

Date: 22 February 2007

TO: All Members of the Executive
FOR ATTENDANCE

TO: All Other Members of the Council
FOR INFORMATION

Dear Sir/Madam

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **EXECUTIVE** to be held in the **GUILDHALL, ABINGDON** on **Friday, 2nd March, 2007** at **10.00 am.**

Yours faithfully

Terry Stock
Chief Executive

Members are reminded of the provisions contained in Part 2 of the Local Code of Conduct, and Standing Order 34 regarding the declaration of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

A G E N D A

Open to the Public including the Press

A large print version of this agenda is available. Any background papers referred to may be inspected by prior arrangement. Contact Steve Culliford, Democratic Services Officer on telephone number (01235) 540307.

Map and Vision

(Page 8)

A map showing the location of the venue for this meeting, together with a copy the Council Vision is attached.

STANDING ITEMS

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence.

2. Minutes

To adopt and sign as a correct record the public minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 5 January 2007, (previously circulated).

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of Personal or Personal and Prejudicial Interests in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

In accordance with Part 2 of the Local Code of Conduct and the provisions of Standing Order 34, any Member with a personal interest must disclose the existence and nature of that interest to the meeting prior to the matter being debated. Where that personal interest is also a prejudicial interest, then the Member must withdraw from the room in which the meeting is being held and not seek improperly to influence any decision about the matter unless he/she has obtained a dispensation from the Standards Committee.

4. Urgent Business and Chair's Announcements

To receive notification of any matters which the Chair determines should be considered as urgent business and the special circumstances which have made the matters urgent, and to receive any announcements from the Chair.

5. Statements and Petitions from the Public Under Standing Order 32

Any statements and/or petitions from the public under Standing Order 32 will be made or presented at the meeting.

6. Questions from the Public Under Standing Order 32

Any questions from members of the public under Standing Order 32 will be asked at the meeting.

7. Referral under the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules or the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules

8. Referrals from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Other Committees

Scrutiny Committee - 15 February 2007

At its meeting on 15 February 2007, the Committee received a presentation from the Strategic Director and Monitoring Officer regarding the Paypoint service, a service operated nationwide by the Co-Operative Bank to assist the public in making payments for Council Tax, parking fines and other services such as utility bills and television licences. Paypoint was being considered by officers as part of the Council's Customer Contact Strategy.

It was noted that a report on the strategy would be submitted to the Executive in due course. However, the Committee resolved:

"that the Executive be advised that the Scrutiny Committee supports the principle of using the Paypoint scheme to receive payments for Council services as part of the Customer Contact Strategy and asks that the Co-op be recommended to encourage any rural Post Offices that had not joined the scheme to do so."

9. **Items Deferred from the Previous Meeting**

None

10. **Financial Monitoring**

(Pages 9 - 12)

Members are requested to consider any significant budget variances and any requests for virement or permanent budget adjustment.

KEY DECISIONS

11. **Forward Plan**

(Pages 13 - 16)

To receive the Forward Plan containing Executive decisions to be taken from March to June 2007.

Recommendation

that the Forward Plan be received.

OTHER MATTERS

12. **Corporate Governance - Third Quarter 2006/07**

(Pages 17 - 53)

To receive and consider report 158/06 of the Directors' Group.

Introduction and Report Summary

To receive the Corporate Governance Report for the third quarter of 2006/07.

The Directors' "Corporate Governance Report" for the quarter looks at the key areas of:-

Corporate Priorities

Best Value Performance Indicators

Local Performance Indicators linked to priorities for improvement

Financial Information

Key staffing data

The detailed individual reports are included at the end of this summary report.

The Contact Officer for this report is Tim Sadler, Strategic Director (01235) 540360.

Recommendation

That the Directors' Group Corporate Governance Report for the third quarter 2006/07 be noted.

13. **Best Value Performance Indicators – Performance against Top and Bottom Quartile 2005-06**

(Pages 54 - 58)

To receive and consider report 159/06 of the Strategic Director and Monitoring Officer.

Introduction and Report Summary

This report compares the Council's performance for 2005/6 against that of the national top and bottom quartile data for 2005-06 which was published by the Audit Commission in late December 2006.

The Contact Officer for this report is Robert Woodside, Principal Performance Management Officer (01235 520202 ext 499).

Recommendations

That Members note the Council's performance against the national top and bottom quartile results for 2005-06 and that active management of Best Value Performance Indicators is undertaken through the Corporate Governance Reporting process.

14. Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2007/08

(Pages 59 - 64)

To receive and consider report 160/06 of the Strategic Director and Chief Finance Officer.

Introduction and Report Summary

The Treasury Management Policy, agreed by Council December 2001 requires the approval of an annual Treasury Management Strategy for the next financial year. This is in line with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management.

In March 2004 the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, now the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) issued guidance under Section 15 of the Local Government Act 2003 on Local Government cash investments which requires approval of an Annual Investment Strategy. The guidance does acknowledge that it might be convenient to produce a single document that meets the requirements of the CIPFA code and the Secretary of State's guidance.

This report puts forward an Annual Strategy for this authority for 2007/08 which, as last year, complies with the CIPFA code and the DCLG guidance. This is unchanged from the existing strategy for 2006/07. This strategy restricts itself to non-property investments. For property investment, Members should refer to the Investment Policy last agreed by the Council on 24 March 2004

The Contact Officer for this report is Steve Lawrence, Head of Asset Management 01235 540321.

Recommendation

Members are asked to approve:

the Annual Treasury Management & Investment Strategy for 2007/08 (set out at Appendix A), and the limits and guidelines specified in it.

15. Local Development Framework: Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

(Pages 65 - 124)

To receive and consider report 161/06 of the Strategic Director and Monitoring Officer.

Introduction and Report Summary

Under Section 39(2) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Sustainability

Appraisal is mandatory for new Development Plan Documents (DPDs). This puts into effect the requirements of European Directive 2001/42/EC on the Strategic Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes on the Environment which came into effect by regulations produced in 2004. The now Department for Communities and Local Government produced guidance in November 2005 on the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of Local Development Documents.

The first stage in the SA process (Stage A) is the production of a Scoping Report. This serves as the foundation for the SA of the Vale's Core Strategy. Essentially it provides the information relating to the area and other background information together with a suggested assessment framework.

Consultation on the document has to be undertaken with the now three designated environmental bodies (English Heritage, the Environment Agency and Natural England) and any other bodies or persons that the Council considers necessary. Following any amendments arising out of the consultation the background information and the framework will be used to assess the sustainability of the Core Strategy. A final SA Report has to be produced to accompany the Core Strategy DPD when submitted to the Secretary of State.

A draft Scoping Report was considered by the Structure And Local Plan Advisory Group 3rd January 2007. The report has been modified in response to comments made at that meeting and subsequently in response to comments by other Members.

The Contact Officer for this report is Peter Williams, Principal Planning Officer, (01235 520202)

Recommendations

that the Executive approves the Draft Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report as contained in the appendix to this report, and

that the public and relevant organisations are consulted in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Statement of Community Involvement.

16. Local Development Framework: Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy

(Pages 125 - 129)

To receive and consider report 162/06 of the Strategic Director and Monitoring Officer.

Introduction and Report Summary

Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, local plans are being replaced by a Local Development Framework. Responsibility for minerals and waste planning rests with the County Council. Under the new system the County Council has to produce Core Strategy and Site Allocations minerals and waste documents. The first stage in the production of the Minerals and Waste Framework was last year when there was consultation on issues and options for the Core Strategy document. The next stage is preferred options where the policies and proposals are defined for the first time. Following consultation and revisions a final document will then be submitted to the Secretary of State when formal objections can be made.

As the Minerals and Waste Development Framework will form part of the Development Plan for the Vale it must be considered by Council. However responsibility for making comments at this stage rests with the Executive. The closing date for responses is 23rd March 2007. The document has been passed to the political assistants as well as to the Deputy Director (Contracts & Procurement) but at the time of writing no comments have been received. This report considers the preferred options most likely to affect the Vale as prepared by the County Council and recommends comments to form the basis of the Council's response.

The Contact Officer for this report is Peter Williams, Principal Planning Officer, (01235 520202)

Recommendations

that the Executive approves the comments on the Minerals and Waste Framework Core Strategy Preferred Options document as contained in this report.

17. Waste Action Plan

(Pages 130 - 134)

To receive and consider report 163/06 of the Strategic Director and Chief Finance Officer.

Introduction and Report Summary

The Vale Executive endorsed the Oxfordshire Joint Waste Strategy (JWS) on 1 September 2006. To support the implementation of this strategy member authorities are required to prepare a District Waste Action Plan (DWAP) detailing changes and developments in relation to local service provision each year and demonstrating adherence to JWS policies and targets.

The Vale's draft DWAP is attached as Appendix A.

The contact officer for this report is Mike Mackay, Deputy Director (Contracts & Procurement), telephone 01235 520202 ext 337.

Recommendation

That the Committee approves the District Waste Action Plan 2007/8.

18. Direct Services Organisation Business Plan

(Pages 135 - 149)

At its Meeting on 7 July 2006, the Executive considered the report from the Deputy Director, Commercial Services, regarding the Direct Service Organisation's (DSO) performance and financial review and its viability as a Council service. The Executive resolved (minute Ex.55 refers):

- (a) that the high performance of the DSO during the past 12 months and its continuing improvement be recognised; and
- (b) that the continuation of the DSO be endorsed, subject to its ongoing financial viability and achievement of its Business Plan.

In accordance with that resolution, the Deputy Director (Commercial Services) now confirms the ongoing financial viability of the DSO and has attached DSO Business Plan 2007-10 for approval by the Executive.

Recommendation

That the Executive approves the DSO Business Plan 2007-10, which requires the DSO to breakeven in 2008/09.

19. Direct Services Organisation - Business Continuity Plan

The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 requires the Council to manage the risks to the smooth running of its organisation and the delivery of services and to ensure the continuity of critical functions in the event of a disruption, and effective recovery afterwards.

This Council wishes to work towards a common and shared approach in Oxfordshire and there is evidence of a successfully completed joint project with other neighbouring Councils. South Oxfordshire and Oxford City have recently completed their respective bespoke Business

Continuity Plans by jointly commissioning an consultancy from Northampton, called Garrison Continuity which specialises in Business Continuity Plan offers and independent advice and assistance in the implementation of business continuity programmes. The overall cost is estimated to be £14,000 and will be met from existing budgets.

Recommendation

In accordance with Contract Standing Order 2C(4) to waive the requirement to obtain three quotations [12C(3)].

20. Exclusion of the Public, including the Press

The Chair to move that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public, including the press, be excluded from the remainder of the meeting to prevent the disclosure to them of exempt information, as defined in Section 100(l) and Part 1 of Schedule 12A, as amended, to the Act when the following items are considered:

- Item 21 Minutes
(Category 1 - Information relating to any individual.)
(Category 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information.)

- Item 22 Property Matters
(Category 3)

EXEMPT INFORMATION UNDER SECTION 100A(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

STANDING ITEMS

21. Minutes

To adopt and sign as a correct record the Exempt minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 5 January 2007, (previously circulated).

OTHER MATTERS

22. Property Matters

(Page 150)

To consider any property matters.



OUR VISION AND AIMS

Our Vision is to build and safeguard a fair, open and compassionate community

The Vale of White Horse District Council aims to:

Strengthen local democracy and public involvement through access to information, consultation, and devolution of power so that everyone can take part in our community and contribute to the decisions which affect our lives

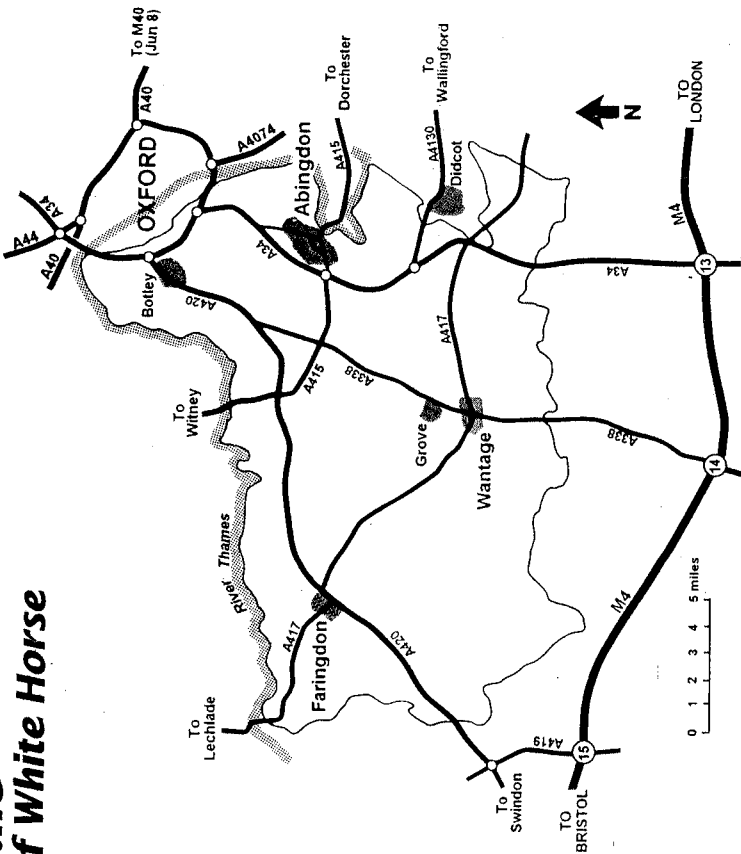
Create a safer community and improve the quality of life among Vale residents

Encourage a strong and sustainable economy which benefits all who live in, work in or visit the Vale

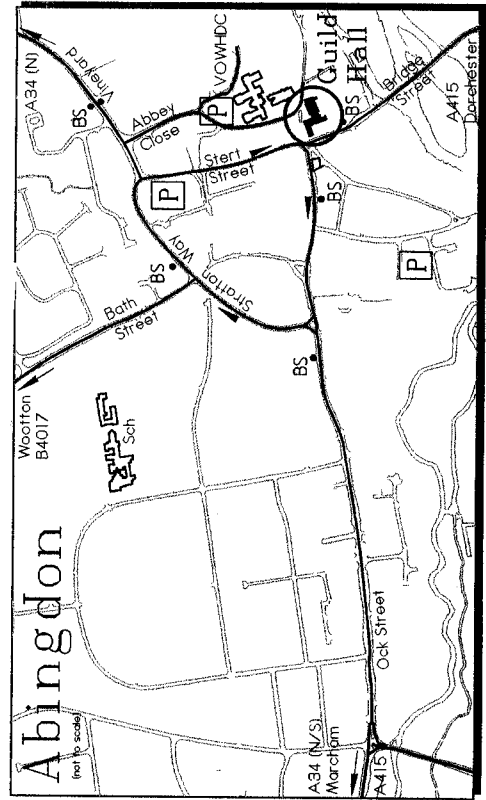
Help disadvantaged groups and individuals within the Vale to realise their full potential

Provide and support high quality public services which are effective, efficient and responsive to the needs of people within the Vale

Protect and improve our built and natural environment



Abingdon, Guildhall



KEY : BS = Bus Stop

LOCATION MAP



Note for Executive

Key to Type

- 1 Within a subjective within a cost centre
- 2 Within a Cost Centre but across subjective headings
- 3 Within the cost centres of a service area
- 4 Across service areas
- 5 Over £10,000

Virements received at 19 February 2007

No.	Date received	Account From	Cost Centre Code	Cost Centre Name	Account To	Cost Centre Code	Cost Centre Name	Virement Total £	Virement Percentage	Reason	Preventative Action	Type	Authorised by Director/Deputy Director	Requires Executive Approval
1	12/01/2007	402	N50	Corporate Core	424	T73	Assisted Transport	1,000	0.6%	Use unspent budget to fund review of Assisted Travel Scheme	n/a	4	Y	N
2	12/01/2007	419	N50	Corporate Core	424	T73	Assisted Transport	200	0.1%	Use unspent budget to fund review of Assisted Travel Scheme	n/a	4	Y	N
3	12/01/2007	414	N50	Corporate Core	424	T73	Assisted Transport	1,000	0.6%	Use unspent budget to fund review of Assisted Travel Scheme	n/a	4	Y	N
4	12/01/2007	113	N50	Corporate Core	424	T73	Assisted Transport	500	0.1%	Use unspent budget to fund review of Assisted Travel Scheme	n/a	4	Y	N
5	22/01/2007	414	C00	Environmental Health	414	T32	Waste Minimisation	1,000	4.5%	Use unspent Printing budget to fund Waste related publishing costs	n/a	3	Y	N
6	removed													
7	01/02/2007	402	T53	HECA	424	T53	HECA	500	0.1%	Budget adjustment within cost centre	n/a	1	Y	N
8	01/02/2007	437	T53	HECA	424	T53	HECA	800	0.8%	Budget adjustment within cost centre	n/a	1	Y	N
9	01/02/2007	101	T38	Payroll	101	T21	Licensing	390	0.9%	Move budget to backfill posts in Payroll and Licensing	One-off due to split of Payroll function	4	Y	N
9	01/02/2007	101	T38	Payroll	119	T38	Payroll	880	2.0%	Move budget to backfill posts in Payroll and Licensing	One-off due to split of Payroll function	1	Y	N
10	01/02/2007	436	T47	Enabling	424	T47	Enabling	1,300	9.0%	Budget adjustment within cost centre	Reduce use of external services in 2007/08	1	Y	Y
11	02/02/2007	437	T47	Enabling	424	T47	Enabling	550	3.8%	Budget adjustment within cost centre	n/a	1	Y	N
12	02/02/2007	208	U29	Temporary Accommodation	203	U29	Temporary Accommodation	1,000	2.3%	Budget adjustment within cost centre	n/a	1	Y	N
13	02/02/2007	418	T53	HECA	412	T53	HECA	150	0.7%	Budget adjustment within cost centre	n/a	1	Y	N
13	02/02/2007	418	T53	HECA	439	T53	HECA	400	2.0%	Budget adjustment within cost centre	n/a	1	Y	N
13	02/02/2007	418	T53	HECA	452	T53	HECA	350	1.7%	Budget adjustment within cost centre	n/a	1	Y	N
14	02/02/2007	209	U29	Temporary Accommodation	203	U29	Temporary Accommodation	900	2.1%	Budget adjustment within cost centre	n/a	1	Y	N
15	02/02/2007	217	U29	Temporary Accommodation	203	U29	Temporary Accommodation	1,000	2.3%	Budget adjustment within cost centre	n/a	1	Y	N
16	02/02/2007	414	K10	Training & Development	127	K10	Training & Development	1,000	4.3%	Some training has been bought in rather than provided in house	Corporate training programme being planned for 2007/08	2	Y	N
16	02/02/2007	418	K10	Training & Development	127	K10	Training & Development	800	3.5%	Some training has been bought in rather than provided in house	Corporate training programme being planned for 2007/08	2	Y	N

16	02/02/2007	418	K10	Training & Development	127	K10	Training & Development	800	3.5%	Some training has been bought in rather than provided in house	Corporate training programme being n/a	2	Y	N		
17	02/02/2007	101	T23	Health & Safety	119	T19	Food Safety	3,760	4.2%	To backfill vacant posts under revised Managed Vacancies procedure	n/a	3	Y	N		
18	02/02/2007	101	T19	Food Safety	119	T19	Food Safety	5,640	6.3%	To backfill vacant posts under revised Managed Vacancies procedure	n/a	1	Y	Y		
19	02/02/2007	101	T22	Animal Control Management	424	T22	Animal Control Management	6,960								
19	02/02/2007	103	T22	Animal Control Management	424	T22	Animal Control Management	520	11.6%	Employment of pest control contractor to cover vacant post	n/a	2	Y	Y		
19	02/02/2007	105	T22	Animal Control Management	424	T22	Animal Control Management	1,220								
Total Virements								43,820								
Summary																
Total Type 1								13,470								
Total Type 2								2,320								
Total Type 3								4,760								
Total Type 4								3,090								
Total Type 5								12,000								
Total								35,640								

Note to Executive

Supplementary estimates approved by Strategic Director in consultation with the Leader of the Council

at 19 February 2007

No.	Date received	Account From	Cost Centre Code	Cost Centre Name	Account To	Cost Centre Code	Cost Centre Name	Supplementary Estimate Total	Description
1	22/11/2006	498	N80	Contingency	101	K90	Employee Relations	£8,000	Settlement of disputed back pay
2	22/11/2006	498	N80	Contingency	424	K10	Training & Development	£6,240	Expenditure on management development courses attended/delivered by Brian McAndrew
3	19/01/2007	498	N80	Contingency	119	C00	Environmental Health	£6,250	Temporary Project Officer for implementation of Health Act 2006
4	19/01/2007	498	N80	Contingency	424	C00	Environmental Health	£5,000	Continued membership of the CSG Network
5	31/01/2007	498	N80	Contingency	119	N90	Accountancy	£10,250	Temporary staff to cover long term sickness
Total Supplementary Estimates								£14,240	

Note to Executive

Permanent Budget Adjustments Requests

at 19 February 2007

Key to Type

- 1 Within a subjective within a cost centre
- 2 Within a Cost Centre but across subjective headings
- 3 Within the cost centres of a service area
- 4 Across service areas
- 5 Over £10,000

No.	Date received	Account From	Code Centre	Cost Centre Name	Account to	Code Centre	Cost Centre Name	Adjustment total £	Reason	Type
1	25/01/2007	420	N10	Development Control	419	N10	Development Control	1,800	Transfer unspent budget on Newspapers & Magazines to meet extra requirements for Books & Publications	1
2	02/02/2007	436	T53	HECA	423	T53	HECA	1,300	Increased requirement to promote climate change measures	1
3	02/02/2007	435	T53	HECA	424	T53	HECA	1,000	External assistance in developing climate change strategy	1
4	02/02/2007	435	K10	Training & Development	435	K90	Employee Relations	600	Move postage budget to cost centre where expenditure incurred	3
5	02/02/2007	403	T47	Enabling	203	U29	Temporary Accommodation	500	Additional budget needed for repairs & maintenance	3
6	02/02/2007	403	T48	Homelessness	203	U29	Temporary Accommodation	1,000	Additional budget needed for repairs & maintenance	3
								6,200		
Summary										
								4,100		
								-		
								2,100		
								-		
								-		
								6,200		

VALE OF WHITE HORSE DISTRICT COUNCIL

FORWARD PLAN

CONTAINING EXECUTIVE KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 MARCH 2007 - 30 JUNE 2007

This Forward Plan sets out a schedule of Key Decisions likely to be taken over the four-month period shown above. It is a rolling plan, subject to change monthly. A Key Decision is a decision of the Executive which is likely to result in: the Council incurring significant expenditure or making significant savings; a high proportion of the community being affected; or an impact on two or more agendas or services. Executive decisions can be taken by the Executive as a whole, a committee of the Executive, an individual Member of the Executive, an Officer of the Council, an Area Committee, or through joint arrangements with other bodies or another Council.

Where the decision is to be taken by the Executive, this comprises the Leader of the Council, Councillor Jerry Patterson, and the following elected Members: Councillors Mary de Vere, Tony de Vere, Richard Farrell, Joyce Hutchinson, Bob Johnston and Roz Smith.

Representations can be made on any of the following issues before a decision is taken. Representations must be made to the relevant contact officer shown below by 5pm on the working day preceding the date of the decision.

Decision	Key decision?	Decision maker	Date first published	Consultees	Consultation method	Contact Officer	Documents used
Financial Monitoring		Executive 2nd Mar 2007	This item will appear on the Executive agendas each month	Executive Portfolio Holders	Consultation with budget holders	Steve Bishop, Strategic Director and Section 151 Officer Tel. (01235) 540332 steve.bishop@whitehorsedc.gov.uk	2006/07 Budget
Corporate Governance - Third Quarter 2006/07		Executive 2nd Mar 2007	March 2007	Strategic Management Group	Strategic Directors consult Strategic Management Group	Tim Sadler, Strategic Director Tel. (01235) 540360 E-mail: tim.sadler@whitehorsedc.gov.uk	None

Decision	Key decision?	Decision maker	Date first published	Consultees	Consultation method	Contact	Documents used
Waste Action Plan		Executive 2nd Mar 2007	March 2007	Councillor Tony de Vere	Consult Strategic Review Committee	Michael Mackay Tel. 01235 540337 E-mail: michael.mackay@whitehorsedc.gov.uk	Oxfordshire Joint Municipal Waste Strategy Feedback from Strategic Review Committee
Treasury Management		Executive 2nd Mar 2007	March 2007	Councillor Tony de Vere	Not applicable	Steve Bishop, Strategic Director and Section 151 Officer Tel. 01235 540332 E-mail: steve.bishop@whitehorsedc.gov.uk	None.
Direct Services Organisation Business Plan		Executive 2nd Mar 2007	March 2007	Councillor Bob Johnston	Not applicable	Steve Bishop, Strategic Director and Section 151 Officer Tel. 01235 540332 E-mail: steve.bishop@whitehorsedc.gov.uk	Draft Business Plan
Local Development Framework: Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report		Executive 2nd Mar 2007	March 2007	All Members of the Council	All Members of the Council were consulted	Peter Williams Tel. (01235) 520202 ext 502 E-mail: peter.williams@whitehorsedc.gov.uk	Draft Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Decision	Key decision?	Decision maker	Date first published	Consultees	Consultation method	Contact	Documents used
Local Development Framework: Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy		Executive 2nd Mar 2007	March 2007	The Executive Councillor Terry Cox (Opposition Spokesman of the Strategic and Local Planning Advisory Group)	Recommendations to go from the Executive to the Chief Executive to respond to Oxfordshire County Council, following consultation with the Opposition Spokesman of the Strategic and Local Planning Advisory Group.	Peter Williams Tel. (01235) 520202 ext 502 E-mail: peter.williams@whitehorsedc.gov.uk	Draft Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy
Best Value Performance Indicators		Executive 2nd Mar 2007	March 2007	Councillor Jerry Patterson	Not applicable	Tim Sadler, Strategic Director Tel. 01235 540360 E-mail: tim.sadler@whitehorse.dc.gov.uk	None.
North East Area Community Grants		North East Area Committee 8th Mar 2007	March 2007	Councillor Joyce Hutchinson	Consult North East Area Committee Chair	Toby Warren Tel. 01235 547631 E-mail: toby.warren@whitehorsedc.gov.uk	Grant applications
South East Area Community Grants		South East Area Committee 13th Mar 2007	March 2007	Councillor Joyce Hutchinson	Consult South East Area Committee Chairman	Toby Warren Tel. 01235 547695 E-mail: toby.warren@whitehorsedc.gov.uk	Grant applications
West Area Community Grants		West Area Committee 19th Mar 2007	March 2007	Councillor Joyce Hutchinson	Consult West Area Committee Chairman	Toby Warren Tel. 01235 547695 E-mail: toby.warren@whitehorsedc.gov.uk	Grant applications

Decision	Key decision?	Decision maker	Date first published	Consultees	Consultation method	Contact	Documents used
Abingdon Area Community Grants		Abingdon Area Committee 22nd Mar 2007	March 2007	Councillor Joyce Hutchinson	Consult Abingdon Area Committee Chair	Toby Warren Tel. 01235 547695 E-mail: toby.warren@whitehor sedc.gov.uk	Grant applications
Housing Nominations Policy Review		Executive 5th Apr 2007	March 2007	Councillor Mary de Vere	Consult Executive Portfolio Holder then Executive to make recommendations for any policy changes to Council	Paul Staines Tel. (01235) 547621 E-mail: paul.staines@whitehor sedc.gov.uk	None.
Arts Strategy		Executive 5th Apr 2007	April 2007	Councillor Joyce Hutchinson	Council with Executive Portfolio Holder	Michael Mackay Tel. 01235 540337 E-mail: michael.mackay@whit ehorsedc.gov.uk	None.

[Handwritten signature] / 12 February 2007

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS
TO THE EXECUTIVE
2 March 2006

Corporate Governance Report: Third Quarter (October, November and December) 2006/07

1.0 **Introduction and Report Summary**

1.1 To receive the Corporate Governance Report for the third quarter of 2006/07.

1.2 The Directors' "Corporate Governance Report" for the quarter looks at the key areas of:-

- Corporate Priorities
- Best Value Performance Indicators
- Local Performance Indicators linked to priorities for improvement
- Financial Information
- Key staffing data

The detailed individual reports are included at the end of this summary report.

1.3 The Contact Officer for this report is Tim Sadler, Strategic Director (01235) 540360.

2.0 **Recommendation**

That the Directors' Group Corporate Governance Report for the third quarter 2006/07 be noted

3.0 **Relationship with the Council's Vision, Strategies and Policies**

This report

- (a) Relates to the entire Vision Statement.
- (b) Relates to the Best Value Performance Plan and Corporate Plan and
- (c) Complies with Corporate Planning Timetable.

4.0 **Background and Supporting Information**

4.1 **Corporate Priorities**

Of particular note in this quarter are:

- The Implementation of the new Vale website which is designed to facilitate more interactive services and be compliant with the highest standards of accessibility
- The declaration of the Abingdon Air Quality Management Area
- Progress with the review of enforcement policies which in turn will lead to an improved score for BVPI 166 (Environmental Health enforcement checklist)
- Review and introduction of new appraisal schemes which more explicitly link to the corporate priorities with a focus on improvement
- The commencement of the management development programme
- The commencement of the Ridgeway Shared Service Partnership
- Action planning commenced to address issues raised in the Staff Attitude Survey in June 2006
- Responding to a request from the Scrutiny Committee those issues where the Directors are concerned about progress have now been highlighted in Red

4.2 Best Value Performance Indicators

The BVPI quarter 3 table has been updated with the 2005/6 quartile data which was released by the Audit Commission just before Christmas. The column 'Quartile 05/06' details which quartile the BVPI is in (top, middle or bottom) for 2005/6. A detailed analysis of this data is included as a separate report on this same agenda.

BVPIs of particular note at the end of the third quarter are:

BVPI: 2a and b: Equalities

Limited progress has been made regarding equalities. BVPI 2a has been re-evaluated and the percentage score has been reduced from 47% to 31.6%. Development work, including an update of the Council's Race Equality Scheme, will take place by the end of March. The target for the end of March is 63.2%. The post of Equalities Officer has now been filled and the successful candidate will start in mid March. Filling this post is key to driving forward improvements for these performance indicators.

BVPI: 9 and 10 Collection Rates for Council Tax and Business Rates BVPI 79a – Benefits - % of cases where calculation was correct.

BVPI data is audited nationally within guidelines set by the Audit Commission. Within the guidelines there are variations in the calculation methodology. In bringing together the client teams we have modified our calculation method which has had an adverse effect on our performance indicators compared with those previously reported.

BVPI 166: Environmental Health checklist

Work programme set and on course to exceed 83.3% target score for 2006/07, based on exceeding 2004/05 bottom quartile of 79.1%. Following public consultation, draft enforcement policies were reported to full Council in December 2006 and approval was delegated to Strategic Directors to finalise, due in February 2007. This, together with development and reporting of education and information programmes will achieve 93% by the end of the year. This extra score was considered a necessary contingency against the bottom quartile for 2005/06 increasing over the previous year. This has occurred, and the bottom quartile has increased to 85%.

BVPI 109a, b, c – Planning – processing applications

The significant improvement in performance reported at the end of the second quarter has been maintained. All three parts of this indicator have made further significant improvements in performance during the third quarter.

4.3 Local Performance Indicators

No additional comments to those included in the detailed report. It is proposed to supplement these during 2007/08 to monitor progress against the refined objectives adopted by Council as part of the Service and Budget Planning process.

4.4 Financial Issues

No additional comments to those included in the detailed report.

4.5 Staffing Issues

Sickness levels at the end of the third quarter remain below target. Staff turnover levels have also been relatively low.

DIRECTORS GROUP

Background Papers: Corporate Governance Report of the Directors Group

1. WORKING WITH PARTNERS TO HELP FACILITATE THE PROVISION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Improvement Plan		Milestones	Comment / Progress	Timescale	Responsible Officer
1.1	Action for Improvement Provide 75 units of affordable rented housing	This is an ongoing programme throughout the year to deliver affordable rented housing primarily as part of new build housing developments throughout the district in accordance with the Council's Local Plan policies on affordable housing	21 units completed to 30/9/06, estimated completions by year end 70 The Council's programme for 2006-08 is currently estimated to produce 250 units over the next two years. The Council can expect much of this programme to be completed during the second year. This is because the Housing Corporation bid round for Social Housing Grant covers these two years and no Registered Social Landlord was willing to commence development until that programme was finalised in late 2005. Accordingly this quarter's performance reflects the lull as activity gears up.	Measured at year end	Paul Staines
1.2	Provide 25 units of Shared ownership and other intermediate housing	This is an ongoing programme throughout the year to deliver affordable shared ownership and other low cost home ownership housing primarily as part of new build housing developments throughout the district in accordance with the Council's Local Plan policies on affordable housing	As above	Measured at year end	Ian Mead
1.3	Investigate alternative means of funding affordable housing	Expression of Interest (Eoi) for Private Finance Initiative submitted March 2006 Eoi result will be announced August 2006	Still Awaiting outcome of EOI	Still awaiting outcome of EOI from DCLG Outline business case March 2007	Tim Sadler

	Action for Improvement	Milestones	Comment / Progress	Timescale	Responsible Officer
1.4	Carry out a Best Value Review of affordable housing with a specific focus on value for money.	Carry out a scoping review to conclude what aspects of the service will be fully reviewed including benchmarking. Carry out a review based upon the corporate template Report to Executive	Initial meetings planned for end of July to begin scoping Project. Planned for November – January-completed and choice based lettings selected for review. Benchmarking group established Dec 2006 Now planned March 07 Completed June 2006	August 2006 Nov-Jan 2007 March 2007 June 2006	Anthony Tyrer and Robert Woodside
1.5	Carry out a review of the Council's Choice Based Lettings scheme.	Carry out stakeholder and user consultation Report to Strategic review committee	Report presented to SRC January 2007 ? COMPLETED	January 2007	Lyn Scaplehorn
1.6	Develop a Medium Term consultation programme for housing services	Draw up a profile on the different interest groups in housing together with an approach to consulting with them tailored to maximise take up.	Initial work underway, draft report not likely until April 2007. Delayed by other pressures and only recent formation of communications team	March 2007	Paul Staines and Nikki Mallin
1.7	Improve the Council's approach to tackling Domestic Violence in the area as measured by BVPI 225.	BVPI 225 has ten measures of a Council's approach to tackling DV. The Housing Inspector found that the Council met only 6 out of 10 of these as at April 2006. The Council aims to have achieved 8 out of 10 with action plans for the final 2 by April 2007	Budget Bid for outreach work submitted Budget bid to develop a sanctuary scheme submitted	Ongoing throughout 2006-7	Paul Staines and Dot Morrison
1.8	Commission research into the need for Supported housing	Budgetary approval given Specify, and then commission report	Capital Form 2 budget bid withdrawn. This task will need to be completed internally . Officers expect capacity will be available in the summer.	July 2007	Paul Staines

	Action for Improvement	Milestones	Comment / Progress	Timescale	Responsible Officer
1.9	Review the Council's discretionary grants policy and work to secure improvements in the use of equity loans	Look at the issue of demand for the Council's discretionary grants and examine whether budget is sufficient as part of the budget process Review councils that have successfully established equity loan schemes and report to Executive on way to develop the Vale's scheme.	A review of grants policy is needed to take into account the Housing Act 2004 (Housing Health and Safety Rating System). Discussions have taken place for a consortium based equity release scheme, but progress has stalled. Housing Forum suggested that whilst a nice idea it is unlikely to work as people do not want to use up equity in their homes	Feb 2007 Nov 2007	Ian Forster
1.10	Work with parish councils to develop rural housing on exception sites	Carry out three rural needs surveys Develop 2 affordable housing schemes	Limited progress due to vacancy of Rural Enabler Post employed by ORCC.	Ongoing throughout 2006-7	Ian Mead
1.11	Carry out a comprehensive revision of the housing strategy by spring 2007.	Production of summary of last years strategy and progress Staff and stakeholder written consultation leading to production of an issues paper Full consultation event Draft strategy produced to tie in with Council's service and budget planning process	Summary produced and sent to all stakeholders. Sent to all stakeholders Event held 11 th Oct 06 Draft distributed to officers Sept.06 Final draft submitted to portfolio holder. On target – to SRC March 07	July 2006 July 2006 Sept 2006 Oct-Nov 2006 Feb 2007	Paul Staines
1.12	Complete Supplementary Planning Guidance on the provision of affordable housing	The Supplementary Planning Guidance gives more detail to developers as to the Council's requirements for affordable housing. Its introduction has had to wait until the adoption of the Council's Local plan that was completed in June 2006.	Responses received to draft to be considered by members Adoption of final Supplementary Planning Guidance ACHIEVED COMPLETED	June 2006 July 2006	Katie Barrett

2. CREATING A CLEANER, GREENER, SAFER AND HEALTHIER COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT**Improvement Plan**

	Action for Improvement	Milestones	Comment / Progress	Timescale	Responsible Officer
2.1	Devise a series of themed Action Plans to improve service delivery in partnership with Vale stakeholders	Confirm approach and methodology Review existing corporate and service commitments Draft Action Plans	Achieved Achieved for Environmental Cleanliness Greener and Safer and Healthier Plans Action Plans ; achieved December for Healthier Timetable for Action Plans to Senior Management Team 21/7/06	Spring 2006 Summer 2006 Summer 2006	David Stevens, Paul Staines, Rodger Hood, Mike Mackay
	CLEANER	Hold Partner Challenge events Finalise action Plans	Achieved for ECAP; Green AP; Safer AP; Healthier AP Medium Term Objectives agreed Done for ECAP, GAP, HAP, SAP. Set out in Budget Proposal	Autumn 2006 Dec. 2006 Dec. 2006 February 2006	
2.2	Reduce litter and detritus in public spaces in the Vale and improve upon customer satisfaction scores in line with agreed county-wide (Local Area Agreement) targets	Vale Voice Panel consultation on Waste services including street cleansing Publish the consultation report and response	Achieved	Spring 2006 Summer 2006	David Stevens Mike Mackay
2.3	Take effective enforcement action to combat environmental crime including fly tipping, dog fouling, litter, graffiti and fly posting	Adopt a Local Environmental Quality (LEQ) enforcement strategy Introduce Fixed Penalty Notices for selected environmental crimes	Liaison Environmental Health & Corporate Communications. July see also item 2.4 below Cleanaway Service Improvement Plan will deliver improvement LEQ draft Enforcement strategy to Exec. 07/07 & Council 19/07 Public consultation completed 31/10; approved by Executive 05/01/07 On target	Autumn 2006 Summer 2006	David Stevens

	Action for Improvement	Milestones	Comment / Progress	Timescale	Responsible Officer
2.4	Improve customer satisfaction with Waste Collection service	Implement improved contractor arrangements and action plan Public consultation via BVPI 90 survey	In progress; Scrutiny Committee input @ July and Sept. 06 meetings Cleanaway service Improvement Plan agreed in October On target	Spring - Summer 2006 Autumn 2006	David Stevens Mike Mackay w.e.f Aug 06
	GREENER				
2.5	Review sustainable waste strategy in line with the emerging Oxfordshire Joint Municipal Waste Strategy	Support joint work programme for the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership (OWP) Publish revised Sustainable Waste Strategy	In progress; framework report to Executive 4 th August; OWP strategy and draft vale strategy to 1 st Sept Executive Oxfordshire joint municipal Waste Strategy published Sept. Submitted to Strategic Review Committee and now approved. On target	Winter 2006 January 2007	David Stevens Mike Mackay w.e.f. Sept. 06 Mike Mackay
2.6	Achieve a combined Recycling and Composting rate of 29% in 2006-07	Complete the expansion of opt – in wheeled bins for garden waste & cardboard to 8000 properties	On target	Autumn 2006	David Stevens Mike Mackay w.e.f. Sept.06
2.7	Achieve increased recycling of non biodegradable waste in line with agreed county – wide (LAA) targets	Publish revised Recycling Plan 2006-09 Implement a programme of promotional measures	On target On target	Autumn 2006 Winter 2006 - 2008	David Stevens Mike Mackay w.e.f. sept. 06
	SAFER				
2.8	Implement the Vale Community Safety Strategy 2005-08	Achieve strategy targets	Quarterly progress reports to Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) – latest demonstrates targets achieved. On target	2005-2008	Paul Staines
2.9	Improve workplace safety in Council – regulated businesses	Adoption of Health & Safety Executive (HSE) revised guidelines Achieve resultant inspection and compliance programme for 2006-07	On target May miss spring 2007 target due to staff shortage. Will review at year end.	Summer 2006 Spring 2007	David Stevens

	Action for Improvement	Milestones	Comment / Progress	Timescale	Responsible Officer
2.10	Improve enforcement arrangements for Environmental Health regulatory services for Licensing, Food safety, Health & safety at work, Private Sector Housing	Consult upon draft enforcement policies Publish following consultation	Consultation programme commenced July – October 2006; policies finalised December 2006 Revised enforcement policy approved.	Summer 2006 Autumn 2006	David Stevens
2.11	Health and Housing Safety Rating System HEALTHIER	Adoption and implementation of Department for Communities and Local Government guidelines	Changes to Council's scheme of delegation completed	Autumn 2006	Paul Staines
2.12	Address air quality problems in parts of Abingdon	Declare and Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) Consult upon an Air quality Action Plan (AQAP) Implement an AQAP	Achieved July 2006 following PRAC 22/6/06 Preparatory work commenced; public consultation due to commence June 2007: on target	Summer 2006 Summer 2006 2006-2009	Patrick Legge
2.13	Provide a Skate Park in Abingdon.	Complete design stage in consultation with youth groups Construction and completion of Skate Park	Achieved Delayed due to initial quotes being significantly over budget WREN funding new confirmed. Project to start in April 07	June 2006 September 2006 revised to April 07	Mike Mackay
2.14	Improve Leisure, Culture and Recreational Facilities	Conclusion of agreements for future use of: Tugwell fields Stockham Park Mably Way	Proposal agreed by County; planning application awaited. Agreement to Lease being drafted Complete No progress, tied to overall planning situation at Grove Airfield development.	March 2007 Feb 2007 Unknown	Mike Mackay

	Action for Improvement	Milestones	Comment / Progress	Timescale	Responsible Officer
2.15	Provide an effective contribution which protects the interests of the Vale to the development of the regional spatial strategies for the South East and South West	Comments on consultation draft by Executive made to regional bodies Give evidence to Examination in Public	Achieved Vale has given evidence at the EIP into the south East Plan. Further evidence to be given at the sub regional sessions in Feb 2007; also at the Swindon session of the EIP into the South west Regional Spatial Strategy	Summer 2006 Feb/March 2007	Rodger Hood
2.16	Develop a Parks and Open Spaces Strategy which includes playground provision	Complete Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG) 17 led assessment of parks & open spaces Consultation with Parishes Citizens Panel consultation	Audit complete. Presentation to Councillors 28 Feb followed by Parish consultation.	Winter 2007/08	Mike Mackay
2.17	Optimise contributions from new developments towards leisure, culture and recreation	PPG 17 survey results and Parks & Open Spaces Strategy to feed in to developer negotiations	Awaiting production of strategy to optimise developer contributions but in the interim negotiations with developers are proceeding with appropriate input from Leisure service.	see 2.16 above Winter 2006	Rodger Hood
2.18	Carry out review of children's and young people's services and integrate with Children's and Young Peoples Plan	Consult on the draft Youth Strategy Publish Implement Strategy	Consultation completed in September 2006; Recommended strategy approved by Executive in November 2006 Officer group set up (in December 2006) to plan, implement & review strategy.	By September 2006 December 2006 2007-2009	Toby Warren

3. IMPROVING AND MODERNISING ACCESS TO OUR SERVICES

Action for Improvement	Milestones	Comment / Progress	Timescale	Responsible Officer

	Action for Improvement	Milestones	Comment / Progress	Timescale	Responsible Officer
3.1	<p>Implementation of customer contact strategy.</p> <p>Strategy to include equality and diversity issues</p> <p>Benchmarking and best practice – be aware of</p>	<p>Decision on service provider</p> <p>Completion of multi-channel contact centre</p>	<p>Report to August Executive recommended proceed with in-house solution.</p> <p>Roll out programme put before SMG on 27.10.06. Received portfolio holder endorsement. Business process re-engineering commenced in Building Control. Awaiting decision on capital bid in respect of customer relationship management software in February 2007. The decision on this capital bid will affect whether the existing software is upgrade or replaced, and so until made the outputs from the BPR work will not be fed into the contact centre.</p> <p>Presently being developed, will be potentially affected by the outcome of the 07/08 budget.</p>	<p>Aug 2006</p> <p>April 2007</p>	Helen Bishop
		<p>Approval and implementation of payments strategy</p>	<p>In post Feb 2007</p>	March 2007	
		<p>Review of strategy</p>	<p>Structure approved in September 2006, effective 01.11.06. Recruitment in hand, interviewing in February 2007. From 01.11.06 being undertaken by Organisational Change Team. Now included within draft OD Programme.</p>	<p>October 2006</p> <p>March 2007</p>	
		<p>Appoint an Equalities Officer</p>	<p>Main actions to occur when Equalities Officer in place. Currently reviewing the Race Equalities Scheme and associated actions incorporated with the BVPI.</p>	<p>November 2006 onwards</p>	
		<p>Update the corporate equalities plan</p>			
		<p>Produce and implement an action plan</p>			

	Action for Improvement	Milestones	Comment / Progress	Timescale	Responsible Officer
3.2	Promote Awareness of customer focus throughout the organisation implementation plan to be drafted	<p>Action plan to be agreed and implemented</p> <p>Agreement of corporate service standards and protocols</p> <p>Review of comments and complaints procedure</p> <p>Promote awareness and train staff</p>	<p>From 01.11.06 being undertaken by Organisational Change Team. Now part of the Customer Focus Programme in the draft OD Programme, presently involving the senior management team and ascertaining their input. Action plan to come from this process.</p>	<p>From March 2007</p> <p>From June 2007</p> <p>June 2007</p> <p>June 2007</p>	Helen Bishop
3.3	Develop and publish service standards	<p>Identify areas where service standards are required</p> <p>Consult on service standards</p> <p>Develop and publish</p>	<p>From 01.11.06 being undertaken by Organisational Change Team. In progress.</p> <p>Now part of the Customer Focus and Communications programmes in the draft OD Programme.</p>	<p>By end Jan 2007</p> <p>June 2007</p> <p>October 2007</p>	Helen Bishop

	Action for Improvement	Milestones	Comment / Progress	Timescale	Responsible Officer
3.4	Update web site to improve accessibility and usability	<p>Review of vale website</p> <p>Implement changes</p> <p>React to initial customer feedback</p> <p>Return Tridion Content Management System to staff users</p> <p>Content improvement plan to be developed and implemented</p> <p>Functional developments (forms/content) as part of customer contact strategy</p>	<p>Completed June 2006</p> <p>Achieved – website updated</p> <p>Navigation further updated (extra task not planned for)</p> <p>Originally due September 2006. Knock on effect of above and supplier and technical difficulties mean delay until Feb 2007</p> <p>Business process work started Feb 2007. To be implemented on web site March 2007 onwards.</p>	<p>October 2006</p> <p>Feb 2007</p> <p>Feb – June 2007</p>	<p>Ann Sadler</p> <p>Nikki Malin</p>
3.5	Deliver a challenging programme of Best Value Reviews of Council services	<p>Agree programme and deliver reviews</p>	<p>Programme agreed by Executive for period 2006-2008</p> <p>Three reviews currently in progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre delayed to June 2007 by need to take specialist advice • Vale Community Strategy and other partnership arrangements • Housing Services – Value for Money 	<p>March 2006 May 2006</p> <p>Report January 2007 Report March 2007 Report March 2007</p>	<p>Robert Woodside</p>

4. BUILDING OUR CAPACITY THROUGH MANAGERIAL & ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Improvement Plan

	Action for Improvement	Milestones	Comment / Progress	Timescale	Responsible Officer
4.1	Permanent structure to enable delivery of Organisational Development programme of work.	Draft structure agreed for consultation Consultation with staff and staff side representatives Implementation	Agreed in full Organisational Change and Communications structure effective from 01.11.06 COMPLETED	September 2006 0.11.06	Helen Bishop
4.2	Design and implement organisational development programme	Assess where we are over the 6 themes of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Community engagement o People management o Leadership o Partnership o Culture o Service improvement <p>Provide a vision for each theme where we could be, how it would be characterised.</p> <p>Select which improvements we want to focus on, based on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Stakeholder consultation o Community aspirations o Central government legislation and guidance o Local political pressures o Efficiencies and cost reduction opportunities <p>Prioritise actions, formulate and deliver the action plan.</p>	Vision consulted and agreed with SMT and SMG as per the themes suggested by DCLG. Achieved Workshop sessions for Organisational Development team to be set up to complete the first draft of the OD Program Solace selected as Organisational Development partner from Leadership Centre for Local Government Draft OD Programme in place, with 6 developmental programmes proposed. Presently in consultation with Senior Management Team.	October 2006 October 2006 November 2006 November 2006 June 2007	Helen Bishop
4.3	Investors in People Award	Implementation of action plan Achieving the award	Re-assessment TOOK PLACE IN November 06 and IIP status awarded. COMPLETED	November 2006	Tim Barnett

	Action for Improvement	Milestones	Comment / Progress	Timescale	Responsible Officer
4.4	Implement and review people strategy	Publicise strategy Develop action plan		Spring 2007	Tim Barnett
4.5	Review of council's appraisal Commitments/PDP scheme	Develop and agree schemes Training Guidance notes	COMPLETED	Summer 2006	Tim Barnett
4.6	Develop service plans so that they link the council's aims and priorities and cascade them into the council's appraisal scheme		Council's Aims and Objectives clarified in Budget Proposal. Request for draft service plans has now been issued. Programme and project management approach being agreed to ensure effective monitoring and reporting. OD agreeing process to ensure capturing all relevant actions within service plans.	December 2006	Helen Bishop
4.7	Management development	SMT development Away days Competency directory	Completed for Senior Management Team and Executive Rolled out to service areas where re-organisation has been completed Published and on the intranet as part of the implementation of the Commitments and PDP schemes.	July 06 October 2006 August 2006	Tim Sadler/Helen Bishop
4.8	Giving access to Human resources information to managers and employees	Implementing system Streamlining processes Training staff Self-serve made available to staff	COMPLETED	October 2006	Tim Barnett
4.9	Workforce development plan	Create a plan combining corporate and individual training needs		Spring 2007	Tim Barnett
4.10	Staff attitude survey	Design survey Undertake survey Collate results Agree a programme of actions to improve staff satisfaction / build in further dialogue with staff	Completed Action planning workshop set up 31.10.06 with a group comprised of a cross-section of the authority. Some quick wins identified already in situ, eg the Chief Executive's Blog.	Summer 2006 October 2006	Nikki Malin

	Action for Improvement	Milestones	Comment / Progress	Timescale	Responsible Officer
4.11	Update the ICT strategy	Select ICT strategy consultant Consult with staff and members across the organisation Produce strategy Implement action plan	Achieved Achieved Achieved. In train.	September 2006 September 2006 onwards	Ann Sadler
4.12	Best practice, benchmarking and value for money	Join benchmarking club Input data and receive feedback Action Plan for improvements	Achieved for cashiering, data sent, report received.	September 2006	Helen Bishop
4.13	Review, integrate and implement our risk and project management and procurement processes	Update processes	Ongoing with the Deputy Director for Contracts and Procurement	Spring 2007	Ann Sadler/ DD Contracts & Procurement
4.14	Resolve Pay & Grading competency points and market premia	Decide detailed arrangements for competency points Review applicability of market premia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieved. Report given to PRAC on 15th December. Affected staff advised that every grade (apart from Grade 1) ends on 4th point of scale although there is some scope for extra increments to reward project work. Effective straight away. 	Summer 2006	Tim Barnett
4.15	Produce new procurement strategy	Incorporate procurement health check actions from 2004 into new action plan Implement action plan Review our Standing Orders and Financial Regulations in light of Procurement Strategy	Market premia reviewed at PRAC on 22.06.06 On target. Top level framework drafted, second tier policy documentation in preparation (will be substantially based on work already done by SODC). SRC considered and noted the Framework in January 2007.	Spring 2007	Mike Mackay

	Action for Improvement	Milestones	Comment / Progress	Timescale	Responsible Officer
4.16	Streamline accounting processes to reduce workload whilst providing necessary information & controls (will be resolved through SSO)	i. New joint Agresso implementation ii. Formation of a new joint accountancy team iii. Updated processes	On track Behind schedule due to recruitment difficulties re Vale Accountancy Manager post Ongoing	April 2007 April 2006	William Jacobs
4.17	Clarify aims and objectives for council	Update Corporate Plan linked to objectives	Clarified Aims and Objectives included in Budget Proposal. Revised Corporate Plan expected mid 2007/8 following the May elections	June 06	Tim Sadler
4.18		Link objectives into the Integrated Service and Financial Planning process	Better linkages in commitments and service plans	Dec - Feb 06	
4.19		Ensure that core strategic documents describe aims and objectives in consistent manner	Will follow on from Budget	Feb 07	Tim Sadler
4.20		Examine role of partners in delivering aims and objectives and implement mechanism to monitor contribution	Review in progress – Expect to report in April 2007	Dec 06	Tim Sadler
4.21	Improve management of performance	Make links between aims and objectives and service plans more explicit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second pass 06/07 • First pass 07/08 	Second pass of service plans post commitments exercise planned for November On target	Nov 06 Mar 07	JP/TS DD / ADs
4.22		Carryout service Best Value Review of performance management to ensure Vale has sufficient capacity to deliver	Overtaken by agreement to form Organisational Development team. COMPLETED	Nov 06	Tim Sadler
4.23		Cascade Service Review Meetings down to third tier	In place in some areas – July 06 To check compliance -SMT December – NOT 100%. Will be reinforced at SMT	Dec. 06	Senior Management Team
4.24	Approach to Value for Money VFM	Approve VFM action plan	Draft in place – has been to SMT. Approach has been approved by the Executive Steering Group formed and meeting on a regular basis	Sept. 06	
4.25		Have in place cost and quality position statement for environment, housing and cultural blocks	Council Core Data identified. Housing VFM statement drafted	Jan 07	

	Action for Improvement	Milestones	Comment / Progress	Timescale	Responsible Officer
4.26		Review Housing Value For Money BVR and apply lessons learnt to other service users	BVR well underway. On target to report in April 2007	April 07	Robert Woodside

5. DELIVERING OUR SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENTS WHILE MAINTAINING OUR MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN (MTFP)

Improvement Plan

	Action for Improvement	Milestones	Comment / Progress	Timescale	Responsible Officer
5.1	Content and Presentation of the Councils MTFP	Achievement of February 2006 Service Prioritisation Plans (SPPs) Include a written explanation of the main themes and principles behind the plan	£529K (80%) achieved by September 2006	Early 2006 February 2007	Various - see SPPs Steve Bishop
		Identify specifically how resources (money and staff) have been moved to support our corporate priorities Assess whether zero based budgeting could be used to shift resources from a low priority service area to a higher priority service area	Executive published Strategic Service Review Dec. 06. Used to shape Budget Proposal. Full Council-wide zero-based budgeting (ZBB) was rejected due to large resource requirement. The Strategic Service Review superseded a possible smaller scale ZBB pilot exercise (see 5.2 below).	February 2007 Autumn 2006	Steve Bishop/Tim Sadler Steve Bishop

	Action for Improvement	Milestones	Comment / Progress	Timescale	Responsible Officer
5.2	Develop further the Strategic Service Review process (SSR)	<p>Involve a wider range of staff in the process</p> <p>Consult with all Members</p> <p>Directly link the outcomes from the SSR to the Integrated Service and Financial Planning (ISFP) system & MTFP</p>	<p>Officer Strategic Service Review 07/08 completed by the Senior Management Team and given to political groups & published to staff Feb. 06</p> <p>Staff briefing on initial budget proposal and position</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>The Strategic Service Review was used to generate Cost Reduction Ideas, shifting resources from lower priority services to higher priority services.</p>	<p>Oct 2006</p> <p>Oct 2006</p> <p>Autumn 2006</p>	<p>Tim Sadler</p> <p>Tim Sadler</p> <p>Steve Bishop</p>
5.3	Identify specific areas where we will look at alternative methods of procurement / joint working / sharper commercial focus	<p>Identify areas in the February 2007 Budget</p> <p>Relevant service plans to include this work as a development objective</p> <p>Newly appointed Deputy Director Procurement & Contract Management (P&CM) to assess scope for renegotiating current contracts & delivering services in more cost-effective way</p> <p>Achievement of the 2.5% annual efficiency savings for 2005/06 - 2007/08, as detailed in the Annual Efficiency Statements (AES)</p>	<p>Specific services have been identified in the list of Cost Reduction Ideas which were circulated to Members and staff.</p> <p>On target. Intensive review of major Leisure and Waste Contracts underway – DCL, SOLL, JV Strong and Cleanaway (latter complete with agreed Service Improvement Plan in place).</p> <p>The 05/06 backward look Annual Efficiency Statement has been completed and demonstrates achievement of the required 2.5%.</p> <p>The 2006/07 forward look AES demonstrates the achievability of this years 2.5% target</p> <p>The 2006/07 backward look AES will need to demonstrate the achievement of 2.5% target</p>	<p>February 2007</p> <p>March 2007</p> <p>March 2007</p> <p>July 2006</p> <p>April 2006</p> <p>July 2007</p>	<p>Terry Stock</p> <p>Various</p> <p>Deputy Director P&CM</p> <p>Steve Bishop</p> <p>Steve Bishop</p> <p>Steve Bishop</p>

6. IMPROVING BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION**Improvement Plan**

	Action	Milestones	Comment / Progress	Timescale	Responsible Officer
6.1	Update communications strategy regarding Internal communications, branding, communications channels, managing the media	Production of the strategy Implementation of the action plan	Communications team structure agreed; Team in place from January 2007. Action plan being pulled together.	Spring 2007	Nikki Malin
6.2	Investigate participation in the IDEA reputations programme	Decide whether to participate in Reputations Programme Production and delivery of Action plan	Executive agreed in August 06 In progress	October 2006	Nikki Malin
6.3	Update consultation strategy and action plan to include mechanisms for reaching vulnerable and hard to reach groups (affordable housing (AF p49) report)	Develop a medium term Consultation Plan (2006 – 2009) Carry out wide scale consultation exercises to further develop our corporate aims during 2006 Develop a programme to consult on the development of service standards for all relevant areas of the Council and promote the standards once finalised.	Now Communications Team is in place, consultation programming now in hand.	Spring 2007	Nikki Malin

	Action	Milestones	Comment / Progress	Timescale	Responsible Officer
6.4	Consult, develop and implement procedures to ensure that we reach all citizens within our community	Appointment of an Equalities Officer Updated corporate equalities plan Production and implementation of an action plan	Structure agreed and recruitment in hand, interviews in February 2007. Now Feb 07 Dependent on Equalities Officer being in place. Now part of the Equalities and Diversity, Customer Focus and Communications programmes in the draft OD Programme. Review of Race Equality Scheme Review will be completed by end March 07 Production of Disabilities Equalities Statement Production of a Gender Equalities Statement Accreditation at Level 3 of the Equalities Standard for Local Government	September 2006 01.11.06 March 2007 onwards End of Feb 2007 Oct 2007 Oct 2007 Dec 2007	Helen Bishop
6.5	Devise a list of those hard to reach groups and a way of communicating with them	Production of list and protocol for maintaining it Procedure for accessing hard to reach groups	Will form part of consultation programme	Spring 2007	Helen Bishop
6.6	Assess staff satisfaction with the Vale in terms of satisfaction, workload, reward and recognition, communications, training and management	Conduct baseline staff attitude survey Collate feedback Circulate results Devise and implement action plans Follow up survey	Achieved. Achieved Achieved Action planning workshop held with cross-section of staff 31.10.06 Quick wins already being rolled out.	Summer 2006	Nikki Malin

	Action	Milestones	Comment / Progress	Timescale	Responsible Officer
6.7	Review the internal communications tools for the organisation	Reports needed Test and check progress and understanding of the vision	Will be part of action planning following staff survey.	Spring 2007	Nikki Malin

Quarterly Governance Report Quarter 3
Best Value Performance Indicators. Our current performance in 2006/07.

Key: N/a = Not Applicable
Top and Bottom quartile data is against all England Authorities
Trend arrows: compares third quarter performance with the second quarter (not possible for all BVPIs)
Quartile 05/06 column: actual 05/06 against 05/06 quartile performance data
T = top; B = bottom; M = middle quartile

Red - worse than target	Yellow - on target	Green - better than target
↑	↔	↓
↓	↔	↑
↔	↔	↔

BVPI	Indicator Description	Tgt/ Ind	TO 05/06	BQ 05/06	Actual 05/06	Quartile 05/06	Target 06/07	Actual Q1	Actual Q2	Actual Q3	Actual Q4	on/off Tgt	Comments	Performance Trend	Target 07/08
Corporate Health															
2a	Equality Standard for Local Government Level	T	0	0	1		2	1	1	1	0		Failing to meet target and expect to miss end 06-07 target. Equalities agenda now revived and improvement programme is being developed which will set out revised targets and timescales for 07-08.	→	2
2b	The duty to promote race equality checklist score	T	79	53	47	B	78	47	47	31.6	0		This indicator has been re-evaluated and the % score has been reduced. The target for the end of the fourth quarter is 63.2%.	↓	84
8	% Invoices paid on time	T	96.71	89.24	92.88	M	92.93	94.83	92.78	93.92	0		Performance is now improving following the intervention of the client team	↑	95.94
9	Council tax collected (%)	T	98.4	96.39	99.08	T	98.5	28.81	56.86	0	0		December performance figures are not yet available due to the computer system conversion	N/a	98.5
10	NNDR collected (%)	T	99.26	98.1	99.21	T	99.2	32.69	63.29	0	0		December performance figures are not yet available due to the computer system conversion	N/a	99.2
11a	% of top 5% of earners that are women	I	42.58	22.22	14.29	B	14	14.29	15.38	15.38	0		Just above target	→	21
11b	% of top 5% of earners that are from ethnic minorities	I	4.33	0	7.14	T	7	7.69	0	0	0		No opportunity to recruit within the top 5% of earners during this quarter	→	7
11c	% of top 5% earners with a disability	I	0	0	7.69	T	7	7.69	7.69	7.69	0		Slightly above target	→	7
12	Days sick per member of staff	T	8.34	10.94	10	M	9	6.12	6.36	7.28	0		Sickness still below target although it has increased on last quarter. This is not unexpected as sickness tends to be higher during winter months.	↓	8.93
14	Early retirements / staff	I	0.17	0.78	0	T	0	0	0	0	0		On target	→	0
15	Ill health retirements / staff	I	0.1	0.37	0	T	0	0	0	0	0		On target	→	0
16a	% staff with disabilities	I	3.86	1.86	5.9	T	5.9	5.96	6.16	5.8	0		Slightly below target as a member of staff declaring that they met the DDA definition left during this quarter	↓	5.9
17a	% staff from ethnic minorities	I	4.8	0.9	2.51	M	2.4	2.95	2.14	2.47	0		Slightly above target	↑	2.4
Housing															
64	No of vacant private sector dwellings returned into occupation	T	77	7	5	B	6	6	6	49	0		Rent Deposit Guarantees Scheme lets now included in calculation as per guidance.	↑	6
183a	Average length of stay in B&B (weeks)	T	1	4.27	3.26	M	4	1.85	3.98	3.5	0		10 clients currently in sample for YTD calculation. Small population therefore just one case has significant impact	↑	4
183b	Average length of stay in Hostel (weeks)	T	0	17	12.32	M	12	8	7.95	7.95	0		3 clients currently in sample for YTD calculation	→	11
202	No of people sleeping rough on a single night	T	0	5	0	T	1	0	0	0	0	N/a	Annual Reporting	N/a	1
203	% change in average number of families with dependant children in temporary accommodation	T	-15.84	19.27	-14.2	M	-10	0	0	0	0	N/a	Annual Reporting	N/a	-13
213	Number of households considered homeless for whom housing advice casework intervention resolved their situation.(per 1,000 households)	I	5	1	2	M	2.5	1.72	3.08	4.22	0	N/a	205 Successful cases YTD - in total 349. This gives a successful prevention outcome rate of 58.74%. Exceeding target and approaching top quartile	↑	N/a
214	Housing advice service: Repeat homelessness (%)	I	0.32	4.26	3.33	M	3.33	4.17	4	2.99	0	N/a	2 repeat homeless cases YTD and 67 Acceptances (these cases were accepted as homeless in the last 2 years and we once again accepted a duty to them during the period).	↑	N/a

Quarterly Governance Report Quarter 3
Best Value Performance Indicators. Our current performance in 2006/07.

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Yellow - on target
Green - better than target

Better
Worse
Stable

BVPI	Indicator Description	Tgt/ Ind	TO 05/06	BQ 05/06	Actual 05/06	Quartile 05/06	Target 06/07	Actual Q1	Actual Q2	Actual Q3	Actual Q4	on/off Tgt	Comments	Performance Trend	Target 07/08
Benefits															
76a	Benefit security - no of visits per 1000 cases	T	0	0	283.84		284	75.58	163.13	302.47	0	Green	Above target	↑	286.6
76b	Benefit security - no of investigators per 1000 cases	T	0	0	0.32		0.38	0.37	0.37	0.37	0	Yellow	Below target. If caseload does not fall then the target will not be met as resources are fixed. Resources will not be increased just to meet this target. However the main output targets, which must take priority, will be met.	→	0.38
76c	Benefit security - no of investigations per 1000 cases	T	53.4	24.01	118.65		59.53	28.31	61.76	96.74	0	Green	On target	↑	59.53
76d	Benefit security - no of prosecutions per 1000 cases	T	0	0	15.02		6.25	2.42	4.46	8.57	0	Green	On target	↑	6.25
78a	Average time for processing new claims	T	26.4	39.1	25.96	T	28	24.33	26.03	26.98	0	Green	On target. The additional resources which Capita put in place to counter the downtime as a result of the Academy conversion have proved dividends this quarter.	↓	28
78b	Average time for processing changes of circumstances	T	9.1	18.8	6.17	T	6.8	6.66	6.46	6.89	0	Red	Below target. The additional resources which Capita put in place to counter the downtime as a result of the Academy conversion have kept performance in the top quartile but has dipped below the Council's stretching target. It should recover in Q4	↓	6.8
79a	% of cases where calculation was correct	T	99	96.6	99.6	T	99	88	87.6	87.47	0	Red	Below target. The third quarter actual figure is 87.2%. 16 errors were identified - 6 pre contract and 9 (Capita) post contract. Accuracy is a key focus for Capita and checking processes are being reviewed	↓	99
79b(i)	% of overpayments recovered as a % of Housing Benefit deemed recoverable	T	79.39	58.98	102.85	T	87	60.39	60.39	79.02	0	Yellow	On track.	↑	87
79b(ii)	% overpayments recovered during the period including overpayments identified during the period	I	39.69	27.35	49.97	T	42	16.45	20.85	13.91	0	Red	Additional resource planned for post Academy conversion to maximise overpayment recovery.	↓	42
79b(iii)	% of overpayments written off	I	0	0	1.84		6.6	0.1	4.03	0.95	0	Red	Additional resource planned for post Academy conversion to maximise overpayment recovery.	↓	6.6
Environment															
82ai	% of household waste recycled	T	20.87	14.22	22.14	T	24	21.8	22.1	22.32	0	Red	Making steady progress towards target	↑	25
82aii	Total tonnage of waste recycled	T	15126	6086	9038	M	9700	2326	4724.1	7140	0	Red	1.9% below target. Some additional bring sites & Mini Recycling Centres established, to be rolled out 4th quarter.	↑	10150
82bi	% of household waste composted	T	13.05	3.54	1.71	B	4.50	6	6.47	6.86	0	Green	Above target and out of bottom quartile due to success of brown bin scheme	↑	6.00
82bii	Total tonnage of waste composted	T	8770	1802	689	B	1900	640.7	1388.84	2196	0	Green	73% above target due to continued expansion of the Brown Bin service	↑	2600
84a	Household waste collected (Kg per head of population)	I	393	478	352	T	365	91.9	184.3	275.4	0	Yellow	0.6% marginally above target	↑	369
84b	% change (from previous year) in the waste collected (KG per head per annum)	T	-3.74	1.31	1.09	M	3.70	2.8	4.5	2.87	0	Green		↑	1.20
86	Cost of waste collection (£)	T	39.48	52.42	45.9	M	42.56	0	0	0	0	N/A	Annual reporting	N/a	43.24

Quarterly Governance Report Quarter 3
 Best Value Performance Indicators. Our current performance in 2006/07.

Key: N/A = Not Applicable
 Top and Bottom quartile data is against all England Authorities
 Trend arrows: compares third quarter performance with the second quarter (not possible for all BVPIs)
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BVPI	Indicator Description	Tgt/ Ind	TQ 05/06	BQ 05/06	Actual 05/06	Quartile 05/06	Target 06/07	Actual Q1	Actual Q2	Actual Q3	Actual Q4	on/off Tgt	Comments	Performance Trend	Target 07/08
91a	The % of households served by a kerbside collection of recyclables	T	100	93.5	98.6	M	99	98.6	98.3	98.3	0	Red		→	99
91b	The % of households served by a kerbside collection of at least 2 recyclables	T	100	90.1	98.6	M	99	98.6	98.3	98.3	0	Red		→	99

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166a	Environmental health checklist (%)	T	100	85	66.25	B	83	66.25	66.25	66.25	0		See detailed comment in section 4.2 of the Corporate Governance Report	→	93
199a	Cleanliness of relevant land and highways (%)	T	8.8	21	12	M	15	16	0	0	0	N/A	Annual reporting	N/A	93
199b	Proportion relevant land and highways with unacceptable levels of graffiti visible %	T	1	6	1	T	2	0	19	0	0	N/A	Annual reporting	N/A	2
199c	Proportion of relevant land and highways with unacceptable levels of fly postings visible %	T	0	2	0	T	1	0	0	0	0	N/A	Annual reporting	N/A	1
199d	Year on year reduction of incidents / increase in enforcement actions to deal with fly tipping (graded 1 very effective - 4 poor)	T	0	0	4		1	0	0	0	0	N/A	Annual reporting	N/A	1
216a	Contaminated land - number of sites of potential concern	I	1428	325	1078	M	1064	0	0	0	0	N/A	Annual reporting. This indicator is significantly affected by a factor outside the Council's control – which new sites of concern arise each year through applicants seeking permission to develop through the planning system. The annual target is set in the light of experience.	N/A	1050
216b	Number sites where remediation of land necessary as % of 'sites of potential concern'	I	9	1	1.32	M	1.33	0	0	0	0	N/A	Annual reporting. This indicator is most significantly affected by factors outside the Council's control – which sites arise each year through applicants seeking permission to develop through the planning system, and at what speed the developers investigate and report on any contaminated land issues.	N/A	1.35
217	% pollution control improvements to existing installations completed on time	T	100	83	97	M	95	0	0	0	0	N/A	Annual reporting. Due to the combination of Defra requirements per year and the nature of the prescribed industrial processes in the Vale, no pollution control improvements are due for 2006/07 and therefore the annual score will be 100%	N/A	95
218a	% of reports of abandoned vehicles investigated within 24 hours of notification	T	96.64	73	95	M	95	100	100	100	100	N/A		N/A	0.95
218b	% of abandoned vehicles removed within 24 hours (of legally being able to)	T	95	61.11	61.11	B	0.9	73.53	26.32	42.86	0	N/A		N/A	0.9
Planning															
106	% new homes on brown field sites	T	96.47	62.43	95.29	M	60	0	82	0	0	N/A	6 monthly reporting	N/A	60
109a	% of major planning applications in 13 weeks	T	74.9	57.08	50	B	60	64.28	72.72	79.31	0		Measures on the Major and Minor Applications Improvement Plan have been implemented, with particular focus on Major applications resulting in performance exceeding the target. In this last quarter the performance was 100% of Major applications decided within 13 weeks.	↑	60
109b	% of minor planning applications in 8 weeks	T	81.07	69	71.8	M	65	51.04	66.66	69.96	0		The performance has exceeded the target and as stated previously it had been expected that the results would improve due to staffing issues in the registering team being resolved.	↑	65
109c	% of other planning applications in 8 weeks	T	91.39	83.37	86.66	M	80	65.93	78.58	82.26	0		The performance has exceeded the target and as stated previously it had been expected that the results would improve due to staffing issues in the registering team being resolved. Similar to the previous quarter the 3rd quarter performance exceeded the target by 12% and as a result with the good performance of the previous quarter the result for the cumulative performance figure has exceeded the target.	↑	80

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0		0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0				0
200a	Did authority submit the Local Development Scheme by 28.3.2005 (new 2005-6)	T	0	0	yes		yes	0	0	0	0	N/A	Annual reporting	N/a	yes
200b	Has authority met the Local Development Scheme milestones (new for 2005-6)	T	0	0	yes		yes	0	0	0	0	N/A	6 monthly reporting	N/a	yes

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200c	Did the authority publish an annual monitoring report by December of the last year	I	0	0	yes		yes	0	0	0	0	N/A	Annual reporting	N/A	yes
204	% appeals allowed against authorities decisions to refuse planning permission	T	0	0	25		35	0	19.04	0	0	N/A	6 monthly reporting	N/A	35
205	Quality of service checklist (%)	T	94.5	83.3	83	B	94	0	88.88	0	0	N/A	6 monthly reporting	N/A	94
219a	Total number of conservation areas	I	0	0	52		52	0	0	0	0	N/A	Annual reporting	N/A	52
219b	% of conservation areas with an up to date character appraisal	I	31.81	0	0	B	5	0	0	0	0	N/A	Work in progress to improve score	N/A	15
219c	% of conservation areas with published management proposals	I	7.7	0	0	B	5	0	0	0	0	N/A	No work planned until 2007/08	N/A	15
Community Development															
126	Domestic burglaries per 1000 households	I	6.4	13.7	5.94	T	5.76	1.3	2.41	3.46	0		This is an indicator collated on the Council's behalf by Thames Valley Police	↑	5.59
127a	Violent crimes per 1000 population	I	12.4	22.8	12.39	T	12.02	3.98	7.95	11.82	0		This is an indicator collated on the Council's behalf by Thames Valley Police. Indicator now includes common assault which can be dealt with by FPNs (Fixed Penalty Notice) which means these incidents are now reported when they would have previously not have been.	↑	11.66
127b	Robberies per 1000 population	I	0.3	1.3	0.16	T	0.15	0.09	0.16	0.22	0		This is an indicator collated on the Council's behalf by Thames Valley Police. A fall in the burglary and theft from vehicle rates is usually accompanied by a rise in the street crime rate and although the actual robbery numbers are comparatively small, the relationship between reduced incidences in burglary would go some way to explaining the high figure of 0.22 for BVPI 127b. The Community Safety Team has suggested that this is a definitely a strong possibility as street robbery has become a relatively easy and attractive option.	↑	0.15
128	Vehicle crimes per 1000 population	I	7.3	14.6	5.88	T	5.71	1.22	2.56	3.72	0		This is an indicator collated on the Council's behalf by Thames Valley Police	↑	5.53
156	% of authority buildings open to the public - accessible for disabled	T	84.7	44.66	83	M	100	83	92	100	0		All buildings compliant from the end of December 2006	↑	100
174	No of racial incidents recorded per 100,000 population	I	0	0	0.86		0.86	0	0.86	0.86	0		1 incident reported YTD	→	0.86
175	% of racial incidents that resulted in further action	T	100	100	100	T	100	N/A	100	100	0	N/A		N/A	100
225	Actions against domestic violence	I	0	0	45.5		54.5	0	0	0	0	N/A	Annual Reporting	N/A	80
226a	Advice and guidance services - total spent £	I	0	0	200000		200000	200000	0	0	0	N/A	Annual Reporting	N/A	200000
226b	CSL Quality Mark % monies spent on advice and guidance provided by external organisations	I	0	0	75		75	75	0	0	0	N/A	Annual Reporting	N/A	75

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226c	Advice and guidance services - direct provision £	1	0	0	450000		450000	450000	0	0	0	N/A	Annual Reporting	→	450000

QUARTERLY CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT - Third Quarter 2006/07 1.4.06 - 31.12.06
Local Performance Indicators Supporting Corporate Priorities 2006/07 (cumulative year to date)

LPI	Indicator/Description	Target 2006/7	Actual Q1	Actual Q2	Actual Q3	Comments
Working with partners to help facilitate the provision of affordable housing						
LI H2	Number of units of affordable housing completed / provided	100	0	21 (Rented)	30 (24 rented 6 Shared Ownership)	To date this target is not being achieved. The major reason for this is overachievement in 2005/06 where we completed 131 units against a target of 60 units, many of which we expected to come on stream in the first half of 2006/07 FY. Officers estimate 48 units of new affordable housing to be completed by year end. At this point a two year (2005/06-2006/07) total of 179 units against a cumulative target of 160 will be achieved. This two year total better reflects the two years funding cycle of affordable housing by Central Government.
LI H2a	Number of affordable housing units provided through S106 agreements	90	0	21	21	
LPI TP5	% of dwellings permitted on sites above the Council's local plan affordable housing policy thresholds which fall within the definition of affordable housing	35%	N/a	100%	N/a	Half year reporting
LPI TP6	% of affordable dwellings permitted which are in the social rented category	60%	N/a	100%	N/a	Half year reporting
LPI TP7	Total house building completions as a % of adopted Structure Plan annual targets	134%	N/a	92%	N/a	Half year reporting
Creating a cleaner, greener, safer and healthier community and environment						
EH2	% of inspection programme achieved on target	80%	N/a	N/a	N/a	Cannot report at present - database does not support relevant report but is being addressed under a Service Development Plan during 2006. Other Councils are affected, a new programme is being trialled February / March 2007
To improve and modernise access to services						
CS1	Number of enquiries at the Local Service Point Wantage	15,000	4292	8014	11119	
CS2	Number of enquiries at the Local Service Point Abingdon	41,000	14577	27497	42031	
CS3	% of enquiries resolved within one working day in Wantage Local Service Point	97%	96%	96%	98%	
CS4	% of enquiries resolved within one working day in Abingdon Local Service Point and LSP2	97%	98%	97%	99%	
CS5	% of customer satisfaction in Wantage Local Service Point	96%	100%	100%	100%	
CS6	% of customer satisfaction in Abingdon Local Service Point	96%	100.00%	100.00%	100%	
CS7	% of satisfied service providers with Wantage Local Service Point	85%	100.00%	100.00%	100%	There are 6 SLA's over 12 months each area will have two service level satisfaction surveys at present 9 have been undertaken recording 100% satisfaction
CS8	% of satisfied service providers with Abingdon Local Service Point and LSP2	85%	100.00%	100.00%	100%	There are 6 SLA's over 12 months each area will have two service level satisfaction surveys at present 9 have been undertaken recording 100% satisfaction
CS9	% of calls to be answered within 20 seconds	90%	84.30%	82.00%	86%	Call volumes have risen since July a trend which has continued in this 3rd quartile
CS10	% of calls unanswered	4%	2.00%	2.00%	2%	The strong, positive downward trend continues reflecting success of contact centre
CS11	% of messages left by customers at first point of contact to receive an initial response within one working day	95%	100.00%	100.00%	100%	
CS12	% of e-mails to be automatically responded to within one working day	100%	100.00%	100.00%	100%	

SUMMARY OF SICKNESS 2006-07

Service Area	Q1		Q1 Target		Q2		Q2 Target		Q3		Q3 Target		Q4		Annual Totals	
	No. average days sickness/mt h	Av. days lost per FTE/mt h	No. average days sickness/mt h	Av. days lost per FTE/mt h	No. average days sickness/mt h	Av. days lost per FTE/mt h	No. average days sickness/mt h	Av. days lost per FTE/mt h	No. average days sickness/mt h	Av. days lost per FTE/mt h	No. average days sickness/mt h	Av. days lost per FTE/mt h	Total no. sick days 2006-07	Cumulative no of wkg days lost per FTE		
Audit	2.00	0.50	0	0	1.83	0.61	1.83	0.61	1.83	0.61	1.83	0.61	11.5	3.83		
Commercial Services	2.67	0.12	37.83	1.52	27.83	1.12	27.83	1.12	27.83	1.12	27.83	1.12	205	8.23		
Contract & Procurement	4.17	0.14	1.5	0.04	18	0.47	18	0.47	18	0.47	18	0.47	71	1.86		
Democratic Services	2.00	0.13	7.33	0.48	7.67	0.51	7.67	0.51	7.67	0.51	7.67	0.51	51	3.38		
Environmental Health	10.33	0.38	6.00	0.28	21.17	1.04	21.17	1.04	21.17	1.04	21.17	1.04	112.5	5.54		
Finance	44.50	1.03	18.33	1.19	5.67	0.36	5.67	0.36	5.67	0.36	5.67	0.36	205.5	12.92		
Housing & Community Safety	31.83	0.86	1.33	0.05	37.17	1.34	37.17	1.34	37.17	1.34	37.17	1.34	152	5.47		
Legal Services	0.00	0.00	0	0	1.67	0.33	1.67	0.33	1.67	0.33	1.67	0.33	5	0.98		
Organisational Development and Strategic Planning and Community Strategy	14.33	0.30	25.83	0.53	36.33	0.71	36.33	0.71	36.33	0.71	36.33	0.71	229.5	4.49		
Property & Estates	41.33	0.89	46.83	0.98	48.83	1.13	48.83	1.13	48.83	1.13	48.83	1.13	411	9.51		
Strategic Directors Offices	1.00	0.13	0.67	0.08	1.33	0.17	1.33	0.17	1.33	0.17	1.33	0.17	9	1.13		
00	0.00	0.00	0.33	0.05	0.5	0.07	0.5	0.07	0.5	0.07	0.5	0.07	2.5	0.36		
Totals	154.16	0.55	145.98	0.56	208	0.80	208	0.80	208	0.80	208	0.80	1465.5	5.65		

Comparison figure for 2005-2006

	235.83	0.68	170.66	0.51	223.5	0.67	223.5	0.67	223.5	0.67	223.5	0.67	287.17	0.89
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Overall sickness is up compared to the same quarter last year based on the average days lost per fte per month. However, the average number of days sickness is down compared to last year. The reason the fte is higher even though the sickness is lower is that we have less staff fte this quarter compared to the staff fte in quarter 2 last year.

SUMMARY OF TURNOVER 2006-2007

	Q1	Q1 Target	Q2	Q2 Target	Q3	Q3 Target	Q4	Total No Leavers	Cumulative Turnover
	Av. No. employees left/mth	Av. Turnover / mth (%)	Av. No. employees left/mth	Av. Turnover / mth	Av. No. employees left/mth	Av. Turnover / mth	Av. No. employees left/mth		
Audit	0.00	0.00	0	0.00%	0	0.00%		0	0.00%
Commercial Services	0.00	0.00	0	0.00%	0	0.00%		0	0.00%
Contract & Procurement	0.00	0.00	0.33	0.75%	0.33	0.69%		2	4.17%
Democratic Services	0.33	1.75	0	0.00%	0	0.00%		1	5.56%
Environmental Health	0.33	1.19	0.33	1.50%	0	0.00%		2	9.52%
Finance	1.33	2.85	0.67	4.19%	0	0.00%		6	35.29%
Housing & Community Safety	0.00	0.00	0	0.00%	0	0.00%		0	0.00%
Legal Services	0.00	0.00	0.33	4.71%	0.33	5.50%		2	33.33%
Organisational Development and Strategic Planning and Community Strategy	0.67	1.19	0.67	1.18%	0	0.00%		4	6.78%
Property & Estates	0.00	0.00	0.33	0.62%	2	4.08%		7	14.29%
Strategic Directors Offices	0.00	0.00	0	0.00%	0	0.00%		0	0.00%
Totals	2.66	0.84	2.66	0.90%	2.66	0.90%	5	24	8.16%

Comparison figure for 2005-2006

1.99 0.58% 4.32 1.28% 3 0.90% 5 1.55%

Turnover is the same this quarter compared to the same quarter last year.

**Corporate Governance Report to Executive
2006/07 Quarter 3 - to the end of December 2006
Financial Commentary**

The following comments are provided to explain the attached high level budget monitoring figures.

SUMMARY

This quarter we have introduced a new report to improve the effectiveness of our budget monitoring. The attached report (in landscape format) headed 'NEW' provides predicted outturn variances for each service area. In addition, unique to the third quarter report only, the 'latest budgets' are adjusted to reflect any service and budget change forms (SBCFs) which have been submitted as part of the 2007 budget-setting process.

The previous style of report (in portrait format), also attached, headed 'OLD' is provided for continuity and to enable comparison. The attached 'OLD' Corporate Governance report for the third quarter indicates an unadjusted overspend of £1.56m (19%), which reflects expenditure and income transactions to the end of December as recorded on the financial management system ('fms'). The overspend is primarily due to an apparent £2.56m variance on benefit payments.

Several adjustments have been made to omit the 'spurious variances' caused by timing differences of significant transactions, in order to provide a more accurate reflection of the budgetary position. This includes the removal of £1.85m benefit payments which were printed and processed on the fms ahead of the due date to allow the benefits computer system to be turned off when the new system was introduced. The timing adjustments reduce the real variance to a £635k (7.9%) underspend on the 'OLD' report. This is the extent of the budget analysis on the 'OLD' report.

The 'NEW' report uses the same data as the old report and incorporates the above analysis. However, it goes on to reflect current SBCFs and predicted outturns in order to provide a more accurate view on the Council's performance against budget. The £0.6m (7.9%) underspend variance has been adjusted for any SBCFs submitted as part of the February 2007 budget-setting process. These adjustments have reduced the variance to a £181k (2.2%) underspend. Finally, budget holders have predicted their year-end outturns, which have been compared to the SBCF-adjusted budgets, resulting in a £13k overspend (0.1%).

The 'NEW' report represents a significant improvement in the Council's budget monitoring arrangements. It depends on the accuracy of officers' predictions, which will improve with practice over time. Whilst this quarter's impressively low predicted variance is welcome, it has a significant margin for error. We will repeat the process on a monthly basis and compare the predictions with the actual outturn after the accounts are closed down, to identify any process weaknesses that require correcting.

Explanations of the main items are provided below. Detailed explanations should be discussed in the monthly performance management meetings held by Portfolio Holders and Deputy/Assistant Directors. Any significant variances which will impact the year-end position should continue to be reported by the appropriate Portfolio Holder to the Executive meeting.

EXPLANATIONS

The largest area of variance, spanning both expenditure and income is **Benefits**. However, the net effect of the adjusted variances for benefit payments and benefit subsidy produces a £199k (1%) overspend. On an annual budget of almost £18m this is considered reasonable.

The £225k (4%) underspend on **Salaries** has been corrected by SBCFs submitted during the February 2007 budget-setting process (not shown in the 'OLD' report).

The £106k (27%) underspend on **Repairs and Maintenance** is mostly due to the timing of expenditure against an inaccurate budget profile. As indicated on the 'NEW' report, the Estates service area (which is the corporate custodian of most of the maintenance budgets) is likely to outturn close to adjusted budget.

The £91k (20%) underspend on **Grants** is due to the delay between the Council approving/committing grants and the recipient organisations claiming them.

The cumulative net underspend on **Other Expenditure** has been reduced by several adjustments to recognise late payments of Assisted Travel, waste contract and pension backfunding. The new free bus pass scheme introduced in April has been more successful than expected, resulting in much higher numbers of journeys than originally estimated. As the Council reimburses the bus companies for free journeys the cost of the scheme is higher than budgeted. The predicted outturn overspend of £466k (91%) has been addressed in the February 2007 budget-setting process.

The over-achievement of the **temporary accommodation** income budget is matched by an overspend in its expenditure budget. The over-achievement of both the **Planning** and **Building Control** income budgets has been addressed in the February 2007 budget-setting process.

The £287k underspend variance on **Internal Recharges** represents unbudgeted income received by the DSO since it took on the cleaning of public conveniences, as well as other recharges by one Council department to another. This is offset by an equivalent overspend within 'Other Expenditure'.

Corporate Governance financial report

OLD report format

All figures are as at end December 2006

Actuals include Commitments

	Original budget	Latest budget	Profiled budget	Actuals	Variance £	Variance %	Adjustments	Adjusted Variance £	Adj Variance %
Expenditure									
Salaries	8,002,660	7,303,930	5,534,757	5,303,877	(230,880)	(4.2%)		(230,880)	(4.2%)
Leisure salaries	287,700	287,700	215,775	221,608	5,833	9.3%		5,833	9.3%
	8,290,360	7,591,630	5,750,532	5,525,485	(225,047)	(3.9%)	0	(225,047)	(3.9%)
Overtime	86,350	84,080	62,490	85,136	22,646	36.2%		22,646	36.2%
Temporary & Agency staff	131,290	292,790	238,628	266,896	28,268	11.8%		28,268	11.8%
Training	91,890	81,890	61,418	61,436	18	0.0%		18	0.0%
Repairs & Maintenance	500,000	539,220	393,365	286,475	(106,890)	(27.2%)		(106,890)	(27.2%)
Temporary accommodation costs	150,000	150,000	112,500	161,337	48,837	43.4%		48,837	43.4%
Partnership grants	218,270	388,600	316,895	274,524	(42,371)	(13.4%)		(42,371)	(13.4%)
Grants to Organisations	273,300	273,300	11,650	16,605	4,955	42.5%		4,955	42.5%
Discrete Grants	265,590	197,210	119,273	(14,120)	(133,393)	(111.8%)	80,000	(53,393)	(44.8%)
	757,160	859,110	447,818	277,009	(170,809)	(38.1%)	80,000	(90,809)	(20.3%)
Benefit payments	17,849,050	17,849,050	12,377,525	14,942,832	2,565,307	20.7%	(1,856,299)	709,008	5.7%
Other expenditure	12,143,630	11,991,170	8,352,251	7,936,646	(415,605)	(5.0%)	267,700	(147,905)	(1.8%)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE excluding support and capital	39,999,730	39,438,940	27,796,527	29,543,252	1,746,725	6.3%	(1,508,599)	238,126	0.9%
Capita Contract/Ridgeway SSP									
Accountancy SSP					0	--		0	
Benefit Fraud SSP				2,546	2,546	--		2,546	
R & B Client SSP		894,930	597,898	466,362	(131,536)	(22.0%)	105,000	(26,536)	(4.4%)
Payroll (Capita)				107	107	--		107	
Ridgeway SSP Total	0	894,930	597,898	469,015	(128,883)	(21.6%)	105,000	(23,883)	(4.0%)
Income									
Car Parking	(811,420)	(811,420)	(620,626)	(606,699)	13,927	2.2%		13,927	2.2%
Benefit Subsidy	(17,657,020)	(17,657,020)	(13,242,765)	(13,752,672)	(509,907)	(3.9%)		(509,907)	(3.9%)
Temporary accommodation	(270,000)	(270,000)	(202,500)	(256,357)	(53,857)	(26.6%)		(53,857)	(26.6%)
Planning	(532,400)	(532,400)	(399,300)	(479,980)	(80,680)	(20.2%)		(80,680)	(20.2%)
Building Control	(545,000)	(545,000)	(408,750)	(461,258)	(52,508)	(12.8%)		(52,508)	(12.8%)
Leisure	(401,280)	(399,280)	(297,685)	(306,174)	(8,489)	(2.9%)		(8,489)	(2.9%)
					0	--		0	
Investment income	(1,152,900)	(1,152,900)	(882,200)	(354,000)	528,200	59.9%	(553,163)	(24,963)	(2.8%)
Investment Property Income	(1,919,600)	(1,919,600)	(1,439,700)	(1,146,186)	293,514	20.4%	(239,289)	54,225	3.8%
Other income	(4,517,000)	(4,827,320)	(2,806,510)	(2,769,824)	36,686	1.3%		36,686	1.3%
TOTAL INCOME excluding support and capital	(27,806,620)	(28,114,940)	(20,300,036)	(20,133,150)	166,886	0.8%	(792,452)	(625,566)	(3.1%)
NET POSITION excluding support and capital	12,193,110	12,218,930	8,094,389	9,879,117	1,784,728	22.0%	(2,196,051)	(411,323)	(5.1%)
Support Services expenditure									
Capital Charges expenditure	6,213,630	6,199,630	37,650	93,281	55,631	147.8%		55,631	147.8%
	4,353,400	4,353,400			0	--		0	
Internal Recharges	(63,000)	(63,000)	(47,250)	(335,242)	(287,992)	(609.5%)		(287,992)	(609.5%)
Support Services income	(6,167,030)	(6,167,030)			0	--		0	
Recharge to Capital income	(99,500)	(99,500)			0	--		0	
Other recharges	(242,940)	(242,940)	(24,375)	(16,625)	7,750	31.8%		7,750	
NET POSITION including support & capital	16,187,670	16,199,490	8,060,414	9,620,531	1,560,117	19.4%	(2,196,051)	(635,934)	(7.9%)
Contingency	(399,080)	(410,900)	0	0	0	--		0	
Reverse Agresso capital charges	(4,353,400)	(4,353,400)	0	0	0				
Original capital charges	3,742,900	3,742,900	0	0	0				
Total	15,178,090	15,178,090	8,060,414	9,620,531	1,560,117	19.4%	(2,196,051)	(635,934)	(7.9%)
Reversal of capital financing charges	(3,319,900)	(3,319,900)	0	0					
Net Usage of Funds	(404,374)	(404,374)							
Contribution from Balances	(181,785)	(181,785)							
Budget Requirement	11,272,031	11,272,031	8,060,414	9,620,531	1,560,117	19.4%	(2,196,051)	(635,934)	(7.9%)

Corporate Governance service expenditure report

All figures are as at end December 2006

Actuals include Commitments

Download dated 16 January 2006

NEW report format

	Original budget	Latest budget	Profiled budget	Actuals	Variance £	Variance %	Adjustments	Adjusted Variance £	Adjusted Variance %	SBCFs Submitted 6/02/07	Adjusted Variance after SBCFs	Forecast Outturn	Outturn Variance £	Outturn Variance %	SBCFs Submitted 6/02/07	Outturn Variance after SBCFs	Outturn Variance %
Audit & Performance Management	133,180	115,750	160,833	140,011	(20,822)	(12.9%)		(20,822)	(12.9%)	(26,850)	6,028	88,900	(26,850)	(23.2%)	(26,850)	0	0.0%
OE Strategy	51,040	53,930	28,865	27,783	(1,082)	(3.7%)		(1,082)	(3.7%)	(1,000)	(82)	53,930	0	0.0%	(1,000)	1,000	1.9%
Commercial Services	473,240	446,800	111,305	33,105	(78,200)	(70.3%)		(78,200)	(70.3%)	(108,630)	30,430	365,112	(81,688)	(18.3%)	(108,630)	26,942	6.0%
Contracts & Procurement	7,385,750	7,430,120	3,368,023	3,340,506	(27,517)	(0.8%)	82,000	54,483	1.6%	(162,310)	216,793	7,331,100	(99,020)	(1.3%)	(162,310)	63,290	0.9%
Environmental Health	1,186,430	1,144,520	619,542	540,036	(79,506)	(12.8%)		(79,506)	(12.8%)	(37,830)	(41,676)	1,101,690	(42,830)	(3.7%)	(37,830)	(5,000)	(0.4%)
Estates	750,410	780,300	567,688	518,721	(48,967)	(8.6%)		(48,967)	(8.6%)	113,100	(162,067)	895,470	115,170	14.8%	113,100	2,070	0.3%
Finance	1,961,620	1,072,530	(86,228)	1,870,854	1,957,082	2269.7%	(1,670,599)	286,483	332.2%	221,690	64,793	1,286,720	214,190	20.0%	221,690	(7,500)	(0.7%)
Ridgeway SSP	0	894,930	597,898	469,123	(128,775)	(21.5%)	105,000	(23,775)	(4.0%)	0	(23,775)	894,930	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%
Housing & Community Safety	2,341,470	2,389,660	857,837	845,175	(12,662)	(1.5%)		(12,662)	(1.5%)	101,240	(113,902)	2,416,970	27,290	1.1%	101,240	(73,950)	(3.1%)
Legal & Democratic Services	995,770	1,006,590	863,179	643,151	(220,028)	(25.5%)		(220,028)	(25.5%)	(116,450)	(103,578)	913,860	(92,730)	(9.2%)	(116,450)	23,720	2.4%
Organisational Development & Support	87,330	102,120	1,780,954	1,552,230	(228,724)	(12.8%)		(228,724)	(12.8%)	(137,400)	(91,324)	(70,015)	(172,135)	(188.6%)	(137,400)	(34,735)	(34.0%)
Planning & Community Strategy	2,653,350	2,636,040	906,055	592,949	(313,106)	(34.6%)	80,000	(233,106)	(25.7%)	(107,290)	(125,816)	2,528,750	(107,290)	(4.1%)	(107,290)	0	0.0%
SB Strategy	1,212,370	1,190,500	596,310	541,783	(54,527)	(9.1%)		(54,527)	(9.1%)	(107,350)	52,823	1,098,150	(92,350)	(7.8%)	(107,350)	15,000	1.3%
TS Strategy	8,210	8,180	10,052	5,290	(4,762)	(47.4%)		(4,762)	(47.4%)	(2,150)	(2,612)	8,210	30	0.4%	(2,150)	2,180	26.7%
NET SERVICE POSITION	19,260,170	19,271,960	10,382,313	11,120,717	738,404	7.1%	(1,403,599)	(665,195)	(6.4%)	(371,230)	(293,965)	18,913,777	(358,213)	(1.9%)	(371,230)	13,017	0.1%
Investment income	(1,152,900)	(1,152,900)	(882,200)	(354,000)	528,200	59.9%	(553,163)	(24,963)	(2.8%)	(141,400)	116,437	(1,294,300)	(141,400)	(12.3%)	(141,400)	0	0.0%
Investment Property Income	(1,919,600)	(1,919,600)	(1,439,700)	(1,146,186)	293,514	20.4%	(239,289)	54,225	3.8%	58,600	(4,375)	(1,861,000)	58,600	3.1%	58,600	0	0.0%
NET POSITION including investment income	16,187,670	16,199,490	8,060,413	9,620,531	1,560,118	19.4%	(2,196,051)	(635,933)	(7.9%)	(454,030)	(181,903)	15,758,477	(441,013)	(2.7%)	(454,030)	13,017	0.1%
Contingency	(399,080)	(410,900)															
Reverse Agresso capital charges	(4,353,400)	(4,353,400)															
Original capital charges	3,742,900	3,742,900															
Total	15,178,090	15,178,090	8,060,413	9,620,531	1,560,118	19.4%	(2,196,051)	(635,933)	(7.9%)	(454,030)	(181,903)	15,758,477	(441,013)	(2.9%)	(454,030)	13,017	0.1%
Reversal of capital financing charges	(3,319,900)	(3,319,900)															
Net Usage of Funds	(404,374)	(404,374)															
Contribution from Balances	(181,785)	(181,785)															
Budget Requirement	11,272,031	11,272,031	8,060,413	9,620,531	1,560,118	19.4%	(2,196,051)	(635,933)	(7.9%)	(454,030)	(181,903)	15,758,477	(441,013)	(3.9%)	(454,030)	13,017	0.1%

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

TO THE EXECUTIVE

2nd March 2007

TO SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15th March 2007

Best Value Performance Indicators – Performance against Top and Bottom Quartile 2005-06

1.0 Introduction and Report Summary

1.1 This report compares the Council's performance for 2005/6 against that of the national top and bottom quartile data for 2005-06 which was published by the Audit Commission in late December 2006.

1.2 The Contact Officer for this report is Robert Woodside, Principal Performance Management Officer (01235 520202 ext 499).

2.0 Recommendations

Executive

(a) *That Members note the Council's performance against the national top and bottom quartile results for 2005-06 and that active management of Best Value Performance Indicators is undertaken through the Corporate Governance Reporting process*

Scrutiny Committee

(a) *That Members note the Council's performance against the national top and bottom quartile results for 2005-06 and that active management of Best Value Performance Indicators is undertaken through the Corporate Governance Reporting process*

3.0 Relationship with the Council's Vision, Strategies and Policies

(a) Vision Statement objective A and E.

(b) The report does not conflict with any Council Strategies.

(c) The report complies with existing policies.

4.0 Background

4.1 The Audit Commission has recently published top and bottom quartile data for Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) for 2005-06. This allows a comparison to be made between the Vale's audited actual performance for 2005/6 with that of all of the Councils in England.

4.2 The table attached to this report (Appendix A) contains all 2005/06 BVPIs where the Audit Commission have supplied top and bottom quartile data. The headline totals for 2005/06 (the corresponding figures for 2004/05 are shown in brackets) from Appendix A are:

Top Quartile	21 (20)	38% (43%)
Middle Quartiles	23 (16)	42% (35%)
Bottom Quartile	11 (10)	20% (22%)
Total	55 (46)	

The table in Appendix A includes a column of the quartiles for 2004/05 (where available) which enables any change in the quartiles between the two years to be seen. There are 6 indicators where performance has moved to a better quartile, 5 indicators where performance has moved to a worse quartile, and 24 indicators where performance has stayed in the same quartile. This is shown by the direction of the arrows in the TQ/BQ 2004/05 column of Appendix A.

The Quarterly Corporate Governance Report (third quarter 2005/06) will include these latest quartiles (2005/06) which will enable a comparison to be made with the current year's performance.

- 4.3 The following table shows the relative numbers of BVPIs in the top and bottom quartiles between 2001/02 – 2005/06. Members should note that it is not possible to do a direct comparison between the years because there are changes each year to BVPIs; new ones are added and others deleted.
- 4.4 Appendix B is a table which lists all 11 BVPIs which were in the bottom quartile in 2005/6. The table includes the third quarter 2006/7 results and shows the current quartile position. In summary, of the 11 that were in the bottom quartile in 2005/6, 6 remain in the Bottom quartile, 4 have moved into the middle quartile and 1 into the top quartile.
- 4.5 A detailed commentary on the third quarter performance for all BVPIs for 2006/7 is included in the third quarter Corporate Governance Report which is also on this agenda.

Comparison of numbers of BVPI's in top, middle and bottom quartile: 2001/02 – 2005/06

	2001/02		2002/03		2003/04		2004/05		2005/06	
Top Quartile	13	31%	18	38%	14	34%	20	43%	21	38%
Middle Quartiles	20	48%	21	45%	17	42%	16	35%	23	42%
Bottom Quartiles	9	21%	8	17%	10	24%	10	22%	11	20%
Total	42		47		41		46		55	

ROBERT WOODSIDE
PRINCIPAL PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT OFFICER

TIM SADLER
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

Background Papers: None

Appendix A

Best Value Performance Indicators – Top, Middle and Bottom Quartile Report 2005/06

Key:	T – Target	I - Indicator
21	Top Quartile (T)	
23	Middle Quartiles (M)	
11	Bottom Quartile (B)	

Total 55	
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Top and Bottom quartile data is against all England Authorities

Trend arrows: compares 2005/6 performance with 2004/5 (not possible for all BVPIs)

T = top; B = bottom; M = middle quartile

↑	6 Better
↓	5 Worse
→	24 Same

BVPI	Indicator Description	Tgt/Ind	TQ 05/06	BQ 05/06	Actual 05/06	Quartile 05/06	Quartile 2004/05	Trend
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Corporate Health

2b	The duty to promote race equality checklist score	T	79	53	47	B	M	↓
8	% Invoices paid on time	T	96.71	89.24	92.88	M	M	→
9	Council tax collected (%)	T	98.4	96.39	99.08	T	T	→
10	NNDR collected (%)	T	99.26	98.1	99.21	T	T	→
11a	% of top 5% of earners that are women	I	42.58	22.22	14.29	B	B	→
11b	% of top 5% of earners that are from ethnic minorities	I	4.33	0	7.14	T	B	↑
12	Days sick per member of staff	T	8.34	10.94	10	M	M	→
14	Early retirements / staff	I	0.17	0.78	0	T	B	↑
15	Ill health retirements / staff	I	0.1	0.37	0	T	T	→
16a	% staff with disabilities	I	3.86	1.86	5.9	T	T	→
17a	% staff from ethnic minorities	I	4.8	0.9	2.51	M	M	→

Housing

64	No of vacant private sector dwellings returned into occupation	T	77	7	5	B	M	↓
183a	Average length of stay in B&B (weeks)	T	1	4.27	3.26	M	M	→
183b	Average length of stay in Hostel (weeks)	T	0	17	12.32	M	B	↑
202	No of people sleeping rough on a single night	T	0	5	0	T		
203	% change in average number of families in temporary accommodation	T	-15.84	19.27	-14.2	M	T	↓
213	Number households considered homeless - housing advice intervention resolved situation 1,000 households	I	5	1	2	M		
214	Housing advice service: Repeat homelessness (%)	I	0.32	4.26	3.33	M		

Benefits

78a	Average time for processing new claims	T	26.4	39.1	25.96	T	T	→
78b	Average time for processing changes of circumstances	T	9.1	18.8	6.17	T	T	→
79a	% of cases where calculation was correct	T	99	96.6	99.6	T	T	→
79b(i)	% of overpayments recovered as a % of Housing Benefit deemed recoverable	T	79.39	58.98	102.85	T	T	→
79b(ii)	% overpayments recovered during the period including overpayments identified during the period	I	39.69	27.35	49.97	T		
BVPI	Indicator Description	Tgt/Ind	TQ 05/06	BQ 05/06	Actual 05/06	Quartile 05/06	Quartile 2004/05	Trend

Environment

82ai	% of household waste recycled	T	20.87	14.22	22.14	T	T	→
82aaii	Total tonnage of waste recycled	T	15126	6086	9038	M		

82bi	% of household waste composted	T	13.05	3.54		1.09	B	B	→
82bii	Total tonnage of waste composted	T	8770	1802		699	B		
84a	Household waste collected (Kg per head of population)	I	393	478		352	T	T	→
84b	% change (from previous year) waste collected KG per head	T	-3.74	1.31		1.09	M		
86	Cost of waste collection (£)	T	39.48	52.42		45.9	M	M	→
91a	The % of households served by a kerbside collection of recyclables	T	100	93.5		98.6	M	T	↓
91b	The % of households served by a kerbside collection of at least 2 recyclables	T	100	90.1		98.6	M		
166a	Environmental health checklist (%)	T	100	85		66.25	B	B	→
199a	Cleanliness of relevant land and highways (%)	T	8.8	21		12	M	M	→
199b	Proportion relevant land and highways with unacceptable levels of graffiti visible %	T	1	6		1	T		
BVPI	Indicator Description	Tgt/Ind	TQ 05/06	BQ 05/06		Actual 05/06	Quartile 05/06	Quartile 2004/05	Trend
199c	Proportion of relevant land and highways with unacceptable levels of fly postings visible %	T	0	2		0	T		
216a	Contaminated land - number of sites of potential concern	I	1428	325		1078	M		
216b	Number sites where remediation of land necessary % of 'sites potential concern'	I	9	1		1.32	M		
217	% pollution control improvements to existing installations completed on time	T	100	83		97	M		
218a	% of reports of abandoned vehicles investigated within 24 hours of notification	T	96.64	73		94.93	M		
218b	% of abandoned vehicles removed within 24 hours (of legally being able to)	T	95	61.11		61.11	B		

Planning

106	% new homes on brown field sites	T	96.47	62.43		95.29	M	M	→
109a	% of major planning applications in 13 weeks	T	74.9	57.08		50	B	M	↓
109b	% of minor planning applications in 8 weeks	T	81.07	69		71.8	M	B	↑
109c	% of other planning applications in 8 weeks	T	91.39	83.37		86.66	M	B	↑
179	% of standard searches carried out in 10 working days	T	100	98		99.79	M		
205	Quality of service checklist (%)	T	94.5	83.3		83	B	B	→
219b	% of conservation areas with an up to date character appraisal	I	31.81	0		0	B		
219c	% of conservation areas with published management proposals	I	7.7	0		0	B		
BVPI	Indicator Description	Tgt/Ind	TQ 05/06	BQ 05/06		Actual 05/06	Quartile 05/06	Quartile 2004/05	Trend

Community Development

126	Domestic burglaries per 1000 households	I	6.4	13.7		5.94	T	T	→
127a	Violent crimes per 1000 population	I	12.4	22.8		12.39	T	M	↑
127b	Robberies per 1000 population	I	0.3	1.3		0.16	T	T	→

128	Vehicle crimes per 1000 population	I	7.3	14.6		5.88	T	T	→
156	% of authority buildings open to the public - accessible for disabled	T	84.7	44.66		83	M		
175	% of racial incidents that resulted in further action	T	100	100		100	T		

Appendix B

Best Value Performance Indicators in Bottom Quartile 2005/06 (position at end of third quarter 2006/7)

BVPI	Indicator Description	Tgt/Ind	TQ 05/06	BQ 05/06	Actual 05/06	Quartile 05/06	Third Quarter 2006/7	Quartile (as at third quarter)	Trend
2b	The duty to promote race equality checklist score	T	79	53	47	B	31.6	B	→
11a	% of top 5% of earners that are women	I	42.58	22.22	14.29	B	15.38	B	→
64	No of vacant private sector dwellings returned into occupation	T	77	7	5	B	49	M	↑
82bi	% of household waste composted	T	13.05	3.54	1.09	B	6.86	M	↑
82bii	Total tonnage of waste composted	T	8770	1802	699	B	2196	M	↑
166a	Environmental health checklist (%)	T	100	85	66.25	B	66.25	B	→
218b	% of abandoned vehicles removed within 24 hours (of legally being able to)	T	95	61.11	61.11	B	42.86	B	→
109a	% of major planning applications in 13 weeks	T	74.9	57.08	50	B	79.31	T	↑
205	Quality of service checklist (%)	T	94.5	83.3	83	B	88.88	M	↑
219b	% of conservation areas with an up to date character appraisal	I	31.81	0	0	B	Annual reporting	B (estimated)	→
219c	% of conservation areas with published management proposals	I	7.7	0	0	B	Annual reporting	B (estimated)	→

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF ASSET MANAGEMENT
TO THE EXECUTIVE
2 MARCH 2007

Treasury Management and Investment Strategy for 2007/08

1.0 Introduction and Report Summary

- 1.1 The Treasury Management Policy, agreed by Council December 2001 requires the approval of an annual Treasury Management Strategy for the next financial year. This is in line with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management.
- 1.2 In March 2004 the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, now the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) issued guidance under Section 15 of the Local Government Act 2003 on Local Government cash investments which requires approval of an Annual Investment Strategy. The guidance does acknowledge that it might be convenient to produce a single document that meets the requirements of the CIPFA code and the Secretary of State's guidance.
- 1.3 This report puts forward an Annual Strategy for this authority for 2007/08 which, as last year, complies with the CIPFA code and the DCLG guidance. This is unchanged from the existing strategy for 2006/07. This strategy restricts itself to non-property investments. For property investment, Members should refer to the Investment Policy last agreed by the Council on 24 March 2004
- 1.4 The Contact Officer for this report is Steve Lawrence, Head of Asset Management 01235 540321.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 *Members are asked to approve:*

the Annual Treasury Management & Investment Strategy for 2007/08 (set out at Appendix A), and the limits and guidelines specified in it.

3.0 Relationship with the Council's Vision, Strategies and Policies

- a) Vision strands A and B.
- b) This report complies with the Council's strategies for sound financial management.
- c) This report complies with the Council's Treasury Management Policy, approved by Council on 19 December 2001, and follows the procedure recommended in the revised CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice, January 2002.

4.0 Local Government Investments

- 4.1 Local Authorities' powers and practices for investing their surplus funds are contained in Part 1 of the *Local Government Act 2003*. The act allows the Secretary of State to issue guidance on investments and to specify other guidance which should be followed. The ODPM issued guidance in March 2004 and specified that regard should also be had to the *Treasury Management Code of Practice* and *The Prudential Code for Capital Finance* issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

- 4.2 The general objective remains that local authorities should prudently invest surplus funds held. Priority should be given to security and liquidity but it is reasonable to seek the highest return consistent with those aims. The DCLG guidance specifically discourages the use of speculative investments such as equities. Borrowing purely in order to invest remains unlawful.
- 4.3 Somewhat confusingly the guidance introduces the concept of “specified” and “non-specified” cash investments. Specified investments are those offering high security, high liquidity and low risk. They should be in sterling and with a maturity of no more than 1 year. Investments made with the UK Government or a local authority are automatically included as are bodies with “a high credit rating”, the definition of which is left to the authority. Non-specified investments are those that don’t meet this description. The aim seems to be not to discourage authorities from using non-specified investments but to ensure that proper procedures are in place to assess any greater risk. These categories are considered separately in sections 4 and 5 of the Strategy.
- 4.4 The guidance also applies to investments made through external fund managers.

5.0 Treasury Management and Investment Strategy

- 5.1 The Treasury Management Policy requires an annual Treasury Management & Investment Strategy Statement. This sets borrowing limits, investment objectives, approved organisations for investment, guidelines and performance criteria for the in-house operation. Since there has been no significant change in the Council’s circumstances or the investment market the Strategy Statement for 2006/07 agreed in March 2006 is still suitable and has just been updated where necessary. The proposed Strategy Statement for 2007/08 is set out at Appendix A.
- 5.2 Prudential indicators required by the Capital Finance Regulations issued under the 2003 Act and the limits for external borrowing were agreed at the Council meeting on 21 February 2007.

STEVE LAWRENCE
HEAD OF ASSET MANAGEMENT

Background Papers:

Treasury Management in the Public Services – Code of Practice and Cross-sectoral Guidance notes. Published by CIPFA Jan 2002.

Guidance on Local Government Investments

ODPM 12 March 2004

TREASURY MANGEMENT & INVESTMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2007-08**1.0 Investment Objectives**

1.1 The main objectives to be followed in 2007/08 are:

- to invest in instruments conducive to achieving optimum returns whilst ensuring the security of the principal invested.
- to ensure a balanced portfolio in terms of period and maturity date with specific regard to major cash inflows and outflows (e.g. precept payments and grant receipts);
- to have regard to protecting the Council's position against fluctuations in interest rates and enabling it to plan properly for future financial commitments;
- to maintain sufficient liquidity to allow for cash-flow variations arising from income receipts and expenditure commitments, and to take advantage of interest rate movements when favourable;
- to keep investment management expenses to a minimum whilst ensuring that the overall return to the Council is maximised.

1.2 Investment of the Council's funds will be in accordance with the Treasury Management Policy. The overriding factor will be the security of the principal invested. Investment returns are associated with risk and, therefore, the margin of interest attainable will generally be lower the more secure the investment.

2.0 Liquidity of Investments

2.1 This refers to how easily the investment can be converted into cash. In normal circumstances higher returns are achievable from investments with lower liquidity. The use of longer term instruments (greater than 1 year to maturity) will fall in the non-specified investment category. It is proposed that these will only be used for the Council's core funds and a maximum investment period of three years is proposed because this is consistent with the capital planning framework and forecasting interest rate movements beyond 18 months is difficult. The actual limits are included under non-specified investments below.

3.0 Approved Organisations for Investment

3.1 When assessing an organisation for investment purposes the Council will use Butlers creditworthiness advice for applying credit rating criteria. Butlers is a division of ICAP Securities plc and is the Council's appointed investment advisor. The Council receives updates from Butlers of changes to credit ratings as they occur. These updates will be incorporated into the Council's counterparty list on the same day. The criteria will be applied as follows:

Banks the Council will use all banks with the following ratings (or equivalent) from Fitch, Moody's or Standard & Poor's:

Short Term: F1	Long Term: A-
Individual: C	Support: 3

Wholly Owned Subsidiaries: The Council will use these where the parent bank meets the rating requirement as above.

Building Societies the Council will use building societies which have ratings as for banks above. In addition, it will use unrated Societies with assets in excess of £500 million. (This makes up the top 30).

Money Market Funds Funds that have an AAA rating.

UK Government: Including gilts (to be used by the external fund manager) and the Debt Management Office (responsible for lending to local authorities).

Supranational Bonds: The Council's external fund manager is allowed to invest in these instruments through their mandate.

Other Local Authorities

4.0 **Specified Investments**

4.1 These are sterling investments of not more than one-year maturity in a body with a high credit rating and not defined as capital expenditure (making an investment in a company.) This would include investments with The UK Government, a Money Market fund which is rated AAA by Fitch, Moody's or Standard & Poor's, a local authority or an institution with a short term credit rating of either F1 (*Fitch*), P-1 (*Moody's*) or A-1 (*Standard & Poor's*).

5.0 **Non-Specified Investments**

5.1 These are any other type of permitted investment (i.e. not defined as specified above). This would include any sterling investments (there is no wish to invest in other currencies) with:

Gilt edged securities (over one year). These are used by the Council's Fund Manager. The mandate allows maximum duration of any investment to be 15 years but the average of all investments should not exceed 5 years.

Supranational bonds (over one year) (these are basically gilts but issued by foreign governments) with a AAA rating.

An institution with a long term credit rating of AA- (*Fitch and Standard & Poor's*) or Aa3 (*Moody's*) for deposits with a maturity greater than 1 year and less than 3 years.

Non-rated Building Societies with assets in excess of £1 billion (the top 21) limited to no longer than 9 months,

Non-rated Building Societies with assets in excess of £500 million (the next 9) limited to no longer than 6 months,

Unrated subsidiaries of an institution which meets the credit rating criteria outlined above limited to 6 months.

6.0 **Limits with any institution**

6.1 A balanced portfolio should be maintained to ensure sufficient liquidity is available to allow for cash flow variations, and to protect the Council against fluctuations in interest rates. The following limits will be applied (for organisations that meet the criteria above):

	Fitch	Moody's	Standard & Poor's	Money Limit	Time Limit
Upper Limit Category	F1+ / AA-	P-1 / Aa3	A-1+ / AA-	£5 m	3 years
Lower Limit Category	F1 / A-	P-1 / A3	A-1 / A-	£5 m	1 year
Building Society Limits 1	Assets in excess of £1bn			£3 m	9 months
Building Society Limits 2	Assets in excess of £500m			£3 m	6 months
Unrated Subsidiaries	-	-	-	£3 m	6 months

Other Institution Limits	-	-	-	£5 m	various
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1. The Upper and Lower Limit categories will include both banks and building societies.
2. The Other Institution Limit will be for other local authorities, the DMADF (Debt Management Account Deposit Facility – lending to the Government), Money Market Funds and Gilt and Supranational investments. These are all considered high quality names – although not always rated – and therefore will have the same limit as the Upper Category.

6.2 In exceptional circumstances short term variations to these limits will be allowed, subject to the written authority of the Strategic Director.

7.0 **Borrowing Limits 2007/08**

7.1 The Council is required to determine the following limits for the financial year 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. The Prudential Code for Capital Finance stipulates that these are set at the same time as the Prudential Indicators for Capital Finance are considered. Those indicators were included as part of the Executive Budget Proposal in Appendix A(i) of that report (yellow pages) and agreed on 21 February 2007.

	Limit	£'000
Operational boundary for external debt		2,000
Authorised limit for external debt		5,000
limit for amounts at variable interest rates		nil

8.0 **Guidelines for In-house Investment**

8.1 The brokers listed below are currently authorised to arrange the Council's cash investments:

Prebon Marshall Yamane (UK) Ltd
 Tradition UK Limited
 Intercapital Europe (Icap) (a division of ICAP Securities plc.)

8.2 New brokers can only be used after written consent from the Strategic Director.

8.3 Investments may only be made with Local Authorities and other organisations as authorised by the Bank of England under the Banking Act 1987, subject to fulfilling the criteria above and up to the limits above.

8.4 The Principal Accountant has responsibility for the daily management of cash and has the authority to agree investments for a period of up to three months within policy guidelines (the actual transaction must be authorised by one of the three bank signatories as with any payment).

8.5 Money invested for a period exceeding three months requires the prior written authorisation of the Head of Asset Management.

8.6 A weekly report will be produced to provide the Strategic Director & Chief Finance Officer with details of all investment activities.

9.0 **Performance Measures**

9.1 The Executive will receive regular reports on Treasury Management activities as detailed in the Treasury Management Policy.

9.2 The following key performance measures are recommended:

- in-house investment rates achieved compared to the LGC 7 day rate;
- adherence to investment policy and strategy;
- full investment of daily balances;
- maintenance of a balanced portfolio;
- weekly reports produced (in-house) or monthly (externally managed funds).

March 2007

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR PLANNING AND COMMUNITY STRATEGY
TO THE EXECUTIVE
2 MARCH 2007

Draft Local Development Framework Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

1 Introduction and Report Summary

- 1.1 Under Section 39(2) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Sustainability Appraisal is mandatory for new Development Plan Documents (DPDs). This puts into effect the requirements of European Directive 2001/42/EC on the Strategic Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes on the Environment which came into effect by regulations produced in 2004. The now Department for Communities and Local Government produced guidance in November 2005 on the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of Local Development Documents.
- 1.2 The first stage in the SA process (Stage A) is the production of a Scoping Report. This serves as the foundation for the SA of the Vale's Core Strategy. Essentially it provides the information relating to the area and other background information together with a suggested assessment framework.
- 1.3 Consultation on the document has to be undertaken with the now three designated environmental bodies (English Heritage, the Environment Agency and Natural England) and any other bodies or persons that the Council considers necessary. Following any amendments arising out of the consultation the background information and the framework will be used to assess the sustainability of the Core Strategy. A final SA Report has to be produced to accompany the Core Strategy DPD when submitted to the Secretary of State.
- 1.4 A draft Scoping Report was considered by the Structure And Local Plan Advisory Group 3rd January 2007. The report has been modified in response to comments made at that meeting and subsequently in response to comments by other Members.
- 1.5 The Contact Officer for this report is Peter Williams, Principal Planning Officer, (01235 520202)

2 Recommendations

(a) that the Executive approves the Draft Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report as contained in the appendix to this report, and

(b) that the public and relevant organisations are consulted in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Statement of Community Involvement.

3 Relationship with the Council's Vision, Strategies and Policies

(a) A, B, C and F.

(b) this report principally relates to the Local Development Framework Core Strategy and through this has a connection to most of the Council's strategies

4 Background and Supporting Information

- 4.1 The first element of the Scoping Report (A1) is the identification of relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives. In the Government advice this process can involve

the review of a very large number of documents ranging from international documents such as the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, through national documents such as the Planning Policy Statements, then regional documents such as the Regional Economic Development Strategy and finally locally significant documents such as crime and disorder strategies.

- 4.2 Following advice by Riki Therivel, one of the authors of the original ODPM guidance on SA, it is considered that the review of documentation can be limited to those below regional level as all significant international, national and regional documentation will have been examined in the South East Plan's review of plans and programmes. Reviewing the same documents would be an unnecessary duplication of effort. This approach is therefore used as the basis for the Vale's review of relevant documents for the SA process. Other Councils which have not taken this approach have included reviews running to over 100 pages.
- 4.3 The outputs from the review of plans is used to help generate the sustainability objectives on which the sustainability assessment will be based. This will ensure that the objectives are as all encompassing as possible.
- 4.4 The second element of the SA (A2) is the collection of baseline information. Essentially this presents statistical information about the area across all the topic areas to be covered in a DPD. As this is for a core strategy the range in this case is very broad. Comparison data is included in each case where available so it is clear whether the situation is good or bad and by how much as well as what the future is expected to hold and whether the situation can be improved if necessary.
- 4.5 In order to present the information in an easily understood manner a narrative rather than tabular approach has been taken to the presentation of the information. The information has been assembled from a wide range of sources and will form the basis of monitoring of the effects of the DPD.
- 4.6 Partly deriving from this statistical information is the third part of the scoping report (A3) which involves the identification of sustainability issues and problems. Many of these problems are already recognised in the adopted Local Plan and other related documents. This section therefore consists of a list of known issues which relate to supporting data. The purpose of this section is also to help define sustainability objectives which can be used to assess the DPD.
- 4.7 The final part of the scoping report is the development of the sustainability appraisal framework (A4). This will be used as the basis for an assessment of the sustainability implications of the DPD's policies and proposals. It consists of a range of sustainability objectives which, where practicable, relate to specific targets and indicators. The effects of each policy and proposal are then ascertained by scoring the effect against each objective to gain an overall score. As set out in the draft report this will be on the basis of scoring effects with a + or - symbol where possible with a 0 for a balanced effect and a ? for an indeterminate effect.
- 4.8 The guidance from the Government is that the range of objectives, indicators and targets should be manageable. Two Councils in Oxfordshire have used 17 and 25 objectives. The SA will then have to set out what, if any, mitigation for any overall adverse sustainability effects is possible in the form of a policy or proposal.
- 4.9 Following approval by the Executive the three mandatory consultees will be asked for their comments. At the same time stakeholders will be informed that the SA Scoping Report is available and asked to comment. This will be in accordance with the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement. Any comments which are received will be considered to see if the any part of the scoping report should be modified. Following any modification the sustainability framework and its subsequent approval of any changes by the Executive it will be used as the basis for assessing the sustainability of the Core Strategy during its development.

RODGER HOOD
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (Planning and Community Strategy)

TIM SADLER
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR

Background Papers:-

Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents
(November 2005)



Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

March 2007

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Vale of White Horse Core Strategy

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (Stage A)

Introduction

1. The UK Government has published a Sustainable Development Strategy (Securing the Future – delivering a UK sustainable development strategy, March 2005) which contains a ‘purpose’, which has been agreed by the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations. This states that the goal of sustainable development is

“to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life of future generations”.
2. A set of shared UK principles that will be used to achieve the purpose and which will form the basis for policy in the UK is outlined in the shared UK framework and reflected in the UK Government’s Strategy. These have been agreed by all of the administrations in the UK including the vale of White Horse District Council:
 - Living within environmental limits;
 - Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society;
 - Achieving a sustainable economy;
 - Promoting good governance; and
 - Using sound science responsibly.
4. The framework strategy also identifies four shared priorities for immediate action:
 - Sustainable consumption and production – achieving more with less;
 - Climate change and energy – securing a profound change in energy generation and use, preparing for climate change and setting a good example;
 - Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement through a better understanding of environmental limits, environmental enhancement and recovery, and a more integrated policy framework; and
 - Sustainable communities that embody the principles of sustainable development at the local level.

5. The Council's own core objectives are as follows:
 - a. Strengthen local democracy and public involvement through access to information, consultation, and devolution of power so that everyone can take part in our community and contribute to the decisions which affect our lives
 - b. Create a safer community and improve the quality of life among Vale residents
 - c. Encourage a strong and sustainable economy which benefits all who live in, work in or visit the Vale
 - d. Help disadvantaged groups and individuals within the Vale to realise their full potential
 - e. Provide and support high quality public services which are effective, efficient and responsive to the needs of people within the Vale
 - f. Protect and improve our built and natural environment
6. The concept of sustainable development is central to the reformed planning system. The purpose of sustainability appraisal (SA) is to promote sustainable development through the integration of social, environmental and economic considerations into the preparation of new Development Plan Documents (DPDs). Paragraph 24 of Planning Policy Statement 1 'Delivering Sustainable Development' states that "planning authorities should ensure that sustainable development is treated in an integrated way in their development plans. In particular, they should carefully consider the inter-relationship between social inclusion, protecting and enhancing the environment, the prudent use of natural resources and economic development."
7. Under the previous system where local plans were produced sustainability appraisal was optional. Government guidance was produced to indicate what these appraisals should contain and most local planning authorities carried out an appraisal of their plan. One was carried for the now adopted Vale of White Horse Local Plan in accordance with the then relevant Government Guidance.
8. To ensure that there was a consistent approach to the environmental appraisal of local government plans and programmes across Europe the European Directive 2001/42/EC on the "strategic environmental assessment of plans and programmes on the environment" (the SEA Directive) was put in place. This was then transposed into UK law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. These regulations widened the original intention of the SEA Directive from environmental appraisal to sustainability appraisal which evaluates social and economic effects of plans or programmes as well as environmental effects.
9. Under the Section 39(2) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Sustainability Appraisal is mandatory for new Development Plan Documents (DPDs). To assist local planning authorities the now Department for Communities and Local Government produced guidance on the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of Local Development Documents in November 2005. This sets out the stages in a

sustainability appraisal of a development plan document such as a core strategy. These are set out in the table on the following page.

10. The first step in the sustainability appraisal process is stage A which is the production of a scoping report. This sets out the framework for carrying out the appraisal and its justification. The first part of the scoping report consists of an examination of other relevant plans and programmes (Stage A1) so that relevant sustainability objectives can be brought into the sustainability appraisal framework. This ensures that the appraisal takes those objectives into account when assessing the sustainability of policies and proposals in the core strategy.
11. The next part of the scoping report is the collection of baseline information (Stage A2) about the Vale. This provides the baseline for assessing any effects of a policy or proposal on the Vale. The baseline assessment contains comparisons to other areas so that issues or problems can be identified. The baseline assessment also contains predictions of how the various factors will progress into the future based on current expected development. The effects of any policies or proposals on these expectations can then be assessed as part of the SA.
12. Part A3 of the scoping report is the identification of sustainability issues and problems which affect the Vale. Many of these are already known from work on the adopted local plan. Others can be identified from the baseline information and from relevant plans and programmes. These can then be taken into account in the sustainability appraisal objectives when assessing the core strategy.

Incorporating SA within the DPD process

Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope
A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives.
A2: Collecting baseline information.
A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems.
A4: Developing the SA framework.
A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA.
Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects
B1: Testing the DPD objectives against the SA framework.
B2: Developing the DPD options.
B3: Predicting the effects the DPD.
B4: Evaluating the effects of the DPD.
B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects.
B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the DPDs.
Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report
C1: Preparing the SA Report.
Stage D: Consulting on the preferred options of the DPD and SA Report
D1: Public participation on the preferred options of the DPD and

the SA Report.
D2(i): Appraising significant changes.
D2(ii): Appraising significant changes resulting from representations.
D3: Making decisions and providing information.
Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the DPD
E1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring.
E2: Responding to adverse effects.

12. Part four of the scoping report (Stage A4) is the development of the sustainability appraisal framework. The foundations of this framework are the sustainability objectives which are developed from the information contained in the first three parts of the scoping report. These objectives can then be used to score the various policy and proposal options in the core strategy so that the most sustainable option can be chosen. It also allows the potential for unsustainable impacts to be removed or mitigated to be examined.
13. The next stage is for the scoping report to be made available for comment. The regulations require the Council to formally consult the now three statutory environmental bodies. These are English Heritage, the Environment Agency and Natural England. The government guidance indicates that Council's should also consult stakeholders. The Council's Statement of Community Involvement sets out how this will be undertaken.
14. Following that consultation any comments will be considered and any modifications which are felt to be necessary will be made. The assessment framework will then be used to assess the policy and proposal options in the core strategy and a report will be produced setting out the results of that assessment.
15. When the core strategy is submitted a final sustainability appraisal report will be prepared and published. Whether the sustainability appraisal is sound will then be examined as part of the inquiry. The monitoring elements of the appraisal will then be used to assess the actual effects of the core strategy after its adoption by the Council.

Core Strategy SA Scoping Report – A1 Review of Plans and Programmes

Plan or Programme	Aims and/or Objectives	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>Planning Policy Statement 3 Housing</p>	<p>To achieve a wide choice of high quality homes, both affordable and market housing, to address the requirements of the community.</p> <p>To widen opportunities for home ownership and ensure high quality housing for those who cannot afford market housing, in particular those who are vulnerable or in need.</p> <p>To improve affordability across the housing market, including by increasing the supply of housing.</p> <p>To create sustainable, inclusive, mixed communities in all areas, both urban and rural.</p>	<p>Access to decent, sustainably constructed and affordable homes</p> <p>Increased quality of life for Vale residents.</p> <p>Reduced poverty and social exclusion with disadvantaged groups achieving potential</p> <p>Improve and protect the built environment</p>
<p>Planning Policy Statement 9 - Biodiversity and Geological Conservation.</p>	<p>To promote sustainable development by ensuring that biological and geological diversity are conserved and enhanced as an integral part of social, environmental and economic development, so that policies and decisions about the development and use of land integrate biodiversity and geological diversity with other considerations.</p> <p>To conserve, enhance and restore the diversity of England's wildlife and geology by sustaining, and where possible improving, the quality and extent of natural habitat and geological and geomorphological sites; the natural physical processes on which they depend; and the populations of naturally occurring species which they support.</p> <p>To contribute to rural renewal and urban renaissance by:</p> <p>– enhancing biodiversity in green spaces and among</p>	<p>Improve and protect the natural environment (including biodiversity).</p> <p>Sustainable use of land, buildings and resources.</p> <p>Maintained and improved river quality and water resources.</p> <p>Reduced air, noise and light pollution.</p>

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<p>Planning Policy Statement 10 – Planning for Sustainable Waste Management</p>	<p>developments so that they are used by wildlife and valued by people, recognising that healthy functional ecosystems can contribute to a better quality of life and to people’s sense of well-being; and</p> <p>– ensuring that developments take account of the role and value of biodiversity in supporting economic diversification and contributing to a high quality environment.</p> <p>Help deliver sustainable development through driving waste management up the waste hierarchy, addressing waste as a resource and looking to disposal as the last option, but one which must be adequately catered for;</p> <p>Provide a framework in which communities take more responsibility for their own waste, and enable sufficient and timely provision of waste management facilities to meet the needs of their communities;</p> <p>Help implement the national waste strategy, and supporting targets, are consistent with obligations required under European legislation and support and complement other guidance and legal controls such as those set out in the Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994;</p> <p>Help secure the recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without harming the environment, and enable waste to be disposed of in one of the nearest appropriate installations;</p> <p>Reflect the concerns and interests of communities, the needs of waste collection authorities, waste disposal authorities and</p>	<p>Improve and protect the natural environment (including biodiversity).</p> <p>Improve and protect the built environment.</p> <p>Improved health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Sustainable use of land, buildings and resources.</p>

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	<p>business, and encourage competitiveness;</p> <p>Protect green belts but recognise the particular locational needs of some types of waste management facilities when defining detailed green belt boundaries and, in determining planning applications, that these locational needs, together with the wider environmental and economic benefits of sustainable waste management, are material considerations that should be given significant weight in determining whether proposals should be given planning permission;</p> <p>Ensure the design and layout of new development supports sustainable waste management.</p>	
<p>Planning Policy Statement 25 – Development and Flood Risk</p>	<p>To ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages in the planning process,</p> <p>To avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, and</p> <p>To direct development away from areas at highest risk.</p>	<p>Access to decent, sustainably constructed and affordable homes.</p> <p>Reduced risk of flooding.</p> <p>Effective action on climate change.</p>
<p>The Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change</p>	<p>Work with central government to contribute, at a local level, to the delivery of the UK Climate Change Programme, the Kyoto Protocol and the target for carbon dioxide reduction by 2010.</p> <p>Participate in local and regional networks for support.</p> <p>Within the next two years develop plans with our partners and local communities to progressively address the causes and the impacts of climate change, according to our local priorities,</p>	<p>Access to decent, sustainably constructed and affordable homes.</p> <p>Establish a strong and sustainable economy within the Vale.</p> <p>Reduced road congestion and</p>

Plan or Programme	Aims and/or Objectives	Related Sustainability Objectives
	<p>securing maximum benefit for our communities.</p> <p>Publicly declare, within appropriate plans and strategies, the commitment to achieve a significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from our own authority's operations, especially energy sourcing and use, travel and transport, waste production and disposal and the purchasing of goods and services.</p> <p>Assess the risk associated with climate change and the implications for our services and our communities of climate change impacts and adapt accordingly.</p> <p>Encourage all sectors in our local community to take the opportunity to adapt to the impacts of climate change, to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions and to make public their commitment to action.</p> <p>Monitor the progress of our plans against the actions needed and publish the result.</p>	<p>Improve and protect the natural environment (including biodiversity).</p> <p>Sustainable use of land, buildings and resources.</p> <p>Effective action on climate change.</p> <p>Increased generation of energy by renewables.</p>
The South East Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home 2. Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public wellbeing, the economy and the environment 3. Improve the health and wellbeing of the population and reduce inequalities in health 4. Reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most deprived areas in the South East and the rest of the region 	<p><i>All of these matters are included in the sustainability objectives.</i></p>

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Raise educational achievement levels across the region and develop the opportunities for everyone to acquire the skills needed to find and remain in work 6. Reduce crime and the fear of crime 7. Create and sustain vibrant communities 8. Improve accessibility to all services and facilities 9. Encourage increased engagement in cultural activity across all sections of the community in the South East 10. Improve efficiency in land use through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including re-use of materials from buildings, and encourage urban renaissance 11. Reduce air pollution and ensure air quality continues to improve 12. Address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and ensure that the South East is prepared for its impacts 13. Conserve and enhance the region's biodiversity 14. Protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the region's countryside and historic environment 15. Reduce road congestion and pollution levels by improving travel choice, and reduce the need for travel by car/lorry | |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 16. Reduce the global, social and environmental impact of consumption of resources by using sustainably produced and local products 17. Reduce waste generation and disposal, and achieve the sustainable management of waste 18. Maintain and improve the water quality of the region's rivers and coasts, and achieve sustainable water resources management 19. Increase energy efficiency, and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the region 20. Ensure high and stable levels of employment so everyone can benefit from the economic growth of the region 21. Sustain economic growth and competitiveness across the region 22. Stimulate economic revival in priority regeneration areas 23. Develop a dynamic, diverse and knowledge-based economy that excels in innovation with higher value, lower impact activities 24. Encourage the development of a buoyant, sustainable tourism sector 25. Develop and maintain a skilled workforce to support long-term competitiveness of the region | |
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Thames Corridor Abstraction Management Strategy	To manage water resources sustainably by providing a structured approach to water resources management in the Thames Corridor which recognises the needs of abstractors, river users and the environment.	<p>Maintained and improved river quality and water resources.</p> <p>Improve and protect the natural environment (including biodiversity)</p>
Thames path Management Strategy 2006-2011 (Natural England)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To encourage all relevant partners to be fully represented, involved in and committed to the management of the Thames Path. 2. To secure adequate funding for the management of the Thames path 3. To manage the Thames path sustainably by having as minimal an impact on the environment as possible. 4. To market the Thames Path and its corridor in accordance with the principles of sustainable use. 5. To ensure the ongoing maintenance of the Thames Path is economic, effective and carried out efficiently and sustainably. 6. To gather and maintain the information necessary to enable the effective ongoing management of the Thames Path. 7. The Thames Path to be adjacent to the River Thames. 8. The router of the Thames Path to provide the highest quality experience for visitors. 	<p>Increased quality of life for Vale residents. Develop a strong and sustainable tourism sector.</p> <p>Improved health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Improve and protect the natural environment (including biodiversity)</p>

	<p>9. To ensure the Thames Path is safe and easy to follow and reaches the standards outlined in 'Quality Standards for National Trails in England'. All structures and materials to be of a high standard of design, sustainable, sympathetic to the surroundings, well-maintained, safe, and easy and convenient to use.</p> <p>10. To improve and maintain those strategic routes within the corridor of the Thames Path that provide access from the Trail to villages and towns or are part of promoted circular walks around the Thames Path.</p> <p>11. To improve public transport access to principal points along the Thames Path and to increase the percentage of people using it to visit the Trail.</p> <p>12. To manage the issue of cycling in relation to the Thames Path in line with the Management Group's Cycling Policy.</p> <p>13. To protect and enhance the visual, ecological, historical and architectural landscape within the corridor of the Thames Path.</p> <p>14. To maintain and develop partnerships with all organisations and individuals with interests in the Thames Path and its corridor.</p> <p>15. To provide facilities and services for users of the Thames Path.</p> <p>16. To provide well-targeted, accurate, relevant and branded information and promotional material to encourage and enable people to visit and enjoy the Thames Path.</p>	
Thames Waterway Plan 2006-2011 (River Thames Alliance)	Vision – The healthy growth in the use of the freshwater Thames for communities, wildlife, leisure and business.	Increased quality of life for Vale residents.

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	<p>Core Objectives:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve and promote access and information for all users (on water and land). 2. Improve and maintain the river infrastructure, facilities and services for all users. 3. Contribute to enhanced biodiversity, heritage, and landscape value in the waterway corridor. 4. Increase use of the river and its corridor 	<p>Develop a strong and sustainable tourism sector.</p> <p>Improved health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Improve and protect the natural environment (including biodiversity)</p>
The Ridgeway Management Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To encourage all relevant partners to be fully represented, involved in and committed to the management of The Ridgeway. 2. To secure adequate funding for the management of The Ridgeway 3. To market The Ridgeway and its corridor in accordance with the principles of sustainable use 4. To ensure the ongoing maintenance of The Ridgeway is effective and carried out efficiently. 5. To gather and maintain the information necessary to enable the effective ongoing management of The Ridgeway. 6. The route of The Ridgeway to provide the highest quality experience for walkers, horseriders and cyclists. 7. To ensure The Ridgeway is safe and easy to follow and reaches the standards outlined in 'Quality Standards for National Trails in England'. All structures and materials to 	<p>Increased quality of life for Vale residents.</p> <p>Develop a strong and sustainable tourism sector.</p> <p>Improved health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Improve and protect the natural environment (including biodiversity)</p>

be of a high standard of design, sympathetic to the surroundings, well-maintained, safe, comfortable, and easy and convenient to use.

8. To improve and maintain those strategic routes within the corridor of The Ridgeway that provide access from the Trail to villages and towns or are part of promoted circular walks and rides around The Ridgeway.
9. To improve public transport access to principal points along The Ridgeway and to increase the percentage of people using it to visit the Trail
10. To deter illegal use of The Ridgeway and trespass offences.
11. To reduce conflict between users by promoting responsible use and by increasing awareness of who can legally use The Ridgeway so as to improve expectations.
12. To protect and enhance the visual, ecological, historical and architectural landscape within the corridor of The Ridgeway.
13. To maintain and develop partnerships with all organisations and individuals with interests in The Ridgeway and its corridor (see appendix 7 for ongoing actions).
14. To provide facilities and services for users of The Ridgeway.
15. To provide well-targeted, accurate, relevant and branded

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The Oxfordshire Structure Plan 2016	<p>information and promotional material to encourage and enable people to visit and enjoy The Ridgeway.</p> <p>Aim 1. To protect and enhance the environment and character of Oxfordshire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. to provide effective protection and enhancement for Oxfordshire's biodiversity, landscape and heritage; ii. to reduce pollution and emissions of greenhouse gases; iii. to maintain and improve the quality of surface and groundwater; iv. to protect the quality of soils and agricultural land. <p>Aim 2. To encourage the efficient use of land, energy and resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. to locate development where it can reduce the need to travel and encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport; ii. to minimise the use of greenfield land; iii. to encourage the location and design and development which makes efficient use of energy and resources, and minimises waste for disposal. <p>Aim 3. To support progress towards a better quality of life for all Oxfordshire's people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. to provide for sufficient new dwellings to meet the requirements of Regional Planning Guidance, of an appropriate size and type for Oxfordshire's residents, and to contribute to meeting affordable housing need; ii. to support communities in which people have access to jobs, services, community and leisure facilities; iii. to provide for a range of travel options to meet 	<p>Access to decent, sustainably constructed and affordable homes.</p> <p>Improved accessibility to high quality services and involvement in decision making for the public.</p> <p>Increased quality of life for Vale residents.</p> <p>Establish a strong and sustainable economy within the Vale.</p> <p>Establish a dynamic, diverse and knowledge-based economy with high value low impact activities.</p> <p>Develop a strong and sustainable tourism sector.</p> <p>Reduced road congestion and associated pollution.</p> <p>Improve and protect the natural environment (including biodiversity)</p> <p>Improve and protect the built</p>

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	<p>transport needs; and</p> <p>iv. to provide safe and attractive places to live and work.</p> <p>Aim 4. To sustain prosperity by supporting sustainable and appropriate economic development.</p> <p>i. to support the continued development of Oxfordshire's existing and emerging growth sectors and clusters;</p> <p>ii. to provide for development to meet the economic needs of the county's residents and local businesses; and</p> <p>iii. to support the diversification of the rural economy in Oxfordshire.</p>	<p>environment.</p> <p>Sustainable use of land, buildings and resources.</p> <p>Effective action on climate change.</p> <p>Increased generation of energy by renewables.</p> <p>Reduced risk of flooding.</p> <p>Maintained and improved river quality and water resources.</p> <p>Reduced air, noise and light pollution.</p>
Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan 2006-2011	<p>Tackling congestion</p> <p>Delivering accessibility</p> <p>Safer Roads</p> <p>Better Air Quality</p> <p>Improving the Street Environment</p>	<p>Improved accessibility to high quality services and involvement in decision making for the public.</p> <p>Reduced road congestion and associated pollution.</p> <p>Improve and protect the built environment.</p> <p>Reduced air, noise and light pollution.</p>
Oxfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan (2000)	To influence policy and legislation	Access to decent, sustainably constructed and affordable

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	<p>To promote the implementation of positive management for biodiversity through the environmental stewardship schemes</p> <p>To safeguard existing semi-natural habitats and species, prevent further losses and encourage restoration and creation</p> <p>To improve our knowledge of species and Habitats</p> <p>To continue to establish further monitoring and research systems</p> <p>To raise awareness of habitats and species</p> <p>To consider the effects and impacts of climate change on biodiversity</p>	<p>homes.</p> <p>Establish a strong and sustainable economy within the Vale.</p> <p>Develop a strong and sustainable tourism sector.</p> <p>Improve and protect the natural environment (including biodiversity)</p> <p>Sustainable use of land, buildings and resources.</p> <p>Effective action on climate change.</p>
Oxfordshire's Local Area Agreement	<p>Sustaining Oxfordshire's successful economy</p> <p>Addressing housing needs</p> <p>Tackling traffic congestion</p> <p>Improving educational attainment and skills</p> <p>Improving the street scene and enhancing the environment</p> <p>Reducing crime & anti-social behaviour</p> <p>Improving health and reducing inequalities to narrow the gap</p>	<p>Access to decent, sustainably constructed and affordable homes.</p> <p>Establish a strong and sustainable economy within the Vale.</p> <p>Reduced road congestion and associated pollution.</p> <p>Raised educational achievement and skills levels.</p>

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	<p>in life expectancy</p> <p>Rationalising waste management to reduce the environmental and economic impact</p> <p>Making better use of natural resources</p>	<p>Improve and protect the built environment.</p> <p>Increased quality of life for Vale residents.</p> <p>Sustainable use of land, buildings and resources.</p>
<p>Oxfordshire's Economic Development Strategy 2006-2016</p>	<p>The Strategy recognises four schemes for investment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting and marketing Oxfordshire in the international environment. Nurturing and growing enterprise. Developing skills and widening participation. Overcoming the issues of infrastructure. <p>Within these schemes the Strategy also identifies 15 themes as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting Oxfordshire. Developing international links. Encouraging enterprise and entrepreneurship. Exploiting the commercial potential of the science and technology base. 	<p>Access to decent, sustainably constructed and affordable homes.</p> <p>Raised educational achievement and skills levels.</p> <p>Establish a strong and sustainable economy within the Vale.</p> <p>Establish a dynamic, diverse and knowledge-based economy with high value low impact activities.</p> <p>Reduced road congestion and associated pollution.</p> <p>Improve and protect the natural environment (including biodiversity)</p> <p>Improve and protect the built</p>

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	<p>Removing barriers to growth. Business clusters and support networks.</p> <p>Maximising opportunities created by technology innovation and utilisation.</p> <p>Connecting education and business. Widening participation in learning, training and the labour market.</p> <p>Investing in workforce development.</p> <p>Securing investment in infrastructure.</p> <p>Land use.</p> <p>Transport.</p> <p>Housing.</p> <p>Natural and built environment.</p>	<p>environment.</p> <p>Sustainable use of land, buildings and resources.</p>
Oxfordshire's Community Strategy	<p>To enable Oxfordshire's employers to recruit and retain key staff more effectively through the implementation of housing and other measures:</p> <p>To make Oxfordshire safer by tackling anti social behaviour, alcohol misuse, domestic violence and the needs of disaffected young people</p> <p>To promote joined up, people friendly travel throughout the county</p>	<p>Improved accessibility to high quality services and involvement in decision making for the public.</p> <p>Improved community safety.</p> <p>Increased quality of life for Vale residents.</p> <p>Reduced poverty and social exclusion with disadvantaged</p>

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	<p>To promote sustainable economic prosperity for all in Oxfordshire</p> <p>To enhance the quality of life, self-esteem and economic prosperity of Oxfordshire people by promoting lifelong learning</p> <p>To create the environment we want now, and for the future</p> <p>To work together to improve the health and well-being of the people of Oxfordshire</p> <p>To develop high quality recreation, culture and leisure provision that is sustainable and accessible for all</p>	<p>groups achieving potential.</p> <p>Creating vibrant communities.</p> <p>Creating vibrant communities.</p> <p>Greater engagement in cultural activity.</p> <p>Improved health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Improve and protect the natural environment (including biodiversity)</p> <p>Improve and protect the built environment.</p>
Oxfordshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2006-2011 (Oxfordshire County Council)	<p>Aim 1 - Public rights of way are protected and well maintained.</p> <p>Aim 2 - A better joined-up network that meets the needs and demands of users whilst accommodating the interests of land managers, the natural environment and our cultural heritage.</p> <p>Aim 3 - A public rights of way network which enables access for all</p> <p>Aim 4 - A thriving countryside where residents and visitors are able to understand and enjoy their rights, in a responsible way.</p>	<p>Develop a strong and sustainable tourism sector.</p> <p>Improved health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Improve and protect the natural environment (including biodiversity)</p>
Oxfordshire Joint Household Waste Strategy 2001 - 2020	<p>To encourage Government and business to improve the efficient use of resources, reduce the impact of activities on resource consumption which results in the production of household waste, and to encourage them to take responsibility for the wastes they produce.</p>	<p>Sustainable use of land, buildings and resources.</p> <p>Improved accessibility to high quality services and involvement in decision making for the public.</p>

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	<p>To help householders and individuals to reduce and manage their wastes.</p> <p>To encourage the controlled reuse and reclamation of items so that materials which would otherwise be destined for disposal can be used by others.</p> <p>To provide an integrated system of collection and processing of household waste which will achieve the Waste Strategy 2000 recycling and composting targets within the context of the EU Landfill Directive targets.</p> <p>To provide a system for recovering value from residual wastes in order to meet the EU Landfill Directive targets.</p> <p>To identify the best ways of dealing with the residual waste stream, especially those elements of the waste stream which are potentially most polluting.</p> <p>To ensure the availability of landfill sites for the disposal of residual wastes.</p> <p>To ensure that waste facilities are suitably sized and distributed with the aim of minimising the transport of waste. Facilities will be well related to areas of population, given the environmental and amenity constraints, and the availability of suitable sites.</p> <p>To assist the development of local markets for recovered materials.</p>	<p>Effective action on climate change.</p>

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Vale of White Horse Community Strategy	<p>To develop methods of working together to improve the level of service through effective and efficient use of resources within Oxfordshire</p> <p>Transport Priorities Bus services and linkages with community transport services, Traffic congestion, Improved and expanded cycle tracks, Improved road maintenance, Greater consultation to ensure a more systematic and co-ordinated transport system, Parking provision.</p> <p>Access to Services Priorities Improved, reliable and relevant current information about services, events etc, Enhanced communication, More extensive consultation, Increased access to and use of new technology, Greater and better networking opportunities, More local access points (e.g. shops and local facilities).</p> <p>Recreation, Culture and Leisure Priorities Expanded range of facilities/affordable venues, Support for better networking among local associations, Greater use of development control opportunities to secure open spaces.</p> <p>Safe and Supportive Communities Priorities Better information to allay the fear of crime,</p>	<p>Access to decent, sustainably constructed and affordable homes</p> <p>Improved accessibility to high quality services and involvement in decision making for the public.</p> <p>Reduced road congestion and associated pollution.</p> <p>Improved community safety.</p> <p>Increased quality of life for Vale residents.</p> <p>Raised educational achievement and skills levels.</p> <p>Improved health and wellbeing.</p>

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	<p>Additional measures to tackle anti-social behaviour, More visible policing, Better enforcement of traffic regulations.</p> <p>Environment Priorities Reduce litter both in streets and fly tips, Increase recycling facilities, Greater engagement and education of communities on environmental issues, Ensure services are provided in a sustainable manner.</p> <p>Housing Priorities Provide more genuinely affordable housing, particularly for key workers, young families and local people, Ensure balanced housing developments, Identify more exception sites, Provide more and better facilities for homeless people.</p> <p>Education and Lifelong Learning Priorities Encourage greater co-ordination between learning institutions, Promote the social/community/ individual benefits of learning, Support parents and guardians, Promote learning opportunities for older people.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing Priorities Increase support for older people to avoid isolation, Maximise opportunities for older people to exercise, Greater support for young parents, Improve education generally, Increase use of local facilities.</p>	
Vale of White Horse Corporate Plan	Strengthen local democracy and public involvement through access to information, consultation, and devolution of power	Improved accessibility to high quality services and involvement

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<p>so that everyone can take part in our community and contribute to the decisions which affect our lives</p> <p>Create a safer community and improve the quality of life among Vale residents</p> <p>Encourage a strong and sustainable economy which benefits all who live in, work in or visit the Vale</p> <p>Help disadvantaged groups and individuals within the Vale to realise their full potential</p> <p>Provide and support high quality public services which are effective, efficient and responsive to the needs of people within the Vale</p> <p>Protect and improve our built and natural environment</p>	<p>Improved community safety.</p> <p>Establish a strong and sustainable economy within the Vale.</p> <p>Reduced poverty and social exclusion with disadvantaged groups achieving potential.</p> <p>Improve and protect the natural environment (including biodiversity)</p> <p>Improve and protect the built environment.</p>	<p>in decision making for the public.</p>

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Great Western Community Forest Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve the landscape, including reclamation of derelict land, to create a visually pleasing and varied countryside; • increase opportunities for access, sport and recreation and for artistic and cultural events; • protect the best and most versatile agricultural land from irreversible development, ensure that farming manages to re-create attractive landscape and wildlife areas and that opportunities for farm diversification are increased; • protect areas of high-quality landscape, and areas of historical or archaeological interest; • regenerate the environment within green belt, or equivalently protected areas, and help to ensure that it is permanently green and open; • protect sites of nature conservation value and create new opportunities for conservation; • provide new opportunities for educational use of the area and ensure that community forests can be used for the environmental education needs of the surrounding schools; 	<p>Increased quality of life for Vale residents.</p> <p>Greater engagement in cultural activity.</p> <p>Establish a strong and sustainable economy within the Vale.</p> <p>Improved health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Improve and protect the natural environment (including biodiversity)</p> <p>Improve and protect the built environment.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish supplies of local timber and encourage development of timber-based industries, employment opportunities and woodland products; • improve the economic well-being of towns and cities through the creation of more-appealing locations for industry and commerce; • improve the environment near housing and local industry, enhancing the value of properties and businesses; • encourage a high level of local community commitment to the concept and community involvement in the implementation; • seek private-sector support to implement the community forests and to invest in the area. • to separate and provide an identity for the settlements within the area; • to raise awareness of the vital role that woodlands play in the global context and provide local people with the opportunity to express their concern in a positive and practical way. 	
<p>North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan</p>	<p>Conserving and enhancing landscape character and diversity</p> <p>Celebrating the past</p> <p>Conserving remoteness and tranquility</p>	<p>Establish a strong and sustainable economy within the Vale.</p> <p>Improve and protect the natural environment (including biodiversity)</p>

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	<p>Increasing biodiversity</p> <p>Sustaining natural resources</p> <p>The land-based economy as custodian of the landscape</p> <p>Promoting a low carbon economy</p> <p>Enjoyment as an economic driver</p> <p>Diversifying economic opportunities</p> <p>Developing appropriate skills for the future</p> <p>Supporting vibrant communities</p> <p>Encouraging sustainable travel</p> <p>Establishing common understanding</p> <p>Maintaining productive partnerships</p>	<p>Improve and protect the built environment.</p> <p>Raised educational achievement and skills levels.</p> <p>Creating vibrant communities.</p> <p>Reduced road congestion and associated pollution.</p>
Vale Housing Strategy	<p>Review enabling and strategic housing role of the Council</p> <p>Provide more affordable housing (including housing for key workers)</p> <p>Implement Council's Home Renewal Strategy</p> <p>Implement Choice Based Lettings policy for allocation of social housing</p> <p>Implement the Council's Homelessness Strategy</p>	<p>Access to decent, sustainably constructed and affordable homes</p> <p>Reduced poverty and social exclusion with disadvantaged groups achieving potential.</p>

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<p>Supporting People</p> <p>Improve performance of Council's Best Value Performance Indicators</p> <p>Implement the Council's Fuel Poverty Strategy</p>	<p>To promote the diversity of the Vale's economy and enhance its competitiveness;</p> <p>To maintain the vitality of the east, and develop and strengthen the centre and west of the Vale;</p> <p>To encourage the development of sustainable businesses;</p> <p>To ensure that people in the Vale benefit from economic development and have the opportunity for skills enhancement to meet the changing needs of local employers;</p> <p>To promote sustainable tourism based on the inherent qualities and assets of the Vale;</p> <p>To improve the environment and role of town centres;</p> <p>To protect and enhance the environment of the Vale and maintain it as an attractive location for business, residents and visitors;</p> <p>To identify funding opportunities and develop better links with Europe;</p> <p>To work in partnership with the other public, private and</p>	<p>Raised educational achievement and skills levels.</p> <p>Establish a strong and sustainable economy within the Vale.</p> <p>Establish a dynamic, diverse and knowledge-based economy with high value low impact activities.</p> <p>Develop a strong and sustainable tourism sector.</p> <p>Improve and protect the natural environment (including biodiversity)</p> <p>Improve and protect the built environment.</p>
<p>Vale of White Horse Economic Development and Tourism Strategy 2001/2002</p>		

Plan or Programme	Aims and/or Objectives	Related Sustainability Objectives
	<p>voluntary sectors and co-ordinate activities on economic development with the range of key players in the area;</p> <p>To further the understanding and knowledge of local economic issues through research and liaison with businesses and organisations involved in economic development.</p>	
<p>Vale of White Horse District Council Arts Development Strategy 2002 – 2005</p>	<p>Support, advise and encourage the voluntary arts community in the Vale;</p> <p>Develop and encourage access to a diverse range of arts activities in rural areas;</p> <p>Advocate and work on projects and opportunities with professional arts partners;</p> <p>Encourage and develop partnerships between the arts and the non-arts related areas;</p> <p>Improve, enhance and develop the arts infrastructure, service and facilities; and</p> <p>Use the arts to improve the physical environment.</p>	<p>Greater engagement in cultural activity.</p> <p>Improve and protect the built environment.</p>
<p>Vale Youth Development Strategy 2006 - 2009</p>	<p>The Strategy's vision is to provide children and young persons in the Vale with the opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Live a healthy life; Stay safe; Fulfil their potential; 	<p>Improved community safety.</p> <p>Increased quality of life for Vale residents.</p> <p>Raised educational achievement and skills levels.</p> <p>Reduced poverty and social</p>

Plan or Programme	Aims and/or Objectives	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>Vale Community Safety Strategy 2005 - 2008</p>	<p>Get the most out of life and develop the skills for adulthood.</p> <p>The Strategy's priority aims are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve the safety of the Vale's roads To reduce the number of anti-social behaviour incidents in the Vale To make the Vale a cleaner, greener community To reduce volume crime (including domestic violence and acquisitive crime) overall by 10.1% by March 2008 To reduce the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse 	<p>exclusion with disadvantaged groups achieving potential.</p> <p>Improved community safety.</p> <p>Increased quality of life for Vale residents.</p> <p>Improved health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Reduced air, noise and light pollution.</p>

Core Strategy SA Scoping Report – A2 Baseline Information

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Part A2 of the sustainability appraisal process involves the collection of information about the Vale so as to provide essential background to the appraisal. Information has to cover the broad range of environmental, social and economic matters which are involved in assessing sustainability. This potentially involves an enormous amount of information. The aim has been to present sufficient information to provide an overall understanding of the general situation in the Vale. Greater detail could be provided but a balance has to be achieved between detail and clarity. It is felt that sufficient detail is presented to identify sustainability issues without an overwhelming level of information.

2.0 Population/Demography

- 2.1 One very significant factor in the planning of an area is the level of the population. If the level is rising it often means an increased demand for housing and related to that demand for employment and facilities such as transport infrastructure and retailing. The level of the population in the Vale is therefore an important piece of contextual information for the planning process.
- 2.2 An understanding of the population of the Vale and of trends in its movement is therefore essential parts of the context for the deposit draft Local Plan. In the 2001 Census the Vale was found to have a resident population at the time of some 115,627. This had increased by 3% since the 1991 Census. As indicated on the NOMIS organisation's website the 2005 mid year population estimate was 117,000 showing a further small increase. Information provided by the National Statistics Office (NSO) shows that between 1982 and 2002 the Vale's population increased by 12%. The population projection for 2011 indicates that the Vale's population will reach 120,168 which is a rise of 4,541 or nearly 4% since 2001.
- 2.3 All the relevant information sources show a gradually increasing resident population which must be taken into account in the level of housing development the Council must plan for. However, to put this information into context, the NSO's profile of the Vale refers to population density which in the Vale in 2002 averaged 202 people per square kilometre, compared with an average of 421, for the South East region and 380 people per square kilometre for England overall. So although the Vale's population is rising it is still a mainly rural area.
- 2.4 Another significant contextual factor for future planning is the age structure of the local population. A young population will tend to indicate a greater need for employment and education facilities. An older population will mean that education and employment facilities are not needed as much due to the greater preponderance of retired residents.
- 2.5 The 2001 Census found that the age structure was very similar to that of England and Wales and the South East, with only minor differences. The NSO website shows that there were comparatively slightly more 5 to 19 year olds at 19.6% in the Vale than the SE or England and Wales, then slightly fewer 20 to 44 year olds at

33.7%, slightly more 45 to 64 year olds at 25.4 and less over 65s at 15.44%. In comparison then the Vale has slightly more young people, its working age population is skewed to the over 45s but there are fewer retired residents than would be expected for England and Wales or the South East.

- 2.6 This information indicates that there may be more pressure for family housing than housing for the retired but the differences are not enough to produce a dramatic difference when comparing the Vale to other areas. This information is monitored via the mid year estimates but the only accurate figures are those produced by the national census every ten years.
- 2.7 In 2011 the population of the Vale is expected to be 120,168. In comparison to 2001 there will be proportionally slightly less 0 to 4s at 5.7% and slightly less 5 to 19s at 19.4%. The proportion of 20 to 44s will decrease in proportion significantly to 30.5%. In contrast the proportion of 45 to 64s will rise to 27.1% and the proportion of 65+ will rise to 17.3%. This is a reflection of national population changes with an increase in the proportion of the population over 45. In the Vale this means the 45+ category is expected to increase from 40.85% of the population in 2001 to 44.36% in 2011. In common with the rest of the country this greater longevity will increase the number of single person households and increase housing demand.
- 2.8 There are five main settlements in the Vale which are Abingdon, Wantage, Grove, Botley and Faringdon. The largest is Abingdon with a 2001 population of 31,329 which is expected to reach 32,438 by 2011. The next largest is Wantage with a 2001 population of 10,511 which is expected to rise to 11,373 by 2011. The parish of Grove had a population of 7,845 in 2001 with the ward population slightly lower at 7,428. The Grove ward population is expected to reach 9,249 by 2011. The area of Botley approximates to the parish of Cumnor which had a population of 5,503 in 2001. The larger ward of Appleton and Cumnor had a population of 6,409 in 2001 and this is expected to decline to 6,166 by 2011. In 2001 the parish of Great Faringdon had a population of 6,187 and the larger ward of Faringdon and the Coxwells had a population of 7,037. The ward population is expected to reach 7,851 by 2011.
- 2.9 The total population of the more 'urban' wards, which still take in some surrounding settlements, was 56,306 in 2001 with the remaining more 'rural' wards in the Vale totalling 59,466. This 'rural' population therefore accounted for just over 51% of the Vale's population in 2001. By 2011 the 'urban' wards are expected to account for 60,771 persons with 58,542 in the 'rural' wards thus tipping the population towards a more 'urban' character in terms of where people live. However, the 'urban' part of the Vale consists of two market towns, two expanded villages and the suburban area of Botley. The character of the Vale will therefore continue to be rural but by 2011 the majority of its population (just under 51%) will live in the wards containing its larger settlements. As development is expected to continue to focus on the larger settlements this will lead to an increasing proportion of the Vale's population living in its larger settlements compared to the rural area.
- 2.10 In the longer term the Vale's population is expected to continue to grow. The Office of National Statistics publishes long term predictions based on long term trends. The latest of these predictions for the Vale runs from 2004 to 2028. This shows that the population will increase by 11,100 persons or 9.5% to 127,300. I should be

noted that this is based on extrapolating current trends and is based on an estimated base figure for 2004. Actual growth may be higher or lower than this. However together with expected further reductions in household size the predicted growth in population will mean a continuing demand for new housing.

- 2.11 As well as the overall increase in population there will also be changes in the age structure of the population. For example the numbers of over 75s will increase by 81% and will form 12.7% of the population in 2028 compared to 7.7% in 2004. Given the high levels of single households in this group this is one of the main reasons for decreasing household sizes. Another significant change will be in those of working age relative to the proportions of children and retired. The figures show that the numbers of persons below 15 and above 59 years of age will rise by 12,800 persons whilst those around working age will fall by 1,700. This has implications for the ability of the working population to support those who are not working.

3.0 Housing

- 3.1 During the 1960s there was substantial house building at Abingdon, Wantage and Faringdon, and in most of the larger villages, especially Grove. Planning policies then focused on restraint of development to protect the environment and the essentially rural nature of the District, which resulted in a reduction in the rate of population growth. The most recent Structure Plan to 2016 emphasized the concentration of development on the main urban areas with Grove proposed as a main location for development. Provision was also made for relatively modest development in other towns and villages where there is a reasonable range of employment services and community facilities.
- 3.2 The total number of dwellings in the District as of 31st March 2004 was 47,765. The housing stock in the District is relatively modern, with 40% being built since 1964, against national and regional averages of 36.6% and 43% respectively. The proportion of older dwellings is less than the regional average. 15% of the stock was built prior to 1919 against a regional average of 20.5%.
- 3.3 Of the nearly 3,000 properties built since 1991, 15% have been in the social sector, less than the regional average of 18%. Of the total stock 12.8% is Affordable Housing. Housing stock in the District has a relatively lower density compared to the regional average.
- 3.4 At the 2001 census, 38.7% of homes were detached, 31.4% semi-detached and 18.5% were terraced. Flats and smaller converted properties amounted to only 10.1% of homes, despite the rapidly increasing number of smaller households and an increased emphasis on this type of development in recent years.
- 3.5 The level of owner occupation is similar to the average for the South East Region but above the national average of 74.4% (2001 Census). The level of outright owner occupation in the District is 32.3% which compares to a figure of 29.75% for Oxfordshire as a whole. As at 31 March 2004 the tenure of housing in the District was as follows:

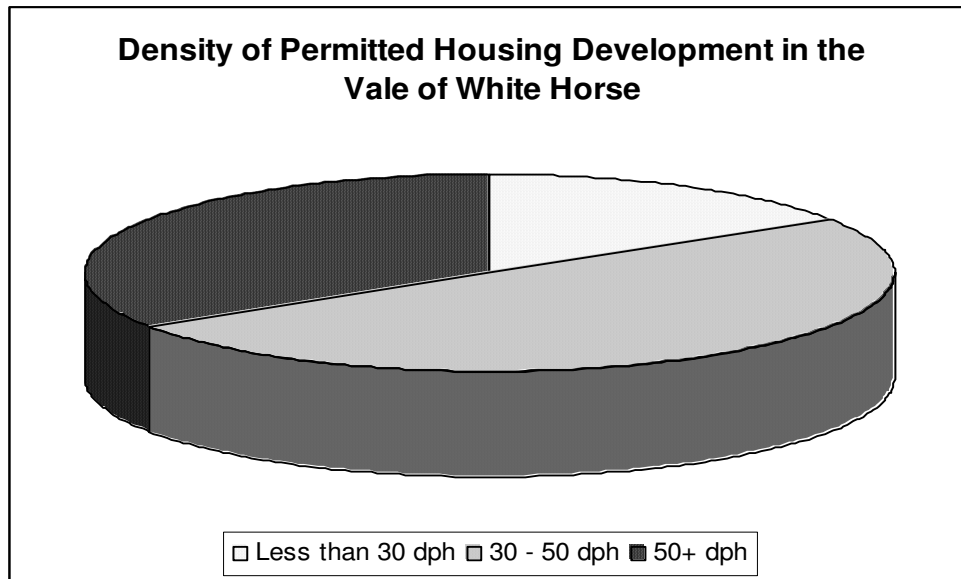
Type of Accommodation	Percentage
Owner Occupied	76.2

Housing Association	12.8
Private Rented (estimated)	8
Other (e.g. LA, Almshouses)	3
TOTAL:	100

- 3.6 Of the above, 349 dwellings were vacant, which equates to a figure of 0.007% of the total dwelling stock.
- 3.7 Whilst the rate of population growth may have subsided, there has continued to be a dramatic increase in the number of households. This reflects the national trend towards smaller and more rapidly changing households. In the 2001 Census the average household size in the Vale was 2.52 persons. This compared to 2.43 persons for the South East and 2.4 persons for England. The draft South East Plan predicts that the figure will be 2.19 persons in 2026 in the Vale.
- 3.8 House prices in the UK have risen steeply in recent years, often outpacing wage increases. This has introduced a situation where housing is becoming less affordable in many areas. As set out in PPG3 Housing the Government therefore wishes to see a proportion of new houses being affordable and policy H16 in the draft deposit Local Plan is intended to reflect this requirement in the Vale.
- 3.9 A key factor in the provision of suitable housing is the affordability of houses in relation to wages. According to figures published by the Land Registry the average house price in the Vale has risen from £166,296 in 2001 to £243,943 in 2005. This equates to a rise of £77,647 or 46.7% over 5 years or an average of £15,529.4 per annum which is 9.3% per annum compared to the 2001 average price. In comparison information from the NOMIS organisation's website shows that average pay in the Vale has only increased from £26,713 in 2002 to £30,015 in 2005. This equates to a rise of 3% per annum in relation to 2002 wage levels. Housing in the Vale has therefore become significantly less affordable relative to pay.
- 3.10 This conclusion is supported from the house price to income ratio information as published by the Audit Commission using information from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. This shows that in 2003 house prices in the Vale were 4.54 times higher than incomes in the 20-39 age group. This compares to a national average ratio of house price to income of 4.13. Given the figures set out above it is likely that the ratio has continued to increase in the Vale.
- 3.11 Information supplied by the County Council also supports the conclusion that there is a severe disparity between wages and house prices in the Vale. The information shows that the ratio between the mean house price and gross annual pay for all employee jobs in 2004 was 9.6. This was above the ratio for England of 8 and the ratio for the South East of 9.5. It was however below the ratio for Oxfordshire of 10.3. House price rises have slowed recently but in the longer term it is still likely that house prices will rise at a level which may be greater than wage rises. Affordability is therefore likely to remain a key issue for the Vale in the future.
- 3.12 Government guidance contained in Planning Policy Statement 1 – Delivering Sustainable Development (PPS1) states that in preparing development plans, planning authorities should seek to promote the more efficient use of land through “the use of suitably located previously developed land and buildings”. A core

indicator in the Annual Monitoring Report is an output indicator in relation to the use of previously developed land for development. It shows how many of the dwellings being created in the Vale are on previously used or 'brownfield' land and therefore to what extent Government policy is being implemented as well as how relatively sustainable housing development in the Vale is.

- 3.13 The percentage of new homes built in an area on brownfield land is a Best Value Performance Indicator which councils are required to monitor and publish as part of their Performance Plans. In the Vale 277 homes were constructed during 2004/05 and of these 254 were constructed on previously developed or 'brownfield' land. This equates to a percentage of 92% which indicates that the Vale is very successful at directing development to brownfield land and is therefore relatively sustainable in its use of greenfield land for housing. This is also not an isolated set of results as the figures for 2003/04 showed that 87% of new homes had been delivered on brownfield land.
- 3.14 In comparison to performance elsewhere information supplied to the Council by the Audit Commission shows that the average for similar councils across England for 2004/05 was 80% and for 2003/04 the figure was 75%. The Vale has therefore exceeded the national average for the last two years.
- 3.15 Continued delivery of new housing on brownfield land is dependant on the availability of suitable brownfield land. Given the largely rural nature of the Vale and the major housing allocations on greenfield sites in the draft Local Plan it will not be possible to maintain these high figures. The Council is however aiming to deliver 60% of new homes on brownfield land in future years in its performance plan.
- 3.16 As well as directing new housing development to suitable brownfield land, a further way in which development can be more sustainable is by ensuring that whilst having regard to the need to maintain high quality design, densities of development are kept as high as possible. This ensures that the amount of land taken for development is minimised. Government policy in PPS1 is that in preparing development plans, planning authorities should seek to promote the more efficient use of land through higher density, mixed use development. This is reflected in policy H14 of the draft deposit Local Plan which aims to deliver 50 dwellings per hectare on sites close to the centre of the Vale's main settlements, 40 dwellings per hectare elsewhere in those settlements and at Didcot, and then 30 dwellings per hectare in the rest of the Vale.
- 3.17 The relevant core output indicator from the Annual Monitoring Report is divided into three levels. The lowest is for dwellings built at less than 30 dwellings per hectare (dph), the next is for dwellings built between 30 and 50 dph and the highest is for dwellings built at over 50 dph. Information on the densities which will be achieved on sites over 25 dwellings where planning permission has been granted or they are allocated in the draft deposit Local Plan 2011 has been collected since 1996. This shows that of the 4,219 dwellings permitted or allocated over this period 665 or 16% were to be constructed at less than 30 dph, 2,109 or 50% were to be constructed at between 30 and 50 dph and 1,445 or 34% were to be constructed at over 50 dph. The average density over all permitted or allocated sites for over 25 dwellings in the Vale was 40 dph. The distribution between the various densities is shown in the chart below.



3.18 The Government's guidance set out in PPG3 'Housing' is that planning authorities should avoid developments of less than 30 dph, encourage housing development at 30 to 50 dph and in suitable locations aim to exceed 50 dph. This is the basis for the deposit draft Local Plan policy. However no such policy is contained in the 1999 adopted Local Plan. The Council was therefore only able to achieve densities in accord with PPG3 via negotiation due to the limited weight which could be given to emerging Local Plan policies. Following adoption of the Local Plan policy the Council is now able to require higher densities. Therefore with the circumstances which have prevailed since 1996 it is considered that the achievement of an overall density of 40 dph with 84% of new homes permitted or allocated at densities greater than 30 dph is in accord with national policy on densities.

4.0 Economy

4.1 In 2005/6 the total of employees working in the Vale was 63,200. As can be seen below the Vale is ahead of the national and regional figures for the top three socio economic groupings and is behind the national and regional figures for groups 6 to 8. The figure for the lowest grouping is however above the average for the South East.

Employment by occupation (Apr 2005-Mar 2006)

	Vale of White Horse (%)	South East (%)	Great Britain (%)
Soc 2000 major group 1-3	51.6	46.1	41.9
1 Managers and senior officials	18.5	17.1	14.9
2 Professional occupations	17.7	14.0	12.7
3 Associate professional & technical	15.4	15.0	14.3
Soc 2000 major group 4-5	23.6	23.1	23.4
4 Administrative & secretarial	14.1	12.9	12.5

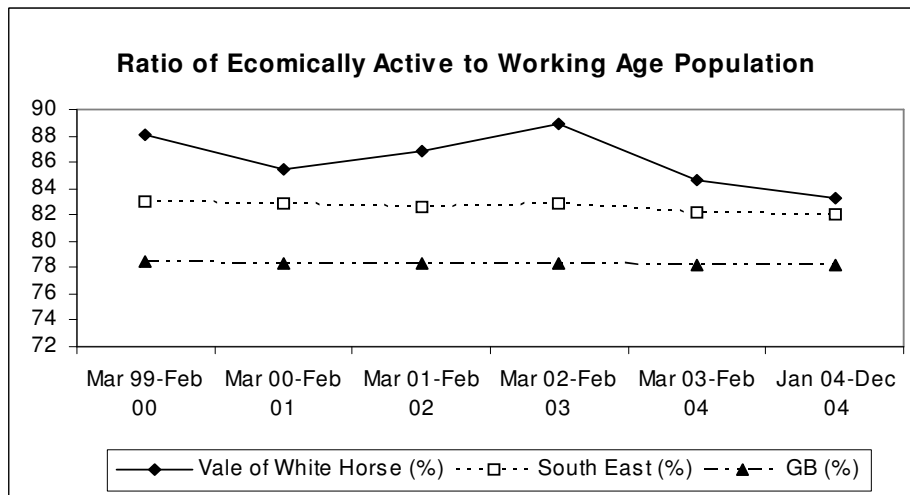
5 Skilled trades occupations	9.5	10.2	10.9
Soc 2000 major group 6-7	11.1	14.9	15.6
6 Personal service occupations	5.2	7.9	7.9
7 Sales and customer service occupations	5.9	7.0	7.7
Soc 2000 major group 8-9	13.1	15.8	18.9
8 Process plant & machine operatives	2.0	5.4	7.5
9 Elementary occupations	11.1	10.4	11.4

4.2 The level of unemployed in an area is an important contextual indicator for the state of the local economy. Generally the lower the level of unemployment in an area the better a local economy is performing. Whether this is in well paid occupations is another matter however, so low unemployment may not mean that the local economy is thriving. Also the level of unemployed cannot be accurately counted. Only those who are qualified for and are claiming the Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) can be counted. Actual unemployment is always higher. It does however provide a benchmark with which to compare areas.

	Vale of White Horse (%)	South East (%)	GB (%)
Apr-00	0.8	1.7	3.1
Apr-01	0.7	1.4	2.7
Apr-02	0.7	1.5	2.7
Apr-03	1.0	1.6	2.6
Apr-04	0.8	1.5	2.4
Apr-05	0.7	1.5	2.4

4.3 As set out in the table above the Vale's level of JSA claimants is consistently low in comparison to both the South East region and the levels for Great Britain.

4.4 Another contextual indicator which can help to demonstrate the health or otherwise of the local economy is the percentage of the working age residents that are economically active. This gives a good idea of the economic productivity of an area. Again it does not indicate how prosperous an area is. As can be seen from the table below the Vale's population has consistently maintained a higher proportion being economically active in comparison to the South East and to Great Britain. In more recent years however the Vale has trended downwards to the same level as the South East.



5.51 The level of qualifications within the working population is another useful contextual indicator for the potential strength of the local economy. A working population which is well qualified will generally be able to take advantage of higher level jobs and generate greater levels of income. It also can make an area more attractive to employers. However, very well qualified people work in the public sector which is generally not relatively well paid.

Qualifications of the Labour Force

	Vale of White Horse (%)	South East (%)	GB (%)
NVQ4 and above	34.6	28.5	25.2
NVQ3 and above	51.1	46.9	43.1
NVQ2 and above	72.0	66	61.5
NVQ1 and above	82.7	81.1	76
Other Qualifications	6.0	8.0	8.8
No Qualifications	11.3	10.8	15.1

- 4.5 As can be seen from the table above the Vale has above average results for qualifications in relation to the rest of Great Britain and has above average results for every category in relation to the South East except for that for “no qualifications” which is slightly worse than the South East. This means that the population of the Vale is relatively better able to take advantage of employment opportunities in terms of qualifications than the rest of the UK. Information on this matter is obtained from NOMIS
- 4.6 Another indicator which can help to give a picture of an area’s economic health is the number of businesses registering for VAT each year in an area. This gives an insight into the level of business formation in an area. In 2003 there were 425 businesses registering for VAT in the Vale. This was 4.5% lower than in 2002 but was 10.4% higher than in 1994. In comparison the South East experienced an increase in VAT registrations in 2003 of 6.7% in comparison to 2002 and showed an increase 11.9% in comparison to 2004. This means that in the short term the Vale has not performed well compared to the South East but in the longer term the Vale is close to the figure for the South East.
- 4.7 Another important area of the economy is retailing. Within the Vale Abingdon has the widest range of shops which are comparable to similar sized towns. In Wantage the choice of shops is limited and there are less national retailers than in Abingdon. Elsewhere Grove relates to Wantage for its main shopping needs, Faringdon has a good selection of shops for its size and Botley has a district centre which primarily serves as day to day shopping.
- 4.8 Recent assessment in a Retail Capacity Study concluded in relation to convenience shopping that the retention of floorspace expenditure in the District is relatively high and existing retail floorspace is trading healthily. In relation to comparison shopping the study concluded that retention of comparison expenditure is much lower than that for convenience shopping with the majority of such expenditure occurring in Oxford, Swindon and Reading.
- 4.9 In the future the study conclude that expected improvements in shopping provision such as the new Sainsburys in Wantage would meet convenience need up to 2007 with only a modest increase likely before 2011. This meant that a retail allocation was not required in the Local Plan 2011. For comparison shopping any development was also expected to be within existing resources. In the longer term the Draft South East Plan refers the further development of Didcot as a matter for priority support whereas oxford is regarded as physically constrained and lacking in physical capacity for development.

5.0 Travel

- 5.1 The Vale of White Horse has the A34 trunk road running north/south close to its eastern edge. This gives access to the M4 to the south and the M40 to the north. The A417 and A420 roads run diagonally across it linking to Swindon to the west and Didcot to the east. The main east west railway line runs through the Vale but there are no stations currently within the Vale. The station at Didcot is however close to the District's boundary and a new station is proposed at Grove.
- 5.2 In terms of the transport methods which Vale residents use to get to work the majority (66%) drive, or are a passenger in, a car. This is slightly higher than the South East (65%) and higher than the rate for England (61%). This high level of car usage is partly balanced by the fact that a higher percentage of people travel by bus or cycle in the Vale (12%) compared to the level in the South East (7%). Also a slightly higher number of people work from home in the Vale (11%) compared to the South East (10%). Probably due to the lack of rail stations in the Vale only a small percentage of workers travel by rail (2%) compared to the South East (6%). Also travelling to work on foot is less popular in the Vale (8%) than in the South East (10%).
- 5.3 In common with the rest of the UK car ownership has consistently been rising in the Vale. In 1981 78% of households in the Vale had access to at least one car when the figure for Oxfordshire was 73%. By 2001 86% of households in the Vale had access to at least one car when the figure for Oxfordshire was 82%. Over the same period the number of cars owned by Vale households rose by 73% and by 78% across Oxfordshire. Figures from the Census show that longer distance commuting for work is increasing. In 1991 5,992 residents commuted out of the Vale for work. By 2001 this had increased by almost 35% to 8,062. The increase across Oxfordshire was slightly lower at 33%.
- 5.4 Traffic on Oxfordshire's roads between 1995 and 2005 rose by over 20% on strategic roads including the M40 and the trunk roads. In comparison traffic on the non-strategic roads only grew by nearly 11%. For all roads traffic grew by 14.5% in Oxfordshire over 10 years compared to a growth of 16.2% on all roads nationally. For the future the Local Transport Plan 2006 to 2011 states that as a result of expected development the number of vehicle trips in the County could increase by more than 25% by 2011 and almost 40% by 2021 compared to 2000. National growth is expected to be lower to 2011 at 18%. The effect of this level of growth without road improvements would be severe congestion on major routes with a lengthening of peak traffic hours and diversion of traffic on to minor routes.

6.0 Historic Environment

- 6.1 The area covered by the Vale has supported human habitation for thousands of years and it therefore has a rich and varied historic environment. Ancient remains dot the Downs to the south and the Vale's three market towns grew to prosperity in the middle ages. The Vale currently has 52 designated Conservation Areas within which there are certain limitations on development. There are also over 2000 Listed Buildings in the Vale where changes to their structure or setting are strictly controlled. As well as the built environment the vale also has eight historic parks and gardens that are included in the English Heritage National Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest.
- 6.2 With the long history of human habitation the Vale also has a significant number of important archaeological sites. At present there are 68 Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the Vale where consent is required from the Secretary of State for any works. These include such sites as the Neolithic long barrow called Wayland Smithy and the Roman temple at Frilford. New archaeological sites are also constantly being found and assessed and development is likely to lead to the discovery of further sites and artefacts.

7.0 Natural Environment

- 7.1 The Vale also has a rich natural environment. Among the diverse habitats are a broken band of Ancient Woodland on the North Corallian Ridge, the Chalk Downs which are designated as an AONB, fenland and heathland forming some of Oxfordshire's rarest habitats and some traditional hay meadows in floodplains of the Thames and Ock rivers. The area of the Vale within the AONB is 23.4% or 135 sq km of its total land area and 908 hectares are currently designated as 23 Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Two sites are also candidate european Special Areas of Conservation.
- 7.2 A core indicator in the Council's Annual Monitoring Report is the change in areas and populations of biodiversity importance. The first part refers to change in priority habitats and species (by type). Information for this indicator is supplied by the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC). The information relates to recent survey data (5 years old) for County Wildlife Sites (CWS) but older data (approx. 15 years old) has been used for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) as discussed below. Only designated sites– CWS and SSSI – have been mapped completely to date. Non-designated sites will be mapped for BAP priority habitats by 2006 using known available datasets. Improved reporting from 2006 will improve the measurement of change. The following table sets out the baseline information for UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority habitats in the Vale :

UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats in the Vale

Habitat	District baseline information (hectares)	County context (hectares)	% of Oxfordshire Habitat in VoWH
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	684.5	2467.5	27.7%
Lowland beech and yew woodland	2.0	563.2	00.35%
Wet woodland	39.6	98.4	33.5%
Wood pasture and parkland	3.3	101.3	03.26%
Lowland calcareous grassland	182.5	668.9	27.3%
Lowland meadow	81.2	1100.8	07.4%
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	0.0	9.3	NA
Lowland dry acid grassland	18.8	40.3	46.6%
Lowland heathland	0.0	2.9	NA
Fen	19.9	92.6	21.5%
Reedbeds	0.4	6.5	06.1%
Eutrophic standing water	161.4	355.8	45.4%

- 7.3 Comparison data for previous years is not available in relation to the priority habitats. As can be seen from the table though the Vale contains significant portions of a range of the priority habitats found in the County. However none of the areas amount to a significant portion of the overall UK priority habitats. The Vale does however contain two candidate Special Areas of Conservation. One is at Cothill fen where the calcium-rich springwater-fed fens are considered rare in the European context. The other is at Hackpen Down, an area of unimproved chalk grassland. In relation to UK BAP priority species TVERC records show that the Vale has 40 of the UK's 382 priority species. Overall the County has a total of 69 species recorded.
- 7.4 Part (ii) of the indicator relates to change in areas designated for their intrinsic environmental value including sites of international, national, regional or sub-regional significance. Data supplied by TVERC in the table below indicates that the Vale contains over one fifth of the County's SSSI area, over one quarter of the County's CWS area and, as stated above, two candidate SACs :

Significant Environmental Areas

Type of Site	District baseline information (hectares)	County context (hectares)	% of Oxfordshire Habitat in VoWH
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	Na	Na	Na
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	908.2	4401.1	20.6%
County Wildlife Sites (CWS)	1,316.9	5,062.7	26.0%

7.5 As well as those indicators defined as essential by the Government it is important for locally important species to be monitored to gauge the health of the Vale's biodiversity. Information has therefore been collected across the County by TVERC on the following important indicative species and on SSSI:

- Distribution and Status of Water Voles
- Distribution and Status of Farmland Birds
- Distribution and Status of Garden Butterflies
- Condition of SSSI

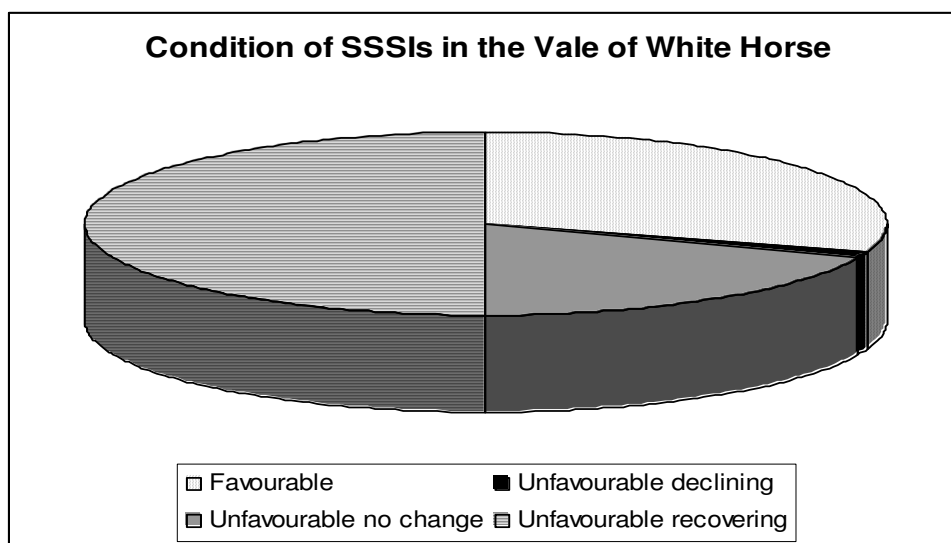
7.6 Distribution and Status of Water Voles – Information on Water Voles is important because they are a UK BAP priority species which has declined rapidly in numbers across Oxfordshire in recent years. Out of the County total of 9,645.2 ha the Vale has 4,371.9 ha or 45.3 % of the area measured as a Key Area positive for Water Voles. The Vale is therefore a very important area for Water Voles in the County context.

7.7 Distribution and Status of Farmland Birds – Information on farmland birds is important because they are a useful indicator of the impact of rural activity on the natural environment. Data is derived from surveys by the British Trust for Ornithology and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Compared to the 1994 baseline value of 1.0, population densities have risen to 1.28. This compares favourably to a County value of 0.68. However the information is based on small sample sizes which may be leading to statistical errors.

7.8 Distribution and Status of Garden Butterflies – Information on garden butterflies is important because it can indicate the impact of development on an area's natural environment. In the Vale all 22 of the commonly occurring species surveyed were present but two, the Essex Skipper and the Wall butterflies, were less common. These species are however historically less common in the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire areas. This suggests that development is not having a significant effect on butterfly populations.

7.9 Condition of SSSI – Information on SSSI is a useful contextual indicator for the health of the natural environment. In the Vale 30% of the SSSI are in favourable condition at April 2005 as shown below. In comparison 45% of SSSI in the County and 45% in England are in favourable condition. However the Vale only has 1% of its SSSI in unfavourable and declining condition whereas the County has 3% and

England has 12%. Also, some of the SSSI surveys relate to 1999. These figures will be monitored to check on any improvement or deterioration in the Vale's SSSI. With the isolated location of most SSSI in the Vale change in condition is likely to be related to land management practices rather than development.



7.10 A significant feature of the Vale's environment is its rivers, particularly the Thames and the Ock with its tributaries. Monitoring their quality is therefore an important contextual indicator of the relative health of the Vale's environment. Information is sourced by the Audit Commission from OFWAT, which is the economic regulator for the water and sewerage industry in England and Wales, on the chemical and biological quality of rivers in local authority areas. The latest information for the Vale is for 2003 and can be seen on the Audit Commission's Area Profiles website. This will be monitored as a contextual indicator AMR.

7.11 The information shows that in relation to biological quality the rivers in the Vale achieved a percentage of 79.17% of their length at or above good quality in 2003. This compares to the national average of 53.61% of rivers achieving good quality. The Vale's rivers are therefore in good biological condition in comparison to the national average.

7.12 In relation to the chemical quality of the rivers within the Vale they achieved a percentage of 67.89% of their length at or above good quality in 2003. This figure compares well to the national average of 51.32% of rivers achieving good quality. The Vale's rivers are therefore also in relatively good condition in relation to the national average of chemical quality.

7.13 Biodiversity is linked to the landscape of the area. English Nature is promoting the identification of Regionally Important Geological Sites through the establishment of local groups. These sites will be non-statutory, locally based sites which will be designated and informally and voluntarily managed. Regionally Important Geological Sites are proposed at Coxwell Pit; Faringdon (Rogers Concrete); The Manger, Whitehorse Hill; Hatford Sand Pit; Gimbro Copse Quarry, Pusey; Dry Sandford Quarries; Tubney Woods; Shellingford Quarry; and Wicklesham Quarry, Faringdon. Four of these sites are also identified as Sites of Special Scientific

Interest.

- 7.14 Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) may be established by local authorities in consultation with English Nature under section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. They are habitats of local importance. In the Vale there is a LNR at Tuckmill Meadows and new LNRs are proposed at the Abbey Fishponds and the western end of the Ock Valley in Abingdon, Chilswell Valley in South Hinksey, and Kennington Pond in Kennington. A local nature reserve is also proposed by Oxford City Council at the Iffley Fritillary Meadows, a small proportion of which lies within the area of the Vale.
- 7.15 Beyond the statutory designations the Vale also contains a number of County Wildlife Sites designated for their local ecological importance and a number of areas of woodland that have been identified as remains of Ancient Woodland. Also, part of the Vale to the west of Faringdon lies within the Great Western Community Forest. The aims of the Forest Plan 2006-2010 include the creation of a multi-purpose forest embracing Swindon and its environs, increasing forest cover from an average 5% to 30%, encouraging community involvement and public access and enhancing biodiversity and landscape quality.
- 7.16 The Vale is a rural area with a significant part of its land under cultivation for farming. The quality of the farmland ranges from Grade 4 up to Grade 2 in a number of locations. Guidance in PPS7 states that land of grade 3a or better should be protected from development unless sustainability considerations indicate otherwise. The Agricultural Census from DEFRA indicates that in 2003 there were 448 holdings covering 47,249.3 ha in the Vale. Of these 326 holdings covering 9,894 ha are permanent grass. There are then 147 holdings covering 13,452 ha which produce wheat. Then there are 79 holdings covering 3,731.8 ha producing oilseed rape and 86 holdings covering 2893.2 producing winter barley. Agriculture in the Vale is therefore very varied. In terms of employment only 1,067 residents gave their employment as being in the agriculture, hunting and forestry category which amounts to 1.8% of the resident workforce.
- 7.17 As stated earlier a substantial part of the Vale (23.36%) lies within the Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. With its high concentration of wildlife sites and rural hinterland the remaining part of the Vale is also made up of attractive landscapes. The Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study (OWLS) has identified a range of landscape types in the Vale. These include significant areas of wooded estate lands and rolling farmland to the north and south with alluvial lowland, clay vale and lowland village farmland landscapes in the centre, all running generally east west. There are also river meadowlands in close association with the rivers in the Vale and chalk downland within the AONB.

8.0 Living Environment

- 8.1 The Council has a duty under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to promote community safety. This is the subject of policy DC3 in the Local Plan dealing with designing development against crime. Crime is therefore a matter to be taken into account in planning decisions. It is therefore important to gauge the level of crime in an area to determine the level of the problem and tangentially get some indication of the impact of planning policies. Planning of development is however only one

facet of what has to be a multidimensional approach to the reduction of crime in an area.

- 8.2 The Audit Commission's area profile for the Vale contains an indicator which relates to domestic burglaries per 1,000 households. Information for 2004/05 shows that the rate in the Vale was 5.51 per 1,000 households. This compares to a rate of 9.59 for the County and a national rate of 11.72. This indicates that the Vale is a relatively safe area in relation to domestic burglaries.
- 8.3 This information cannot be directly related to the planning of new development. However it does indicate that the Vale is a relatively safe area which must partly relate to the character of development. This is a subjective impression rather than an objective measurement of the safety of an area, but it is a useful contextual indicator for assessing the Vale against other areas.
- 8.4 The Index of Multiple Deprivation is a means of comparing information about a range of indicators showing levels of deprivation for an area as one figure. This then allows the relative deprivation of areas to be established, compared and monitored over time. Areas can be deprived in terms of income, education, employment, health, good housing, services, environment and levels of crime. Information was originally produced for 2000 but this has been refined and a new set of information has been produced for 2004 by ODPM.
- 8.5 The Index of Multiple Deprivation for 2004 shows that only one of the 75 Super Output Areas (SOA) in the Vale is deprived enough over the whole range of factors to be counted amongst the top 25% most deprived areas in England. There are no other SOAs in the Vale in the next ranking between 25% and 50%. This situation varies though when individual deprivation factors are considered. For example in relation to housing and services 10 out of the 75 SOAs in the Vale are in the most deprived 25% of SOAs in England. Overall though the Vale is relatively less deprived than the rest of England.
- 8.6 In terms of mortality the Quality of Life Indicator 3.2 is drawn from the Compendium of Clinical Health Indicators 2002 and shows trends in mortality from all causes using directly standardised mortality rates per 100,000. Information has been produced for 1993-2001 annually for all ages for the Districts in Oxfordshire. Overall in Oxfordshire the mortality rate has declined from 689.7 in 1993 to 586.7 by 2001. In comparison the Vale's rate has fallen from a lower level of 662.1 to 540.2 over the same period. The Vale therefore continues to have a lower mortality rate than the County overall.
- 8.7 In terms of life expectancy the figure for the South East is 79.3 years compared to the higher figure for the Vale of 80.4 years. There are further variations within the Vale and the Abingdon Dunmore ward has the highest life expectancy with a figure of 86.6 years.
- 8.8 Another aspect of health is the number of people who suffer from a limiting long term illness. This was the subject of a specific question in the 2001 Census. It found that The South East was the healthiest region in England on this measure with 15.5% of the total population rating themselves as having a limiting long term illness, compared with the England average of 17.9%. Oxfordshire at 13.4% was

ranked the second healthiest county in the South East (behind Buckinghamshire). For the Vale the figure was even lower at 13.1%.

8.9 Teenage conception rates are also monitored as part of the Audit Commission's area profiles. They are only collected on a County basis. The figure for 2004 was 34.3 conceptions to under-18 year olds in a calendar year per thousand females aged 15 to 17. This compares favourably to the national average which was 44.3 in 2004. Rates have fallen locally from 36.0 and nationally from 45.46 since 2002.

8.9.1 Recreation is strongly linked to health. The National Playing Fields Association standards suggest that that a total of 2.4 hectares of playing space should be provided for every 1,000 persons. In 2002 the Council conducted a survey of formal playing space provision in the Vale's five main settlements. The results of the 2002 playing space survey are set out in the table below.

Survey of Playing Space 2002 – summary of findings						
Population (2001)	Sports Pitches 1.6–1.8ha per 1000		Outdoor Play Space 0.6–0.8ha per 1000		Total Hectares	
	NPFA Range	Found (02)	NPFA Range	Found (02)	NPFA Range	Found (02)
Abingdon 32,526	52.04 – 58.55	49.25	19.5 – 26.0	45.60	71.54 – 84.55	94.85
Wantage 9,442	15.11 – 17.00	11.59	5.7 – 7.5	10.18	20.81 – 24.5	21.77
Grove 8,212	13.14 – 14.78	10.54	4.93 – 6.6	7.74	18.03 – 21.38	18.28
Faringdon 6,053	9.7 – 10.9	8.28	3.63 – 4.8	3.21	13.31 – 15.7	11.49
Botley 8,967	14.35 – 16.1	17.73	5.4 – 7.2	4.96	19.75 – 23.3	22.69

8.10 In Abingdon the study suggests that the overall provision of playing space is adequate by comparison to the NPFA standard; however, sports pitches are under-provided but space suitable for play is well above standard. This is accounted for by the large areas of open space along the Thames, at Abbey Meadows, Albert Park and Long Furlong. The study indicates that Wantage is within standard for outdoor play space but is below standard for sports pitches. The proposal for a new pitch at Tuckwell Fields opposite the cricket ground on the A417 east of Wantage will help to address this shortfall. The situation at Grove is similar to Wantage with a shortfall of sports pitches but play space is within standard. In Botley sports pitches meet the standard and play space is just below standard. At Faringdon sports pitches and play space are below standard.

8.11 Another relevant indicator is the percentage of residents within 20 minutes of a range of three different sports facilities. This is included in the Audit Commission's area profile for the Vale and in 2005 showed that in 2005 16.8% of the Vale's

population lived within 20 minutes travel time of 3 different sports facilities. This compares to the national average of 20.86% living within 20 minutes travel time of 3 different sports facilities. The Vale is therefore less sustainable in terms of the distribution of its sports facilities. However, this is probably an effect of the Vale's rural character which will mean that it will generally be below the average as the majority of the national population live in more urbanised areas.

- 8.12 Another relevant indicator in the Audit Commission's area profile for the Vale is resident satisfaction with sports/leisure facilities. The indicator specifically relates to whether residents of an area consider that sport and leisure facilities have improved or stayed the same in the past 3 years. For the Vale 93.26% of residents consider that sport and leisure facilities have improved or stayed the same. In comparison the national average for this indicator is 88.43% and for the County the figure is 89.17%. The Vale's residents are therefore slightly more satisfied with their sport and leisure facilities than either in the County overall or nationally. This is a subjective impression rather than an objective measurement of the provision of sport and leisure facilities, but it is a useful contextual indicator for assessing the quality of such facilities. It is likely that it reflects recent Council and private investments in leisure facilities in the Vale.
- 8.13 A further relevant indicator in the Audit Commission's area profile for the Vale is resident satisfaction with Parks/Open Spaces. The indicator refers to what percentage of an area's residents consider that parks and open spaces have got better or stayed the same over the previous three years. For the Vale the indicator shows that 94.17% of residents consider that parks and open spaces have got better or stayed the same in the last 3 years. In comparison the figure for the County is 86.41% and nationally the figure is 86.8 %. The Vale's residents are therefore more satisfied with their parks and open spaces than either in the County overall or nationally. This is a subjective impression rather than an objective measurement of the provision of parks and open spaces, but it is useful for assessing the quality of such facilities.

9.0 Sustainability

- 9.1 A significant sustainability indicator is the amount of water we consume. Recent dry periods have illustrated how dependant we are on a supply of water for our everyday lives. Reducing consumption and wastage of this increasingly scarce resource is therefore a desirable aim. Information on this subject is contained in the Audit Commission's area profile for the Vale and has been taken from information supplied by OFWAT. The information indicates that the average daily per capita consumption of water in litres in the Vale in 2003 was 154.14. In comparison the national average daily per capita consumption of water for 2003 was 154 litres. Per capita consumption of water in the Vale was therefore the same as the national average and is therefore no more or less sustainable than the rest of the country. No information is however available for previous years so a trend for water consumption cannot be established.
- 9.2 Information relating to the domestic consumption of gas and electricity is produced by the Audit Commission as part of its area profile for the Vale. It is taken from information produced by DTI Energy Trends. It indicates that the annual average per customer consumption of gas in the Vale in 2003 was 20,360 kWh. This

compares to a national average of 20,126.16 kWh which means that gas consumption in the Vale is slightly above average. However between 2001 and 2003 gas consumption in the Vale fell by 1.4% whereas the national average consumption rose by 1%. If these trends continue then gas consumption in the Vale should fall below the national average in the near future.

- 9.3 The average annual per customer consumption of electricity in the Vale in 2003 was 5,301 kWh. The national average per capita consumption for 2003 was however 4734.19 kWh. Per capita consumption of electricity in the Vale was therefore some 12% higher than the average. No information is available for previous years so a trend for electricity consumption cannot be established. However the figures indicate that in relation to the national picture the consumption of electricity in the Vale is significantly less sustainable. This may be related to a higher than average proportion of higher earners in the Vale with associated higher appliance usage.
- 9.4 Another matter which is a good sustainability indicator is the average amount of waste collected per head. Audit Commission figures for 2003/4 indicate that the average in England was 439.1 kilograms per head and in the South East was 533 kilograms. In comparison the Vale figure of 358 kilograms was much lower. Information on recycling from the Audit Commission shows that 19.4% of waste was recycled in the Vale in 2003/4 which compares to the figure for Oxfordshire of 17.5%.
- 9.5 Waste collected and the level of recycling are closely linked with higher recycling leading to lower levels of waste collection. Increasing population and further economic growth could mean that the total tonnes of household waste produced per annum in Oxfordshire could rise from 240,000 tonnes in 2003/4 to 410,000 by 2020. To meet Government targets recycling in Oxfordshire must rise from its current level of 24% to 33% by 2020. This would mean an 80% increase in the amount of waste recycled.
- 9.6 The Council monitors levels of nitrogen dioxide throughout the district using passive diffusion tubes and continuous monitoring. Monitoring is also undertaken to assess levels of sulphur dioxide, ozone, and airborne particles of less than 10 microns which are known as PM₁₀ and benzene. The concentrations of air pollutants in the district do not exceed the national air quality objective levels except in the busy narrow streets of central Abingdon due to the levels of nitrogen dioxide from vehicle emissions. In view of this the council has been advised to declare an 'Air Quality Management Area' in the the centre of Abingdon. The council is working with the Highways Authority, Oxfordshire County Council with the aim of improving traffic-related air quality in Abingdon. The Abingdon Integrated Transport Strategy [AbITS] is one initiative to improve traffic flow in Abingdon. One of the aims of this strategy is to improve air quality through reduced traffic congestion in the centre of Abingdon.
- 9.7 Following the outcome of their Progress Report 2004, the Council commissioned NETCEN to undertake a Detailed Assessment for nitrogen dioxide at locations in the central Abingdon area. This Detailed Assessment has identified a significant risk of exceeding the UK objectives for NO₂ in 2005 and the EU Limit values for NO₂ in 2010 at the locations in central Abingdon studied in the detailed assessment. This necessitated the introduction of an air Quality Management Area in central

Abingdon with the need for a Further Assessment Report later this year (2007). This report will try to assess the impact of the AbITS road changes and to identify areas where the Air Quality Objectives are still being exceeded. It is anticipated that there may still be exceedences at some locations and that there may be the need to develop an Air Quality Action Plan in consultation with stakeholders and interested parties. This will follow on from the Further Assessment Report.

- 9.8 Elevated levels of NO₂ have also been noted at Westminster Way, Botley, close to the A34. Extended monitoring is now being undertaken in this area in order to inform a Detailed Assessment Report which may show exceedence of the Air Quality Objective. If this is the case there may be a need to declare an Air Quality Management Area in this locality. It is anticipated that this report will be available mid 2007.

Core Strategy SA Scoping Report A3 - Sustainability Issues and Problems

Stage A3 in the SA process involves the identification of any sustainability issues or problems that relate to the Vale. Some issues and problems have already been identified via the preparation of the Local Plan, others can be identified via the review of other plans and strategies and by examining the baseline data. Further issues and problems may arise as a result of the consultation on this document. The issues and problems will then be used to inform the sustainability objectives that will be the foundation of the sustainability appraisal framework. The following sustainability issues and problems have been identified in relation to the Vale:

- Lack of affordable housing
- Provision of employment opportunities
- Congestion on strategic and local road network
- Lack of alternatives to the private car
- Need to conserve water
- Reduction and prevention of flooding
- Need to reduce use of fossil fuels and encourage renewables
- Protection of valued landscapes
- Quality of built environments
- Protection of cultural heritage
- Protection and improvement of biodiversity
- Need to restrain/reduce effects of noise air, water and light pollution
- Pressure for development, particularly housing
- Protection and provision of recreational facilities
- The health of Vale residents
- Impacts from tourism
- Low levels of educational achievement
- Action to address the causes and effects of climate change
- The generation of waste

Core Strategy SA Scoping Report – A4 Sustainability Objectives and Framework

1. Task A4 in the SA process is the development of a sustainability framework which will be used to assess the sustainability of policies and proposals in the Core Strategy. The foundation of this assessment is the development of sustainability objectives against which to compare the policies and proposals. These can be developed from the information gleaned via tasks A1, A2 and A3 already undertaken in this Scoping Report.
2. Once established the policies and proposals will be compared to the objectives and will be assigned a negative or positive effect where possible. The balance between the negative and positive values will then be used to measure the relative sustainability of options. It should be noted that it may not be possible to clearly define what effects a policy or proposal might have. In such cases an indeterminate value will have to be awarded or there may not be an effect in relation to that objective so a zero score would be given.
3. Where a score shows that there will be unsustainable impacts from a policy or proposal the first step will be to examine alternative options, if they are available, and if this does not resolve the issue then to consider what mitigation may be possible to reduce the impacts. It should also be noted that even after an appraisal finds a policy or proposal to be relatively unsustainable there may still be reasons to proceed with it. This would be the case for example in relation to the quantity of housing allocated to the Vale in the South East Plan. As it is a requirement of the South East Plan the Vale's Core Strategy will need to allocate sufficient land to meet the requirement. The aim of the appraisal is to reduce and mitigate unsustainable impacts. It is not possible to remove them all.
4. The Integrated Regional Framework (IRF), which is used as the basis for the SA of the South East Plan, contains 25 sustainability objectives under the following four headings drawn from the UK strategy for sustainable development A Better Quality of Life:
 - Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone
 - Effective protection of the environment
 - Prudent use of natural resources
 - Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth
5. The 25 IRF objectives could be utilised as the basis of the SA framework for the Vale as other Council's have done. It is considered however that the objectives should relate as closely as possible to the Council's own objectives as set out below:
 - a. Strengthen local democracy and public involvement through access to information, consultation, and devolution of power so that everyone can take part in our community and contribute to the decisions which affect our lives
 - b. Create a safer community and improve the quality of life among Vale residents
 - c. Encourage a strong and sustainable economy which benefits all who live in, work in or visit the Vale

- d. Help disadvantaged groups and individuals within the Vale to realise their full potential
 - e. Provide and support high quality public services which are effective, efficient and responsive to the needs of people within the Vale
 - f. Protect and improve our built and natural environment
6. Out of these objectives it is considered that all of the objectives can be utilised to form sustainability objectives. Objectives b, c and f can then be split into subsidiary objectives. In relation to the 25 IRF objectives the following topics are not specifically reflected in the Council's overall objectives and are suitable sustainability objectives for a Core Strategy:
- i) Access to decent, sustainably constructed and affordable homes;
 - ii) Reduced risk of flooding;
 - iii) Improved health and wellbeing;
 - iv) Raised educational achievement and skills levels;
 - v) Vibrant communities;
 - vi) Greater engagement in cultural activity;
 - vii) Sustainable use of land, buildings and materials;
 - viii) Reduced air pollution;
 - ix) Effective action on climate change;
 - x) Reduced road congestion and associated pollution;
 - xi) Maintained and improved river quality and water resources;
 - xii) Increased generation of energy by renewables; and
 - xiii) Establish a dynamic, diverse and knowledge-based economy with high value low impact activities.
7. It is considered that a combination of the Council's corporate objectives and those from the IRF provide a suitable range of sustainability objectives as set out below. Each objective has the relevant reference from the preceding objectives to show the linkages.
- 1. Access to decent, sustainably constructed and affordable homes (i)
 - 2. Improved accessibility to high quality services and involvement in decision making for the public (a, e.)
 - 3. Improved community safety (b)
 - 4. Increased quality of life for Vale residents (b)
 - 5. Raised educational achievement and skills levels (iv)
 - 6. Establish a strong and sustainable economy within the Vale(c)
 - 7. Establish a dynamic, diverse and knowledge-based economy with high value low impact activities (xiii)
 - 8. Develop a strong and sustainable tourism sector (c)
 - 9. Reduced road congestion and associated pollution (x)
 - 10. Reduced poverty and social exclusion with disadvantaged groups achieving potential (d)
 - 11. Vibrant communities (v)
 - 12. Greater engagement in cultural activity (vi)
 - 13. Improved health and wellbeing (iii)
 - 14. Improve and protect the natural environment (including biodiversity) (f)
 - 15. Improve and protect the built environment (f)

16. Sustainable use of land, buildings and materials (vii)
17. Effective action on climate change (ix)
18. Increased generation of energy by renewables (xii)
19. Reduced risk of flooding (ii)
20. Maintained and improved river quality and water resources (xi)
21. Reduced air, noise and light pollution (viii)

8. To ensure that these objectives take account of the sustainability issues and problems identified at stage A3 in the process the following table shows the relationship between the two. All the identified issues are addressed by the sustainability objectives.

Sustainability Objective	Relevant Issue/Problem
1. Access to decent, sustainably constructed and affordable homes (i)	Lack of affordable housing: Pressure for development, particularly housing.
2. Improved accessibility to high quality services and involvement in decision making for the public (a, e.)	
3. Improved community safety (b)	
4. Increased quality of life for Vale residents (b)	Protection and provision of recreational facilities.
5. Raised educational achievement and skills levels (iv)	Educational achievement
6. Establish a strong and sustainable economy within the Vale (c)	Provision of employment opportunities
7. Establish a dynamic, diverse and knowledge-based economy with high value low impact activities (xiii)	
8. Develop a strong and sustainable tourism sector (c)	Impacts from tourism
9. Reduced road congestion and associated pollution (x)	Congestion on strategic road network
10. Reduced poverty and social exclusion with disadvantaged groups achieving potential (d)	Lack of alternatives to the private car;
11. Creating vibrant communities (v)	
12. Greater engagement in cultural activity (vi)	
13. Improved health and wellbeing (iii)	The health of Vale residents
14. Improve and protect the natural environment (including biodiversity) (f)	Protection and improvement of biodiversity
15. Improve and protect the built environment (f)	Protection of valued landscapes and built environments; Protection of cultural heritage
16. Sustainable use of land, buildings and resources (vii)	
17. Effective action on climate change (ix)	Action to address the causes and effects of climate change
18. Increased generation of energy by renewables (xii)	Need to reduce use of fossil fuels and encourage renewables

19. Reduced risk of flooding (ii)	
20. Maintained and improved river quality and water resources (xi)	Need to conserve water
21. Reduced air, noise and light pollution (viii)	Need to restrain/reduce effects of noise air, water and light pollution

9. The 21 sustainability objectives also need to be checked back against the objectives selected from the relevant plans and programmes reviewed in section A1 of this report. This is addressed in the third column of the table where the related sustainability objectives are set out.

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR PLANNING AND COMMUNITY STRATEGY
TO THE EXECUTIVE
MARCH 2ND 2007

Minerals and Waste Framework Core Strategy Preferred Options

1 Introduction and Report Summary

- 1.1 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, local plans are being replaced by a Local Development Framework. Responsibility for minerals and waste planning rests with the County Council. Under the new system the County Council has to produce Core Strategy and Site Allocations minerals and waste documents. The first stage in the production of the Minerals and Waste Framework was last year when there was consultation on issues and options for the Core Strategy document. The next stage is preferred options where the policies and proposals are defined for the first time. Following consultation and revisions a final document will then be submitted to the Secretary of State when formal objections can be made.
- 1.2 As the Minerals and Waste Development Framework will form part of the Development Plan for the Vale it must be considered by Council. However responsibility for making comments at this stage rests with the Executive. The closing date for responses is 23rd March 2007. The document has been passed to the political assistants as well as to the Deputy Director (Contracts & Procurement) but at the time of writing no comments have been received. This report considers the preferred options most likely to affect the Vale as prepared by the County Council and recommends comments to form the basis of the Council's response.
- 1.3 The Contact Officer for this report is Peter Williams, Principal Planning Officer, (01235 520202)

2 Recommendations

- (a) *that the Executive approves the comments on the Minerals and Waste Framework Core Strategy Preferred Options document as contained in this report.*

3 Relationship with the Council's Vision, Strategies and Policies

- (a) A, B, C and F.
- (b) this report principally relates to the Local Development Framework Core Strategy and to the Oxfordshire Joint Municipal Waste Strategy .

4 Background and Supporting Information

- 4.1 The document does not contain site specific proposals for minerals or waste development. Instead it indicates general areas where such allocations might be made. The County Council is currently reviewing all potential sites prior to consulting on a very broad range of possible sites in the near future. It should be remembered that minerals can only be extracted from where they can be found and that the County Council is under a duty to ensure that adequate quantities of minerals are available to support expected need. Waste treatment is expected to be located as close as possible to sources. Government planning guidance on minerals is provided in Minerals Policy Statement 1 – Planning and Minerals. In relation to waste government guidance is contained in Planning Policy Statement 10 – Planning for Sustainable Waste Management.

4.2 **Issue 1 – Minerals and Waste Framework Plan Period** - On minerals the first issue to be addressed is the period to be covered by the framework. Originally the two end dates suggested were 2018 (now 2019) to give 10 years coverage after adoption or 2026 to match the South East Plan. A longer period would require more allocations to be made but would ensure supply for the period covered by the South East Plan. Providing that development is carefully phased and regular monitoring ensures that provision matches supply there is no reason why a longer period should have more impact than a shorter period which, in any event would require an earlier policy review and a review of all allocations to ensure longer term supply. It would also match the period to be covered by the Vale's own Local Development Framework.

Comment – The Minerals and Waste Development Framework should cover the period to 2026 provided that careful phasing and regular monitoring is used to control the rate of development.

4.3 **Issue 2 – Minerals Supply** - The next minerals issue is the quantity of minerals to be extracted. The levels required by the Government under Regional Planning Guidance 9 (RPG9) have been incorporated into the South East Plan. Taking into account the levels of existing provision, Oxfordshire will be required to provide 29.3 million tonnes of sand and gravel and 6.8 million tonnes of crushed rock to 2026. The options for meeting this requirement are (i) to identify wholly new sites or areas of search, or (ii) identify extensions to existing quarries with new provision only in the long term, or (iii) identify provision only to 2019 supported by criteria policy. As the response recommended above is for the framework to cover the period up to 2026 supporting the third option would be inconsistent. Given the choice between seeking wholly new sites and identifying extensions to existing sites with new sites only later, it is considered that the impact of the second option would be less.

Comment – The framework should aim to secure extensions to existing sites in the shorter term with wholly new allocations in the longer term.

4.4 The framework has to provide separate figures for sharp sand and gravel and for soft sand. The options are to split on a historical basis at 10% soft and 90% sharp or to split on the basis of recent production at 17% soft and 83% sharp. It is considered that it is more logical to reflect recent production.

Comment – The split between sand and gravel should be 17% soft sand and 83% sharp sand/gravel.

4.5 **Issue 3 – Strategy for Location of Sand and Gravel Workings** - The overall location for sand and gravel workings is the next issue. Currently most sharp sand and gravel production is from the Lower Windrush Valley and Eynsham-Cassington-Yarnton areas. Soft sand is extracted in the main resource area between Faringdon, Oxford and Abingdon. The three potential locations for sharp sand and gravel located in the Vale out of 15 locations are: Radley, Marcham and Appleford/Little Wittenham . The only realistic option for soft sand extraction is in the main resource area. The options suggested are for any sharp sand and gravel allocations to be located at existing sites in West Oxfordshire and at new sites in southern Oxfordshire outside the AONB. For soft sand the preferred option is for new sites to be located in the main resource area. Although there is no realistic alternative to the location of new soft sand extraction it is not clear from the framework whether future sharp sand/gravel works will affect the Vale. The preferred option should therefore be accepted but a clearer definition than the phrase 'southern Oxfordshire' would be preferable.

Comment – The preferred options for the general location of new sand and gravel sites is accepted but there should greater clarity over the likely location of future workings.

4.6 **Issues 4&5 – Strategy for the Location of Crushed Rock Production (limestone and/or ironstone) and Recycled/Secondary Aggregates** - The provision for crushed rock will not affect the Vale. On recycled aggregates, which reduce the need to extract sand and gravel,

the issue is where should plants to process material to produce the aggregates be located. The South East Plan says that such sites should be close to sources of material and can be located in the Green Belt if there are no alternatives. This matches national planning guidance. The options are to locate on a sequential basis with the first option being in urban locations with green field sites as a last resort and then on brownfield land as a first option with green field sites again as a last resort. This approach would not exclude sites in the Green Belt. It is considered that this approach is broadly acceptable but Green Belt sites should only be considered when all other options have been examined and rejected.

Comment – The proposed overall approach to location is accepted but it should be made clear that Green Belt sites will only be considered when all other options have been examined and rejected.

- 4.7 **Issue 7 – Methodology for the Identification of Areas or Sites for Mineral Working -** Preferred option 7 sets out criteria for evaluating potential mineral working sites. As the criteria cover all the usual material planning considerations, which includes proximity to land uses which are sensitive to nuisance e.g. housing, the suggested option is considered to be acceptable. However, it is considered that specific mention of Green Belts should be made in accord with guidance in PPG2 Green Belts and MPS1 Planning and Minerals regarding the need to ensure high environmental standards during operation and a high standard of restoration.

Comment - The criteria in Option 7 are acceptable but specific reference should be made to the Green Belt.

- 4.8 **Issues 8 to 10 Restoration, Minimising Environmental Impacts and Safeguarding Minerals Resources -** It is considered that no comments are required in relation to the preferred options for restoration, minimising impact and safeguarding minerals as they reflect this Council's longstanding approach to these issues.

- 4.9 **Issue 11 Waste Management Facilities -** The overall approach proposed in relation to waste management is to reduce, recycle and re-use followed by treatment and then disposal, which includes landfill only as a final resort. The County Council needs to identify a range of sites which allow all of the required processes to take place. It cannot however be specific about what activity can occur on each site. This is dependant on the needs of the private companies who will carry out the processes. Sites can include locations in the Green Belt when other options are not available.

- 4.10 The first issue to be considered is what the overall approach should be to the site selection process. Options examined by the County include setting criteria, identifying broad locations, identifying specific sites, or using a combination of the options. The preferred options are: to identify specific sites for strategic facilities and broad locations for local sites, to be flexible over the activities which will be allowed at sites but to restrict uses in some locations and to provide for a range of small and large sites. Given the importance of securing adequate waste management facilities for the future these options are considered to be an appropriate way forward as they will provide for a wide variety of facilities, whilst respecting the constraints which might affect provision in particular locations

Comment – The preferred options 11a (i) to (iii) are considered to be an appropriate way forward.

- 4.11 The next issue addressed is where should sites be located. The main difficulty here is the potential conflict between the need to have such facilities close to where waste arises and the need to ensure that sensitive locations are protected. The preferred option suggested by the document is to take a sequential approach with urban areas as first choice and greenfield sites as a last resort together with using brownfield land first with greenfield sites again as a last resort. A concern is that Green Belt sites are included as potential locations. Your officers consider that the document should make it clear that Green Belt sites should be very much a last resort to meet the requirements of Government guidance.

Comment – The overall locational approach is acceptable but it should be made clear that Green belt locations should only be considered when all other options are unacceptable i.e. to protect Green Belts whilst taking into account other factors as set out in PPS10 - Planning for Sustainable Waste Management.

- 4.12 **Issue 12 - Ensuring Movement up the Waste Hierarchy** - The next waste issue is the need to ensure that all other options are utilised to ensure that as little waste as possible goes to landfill. The options are to ensure sufficient provision is made for recycling as a minimum and to limit provision for landfill. It is considered that this is a sensible approach which is consistent with this Council's views on waste management and the waste hierarchy.

Comment – the preferred options for discouraging landfill are considered to be a sensible approach.

- 4.13 **Issue 13 – Provision of Facilities and Capacity for Waste Management** - On the matter of the provision of sufficient waste facilities the main issue is whether the County should make provision just to meet its own need or should it accept a need to process waste from London. The need to make provision to accommodate a share of London's waste is set out in regional guidance alongside self sufficiency which is expected to be the basis for local provision in the same guidance. The County's preferred option is to follow the regional guidance and this is considered to be the appropriate approach. An alternative approach is unlikely to be successful when it would be contrary to the approved Regional Planning Guidance and emerging South East Plan

Comment – the preferred options for self sufficiency with acceptance of waste from London are considered to be a sensible approach.

- 4.14 **Issue 14 – Methodology for the Identification and Assessment of Sites for Waste Management Facilities** - For identifying and assessing sites for waste management facilities a range of criteria are suggested. In general these are considered to be acceptable but again no specific mention of the Green Belt is made.

Comment - The criteria in Option 14 are acceptable but specific reference should be made to the constraints imposed by Green Belt policy.

- 4.15 **Issue 15 – Landfill** - With regard to landfill some provision will still be needed for the residue remaining after all other processes have been implemented. The suggested approach is to increasingly limit landfill to encourage other processes and to direct inert waste to mineral site restoration. It is considered that this is an appropriate approach consistent with this Council's views on landfill.

Comment - The approach set out in Option 15 is acceptable.

- 4.16 **Issue 16 – Minimising the Environmental Impacts of Waste Management** - The final waste issue is to consider how to minimise the impacts of new waste facilities. The suggested approach is to examine the need for mitigation on a case by case basis at the planning application stage and require mitigation by condition as part of any planning permission.

Comment - The approach set out in Option 16 is considered to be appropriate.

RODGER HOOD
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (Planning and Community Strategy)

TIM SADLER
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR

Background Papers:-

Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Preferred Options Consultation Paper February 2007

Minerals Policy Statement 1 – Planning and Minerals

Planning Policy Statement 10 – Planning for Sustainable Waste Management

The South East Plan – Draft Plan for Submission to Government March 2006

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR
TO THE EXECUTIVE
2 MARCH 2007

District Waste Action Plan 2007/8

1.0 Introduction and Report Summary

- 1.1 The Vale Executive endorsed the Oxfordshire Joint Waste Strategy (JWS) on 1 September 2006. To support the implementation of this strategy member authorities are required to prepare a District Waste Action Plan (DWAP) detailing changes and developments in relation to local service provision each year and demonstrating adherence to JWS policies and targets.
- 1.2 The Vale's draft DWAP is attached as Appendix A.
- 1.3 The contact officer for this report is Mike Mackay, Deputy Director (Contracts & Procurement), telephone 01235 520202 ext 337.

2.0 Recommendations

That the Committee approves the District Waste Action Plan 2007/8

3.0 Relationship with the Council's Vision, Strategies and Policies

This Plan supports the Council's priority of delivering a cleaner and greener environment.

4.0 Background

- 4.1 The District Waste Action Plan is intended to provide a brief summary of the Council's plans in relation to the delivery of its waste management services during 2007/8 and developments relate to the policies contained in the JWS. The format follows the County standard and actions are linked to the relevant JWS policy where appropriate. Targets quoted are as per the existing performance plan.
- 4.2 The DWAP was taken to the Strategic Review Committee on 23 January 2007 for review and was formally received at that meeting.
- 4.3 There are no direct budget implications arising from this report.

MIKE MACKAY
DEPUTY DIRECTOR (CONTRACTS & PROCUREMENT)

STEVE BISHOP
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR & CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

Background Papers: Oxfordshire Joint Waste Strategy

Vale of White Horse District Council - Waste Action Plan 2007-8

Actions	Required Outcome & Target (if applicable)	Resources Required (other than Waste Team)	Deadline for Completion	Responsible Officer/Team	Link to Strategy
Waste prevention and reuse					
1.1	Work with neighbouring Councils in the OWP Projects Group to jointly promote waste reduction via Waste Reduction Packs & reusable bags, real nappies, "Savvy Shopping".	Reduction in amount of waste sent to landfill <i>Target = 369 kg arisings per head</i>	31 March 2008	WSC	Policies 8, 5 & 3
1.2	Promote the joint home composting in Oxfordshire sponsored by WRAP	Continued sales of composters <i>Target = 1200 units sold</i>	31 March 2008	WSC + CT	Policy 3
Recycling and Composting					
2.1	Promote expansion of Brown Bin & Green Box services to under performing areas	Increased participation & subsequent rate of recovery, <i>Target = 25% recycling & 6% composting</i>	30 June 2007	WSC	Policy 3
2.2	Implement alternative to Green Sack scheme	Diversion of green waste from landfill <i>Target = +600 tonnes (subject to implementation)</i>	01 July 2007	WSC + Veolia	Policy 3
2.3	Expand the service of Mini Recycling Centres (MRC) to suitable dwellings	Increased coverage of suitable properties and subsequent rise in PI <i>Target = 99%</i>	31 March 2008	WSC + Veolia	Policy 7
2.4	Consider additional containers for residents in dwellings such as flats who have MRCs	Obtain additional containers to encourage greater use of MRCs & extra material collections <i>Target = +1 material at 20 sites. Caddies (or similar)</i>	30 Sep 2007	WSC	Policy 3

Vale of White Horse District Council - Waste Action Plan 2007-8

Actions	Required Outcome & Target (if applicable)	Resources Required (other than Waste Team)	Deadline for Completion	Responsible Officer/Team	Link to Strategy
2.5	Provide recycling facilities in leisure centres	to 1,000 households)	30 April 2007	WSC + LFM	Policies 1 & 7
2.6	Reduce Waste arisings and increase recycling from Vale office sites	Target = recycling facilities at 4 sites	31 July 2007	WSC + FM	Policy 1
2.7	Coordinate the Councils' activities with the joint Communications Project funded by WRAP	Increase awareness of Waste Issues and participation in the Councils services for recycling & composting	31 March 2008	WSC + CT	Policy 8
2.8	Research for potential pilot scheme for the collection of kitchen waste for composting	Information gathered for possible future expansion	31 October 2007	WSM + Veolia	Policies 6 & 9
2.9	Assist in coordination of second participation rate monitoring as part of WRAP project	Comparison of effectiveness of campaign + increased take up rate in various areas	30 November 2007	WSC+WRAP	Policies 8 & 9
2.10	Produce special collection day calendar as part of WRAP campaign.	Increase awareness of Waste Issues and participation in the Councils services for recycling & composting	31 October 2007	WSC+CT	Policy 8
Residual Waste and Sustainable Waste Management					
3.1	Review prices for bulky waste and fridge collections to reduce subsidy and provide deterrent	Encourage re-use	30 June 2007	WSM	Policies 3 & 4

Vale of White Horse District Council - Waste Action Plan 2007-8

Actions	Required Outcome & Target (if applicable)	Resources Required (other than Waste Team)	Deadline for Completion	Responsible Officer/Team	Link to Strategy
	<i>Target = reduce service requests by 25% if review implemented</i>				
Waste Policy and Performance					
4.1	Submit Council's Waste Action Plan for 2008-9 to SRC.		January 2008	DD(C&P)	
4.2	Submit the Council's Waste Action Plan to Executive		31 March 2008	DD(C&P)	
4.3	Compile and present BVPIs and LPIs for quarterly Corporate Governance Report		15 July 2007 15 October 2007 15 January 2008 15 April 2008	WSM	
4.4	Prepare & sign off PI documents		30 April 2008	WSM	
4.5	Consider budgetary changes and recommendations to support activities planned for 2007/8		November/December 2007	DD(C&P)	
4.6	Veolia (the Contractor formerly known as Cleanaway) Joint Improvement Plan	Veolia	JIP to be in place by 31 March 2007 Achievement of Plan by 31 March 2008	WSM	
4.7	Joint Procurement Plan	OWP	Deadlines contained within the OWP JPP	DD(C&P)	Policy 14
4.8	Submit JPP Tender Specification to Executive		Sept 2007 Exec meeting	DD(C&P)	Policy 14

Vale of White Horse District Council - Waste Action Plan 2007-8

Actions	Required Outcome & Target (if applicable)	Resources Required (other than Waste Team)	Deadline for Completion	Responsible Officer/Team	Link to Strategy
4.9	Review Corporate Targets for Waste Managements for 2008/9 onwards as part of LAA County-wide targets.		31 March 2008	DD(C&P)	
General Promotion and Communication					
5.1	Review web site contents and upgrade where necessary		Monthly review	WSC	Policy 8
5.2	Identify events for the WRAP promotional vehicle <i>Target = Attendance at 10 events</i>	DSO support	During 2007 (TBA)	WSC + CT	Policy 8
5.3	Produce information for Vale Views Increase awareness of Waste issues with residents	Funding provided externally	Monthly articles.	WSC + CT	Policy 8
5.4	Produce Waste leaflet for Council Tax distribution.		15 February 2008 for March distribution	WSC + CT	Policy 8

Key to initials:

<p>BVPI = Best Value Performance Indicator CT = Communications Team DD(C&P) = Deputy Director (Contracts & Procurement) DSO = Direct Services Organisation FM = Facilities Manager JPP = Joint Procurement Plan LAA = Local Area Agreement LFM = Leisure Facilities Manager LPI = Local Performance Indicator</p>	<p>MRC = Mini Recycling Centre OWP = Oxfordshire Waste Partnership PI = Performance Indicator SRC = Strategic Review Committee WM = Waste Minimisation WSC = Waste Strategy Coordinator WSM = Waste Services Manager WRAP = Waste and Resources Action Programme WTOs = Waste Technical Officers</p>
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Direct Services Organisation

Business Plan 2007 - 2010

Bill Farrar

Deputy Director, Commercial Services

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Successful organisations know how important it is to perform well and continue to develop. They not only ensure that their product meets current demands but they also plan and invest for the future.

Whilst good strategic, operational and financial management is essential stakeholders must also be engaged if they and the business are to progress together and in the same direction.

A good Business Plan can provide the communication needed to convey to Members, customers, the community and employees the condition of its service and its commercial intentions.

The following Business Plan should run in parallel with the Service Plan and is a statement of “where it is now, where it wants to be and how it intends to get there”.

2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the first Direct Services Organisation Business Plan and can be developed further in time.

There is a clear need to concentrate on core services, developing them to meet the needs of a modern and changing commercial environment and also to maximise the use of the valuable skills and expertise of staff both for the Authority and Council Tax payers.

The Service requires the support of the Executive and the commitment of other Service Areas to commission and interact with our in-house service as a first option in procuring work.

The ultimate aims of the DSO are:

- (i) in the short term, to reach a break-even position financially and
- (ii) in the longer term, to develop the quality and width of its services to levels that will benefit the Council, its other Services and the Community.

The DSO has made great strides in minimising the operating financial deficit and in building a sound customer base. It intends to continue its improvement by seeking more external customers and providing new and additional services.

3.0 SITUATION ANALYSIS

3.1 What is the DSO?

The Vale has operated a works unit called the DSO for many years providing a 24-hour daily service to the Council and to external customers (and neighbouring Authorities) that own or occupy domestic and commercial property in the Vale, South Oxfordshire and neighbouring Districts.

On 1 April 2005, with the discontinuance of Technical Services and the restructuring of the senior management of the Vale of White Horse District Council, the DSO and Address Management were transferred to join with Building Control. After a year of initial recovery the Council endorsed the DSO's viability subject to its continuing improvement and the submission of a Business Plan.

The DSO is one of 4 Services within the Commercial Services group and now comprises:

1. **Workforce Unit** – a range of building and manual services for the Council and private customers
2. **Address Management** – statutory duty of Street Naming, Property Identification and Road Closures
3. **Public Conveniences Cleaning** – this work was previously contracted-out and has recently been taken back in-house

The DSO's fundamental objective is to provide the Council with a cost-effective resource facility that it needs to ensure its own operations are adequately supported as well as meeting the expectations of the community and the public.

It is managed and led by the DSO Manager who is a member of the Commercial Services Management Team (CMT) and reports to the Deputy Director for Commercial Services.

Its Points of Excellence are:

- Quality Service
- Customer Confidence
- Customer Care
- Reliability
- Cost

3.2 The Services

The DSO carry out a range of work listed below:

Septic Tanks - emptying units on a daily basis for householders and businesses in the Vale and South Oxfordshire District.

Sewer Blockages - clearing drains daily for private householders, businesses, local authorities and housing associations in the Vale and South Oxfordshire District.

Sewer Treatment Works and Pumping Stations - maintenance and repairs on a regular basis on units owned by private householders, businesses, local authorities and housing associations in the Vale and South Oxfordshire District.

Car Parks - continual maintenance and repairs on premises owned by and situated in the Vale.

Public Conveniences - maintenance and repairs as well as the cleaning of 6 premises owned by and situated in the Vale.

CCTV Surveys - specialist work commissioned occasionally by private householders and businesses in the Vale and South Oxfordshire District

Contract Work (External) - wide range of minor building and manual work commissioned by private customers, companies and other local authorities. It provides services to the community that require quick and reliable responses and which the private sector often cannot or decline to provide. The DSO responds to emergencies and other incidents, eg. flooding (sandbagging) and dangerous structures.

Contract Work (Internal) - wide range of building and manual work for other Council Services. In addition to speed and reliability the Services also benefit from the confidence in assured flexibility, control and costs. Services are recharged at the most economical commercial rate. This necessary work includes Committee set-ups, office moves, road signage, etc.

Address Management - this section of the DSO administers the statutory duty of ensuring that names are given to all roads and streets and that their signs are properly erected and displayed. It also has the responsibility for closure of roads when suitable applications are made for events and incidents.

3.3 Customers

DSO has a wide range of customers from private owners and occupiers of property, commercial businesses and local authority and statutory bodies:

Individual Users

- Businesses
- Council tax payers
- Property owners
- Riparian owners
- Tenants

Service Providers

- Consultants
- Contractors
- Developers
- Solicitors
- Utility Service providers
- Sign manufacturers
- Street map publishers

External Bodies

- Oxfordshire County Council
- South Oxfordshire District Council
- Town and Parish Councils in the Vale of White Horse DC and South Oxfordshire DC
- Environment Agency
- Thames Water
- Housing Associations
- Ordnance Survey
- Land Registry
- Royal Mail

3.4 Resources

Staff

The current establishment headcount for the DSO is 13 staff (set out in Appendix A). The multi-skilled DSO operatives cover each other and deliver the whole range of the services. The section works in teams and as individuals depending upon timescales, standards agreed and the nature of the contracts.

The flexibility and commitment of the staff and management is essential for effective service delivery. When staff resources are low, due to extra business and/or vacancies, agency personnel and/or overtime are used to meet the contracts.

Facilities and Premises

The administration is based at Abbey House, Abingdon with the service depot located at Regis Yard, Challow Station. The DSO service properties at:

- Charter Car Park, Abingdon
- Public Conveniences (6no.) in Abingdon, Botley, Faringdon and Wantage
- Sewer Treatment Works and Pumping Stations (7no.) at various locations in the Vale

Communication with the public and customers is routed via Abbey House using the most appropriate method available, ie. mail, telephone (land line or mobile), fax, and e-mail.

Vehicle and Plant

The DSO fleet vehicles operate from Regis Yard with maintenance being carried out by external agents.

Appendix B shows the current list with the year of purchase and programmed dates of replacement. Due to the nature of the work, the large geographical area covered and response times, the vehicles need to be in good mechanical order and reliable. Therefore, the replacement periods are use-dependent, varying from 5 to 10 years (or more).

A reserve of £50,000 is set up to fund the vehicle purchases the cost of which being met, in due course, from the service's revenue account. Occasionally vehicles are leased or hired depending upon the timing and the type of work. Generally only small items of plant are purchased, other than jetting or generator units, with specific items of mechanical plant or machinery hired in as required on a rechargeable basis.

3.5 SWOT Analysis

The most important asset that Local Authorities have is their knowledge of their own operating area. Their weakness is often the combination of restrictive legislation, highly competitive market place and internal overheads.

	Internal	External
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Experience ◦ Motivation ◦ Trained Staff ◦ New positive corporate attitude ◦ Support/back-up of large organisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Local knowledge (Vale & SODC) ◦ Reputation of quality service ◦ Accountability ◦ Existing Team ◦ Available 24 / 7 ◦ Fast response time ◦ Price
Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Staffing levels ◦ De-motivation ◦ Council policies and procedures ◦ Legislation ◦ Bureaucracy ◦ Lack of feedback ◦ Staff resistant to change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Depot location ◦ Overload of work ◦ Disposal restrictions
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Training and apprenticeship ◦ Profit share ◦ Partnership and joint working ◦ ICT and communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Expand core work ◦ Diversification ◦ Marketing and promotion of business ◦ Standing orders ◦ E-Gov
Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Council Policy ◦ Overheads and costs ◦ Recruitment ◦ Staff retention ◦ Ageism ◦ Political Change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Competition ◦ Marketplace climate (inflation) ◦ Loss of work ◦ Externalisation threats ◦ Lack of support and leadership ◦ Redundancy

4.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 Mission Statement

The DSO intends to provide:

- the Council with effective, efficient and economic services that will meet the demands of its internal services and the community and
- services underpinned by quality, reliability and value for money, which meets the performance standards demanded of a modern and dynamic local authority.

4.2 Core Values

The DSO is committed to:

- Customer Care
- Good Management and Leadership
- Environmental; Awareness
- Equal Opportunities
- Commercial Attitude

4.3 Limiting Factors and Changes

Local Government is restricted by legislation in a number of areas:

- Who the Authority can work for
- The nature of the work
- The location of the work
- The value of the contract
- The staff used to resource the contract

Council policies and procedures, which the private sector is not subject to, can hinder the ability to win business - eg. Contract Standing Orders, Equal Opportunities, etc.

Changes in the following areas might influence business development:

- European and national legislation
- Budgets
- Council priorities
- National and local economy

5.0 STRATEGIC REVIEW

5.1 Service Review

During the first 6 months after the transfer of the DSO in April 2005 its operations and finances were rigorously analysed. Whilst the management of staff and service delivery was found to be sound all other areas required immediate attention.

Subsequently the administration and financial control was improved, charges increased and accounting simplified and a commercial and business enterprise approach was introduced.

Most of the DSO services have maintained their market share. The volume of work has increased with no loss of customers and order books remain full.

Commercial links with organisations such as Vale Housing Association were increased and terms of the Housing Act Works contract were extended with South Oxfordshire District Council. Other work in that District has also increased.

In June 2006, the contracted-out public convenience cleaning contract was taken back in-house and assigned to the DSO and, in January 2007, the Street Naming and Numbering Policy was updated with the introduction of Charges.

The core services of septic tank emptying, sewer clearances and sewer treatment works have remained very strong. Similarly, minor works contracts have also expanded beyond internal and external clients to town and parish Council in other authorities.

5.2 New Service Development

The SWOT analyses and feedback from customers indicates the need for expansion and development of existing core services. However, opportunities exist for joint or partnership working in associated construction related activities, ie. property repairs and maintenance, cleaning contracts, drainage works, etc.

5.3 Priorities

Council Priorities

The DSO is continuing to explore with other Authorities ways of making services better and more cost effective through possible partnering and joint working. It also contributes to Council Priorities with respect to (i) creating a cleaner, greener, safer and healthier environment and (ii) the Medium Term Financial Plan.

Service Priorities

The following areas require particular attention:

- Continue to review finances and accounting procedures
- Marketing of services
- Benchmarking performance standards and charges
- Establishing relevant and useful performance indicators
- Customer surveys
- Risk assessments

6.0 THE FUTURE

2005-06 was an exceptional year in which the final deficit was reduced, beyond expectations, to £47k. In a year of consolidation, 2006-07 is likely to produce a £44k deficit. In 2007-08, the deficit is expected to fall to £20k and the service is expected to break even in 2008-09. Appendix C illustrates a 4 year schedule of account.

If the current trends continue the DSO expect to achieve their fundamental goals:

- An excellent service to the community and its customers
- Retain and increase market share and income
- Balance the accounts
- Maintain staffing levels and develop a motivated, professional and happy team

In doing so the following aspects have been identified as Critical Success Factors:

- Marketing
- Training
- Communications & ICT Systems
- Good Financial and Performance Management

In 4 years time the DSO expect that:

- Current levels of income and volume of work are sustained
- Opportunities for partnership and regional working have increased
- Services would be more diverse
- Liability will have increased and litigation will have become easier and more common

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

The DSO's commercial approach, through financial control, efficient management, minimising expenditure and maximising income, has established itself as a substantial and business-like unit with scope to develop further.

The professional and committed attitude of the workforce gives confidence in the unit being well organised and efficient. The high market share and volume of compliments illustrate its popularity.

It is a well-organised and efficient unit that is a credit to the Council and, given sufficient time and support, it should prove to be a worthwhile asset.

All elements of the business shall be overhauled with a greater emphasis on marketing the service.

Within a commercial environment and competing against the private sector, the level of Charges will play an important part in achieving success and a large market share. The benefit to the Council would be to provide its community with a service that it could trust to maintain high standards but cost effectively.

The DSO could develop the business with a view to breaking even financially by the end of 2008-09 with a further intention of sustaining a healthy and useful direct service group that could enhance and support the Council.

The DSO provides the community with a cost effective quality service. Ceasing the function would have two significant effects:

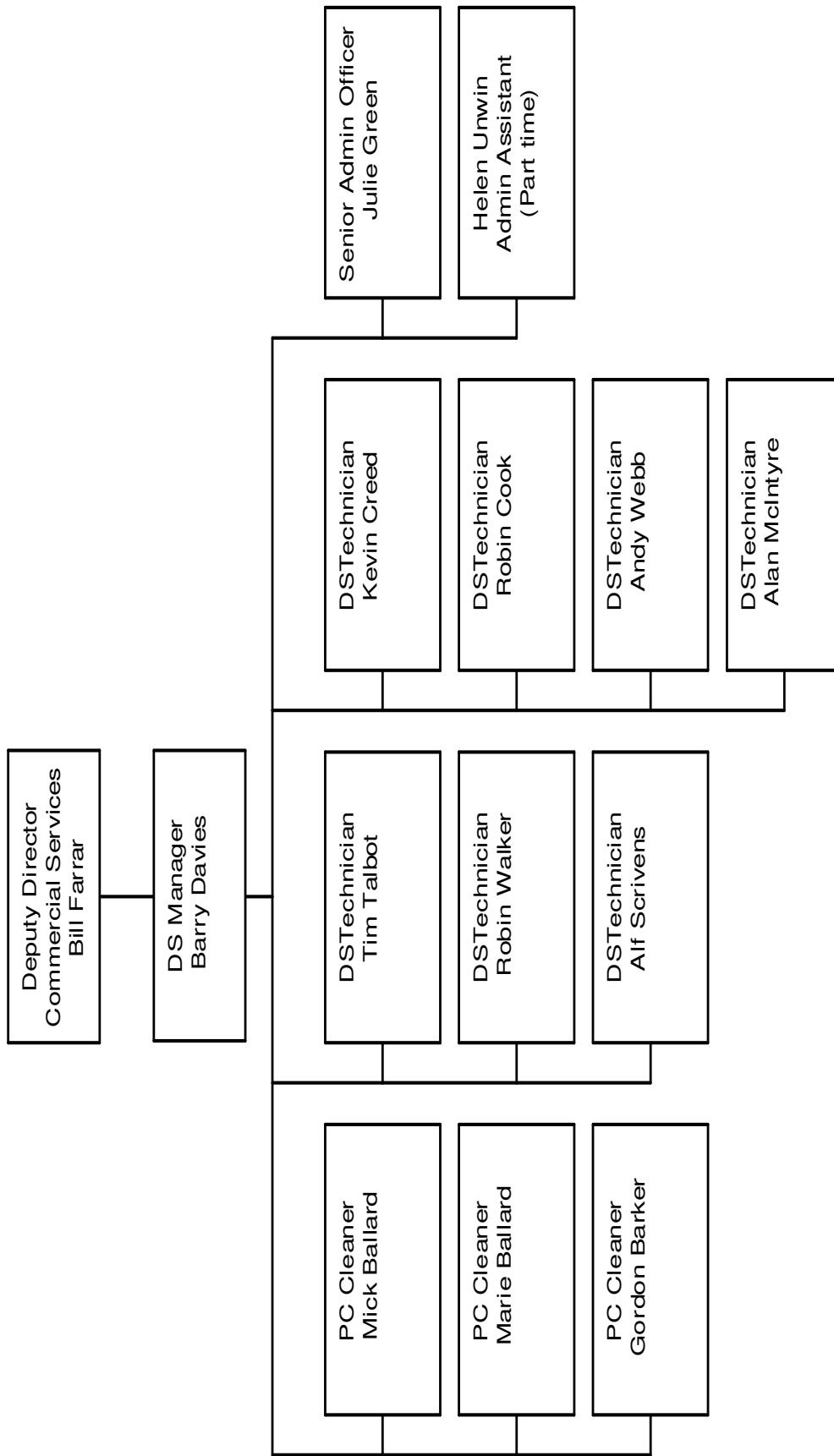
- *Work for the Council*

The Council would need to commission external private contractors to fulfil these tasks - there is a risk that these costs would be greater than the current recharges.

- *Work for the Community*

There is no legal obligation for the Council to provide such services. However, as customers have relied on these services for many years, this may lead to an adverse public perception of the Council. Furthermore, as much of the work is not financially attractive to private contractors this could result in reductions in local standards and amenities in the Vale.

DIRECT SERVICES ORGANISATION - 2007



Appendix B

Inventory of DSO Vehicles and Equipment

Vehicle	Regn No	Registration Date	Current Age (Years)	Replacement Age	Estimated Cost (£1,000's) - Procurement Date																		
					2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18									
Tanker - Scania	M229 VVR	Mar 95	11	11	50																		
Mercedes Vito Van	Y198 FBW	Apr 01	6	9		14																14	
Mercedes Vito Van	OU02 BSX	Apr 02	5	7			14																
Mercedes Sprinter Van	Y199 FBW	Apr 01	6	9					22														
Mercedes Sprinter Van	R976 VFC	Sep 97	9	13						22													
Mercedes Sprinter Van	P860 HUD	Jul 97	9	14										22									
Tanker - Mercedes	R130 XFC	Dec 97	9	15												50							
Jetter	VWL 523X	Jun 82	24	Tba																			5
Generator	E449 ERX	Mar 88	18	Tba																			5
Whale Jet Unit	N/A	Apr 01	6	7																			2

Appendix C

4-Year Financial Projection for DSO Business

Costc (T)	CC	Ac	Account (T)	Predict 2006-07	Predict 2007-08	Predict 2008-09	Predict 2009-10
Address Management	T03	409	Materials	12,000	12,000	13,000	14,000
Address Management	T03	414	Printing	50	100	150	200
Address Management	T03	436	Communications - Telephones	117	120	150	200
Address Management	T03	702	Internal Recharges (actuals)	12,000	12,000	13,000	14,000
Address Management	T03	918	Sales	0	0	0	0
Address Management	T03	920	Fees For Services	(3,000)	(15,000)	(18,000)	(19,000)
			Address Management	21,166	9,220	8,300	9,400
Direct Services Other	T93	101	Salaries	261,186	281,205	295,000	310,000
Direct Services Other	T93	102	Overtime	57,878	60,000	62,000	64,000
Direct Services Other	T93	103	Employers Nat Insurance	18,372	20,137	21,000	22,000
Direct Services Other	T93	105	Employers Superannuation	45,446	48,930	50,000	52,000
Direct Services Other	T93	109	Standby Overtime	14,231	15,000	16,000	18,000
Direct Services Other	T93	119	Agency and Temporary Staff	18,144	20,000	20,000	22,000
Direct Services Other	T93	202	Repairs & Maintenance of Fix & Fittings	0	0	0	0
Direct Services Other	T93	203	Repairs & Maintenance of Buildings	150	150	200	400
Direct Services Other	T93	212	Property Rental	18,000	14,000	15,000	12,000
Direct Services Other	T93	216	Business Rates	4,491	4,491	5,000	5,500
Direct Services Other	T93	225	Waste Management	1,406	1,406	0	0
Direct Services Other	T93	301	Repairs & Maintenance of Vehicles	10,000	12,000	0	0
Direct Services Other	T93	302	Fuel	32,483	35,000	36,000	38,000
Direct Services Other	T93	303	Licences	2,740	2,740	2,800	3,000
Direct Services Other	T93	304	Materials - Vehicle	7,029	7,029	7,000	8,000
Direct Services Other	T93	305	Other Consumables	1,843	1,843	2,000	2,500
Direct Services Other	T93	306	Hire of Plant and Vehicles	11,000	8,000	8,000	9,000
Direct Services Other	T93	310	Car Allowances - Lump Sum	542	542	600	700
Direct Services Other	T93	311	Car Allowances - Mileage	820	820	1,000	1,200
Direct Services Other	T93	312	Transport Insurance	6,560	6,560	9,000	12,000
Direct Services Other	T93	313	Vehicle Purchases	3,000	13,000	30,000	30,000
Direct Services Other	T93	402	Tools and Equipment	2,906	3,000	3,000	3,500
Direct Services Other	T93	403	Repairs/Maint of Furniture, Tools & Equip	354	500	500	600
Direct Services Other	T93	409	Materials	27,812	30,000	31,000	32,000
Direct Services Other	T93	413	Clothing	221	500	500	600
Direct Services Other	T93	414	Printing	320	400	400	500
Direct Services Other	T93	418	Stationery - Other Stationery	69	100	100	150
Direct Services Other	T93	423	Advertising	0	0	500	700
Direct Services Other	T93	424	External Services	26,000	28,000	29,000	30,000

Costc (T)	CC	Ac	Account (T)	Predict 2006-07	Predict 2007-08	Predict 2008-09	Predict 2009-10
Direct Services Other	T93	429	Public Liability Insurance	3,320	3,320	3,500	4,000
Direct Services Other	T93	436	Communications - Telephones	1,089	1,200	1,400	1,600
Direct Services Other	T93	437	Computing	69	100	200	500
Direct Services Other	T93	439	Subsistence	57	100	100	200
Direct Services Other	T93	452	Subscriptions to Bodies	1,603	1,600	1,600	1,000
STWs & Pump Stations - SODC	U04	202	Repairs & Maintenance of Fix & Fittings	0	0	0	0
STWs & Pump Stations - SODC	U04	208	Electricity	1,638	1,638	1,700	1,800
STWs & Pump Stations - SODC	U04	222	Discharge Fees	2,069	2,200	2,400	2,600
STWs & Pump Stations - SODC	U04	424	External Services	0	0	0	0
STWs & Pump Stations - SODC	U04	920	Fees For Services	(37,000)	(40,000)	(41,000)	(42,000)
STWs & Pump Stations - Private	U05	920	Fees For Services	(13,049)	(14,000)	(16,000)	(17,000)
STWs & Pump Stations - Private	U05	953	Internal Recharges	(13,000)	(13,000)	(14,000)	(15,000)
STWs & Pump Stations - Unallocat	U06	213	Property Leases	0	0	0	0
STWs & Pump Stations - Unallocat	U06	920	Fees For Services	0	0	0	0
Maintaining Car Parks	U08	953	Internal Recharges	(49,000)	(50,000)	(52,000)	(53,000)
Emptying Septic Tanks - Vale	U09	222	Discharge Fees	37,377	38,000	40,000	41,000
Emptying Septic Tanks - Vale	U09	920	Fees For Services	(59,053)	(70,000)	(80,000)	(90,000)
Emptying Septic Tanks - SODC	U11	222	Discharge Fees	0	0	0	0
Emptying Septic Tanks - SODC	U11	920	Fees For Services	(72,125)	(80,000)	(90,000)	(102,000)
Sewer Blockages - Vale Private	U13	920	Fees For Services	(8,261)	(25,000)	(31,000)	(33,000)
Sewer Blockages - VHA	U14	920	Fees For Services	(32,653)	(35,000)	(38,000)	(39,000)
Sewer Blockages - SODC	U15	920	Fees For Services	(2,228)	0	0	0
Sewer Blockages - SODC Private	U16	920	Fees For Services	(9,884)	0	0	0
Sewer Blockages - Unallocated	U17	920	Fees For Services	0	0	0	0
Contract - AEA	U21	920	Fees For Services	0	0	0	0
Contract - Didcot Power Station	U22	920	Fees For Services	0	0	0	0
Contract - Minor Works	U23	208	Electricity	67	0	0	0
Contract - Minor Works	U23	920	Fees For Services	(45,000)	(50,000)	(57,000)	(63,000)
Contract - Minor Works	U23	953	Internal Recharges	(150,000)	(160,000)	(165,000)	(170,000)
Contract - PC Cleaning	U24	920	Fees For Services	0	0	0	0
Contract - PC Cleaning	U24	953	Internal Recharges	(70,000)	(91,000)	(93,000)	(97,000)
Contract - Committee Meeting Setup	U26	702	Internal Recharges (actuals)	846	0	0	0
			DSO Expenditure	59,887	35,510	19,500	10,050
			DSO Expenditure	59,887	35,510	19,500	10,050
			Deduct Address Mgmt Salaries	(16,000)	(17,000)	(18,000)	(19,000)
			Net DSO Deficit / (Surplus)	43,887	18,510	1,500	(8,950)

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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