

Listening Learning Leading



Annual Delivery Plan 2025/26

The Way Ahead

When we will do it







Action on climate change and nature recovery

Leading in building climate resilient communities, reducing carbon emissions and restoring our natural environment

- Promote sustainable practices
- Enhance nature recovery
- Deliver action on climate change

- Council-owned homes decarbonisation programme
- Nature and Climate Action Plan (NCAP) delivery
- South Oxfordshire Net Zero programme
- Proactively engage with and support businesses to decarbonise their own operations
 and influence others in the community
- Remove fossil fuels from council-operated leisure centres as part of our decarbonisation plans
- Watlington Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Wheatley West Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Nuneham Courtenay Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Technical Services delivery
- Emergency response work programme

- Following publication of Oxfordshire Climate Adaptation Route Map and Action Plan, develop district level adaptation actions for the council and integrate into annual review of the Nature and Climate Action Plan
- Fulfilment of statutory Biodiversity Net Gain obligations
- Promote the development of Habitat Banks in appropriate locations in South Oxfordshire as a key mechanism to drive nature recovery
- Seek opportunities to increase support for and the profile of the Local Wildlife Sites
 Project as a key mechanism to help deliver Nature Recovery
- Undertake biodiversity audit of corporate land and develop proposals to put nature recovery at the heart of our grounds maintenance operations
- Progress towards adoption of an Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and identifying actions for the council to deliver following adoption of the Strategy
- Waste Resources and Street Cleansing Strategy Action Plan

We will take a multifaceted approach based on direct action, working in partnership, and exerting influence.



How we will do it



Direct Action



Working in Partnership



Exerting Influence

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Within the period of the Annual Delivery Plan 2025/26



Beyond the period of the Annual Delivery Plan 2025/26 (i.e. 2026/27 or later)



Outcomes	How we will do it:	How we will measure progress	How we will report it	Reporting
Expand and scale-		Percentage of council-owned homes with an EPC rating of C or above	• 100% by Q4 2026/27 / RAG & trajectory	Annual
		Number of council-owned homes with renewable energy systems	• 9 homes by Q1 2027/28 & RAG	Annual
up decarbonisation activity	Consult Consult	 Progress towards net zero carbon district by 2045 (South Oxfordshire) 	RAG, trajectory & narrative	Annual
		 Number of council-operated leisure facilities that have undergone decarbonisation 	• 5 by 2027/28 (retrospective)	Quarterly
Reduce operational		 Reduction in gross operational greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 	• % / RAG & (downward) trajectory (2030 target)	Annual
greenhouse gas emissions		 Number and percentage of council fleet vehicles that are zero emission 	Number and % (increase)	Annual
	Consult of the second	Narrative and number of flood and drainage alleviation schemes facilitated and/or implemented	 3 & narrative Nuneham Courtenay - 2025/26 Watlington - 2026/27 Wheatley West - 2026/27 	Annual
Support communities	(Ansall	 Summary of other activities to reduce risk of flooding 	• N/A (narrative only)	Annual
to alleviate and adapt to extreme weather events	A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH	 Narrative and number of locations where expert advice and support provided on flood alleviation 	Number, location & narrative (retrospective)	Annual
		Advise communities on emergency response plans	Number of emergency response plans & narrative (retrospective)	Annual
		Develop district level action plan and incorporate actions into annual review of Nature and Climate Action Plan	Yes/No (by Q4 2025/26) & narrative	Annual

Outcomes	How we will do it:	How we will measure progress	How we will report it	Reporting
		 Biodiversity Net Gain reporting (including mean BNG from permitted major and minor developments) 	• 10% uplift in Area Units & narrative	Annual
		Number of habitat banks approved through Section 106 agreements	• 1 per year & narrative	Annual
Enhance biodiversity	Consult Consul	 Number of biodiversity units secured through council agreed habitat banks located in South Oxfordshire 	• 50 Area Habitat Units per year	Annual
	Consult of the control of the contro	Number of local wildlife sites surveyed	• 7	Annual
	(Ansall	 Number of local wildlife sites where management advice is provided 	• 5 & narrative	Annual
		Percentage of council-owned land managed for nature recovery	% (retrospective) & trajectory (increase)	Annual
Collaborate to achieve our climate and ecological goals	Consult .	Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy adopted	RAG & trajectory (October 2025)	Annual
		Amount of residual waste per household	 kgs per household (decrease) - target of 330kgs per household for 2026/27 	Annual
		 Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting 	• % (increase) – ongoing target of 62%	Annual

Participation, Accessibility, and Accountability

Ensuring robust governance, transparency, and equitable access to council services

- Promote transparent governance
- Strengthen community participation in local democracy
- Deliver equitable access to services

- Communications and Engagement Service delivery
- Democratic Services meeting administration
- Fulfilment of statutory Information Governance obligations
- Delivery of council consultations
- Deliver Communications and Engagement Strategy
- Completion of Equalities Impact Screenings/Assessments
- Enable the Culture Forum

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Outcomes	How we will do it:	How we will measure progress	How we will report it	Reporting
Keep residents and communities		Improve accessibility of websites run by the council	 Compliance with WCAG 2.2 AA Standard Upward trend in Site Improve Accessibility Score (this includes targeting Site Improve's Industry Benchmark of 87.7% by the end of 2026/27 and targeting Site Improve's Site Target of 89.5% by the end of 2028/29) 	Annual Quarterly
informed of our work		External newsletter sign-up and open rate (Comms and other teams)	 Number of subscribers for residents' newsletters (increase) – target of 25% increase in subscribers for 2025/26, followed by an increase of 10% from the existing baseline in subsequent years Upward trend in open rates for Town and Parish Newsletters and 'In Focus' 	Quarterly Quarterly
	(Table)	All digitally enabled council meetings are livestreamed	• 100%	Monthly
Ensure transparency	(Anna)	 Publication of all formal democratic papers within five clear working days 	• 100%	Monthly
and accountability in council processes	Canal Canal	 Response rate to Freedom of Information (FOI) requests 	• 100% within statutory timeframe	Annual
	Canal Canal	 Response rate to Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) requests 	• 100% within statutory timeframe	Annual
Enable and increase active participation in decision-making	Consideration	 Embrace the opportunities that social and digital media channels/platforms bring – publicising the 'you said, we did' articles on the council's 'Join the Conversation' platform, publicising when decisions are made based on public feedback, and promoting participation in committee meetings ahead of time 	 Number of social posts (target of 5 social posts per quarter on 'you said, we did') 100% public accessibility to committee meetings 	Quarterly Quarterly
		 Number of 'you said, we did' articles published on the council's 'Join the Conversation' platform 	Number (retrospective)	Quarterly
	Good States	 Number of consultation reports included in decision- making reports (e.g. Cabinet reports, Individual Cabinet Member Decisions) – demonstrating feedback is included when decisions are made 	Number (retrospective)	Quarterly

Outcomes	How we will do it:	How we will measure progress	How we will report it	Reporting
Enable and increase active participation in decision-making		 Responses to council consultations – diversity/ representation data and any narrative around engaging specific marginalised groups 	• N/A (narrative only)	Annual
Ensure all residents have equitable and inclusive access to council services		 Equality Impact Screening/Assessment (EqIA) undertaken for all new formal decision-making processes¹; public-facing policies, strategies, and consultations; and projects delivering community benefit 	• 100% & narrative	Quarterly
		Enable delivery of the Culture Forum	N/A (narrative only) – target of 3 Culture Forums per year	Annual

Thriving, healthy, and inclusive communities

Nurturing healthy, safe, and resilient communities in our rural and urban areas while being responsive to the impact of national changes on local need. Championing local businesses, local food production and a thriving, sustainable local economy and fostering community cohesion and inclusion

- Promote sustainable economic development
- Strengthen community engagement and inclusion

- Enhance public health
- Create safe and clean environments

- Fulfilment of statutory safeguarding duty
- Anti-social behaviour service delivery
- Domestic Abuse Sanctuary Scheme
- You Move
- Move Together
- Performing Arts Grants Scheme
- Community Lottery Scheme
- Work in partnership with the creative sector to develop and successfully adopt a Culture, Heritage and Creative Industries Strategy for South and Vale
- S106 public art funding
- Health Inequalities Action Plan Healthy Didcot (Didcot Garden Town)
- Health Inequalities Action Plan Berinsfield Health and Wellbeing (Berinsfield Garden Village)
- Work in partnership with strategic health partners
- Leisure projects as detailed within the Capital Investment Programme
- Provision of council-operated leisure centres

- Equalities Road Show
- Community Hub provision
- Business support and engagement
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2025-26 delivery
 Rural England Prosperity Fund 2025-26 delivery
- CCTV Hub project
- Great Haseley Trading Estate Vehicle Depot Project
- Implementation of the council's Joint Air Quality Action Plan 2023-2028
- Waste Resources and Street Cleansing Strategy Action Plan
- Food hygiene inspections
- Nature and Climate Action Plan (NCAP) delivery
- South Chilterns Catchment Partnership
- Thame Catchment Partnership
- Wallingford Bathing Water Status
- The Mill Brook River Project

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Outcomes	How we will do it:	How we will measure progress	How we will report it	Reporting
		Total number of safeguarding referrals	Number & narrative (retrospective)	Quarterly
		Number of safeguarding referrals which met the threshold for action	Number/% & narrative(retrospective)	Quarterly
		Number and type of anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents reported to Community Safety Partnership members	Number & narrative (retrospective)	Quarterly
		Number of anti-social behaviour (ASB) Community Trigger applications made	Number & narrative (retrospective)	Quarterly
		Percentage of anti-social behaviour (ASB) Community Trigger applications which met threshold	• % & narrative (retrospective)	Quarterly
		Number of referrals to South and Vale Domestic Abuse Sanctuary Scheme	Number & narrative (retrospective)	Quarterly
Work in partnership to enhance health		 Number of people (You Move) and families (Move Together) participating in the council's physical activities programmes/events 	Number (increase)	Quarterly
and wellbeing in our communities	(Ansal	Outcomes of the council's physical activity programmes/ events (You Move & Move Together)	• N/A (narrative only)	Quarterly
	(Ansal)	Percentage of performing arts grants awarded and paid	• 100%	Annual
	The state of the s	 Percentage of projects funded by performing arts grants completed (fully spent) within one year of award 	• 95%	Annual
	And The same	Total external investment leveraged as a percentage of performing arts grant awards	• £ and % (retrospective)	Annual
		Total number of participants directly involved in projects funded by performing arts grant awards	Number of actual participants compared to number of participants projected in grant bids (retrospective)	Annual
	(Ansall	Total number of audience members directly benefitting from performing arts grant awards	Number of actual audience members compared to number of audience members projected in grant bids (retrospective)	Annual
	Consultation of the consul	Number of community lottery tickets sold, and annual estimated income generated	• Number & £ (retrospective)	Annual

Outcomes	How we will do it:	How we will measure progress	How we will report it	Reporting
	(ASS)	 Annual narrative on community lottery causes and awards 	• N/A (narrative only)	Annual
		 Culture, Heritage and Creative Industries Strategy adopted 	Yes/No (Summer 2026)	Annual
		 Drawdown of S106 monies to fund public art both directly and in partnership with external organisations 	• £ S106 monies drawn down and number of projects funded (retrospective)	Annual
Work in partnership to enhance health		 Health Inequalities Action Plan reporting – Healthy Didcot (Didcot Garden Town) – South and Vale joint reporting 	N/A – narrative only (retrospective)	Six- monthly
and wellbeing in our communities		 Health Inequalities Action Plan reporting – Berinsfield Health and Wellbeing (Berinsfield Garden Village) 	N/A – narrative only (retrospective)	Six- monthly
	(April)	Attendance at strategic health meetings	Number & narrative (retrospective)	Annual
	Carl Carl	 Number of leisure centre improvement projects underway 	• 6	Annual
		 Number of leisure centre improvement projects completed 	Number & narrative (retrospective) as projects complete	Annual
		Number of leisure centre visitors	Number (retrospective)	Quarterly
Promote equalities within our communities		 Public participation in equalities road show events: Number of events held Number of attendees Feedback following the event Narrative feedback 	 1 or more events, then report retrospectively on: Number Number Number (smiley-face balls) N/A (narrative only) 	Annual
Support residents via the Community		Number of residents accessing community hub services	 Number of emails and phone calls into the service (retrospective), plus a breakdown of the total into categories (ARAP, Cost of Living, Food, Ukraine, Other) 	Monthly
Hub		Impact of community hub services	N/A (narrative only – to include case studies and an impact report based on survey responses from residents using the service)	Annual

Outcomes	How we will do it:	How we will measure progress	How we will report it	Reporting
		 Business engagement activities (joint for South and Vale): Number of South and Vale Business Support Newsletter subscribers South and Vale Business Support Newsletter open rate Number of visitors to ScienceVale.com Number of visitors to SouthernOxfordshire.com Number of Visit Southern Oxfordshire Newsletter subscribers 	 Number (increase) 33% (generally accepted industry standard for public sector newsletter open rate) 100 visits per month 1000 visits per month 500 subscribers in year (total) 	Quarterly Quarterly Quarterly Quarterly Quarterly Quarterly
Promote a thriving and sustainable local economy		 Delivery of direct business support: Planning enquiry supported Businesses supported to improve sustainability Businesses supported to engage in inclusive economy initiatives Businesses supported to access finance Businesses supported to engage with wider council services Businesses signposted to external support Organisations engaging with Visitor Economy Support 	 10 businesses per year 15 businesses per year 20 businesses per year 10 businesses per year 15 businesses per year 25 organisations per year 	Quarterly Quarterly Quarterly Quarterly Quarterly Quarterly Quarterly Quarterly
		Delivering the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund 2025-26	 100% of funds committed ahead of the year-end deadline (31 March 2026) – reporting will confirm the amount of funding committed (£), RAG/trajectory and narrative update Funding allocation: UKSPF - £327,146 REPF - £219,934 	Annual
Take action to	(moss)	Completion of CCTV Hub project	RAG & trajectory	Annual
improve the safety and		Great Haseley Trading Estate Vehicle Depot Project progress (joint South and Vale project)	RAG, trajectory & narrative update - target completion Summer 2026	Quarterly
cleanliness of the local environment		Number of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the district	Number (decrease) – target of 1 for 2026/27	Annual

Outcomes	How we will do it:	How we will measure progress	How we will report it	Reporting
Take action to improve the safety and cleanliness of the local environment		 Food hygiene inspections: Percentage of food businesses with a hygiene rating of 3 or above Percentage of annual food hygiene inspections completed 	 % (increase) – ongoing target of 97% % (increase) – ongoing target of 98% 	Quarterly Quarterly
	Grand .	 Number of projects to promote and enhance water quality including driving the improvements in the ecological health of our rivers 	• 4 & narrative	Annual
		 Envirocrime data: Number of fly tips Percentage of fly tips with formal investigation Number of abandoned vehicles Percentage of abandoned vehicles with formal investigation 	 Number (decrease) – ongoing target of 190 % (increase) – ongoing target of 95% Number (decrease) – ongoing target of 170 % (increase) – ongoing target of 95% 	Quarterly Quarterly Quarterly Quarterly

Homes and infrastructure that meet local needs

Meeting local housing needs through sustainable development that is supported by appropriate infrastructure, protects green spaces, and mitigates the effects of climate change

- Deliver effective planning and high-quality development
- Deliver affordable and sustainable housing

• Promote infrastructure integration

- Develop and implement a Housing Strategy Delivery Action Plan
- 116-118 Broadway demolition and planning
- 116-118 Broadway design and build
- Garden Towns/Villages Delivery Plan implementation
- Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy delivery
- Refugee Accommodation Programme
- Housing Purchases Programme
- Housing Allocations Policy delivery
- Planning Developer Contributions Administration

- Nature and Climate Action Plan (NCAP) delivery
- Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) programme
- Berinsfield Garden Village Regeneration Strategy
- Great Western Park (Didcot) land transfers of public open and urban spaces
- Nature recovery on council-owned land
- Planning Service Plan delivery
- Neighbourhood Planning
- Joint Local Plan Development

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Outcomes	How we will do it:	How we will measure progress	How we will report it	Reporting
		 Housing Delivery Strategy Action Plan on track for completion 	• RAG	Annual
		Number of accommodation units directly provided by the council as a housing landlord	Number (increase) – target of 80 (including LAHF3) for 2026/27 & narrative	Quarterly
		 Number of new and affordable housing units delivered by Registered Providers (RPs) across the district 	• Number (increase) – target of 205 for 2025/26	Quarterly
		 Report on the work of Community Land Trusts in operation in the district and the work being done to support them 	• N/A (narrative only)	Quarterly
Increase delivery and acquisition of affordable housing		 Broadway redevelopment project to deliver affordable flats and ground floor community space: Demolition of 116-118 Broadway in accordance with prior approval permission. Appointment of a design and build contractor and decision to progress work on phase two of the project (RIBA stages 4-6). Commencement of work on RIBA stage 4 (Technical Design). Work with the Local Planning Authority to discharge the outstanding conditions. Commence enabling works and redevelopment of site in accordance with planning permission, to deliver affordable flats and commercial space for community use on the ground floor. 	 N/A (narrative only) & trajectory July/August 2025 October 2025 Ongoing March 2026 	Annual
	(Ansall	Number and trajectory of total homes delivered – Didcot Garden Town (South and Vale joint reporting)	• 15,500 by 2031 & narrative	Annual
	(AND)	 Delivery of Community Delivery Plan - Didcot Garden Town 	• N/A (narrative only)	Annual
	Consult of the control of the contro	 Progress through planning system - Berinsfield Garden Village 	• N/A (narrative only)	Annual
	Willes of the second	Delivery of Community Delivery Plan – Berinsfield Garden Village	• N/A (narrative only)	Annual

Outcomes	How we will do it:	How we will measure progress	How we will report it	Reporting
		 Homelessness prevention rate / percentage of potential homelessness cases successfully prevented 	• % (aiming for 80%)	Quarterly
		Housing register numbers – households in housing need	Number (retrospective)	Quarterly
		Number of rough sleepers	Number (retrospective)	Quarterly
Prevent and tackle		 Percentage of nominations to social housing within two days 	• % (aiming for 80%) – joint South and Vale target	Quarterly
homelessness		 Number of Ukraine and Afghan refugee families homed since March 2022 	Number (retrospective)	Quarterly
		Number of households in Emergency Temporary Accommodation	Number (decrease) – ongoing target of 8	Quarterly
		 Average length of stay in Emergency (hotel/B&Bs) Temporary Accommodation 	Days (aiming for 42 days)	Quarterly
		Amount of S106 housing funding received	• £ & narrative (retrospective)	Six- monthly
		 Amount of CIL funding received for use by the district council and approved for spend, and details of council projects delivered 	• £ & narrative (retrospective)	Annual
		Amount of CIL paid to town and parish councils	• £ & narrative (retrospective)	Six- monthly
Deliver integrated infrastructure		Number of EV public chargers installed on council owned land and their locations	Number (increase)	Annual
that meets local need		 Utilisation percentage change for EV chargers operated on behalf of the council 	• % (increase)	Annual
	(Ansal	Berinsfield Garden Village Regeneration Strategy completed	RAG & trajectory (target completion for strategy document is Q2 2026/27)	Quarterly
	Consult Consult	 Infrastructure projects proposed, planned, underway, or delivered - Didcot Garden Town (South and Vale joint reporting) 	• N/A (narrative only)	Annual
	Consult Consult	 Infrastructure projects proposed, planned, underway, or delivered - Berinsfield Garden Village 	N/A (narrative only)	Annual

Outcomes	How we will do it:	How we will measure progress	How we will report it	Reporting
Increase and enhance		 Great Western Park (Didcot) land transfers of public open and urban spaces 	% of land transfers completed (retrospective) & trajectory	Six- monthly
green infrastructure		Managing meadows on council land	Trend of the number of meadows (increase)Square meterage (increase)	Annual Annual
	SI.	 Increase email alert sign-ups - planning applications 	• 152 (10% above the last three-year average of sign-ups)	Annual
Increase public and community engagement in	Consult of the control of the contro	Number of successful Neighbourhood Plan proposals made (adopted)	 Number made (retrospective) Increase in % of total number of parishes covered by Neighbourhood Plans 	Annual
planning	Consult .	 Narrative provided on how Neighbourhood Plans have contributed to enhancing the council's strategic objectives, reporting on the success that has been achieved e.g. protecting green spaces 	• N/A (narrative only)	Annual
Ensure effective planning policies		Joint Local Plan examined and adopted	Yes/No (by March 2026) / RAG & trajectory	Annual

Financial Stability and Innovative Transformation

Continuous innovation and responsible investment to achieve financial stability

- Exercise responsible and ethical investment
- Innovate and improve service delivery
- Ensure financial stability

- External funding bid development and delivery
- Budget setting and budget monitoring
- Treasury Management activity
- Asset Management
- Local Government Reorganisation
- Corporate Complaints Policy and Procedure Delivery
- Customer Service Centre Service Level Agreement
- Customer Services digital offer
- Council Tax and Benefits digital offer

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Outcomes	How we will do it:	How we will measure progress	How we will report it	Reporting
Maximise external funding opportunities to support our services and deliver great		Value of external funding secured (cumulative total)	• £ (retrospective) - increase	Six- monthly
		Success rate for external funding bids	• 75%	Six- monthly
outcomes		Benefits of successful funding bids	• N/A (narrative only)	Six- monthly
Deliver robust financial reporting and forecasting		Overall forecast/outturn against budget (current year)	• £ / RAG, trajectory & narrative (retrospective)	Quarterly
Exercise strong stewardship of all		Compliance with Treasury Management Code of Practice	Narrative with some figures (retrospective)	Annual
council assets		Develop Asset Management Plan	Yes/No & narrative	Annual
Deliver strategic and operational change projects to drive transformation	(Passal)	Two unitary authority proposal delivered on time	Yes/No (November 2025) & narrative	Annual
		Number of upheld/not upheld complaints (stage 1/stage 2/referred to LGSCO)	Number (retrospective) & narrative	Monthly
Ensure all residents		Adhere to Customer service centre (CSC) service level agreements (figures provided for the CSC only, not applicable to contractor responses)	• 80% calls answered in 20 seconds & narrative	Monthly
receive great customer service		Response times on CRM	• 100% response time within 10 working days & narrative	Monthly
		Sign-ups to customer services 'My Account' (where residents can self-serve etc)	Number (increase) & narrative	Monthly
		Sign-ups to Council Tax and Benefits online portal	Number (increase)	Monthly