxfordshire's own land holdings.



Oxfordshire County Council – in partnership with Oxford City Council and West Oxfordshire, Cherwell, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils – successfully submitted a bid to receive £3.655m in Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding to develop EV charging infrastructure across the county.

The pilot county-wide EV car club scheme continued. Vehicles are available to hire in Henley and Wallingford through 'CoWheels' and there has been a good uptake. Furthermore, the pilot has been extended for a further six months – until September 2024.

## Why?

The greatest challenge we face as a society is the Climate Emergency and our ability to adapt our lives and our behaviours to ensure a safe and resilient future. While statements and targets are welcome, the challenge for our district is to take action, transform our operations and inspire our residents and businesses to do the same. Aspects of our lives will need to change, but we have a duty to make this transition fair for all parts of society.

## So:

We will show leadership by developing and implementing a climate change programme to make the Council net carbon neutral by 2025. We will help our communities to plan a fair transition to a future that will be defined by climate change.



A Regulation 18 public consultation on the Joint Local Plan was held between 10 January and 26 February. This asked for views on our preferred policy options and draft policies including those relating to sustainable design & construction, net zero carbon buildings, reducing embodied carbon, sustainable retrofitting and renewable energy. It also set out the council's objectives and proposals in relation to sustainable growth and the environment. Officers are now reviewing all the comments that were received.

Bioregional's Net Zero Carbon Evidence study was published alongside the Joint Local Plan Regulation 18 public consultation. An additional element of this work – regarding renewable energy schemes – will be published alongside the Regulation 19 consultation in the autumn.

The Climate & Biodiversity and Planning teams worked together to publish a new webpage explaining when planning permission/consent is need for retrofitting measures. The council also published a new leaflet setting out the support and funding that is available within the district for energy saving home improvements.

South's new Air Quality Action Plan was approved by the Licensing Committee. Officers are now reviewing how and when the annual update should be reported.

South Oxfordshire remained involved in shaping and participating in county-wide initiatives through the Future Oxfordshire Partnership (FOP). In this forum, officers and members continued to work for the realisation of the Good Growth Principles in the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision. During Q4, officers worked with the FOP's Environmental Advisory Group to develop an approach to Local Area Energy Planning. This is one of the five priority actions on the Oxfordshire Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan.





South Oxfordshire designed and then distributed the 2024-25 waste leaflet to all homes within the district – either through the post (alongside the household’s council tax bill) or via their e-bill notification.

The council published and promoted its new waste calendar. By the end of March more than 11,400 visits had been made to the waste calendar webpage. In addition, the council relaunched the option of downloading the calendar into iCal/Google Calendar.

The council marked Global Recycling Day with a reminder for people to ‘Check it before you Chuck it’.

Parishes and residents were encouraged to get involved with the Great British Spring Clean. South Oxfordshire also highlighted the activities and efforts of local groups via our social media channels.

In February, South Oxfordshire highlighted the news that it had been confirmed as having the highest recycling rate in the country. Social media posts on this topic reached over 20,000 people.

As part of the council’s activities for Food Waste Action Week in March, South Oxfordshire promoted its popular Compost Giveaway and a social media competition to win a hot composter (entrants had to say what steps they had taken to reduce their food waste). Posts relating to the hot composter competition reached over 10,600 accounts and resulted in significant engagement on Facebook.





## Theme 4: Improved economic and community well-being

### Why?

South Oxfordshire has a large number of small and micro businesses and is well placed to adapt to changes in the economy, but support will be needed for it to remain a healthy and vibrant place to live and work. The Coronavirus pandemic has shown the strength of the community but there are areas of isolation and deprivation in our district, and the benefits of access to culture, leisure, and community for all has been made clear.

### So:

We will reimagine our high streets, helping independent small businesses to thrive and to encourage cultural well-being for all. We will encourage clean local economic development and support our business hubs, centres of scientific excellence and our educational establishments to become leaders in sustainable technology, innovation, and enterprise. We will help our community groups to strengthen cohesion, reduce social isolation and tackle areas of deprivation.

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

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

### Key Activities in quarter four

See Theme 4 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 36

The draft findings of the research study (being undertaken by Oxford Brookes) on understanding the net zero challenge for SMEs in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse were presented to officers. The final report is expected in Q1 2024/25 and will help to inform the solutions to be commissioned by the council via UK Shared Prosperity Funding.

A short-term action plan to support the visitor economy was finalised. This focused upon tangible support schemes for businesses operating in the sector and established an improved digital promotional presence that can be directly managed by Economic Development.

Economic Development led South Oxfordshire's adoption of three pledges from the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economic Partnership's Charter. Two of these (regarding the social value that a supplier can offer the local community and the buying of goods/services from purposeful local organisations) will directly affect how the council does business with local SMEs. Work to implement these pledges will accelerate in Q1 2024/25.





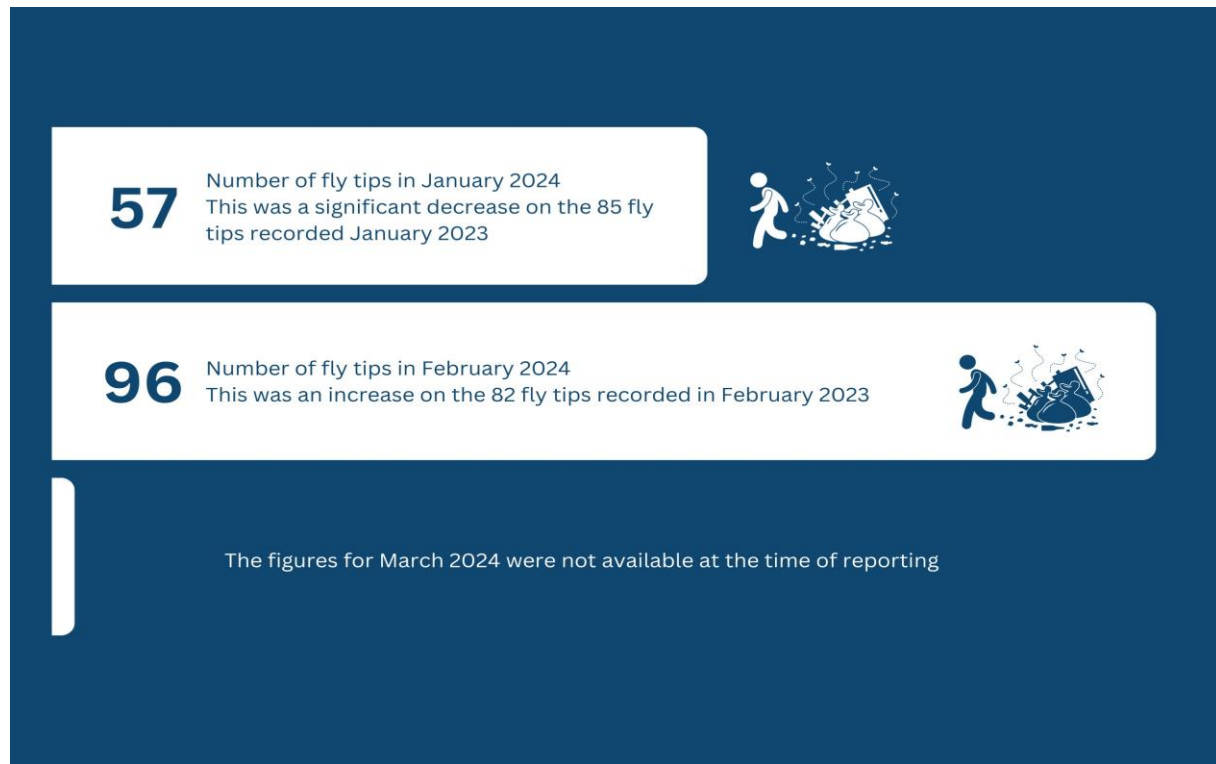
Officers received an update from the Digital Infrastructure Partnership on the 5G Innovations Region Bid. They confirmed that Oxfordshire would receive the funding of £3.8m for the programme – which is aimed primarily at the business community and looks at innovative ways in which operations and processes can be improved using 5G connectivity.

The Economic Development team have maintained their connection to the working group overseeing the development of the emerging Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) for Oxfordshire. Following endorsement of the SEP by the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership's board, work has now started on the creation of an action plan. The team have also continued to liaise with countywide counterparts via the Joint Oxfordshire Business Support (JOBS) group and with the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy steering group.

Following approval by the council as part of the budget setting process, fourteen new infrastructure projects were allocated CIL funding (totalling £2,400,844) in the 2024/25 capital programme. South Oxfordshire also launched a CIL Grant Pilot Scheme to support infrastructure projects delivered by third parties within the district.

Throughout the quarter, the Community Hub has continued to work with the voluntary and community sector in response to the cost-of-living crisis (particularly in relation to food initiatives and the provision of support for those in most need).

Between January and March, South Oxfordshire continued to take action against fly-tippers. In Q4, the council issued six Fixed Penalty Notices for waste crimes. There were also two prosecutions for waste crimes between January and March – another prosecution is pending.



Fly tipping data - see **ECW7** performance update on page 39

## Theme 5: Homes and infrastructure that meet local needs

### Why?

The average price of a home is many times higher than the average salary, particularly for the young, and renting is also expensive. The pressure to build new homes in our district sometimes outweighs local wishes. Infrastructure like roads, schools and GP surgeries have not kept up with housing development. Too many houses being built today are not fit for a low carbon future.

### So:

We will strive to ensure that new homes and infrastructure in South Oxfordshire meet local needs, are sustainable, zero carbon in their build and operation, and high quality in design. We will provide homes that people can afford to live in. New developments will be accessible with walking, cycling and public transport a priority. Neighbourhood plans and local participation will sit at the heart of our planning process. We will work with partners to ensure that development is appropriate for our communities.

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

### Key Activities in quarter four

See Theme 5 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 40

South Oxfordshire recorded five rough sleepers at the end of Q4 2023/24 – an increase of two on the previous quarter. This is an indication of the mounting demands upon the housing service and the upward trend in rough sleeping nationally.

The number of homeless households in temporary accommodation (TA) on 31 March 2024 was 26 – an increase on the previous quarter and a reflection of the rising number of homelessness presentations.

During 2023/24, South Oxfordshire has seen a record number of homelessness approaches (565). This has been caused by a combination of factors including the cost-of-living crisis and the decline in availability of affordable private rented properties.

The rolling six-month average length of stay in emergency accommodation was 38 nights, below the council's ceiling target of 42 nights.

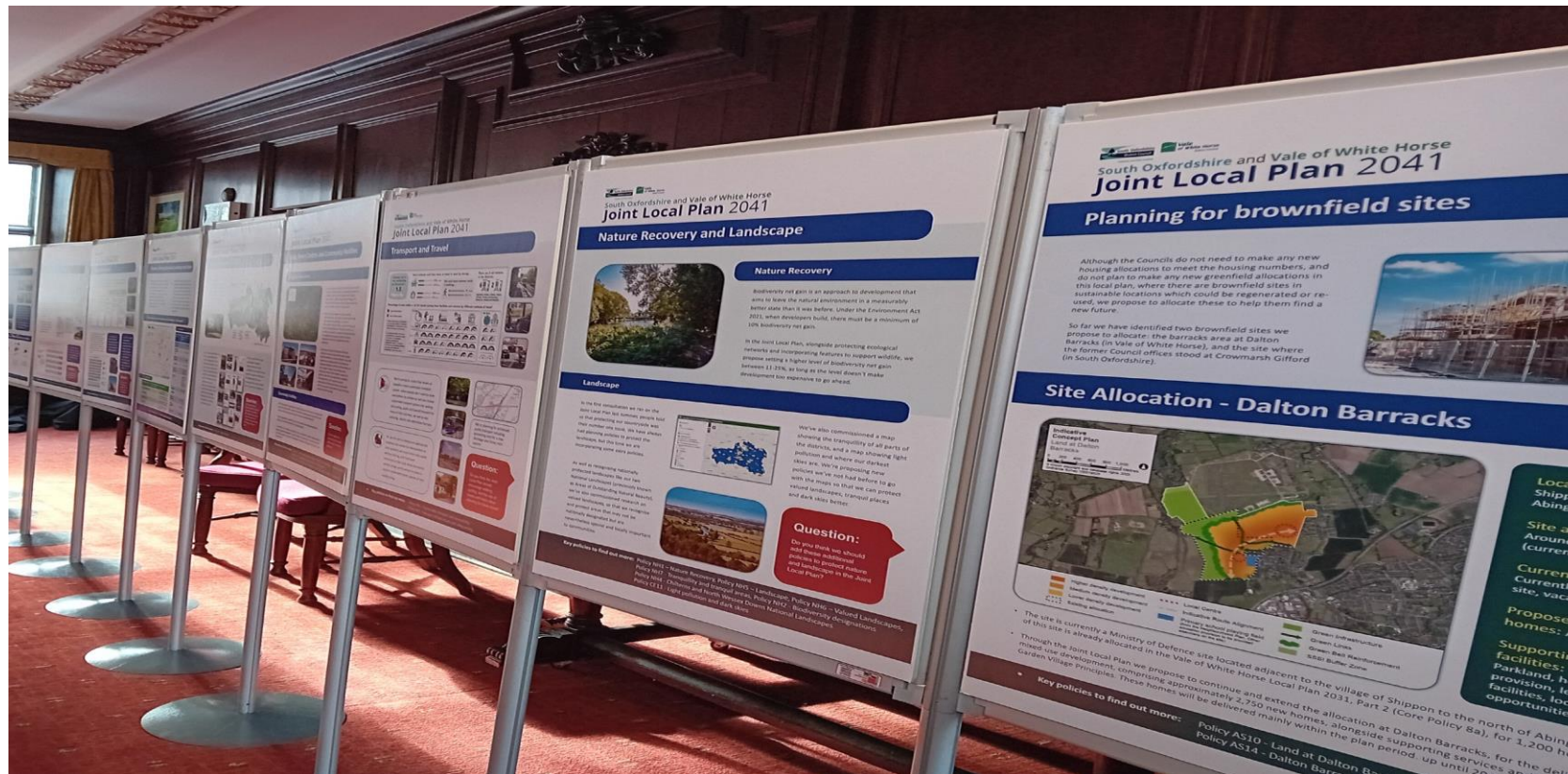
During Q4 2023/24, the rate of successful homelessness prevention in South Oxfordshire was 73.0 per cent (an increase on the previous quarter). Although this was below the council's own very challenging target of 80.0 per cent, it remains considerably above the South East prevention rate of 51.0 per cent. The most likely outcome for households where homelessness is not prevented is a stay in emergency or temporary accommodation which is both disruptive for the household and expensive for the council.



As part of South Oxfordshire's commitment to safeguarding and supporting the district's vulnerable residents, the council continues to actively participate in numerous countywide partnerships to tackle homelessness in Oxfordshire. South is a member of the countywide Homelessness Steering Group, the Young Persons Steering Group, the Joint Management Group of Alliance Homelessness Services and the Homelessness Directors Group.

During Q4, an important milestone was reached in the development of the Joint Local Plan with the holding of a Regulation 18 public consultation – this ran between 10 January and 26 February. This asked for views on our preferred policy options and draft policies. Officers are now reviewing all the comments that were received. Progress also continued to be made on several other specialist studies that will contribute to the Joint Local Plan evidence base.

Bioregional's Net Zero Carbon Evidence study was published alongside the Joint Local Plan Regulation 18 public consultation. An additional element of this work – regarding renewable energy schemes – will be published alongside the Regulation 19 consultation in the autumn.





During Q4 2023/24, the Didcot Wayfinding and Green Infrastructure Strategies were finalised. These strategies will be considered for approval by Cabinet in Q1 2024/25. Progress has also been made on the Didcot Public Arts Plan. The final draft should be finalised in Q1 2024/25.

In addition, £90,000 of external funding to advance the priorities of Didcot Garden Town was secured from Homes England/DLUHC.

Discussions continued between South Oxfordshire and Ptarmigan to inform the regeneration package and S106 agreement for Berinsfield Garden Village. Key areas of focus include affordable housing, leisure, community energy and infrastructure to support a community hub.

Officers also continue to advance capital improvements within Berinsfield. UK Shared Prosperity Funding has been utilised to improve recreational facilities and to support decarbonisation projects on existing community assets.

Work progressed on Stage 1 (as defined by the Royal Institute of British Architects) of the construction project to deliver net zero homes at a council-owned site in Didcot. MICA – the design team for this project – have produced several potential options for consideration. An application was also submitted for Brownfield Land Release Funding to unlock delivery on the site.

Officers continued to provide support to Oxfordshire County Council on the development of the Strategic Active Travel Network (SATN) – this seeks to provide a network of strategic travel routes across Oxfordshire.



## Theme 6: Investment that rebuilds our financial viability

### Why?

Coronavirus has cost, and lost, the Council money. Many years of austerity before that, as well as a failure to increase Council tax in line with growing costs, makes it hard to balance the books. The future funding picture for Councils from Government remains unclear. In order to deliver a progressive and ambitious agenda, we need to reduce the gap between income and expenditure in our Medium-Term Financial Plan.

### So:

We will invest to save and act responsibly and ethically with our financial resources. We will work with other Councils for fair funding and will investigate new viable sources of revenue in order to maintain and improve vital services. We will ensure all financial operations and reporting support effective decision making and strong, ethical governance.

Strategic Lead - Simon Hewings (Head of Finance)  
**Key Activities in quarter four**

See Theme 6 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 48

**W**ith the aim of managing the council's resources responsibly and making more effective use of its assets, South Oxfordshire continued with its budget setting activity for 2024/25. In February, the council agreed a balanced budget for the next financial year. To fund the delivery of services, council tax will increase by 3.6 per cent for 2024/25. For a Band D property this equates to £5 a year (just under 10p a week), bringing a total charge of £146.24 a year/£2.81 per week – this is over 30.0 per cent lower than the national average for a shire district council.

For the first time, South Oxfordshire's Treasury Management Strategy included an Environmental, Social and Governmental (ESG) statement. Consequently, South's treasury advisors have been asked to undertake a funds review.

A report on the Strategic Property Review was presented and assessed at Cabinet briefing. An asset management plan will now be developed.

In February, the Cabinet endorsed a development action plan for the Cornerstone Arts Centre. The plan is intended to secure the centre's long-term sustainability by maximising its community benefit and financial efficiency.

Further progress was made on reviewing/refreshing the Transformation Programme's governance and infrastructure. Additional work is also currently being undertaken to refresh the council's Technology Strategy.





South Oxfordshire was awarded £1.49m from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (Phase 3c) for work to decarbonise Park Sports Centre, Wheatley and Didcot Wave Swimming Pool. The council also secured £160,351 to install photovoltaic solar panels at Thame Leisure Centre.

In conjunction with the Vale, South Oxfordshire submitted a proposal to Innovate UK to fund a research project to trial Electric Refuse Collection Vehicle for recycling and household waste.

South Oxfordshire have also submitted applications to the Great Western Railway Customer and Community Infrastructure Fund for pedestrian infrastructure improvements to railway station approaches in Henley, Shiplake and Cholsey.

Work has also been undertaken on a bid for Low Carbon Skills Funding (Phase 5) that would be used to develop heat decarbonisation plans.



## South Oxfordshire quarter four 2023/24 individual cabinet member decisions

Date	Description
21/01/2024	Move Together
06/02/2024	Hackney Carriage Tariff
07/02/2024	Church Road Car Park, Wheatley
12/02/2024	East Hagbourne Neighbourhood Plan
26/02/2024	Storm Henk Flood Grant Scheme
01/03/2024	Decarbonisation projects at Didcot Wave and the Park Sports Centre, Wheatley
01/03/2024	Community Infrastructure Levy funding for Great Western Park health centre
01/03/2024	Section 106 funding for Great Western Park signage
01/03/2024	Thame Leisure Centre - transfer of capital for gym improvement project
04/03/2024	Didcot Wave - transfer of capital to build a studio
04/03/2024	116-120 Broadway, Didcot - Section 106 funding
12/03/2024	Leisure facilities assessment strategy
12/03/2024	Playing pitch strategy
Total: 13	



## Theme 1: Protect and restore our natural world - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
PRN1	With partners, promote in-depth mapping and surveying of ecosystems across the district, planning for restoration of the natural world and working closely with land-owners and specialist agencies	Narrative report to include information on work with partners, and Habitat and Species data + changes/ trends on a 12 month basis	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery Environment	Head of Planning	<p>During Q4 2023/24, the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) produced its Annual Monitoring Report. This is based on the data collected through its programme of rolling surveys of Local Wildlife Sites across the district. The Annual Monitoring Report provides details on the following suite of indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes in the area of biodiversity importance.</li> <li>• Changes in the area of UK S41 priority habitats.</li> <li>• Changes in the number of water voles.</li> <li>• Changes in the number of UK S41 priority species.</li> <li>• Distribution and status of farmland birds.</li> </ul> <p>The report can be found on the council's nature recovery webpage.</p>
PRN2	Celebrate, protect and enhance our natural assets, including the River Thames and the AONBs and their setting, promoting our rural district for tourism, leisure and wellbeing	Narrative report to include information on work to manage natural assets and AONBs (both internally and with partners)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q4 2023/24, a short-term action plan to support the visitor economy was finalised. This focused upon tangible support schemes for businesses operating in the sector and established an improved digital promotional presence that can be directly managed by Economic Development. The council's work on the visitor economy will be its primary programme to celebrate the area's natural assets.</p> <p>Four grant awards ranging from £30,000 to £61,000 were made under the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). All of the awards relate to tourism, leisure and wellbeing.</p>
PRN3	Encourage the use of natural processes to combat risks arising from climate change, such as meadows and trees to reduce flooding	Narrative report to include direct and indirect information on use of natural processes to combat risks of climate change. This should include new policy development and direct activity undertaken by the Council	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q4 2023/24, progress continued to be made on a natural flood management project at Littleworth. The Environment Agency have approved the design condition and a contractor has been appointed – work is due to commence in April 2024.</p> <p>In addition, South Oxfordshire has discussed the wider Wheatley flood alleviation scheme with the parish council and the Environment Agency. Written updates have also been provided to the Shotover Estate.</p>

## Theme 1: Protect and restore our natural world - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
PRN4	Recognise and support the vital role of farming in economic and ecosystem resilience, local food provision and the recovery of soils and natural processes	Narrative report on activity undertaken with partners to encourage and support the vital role of farming in economic and ecosystem resilience (where possible, although this may be implicitly included in the information above)	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>Four grant awards ranging from £30,000 to £61,000 were made under the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). As only one of these grants was made directly to a farming business, the council is exploring how to better promote the planned second round of funding to potential applicants.</p> <p>The council has continued to support the work of the Food Action Working Group and the development of local action plans related to the Oxfordshire Food Strategy.</p>
PRN5	Call for the establishment of a Local Nature Partnership for Oxfordshire to promote an ambitious nature recovery programme, including tree and meadow planting, rewilding and providing habitats for wildlife including wildlife corridors	Narrative report - accepting that much of the activity to support PRN3 will be relevant here	Leader of the Council	Head of Policy and Programmes	No update required – action complete.
PRN6	Work in partnership with the Earth Trust, Chilterns Conservation Board, North Wessex Downs AONB, the Environment Agency and others to improve access to green spaces in and around our towns, reinforcing access to nature as a priority for community wellbeing	Narrative report on activity with partners (including those named, and others), with a particular focus on work supporting the link between green spaces and community wellbeing	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	During Q4 2023/24, grants were awarded via the Rural England Prosperity Fund that will support projects to deliver a new sports pavilion in Aston Rowant and to install an eco-woodland, an outdoor adventure and learning centre and an interactive water feature at Thomley in Worminghall. These schemes will help residents to better access and enjoy local green spaces.



## Theme 2: Openness and accountability - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
OA1	Enhance trust and accountability in democratic decision-making, including live-streaming and recording of meetings, ensuring full accessibility of facilities and monitoring progress in an open and transparent way	<p>Narrative update to include information on the performance management framework, communications update on Cabinet/Council decisions, IAG around the operations/activity of the Council</p> <p>% of Public Council meetings within 12 months available online</p>	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Corporate Services	<p>During Q4 2023/24, the performance management report for Q3 2023/24 was published on South Oxfordshire's website. This is intended to increase the public's understanding of what the council does, how it works and how decisions are made.</p> <p>In Q4 2023/24, South received 304 FOI/EIRs. 93.0% of these were responded to within the target time of 20 working days.</p> <p>The council received 17 stage one complaints, three stage two complaints and one complaint from the Local Government Ombudsman between January and March 2024.</p> <p>With the exception of the Full Council (due to logistical/IT issues), all other meetings during Q4 2023/24 were livestreamed (they will also remain available to view on the council's YouTube channel for a year).</p>
OA2	Ensure that council departments work collaboratively to deliver best outcomes for residents	Narrative report detailing significant, non-recurring examples of inter-departmental working which have secured concrete outcomes for residents	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Deputy Chief Executive - Transformation and Operations	<p>Officers continued to test the 'report it' functionality of the Customer Relationship Management System (CRM) to automate reports of enviro-crimes e.g., fly tipping. This has involved close collaboration between Customer Services, IT and Waste teams.</p> <p>Customer Services, IT and Waste also continued to work on proposals for the new garden waste permit scheme and to implement the necessary changes.</p> <p>Customer Services, by handling some general enquiries, are supporting the Elections team in the run up to the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner elections.</p>

## Theme 2: Openness and accountability - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
OA3	Embed an organisational culture that celebrates diversity, inclusion and respect	Narrative report on work undertaken to celebrate diversity, inclusion and respect. Should include standard recurring activity, one off supporting activity. This should be a joint report primarily from HR/Comms but include comments from others	Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Head of Corporate Services	<p>During Q4 2023/24, South Oxfordshire continued to promote diversity and inclusion through the marking of events contained within the council's Diversity and Social Campaign Calendar.</p> <p>To help ensure that South Oxfordshire listens to all residents and communities across the district, the council successfully recruited two Equalities &amp; Wellbeing advisors to the People &amp; Culture team. Officers also met with the representatives of local accessibility groups.</p> <p>In addition, two senior members of the People &amp; Culture team attended training courses (of 3 days) on equality, diversity and inclusion.</p>
OA4	Apply good governance and transparency in all our working and decision-making, exploring optimal structures and mechanisms for best practice in local government	Narrative report on significant change initiatives which have resulted in restructures/new processes to deliver local govt services	Cabinet Member for Legal and Democratic	Head of Legal and Democratic	<p>The council's Constitution has remained under constant review throughout Q4 2023/24. Meetings of the Constitution Review Group have also taken place.</p> <p>The new Code of Corporate Governance is now scheduled to be presented to the Joint Audit and Governance Committee in Q1 2024/25.</p> <p>Further enhancements and modifications have been made to the council's data hub – a readily accessible resource which contains reports and data on South Oxfordshire's responsibilities, projects and programmes.</p>



## Theme 2: Openness and accountability - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
OA5	Engage effectively with residents, Parish and Town Councils and other community organisations, using plain English in our communications and using appropriate methods and technologies to ensure equal and fair access for all	Narrative report on activities communications/engagement specific activities	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Corporate Services	<p>In Q4, new and innovative engagement activities have been undertaken to directly engage with local town and parish councils, residents, businesses and community organisations. Working together with the Vale for the Joint Local Plan Preferred Options consultation, 10 drop-in community events were held in a range of community and social venues, two workshops at local schools and colleges were delivered alongside a youth-focused survey, and a tailored workshop was held for community groups less familiar with local plans.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire strong saw growth across its website stats. There were 20.0% increases in the number of unique visitors, total visits and the number of page views. This growth may have been driven by several factors (better signposting, increased reach on Instagram etc).</p> <p>Q4 also saw a slight increase in bounce rate, a similar duration of visit length and a comparable number of views per visit to the previous quarter.</p> <p>SOUTH FACEBOOK  182,765 reach -25%  219 posts -8%  8854 total followers – up 7%  429 new followers</p> <p>Reach was disappointingly down by a quarter from the previous quarter, although the number of posts was also slightly lower. The communications team will examine the reasons behind the fall, although changes to the Facebook algorithm, including punishing posts with links, makes it increasingly difficult to secure engagement while delivering effective communications. Encouragingly, we had 429 new followers in the last quarter, increasing our total followers to almost 9,000.</p> <p>(update continues on page 27)</p>

## Theme 2: Openness and accountability - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
OA5	Engage effectively with residents, Parish and Town Councils and other community organisations, using plain English in our communications and using appropriate methods and technologies to ensure equal and fair access for all	Narrative report on activities communications/engagement specific activities	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Corporate Services	<p>SOUTH INSTAGRAM 7,435 reach - 1,137% increase 150 posts 56 new followers 819 total followers</p> <p>Reach saw a huge increase of more than 1,000% - mainly explained by some great content on waste disposal that really caught our audience's attention. The communications team will hope to build on this and continue to produce highly engaging content.</p> <p>SOUTH TWITTER 77.6k impressions Engagement rate 2.1%</p> <p>X, formerly Twitter, continues to be a difficult platform with unreliable and incomplete analytics making any learnings or comparisons impossible.</p>

### Theme 3: Action on climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
ACE1	Achieve our own zero carbon target by 2025 and support others to achieve the district target of zero carbon by 2030	Narrative report on strategic projects which will help to deliver net zero carbon for 2025/2030. This should be split between Council specific and District specific activities	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q4 2023/24, the Property Assets Project Lead Officer commenced their employment. They are currently working with the Facilities Manager on the Cornerstone decarbonisation project.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire was awarded £1.49m from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (Phase 3c) for work to decarbonise Park Sports Centre, Wheatley and Didcot Wave Swimming Pool. The council also secured £160,351 to install photovoltaic solar panels at Thame Leisure Centre</p> <p>In conjunction with the Vale, South Oxfordshire submitted a proposal to Innovate UK to fund a research project to trial Electric Refuse Collection Vehicle for recycling and household waste.</p> <p>During Q4 2023/24, Oxfordshire County Council – in partnership with Oxford City Council and West Oxfordshire, Cherwell, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils – successfully submitted a bid to receive £3.655m in Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding to develop EV charging infrastructure across the county.</p>
ACE2	Develop an annually approved climate emergency programme and adequately finance it	Quantitative measure - delivery of an annual CEP Y/N	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>The Climate Action Plan (CAP) is being monitored as part of South's corporate performance management framework and will provide a detailed overview of all actions that may have an impact on reducing carbon in the wider district.</p> <p>The CAP Performance Report for Q3 2023/24 has been completed and is published on the council's website.</p>



### Theme 3: Action on climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
ACE3	Deliver Council-owned net-zero homes and use grants, planning policy and advocacy to ensure the same standards throughout the district	Narrative Update on the current activities which WILL result in the delivery of Council owned homes (and details of those homes where possible)	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q4 2023/24, work continued on Stage 1 (as defined by the Royal Institute of British Architects) of the construction project to deliver net zero homes at a council-owned site in Didcot. MICA – the design team for this project – have produced several potential options for consideration.</p> <p>Also, in Q4, an application was submitted for Brownfield Land Release Funding to unlock delivery on the site. Officers continue to explore other potential grant funding opportunities.</p>
ACE4	Promote and encourage behavioural change with informational campaigns and leading by example	Narrative update to include the number of communications campaigns undertaken which promote/encourage behavioural change (with examples)	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Corporate Services	<p>During Q4 2023/24, officers from the communications team undertook a training day entitled on “Behaviour Change Communications”. They are now looking at how the council can use insight in its work in this area.</p> <p>The council marked Global Recycling Day with a reminder for people to ‘Check it before you Chuck it’.</p> <p>The council highlighted the roadside litter clearance work carried out in the district by Biffa and publicised our new anti-litter road signs.</p> <p>Parishes and residents were encouraged to get involved with the Great British Spring Clean. South Oxfordshire also highlighted the activities and efforts of local groups via our social media channels.</p> <p>A short clip, caught on camera by a Biffa crew, that highlighted what happens when garden waste is frozen solid in a wheelie bin reached over 18,000 people when the council posted it on social media during January.</p> <p>As part of the council’s activities for Food Waste Action Week in March, South Oxfordshire promoted its popular Compost Giveaway and a social media competition to win a hot composter (entrants had to say what steps they had taken to reduce their food waste). Posts relating to the hot composter competition reached over 10,600 accounts and resulted in significant engagement on Facebook.</p>

### Theme 3: Action on climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
ACE5	Take positive action on single-use plastics, air quality improvement measures and sustainable transport	Suggested combined narrative update on Comms relating to single use plastics/comms relating to AQ initiatives and metrics relating to AQ (with an appreciation that this data will be skewed in 2020 due to lockdown(s))	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>During Q4 2023/24, South's new Air Quality Action Plan was approved by the Licensing Committee. Officers are now reviewing how and when the annual update should be reported.</p> <p>Real Time Air Quality Data for sites within South Oxfordshire is available at: <a href="http://www.airqualityengland.co.uk">www.airqualityengland.co.uk</a></p> <p>Local information is also available at: <a href="http://www.oxonair.uk/">www.oxonair.uk/</a></p>
ACE6	Mitigate climate change through planning and land use, enhancing biodiversity on our own land and strengthening the planning system to enforce environmental standards	Narrative update to focus on planning initiatives which support the potential deliverables where possible (primarily the development of the joint 2041 Local Plan, the joint Design Guide and carbon reduction in planning (DES8/10))	Cabinet Member for Planning	Head of Planning	<p>During Q4 2023/24, an important milestone was reached in the development of the Joint Local Plan with the holding of a Regulation 18 public consultation – this ran between 10th January and 26th February. The emerging plan contains new stronger policies on the environment, including significantly higher environmental standards regarding net zero carbon building and biodiversity net gain. Officers are now reviewing all the comments that were received.</p> <p>The emerging Local Plan's spatial strategy will also provide the council with a new land use approach.</p> <p>Bioregional's Net Zero Carbon Evidence study was published alongside the Joint Local Plan Regulation 18 public consultation. An additional element of this work – regarding renewable energy schemes – will be published alongside the Regulation 19 consultation in the autumn.</p> <p>Progress continued to be made on several other specialist studies that will contribute to the Joint Local Plan evidence base.</p> <p>In Q4, the council advertised for the recruitment of a Nature Recovery Officer. Their remit will include enhancing biodiversity on South Oxfordshire's own land holdings.</p>

## Theme 3: Action on climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
ACE7	Promote the circular economy (reduce, re-use and recycle), including in our waste management contracts	<p>Narrative measure on comms activity relating to waste/ recycling</p> <p>Quantitative information on recycling rate, contamination rates, % of residual waste to landfill</p>	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>The December 2023 recycling rate was 56.51%, the landfill rate was 0.17% and the contamination rate was 11.98%. These figures were not available for Q3 2023/24 reporting.</p> <p>The January 2024 recycling rate was 53.34%, the landfill rate was 0.10% and the contamination rate was 13.95%.</p> <p>The February 2024 recycling rate was 53.98%, the landfill rate was 0.11% and the contamination rate was 14.51%.</p> <p>The figures for March are not yet available.</p> <p>During Q4, South designed and then distributed the 2024-25 waste leaflet to all homes within the district – either through the post (alongside the household’s council tax bill) or via their e-bill notification.</p> <p>Also, in Q4, South Oxfordshire published and promoted the council’s new waste calendar. By the end of March more than 11,400 visits had been made to the waste calendar webpage. In addition, the council relaunched the option of downloading the calendar into iCal/Google Calendar.</p> <p>Work was carried out on promoting and delivering the 2024 waste survey – which launched on 12th March. The council publicised the survey through the 2024-25 waste leaflet and parish newsletters.</p> <p>The council highlighted the roadside litter clearance work carried out in the district by Biffa and publicised our new anti-litter road signs.</p> <p>Parishes and residents were encouraged to get involved with the Great British Spring Clean. South Oxfordshire also highlighted the activities and efforts of local groups via our social media channels.</p> <p>(updates continue on page 32)</p>



## Theme 3: Action on climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
ACE7	Promote the circular economy (reduce, re-use and recycle), including in our waste management contracts	<p>Narrative measure on comms activity relating to waste/ recycling</p> <p>Quantitative information on recycling rate, contamination rates, % of residual waste to landfill</p>	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>The council marked Global Recycling Day with a reminder for people to 'Check it before you Chuck it'.</p> <p>Easter Bank Holiday changes to waste and recycling collections were promoted via the council's normal comms channels.</p> <p>A short clip, caught on camera by a Biffa crew, that highlighted what happens when garden waste is frozen solid in a wheelie bin reached over 18,000 people when the council posted it on social media during January.</p> <p>In February, South Oxfordshire highlighted the news that it had been confirmed as having the highest recycling rate in the country. Social media posts on this topic reached over 20,000 people.</p> <p>The council also publicised the changes being introduced for subscribers to South's brown bin garden waste service.</p> <p>As part of the council's activities for Food Waste Action Week in March, South Oxfordshire promoted its popular Compost Giveaway and a social media competition to win a hot composter (entrants had to say what steps they had taken to reduce their food waste). Posts relating to the hot composter competition reached over 10,600 accounts and resulted in significant engagement on Facebook.</p>

### Theme 3: Action on climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
ACE8	Support and encourage local businesses to respond to climate change and nature recovery	Narrative update on the work influencing work undertaken to support and encourage local businesses relating to climate change and nature recovery	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>The draft findings of the research study (being undertaken by Oxford Brookes) on understanding the net zero challenge for SMEs in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse were presented to officers. The final report is expected in Q1 2024/25 and will help to inform the solutions to be commissioned by the council via UK Shared Prosperity Funding.</p> <p>At a Greentech conference held at the Saïd Business School, Oxford Brookes presented the preliminary results of the net zero research study. Consequently, officers manning an exhibition stand at the event were able to receive feedback from attendees. They were also able to make numerous connections with businesses.</p> <p>The Economic Development team have continued to contribute to the Oxfordshire Business Support Net-Zero working group. In Q4, officers shared the initial findings from the Brookes' research study, reviewed (alongside colleagues from West Oxfordshire) a potential accreditation scheme for eco-friendly tourism businesses and put forward ideas on OxLEP's planned single entry point website for net-zero support.</p>

### Theme 3: Action on climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
ACE9	Promote waste minimisation initiatives such as Repair Cafés	Unless specific activity relating to Repair Café's and Freecycle can be reported on, suggest that this is covered in previous narratives	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>During Q4, South designed and then distributed the 2024-25 waste leaflet to all homes within the district – either through the post (alongside the household's council tax bill) or via their e-bill notification.</p> <p>Also, in Q4, South Oxfordshire published and promoted the council's new waste calendar. By the end of March more than 11,400 visits had been made to the waste calendar webpage. In addition, the council relaunched the option of downloading the calendar into iCal/Google Calendar.</p> <p>Work was carried out on promoting and delivering the 2024 waste survey – which launched on 12th March. The council publicised the survey through the 2024-25 waste leaflet and parish newsletters.</p> <p>The council highlighted the roadside litter clearance work carried out in the district by Biffa and publicised our new anti-litter road signs.</p> <p>Parishes and residents were encouraged to get involved with the Great British Spring Clean. South Oxfordshire also highlighted the activities and efforts of local groups via our social media channels.</p> <p>The council marked Global Recycling Day with a reminder for people to 'Check it before you Chuck it'.</p> <p>In February, South Oxfordshire highlighted the news that it had been confirmed as having the highest recycling rate in the country. Social media posts on this topic reached over 20,000 people.</p> <p>As part of the council's activities for Food Waste Action Week in March, South Oxfordshire promoted its popular Compost Giveaway and a social media competition to win a hot composter (entrants had to say what steps they had taken to reduce their food waste). Posts relating to the hot composter competition reached over 10,600 accounts and resulted in significant engagement on Facebook.</p>



### Theme 3: Action on climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
ACE10	Work with Oxfordshire County Council to build on our commitment to active travel including walking, public transport and cycling infrastructure	<p>Narrative update on work with Oxfordshire County Council</p> <p>Optional Quantitative metrics on the amount of new footpaths/ cycle paths</p>	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	During Q4 2023/24, officers continued to provide support to Oxfordshire County Council on the development of the Strategic Active Travel Network (SATN) – this seeks to provide a network of strategic travel routes across Oxfordshire.

## Theme 4: Improved economic and community well-being

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
ECW1	Partner with regional agencies to ensure economic recovery, quality employment, thriving businesses and vibrant communities, avoiding the blight of “dormitory towns”	<p>Narrative report on work with partners in this area</p> <p>Quantitative metrics relating to employment rates (trends, actuals) - unemployment rate, trajectory/trend, earnings information</p>	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>In Q4, a short-term action plan to support the visitor economy was finalised. This focused upon tangible support schemes for businesses operating in the sector and established an improved digital promotional presence that can be directly managed by Economic Development.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire remains involved in shaping and participating in countywide initiatives through the Future Oxfordshire Partnership. In this forum, officers and members continue to work for the realisation of the Good Growth Principles in the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.</p> <p>The Economic Development team have maintained their connection to the working group overseeing the development of the emerging Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) for Oxfordshire. Following endorsement of the SEP by the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership's (OxLEP) board, work has now started by OxLEP on the creation of an action plan.</p> <p>The team have also continued to liaise with countywide counterparts via the Joint Oxfordshire Business Support (JOBS) group and with the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy steering group.</p> <p>Officers have attended workshops – facilitated by the county council – on anchor institution procurement in the region.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire’s claimant count was recorded by the Office for National Statistics as 2.0 per cent of the working age population.</p> <p>As of November 2023, the median average wage in South Oxfordshire was £34,810.</p>

## Theme 4: Improved economic and community well-being

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
ECW2	Provide advice on access to grants, training and diversification programmes, helping local businesses to build agility and resilience	Quantitative measures - number of businesses we engage with, social media hits, newsletter subscribers, clickthrough rate, numbers of business grants awarded	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q4 2023/24, Economic Development sent out 11 newsletters. These achieved a 50.0 per cent open rate and a 15.0 per cent clickthrough rate. The most popular link was the survey being undertaken by Oxford Brookes on understanding the net zero challenge for SMEs in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. At the end of the quarter, the Economic Development newsletter has 2,502 subscribers (+9 on the figure for Q3).</p> <p>On social media, 79 posts were shared by Economic Development via X/Twitter. While the analytics tools on X/Twitter are not fully functional, these, nevertheless, gained 4,194 impressions and 163 engagements. On Facebook, Economic Development shared 79 posts. These earned 7,200 impressions, 84 engagements and five new followers.</p> <p>The council's Economic Development webpages received 690 clicks throughout the quarter. The most popular concerned United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Funding.</p> <p>Between January and March, the Economic Development team received 192 enquiries via the business support inbox.</p>
ECW3	Plan for communities connected by walking & cycling networks, with sustainable, accessible and affordable public transport and reliable Broadband, learning the lessons from the Covid-19 experience and enabling more home-working	<p>Narrative update on work support reliable broadband (where possible)</p> <p>Narrative update on transport initiatives</p> <p>Quantitative - new footpath/ cycle paths delivered</p>	Cabinet Member for Planning	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q4 2023/24, officers received an update from the Digital Infrastructure Partnership on the 5G Innovations Region Bid. They confirmed that Oxfordshire would receive the funding of £3.8m for the programme – which is aimed primarily at the business community and looks at innovative ways in which operations and processes can be improved using 5G connectivity.</p> <p>Also, in Q4, officers continued to provide support to Oxfordshire County Council on the development of the Strategic Active Travel Network (SATN) – this seeks to provide a network of strategic travel routes across Oxfordshire.</p>



## Theme 4: Improved economic and community well-being

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
ECW4	Launch a new community wellbeing strategy to encourage and support culture, leisure and the arts	Approval/Launch of 'Community Wellbeing Strategy' Y/N (document should encompass large parts of information above)	Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Head of Policy and Programmes	During Q4 2023/24, the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy Outcomes Framework was agreed. These key outcome indicators will assist South's work on its own Community Wellbeing Strategy.
ECW5	Use our planning powers to preserve our valuable green spaces, particularly in urban areas	Number of Neighbourhood Plans implemented/green spaces secured	Cabinet Member for Planning	Head of Planning	During Q4 2023/24, the council adopted one neighbourhood plan review for East Hagbourne. The made neighbourhood plan review designated six Local Green Spaces. (Local Green Space designations provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities). It also identified five other spaces as assets of local distinctiveness and of special importance to the community.
ECW6	Work with our communities to maximise Community Infrastructure Levy funds and to allocate these to achieve best outcomes for residents in the District	Narrative update about work in this area to include detail of new CIL spending strategy, communication with parishes  Quantitative elements - CIL Spend broken down by type, by parish	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration	Head of Finance	Following approval by the council as part of the budget setting process, fourteen new infrastructure projects were allocated CIL funding (totalling £2,400,844) in the 2024/25 capital programme.  South Oxfordshire also launched a CIL Grant Pilot Scheme to support infrastructure projects delivered by third parties within the district.

## Theme 4: Improved economic and community well-being

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
ECW7	Take enforcement action on fly-tipping and dog fouling	<p>Small narrative on Fly Tipping/dog following activity (with Comms input on any campaigns)</p> <p>Qualitative data on fly tipping - what we collect, where from, how much, nature of enforcement action undertaken, hotspot map</p>	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>In January 2024, there were 57 fly tips in South Oxfordshire. This was a significant decrease on the 85 fly tips recorded in January 2023.</p> <p>In February 2024, there were 96 fly tips in South Oxfordshire. This was an increase on the 82 fly tips recorded in February 2023.</p> <p>The figures for March 2024 are not yet available.</p> <p>During Q4 2023/24, the council issued six Fixed Penalty Notices for waste crimes. There were two prosecutions for waste crimes between January and March. Another prosecution is pending.</p> <p>In addition, officers received 93 abandoned vehicle reports during Q4 2023/24. Of these, 23 vehicles were not on site, 46 were identified as not abandoned, four were removed, and eight investigations remain ongoing (the other 12 were duplicate reports).</p>
ECW8	Work with local partners to introduce civil parking enforcement as a district responsibility	Narrative update on progress	Leader of the Council	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	No update required – action complete.

## Theme 5: Homes and infrastructure that meet local need - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
HILN1	Didcot Garden Town priority projects as identified by the Advisory Board, specifically a sustainable plan to redevelop the Didcot Gateway site, a public transport and active walking and cycling network, community facilities and accessible green spaces for Didcot residents	Narrative update against the stated aim, to include as many of the potential deliverables as possible, but not limited in scope to this	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2023/24, the Didcot Wayfinding and Green Infrastructure Strategies were finalised. These strategies will be considered for approval by Cabinet in Q1 2024/25.</p> <p>Progress has also been made on the Didcot Public Arts Plan. The final draft should be finalised in Q1 2024/25.</p> <p>£90,000 of external funding to advance the priorities of Didcot Garden Town was secured from Homes England/DLUHC.</p>
HILN2	The transformation of Berinsfield into a thriving Garden Village with improved facilities that are developed in line with the community's needs and aspirations	Narrative update against the stated aim, to include as many of the potential deliverables as possible, but not limited in scope to this	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2023/24, discussions continued between South Oxfordshire and Ptarmigan to inform the regeneration package and S106 agreement for Berinsfield Garden Village. Key areas of focus include affordable housing, leisure, community energy and infrastructure to support a community hub.</p> <p>Officers also continue to advance capital improvements within Berinsfield. UK Shared Prosperity Funding has been utilised to improve recreational facilities and to support decarbonisation projects on existing community assets.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire has continued to work with Oxfordshire County Council and the community on the creation of a Health Community Insight Profile. This will outline actions designed to address health inequalities within Berinsfield.</p> <p>South has secured £25,000 of funding to work with Berinsfield Parish Council on a community-led grants scheme to support improved health outcomes.</p>

## Theme 5: Homes and infrastructure that meet local need - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
HILN3	New council-owned homes with a focus on quality of design, affordability and local requirements	Narrative Update on the current activities which WILL result in the delivery of Council owned homes (and details of those homes where possible) Also reporting on progress of Design Guide	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q4 2023/24, work continued on Stage 1 (as defined by the Royal Institute of British Architects) of the construction project to deliver net zero homes at a council-owned site in Didcot. MICA – the design team for this project – have produced several potential options for consideration.</p> <p>Also, in Q4, an application was submitted for Brownfield Land Release Funding to unlock delivery on the site. Officers continue to explore other potential grant funding opportunities.</p>
HILN4	Support and encouragement for the retrofit of our existing housing stock for low-carbon performance and to eliminate fuel poverty	Narrative update on current/completed activities and influencing activity	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2023/24, the Climate &amp; Biodiversity and Planning teams worked together to publish a new webpage explaining when planning permission/consent is need for retrofitting measures.</p> <p>The council also published a new leaflet setting out the support and funding that is available within the district for energy saving home improvements.</p> <p>Funding for retrofitting remains available to eligible households in South Oxfordshire though Oxfordshire County Council’s Home Upgrade Grant.</p>



## Theme 5: Homes and infrastructure that meet local need - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
HILN5	Elimination of homelessness in our District	<p>Narrative update on progress in this area</p> <p>Quantitative information on - Homelessness rates, homeless cases and TA numbers, length of stay in TA and effectiveness of interventions (avoided homelessness)</p>	Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>South Oxfordshire recorded five rough sleepers at the end of Q4 2023/24 – an increase of two on the previous quarter. This is an indication of the mounting demands upon the housing service and the upward trend in rough sleeping nationally.</p> <p>The number of homeless households in temporary accommodation (TA) on 31 March 2024 was 26 – an increase on the previous quarter and a reflection of the rising number of homelessness presentations.</p> <p>During 2023/24, South Oxfordshire has seen a record number of homelessness approaches (565). This has been caused by a combination of factors including the cost-of-living crisis and the decline in availability of affordable private rented properties.</p> <p>The rolling six-month average length of stay in emergency accommodation was 38 nights, below the council’s ceiling target of 42 nights.</p> <p>During Q4 2023/24, the rate of successful homelessness prevention in South Oxfordshire was 73.0 per cent (an increase on the previous quarter). Although this was below the council’s own very challenging target of 80.0 per cent, it remains considerably above the South East prevention rate of 51.0 per cent. The most likely outcome for households where homelessness is not prevented is a stay in emergency or temporary accommodation which is both disruptive for the household and expensive for the council.</p> <p>The council continues to actively participate in numerous countywide partnerships to tackle homelessness in Oxfordshire. South is a member of the countywide Homelessness Steering Group, the Young Persons Steering Group, the Joint Management Group of Alliance Homelessness Services and the Homelessness Directors Group.</p> <p>Progress continues to be made on the Countywide Homelessness Strategy Action Plan to tackle single person homelessness in Oxfordshire.</p>

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Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
HILN6	Bringing empty properties back into use	Narrative update on any relevant initiatives to reduce the number of empty properties and any data on empty property levels in South Oxfordshire	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>Although there are currently no funded initiatives to bring vacant commercial premises back into use in South Oxfordshire, Economic Development are continuing to consider how future allocations of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) could be used to address the challenge of vacant units within the district. Initiatives to address the issue of empty premises will be further explored in Q1 2024/25.</p> <p>At the end of Q4, there were 363 commercial premises in South Oxfordshire that were listed as vacant on the business rates register – equating to collective rateable values of £6.4m.</p> <p>The individual vacancy rates for the district’s market towns are currently unavailable.</p>

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Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
HILN7	Ensuring that our teams are ready to access or signpost to any Government schemes or funding that is made available	Narrative update on signposting activity and if possible, update on take-up	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2023/24, Oxfordshire County Council – in partnership with Oxford City Council and West Oxfordshire, Cherwell, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils – successfully submitted a bid to receive £3.655m in Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding to develop EV charging infrastructure across the county.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire was awarded £1.49m from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (Phase 3c) for work to decarbonise Park Sports Centre, Wheatley and Didcot Wave Swimming Pool. The council also secured £160,351 to install photovoltaic solar panels at Thame Leisure Centre</p> <p>In conjunction with the Vale, South Oxfordshire submitted a proposal to Innovate UK to fund a research project to trial Electric Refuse Collection Vehicle for recycling and household waste.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire have also submitted applications to the Great Western Railway Customer and Community Infrastructure Fund for pedestrian infrastructure improvements to railway station approaches in Henley, Shiplake and Cholsey.</p> <p>Work has also been undertaken on a bid for Low Carbon Skills Funding (Phase 5) that would be used to develop heat decarbonisation plans.</p>

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Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
HILN8	New homes are future-proofed, meeting the highest environmental standards and enhancing nature through sensitive, high quality design	Narrative update around refresh of the design guide, local plan, and information around DES10	Cabinet Member for Planning	Head of Planning	<p>During Q4 2023/24, an important milestone was reached in the development of the Joint Local Plan with the holding of a Regulation 18 public consultation – this ran between 10th January and 26th February. The emerging plan includes innovative new draft policies on sustainable design and construction, net zero carbon buildings, reducing embodied carbon, sustainable retrofitting and renewable energy (CE1 – CE5). Officers are now reviewing all the comments that were received.</p> <p>Bioregional’s Net Zero Carbon Evidence study was published alongside the Joint Local Plan Regulation 18 public consultation. An additional element of this work – regarding renewable energy schemes – will be published alongside the Regulation 19 consultation in the autumn.</p> <p>Progress continued to be made on several other specialist studies that will contribute to the Joint Local Plan evidence base.</p>
HILN9	Spatial planning embeds public health, wellbeing and sustainability	Narrative update on work around planning reinforcing wellbeing and sustainability. This should include 'health based planning data' where possible - information on public gym equipment - footpaths, cycle paths etc.	Cabinet Member for Planning	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2023/24, an important milestone was reached in the development of the Joint Local Plan with the holding of a Regulation 18 public consultation – this ran between 10th January and 26th February. The emerging plan includes measures designed to reinforce healthy lifestyles, wellbeing and sustainability. Officers are now reviewing all the comments that were received.</p> <p>Progress also continued to be made on several other specialist studies that will contribute to the Joint Local Plan evidence base.</p>



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Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
HILN10	Changes over time in our stock of homes meet local needs	<p>Narrative update based on information available from 3rd parties and the impact this has on the local area</p> <p>Bedroom mix in new developments breakdown every 6 months</p>	Cabinet Member for Planning	Head of Planning	<p>During December 2023, the final month of Q3 2023/24, a further 37 affordable homes were reported as delivered. This took the quarterly total to 109.</p> <p>The type and size of the 37 units delivered was as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 3 x 1 bed flats</li> <li>- 3 x 1 bed houses</li> <li>- 12 x 2 bed flats</li> <li>- 11 x 2 bed houses</li> <li>- 8 x 3 bed houses</li> </ul> <p>During January, February and March 2024, Q4 of 2023/24, 61 affordable properties were reported as delivered.</p> <p>The type and size of the 61 units delivered in Q4 was as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 37 x 2 bed houses</li> <li>- 21 x 3 bed houses</li> <li>- 3 x 4 bed houses</li> </ul> <p>Overall, 2023/24 saw the delivery of 254 affordable homes.</p> <p>It should be noted that over the life of a development, different dwelling and tenure types will be delivered at varying rates depending upon the developer's build programme.</p>

## Theme 5: Homes and infrastructure that meet local need - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
HILN11	Sustainable transport solutions prioritise walking, cycling and public transport to reduce car dependency and air pollution	Narrative update on overall progress relating to sustainable transport solutions - particularly EV elements	Cabinet Member for Planning	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q4 2023/24, the pilot county-wide EV car club scheme continued. Vehicles are available to hire in Henley and Wallingford through 'CoWheels' and there has been a good uptake. Furthermore, the pilot has been extended for a further six months – until September 2024.</p> <p>Progress continued to be made on the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Funding (LEVI) grant. The Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) received the signed grant offer letter from Oxfordshire County Council for the Funding; the county council now expect to receive the first tranche of funds by the end of April.</p> <p>A press release announcing the awarding to Oxfordshire of £3.6m in Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding to triple the number of EV chargers in the county was issued in March.</p> <p>Also, in Q4, officers continued to provide support to Oxfordshire County Council on the development of the Strategic Active Travel Network (SATN) – this seeks to provide a network of strategic travel routes across Oxfordshire.</p>

## Theme 6: Investment that rebuilds our financial viability - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
IRFV1	Develop and implement an innovative Transformation Strategy to diversify our revenue streams, improve our effectiveness and secure our on-going viability	<p>Narrative measure relating to the development of an overarching Transformation Strategy and any overall narrative linking to potential deliverables</p> <p>Quantitative data - Income relative to Net expenditure (in context), this could be broken down by service</p>	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property Assets	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2023/24, further progress was made on reviewing/refreshing the Transformation Programme's governance and infrastructure.</p> <p>Additional work is also currently being undertaken to refresh the council's Technology Strategy.</p>
IRFV2	"Invest to save" for the District, including the delivery of sustainable new Council offices – on time and within budget – to realise future operational efficiencies	Narrative on progress of the Corporate Office project, including data on current spend on office accommodation which will no longer be spent once project completed. Further narrative to discuss impact of new building finances	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property Assets	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2023/24, officers worked on finalising responses to the queries raised during the planning consultation process for the new office building.</p> <p>Work also continued on developing the procurement pack, and finalising the employer's requirements, in preparation for the start of the process to appoint a main contractor for the project.</p>

## Theme 6: Investment that rebuilds our financial viability - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
IRFV3	Exercise strong Stewardship of all Council assets including property and financial investments, optimising their performance for the benefit of our residents	Narrative update on the progress of the SPR, in the initial period detailing the scope and scape, then once SPR has been delivered, the outcomes and future measures (quant element)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property Assets	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>South Oxfordshire was awarded £1.49m from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (Phase 3c) for work to decarbonise Park Sports Centre, Wheatley and Didcot Wave Swimming Pool. The council also secured £160,351 to install photovoltaic solar panels at Thame Leisure Centre</p> <p>In conjunction with the Vale, South Oxfordshire submitted a proposal to Innovate UK to fund a research project to trial Electric Refuse Collection Vehicle for recycling and household waste.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire have also submitted applications to the Great Western Railway Customer and Community Infrastructure Fund for pedestrian infrastructure improvements to railway station approaches in Henley, Shiplake and Cholsey.</p> <p>Work has also been undertaken on a bid for Low Carbon Skills Funding (Phase 5) that would be used to develop heat decarbonisation plans.</p> <p>During Q4 2023/24, Oxfordshire County Council – in partnership with Oxford City Council and West Oxfordshire, Cherwell, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils – successfully submitted a bid to receive £3.655m in Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding to develop EV charging infrastructure across the county.</p>



## Theme 6: Investment that rebuilds our financial viability - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
IRFV4	Maximise external funding opportunities to support our services and to enrich our leisure, sporting and community activities	<p>Narrative update relating to external funding utilisation, both funding received direct to the council, and projects which have received part external funding or are in progress if not already delivered</p> <p>Specific elements which should be included - Proportion of spend on leisure/community facilities vs amount funded by Council.</p> <p>CIL/106 spend broken down by type/parish</p> <p>Externally funded Capital schemes</p> <p>Total External funding received figure - narrative should be clear that this is not the total figure</p>	Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>South Oxfordshire was awarded £1.49m from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (Phase 3c) for work to decarbonise Park Sports Centre, Wheatley and Didcot Wave Swimming Pool. The council also secured £160,351 to install photovoltaic solar panels at Thame Leisure Centre</p> <p>In conjunction with the Vale, South Oxfordshire submitted a proposal to Innovate UK to fund a research project to trial Electric Refuse Collection Vehicle for recycling and household waste.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire have also submitted applications to the Great Western Railway Customer and Community Infrastructure Fund for pedestrian infrastructure improvements to railway station approaches in Henley, Shiplake and Cholsey.</p> <p>Work has also been undertaken on a bid for Low Carbon Skills Funding (Phase 5) that would be used to develop heat decarbonisation plans.</p> <p>During Q4 2023/24, Oxfordshire County Council – in partnership with Oxford City Council and West Oxfordshire, Cherwell, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils – successfully submitted a bid to receive £3.655m in Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding to develop EV charging infrastructure across the county.</p>
IRFV5	Invest responsibly and ethically with the Climate Emergency at the heart of what we do	Narrative update detailing changes which have included climate elements into regularised decision making	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property Assets	Head of Finance	<p>For the first time, South Oxfordshire’s Treasury Management Strategy included an Environmental, Social and Governmental (ESG) statement. This strategy was agreed by the council at its meeting in February.</p> <p>In addition, South’s treasury advisors, as a consequence of the new ESG statement, have been asked to undertake a funds review.</p>



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### **Policy and Programmes**


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