

Didcot Garden Town Programme 2025

On 23 and 24 June 2022 South Cabinet and Vale Cabinet resolved to approve the revised delivery plan for Didcot Garden Town, as shown in the report by the head of policy and programmes report to South Cabinet on 23 June 2022 and Vale Cabinet on 24 June 2022. Both Cabinets also agreed supplementary estimates to the Didcot Garden Town budgets, which were to be fully funded from the grant monies held in the council's reserves, thereafter, to be managed by the relevant budget holder to deliver the approved delivery plan.

The purpose of revising the delivery programme in 2022 was to enable greater focus on bringing forward community improvements, assist recovery of the garden town area following the pandemic, and to address the climate emergency. Three years on and with a Didcot Garden team currently in place, the team and its partners have started to implement projects on the ground, projects have been completed, or the focus needs to change.

Figure 1: 2025 Didcot Garden Town programme

Project	Interdependence	Timescales (as of June 2026)
<p>1. Healthy Didcot</p> <p>Work with partners to support the Healthy Didcot Action Plan implementation, to help address health and wellbeing inequalities identified in the Didcot Community Insight Profile, seeking budgets and leading projects where relevant.</p>	<p>The Didcot Community Insight profile identifies health inequalities in Didcot that can be improved by implementing the Healthy Didcot Action Plan. The £50,000 UKSPF funding is a significant boost to these projects but must be spent before 31 March 2026. Any balance after that will be lost and important health related projects will be non-viable.</p>	<p>All UKPF funded Healthy Didcot projects are to be completed by the end of September 2026, but many will continue to report beyond that.</p>
<p>2. Leisure and recreation</p> <p>Work with partners to enable local led sport</p>	<p>Focused input from the DGT team will</p>	<p>The project is expected to continue until</p>

<p>and leisure facilities provision where need is identified in the Districts' Leisure Facilities Strategies and Playing Pitch Strategies and help existing s106 Agreements to be fulfilled.</p>	<p>support fulfilment of opportunities for developer-led sport and leisure gain that might otherwise be lost or mis-matched with potential users.</p>	<p>2041 to support leisure provision in the Didcot area. Timescales for leisure and sports projects will be provided by end of September 2026 and reviewed annually.</p>
<p>3. Green infrastructure</p> <p>Advocate for, lead on and where relevant seek funding for green infrastructure project implementation in Didcot's masterplan area and area of influence including mid and long-term projects identified in the Didcot Green Infrastructure Strategy 2024 to enhance access to and provide new multi-functional, connected Didcot green spaces.</p>	<p>Current and future green infrastructure projects are essential for developing the perception of Didcot's status as a Garden Town and share dependencies with the rest of the DGT programme projects. Non-completion of these projects would result in loss of open space multi-functionality and lack of green placemaking.</p>	<p>Completion of the first four Cabinet approved projects is still expected by the end of 2028. The remainder of the overall project as defined in the Cabinet approved Green Infrastructure Strategy 2024, is subject to availability of funding with medium-term projects expected to complete 2029-2034 and long-term beyond 2034.</p>
<p>4. Public art</p> <p>Create public art installations in accordance with the approved Didcot Public Art Plan 2024.</p>	<p>The overall project to implement the Didcot Public Art Plan is led by the DGT team but in some cases, this is through partnership working, for example with the Oxford Health Charity, Didcot Town Council and Oxfordshire County Council. The public art projects are interdependent with section 106 availability, green infrastructure, placemaking and infrastructure development, which must be finalised before the associated public art can be created.</p>	<p>Phase one delivery of the Didcot Public Art Plan was to have been complete by the end of May 2026 but has been delayed due to complex land ownership and licencing issues Phase two and phase three are subject to funding availability and currently it appears one or more workstreams may be at risk.</p>
<p>5. Wayfinding</p> <p>Implement signage installation across Didcot in accordance with the Didcot Wayfinding</p>	<p>Implementing the Didcot Wayfinding Strategy is interdependent with green</p>	<p>The project was to be completed by the end of 2025 but due to expected delays in the</p>

<p>Strategy 2024.</p>	<p>infrastructure and other initiatives such as Nature Trails and Sustrans cycle routes. Successful implementation has the potential for roll-out by partners in surrounding areas such as Harwell, Milton Park and potentially in surrounding parishes.</p>	<p>landowner and planning approvals workstreams, is now estimated to be complete by September 2026.</p>
<p>6. Didcot Gateway</p> <p>Work with partners to advocate for projects and approaches that ensure a regenerated gateway to the town including through development of council and Homes England owned land and railway station improvements.</p>	<p>Two previous projects, development of council offices and mixed-use development of the Homes England site, have been widened to take advantage of DGT team partnership working for example with GWR and Network Rail to improve Didcot Parkway railway station surroundings. The project is interdependent with the green infrastructure, public art and wayfinding projects as well as the county council's strategies for the Didcot Central Corridor and OxRail 2040.</p>	<p>Two key elements of the overall project are paused due to Local Government Reorganisation.</p>
<p>7. Heart of Science Vale</p> <p>Work with partners to advocate for projects and approaches that ensure Didcot remains a focal point for science and technological development and innovation, including participation in relevant working groups and stakeholder groups.</p>	<p>The full scope of this project is still to be determined but will be interdependent with the rest of the DGT programme. It will ensure that the DGT Delivery Plan science and innovation principles are not overlooked.</p>	<p>This long-term project involving ongoing partnership working, is expected to continue for the life of the Didcot Garden Town programme.</p>
<p>8. Didcot Garden Town principles in development</p> <p>Prepare and submit comments on Didcot</p>	<p>This project is interdependent with the rest of</p>	<p>This long-term project involving ongoing</p>

<p>focused major planning applications and emerging planning policy documents in accordance with the principles set out in the Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan 2017.</p>	<p>the DGT programme. Without DGT team input into this project, Garden Town principles will be overlooked in development and planning policy preparation.</p>	<p>partnership working is expected to continue for the life of the Didcot Garden Town programme.</p>
<p>9. Legacy and stewardship</p> <p>Work with partners to identify and enable legacy and, where relevant, future stewardship arrangements for Didcot Garden Town.</p>	<p>The full scope of this project is still to be determined but is expected to be interdependent with the rest of the DGT programme. Without this project, Didcot's future as a Garden Town may be unplanned and become a resource burden to the district councils.</p>	<p>This long-term project involving ongoing partnership working, is expected to continue for the life of the Didcot Garden Town programme. Milestones for the project will be available by the end of March 2026.</p>
<p>Oxfordshire County Council-led projects (10-16)</p>		
<p>10. Science Vale Movement and Place Plan</p> <p>OCC to complete the Science Vale Movement and Place Plan to ensure improved services for transport users and consideration of transport connectivity hubs in association with rail infrastructure.</p>	<p>This Plan is and should remain fully interdependent with several DGT projects including wayfinding, green infrastructure and public art.</p>	<p>This will be a live and regularly updated document.</p>
<p>11. Didcot Central Corridor Optioneering</p> <p>OCC to prepare a placemaking strategy, Options Appraisal Report and associated Technical Note for three main routes known collectively as the Didcot Central Corridor.</p>	<p>This Plan is and should remain fully interdependent with several DGT projects including wayfinding, green infrastructure and public art.</p>	<p>Completion of optioneering project is expected by end of December 2026.</p>

<p>12. Northern Perimeter Road (NPR3 - OCC & Bloor Homes)</p> <p>OCC and Bloor Homes to design and implement the Northern Perimeter Road extension to link the A4130 Abingdon Road and the B4016 junction at Hadden Hill in two sections, north (OCC) and south (Bloor Homes).</p>	<p>Non-completion of this project would limit the numbers of houses that can be built in Didcot and create traffic jams with associated pollution.</p>	<p>Atkins Realis preliminary designs are to be completed by end of December 2026. The target date for opening of the northern section of the scheme is early 2027. Bloor Homes are committed to developing the southern section of roadway as a planning obligation, but a slower housing market has affected their commencement on this section of road.</p>
<p>13. HIF1 Science Bridge</p> <p>OCC to construct a single carriageway bridge ('Science Bridge') over the A4130, Great Western Main Line and Milton Road with high quality and segregated cycling and pedestrian facilities along its length. The Science Bridge will connect to a new link road through the former Didcot A Power Station and the Northern Perimeter north of the Purchas Road roundabout. Interlinked with DGT Science Bridge art project.</p>	<p>Non-completion of this project would limit the numbers of houses that can be built in Didcot and create traffic jams with associated pollution.</p>	<p>Timescales were reset following initial planning refusal and Secretary of State call-in, and construction is to now due be completed by March 2028.</p>
<p>14. HIF1 A4130 improvement</p> <p>OCC to construct a dual carriageway east of the Milton Interchange with 1.6km high quality and segregated cycling and pedestrian facilities linking to the Science Bridge and development at Valley Park.</p>	<p>Non-completion of this project would limit the numbers of houses that can be built in Didcot and create traffic jams with associated pollution.</p>	<p>Timescales were reset following initial planning refusal and Secretary of State call-in, and construction is to now due be completed by March 2028</p>

<p>15. HIF1 Clifton Hampden bypass</p> <p>OCC to construct a new single carriageway link road between the A415 at Culham and the B4015 to the north of Clifton Hampden, with shared-use walking and cycling facilities.</p>	<p>Non-completion of this project would limit the numbers of houses that can be built in Didcot and create traffic jams with associated pollution.</p>	<p>Timescales were reset following initial planning refusal and Secretary of State call-in, and construction is to now due be completed by March 2028</p>
<p>16. HIF1 Thames crossing</p> <p>OCC to construct a new single carriageway link road between the A4130 at Didcot and the A415 at Culham, with high quality and segregated walking and cycling facilities. The scheme will include a new bridge over the Appleford railway sidings and a new bridge over the Thames.</p>	<p>Non-completion of this project would limit the numbers of houses that can be built in Didcot and create traffic jams with associated pollution.</p>	<p>Timescales were reset following initial planning refusal and Secretary of State call-in, and construction is to now due be completed by March 2028</p>

The table in Figure 2 shows how the 2025 programme developed from the 2022 version change on a project-by-project basis. Blue shading identifies completed and merged projects and green shading shows new projects.

Figure 2: how we developed the 2025 programme from the 2022 version

Project (2022)	Description (2022)	Project update (2025)	Project lead (wider partners)	Project status
<p>1-4 HIF1 Science Bridge, A4130 improvement, Clifton Hampden</p>	<p>The Didcot Garden Town HIF1 schemes are constituted of four key pieces of highway infrastructure improvements: widening the A4130, Science Bridge, Didcot to Culham River</p>	<p>Planning approval for the four schemes was given on 11 December 2024. OCC has appointed consultants to carry out detailed design.</p>	<p>Oxfordshire County Council 'OCC'</p>	<p>On track against the current programme (following planning appeal approval by the Secretary of State). Construction is now expected to start in early 2026 and last</p>

<p>bypass and Thames crossing</p>	<p>Crossing and the Clifton Hampden Bypass. Although separate schemes, they must be delivered cohesively for their benefits to be fully realised. All schemes benefit from cycling and pedestrian provisions additionally.</p> <p>Complete design and technical studies for feasibility phase through to planning permission. Subsequently work with partners who will implement the project.</p>			<p>approximately two years.</p>
<p>5. Didcot Central Corridor (DCC)</p>	<p>To develop a placemaking strategy and prepare an Options Appraisal Report (OAR) for three main routes within Didcot known collectively as Didcot Central Corridor (DCC).</p> <p>These include the Cultural Spine (Broadway), Gateway Spine (Station Road), B4493 Foxhall Road and Jubilee Way roundabout.</p> <p>To transfer a funding contribution from SODC to OCC (subject to agreement) to support advancing the project and the inclusion of Jubilee Way roundabout in the scope. Key outputs for the project are to:</p> <p>1. Create a joint transport</p>	<p>Placemaking Strategy, Options Appraisal Report Stage 1 and Technical Note are complete.</p> <p>OCC is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preparing a funding strategy • identifying smaller scale schemes to progress to the next project stage • conducting an internal review of the DCC project in relation to wider strategy in the area. 	<p>OCC</p>	<p>Options Appraisal complete and outcomes to be considered through OCC's Science Vale Movement and Place Strategy (previously called Didcot Area Transport Strategy see project 13 below).</p>

	<p>(“movement”) and public realm (“place”) placemaking strategy for parts of central Didcot with the involvement of residents, businesses and relevant local stakeholders.</p> <p>2. Produce an Options Appraisal Report (OAR), Stage 1 and 2.</p> <p>3. Provide recommendations for short-to-long-term schemes to support future capital funding bids.</p>			
6. NPR3	<p>NPR3 forms part of the strategic transport infrastructure in Didcot and will extend the existing A4130 Didcot Northern Perimeter Road (NPR), linking the A4130, Abingdon Road and B4016 junction to the A4130 and Hadden Hill junction.</p> <p>To transfer £6.2m in grant funding from SODC to OCC subject to agreement. Complete design and technical studies for feasibility phase through to planning permission.</p> <p>Subsequently work with partners who will implement the project.</p>	<p>Northern section by OCC - Funding Agreement to transfer £6.2m for is in progress, preliminary designs have been completed and March 2025 engagement events held, Planning submission expected late 2025.</p> <p>Southern section – to be designed and provided by Bloor Homes, subject to planning obligation agreements.</p>	OCC and Bloor Homes	Preliminary design of the northern section is complete. Construction of the northern section was originally due spring 2025 to summer 2026 and is currently due Summer 2026 to summer 2027.
7. Didcot Gateway	Undertake a master planning	Homes England has prepared a	Homes England	Complete – subject to planning

masterplan	<p>exercise to set out the context for the delivery of individual sites within the wider Didcot Gateway area to support regeneration.</p> <p>Regeneration aims are to provide improvements to the arrival space for the Town and facilitate delivery of mixed-use schemes including homes, office space and a café.</p> <p>Support delivery of a regenerated gateway into the Town opposite Didcot Parkway train station and work with partners/third parties to implement it.</p>	masterplan, which is part of planning application P22/S0491/O, which is currently under consideration.	To be confirmed (including discussion with Oxford Growth Commission).	<p>decision.</p> <p>NEW PROJECT</p> <p>The DGT team will support and work with partners on schemes that provide a regenerated gateway into the Town</p>
8. Didcot Gateway council offices	Design of a highly sustainable Council office HQ building incorporating lettable office space, outdoor amenity areas and a public plaza.	Planning application P23/S2621/FUL was approved by South Oxfordshire's Planning Committee on 2 July 2025	South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils 'SAV'	On hold - due to Local Government Reorganisation discussions.
9. Wayfinding	<p>Identify areas to implement wayfinding to enhance user experience in accessing spaces around the Garden Town and helping them find their way to desired destinations.</p> <p>Wayfinding systems should help encourage active travel.</p>	<p>This project would have been deemed complete in 2024 following approval of the Didcot Wayfinding Strategy but at the South's Cabinet agreed budget to implement the strategy.</p> <p>A contractor has been appointed and is currently engaging with stakeholders and carrying out detailed design of the signage.</p>		

		<p>As part of wayfinding implementation, the contractor is to prepare a toolkit, which will help identify responsibilities for maintaining and updating signage. The toolkit would also be shared with planners and developers to encourage the style of the scheme being run out across new developments in surrounding areas.</p>		
10. Didcot LCWIP	<p>To develop and adopt a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for Didcot Garden Town to identify cycling and walking improvements required at the local level.</p> <p>The geographical scope to cover wards within the Area of Influence of the masterplan additionally to enhance connectivity. Project will consider existing routes that need improvements, as well as identifying new routes for both leisure and commuting purposes. Ensure the vision is community led, and provisions cater to all abilities helping them find their way to desired destinations.</p> <p>Wayfinding systems should help encourage active travel.</p>	<p>The completed LCWIP was approved by both cabinets in February 2024.</p> <p>South's Cabinet agreed budget to implement the strategy.</p> <p>A contractor has been appointed and is currently engaging with stakeholders and carrying out detailed design of the signage.</p> <p>As part of wayfinding implementation, the contractor is to prepare a toolkit, which will help identify responsibilities for maintaining and updating signage. The toolkit would also be shared with planners and developers to encourage the style of the scheme being run out across new developments in surrounding areas.</p>	DGT team (OCC)	<p>The completed and approved LCWIP will continue to inform planning decisions and implementation proposals going forward.</p>

<p>11. Science Vale Active Travel Network</p>	<p>To plan, develop and construct active travel routes across the Science Vale, connecting three main employment zones to Town centres including Didcot.</p> <p>Subsequently work with partners and third parties who will implement the project.</p> <p>Upon completion ensure wayfinding is integrated and routes are mapped to support accessibility.</p>	<p>This is an ongoing part of OCC's work programme for upgrading routes between Harwell Campus, Milton Park and Culham Science Centre and urban centres including Didcot.</p>	<p>OCC</p>	<p>Sustainability outcomes of this project will be replaced by outcomes of the green infrastructure implementation and new Healthy Didcot and Heart of Science Vale projects.</p>
<p>12. MultiCAV</p>	<p>Work with a consortium led by UK transport operator FirstGroup to plan and support an autonomous vehicle service travelling to and from Didcot Parkway to Milton Park.</p>	<p>Trials have been carried out on the route, but the use of fully autonomous buses is not yet supported by national legislation.</p>	<p>MEPC Milton Park (University of West England, First Bus)</p>	<p>Completed project</p>
<p>13. Didcot Area Transport Strategy now called Science Vale Movement and Placemaking strategy</p>	<p>Develop a local transport strategy for the Didcot Garden Town and Area of Influence boundaries and evaluate how integrated parking for all modes of transport including cycling can complement the increase in public transport use.</p> <p>Ensure the strategy improves services for users and considers the use of transport connectivity hubs in association with rail infrastructure.</p>	<p>Being developed by OCC as part of the Oxfordshire Local Transport and Connectivity Plan. OCC has renamed this project as Science Vale Movement and Placemaking Strategy and the DGT team has responded to an early draft strategy consultation.</p>	<p>OCC</p>	<p>Once OCC has formally approved the strategy this project will be closed and the DGT team will monitor active travel implementation via other projects.</p>

<p>14. Garden Town Development principles</p>	<p>Continue to evaluate against the Didcot Garden Town development principles and comment on significant planning applications within the Garden Town boundaries, working with our stakeholders for infrastructure, health and wellbeing to ensure high quality aims are delivered through detailed design.</p> <p>Work with developers on strategic sites to consider setting up design panels and/or design codes.</p>	<p>The DGT team considers against DGT principles 9-10 major, reserved matters and pre-app applications a year for sites in and around Didcot. The requirement to create a Design Code has been replaced by more detailed, emerging Local Plan Policy and The Joint Design Guide June 2022, both of which are material in determining planning applications. The team has widened its relationship with developers by inviting Didcot First to join the Advisory Board.</p>	<p>DGT team (SAV Planning)</p>	<p>Merged with project 15. Planning Policy</p>
<p>15. Garden Town Planning Policy</p>	<p>To co-ordinate with Planning Policy workstreams to influence and embed the Didcot Garden Town principles throughout leading strategic plans.</p> <p>Ensure conformity of the Garden Communities principles is aligned to emerging policy including (but not limited to) the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, Joint South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Local Plan and Neighbourhood Development Plans. This will enable the continued implementation of the Didcot Garden Town masterplan and overall development strategy</p>	<p>DGT officers have influenced the high level of detail in Didcot policies in the emerging Joint Local plan. go into more detail than previous policies or the now outdate SPD 2009.</p> <p>The emerging Joint Local Plan also tidies up the existing DGT boundaries to align with physical and administrative boundaries.</p>	<p>DGT team (SAV Planning)</p>	<p>Ongoing business as usual with DGT team commenting on major planning applications and draft at national, regional, local and neighbourhood policies.</p>

	for the area, highlighting core principles including connectivity and open space.			
16. Green infrastructure	<p>Conduct a review of neighbourhoods to identify areas where green infrastructure can improve the public realm. Assess the access to green/open space on the outskirts of Didcot, and how this can be strengthened to enable leisure and wellbeing benefits.</p> <p>Provide a phasing plan for biodiversity enhancements, including potential for other green infrastructure.</p> <p>Implement any short-term schemes and identify funding for future recommended improvements.</p>	<p>The Didcot Green Infrastructure Strategy was adopted in 2024. Consultant Groundwork has just been South Cabinet in April 2024 authorised an allocation of £500,000 capital for the implementation of four short-term green infrastructure improvement projects. Groundwork London have been appointed to carry out detailed design and specify the</p>	<p>DGT team (Didcot Town Council, OCC, Active Communities team, Healthy Didcot Steering Group, parishes, residents and businesses)</p>	<p>The strategy, including identification of short-term projects was completed by 2024 and detailed design of four such projects is in hand.</p>
			<p>DGT team (multiple organisations and stakeholders)</p>	<p>NEW PROJECT The DGT team would advocate for and where relevant seek funding for green infrastructure project implementation in Didcot's masterplan area and area of influence including mid and long-term projects identified in the Didcot Green Infrastructure Strategy</p>
17. Community programming environment & sustainability	<p>Work with local partners to deliver a series of projects connected with the environment and sustainability.</p> <p>Consider how to advance or compliment projects set out by the residents sounding board, with reference to the environment. This includes (but</p>	<p>The DGT team carried out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a successful Garden Pledge campaign • two years donation (262 trees in gardens) • Eco Fair for approx. 200 	<p>DGT team</p>	<p>This project has been merged with the new green infrastructure implementation project.</p>

	not limited to) the garden pledge, community gardens and tree planting.	people Energy Champion training for 10 local people		
18. Meanwhile spaces	Identify spaces, (including but not limited to derelict land, unused public realm, retail units), across the Garden Town including the 116 - 120 Broadway project. To plan and deliver a series of temporary to semi-permanent meanwhile and pop-up spaces with a variety of thematic backgrounds. Work with local partners and the community to deliver spaces to bring both social and economic benefits.	DGT officers monitor the quarterly vacant premises reports. A DGT public art project involving local youths was installed on the hoardings protecting the council's Broadway development site. An agreement was reached with Homes England that they would flower seed their Gateway site, but this has not been delivered.	DGT team	The funds identified for this project are currently being used to carry out temporary art works. The social outcomes this project will be absorbed into other projects including the new Healthy Didcot project.
19. Didcot public art and culture	The masterplan considers the inclusion of public art as a means towards revitalising areas such as underpasses, public spaces, gateways and reinforcement of character areas. Conduct a review of public areas to identify a scheme of public arts improvements across the Garden Town to support placemaking. Work with Cornerstone and Didcot Civic Hall to reinforce the idea of the Council-owned asset being at the heart of the Cultural Spine. To deliver a series of projects/events to increase outreach and the cultural offering	Review completed through Didcot Public Art Plan. Four years of Didcot Garden Parties have reinforced Cornerstone Arts Centre as heart of the Cultural Spine. Implementation of a series of art projects identified in the Didcot Public Art Plan has commenced. Long-term delivery is dependent on receipts of s106 funding and external funding.	Community Arts team (DGT team)	A long-term plan of art projects identified in the approved Didcot Public Art Plan will continue to be implemented subject to funding.

	of the Town; encouraging people to use restaurants and bars and to visit Didcot as a destination. This could be implemented through mechanisms such as meanwhile spaces.			
20. Leisure and Recreation Strategy	Conduct a local leisure needs review to understand current provisions and future opportunities for leisure, considering the new housing	In November 2024 both Cabinets approved very detailed district-wide Leisure Facilities Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy.	Planning Policy (DGT team)	Advisory Board endorsement of extracted data and mapping specifically related to Didcot from the district-wide Leisure Facilities Strategies and
				NEW PROJECT The DGT team to work with partners to enable local led sport, leisure and open space provision where need is identified in the Districts' Leisure Facilities Strategies and Playing Pitch Strategies and to help existing s106 Agreements be fulfilled.
21. Active Communities & Healthy Didcot	Work with South and Vale's Active Communities team to plan and implement a programme of activities and recreational provisions for all abilities to contribute to improving health statistics in Didcot.	A programme of activities has been provided over several years. For example, four years of Didcot Garden Parties.	DGT team (SAV Active Communities)	Funding has allowed for four years of successful summertime Didcot Garden Parties, and the beneficial outcomes of this project will continue through other projects such as Healthy Didcot.
		A community-led 'Healthy Didcot' steering group	DGT team	NEW PROJECT 'HEALTHY

		supported by DGT officers has been set up and is reviewing a draft Data Insight Report for Didcot and preparing a draft Action Plan. Additional UKSPF revenue for 2025-26 spend has been allocated to the Healthy Didcot project.	(Healthy Didcot Steering Group and OCC Public Health team)	DIDCOT' This will include advocating for, monitoring and in some cases seeking budgets for projects not led by others and identified in the Heathy Didcot Action Plan.
22. Town Centre and Retail Strategy	<p>To build on the findings of the recently commissioned District wide Town Centres and retail study. The commissioned study will inform the updated Joint Local Plan and should allow us to understand the current health of the Districts' Town centres and the future needs for retail and leisure within the area.</p> <p>The DGT Town centre and retail strategy will focus on establishing a blueprint for vitality and viability. The strategy could include realistic and achievable short, medium and long actions to guide the Council and relevant partners in approaching the complex number of components that influence Town centre success.</p> <p>It would be preferable that the strategy is adaptable and offers a degree of flexibility given the ongoing uncertainty around the</p>	This project was already paused.	SAV Economic Development team (DGT team)	Instead of preparing another strategy it is proposed to close this project and focus on implementation of other DGT projects that would improve the economy of Didcot.

	<p>impact of the pandemic.</p> <p>The Government's Build Back Better High Streets policy paper published in July 2021, suggested that there were 5 key priorities for high streets, namely: breathing new life into empty buildings; supporting high street businesses; improving the public realm; creating safe and clean spaces; celebrating pride in local communities (this point is reiterated in the levelling up white paper)</p>			
23. Apprenticeships, skills and training	<p>Work with partners to build on local networks to get the business community to influence programmes. Identify annual opportunities to hold skills and apprenticeship fairs using such mechanisms as meanwhile spaces to promote outreach.</p> <p>Consider replicating other successful soft interventions such as the pop-up business school delivered in 2019.</p>	<p>DGT officers have updated the Advisory Board on apprenticeship highlights, which include a wide range of opportunities and businesses. However, others have more practical influence in creating new opportunities.</p>	<p>Enterprise Oxford formerly OxLEP and Didcot businesses</p> <p>(OCC, Economic Development team)</p>	<p>Instead of duplicating other organisations data collection it is proposed to close this project and focus on implementation of other DGT projects that would improve the economy of Didcot.</p>
24. Co-working space	<p>Work with partners to improve digital inclusion throughout Didcot Garden Town through digital hubs, public Wi-Fi and other interventions.</p> <p>This work is also being explored</p>	<p>The landscape for co-working has changed following on from Covid and many Didcot businesses offer co-working opportunities.</p>	<p>Enterprise Oxford formerly OxLEP and Didcot businesses</p>	<p>Instead of duplicating other organisations data collection it is proposed to close this project and focus on implementation of other DGT projects that would improve the economy of Didcot.</p>

	through the business sounding board.		(OCC, Economic Development team)	
25. Local Development Orders (LDOs)	Work with partners to support opportunities to increase economic investment and job opportunities within the Garden Town.	The Milton Park and D-Tech LDOs have been approved by both Cabinets, without the need for DGT expenditure.	Planning and Economic Development team	Any further LDP proposals will be considered under the DGT Planning project.
26. Milton Bio Science Centre	Work with partners to support opportunities to increase investment and job opportunities in Didcot.	DGT held £7m government funding for the construction of a Milton Park Bio Science Centre for which construction is due imminently. In accordance with a Funding Agreement, budget has been transferred in tranches with a residue of just under £4.7m.	Economic Development team	Milton Park's unforeseen issues have delayed the transfer of the next tranche
			Economic Development team (DGT team, OCC and Enterprise Oxford, MEPC Milton Park, Harwell Campus and Culham Science Centre)	NEW PROJECT 'HEART OF SCIENCE VALE' The DGT team will advocate for projects and approaches that ensure Didcot remains a focal point for science and technological development and innovation, including participation in relevant working groups and stakeholder groups.
27. Identity and brand	Work with comms leads to develop adopted DGT logo. Develop long-term legacy plan to ensure Garden Town principles are sustained.	Work is in hand to encourage organisations such as Didcot Town Council, Better Leisure, Sustainable Didcot and Didcot TRAIN to take over ownership of summer holiday events and activities starting with a programme of events for this summer.	DGT team	The DGT team will work to identify legacy and stewardship requirement going forward.

