

# Nature and Climate Action Plan

2025-29

South Oxfordshire and  
Vale of White Horse District Councils



Listening Learning Leading



**Vale  
of White Horse**  
District Council



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# Nature and Climate Action Plan 2025-29

## Introduction

This plan sets out the actions that South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council will be taking over the next four years to deliver against our commitments to fight climate change and to restore nature to our districts. This is the first joint action plan between the two councils, and it describes how we intend to deliver our key climate and nature strategic goals, as set out in our respective Council Plans 2025-29. This plan focusses on actions that can be delivered over the next two years. Where longer term actions are identified, it is recognised that their delivery may be affected by local government reorganisation and devolution.

Both councils have ambitious targets to become net zero in their own operations by 2030 and to become net zero districts by 2045. In recent years it has become clear that climate change and the catastrophic losses suffered in the natural world are inextricably linked. This new Nature and Climate Action Plan (NCAP) therefore also includes actions that the councils will be taking to reverse the decline in nature and to help our communities adapt to the changing climate.





# Our progress

The councils' net zero targets are a part of a longer-term strategy to reduce carbon emissions, which we have been working on and reporting annually since 2009/10. Both councils declared a climate emergency in 2019, which led to the publication of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse's Climate Action Plans 2022-24, which for the first time clearly set out the actions that each council would take to reduce our own carbon emissions.

South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse District Councils have already made significant progress in reducing carbon emissions and taking climate action:



Our journey so far

# Highlights 2022-24 Vale of White Horse



A total of £5,992,916 Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funding secured over the last two years to decarbonise our buildings

Establishment of Electric Vehicle Car Clubs based in council car parks, offering an alternative sustainable transport option



Supported local organisations with energy efficiency initiatives and decarbonisation measures, through awarding £252,824 of Rural England Prosperity Funding

Inclusion of Carbon Reduction and Energy Efficiency scoring and weighting as mandatory in our standard evaluation criteria, used when assessing bids for contracts



A total of £454,216 climate and nature focused external funding directly secured



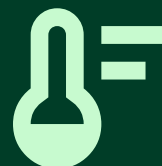
A Carbon Emissions Tool shared with Town and Parish councils to help record and monitor the carbon emissions of their own operations

Delivery of webinars for community organisations on supporting domestic retrofit and how to retrofit community buildings



Issued capital grant offers totalling £132,000 to support small and midsize enterprises (SMEs) with implementing decarbonisation plans

An internal Climate Impact Assessment Tool launched and made mandatory, to help assess the climate and nature impacts of our projects and decision making



Committed £47,000 of UK Shared Prosperity Funding to support decarbonisation programmes for small businesses. Including, free energy audits and decarbonisation planning support



Funded £72,000 of projects to encourage Green Skills training courses to support the transition to net-zero

Delivery of the first 'park and charge' project – 62 public electric vehicle changing bays now operational in council car parks



9 decarbonisations surveys and assessments completed for leisure and other council buildings

Public convenience refurbishments included energy saving measures, such as energy efficient lighting, solar panels and rainwater harvesting



A total of £291,192 awarded through the Vale Climate Action Fund to local community organisations, for natural environment, energy, waste and consumption and sustainable transport projects, throughout 2022-24

New meadow areas created on land we manage – 61,900m<sup>2</sup> in total in 2024



Our journey so far

# Highlights 2022-24 South Oxfordshire



A total of £1,866,546 Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funding secured over the last two years to decarbonise our buildings

Establishment of Electric Vehicle Car Clubs based in council car parks, offering an alternative sustainable transport option



Supported local organisations with energy efficiency initiatives and decarbonisation measures, through awarding £240,297 of Rural England Prosperity Funding

Inclusion of Carbon Reduction and Energy Efficiency scoring and weighting as mandatory in our standard evaluation criteria, used when assessing bids for contracts



A total of £500,621 climate and nature focused external funding directly secured



A Carbon Emissions Tool shared with Town and Parish councils to help record and monitor the carbon emissions of their own operations

Delivery of webinars for community organisations on supporting domestic retrofit and how to retrofit community buildings



Issued capital grant offers totalling £105,000 to support small and midsize enterprises (SMEs) with implementing decarbonisation plans

An internal Climate Impact Assessment Tool launched and made mandatory, to help assess the climate and nature impacts of our projects and decision making



Successful application for Designated Bathing Water Status for the River Thames at Wallingford Beach



Funded £72,000 of projects to encourage Green Skills training courses to support the transition to net-zero

Delivery of the first 'park and charge' project – 62 public electric vehicle changing bays now operational in council car parks



9 decarbonisations surveys and assessments completed for leisure and other council buildings

Public convenience refurbishments included energy saving measures, such as energy efficient lighting, solar panels and rainwater harvesting



Committed £47,000 of UK Shared Prosperity Funding to support decarbonisation programmes for small businesses. Including, free energy audits and decarbonisation planning support

New meadow areas created on land we manage –10,250m<sup>2</sup> in total in 2024





# Context

**The councils' NCAP is part of a much larger picture, consisting of international and national law and local initiatives and plans, all of which influence our priorities:**

Internationally, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the entity responsible for the global response to climate change and oversees the implementation of the 2015 Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change which pledges to keep temperatures “well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5°C”.

Nationally, the UK Climate Change Act 2008 is the basis for the UK's approach to tackling and responding to climate change. It was amended in June 2019 and commits the Government to a 100 per cent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 compared with 1990 levels. The Act also created an independent Committee on Climate Change to provide advice to the government on these targets and related policies. The 2021 Environment Act covers a broad range of issues across four priority areas of air quality, biodiversity,

water and waste. Significantly, the Act introduced new duties on local authorities to deliver a net gain for biodiversity in planning, produce Local Nature Recovery Strategies, strengthened the [Biodiversity Duty](#) and set new statutory requirements for reporting on progress.

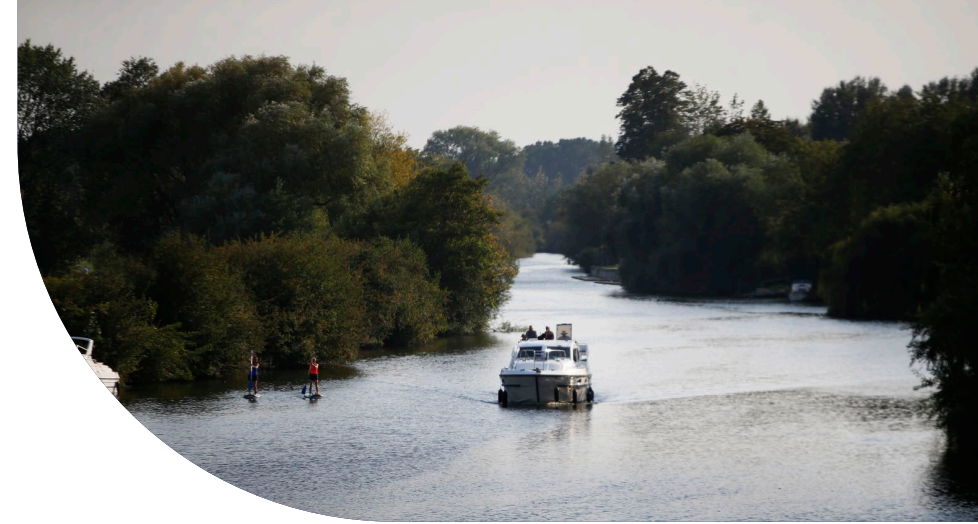
The NCAP recognises working in partnership as a fundamental part of our efforts to address climate change and deliver nature's recovery. The councils' activity to reduce district-wide emissions is focused on supporting grassroots activities by local organisations and communities, alongside working in partnership with our neighbouring councils. This collaborative approach is set out in the [Oxfordshire Net Zero Routemap and Action Plan](#), which sets out a pathway for the county to achieve net zero by 2050 (the Oxfordshire-wide target).

In a similar way, we are working with a wide variety of partners to develop an approach to nature recovery in Oxfordshire, focusing on the creation of the Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). The LNRS will set the direction of work in the county and the NCAP will translate this strategy into actions that we can take within our districts.



# Scope of the NCAP

The NCAP has been designed to work alongside other existing local strategies and action plans and not to duplicate the actions and initiatives set out in these documents. For example, the following themes are addressed through the corresponding strategies and action plans:



## Air Quality

- [South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Joint Air Quality Action Plan](#)

## Local Food Production and Food Waste

- [Oxfordshire Food Strategy](#)
- [South Oxfordshire Food Action Plan](#)
- [Vale of White Horse Food Action Plan](#)
- [South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Joint Waste Resources and Street Cleansing Strategy](#)

## Land use planning, including carbon in new developments and the protection of nature and biodiversity net gain

- [South Oxfordshire Joint Local Plan 2041](#)
- [Vale of White Horse Joint Local Plan 2041](#)



# NCAP themes

The NCAP 2025-29 presents a list of actions that will help us achieve our aims of driving nature's recovery, cutting carbon emissions and creating a culture of sustainability through our operations.

The actions within the NCAP are split into five themes:

## 1. Operational Net Zero

Focuses on our council operations, buildings, and assets where we have direct control over our carbon emissions.

## 2. District Net Zero – Communities, Engagement and Behaviour Change

Considers how the councils can support our residents, communities and businesses to make choices which drive a reduction in carbon emissions across the districts.

## 3. District Net Zero – Partnerships

Concentrates on the areas that the councils can have the strongest impact on by working with our partners to achieve change and drive carbon reductions.

## 4. Nature Recovery

Sets out how we can drive nature recovery on our own land as an example to others, as well as setting out the actions that we can take both directly and in partnership to deliver the ambitions set out in the forthcoming Oxfordshire LNRS.

## 5. Adaptation

Looks at how the councils can ensure our service delivery is resilient to changing climate and on how we can support our residents and communities to adapt to extremes of a changing climate.



# Measuring progress

Each action within the NCAP includes measure(s) which will enable monitoring and reporting. Progress will be reviewed annually, and performance reporting will be in line with the Council Plans' framework and approach. Performance updates will be reported to South Oxfordshire's Climate and Ecological Emergencies Advisory Committee, the Vale of White Horse's Climate Emergency Advisory Committee and to Cabinet meetings.

The measures within the NCAP have been designed to be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-Bound (SMART) where possible, to enable clear monitoring of progress. The NCAP will be a live document and actions may be added, reprioritised and refocused as part of an annual review process. This will allow us to take account of a changing legislative and regulatory environment, as well as the progress of local government reorganisation and devolution.



**Wantage Draught Busters, funded by Vale Climate Action Fund**



**Hinksey Heights Nature Trail Boardwalk, funded by Vale Climate Action Fund**



**Mowbray Fields, Didcot, meadow area on South Oxfordshire District Council land**



**Wallingford Beach, designated bathing water in South Oxfordshire**

# Action table

ID	Action	Measure(s)	Team(s)	Head of Service	Indicative timescale
Operational Net Zero					
ONZ1	Produce annual reports outlining progress towards the councils' operational net zero targets and the predicted emissions pathway to 2030	1) Annual report on progress towards South Oxfordshire's operational net zero target and modelled emissions to 2030.  2) Annual report on progress towards Vale of White Horse's operational net zero target and modelled emissions to 2030	Climate and Biodiversity	Head of Policy and Programmes	Annual reporting
ONZ2	Produce annual greenhouse gas emissions reports	1) Annual report on South Oxfordshire's operational greenhouse gas emissions  2) Annual report on Vale of White Horse's operational greenhouse gas emissions	Climate and Biodiversity	Head of Policy and Programmes	Annual reporting
ONZ3	Deliver an ongoing programme of climate training and engagement for all staff and offer additional opportunities for enhanced training for staff working in areas of high carbon emissions or potential for influencing others.	1) Number of staff completing climate e-learning modules from 2025/26  2) Number of staff completing enhanced training from 2025/26  3) 15% of workforce to have completed enhanced training by Q4 2026/27	HR/Climate and Biodiversity	Head of Corporate Services/Head of Policy and Programmes	Annual reporting



ID	Action	Measure(s)	Team(s)	Head of Service	Indicative timescale
<b>Operational Net Zero</b>					
ONZ4	Review the councils' approach to reporting Scope 3 emissions, considering emerging best practice and embodied carbon.	<p>1) Complete review of councils' approach to reporting Scope 3 emissions and seek approval for revised approach</p> <p>2) Revised approach to Scope 3 reporting implemented for 2026/27 reporting cycle</p>	Climate and Biodiversity	Head of Policy and Programmes	Short - Year 1
ONZ5	Continue identifying opportunities for, and seek additional funding to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions within the homes of our tenants, installing systems such as air source heat pumps backed up by solar PV and utilising battery energy storage systems to replace traditional carbon-based heating systems.	Percentage of council-owned homes with renewable energy heating systems.	Property Assets/Insight and Policy	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord/ Head of Policy and Programmes	Annual reporting
ONZ6	Maximise external funding to support the council's climate actions to reduce emissions from its own operations.	<p>1) Number of grant applications made to support climate actions annually</p> <p>2) Amount of income received to support climate projects annually and projected carbon emission reduction</p>	Insight and Policy	Head of Policy and Programmes	Annual Reporting

ID	Action	Measure(s)	Team(s)	Head of Service	Indicative timescale
<b>Operational Net Zero</b>					
ONZ7	Investigate new and/or innovative finance opportunities to support the councils' decarbonisation projects.	<p>1) 'Spend to save' opportunities are to be considered, alongside an affordable financing plan developed to fund the council's decarbonisation projects, commensurate with the council's overall financial position.</p> <p>2) Financing the councils' net zero targets, where it is deemed affordable, to be included in the councils' medium term financial plan</p>	Strategic Finance	Head of Finance	Annual reporting
ONZ8	<p>A) Trial electric refuse vehicles and other relevant vehicle options, to identify the most suitable waste vehicles for reducing carbon emissions whilst maintaining service delivery.</p> <p>B) Replace end of life vehicles with the most suitable low carbon options and ensure there is the necessary supporting infrastructure</p>	<p>1) Complete electric waste vehicle trial by March 2025</p> <p>2) Review waste procurement strategy based on results of trial and post-trial report and update if appropriate</p>	Waste	Head of Housing and Environment	1) and 2) Short - Year 1

ID	Action	Measure(s)	Team(s)	Head of Service	Indicative timescale
<b>Operational Net Zero</b>					
ONZ9	Embed a climate-centred approach into all scales of procurement (including for routine and low risk purchases)	<p>1) Publication of new climate and biodiversity guidance for officers for tender specifications and evaluations by Q1 2025/26</p> <p>2) Update and enhance the climate and ecological implications section of the procurement training by Q3 2025/26</p>	Procurement/ Climate and Biodiversity	Head of Finance/Head of Policy and Programmes	Short - Year 1
ONZ10	Review opportunities to maximise and deliver renewable energy installations on council owned buildings.	Renewable energy opportunities assessment completed	Property Assets/Climate and Biodiversity	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord/Head of Policy and Programmes	Short - Year 1
ONZ11	Prepare a decarbonisation plan for all council operational buildings (those from which we deliver a council service) to include cost, potential funding sources and timeline.	Decarbonisation plan for all operational buildings completed by Q1 2025/26	Climate and Biodiversity	Climate and Biodiversity	Short - Year 1



ID	Action	Measure(s)	Team(s)	Head of Service	Indicative timescale
<b>Operational Net Zero</b>					
ONZ12	Develop and agree an approach to offsetting the councils unavoidable residual carbon emissions, with local co-benefits.	<p>1) Research approaches to offsetting residual carbon emissions and develop options for the councils to consider by Q1 2025/26.</p> <p>2) Seek agreement for a set of principles to guide the councils' approach to offset residual carbon emissions by Q2 2025/26</p>	Climate and Biodiversity	Head of Policy and Programmes	1) and 2) Short - Year 1
ONZ13	Investigate options, and if appropriate procure software, for remote monitoring of energy management performance of domestic and commercial building stock and train staff to manage software.	Option assessment completed and, if appropriate, software procured.	Property Assets/IT	Property Assets/IT	Short - Year 1 options assessment
ONZ14	Create and deliver a plan to reduce carbon emissions from business mileage	<p>1) Carbon emissions from business mileage - baseline and % reduction reported annually</p> <p>2) Revised travel and expenses policy approved, with addition of low emission travel options</p> <p>3) Production of a plan to reduce carbon emissions from business mileage</p>	Climate and Biodiversity	Head of Policy and Programmes	Short - Year 1

ID	Action	Measure(s)	Team(s)	Head of Service	Indicative timescale
<b>Operational Net Zero</b>					
ONZ15	Ensure the new council depot provides sufficient EV charging points for existing and future waste vehicles.	Waste depot equipped with appropriate charging facilities for current waste fleet and options for future waste fleet.	Waste/Property	Head of Housing and Environment	Short - Year 2
ONZ16	Retrofit all existing council-owned homes to a minimum of EPC C on change of tenancy	100% of council-owned homes with an EPC rating of C or above by Q4 2026/27	Property Assets	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Short - Year 2
ONZ17	Create and deliver a plan for council vehicles (excluding waste fleet) to be zero emission, with necessary charging infrastructure in place or through utilisation of public charging network where possible.	Number and percentage of council fleet vehicles that are zero emission	Grounds Maintenance/ Facilities	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Long

ID	Action	Measure(s)	Team(s)	Head of Service	Indicative timescale
<b>District Net Zero - Communications, Engagement and Behaviour Change</b>					
DNZ1	Engage with national policy makers to advocate for actions that reduce or limit the impacts of climate change and enable nature recovery at the local and regional level	<p>1) Number of relevant consultations responded to annually</p> <p>2) Number of national policy makers engaged with on topics related to climate change and nature recovery</p> <p>3) Narrative/case study on a piece of advocacy, demonstrating impact and change for climate and/or nature at a local and regional level</p>	Insight and Policy	Head of Policy and Programmes	Annual reporting
DNZ2	Support residents to transition to healthy, low carbon lifestyles through our services	<p>1) Narrative on how energy efficiency advice is integrated into Cost of Living support for residents provided by the councils' Community Hub and partners.</p> <p>2) Narrative and number of initiatives developed or supported, led by the council or in partnership, to encourage community food growing</p> <p>3) Number of S&amp;V residents signing up to energysaverapp annually</p> <p>4) Number of energy efficiency grants taken up by S&amp;V residents annually</p>	Community Wellbeing	Head of Communities	Annual reporting



ID	Action	Measure(s)	Team(s)	Head of Service	Indicative timescale
<b>District Net Zero - Communications, Engagement and Behaviour Change</b>					
DNZ3	Deliver a communications and engagement plan to support communities to transition to low carbon lifestyles	1) Number of social media statistics following promotional campaigns (for example, engaged with, reached and sharing of posts)  2) Number of press releases annually  3) Narrative on relative success of nature recovery and climate focused campaigns	Communications	Head of Corporate Services	Annual reporting
DNZ4	Encourage the transition to electric vehicles for taxi drivers	1) Percentage of taxi drivers with low emission taxis.  2) Narrative on support provided to aid transition to low emission vehicles for taxi drivers	Licensing	Head of Communities	Annual reporting
DNZ5	Proactively engage with and support, businesses to decarbonise their own operations and influence others in the community	1) Number of businesses signposted to decarbonisation support resources  2) Number of businesses supported to access funding  3) Number of businesses supported to access individual advice and guidance  4) Emissions reduction for projects grant funded by grants delivered by the economic development team (tonne / kilo)	Economic Development	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Annual reporting

ID	Action	Measure(s)	Team(s)	Head of Service	Indicative timescale
<b>District Net Zero - Communications, Engagement and Behaviour Change</b>					
DNZ6	Encourage development of green skills within local businesses	1) Number of green skills courses/ trainings promoted  2) Number of local organisations taking up green skills training  3) Number of residents taking up green skills training	Economic Development	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Annual reporting
DNZ7	Encourage and support projects to address climate change and nature recovery within the district's Garden Communities.	Number of and narrative on, climate and nature recovery projects in Garden Communities that the councils' have supported	Garden Communities	Head of Communities	Annual reporting
DNZ8	Provide resources, funding, advice and expertise to Town and Parish Councils and VCSE to decarbonise their operations and support residents to adopt low carbon lifestyles.	1) Council website resources updated and maintained, measured by unique visits and downloads  2) Narrative update on organisations supported, including case studies and/or learning. For example, through networking opportunities  3) Number and value of council grants awarded for climate projects annually	Climate and Biodiversity	Head of Policy and Programmes	Annual reporting

ID	Action	Measure(s)	Team(s)	Head of Service	Indicative timescale
<b>District Net Zero - Communications, Engagement and Behaviour Change</b>					
DNZ9	Consider how the councils' Treasury Management strategy and role as a responsible investor can make a positive contribution to the councils' and district-wide net zero targets.	Commission a report to be carried out by the council's Treasury Management Advisors, the findings of which will be considered for inclusion in the councils' future treasury management strategies and reflected in treasury management operations in line with the council's obligations under treasury management regulations and their overall financial standing.	Strategic Finance	Head of Finance	Short - Year 1

ID	Action	Measure(s)	Team(s)	Head of Service	Indicative timescale
<b>District Net Zero - Partnerships</b>					
DNZ10	Support the decarbonisation of buildings in the districts.	<p>1) Track progress through reporting the percentage of households with MCS-certified renewable energy installations in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse</p> <p>2) Research and consider the establishment of a green loan system for retrofitting and installing energy efficiency measures in private sector homes</p>	Climate and Biodiversity	Head of Policy and Programmes	Annual reporting
DNZ11	Support upgrades to energy infrastructure in the districts needed to achieve net-zero targets. For example, through developing local area energy plans for South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse and supporting community energy projects.	<p>1) Publication of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse local area energy plans</p> <p>2) Narrative/case study on community energy projects that the councils have supported</p>	Climate and Biodiversity	Head of Policy and Programmes	Annual reporting



ID	Action	Measure(s)	Team(s)	Head of Service	Indicative timescale
<b>District Net Zero - Partnerships</b>					
DNZ12	Install publicly accessible electric vehicle charging infrastructure to support uptake of electric vehicles and improve access to charge points, to meet the Oxfordshire EV Strategy target of converting 7.5% of local authority managed car park spaces, to fast or rapid charging, by 2025. Subject to a strategic review on what car parks both councils need and will therefore be retaining.	1) Number of public chargers installed on council owned land and their locations  2) Usage percentages for chargers operated on behalf of the councils	Technical services/Climate and Biodiversity	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord/Head of Policy and Programmes	Annual reporting
DNZ13	Work with Oxfordshire County Council and other partners to deliver active and sustainable travel infrastructure initiatives in the district	1) Narrative on initiatives implemented, for example healthy placeshaping project  2) Usage data for initiatives such as EV car clubs located in council owned car parks	Climate and Biodiversity/Community Wellbeing	Head of Communities/Head of Policy and Programmes	Annual reporting

ID	Action	Measure(s)	Team(s)	Head of Service	Indicative timescale
<b>District Net Zero - Partnerships</b>					
DNZ14	Produce annual reports outlining progress towards South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district net zero targets	1) Annual report on progress towards South Oxfordshire's district-wide net zero target  2) ktCO2 emitted from sources in South Oxfordshire each year  3) Annual report on progress towards Vale of White Horse's district-wide net zero target  4) ktCO2 emitted from sources in Vale of White Horse each year	Climate and Biodiversity	Head of Policy and Programmes	Annual reporting
DNZ16	Investigate and enforce reported breaches of Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) for privately rented homes.	Number of MEES breaches investigated and enforced	Private Sector Housing/Climate and Biodiversity	Head of Housing and Environment/ Head of Policy and Programmes	Short - Year 1
DNZ17	Work with partners to develop green financing mechanisms to fund district wide decarbonisation projects.	Narrative report on identification of green financing mechanisms	Climate and Biodiversity	Head of Policy and Programmes	Short - Year 1

ID	Action	Measure(s)	Team(s)	Head of Service	Indicative timescale
<b>Nature Recovery</b>					
NR1	Provide resources, funding, advice and expertise to Town and Parish Councils, landowners, community and nature groups, to support nature recovery projects and delivery of the LNRS.	<p>1) Council website resources updated and maintained, measured by unique visits and downloads</p> <p>2) Narrative update on organisations supported, including case studies and/or learning and networking opportunities</p> <p>3) Number and value of council grants awarded for nature recovery projects</p>	Climate and Biodiversity	Head of Policy and Programmes	Annual reporting
NR2	Promote the development of Habitat Banks in appropriate locations in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse as a key mechanism to drive nature recovery	<p>1) Number of habitat banks approved by South Oxfordshire/Vale of White Horse through Section 106 agreements</p> <p>2) Number of biodiversity units secured through council agreed habitat banks located in South Oxfordshire/Vale of White Horse</p>	Planning	Head of Planning	Annual reporting
NR3	Seek opportunities to increase support for, and the profile of the Local Wildlife Sites Project as a key mechanism to help deliver nature recovery.	<p>1) Number of local wildlife sites surveyed</p> <p>2) Number of local wildlife sites where management advice is provided</p>	Climate and Biodiversity	Head of Policy and Programmes	Annual reporting

ID	Action	Measure(s)	Team(s)	Head of Service	Indicative timescale
<b>Nature Recovery</b>					
NR4	Drive improvements to the ecological health of our river systems for people and wildlife. In part, delivered through support for and active engagement in the catchment partnerships	<p>1) Narrative report on projects and initiatives supported which aim to drive improvements in the ecological health of our river systems</p> <p>2) Activity to influence Thames Water, the Environment Agency and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to improve the ecological health of rivers and waterways in South and Vale</p>	Climate and Biodiversity	Climate and Biodiversity	Annual reporting
NR5	<p>A) Aim to eliminate the use of peat in grounds maintenance on our land by the end of 2025/26.</p> <p>B) Reduce the use of harmful herbicides.</p>	<p>1) Amount of peat used in grounds maintenance and supply chains</p> <p>2) Amount of herbicides used in grounds maintenance operations</p>	Grounds Maintenance	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Annual reporting
NR6	Review the use of annual bedding plants in grounds maintenance operations in favour of locally grown, sustainable alternatives	<p>1) Establish a baseline for current bedding plant usage by end of Q1 2025/26.</p> <p>2) Percentage reduction in use of annual bedding plants</p>	Grounds Maintenance/ Climate and Biodiversity	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>1) Short - Year 1</p> <p>2) Annual report</p>



ID	Action	Measure(s)	Team(s)	Head of Service	Indicative timescale
<b>Nature Recovery</b>					
NR7	Undertake biodiversity audit of corporate land and develop proposals to put nature recovery at the heart of our grounds' maintenance operations.	<p>1) Complete biodiversity audits of South Oxfordshire/Vale of White Horse corporate land (Climate and Biodiversity Team)</p> <p>2) Develop options for nature recovery on council owned land and seek approval for implementation. (Joint action Climate and Biodiversity and Grounds Maintenance)</p> <p>3) Percentage of council owned land managed for nature recovery (Climate and Biodiversity)</p> <p>4) Produce a report outlining options for nature-based carbon sequestration schemes on council owned land (Climate and Biodiversity)</p>	Climate and Biodiversity and Grounds Maintenance	Head of Policy and Programmes/ Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	1) & 2) Short - Years 1 and 2 3) & 4) Annual reporting

ID	Action	Measure(s)	Team(s)	Head of Service	Indicative timescale
Nature Recovery					
NR8	<p>Support the development of land-based carbon sequestration offsetting model for the districts, by:</p> <p>Working with the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership and other Oxfordshire local authorities, deliver Innovate UK Net Zero Living 'Enabling nature-based carbon offsetting in Oxfordshire' project to develop new markets in Oxfordshire for nature-based offsetting.</p>	Delivery of Innovate UK Net-Zero Living project final report by Q2 2025/26	Climate and Biodiversity	Head of Policy and Programmes	Short - Year 1
NR9	Work with partners to produce an Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and identify actions for South and Vale councils to deliver following adoption of the Strategy	<p>1) Adoption of the Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy by Q3 2025/26</p> <p>2) Develop action plan for South and Vale and incorporate actions into annual review of NCAP by Q3 2025/26</p>	Climate and Biodiversity	Head of Policy and Programmes	Short - Year 1

ID	Action	Measure(s)	Team(s)	Head of Service	Indicative timescale
<b>Climate Adaptation</b>					
CA1	Support communities to adapt to extreme heat, with a focus on people more vulnerable to extreme temperatures	<p>1) Delivery of awareness campaigns, for example, 'beat the heat' and 'cool spaces'. Measured by - social media statistics following promotional campaigns (for example, engaged with, reached and sharing of posts) and number of press releases related to climate adaptation</p> <p>2) Narrative on success of climate adaptation focused campaigns</p>	Climate and Biodiversity/ Comms	Head of Policy and Programmes	Annual reporting
CA2	Support communities and other agencies to adapt to flooding, with a focus on community flood resilience and natural flood management	<p>1) Narrative and number of flood and drainage alleviation schemes facilitated and/or implemented</p> <p>2) Summary of other activities to reduce risk of flooding</p>	Technical Services	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Annual reporting

ID	Action	Measure(s)	Team(s)	Head of Service	Indicative timescale
<b>Climate Adaptation</b>					
CA3	Work with partners to develop an Oxfordshire climate adaptation route map and action plan.	Publication of Oxfordshire Climate Adaptation Route Map and Action Plan	Climate and Biodiversity	Head of Policy and Programmes	Short - Year 1
CA4	Following publication of Oxfordshire climate adaptation route map and action plan, develop district level adaptation actions for the councils and integrate into annual review of the NCAP	Develop district level action plan for South and Vale and incorporate actions into annual review of NCAP by Q4 2025/26	Climate and Biodiversity	Head of Policy and Programmes	Short - Year 2



# Get in touch

The Climate and Biodiversity Team can be contacted at [climateaction@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:climateaction@southandvale.gov.uk) if you would like to discuss this action plan.

Alternative formats of this publication can be made available on request. These include large print, braille, audio, email, easy read and other languages. Please contact [equalities@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@southandvale.gov.uk).