

Housing Timeline

Before the late 1990s

Both South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils had been social landlords - directly rented housing to residents – for decades.

From 1997

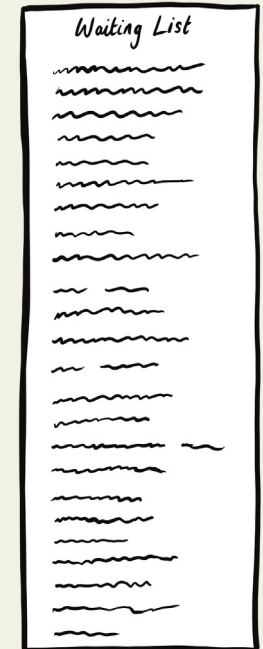
The role of the councils was to allocate vacant social housing, owned by housing associations, to those on the housing register.

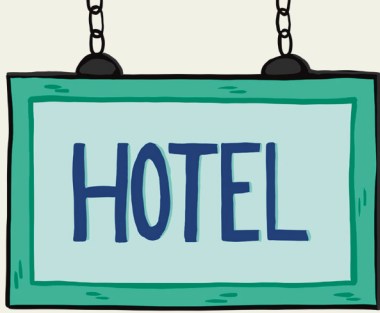
From 1995 - 1997

The councils were part of a national Large-Scale Voluntary Transfer scheme (LSVT) where social housing stock moved to housing associations.

By late 2010s

Both councils had housing waiting lists with 1,000+ applications.





There were two temporary accommodation hostels in Vale but once they were full both councils had to place those people who were eligible in hotels and B&Bs – expensive and unsuitable for long term accommodations because of a lack of cooking and laundry facilities.

Provide homes to meet current and future local need.

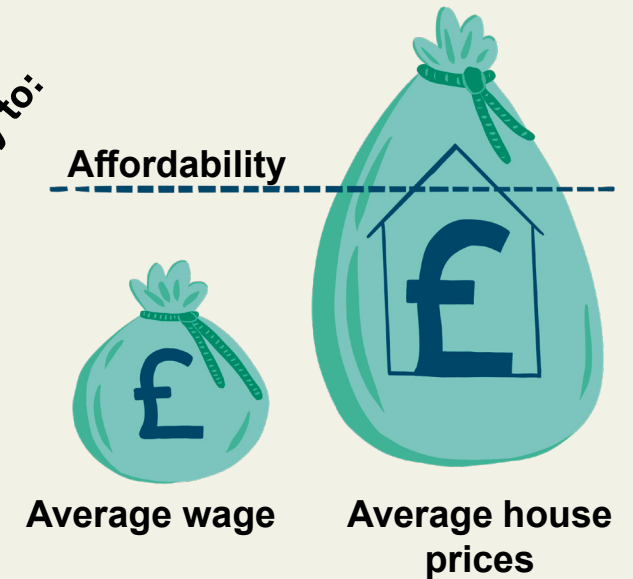
Deliver truly affordable housing – **Oxfordshire house prices are around nine times the average wage.** According to the Office of National Statistics the govt affordability threshold is up to five times the average wage.

In 2017

The council set aside £1m of its own funds to purchase 3 properties for temporary accommodation. The project was completed in 2022

November 2022

The councils agreed a new Housing Delivery Strategy to:



Support council
and community
led housing
initiatives

Plan for well-
designed net
zero carbon
housing



Approached by Ministry of
Defence to help them house
Afghan families who had
helped the UK government
prior to the exit in 2021



Agreed to use up
to £2m of money
to purchase stock

FOR
SALE

The Government launched
the first of the Local Authority
Housing Fund (LAHF) schemes -
a capital fund that supports local
authorities in England to obtain
housing to use as good quality
temporary accommodation
for people who are homeless
or at risk of homelessness
as well as accommodation to
support families on resettlement
schemes.

2023

Worked with the MoD and Home Office - 39 empty houses in the district to be used as Services Family Accommodation (SFA) – providing temporary accommodation to Afghan families. The council leased them from the MoD for three years and then rented them to the families.

Councils set up a community support team for migrants

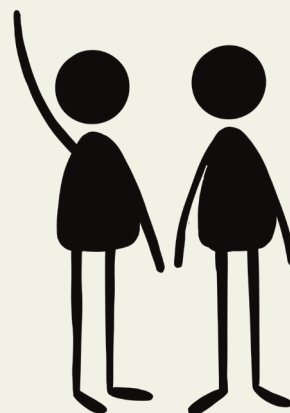


Set up an agreement with a Housing Association to provide maintenance and compliance checks to properties the council provided.

Set up the **Housing Delivery Team** to act as landlord for properties bought by the councils' **Strategic Property team**

Accepted the offer made under the LAHF scheme to help with buying homes which were made available for qualifying asylum seekers

The councils re-registered with the Regulator for Social Housing (RSH) and the Housing Ombudsman as a social landlord again after 25+ years



Summer 2023

2024

Committed to develop a building at Broadway in Didcot into nine one and two bedroom apartments to be rented at affordable rents to local people. Plus a community space.

Took up govt offers (LAHF 3 scheme) to help with buying homes which were made available for qualifying asylum seekers



Homelessness
Preventions Grant from
the government to
purchase used property

The Housing Delivery Team
Landlord function grew, and to
take repairs, maintenance and
compliance support in-house.

2025

The council
commits to buying
nine one bed
houses to be used
as temporary
accommodation.

The council
commits up to £10m
of capital funding
toward purchasing
of new property by
April 2027.

**FOR
SALE**

The Broadway project for affordable council rental apartments progressed with demolition of the old site and more than £1m funding from Homes England after a successful bid.

The council was successful in its bid for LAHF 4 funding.

2026

April 2026

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils carry out a satisfaction survey among their tenants for the first time since they re-registered as social housing providers. The councils scored 100 per cent satisfaction on questions on their housing repair service and whether their homes are well-maintained. They also scored highly on keeping communal areas clean and providing homes that are safe.



At the end of 2025 the government announced the new Social and Affordable Housing programme (SAHP). This is funding to support the capital costs of developing affordable housing in England. SAHP also seeks to support an increase in: council housebuilding — directly from councils or in partnership with registered providers or developers.

September 2026

To date more than 350 households who fled the war in Ukraine have been provided with housing in South and Vale area. The councils have also used the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) to obtain housing for 85 families from Afghanistan who were unable to find settled accommodation through resettlement schemes. A further 26 Afghan families were supported to secure permanent accommodation in South and Vale. Work with the Home Office has also supported 28 households to move out of temporary accommodation in the Vale.

Since July 2022 South has acquired 56 properties

Since January 2024 Vale has acquired 25 properties



End of 2026 and into 2027

The main SFA three-year lease scheme with the MoD comes to a close as Afghan families move on to more stable housing. The remainder will be completed by Spring 2027



A new Tenant Engagement strategy was approved and will help to ensure that the councils communicate with, and listen to, its accommodation users about the services it provides.

The council scored highly in tenant satisfaction measures.

November 2026