

Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan update summary

09/04/2024

Status	Delivery Plan Objective	Ref	Project name	Lead	Outputs	Outcomes	Project description	2023-24 Q4 progress and next steps	REVENUE			CAPITAL		
									£ DGT allocation	£ committed / spent	£ balance	£ DGT allocation	£ committed / spent	£ balance
Delayed	INFRASTRUCTURE and the BUILT ENVIRONMENT	1-4	Science Bridge A4130 improvements Clifton Hampden Bypass Culham Thames crossing	OCC	Fully constructed infrastructure	Improved connectivity, active travel, unlocking new homes and jobs delivery.	Four linked Highways Infrastructure Fund (HIF1)schemes north of Didcot.	Planning Inspectorate Planning Inquiry sitting in public started on 20 February and the next sitting will be 16-19 April 2024.						
On track	INFRASTRUCTURE and the BUILT ENVIRONMENT	5	Didcot Central Corridor Placemaking Strategy and Options Appraisal	OCC	Approved placemaking strategy and options appraisal	Transport model evidence based recommendations for highways changes in Didcot to increase active travel and improve traffic flow, increase active travel.	Input to a Placemaking Strategy for the Cultural Spine (Jubilee roundabout & Broadway), Gateway Spine (Station Rd.) and Foxhall Road, including consultation with stakeholders on capital projects options.	On 15 April OCC officers will update the Advisory Board on progress.						
On track	INFRASTRUCTURE and the BUILT ENVIRONMENT	6	Northern Perimeter Road (NPR3)	OCC	Fully constructed highways infrastructure	Increased active travel and improved traffic flow around the east of Didcot.	Contribution to the design and implementation of the A4130 Didcot northern perimeter road extension and transfer of £6.2m external funding to OCC.	£6.2m government funding is due to be transferred to OCC in tranches to enable detailed design initiation.						
On track	INFRASTRUCTURE and the BUILT ENVIRONMENT	7	Didcot Gateway - masterplan	Homes Engl.	Outline planning approval and published council-led masterplan	Context setting for a mixed use scheme of homes, offices and public open space on multiple sites and enhanced arrival at Didcot Parkway.	Input to masterplanning for the key Didcot Gateway site to ensure embedding of Didcot Garden Town principles.	Planning application P22/S0491/O is under consideration following consultation.						
On track	INFRASTRUCTURE and the BUILT ENVIRONMENT	8	Didcot Gateway - council offices	SAV	Fully constructed infrastructure	Delivery of a highly sustainable, district council headquarters, including lettable office space, landscaped amenity areas and a public plaza.	Input to the design and implemetation of this key Gateway development for the councils to ensure embedding of Didcot Garden Town principles.	Planning application P23/S2621/FUL for the council offices is under consideration following consultation.						
On track	INFRASTRUCTURE and the BUILT ENVIRONMENT	9	Wayfinding	DGT	Strategy and implementation	Enhanced, inclusive access to Didcot's spaces and destinations, support for active travel and greater connectivity between neighbourhoods and with Science Vale.	Preparation of a wayfinding strategy by consultants on behalf of the district councils to identify locationsfor and specify a wayfinding scheme across Didcot and delivery of the scheme on the ground.	The final draft DGT Wayfinding Strategy will be taken to South Cabinet on 18 April and to Vale Cabinet on 19 April for approval of the strategy and proposed implementation.	£20,000	£19,568	£432.00	£40,000		£40,000
Complete	ACTIVE TRAVEL and INNOVATION	10	Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)	OCC	Strategy	Identified, local level cycling and walking infrastructure improvements, aiming to provide for all abiliities across Didcot and the surrounding villages.	Preparation of a plan by consultants on behalf of the county and district councils.	Project 10 completed. On 14 December 2023, via Cabinet Member Decision, OCC approved the final LCWIP, previously endorsed by District ICMDs. The active travel improvements may be implemented as funds become available to the county council and others.	£54,000	£54,266	-£266.00			
Complete	ACTIVE TRAVEL and INNOVATION	11	Science Vale Active Travel Network	OCC	Fully constructed infrastructure	Active travel improved across Science Vale to connect employment zones to town centres including Didcot.	Input to preparation of a plan and implementation of routes by the county council.	Routes identified in the SVATN phase 1 are included in the LCWIP or are being delivered by other partners. OCC has no plans at present for a phase 2 but is considering the outcomes of a summer 2023 consultation on a wider Oxfordshire Strategic Active Travel Network.						
Complete	ACTIVE TRAVEL and INNOVATION	12	MultiCAV Autonomous vehicle trials	MEPC	Community improvements	Greater understanding of the practical and technical implications in Didcot of autonomous bus service trials in Didcot that might in future deliver the DGT Delivery Plan's vision for science and innovation .	Input to trials led by a private consortium (FirstBus, Fusion and University of the West of England), which could lead to an autonomous public transport service connecting Science Vale hubs at Harwell, Milton Park and Culham with central Didcot and Didcot Parkway.	The consortium managing the project, made a presentation to the November Advisory Board on Milton Park to Didcot Parkway trials that are due to go on until the end of January 2024. During phase two if the trials teh Milton Park to Didcpot Parkway service had 911 passengers.						
On track	ACTIVE TRAVEL and INNOVATION	13	Didcot Area Travel Plan	SAV	Strategy	A strategy to deliver a net-zero transport system, private cars, cycling, freight, bus and rail that protects the environment.	Input to a strategy being developed as part of the Oxfordshire Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP), overarching transport and travel options for towns in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse.	Stakeholder workshops held in 2022 will inform the strategy.						
Business as usual	HIGH QUALITY HOUSING and PLACEMAKING	14	DGT development principles in development	DGT	Detailed design	DGT principles embedded in planning decisions	Commenting on major planning applications, working with planners, developers, infrastructure providers and health and wellbeing stakeholders.	The Garden Town team continues to comment on planning applications for major developments in Didcot Garden Town and its area of influence.						

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Business as usual	HIGH QUALITY HOUSING and PLACEMAKING	15	DGT principles in planning policy	DGT	Policy	DGT principles embedded in emerging planning policy.	Coordinating with the Planning Policy team and Neighbourhood Planning teams.	The Garden Town team supported the emerging draft Joint Local Plan Preferred Options Didcot consultation event in Didcot on 10 February 2024.						
On track	GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE and LEISURE	16	Green infrastructure strategy	DGT	Strategy and community improvements	Green infrastructure schemes identified. Improved public realm, open space access strengthened for health and wellbeing benefits and a phasing plan for measurable biodiversity netgain and additional green infrastructure.	Preparation of a Didcot Green Infrastructure Strategy by a consultant with recommendations for improvement projects. And implementation of short, medium and long-term projects.	The final draft DGT Green Infrastructure Strategy will be taken to South Cabinet on 18 April and to Vale Cabinet on 19 April for approval of the strategy and proposed implementation.	£20,000	£21,546	£-1,545.75	£100,000	£0	£100,000
On track	COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES	17	Environment and sustainability activation	DGT	Community activation (programme of projects planned and implemented)	Community projects carried out such as community gardens, tree planting, and the Didcot Nature Charter project, proposed by the Residents Sounding Board.	Working with local partners to deliver a series of projects connected with the environment and sustainability.	Banners and packs for distribution have been bought for the proposed Energy Champions workshop for local organisations (date to be confirmed).	£40,000	£2,053	£37,947.00			
On track	COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES	18	Meanwhile uses	DGT	Community activation	Temporary or semi-permanent meanwhile uses of commercial space and public realm. Improved sense of community well-being.	Input to planning and delivering temporary or semi-permanent meanwhile uses in collaboration with partners and the community.	Temporary landscaping at Lydalls Road will be taken up through the Gateway and Didcot Central Corridor projects and pop-ups and digital inclusion will be addressed in the Didcot Town Centre and Retail Study.	£10,000	£0				
On track	COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES	19	Didcot Public Arts and Culture	DGT	Strategy and community activation	Didcot focused Public art placements identified and areas revitalised. Projects and events delivered to build on Didcot's cultural offer and promote Didcot as a destination.	Didcot focused Public Art Plan to identify art placements that will revitalise areas. Building on Didcot's Cultural Spine by delivering projects and events to increase Didcot's cultural offer and promote Didcot as a destination.	The final draft Didcot Public Arts Plan will be available soon for the Advisory Board to review before the 15 July Advisory Board.	£20,000	£20,960	£-960.00	£100,000	£0	£100,000
On track	GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE and LEISURE	20	Didcot Leisure & Recreation Strategy	SAV	Strategy	A detailed review of Didcot's leisure needs, with recommendations for current and future leisure need, allowing for identified housing growth.	Input to a Didcot leisure and recreation strategy that builds on the recent district-wide strategy.	The DGT team has commented on the draft, district-wide draft Leisure and Recreation and Playing Pitch strategies, will inform a Didcot focused strategy to be led by the councils' Development and Corporate Landlord service.	£20,000	£0	£20,000.00			
On track	GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE and LEISURE	21	Active Communities & Healthy Didcot	SAV	Community activation (programme of activities implemented)	A programme of activities and recreational provision for all abilities, Didcot focused health data profiles, improved health and an understanding of community views on health needs.	Working with the Active Communities team to help plan and implement a programme of activities and with local organisations to develop the Healthy Didcot community insight project and initiate a programme of actions to mitigate identified health issues.	The Healthy Didcot Steering Group, comprising representatives from local organisations, is overseeing a consultant-led draft Engagement Report and will shortly be carrying out a residents survey on healthy living issues.	£45,000	£22,882	£22,118.00			
On track	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	22	Didcot Town Centre and Retail Study	SAV	Strategy	Identified interventions to improve the town's viability and vitality, including realistic, achievable short and long-term actions.	Prepare a study, building on the district-wide Town Centre and Retail Study, to identify possible interventions for Didcot.	Officers are coordinating with the Economic Development team to get a Didcot focused study started, which will build on the Joint Local Plan 2041 district-wide study.	£20,000	£0	£20,000.00			
On track	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	23	Apprenticeships, skills and training	OxLEP	Community improvements	Greater understanding of and access to local opportunities for skills training and apprenticeships.	Working with partners to build local business networks, influence programmes and identify opportunities for skills training and apprenticeships, as proposed by DGT Business Sounding Board.	The team has reached out to Science Vale organisations to understand the extent of their apprenticeship schemes across Didcot and its area of influence.						
On track	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	24	Digital inclusion and co-working	SAV	Community improvements	Improved digital inclusion in Didcot via digital hubs, public Wi-Fi and other interventions.	Working with partners to improve Didcot's digital inclusion and identify co-working options, in accordance with OCC's 2022 Digital Inclusion Strategy and Charter.	The team is working in partnership with the Economic Development team to ensure this is addressed through the Didcot Town Centre and Retail Study.						
Delayed	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	25	Local Development Orders (LDOs)	SAV	Policy (adopted Local Development Orders)	Improved economic investment and job opportunities.	Input to the councils' Strategic Partnerships and Planning teams work on Local Development Orders (LDOs).	A decision on the amended D-Tech LDO for Appleford Farm (P17/V2490/LDO) has been delayed until after the HIF1 application determination.	£5,000	£0	£5,000.00			

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Delayed	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	26	Milton Bio-Science Centre	SAV	Fully constructed infrastructure	State of the art bio-science centre at Milton Park to increase economic investment and job opportunities in Didcot.	Transfer of £7m external funding to Milton Park for delivery of bio-science centre, as approved by the Milton Park LDO, .	Breaking ground for the project was delayed due to contractor availability and MEPC for Milton Park have said that construction may now start in quarters 2-3 of 2024-25.						
On track	COMMUNICATIONS and LEGACY	27	Identity, legacy and stewardship	DGT	Community activation	A legacy plan and programme of activities to ensure Didcot's garden town principles contribute to placemaking and are sustained in the long-term.	Working with local organisations to plan and implement events such as the annual 6-week Didcot Garden Party programmes. Helping to foster a legacy plan that involves local adults, children and organisations in managing future, healthier life style, place making and sense of community ownership.	As part of the management of all projects in the Delivery Plan the team is seeking ways to plan for and achieve long-term continuity via local people and organisations for example booking events for this year's Garden Party has already started in liaison with local community groups and other council teams.	£75,000	£40,512	£34,488.23			
									<b>£329,000</b> allocated	<b>£181,787</b> committed	<b>£137,213.48</b> balance	<b>£240,000</b> allocated	<b>£0</b> committed	<b>£240,000</b> balance