

Motion ID	Date	Motion	Substantive Action Required	Progress	Relevant Lead Officer	Actions Completed	Status
Vale M1	17th July 2019	Council notes that, given all possible routes through the government's chosen corridor, the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway will have a direct impact on communities, businesses, and the environment across the Vale of White Horse District. This council should therefore agree a position on this matter. Council notes with concern the lack of public consultation and lack of clarity from Government on proposals about whether an Expressway is the most effective way to enhance connectivity within the Oxford to Cambridge Arc and before Corridor 5 was chosen. Council notes that published evidence on similar road building schemes, such as widening the M25, led to increased car use without any benefit in terms of congestion or journey time after a few years. Council notes that the increased carbon emissions, damage to our countryside and biodiversity associated with road building would be significant. Council notes our recent declaration of a Climate Emergency and our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint through our policies, decisions and actions. The Expressway will have a serious negative impact on the achievement of climate change targets at a time when all public bodies are being actively encouraged to improve air quality and contribute to significant carbon reductions. Therefore, Council resolves to oppose the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway as proposed. Council requests that the Leader of the Council, and members of the Cabinet, make our opposition to the road building scheme clear at relevant partnership meetings. Council requests that the Leader of the Council write to the Minister for Transport to make clear this council's position as set out above and to request that the following action be taken: - That the Expressway proposal be abandoned. - That the estimated £2.1 billion cost of the proposed road building scheme be included in the East-West rail link to local government to inform cycle infrastructure and public transport. - That all new transport schemes proposed by Department for Transport be subject to full public consultation and environmental assessments be published from the beginning. - That the government promise rail and sustainable active travel when developing policy and awarding grant funding for infrastructure.	Vale are opposed to the Oxford Cambridge Expressway The Leader of the Council will write to the Minister for Transport, Ed Vaizey and Layla Moran.	Letters sent and relevant officers advised and updated via team meetings and one to one, to ensure that engagement with partners reflects this position. The Expressway has now been cancelled by HM Government.	Acting Deputy Chief Executive - Partnerships	Yes	Closed
Vale M2	17th July 2019	Council notes the Inspector's Report of the Examination of Vale's Local Plan Part 2 dated 25 June 2019. In this report, the Inspector lists the four objectives of LPP2, one of which is to set out policies and locations for new housing to meet the unmet need of Oxford City. Council notes that the Inspector (in para 26) reminds us that the Oxfordshire Growth Board agreed a 'working assumption' that Oxford City's unmet need was 10,000 homes, of which Vale should supply 2200 homes over the plan period. He says (in para 28) that this 'working assumption' is to be 'reformed or adjusted' through the examination of Oxford's Local Plan and the preparation of Oxfordshire's Joint Statutory Spatial Plan, which is currently in its early stages. He reminds us again (in para 62) that the additional housing requirement is a 'working assumption' rather than definitive and warrants some caution in allocating sites in the LPP2. There is no guidance or explanation of what this would mean in practice. Council notes that Oxford City has submitted its Local Plan for examination, but the Inspector has found some issues that require more work before it is ready to be examined in public hearings; he discusses the issues in his letter to that council (attached, but to be found on Oxford City's Local Plan examination website page). Inspector is concerned that the housing figures are based on figures in the 2014 SHMA, which are based on 2011 ONS population and household projections that 'are now a few years old' (page 2). He also points out there may have been double counting. Therefore, the housing need figure is questionable. The housing need figure 'could have a bearing on the level of unmet need which would have to be accommodated by neighbouring local authorities.' Council notes that LPP2 allocates 1200 homes at Dalton Barlocks, for Oxford's unmet need; Dalton Barlocks and the neighbouring village of Shippon are to be removed from the Green Belt for future housing development. Council notes that para 137 of the NPPF requires Green Belt boundaries to only be modified under exceptional circumstances. The Inspector for Vale LPP2 says (in para 29) that the housing required for Oxford's unmet need must be close to Oxford, and much of it is to be social rented housing. The Inspector says (in para 55) that the number of houses to meet Oxford's unmet need, and the fact that they must be near Oxford, demonstrates there are exceptional circumstances to justify the removal of Dalton Barlocks and Shippon from the Green Belt. Council notes that CPRE wrote to planning Inspectors in May 2019 to object to the order in which Oxfordshire's Local Plans are being examined, citing rules in NPPF. It is this council's opinion that in order for Vale's Local Plan to be sound, the exact, evidenced number of houses that Oxford requires in order to meet its real need should be determined before Vale includes them in Vale's Local Plan Part 2. Oxford's assessment of its housing need must include evidence that Oxford City has done all it can to accommodate its own need, including evidence that the use of land for employment sites over housing sites is justified and lawful. There must be a public examination of the Oxford City Local Plan to definitively identify the unmet need of any to proceed any adoption of neighbouring authority's Local Plans to accommodate a LH2 this does, there are no exceptional circumstances to allow removal of Dalton Barlocks and Shippon from the Green Belt. Council therefore requests the Leader of the Council to write to the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government to: a. Let the Minister know that Vale is assessing its options with regard to the Local Plan Part 2 and of council's opinion as stated. b. Point out that the Oxfordshire's various Local Plans are not independent of each other. That fact should have been considered in the examination process by ensuring Local Plans that are part of another authority's evidence, as is Oxford City's Local Plan, are examined first. Current examination procedures are deficient. c. Point out that the Duty to Cooperate should include Oxford City's duty to have a clear evidenced housing target before asking its neighbours to help meet its need. This Duty to Cooperate should run both ways. d. Ask for the Minister's advice about how to adjust our Local Plan Part 2 once Oxford's unmet need is established, if our local plan is already adopted. e. Ask the Minister to explain to us how this Local Plan Part 2 can be considered sound and legal when the housing figures used are based solely on a 'working assumption' of Oxford's unmet need, the Plan allocates housing development in the Green Belt in clear contravention of para 137 of the NPPF, and the Plan removes Dalton Barlocks and Shippon from the Green Belt without the exceptional circumstances that the regulations require. And to write to our two local Members of Parliament, explaining the situation and asking them for their support.	The Leader of the Council will write to the Secretary of State, Ed Vaizey and Layla Moran regarding Local Plan Part 2 of Oxford's Local Plan.	Letters sent and relevant officers advised and updated via team meetings and one to one, to ensure that engagement with partners reflects this position. LPP2 was adopted in October 2019.	Head of Planning/ Head of Policy & Programmes	Yes	Closed
Vale M3	17th July 2019	Council resolves to remove the current 'vision' of the council 'taking care of our interests throughout the Vale' and develop a new vision statement that better reflects this council's priorities as part of the work on our new corporate plan.	Council resolves to remove the current 'vision' of the council 'taking care of our interests throughout the Vale with Enterprise, Energy and Efficiency' and develop a new vision statement that better reflects this council's priorities as part of the work on our new corporate plan.	A new vision statement has been created by Cabinet as part of the Corporate Plan 2020-24 development. Officers advised and updated via team meetings and one to one of the removal of the previous vision.	Head of Policy & Programmes	Yes	Closed
Vale M4	9th October 2019	Council notes that a hierarchy of organisations has grown up which influence regional development, some more accountable than others. These are collectively making increasing incursions into the decision-making abilities of elected local councils and placing significant growth demands on our districts. These organisations or bodies include: - England's Economic Heartland - The Oxford-Cambridge Arc Region - The Oxfordshire Growth Board (and associated Oxfordshire 2050 Joint Statutory Spatial Plan) - OLEP and the Local Industrial Strategy Council notes that officers and members attend meetings related to these bodies, and welcomes the opportunity for regional collaboration, so many of us share the same concerns, but wishes to update its formal position to assist those representing our district. This Council believes that development within our district must balance the needs of people and their communities, the environment and the local economy. Specifically, it should contribute to the Council's (and the Government's) commitment to carbon neutrality. It should be based on genuine consultation and demonstrable public support. It should ensure that infrastructure, both strategic and local, is in place to support development, with the aim of building communities, not just houses. The Council supports the following approaches in relation to regional economic growth: 1. Planned development should demonstrate how it will help our economy move towards its zero-carbon target 2. Housing targets should be based on an up-to-date objective assessment of need 3. Planned housing should reflect the needs of the local community, offering a range of sizes and tenures including genuinely affordable housing to buy, and rent at affordable and social rates 4. Housing developments should be sited near to existing or proposed public, mass and active transport facilities, not based on ever increasing road traffic 5. Seek greater developer contributions to expand rail capacity and bus services and cycle paths 6. All housing and other development should meet zero-carbon standards or better 7. Strategic planning should reduce the need to build housing near to employment sites 8. The priority for transport investment should be in the rail network (e.g. electrification East-West rail, electrification of the Didcot-Oxford line, re-opening of Grove Station), improved bus (and similar) services, and substantial investment in 'active travel' - including cycle and pedestrian infrastructure - within and between settlements 9. Opposition to the proposed Oxford-Cambridge Expressway 10. Increasing biodiversity, protecting landscapes, capturing carbon naturally and increasing access for residents to green spaces 11. Genuine consultation with the public on the use of growth and housing development to produce plans that carry genuine public support 12. Genuine democratic accountability and scrutiny for any plans or strategies that come forward (i.e. we do not support basing spatial planning solely on the Local Industrial Strategy which is not democratic scrutiny) 13. Spatial planning decisions to be informed by strong evidence 14. Flexibility in plans and strategies in order to take account of changing circumstances and public opinion The Council is positive about working with other Oxfordshire authorities, regional colleagues and the Government to deliver growth where it is sustainable, and to provide housing that meets residents' needs. Strategies and plans to achieve this should be based on the above positions.	This Council supports the following approaches to relation to regional economic growth: 1. Planned development should demonstrate how it will help our economy move towards its zero-carbon target 2. Housing targets should be based on an up-to-date objective assessment of need 3. Planned housing should reflect the needs of the local community, offering a range of sizes and tenures including genuinely affordable housing to buy, and rent at affordable and social rates 4. Housing developments should be sited near to existing or proposed public, mass and active transport facilities, not based on ever increasing road traffic 5. Seek greater developer contributions to expand rail capacity and bus services and cycle paths 6. All housing and other development should meet zero-carbon standards or better 7. Strategic planning should reduce the need to build housing near to employment sites 8. The priority for transport investment should be in the rail network (e.g. electrification East-West rail, electrification of the Didcot-Oxford line, re-opening of Grove Station), improved bus (and similar) services, and substantial investment in 'active travel' - including cycle and pedestrian infrastructure - within and between settlements 9. Opposition to the proposed Oxford-Cambridge Expressway 10. Increasing biodiversity, protecting landscapes, capturing carbon naturally and increasing access for residents to green spaces 11. Genuine consultation with the public on the use of growth and housing development to produce plans that carry genuine public support 12. Genuine democratic accountability and scrutiny for any plans or strategies that come forward (i.e. we do not support basing spatial planning solely on the Local Industrial Strategy which is not democratic scrutiny) 13. Spatial planning decisions to be informed by strong evidence 14. Flexibility in plans and strategies in order to take account of changing circumstances and public opinion The Council is positive about working with other Oxfordshire authorities, regional colleagues and the Government to deliver growth where it is sustainable, and to provide housing that meets residents' needs. Strategies and plans to achieve this should be based on the above positions.	All relevant officers advised and updated via team meetings and one to one, to ensure that engagement with partners reflects this position. Position incorporated into consultation on the Oxford-Cambridge Arc Spatial Framework during October 2021.	Deputy Chief Executive Partnerships	No	Open
Vale M5	9th October 2019	The Vale of White Horse District Council welcomes the progress made on climate change in as much as Environmental, Social and Governance issues are now recognised as a risk to the Oxfordshire Local Government Pension Scheme. However, it would now like matters to be taken further. Council requests that the Leader write to the Chair of the Oxfordshire Pension Committee asking them to consider as part of their investment strategy for the Broad Partnership Investing in a passive low carbon fund, now that one is available, and that generates similar financial returns to the wider investment market. Council notes that non-UK EU nationals are part of our households, workplaces, schools and colleges. They are an integral part of our vibrant and thriving district and local economy. Since 2016 EU nationals were promised again and again that "there will be no change for EU citizens already lawfully resident in the UK and [...] will be treated no less favourably as they are or present". After three years of living in limbo, their homes and livelihoods are yet again being threatened by the further uncertainty brought about by the prospect of a chaotic no-deal Brexit. Council recognises that some businesses in the Vale report that the uncertainty around Brexit is making it harder for them to recruit and retain staff who are non-UK EU nationals. Council notes that non-UK EU nationals have been underlined, and significant cost to the public purse, by this council and other public bodies to ensure it can maintain access to key services, should Brexit happen. But, according to the Home Office's June statistics, only a third of non-UK EU nationals had applied for Settled Status and many of them had been granted the inferior P+Settled. There is no way of knowing exactly how many EU nationals need to apply, leaving vulnerable non-UK EU nationals at risk of becoming unlawful residents. Lack of clarity regarding differentiating between EU citizens arriving before and after the UK's exit from the EU could lead to discrimination in the labour market and may prevent many from accessing the services that they are entitled to. Therefore, Council asks that: 1. Officers prepare a report to the Leader to be shared with members on what non-UK EU citizens the Council may be able to do to mitigate adverse impacts on the rights of non-UK EU nationals (including but not limited to, informing landlords and employers about immigration status and therefore avoid potential discrimination against non-UK EU nationals) 2. The Leader of the Council writes to the Home Secretary to ask that the current European Settlement Scheme is clarified by: a. Providing a clear deadline for application to the EUSS in case of no-deal from the EU b. Providing a physical proof of settled status that can be used to access services c. Confirming that there will be no changes to the rights of settled non-UK EU citizens that they currently have by ratifying the Immigration Bill as primary legislation before the end of the year	Letter from the Leader of the Council to the Oxfordshire Pension Fund Report to the Leader of the Council Letter to the Secretary of State	Letter sent and relevant officers who engage with the Pension Fund briefed. An open letter from the Leader of the Council to EU residents was published on the Vale of White Horse website and sent to all EU citizens in the district giving them advice on how to apply for settled status. There were 2062 letters sent. An officer group is in place to monitor Brexit activity and discuss any additional mitigating actions that may arise from service area risk registers. There is a dedicated website page for the EU Settlement Scheme - http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/eu-citizens-and-advice/community-advice-and-support/eu-settlement-scheme Promotional materials were displayed within reception area, signposting to local ID verification services and national guidance for EU citizens. A briefing note was circulated to members in January 2020 to provide an overview of both national, Oxfordshire and Council Brexit activity.	Head of Finance	Yes	Closed
Vale M6	9th October 2019	Council notes that the re-imagining arrangements for scheduled closures of the A34 in southern Oxfordshire are creating a totally intolerable blight on the lives of many of the residents of Wantage, Charlton Wood and further afield. These closures, which typically occur between 10pm and 6am, re-route traffic on to the A338 and the A417. In the 3 months to the end of October 2019 closures will have occurred on 23 occasions. Council further notes that the consequence of these arrangements is to divert very high volumes of traffic, much of it heavy commercial, from a Designated Primary Route to minor roads, occasionally single lane, not considered suitable for heavy traffic to built up residential areas. Residents of impacted houses report that this creates intolerable noise, sleep deprivation and vibration and structural damage to properties, as many of their homes are only a matter of feet away from the Highway. Council is also aware that the closures create significant road safety issues, and that damage has occurred to infrastructure and other vehicles. Council is aware that alternatives exist, including rerouting via a designated Primary Route or introducing a contraflow system on the A34 itself. Furthermore, Council is concerned that any future rerouting scheme may be ineffective due to increased use of satellite navigation systems which could risk the use of rail routes. Therefore, Council requests that the Society Committee consider including this matter in their work programme, noting that Society has the power to invite parties such as Highways England, CCC, Thames Valley Police, West Group plc and Wantage Traffic Diversion Group to attend any such meeting.	Society Committee should consider adding this matter to its work programme.	Society Committee added this issue to their work programme	Head of Planning/ Head of Policy & Programmes	Yes	Closed
Vale M7	9th October 2019	In the context of the Climate Emergency, this Council welcomes the Government's review of fracking and its potential environmental impacts. Council urges Government to move towards a position of banning fracking altogether. Quite apart from the many environmental concerns, developing yet one more carbon-based fuel fits in the face of our ambition to strive for carbon neutrality. Council notes that onshore wind is the lowest cost low-carbon technology currently available, yet the Westmill Wind Farm at Watfield remains the only onshore wind farm in the whole of the Vale of White Horse. This situation is being exacerbated by the Government making their 'Contracts for Difference' funding available for offshore wind farms but excluding onshore. Council notes that, while Government has looked on solar energy production more favourably, there remains huge untapped potential within the Vale to generate energy through Solar PV. Council therefore commits to exploring planning policies which positively encourage all renewable sources of energy including onshore wind farms as part of the next Vale Local Plan and Oxfordshire Plan 2050.	Council commits to exploring planning policies which positively encourage all renewable sources of energy including onshore wind farms as part of the next Vale Local Plan and Oxfordshire Plan 2050	Relevant officers advised and updated via team meetings and one to one, to ensure that engagement with partners reflects this position and Cabinet Member for Planning Corporate Services and Transformation visits a focus on this in their regular meetings with officers - as do our Economic Development Team in discussion with OLEP and others. Officers involved with the Joint Local Plan consultation had officers were also advised. The Joint Local Plan issues consultation specifically mentioned the opportunities that it provides for transitioning to renewable forms of energy. The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 has come to an end by mutual agreement. The councils were unable to reach a collective agreement on the approach to arriving at housing need.	Head of Planning/ Head of Policy & Programmes	No	Open
Vale M8	18th December 2019	Council notes the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism is the most widely accepted and recognized definition of anti-Jewish racism. It states that: Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities. Council notes the All Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims (APPMG) definition of Islamophobia. Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Islamness or perceived Muslimness. Council notes that by using these definitions it helps understand, identify, and tackle antisemitism and Islamophobia. Council holds the right to freedom of speech and freedom of religion are fundamental but freedom of speech is not freedom to denigrate, scapegoat and discriminate. Council resolves to: - condemn all hate crimes and deplore the rise in hate crimes against members of the Jewish and Muslim communities in Britain; - condemn all inflammatory rhetoric in political discourse, including antisemitic and Islamophobic tropes used by politicians and public servants; - adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism in full and without amendment - adopt the APPMG definition of Islamophobia in full and without amendment. ask officers to update this council's equality policies to this effect	Adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism in full and without amendment Adopt the APPMG definition of Islamophobia in full and without amendment. Ask officers to update this council's equality policies to this effect	Motion forwarded to the Council's Equality Officer. Council policies updated.	Head of Corporate Services	Yes	Closed
Vale M9	18th December 2019	Council: 1. Believes that young people should be afforded a say over their future. 2. Recognises that 16- and 17-year-olds are knowledgeable and passionate about the world in which they live and are as capable of engaging in the democratic system as any other citizen. 3. Notes that there is currently an unequal situation across the United Kingdom, with 16- and 17-year-olds having voting rights in Scotland and Wales that are not available to them in England and Northern Ireland. 4. Supports the need for greater engagement with young people, leading to greater involvement of young people in the decisions that affect their community. 5. Believes that lowering the voting age to 16, combined with strong citizenship education, would empower young people to better engage in society and influence decisions that will define their future. 6. Believes that people aged 16 and 17, who can consent to medical treatment, work full-time, pay taxes, get married or enter a civil partnership and join the armed forces, should also have the right to vote. 7. Recognises and supports the ongoing 'Votes at 16' campaign by the British Youth Council, the UK Youth Parliament and other youth organisations, supported by thousands of young people across the UK. 8. Calls for 16- and 17-year-olds to have the right in all elections and referendums across the UK. Council therefore: - Requests that the Leader write to relevant Ministers and local MPs, expressing this Council's support for the Votes at 16 campaign, calling for the extension of the franchise to 16- and 17-year olds in all elections and referendums across the UK; and asks the ERO/RC to consider participating in any pilot scheme.	That the Leader write to relevant Ministers and local MPs, expressing this Council's support for the Votes at 16 campaign, calling for the extension of the franchise to 16- and 17-year olds in all elections and referendums across the UK. Asks the ERO/RC to consider participating in any pilot scheme	Letters sent and relevant officers advised and updated via team meetings and one to one, to ensure that engagement with partners reflects this position.	Head of Legal & Democratic Services	Yes	Closed
Vale M10	18th December 2019	Council notes: - that confidence and trust in both Parliament, the UK's democratic system and politicians has been falling for some time. - that the House of Commons and both the Labour and Conservative governments have been criticised for the election of the United Kingdom. - that the UK's First Past the Post voting system curtails voter choice, makes millions of votes ineffective, and leaves millions feeling unrepresented. Council believes: - that these factors have contributed to dangerous levels of distrust and disengagement with our democratic process - that democracy is distorted and failed by the fact that, due to this system, barely half of voters now feel able to cast their vote for their preferred candidate or Party. - that it is essential that faith is restored in our democratic system and that the public see Parliament as fairly reflecting their views. - that our First Past the Post voting system is a significant barrier to restoring this faith and at the same time guarantees that the balance of opinion among the electorate is not reflected in Parliament and our council chambers. - that a system of Proportional Representation in which seats match votes at all levels, including councils, and in which all votes count equally, would help to rebuild public trust by ensuring that political views are represented. Therefore: Council requests that the leader write to the relevant government minister and our two local MPs setting out our position and requesting that all elections be run using a form of Proportional Representation in which all votes count equally and seats match votes.	That the leader write to the relevant government minister and our two local MPs setting out our position and requesting that all elections be run using a form of Proportional Representation in which all votes count equally and seats match votes.	Letters sent and relevant officers advised and updated via team meetings and one to one of the Councils position.	Head of Legal & Democratic Services	Yes	Closed

Vale M21	10th February 2021	<p>The Council notes:</p> <p>1. The recent endorsement of the "Twenty is Plenty" campaign by Oxfordshire County Council in its role as Highways Authority which means all new residential roads should have a 20mph speed limit.</p> <p>2. The evidence that introduction of 20mph limits even without formal enforcement results in much safer speed profiles and this is particularly beneficial in the vicinity of schools, community hubs and care facilities.</p> <p>The Council believes that as the Local Planning Authority we could look to facilitate the campaign by designing a 20 mph speed limit policy for new developments via the road Local Plan.</p> <p>The Council further believes that there may be a role for a "test practice guide" and case studies for parish Councils to help them facilitate 20mph limits where there is local demand.</p> <p>Council asks the Leader to write to the County Council in support of early implementation of the "Twenty is Plenty" campaign, asking the County Council to provide a "test practice guide" to help facilitate 20mph limits where there is local demand, asking that County Council officers promote 20mph limits in discussions with developers, that County Council officers base their responses to planning applications on this policy and asking for any further evidence or guidance the County Council can provide to support implementation of the policy.</p> <p>Council would welcome any request by the County Council to discuss how this initiative is being implemented.</p>	<p>Leader of the Council to write to the County Council in support of the implementation of "Twenty is Plenty"</p> <p>A request by the County Council to OCC regarding this policy would be welcomed</p>	<p>Letter drafted and sent.</p> <p>Relevant officers informed.</p>	Head of Planning Head of Policy & Programmes	Yes	Closed
Vale M22	10th February 2021	<p>The flooding in Oxfordshire over Christmas served as yet another reminder of the importance of flood defences and effective road-side drainage as climate change makes flood events more common and more extreme. As well as planning policy needed to take increasing flood risk seriously, it is vital that the Environment Agency are properly funded to help them protect communities and the local economy from the devastating impact of flooding.</p> <p>Council notes:</p> <p>The excellent partnership work between this council, the Environment Agency and other partners on the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme which will protect South Hinksey, Kirtlington and North Hinksey as well as Oxford City once built.</p> <p>There is a Flood Alleviation Scheme designed to protect parts of Oxford around the River Ouk that the Environment Agency believe will protect the Town. This scheme is urgent.</p> <p>The health and safety of flooding on the scale of what Oxford experienced in 2007 and South Hinksey experienced in 2015 is increasingly likely.</p> <p>The impact of flooding on our communities can be devastating - for residents personally affected, financially in the damage caused to property, and the impact on our electricity and transport infrastructure which has a knock-on impact for businesses and the local economy.</p> <p>The financial constraints that limit infrastructure investment by Oxfordshire County Council, such as clearing gullies once every three years and adopting a reactive approach to flooding.</p> <p>Council asks the Leader to:</p> <p>Write to the Secretary of State for DEFRA and the Chief Secretary to the Environment Agency asking for flood alleviation schemes to be increased significantly and for the Abingdon Flood Alleviation Scheme specifically to be funded as part of the government's next budget round.</p> <p>Continue to work through our partnerships, such as the Growth Board and OLEP, to highlight the importance of flood alleviation in our district and action to protect residents and businesses.</p> <p>Write to Oxfordshire County Council to encourage the development of a robust, comprehensive and collaborative management plan for maintenance of roadside gullies and drainage, leaving us with resources to clear important drainage ditches and involving increased funding.</p> <p>Council notes the Wessex Leisure Centre project was put on hold in October 2019 at a point where it was clear that the total of Section 106 Developer contributions already collected and those to be received in the future fell significantly short of the amount required to fund the project. Council is also aware that the current restrictions imposed by the COVID 19 pandemic and the unknown potential implications of the need to maintain social distancing and other measures may impact the nature of leisure facilities for the foreseeable future. However, recognising that earmarked funds are and become available the Council:</p> <p>1. Asks officers to initiate early engagement with residents and stakeholders in the Grove and Watlington areas to inform the best use of the 5 106 leisure funds generated locally that were previously allocated to the 8-rated Wessex Leisure Centre.</p> <p>2. As part of this work, asks officers to investigate policy and legal teams to de-risk the 5 106 agreements and to do so acknowledge that it may then be necessary to consult further with other local communities about what recreation and leisure facilities are required in the areas that generated some of those 5106 contributions.</p> <p>3. Notes that the new and more flexible C5 Spending Strategy adopted by Cabinet reinforces the Council's intention to use C5 developer contributions to pay for community infrastructure, including for leisure provision, in a way that ensures the delivery of larger projects to benefit of the whole community.</p> <p>4. Emphatically supports the recent changes to the Vale's C5 Charging Strategy which will see a year on year of C5 infrastructure funding to this District over the life of the Local Plan.</p> <p>5. Supports the prioritisation work on the Vale's Active Communities Strategy to inform how best to use 5106, C5, and other funding to provide recreation facilities and opportunities for communities across the district.</p>	<p>Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury regarding flood defence funding.</p> <p>Leader of the Council to write to OCC suggesting the development of a new plan for the maintenance of gullies and drainage ditches.</p> <p>Work with partners to highlight the importance of flood alleviation.</p>	<p>Letters drafted and sent.</p> <p>Relevant officers informed.</p>	Head of Housing & Environment	No	Open
Vale M23	10th February 2021	<p>Council notes the Wessex Leisure Centre project was put on hold in October 2019 at a point where it was clear that the total of Section 106 Developer contributions already collected and those to be received in the future fell significantly short of the amount required to fund the project. Council is also aware that the current restrictions imposed by the COVID 19 pandemic and the unknown potential implications of the need to maintain social distancing and other measures may impact the nature of leisure facilities for the foreseeable future. However, recognising that earmarked funds are and become available the Council:</p> <p>1. Asks officers to initiate early engagement with residents and stakeholders in the Grove and Watlington areas to inform the best use of the 5 106 leisure funds generated locally that were previously allocated to the 8-rated Wessex Leisure Centre.</p> <p>2. As part of this work, asks officers to investigate policy and legal teams to de-risk the 5 106 agreements and to do so acknowledge that it may then be necessary to consult further with other local communities about what recreation and leisure facilities are required in the areas that generated some of those 5106 contributions.</p> <p>3. Notes that the new and more flexible C5 Spending Strategy adopted by Cabinet reinforces the Council's intention to use C5 developer contributions to pay for community infrastructure, including for leisure provision, in a way that ensures the delivery of larger projects to benefit of the whole community.</p> <p>4. Emphatically supports the recent changes to the Vale's C5 Charging Strategy which will see a year on year of C5 infrastructure funding to this District over the life of the Local Plan.</p> <p>5. Supports the prioritisation work on the Vale's Active Communities Strategy to inform how best to use 5106, C5, and other funding to provide recreation facilities and opportunities for communities across the district.</p>	<p>Engage with residents and stakeholders regarding the use of previously earmarked 5106 funding</p> <p>De-risk the 5106 agreements relating to the Wessex Leisure Centre</p> <p>Supports the prioritisation work on the Vale's Active Communities Strategy to inform how best to use 5106, C5, and other funding to provide recreation facilities and opportunities for communities across the district.</p>	<p>Relevant officers informed</p>	Head of Development & Corporate Landlord	Yes	Closed
Vale M24	24th March 2021	<p>The Council notes:</p> <p>As specified in the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031: Part 2, the district council has committed to provide 22,760 new homes in the period 2011-2031.</p> <p>Residents across the Vale regularly contact members about the ongoing pressure on local health services and concerns about additional homes increasing demand.</p> <p>Clinical Commissioning Groups are responsible for ensuring health provision for our growing population is provided.</p> <p>If section 106 contributions from developers agreed by the District Council are not used by the CCGs within a set time, the money can be paid back to us under a provision of health care in our communities.</p> <p>Despite significant effort by council officers and local health professionals, the current system is preventing us from providing the health services that local people need and deserve.</p> <p>Our planning and planning conditions are therefore under pressure to approve new housing without plans for health care provision.</p> <p>Council believes:</p> <p>This could be an important role in improving the health and wellbeing of our residents.</p> <p>Primary health provision should be planned based on population growth and vision for health care provision in the district.</p> <p>That sufficient infrastructure such as transport, parking and other facilities should be provided alongside, and preferably ahead of new housing development.</p> <p>The current national system for ensuring health infrastructure is provided, through Clinical Commissioning Groups, is not working.</p> <p>Council requests:</p> <p>1. Officers continue to work with Clinical Commissioning Groups to ensure sufficient provision is made for primary care services for key strategic housing sites such as Valley Park, Great Western Park and North Abingdon.</p> <p>2. The leader, recognising that there are a number of CCGs involved in the provision of health care services, write to the CCGs to arrange meetings to discuss: Developing better working relationships between the CCGs and the District Council; Ensuring CCGs take a more pro-active approach to our planning process and respond to planning application consultations in a timely and ongoing basis to support the work of our planning department and our infrastructure and development team; How the CCGs can engage more proactively with the planning authority to better plan health care for strategic housing sites in the Vale linked to the council's corporate plan theme of "building healthy communities". To understand how CCGs use population forecasts to plan primary health care.</p> <p>3. The Council Leader write to the Ministers for Health and MHCLG to: explain the difficulties local planning authorities have to obtain information and commitment to deliver health services from CCGs; provide specific case studies about where health provision negotiated as part of section 106 is at risk of being lost; press the need for whatever structure replaces Clinical Commissioning groups as part of the health reform has working with local planning authorities and its host; ask what government are doing to increase the number of GPs and their health staff and funding to keep up with number of homes.</p>	<p>Officers continue to work with Clinical Commissioning Groups to ensure sufficient provision is made for primary care services for key strategic housing sites such as Valley Park, Great Western Park and North Abingdon.</p> <p>The leader, recognising that there are a number of CCGs involved in the provision of health care services, write to the CCGs to arrange meetings to discuss: Developing better working relationships between the CCGs and the District Council; Ensuring CCGs take a more pro-active approach to our planning process and respond to planning application consultations in a timely and ongoing basis to support the work of our planning department and our infrastructure and development team; How the CCGs can engage more proactively with the planning authority to better plan health care for strategic housing sites in the Vale linked to the council's corporate plan theme of "building healthy communities". To understand how CCGs use population forecasts to plan primary health care.</p> <p>3. The Council Leader write to the Ministers for Health and MHCLG to: explain the difficulties local planning authorities have to obtain information and commitment to deliver health services from CCGs; provide specific case studies about where health provision negotiated as part of section 106 is at risk of being lost; press the need for whatever structure replaces Clinical Commissioning groups as part of the health reform has working with local planning authorities and its host; ask what government are doing to increase the number of GPs and their health staff and funding to keep up with number of homes.</p>	<p>Relevant officers informed. Letters will be sent after the relevant meetings between the CCGs and the Council leaders.</p> <p>The Leader, supported by officers, met with Directors for the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) on 24 May 2021 which has led to a useful ongoing officer liaison. We were also pleased additional meetings with other governing CCGs, Banbury Clinical Commissioning Group and Bullock Heath Clinical Commissioning Group to better support and facilitate collaboration in delivering local health services and infrastructure.</p> <p>The discussion with OCCG included information on how population forecasts are used to plan health care requirements in the district and how the council can improve working with the CCG to ensure health care needs are included in 106 agreements and ensuring the associated income are spent in a timely manner.</p> <p>Officers are also in the process of arranging a presentation for all councilors by the OCCG to explain how they operate and discuss future reforms. An all-CG briefing was held in September 2021.</p>	Head of Policy & Programmes	Yes	Closed
Vale M25	24th March 2021	<p>The Council notes that:</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) has a Cycling Design Standards document which provides best practice for roundabout junction design.</p> <p>And in section 3.5.5 "Roundabouts can be particularly daunting for some cycle users, especially large multi-lane roundabouts. Approaches, exits and the geometry of roundabouts should aim to cause traffic to slow down to ease the roundabout and therefore reduce the risk to cycle users - roundabout entry should be radial, not tangential, in order to slow traffic."</p> <p>A recent Oxford Brookes survey of Abingdon workplaces that was commissioned by Abingdon Liveable Streets showed that most residents who could walk to work do so but a significant proportion of residents who would like to cycle to work are put off by safety fears.</p> <p>Roundabouts are particularly hazardous for cyclists and there have been several accidents involving cyclists on roundabouts in the Vale.</p> <p>Council notes, with regret, that in the Vale of White Horse and on routes where bicycles are not segregated from the traffic, new roundabouts designs, and the layout of refurbished ones continue to include tangential exits, also known as high speed or flared geometry designs.</p> <p>Council believes that:</p> <p>the aim of the Oxfordshire Cycling Design Standards document are good and should be treated as a starting point to planning new settlements well, we are moving towards a society where use of a personal vehicle for every journey (both local and longer distance) will be less common, and people will want to have the opportunity to cycle and walk to more local destinations where appropriate. Encouraging active travel as part of this vision and the council's corporate plan is a key message for the Vale. For the person themselves, they are likely to feel physical and mental benefits, and for the environment, there is less traffic on the roads, and therefore less air pollution. Having designed a climate emergency, it is the duty of this Council to do what it can and working with partners, to make it easier for residents to choose to cycle for leisure, to school and to work (this applies especially on routes to the larger employment centres and around our District such as Culham, Harwell Campus and Milton Park).</p> <p>Council requests that the leader of the council write a letter to the OCC Cabinet Member for the Environment calling on her to:</p> <p>1. Ensure that the OCC Cycling Design Standards are adhered to, in particular, for all new roundabout designs and refurbishments in the Vale of White Horse to be based on those Design Standards.</p> <p>2. Ensure that the Vale of White Horse Design Guide Principle D031 for roundabout junction design, i.e. "Streets should be designed as social spaces with the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users put above the needs of the motorist."</p> <p>3. Ensure that when developers consult planning and highways officers on potential road design, officers are proactive in promoting the provision of local councils and are encouraged to design accordingly.</p> <p>4. Create a culture of pro-actively seeking the best possible street and junction design when highways officers are advising developers about what is expected locally, ensuring that people walking, cycling and using public transport are prioritised.</p> <p>5. Note that when highway design proposals are put forward that fall below the Council's policy objectives, we would expect the Council's technical consultant on highways to oppose them.</p>	<p>Council requests that the leader of the council write a letter to the OCC Cabinet Member for the Environment calling on her to:</p> <p>1. Ensure that the OCC Cycling Design Standards are adhered to, in particular, for all new roundabout designs and refurbishments in the Vale of White Horse to be based on those Design Standards.</p> <p>2. Ensure that the Vale of White Horse Design Guide Principle D031 for roundabout junction design, i.e. "Streets should be designed as social spaces with the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users put above the needs of the motorist."</p> <p>3. Ensure that when developers consult planning and highways officers on potential road design, officers are proactive in promoting the provision of local councils and are encouraged to design accordingly.</p> <p>4. Create a culture of pro-actively seeking the best possible street and junction design when highways officers are advising developers about what is expected locally, ensuring that people walking, cycling and using public transport are prioritised.</p> <p>5. Note that when highway design proposals are put forward that fall below the Council's policy objectives, we would expect the Council's technical consultant on highways to oppose them.</p>	<p>Relevant officers informed and letters drafted.</p>	Head of Planning Head of Policy & Programmes	No	Open
Vale M26	14th July 2021	<p>The Council notes that:</p> <p>Oxfordshire Rail Corridor Study demonstrates that a station at Grove/Watlington can be justified by 2038 on the basis of the new housing currently being built or being planned for in the area and emerging proposals for further employment growth, including the Williams Technology Campus.</p> <p>Local councillors have successfully pushed for Network Rail to identify the best way that did not require the reopening of the line through Grove.</p> <p>Local councillors have helped ensure the new bridge over the railway line. Grove was constructed in such a way as not to impede a reopening.</p> <p>Investment in rail is an essential part of decarbonising transport and reducing dependence on the personal car.</p> <p>Progress on the project is being delayed by the failure of Government to provide funding to progress the project to the next stage.</p> <p>even if funding to develop the proposal further is awarded, the source of funding to deliver Grove station is unclear.</p> <p>Council reiterates our commitment to ensuring Grove Station is reopened.</p> <p>The Council therefore calls upon the Leader to:</p> <p>write to the Secretary of State for Transport to make the case for funding Grove Station to be part of the current round of government grants to help develop proposals for new stations.</p> <p>ask the Secretary of State for Transport to do what is possible to deliver as soon as possible.</p> <p>continue to make the case for Grove Station at the Oxfordshire, Ox-Cam Acs meetings, and in conversations with our two Members of Parliament.</p>	<p>The Council therefore calls upon the Leader to:</p> <p>write to the Secretary of State for Transport to make the case for funding Grove Station to be part of the current round of government grants to help develop proposals for new stations.</p> <p>ask the Secretary of State for Transport to do what is possible to deliver as soon as possible.</p> <p>continue to make the case for Grove Station at the Oxfordshire, Ox-Cam Acs meetings, and in conversations with our two Members of Parliament.</p>	<p>Relevant officers informed and letters sent.</p>	Head of Planning Head of Policy & Programmes	No	Open
Vale M27	14th July 2021	<p>The Council notes that:</p> <p>The UK Government has declared a legally binding target for the UK to be carbon neutral by 2050 and committed to achieving the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</p> <p>The council has declared a Climate Emergency and adopted targets to be carbon neutral by 2030, with a target for the district to be carbon neutral by 2045.</p> <p>The "Oxfordshire Strategic Vision", adopted by Oxfordshire Councils, articulates countryside shared aims and guiding principles for sustainable growth.</p> <p>Our area are a number of considerations on spatial planning documents throughout the summer that will impact on our ability to achieve the above targets and our corporate plan objectives.</p> <p>Council believes that:</p> <p>1. achieving our carbon reduction targets and realising the "Oxfordshire Strategic Vision" for the district cannot be met without working effectively with partners across Oxfordshire, the region and beyond.</p> <p>2. our emerging Joint Local Plan, the Oxfordshire Plan 2030, the government's Oxford to Cambridge Axis Spatial Framework, and any other plans for growth and development, are opportunities to help the world in its critical response to the climate emergency and efforts towards carbon neutrality.</p> <p>3. it is an ambition to gather evidence to contribute to and inform government policy across all of our local, regional and national considerations.</p> <p>4. we should aim to achieve those United Nations' 17 SDGs.</p> <p>5. we have an ambition to address the challenges facing Oxfordshire that must be addressed, examples of these include:</p> <p>a. renewable energy supply</p> <p>b. reducing carbon emissions from existing homes through retrofitting</p> <p>c. building infrastructure required to support economic development</p> <p>d. decarbonising transport and reducing the need to travel</p> <p>e. identifying appropriate and sustainable levels of growth and housing</p> <p>Council therefore requests that:</p> <p>1. officers ensure the challenges listed above are addressed through policy development and consultations, including as priorities in the emerging Vale of White Horse District Council Oxfordshire District Council Joint Local Plan and Design Guide</p> <p>2. the council submitting a response to the Oxfordshire Plan 2030 Regulation 18 consultation, and continue active engagement with the Oxfordshire Plan 2030 work</p> <p>3. the council submitting a response to the government's consultation on the Ox-Cam Axis Vision and subsequent consultations on the Axis Spatial Framework</p> <p>4. any other consultation that comes forward from neighbouring authorities, regions or the government that affects local and regional planning</p> <p>5. officers ensure council's positions is communicated effectively in print and social media.</p> <p>6. the council leader and relevant cabinet members continue to advocate for these issues to be addressed at meetings of the Oxfordshire Growth Board and the Ox-Cam Acs Leaders Group (which is attended by a Civil Servant from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government)</p>	<p>Council therefore requests that:</p> <p>1. officers ensure the challenges listed above are addressed through policy development and consultations, including as priorities in the emerging Vale of White Horse District Council Oxfordshire District Council Joint Local Plan and Design Guide</p> <p>2. the council submitting a response to the Oxfordshire Plan 2030 Regulation 18 consultation, and continue active engagement with the Oxfordshire Plan 2030 work</p> <p>3. the council submitting a response to the government's consultation on the Ox-Cam Axis Vision and subsequent consultations on the Axis Spatial Framework</p> <p>4. any other consultation that comes forward from neighbouring authorities, regions or the government that affects local and regional planning</p> <p>5. officers ensure council's positions is communicated effectively in print and social media.</p> <p>6. the council leader and relevant cabinet members continue to advocate for these issues to be addressed at meetings of the Oxfordshire Growth Board and the Ox-Cam Acs Leaders Group (which is attended by a Civil Servant from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government)</p>	<p>Relevant officers informed including Joint Local Plan workshop lead officers.</p> <p>The Oxfordshire Plan 2030 has come to an end by mutual agreement. The council was unable to reach a collective agreement on the approach to amending housing need.</p> <p>South and Vale's Joint Design Guide - intended to assist landowners, developers, applicants, agents, designers and planners through all stages of the design and planning process - was adopted in June 2022. Some of the topics that it covers include the natural environment, movement & connectivity and climate & sustainability.</p> <p>The Joint Local Plan Issues consultation specifically mentioned the opportunities that it provides for addressing the climate emergency.</p> <p>Vale has continued to work within the Future Oxfordshire Partnership on the development of a route map and action plan for the Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire project. Officers have also been reviewing potential ways for town district councils can best help to accelerate the uptake of retrofit within their areas. An options paper on this work is currently being progressed.</p>	Head of Planning Head of Policy & Programmes	No	Open
Vale M28	14th July 2021	<p>The Council notes:</p> <p>The government's proposals to reform the English Planning system which will significantly reduce the public's right to influence planning applications.</p> <p>The significant and growing concerns being expressed about the proposals across local councils, MPs of all parties and across planning, architectural and environmental organisations.</p> <p>Local residents' concerns about their reduced ability to object to building works under Permitted Development Rights which have been extended under this Government.</p> <p>The Local Government Association has identified that more than 100,000 homes have new planning permission that are not yet built, including a significant number in the Vale.</p> <p>Local councils across England approve nine in ten planning applications.</p> <p>The need to deliver more genuinely affordable housing for sale and rent.</p> <p>Council is concerned that:</p> <p>the proposed planning reforms are trying to solve the wrong problem. In the Vale we are already approving applications for housing at a higher rate than needed to fit government ambition of 300,000 new homes a year.</p> <p>the proposed planning reforms will significantly reduce public input into the planning process, leaving communities feeling that development is being done to them, not with them.</p> <p>the proposed Planning reforms will make it more difficult for councils to ensure the homes that are built are genuinely affordable for local people.</p> <p>Council calls for the Government to:</p> <p>1. scrap the current proposals for planning reform</p> <p>2. undertake a review of permitted development rights</p> <p>3. maintain the right of local residents to engage and comment on individual planning applications</p> <p>4. support the right of local people, through robust Neighbourhood and Local Plan processes, to influence how that communities develop</p> <p>5. enable councils to set strong local planning policies to maximise protection for the environment and reduce carbon emissions</p> <p>and asks the Leader to write to the Secretary of State and our local Members of Parliament to this effect.</p>	<p>Council calls for the Government to:</p> <p>1. scrap the current proposals for planning reform</p> <p>2. undertake a review of permitted development rights</p> <p>3. maintain the right of local residents to engage and comment on individual planning applications</p> <p>4. support the right of local people, through robust Neighbourhood and Local Plan processes, to influence how that communities develop</p> <p>5. enable councils to set strong local planning policies to maximise protection for the environment and reduce carbon emissions</p> <p>and asks the Leader to write to the Secretary of State and our local Members of Parliament to this effect.</p>	<p>Relevant officers informed and letters sent.</p>	Head of Planning Head of Policy & Programmes	Yes	Closed
Vale M29	6th October 2021	<p>Council Notes:</p> <p>Vale of White Horse District Council declared a Climate Emergency in February 2019, and since then has included the Climate Emergency in its Corporate Plan, set up a Climate Emergency Advisory Committee and declared its ambitions by setting its own carbon targets.</p> <p>Our climate action targets are to become:</p> <p>carbon neutral within our own operations by 2030, with an aim for a 75 per cent reduction in carbon emissions in our own operations by 2025</p> <p>a carbon neutral district by 2045, with an aim for a 75 per cent reduction in carbon emissions in the district by 2030</p> <p>UK100 is a network of high-ambition local government leaders, which seeks to drive and implement plans for the transition to clean energy that are ambitious, cost effective and take the public and business with them.</p> <p>A supports decision-makers in UK towns, cities and counties in their transition to Net Zero. It is the only network for UK local leaders focused solely on climate, clean energy and clean air policy.</p> <p>Over 100 councils have already joined this group and been the pledge to reach net zero by 2050 for all council owned assets and also by 2045, by working together with other councils, we are talking one of the corporate plan projects of partnership, and together we show greater strength.</p> <p>The Climate Emergency is something that affects not just the residents in our council area, but the whole country.</p> <p>We will need to work together and learn from each other if we are to find workable solutions for tackling Climate Change.</p> <p>We will have the best chance of meeting our carbon targets by being part of a wider community, sharing knowledge with partners who face similar issues, by translating ambitions into concrete actions.</p> <p>Council Resolves to become a member of the UK-100 Network, which requires the Council to:</p> <p>reaffirm our commitment to council operations to become carbon neutral by 2030 and become a carbon neutral district by 2045</p> <p>report our carbon emissions annually</p> <p>commit to limiting the use of offsets, and if used, to be as local as possible</p> <p>sign up to the UK-100 Pledge www.uk100.org/membership</p>	<p>Council Resolves to become a member of the UK-100 Network, which requires the Council to:</p> <p>reaffirm our commitment to council operations to become carbon neutral by 2030 and become a carbon neutral district by 2045</p> <p>report our carbon emissions annually</p> <p>commit to limiting the use of offsets, and if used, to be as local as possible</p> <p>sign up to the UK-100 Pledge www.uk100.org/membership</p>	<p>Relevant officers informed and actions completed.</p>	Head of Policy & Programmes	No	Open
Vale M30	6th October 2021	<p>In March 2020, we were faced with the economic fallout from the pandemic; the Government did the right thing and increased Universal Credit and Working Tax Credits by 22% a week.</p> <p>Council notes that this £20 a week payment is now to be cut, coming into effect for families on Universal Credit from 1 October 2021. This will mean the biggest overnight cut in the basic rate of social security since the modern welfare state began, more than 70 years ago.</p> <p>According to analysis by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 21% of all working-age families will experience a £1,640-a-year cut to their incomes from this week.</p> <p>Many of the same families will be seeing an increase in National Insurance costs. Lower income households spend more of their income on basic essentials such as food and utilities, and the cost of these is currently rising fast.</p> <p>The Government says it wants to support people back into work as we emerge from the crisis, but working families make up around 60% of families who will be affected.</p> <p>Council acknowledges the concerns raised by local and national charities (including as Eton, Citizens Advice Bureau and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation) about the significantly negative impact this cut will have on the financial security and wellbeing of those affected in our district.</p> <p>Council declares the decision of the Government to remove the 'temporary' uplift in Universal Credit which will directly impact at least 2.4M families in the Vale of White Horse district.</p> <p>Council reiterates its corporate plan commitment to support vulnerable members of our community and resolves to ask the Leader to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (opposed to our local MPs) expressing its grave concern about the impact on families within the Vale and to request that the decision to cut the Universal Credit uplift be reversed, and that the uplift be incorporated permanently into Universal Credit.</p>	<p>Council reiterates its corporate plan commitment to support vulnerable members of our community and resolves to ask the Leader to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (opposed to our local MPs) expressing its grave concern about the impact on families within the Vale and to request that the decision to cut the Universal Credit uplift be reversed, and that the uplift be incorporated permanently into Universal Credit.</p>	<p>Letters sent and response received.</p>	Head of Finance	Yes	Closed

Vale M1	8th December 2021	<p>Council notes that:</p> <p>The Climate Emergency is a clear and present issue globally, and nationally we have committed to reaching net carbon zero by 2050. Locally, the Vale of White Horse District Council has set its ambition to reduce the whole district's carbon emissions by 79% by 2030 and for them to reach net carbon zero by 2045.</p> <p>Independent funding programmes and support are available. The Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET) has agreed that there are 20 million homes in the UK that need retrofitting between now and 2050 – at a rate of nearly 1 million homes per year. On average, around 29% of greenhouse gas emissions are residential. Following consultation with local retrofit expert organisations, educational establishments and relevant business groups, a Task and Finish Group of the Joint Scrutiny Committee between the Council and South Oxfordshire District Council has published a report which concluded that to achieve our 2030 target, 2,250 properties would have to be retrofitted annually. This equates to one-off retrofit of approximately 100,000 homes over three years, representing small fractions of housing stock, and does not account for the whole cost of transition. Previously, the Green Homes Grant was made available for 6 months but was difficult to claim, accreditation times were long and complex, and the amount wholly inadequate for the work undertaken.</p> <p>Council believes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This issue should be given a high priority and that government support nationally needs to be long term, reliable and as simple as possible. A coordinated whole house retrofit approach or one-off deep retrofitting, as made clear by the IET, is required to get homes ready for net carbon zero, rather than sporadic one-off upgrades. There is an ongoing lack of funding support for households in rural areas, and the National Grid, which is a lack of relevant skills, which is reflected locally, and there is a need for upskilling and training to fill the gap. <p>Council resolves to request:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Leader of the Council writes to government to urge them to set up a long-term national funding programme for retrofitting homes that would support a rate of deep retrofits of at least 2,250 homes per year for the Vale of White Horse (and a million homes per year nationwide), and that this programme to be simple and straightforward to administer and claim. Writes to the Minister of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP, the Minister of State for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities, Rt Hon Michael Gove MP and the president of COP26, Rt Hon Alok Sharma, urging them to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> address this issue as a priority, recognising its importance in achieving our national and international carbon emission targets; outline that remains use the Construction Leadership Council's Retrofit Strategy as a basis for a government policy plan; include adequate funding for all Local Authorities in any retrofit strategy as they are perfectly placed to lead local Retrofit partnerships and strategies alongside LEPs; introduce long term support for households including changes in relevant laws, guidance and regulations and to encourage businesses and skills development in the area; recognise the benefits to society in better health and wellbeing from energy efficient homes; recognise the industrial and employment opportunities that a retrofit-led plan could present to the British economy; Officers investigate membership of the Construction Leadership Council. Officers work with local partners through the Future Oxfordshire Partnership and the Environment Sub-Group to seek to establish a way to progress an Oxfordshire wide approach to retrofitting. 	<p>Council resolves to request:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Leader of the Council writes to government to urge them to set up a long-term national funding programme for retrofitting homes that would support a rate of deep retrofits of at least 2,250 homes per year for the Vale of White Horse (and a million homes per year nationwide), and that this programme to be simple and straightforward to administer and claim. Writes to the Minister of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP, the Minister of State for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities, Rt Hon Michael Gove MP and the president of COP26, Rt Hon Alok Sharma, urging them to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> address this issue as a priority, recognising its importance in achieving our national and international carbon emission targets; outline that remains use the Construction Leadership Council's Retrofit Strategy as a basis for a government policy plan; include adequate funding for all Local Authorities in any retrofit strategy as they are perfectly placed to lead local Retrofit partnerships and strategies alongside LEPs; introduce long term support for households including changes in relevant laws, guidance and regulations and to encourage businesses and skills development in the area; recognise the benefits to society in better health and wellbeing from energy efficient homes; recognise the industrial and employment opportunities that a retrofit-led plan could present to the British economy; Officers investigate membership of the Construction Leadership Council. Officers work with local partners through the Future Oxfordshire Partnership and the Environment Sub-Group to seek to establish a way to progress an Oxfordshire wide approach to retrofitting. 	<p>Letters sent and relevant officers informed.</p> <p>The council has developed and launched an Energy Saving webpage which focuses on tips that will help residents with the cost-of-living crisis. It includes information on retrofitting and provides signposts to additional sources of advice and funding.</p>	Head of Policy & Programmes	No	Work to address some of the actions within this motion remains ongoing.	Open
Vale M2	8th December 2021	<p>Council notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That Thames Water is once again submitting their plans for a large reservoir to be built on an area of farmland and woodland in the Vale of White Horse, south of Abingdon, and continues to receive public funds to press for the reservoir. Further, that the environmental impact information that was originally supplied by Thames Water on the proposed reservoir under the MAMP/Gas 1 process was heavily redacted and was thus not available with sufficient time for proper scrutiny. That the environmental impact of this reservoir would be significant, including the substantial carbon footprint during construction and embodied carbon, as well as, during operation, significant methane gasping from dissolved vegetation, made worse with repeated drawdowns, and that the carbon impact claimed by Thames Water is not currently supported by any openly presented calculations. As a consequence, that the figures for carbon impact presented by Thames Water would be seriously overstated, or make impossible, the Council's target for the district's greenhouse gas emissions to be cut by 79% by 2030. That alternative water sources, including the Seven-Thames Transfer link, that would bring new water into the watered South East, and would avoid much of the environmental impact and huge local dislocation, are now under active consideration. <p>Council therefore resolves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reaffirm its position from the previous public enquiry that it opposes the reservoir proposal unless and until the case for need for this specific solution (over and above the other potential choice, i.e. desalination, and other environmentally sound alternatives) has been clearly tested, demonstrated and agreed by independent scientific experts. To request to OFWAT that a detailed and independently audited carbon calculation be made, including sources of embodied carbon, carbon used during construction, and ongoing carbon including methane gasping. This should include more detailed carbon calculation as to the proposed mitigations, including the measures on which these mitigations might be reached. That failing the need being demonstrated as requested above or an independently audited carbon calculation produced, the ongoing waste of public funds given to Thames Water for continued attempts to push for their reservoir should be questioned, and that we make representations to the Water Resources South East Plan and then share these with the Environment Agency and the Member of Parliament for the area. 	<p>Council therefore resolves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reaffirm its position from the previous public enquiry that it opposes the reservoir proposal unless and until the case for need for this specific solution (over and above the other potential choice, i.e. desalination, and other environmentally sound alternatives) has been clearly tested, demonstrated and agreed by independent scientific experts. To request to OFWAT that a detailed and independently audited carbon calculation be made, including sources of embodied carbon, carbon used during construction, and ongoing carbon including methane gasping. This should include more detailed carbon calculation as to the proposed mitigations, including the measures on which these mitigations might be reached. That failing the need being demonstrated as requested above or an independently audited carbon calculation produced, the ongoing waste of public funds given to Thames Water for continued attempts to push for their reservoir should be questioned, and that we make representations to the Water Resources South East Plan and then share these with the Environment Agency and the Member of Parliament for the area. 	<p>Letters sent and relevant officers informed.</p> <p>Our published response to Thames Water's public consultation on future water supply in South East England. The Vale has stated that the plans should be halted due to significant environmental concerns.</p>	Head of Planning	Yes	Closed	
Vale M3	8th December 2021	<p>Vale of White Horse District Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 recognising the human cause of irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt in the UK and around the world.</p> <p>At the same time humans have caused an ecological crisis with significant proportions of species currently threatened with extinction. The UK is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world with more than one in seven of our plants and animals facing extinction and more than 40% in decline.</p> <p>The council sees the ecological emergency as intrinsically linked to the climate emergency. We recognise that the UK needs a legally-enforceable nature target so that by 2030 nature is visibly and measurably on the path of recovery, and we acknowledge the role of a National Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Bill in making this happen.</p> <p>Council notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parliament declared an Environment and Climate Emergency in May 2019, and that since then the CEE Bill has been labelled, which, if it became law, would require the government to develop a strategy to address the emergency that would ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ecological Emergency is tackled alongside the Climate Crisis in a joined-up approach. The Paris Agreement is embedded into law so that the UK does not fall short to that global temperature rise to the most stringent end of the Paris agreement - 1.5C. Our country has a role to play in reducing the impact we have on our ecosystems locally, protecting wildlife and improving the ecology of the natural environment and that this work goes hand in hand with our work on the climate action programme. That the final wording of the COP26 Declaration sets, 50 specifically recognising the role of "local and regional governments... in contributing to progress towards the objective of the Convention and the goals of the Paris Agreement" Local Government budgets are strained and that we could take faster action if government allowed great policy flexibility and funding to address the climate and ecological emergencies. <p>Council resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask the Leader to write to all our Oxfordshire MPs urging them to support the principles of CEE Bill as a matter of agency, to encourage their colleagues of all parties to do the same and to amplify our calls for national government to provide sufficient resources to local councils to support our efforts. To show support for local groups who are campaigning for the principles of the CEE Bill including Zero Hour Oxford. 	<p>Council resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask the Leader to write to all our Oxfordshire MPs urging them to support the principles of CEE Bill as a matter of agency, to encourage their colleagues of all parties to do the same and to amplify our calls for national government to provide sufficient resources to local councils to support our efforts. To show support for local groups who are campaigning for the principles of the CEE Bill including Zero Hour Oxford. 	<p>Letters sent and relevant officers informed.</p>	Head of Policy & Programmes	Yes	Closed	
Vale M4	8th December 2021	<p>Council notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transgender and non-binary people face significant disadvantage in society being highly vulnerable to violence, homelessness, and lack of access to suitable healthcare provision. There is currently a concerning rise in transphobia in the UK, from individuals, politicians and the media. Transphobia has a hugely detrimental impact on the mental health and wellbeing of trans individuals. <p>Council believes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All UK law should clearly recognise that trans men are men, trans women are women, and non-binary people are non-binary. Transgender and non-binary people deserve respect and advocacy. It is therefore our duty as community leaders who seek to create an open and tolerant society to speak up against transphobia and discrimination in all its forms. <p>Council therefore resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue publicly that trans rights are human rights and affirm the legal rights of protected groups under the 2010 Equality Act. Consult with local trans support organisations when developing the Vale of White Horse District Council's new Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, to ensure services, forms and buildings this council has control of are inclusive of the trans community. Work with LGBTIQ+ groups to provide training for councillors to raise awareness of the difficulties transgender and non-binary people face. Include International Trans Day of Visibility (March 31st) and Trans Day of Remembrance (November 20th) in our Council's Corporate and Diversity Calendar. Encourage an informal network of LGBTIQ+ allies across the council. Continue working with partner organisations to ensure transgender and non-binary people are not discriminated against whilst accessing services such as domestic violence and homelessness support. 	<p>Council therefore resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue publicly that trans rights are human rights and affirm the legal rights of protected groups under the 2010 Equality Act. Consult with local trans support organisations when developing the Vale of White Horse District Council's new Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, to ensure services, forms and buildings this council has control of are inclusive of the trans community. Work with LGBTIQ+ groups to provide training for councillors to raise awareness of the difficulties transgender and non-binary people face. Include International Trans Day of Visibility (March 31st) and Trans Day of Remembrance (November 20th) in our Council's Corporate and Diversity Calendar. Encourage an informal network of LGBTIQ+ allies across the council. Continue working with partner organisations to ensure transgender and non-binary people are not discriminated against whilst accessing services such as domestic violence and homelessness support. 	<p>Relevant officers informed.</p> <p>A Joint Diversity and Inclusion Strategy has been developed by South and Vale. It was adopted by the Cabinet in December 2022. The Strategy sets out the council's approach and vision to equality, diversity, and inclusion by proactively engaging with internal teams, community groups and residents to understand current challenges to inform decisions and work towards ensuring services are truly inclusive and meet the needs of everyone.</p>	Head of Corporate Services	No	Work to address some of the actions within this motion remains ongoing.	Open
Vale M5	18th May 2022	<p>Healthy food is vital to us all and food production and farming is an important economic and employment sector in our district, with agriculture at the heart of many of our communities. However, the rising costs of fuel and other supplies is creating increased pressure on farmers across the district, whilst government policies on international trade deals threaten to end healthy UK food quality standards and risk putting farmers out of business – as well as exacerbating food insecurity in the UK. At the same time, significant increases in the cost of living are putting pressure on residents across the Vale, forcing them to make difficult choices regarding their household budgets, including the amount spent on food and heating.</p> <p>The district council has a number of opportunities that can help influence food production, support sustainable farming and distribution, reduce food waste, and promote healthy eating for the benefit of our residents and the environment, whilst supporting action to address climate change.</p> <p>Council therefore resolves:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To create a Member Food and Farming Champion to promote local food production and distribution, as well as healthy eating in the Vale. To encourage farmers to consider any implications on our new Joint Local Plan and Oxfordshire Plan 2020. To encourage developers to include community gardens and allotment provision within all new housing developments. To encourage and promote high environmental health standards at all stages of food production, distribution and redistribution, and continue to support local businesses and 'farm-door' sales, recognising their positive impact on reducing the carbon emissions associated with food miles. To maximise opportunities to highlight the importance of food and farming in our local economy via the press and through social media. To continue to investigate ways we can support food redistribution organisations and food charities to address food poverty in the district, noting the work that has already been done in this regard. To continue to promote ways we can reduce food waste through our waste service and the use of food recycling bins. To continue to promote the use of waste food and the highlight the climate benefits this can bring. To minimise food waste at any event that we may host that serves food, and to use such occasions to highlight the use of waste food, low carbon options, and locally sourced produce wherever possible. 	<p>Council therefore resolves:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To create a Member Food and Farming Champion to promote local food production and distribution, as well as healthy eating in the Vale. To encourage farmers to consider any implications on our new Joint Local Plan and Oxfordshire Plan 2020. To encourage developers to include community gardens and allotment provision within all new housing developments. To encourage and promote high environmental health standards at all stages of food production, distribution and redistribution, and continue to support local businesses and 'farm-door' sales, recognising their positive impact on reducing the carbon emissions associated with food miles. To maximise opportunities to highlight the importance of food and farming in our local economy via the press and through social media. To continue to investigate ways we can support food redistribution organisations and food charities to address food poverty in the district, noting the work that has already been done in this regard. To continue to promote ways we can reduce food waste through our waste service and the use of food recycling bins. To continue to promote the use of waste food and the highlight the climate benefits this can bring. To minimise food waste at any event that we may host that serves food, and to use such occasions to highlight the use of waste food, low carbon options, and locally sourced produce wherever possible. 	<p>Relevant officers informed.</p> <p>A Food and Farming Champion has been appointed.</p> <p>Cabinet endorsed the Oxfordshire Food Strategy (Part One) in December 2022.</p> <p>Since the motion was passed, officers have engaged with a number of stakeholders within the farming community and rural organisations, through a series of meetings both virtual and in person.</p> <p>During Q2 2022/23, the Strategic Property team started to review sites which would potentially be suitable for community garden projects. They also established a cross-service officer working group to discuss how to take these projects forward.</p>	Head of Policy & Programmes Head of Development and Corporate Landlord Head of Planning	No	Work to address some of the actions within this motion remains ongoing.	Open
Vale M6	18th May 2022	<p>There has been a number of fatal road accidents in Oxfordshire recently involving cyclists. This is despite changes to the highway code which came into force on the 29 January 2022. The aim of these changes, which Council believes are to be commended, is to improve the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and horses on the highway by assigning a hierarchy of responsibility such that the heavier the mode of transport, the more responsibility the driver has for the safety of others using the highway. Cyclists are not also advised to ride in the centre of the lane and to be too slow ahead.</p> <p>Encouraging active travel is central to Council's key themes of tackling the Climate Emergency and Building Healthy Communities. However, not all residents are aware of these new changes to the Highway Code and any confusion arising from this could lead to serious incidents, between motorists and cyclists and this could discourage active travel.</p> <p>Council resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Express regret for the recent loss of life on our roads and believes that the changes to the Highway Code should be commended as they seek to mitigate any risk to safety. Ask the Leader to write to Oxfordshire County Council to ensure that the Highway Code widely as part of its highways safety messaging and requesting it ensures that all future transport schemes in the Vale of White Horse reflect the latest changes to the Highway Code and encourage Active Travel by default. All cycle infrastructure should be delivered in accordance with the standards set out in the Government's Cycle Infrastructure Design (CIS) 100 guidance. Ask the Cabinet member for Community Engagement to work with officers to highlight government and county council communications about the Highway Code changes via our media channels and signpost (for example in Vale News) to the Government website and the latest guidance where relevant. 	<p>Council resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Express regret for the recent loss of life on our roads and believes that the changes to the Highway Code should be commended as they seek to mitigate any risk to safety. Ask the Leader to write to Oxfordshire County Council to ensure that the Highway Code widely as part of its highways safety messaging and requesting it ensures that all future transport schemes in the Vale of White Horse reflect the latest changes to the Highway Code and encourage Active Travel by default. All cycle infrastructure should be delivered in accordance with the standards set out in the Government's Cycle Infrastructure Design (CIS) 100 guidance. Ask the Cabinet member for Community Engagement to work with officers to highlight government and county council communications about the Highway Code changes via our media channels and signpost (for example in Vale News) to the Government website and the latest guidance where relevant. 	<p>Letter drafted and sent (Response received 5 July)</p> <p>Relevant officers informed.</p>	Head of Policy & Programmes Head of Corporate Services	Yes	Closed	
Vale M7	18th May 2022	<p>Oxfordshire County Council has been undertaking consultation on its new Oxfordshire Transport and Connectivity Plan, which will support the County Council's local transport plan vision, which is to deliver a zero-carbon Oxfordshire transport system that enables all parts of the county to thrive, with the intention of supporting clean growth, tackling inequality and protecting our natural and historic environment.</p> <p>The County Council are seeking to reduce the need to travel within the County and discouraging unnecessary individual private vehicle use by individuals and wish to see walking, cycling, public and shared transport become the natural first choice for residents. These objectives are in line with those that the district and our councils within the County have already agreed to as part of the Oxfordshire Plan 2020 in line with the Government's climate change and carbon reduction policies.</p> <p>Council resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reinforce Oxfordshire County Councils commitment to set out an ambitious plan to reduce car journeys and reliance on private motor vehicles. Support the commitment by the County Council to put climate change action at the heart of its proposals. Continue to express to councillors on the Oxfordshire Transport and Connectivity Plan supporting the overarching objectives but asks the cabinet member to work with Officers to challenge the policies, as appropriate, in order to ensure they are robust enough to achieve their aim. Ask the Cabinet member for Planning to work with officers to continue to ensure that this council's contributions to OxfPlan2020 and the forthcoming Joint Local Plan support these aspirations and work to develop spatial planning and policies within those plans reflects the need to reduce the number of avoidable journeys that are currently undertaken by car, such as those required purely for commuting or shopping. Ask the leader to write to the Leader of the county council encouraging them to ensure that they reflect, as far as possible, their aspirations when responding to planning consultations, not only Vale, but across the County noting that they will need to comply with policy. 	<p>Council resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reinforce Oxfordshire County Councils commitment to set out an ambitious plan to reduce car journeys and reliance on private motor vehicles. Support the commitment by the County Council to put climate change action at the heart of its proposals. Continue to express to councillors on the Oxfordshire Transport and Connectivity Plan supporting the overarching objectives but asks the cabinet member to work with Officers to challenge the policies, as appropriate, in order to ensure they are robust enough to achieve their aim. Ask the Cabinet member for Planning to work with officers to continue to ensure that this council's contributions to OxfPlan2020 and the forthcoming Joint Local Plan support these aspirations and work to develop spatial planning and policies within those plans reflects the need to reduce the number of avoidable journeys that are currently undertaken by car, such as those required purely for commuting or shopping. Ask the leader to write to the Leader of the county council encouraging them to ensure that they reflect, as far as possible, their aspirations when responding to planning consultations, not only Vale, but across the County noting that they will need to comply with policy. 	<p>Letter drafted and sent.</p> <p>Relevant officers informed.</p> <p>The Oxfordshire Plan 2020 has come to an end by mutual agreement.</p> <p>The Joint Local Plan Issues consultation specifically mentioned opportunities for reducing the number of necessary car journeys by ensuring that developments are within easy reach of jobs and services people need for their day-to-day lives and are supported by appropriate, low and zero-carbon transport options.</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council adopted their Local Transport and Connectivity Plan in July 2022.</p>	Head of Policy & Programmes Head of Planning	No	Work to address some of the actions within this motion remains ongoing.	Open
Vale M8	13th July 2022	<p>That the Council notes that families and individuals in our district face a cost-of-living crisis.</p> <p>Households across the UK are being the highest tax burden in 75 years, and the typical family will see a fall of £1,200 a year through a combination of tax rises and soaring energy prices according to the Resolution Foundation.</p> <p>People living in rural areas, the rural, are disproportionately affected by fuel price increases because of the lack of public transport and longer distances to reach work, education and health services.</p> <p>In April, Ofgem increased the energy price cap by 54 p per cent, however there is no price cap on solid fuel bottled gas or heating which 5% of Vale residents rely on to heat their homes.</p> <p>Council therefore our officers for the additional work already being done support residents amid the crisis, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Processing the £100 Council Tax rebate promptly and see before the government's deadline. Establishing processes to enable access to the Household Support Fund. Ensuring the support, supplies and signposting available from our Community Hub through the help of Covid and beyond. Extremely successful homelessness prevention work. Managing partnership grants with non-for-profit organisations to provide financial other advice across the district. Signposting of benefits and other support. <p>But there is much more to do both nationally and locally. Therefore, Council resolves to ask the Leader and Chief Executive to explore:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding our Council Tax Reduction Scheme to reduce the tax burden for lower income households. Ways to protect funding for partnership grants delivering advice services to residents in next year's budget and future years as far as possible. Ways to continue and widen the reach of the community hub, which was initially created in response to Covid to support residents and is now acting as a central point for information and support. Working with partners to improve access to affordable food across our district. <p>And asks the leader to write to relevant government ministers and our local MPs to ask for urgent action to relieve the cost-of-living crisis through such measures as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide immediate financial support for consumers of heating oil, bottled gas, solid fuel, those reliant on generators for electricity and those on prepayment meters. Increase Rural Fuel Duty Rate Relief and expand the number of rural areas covered. Consider reducing VAT to 17.5% putting money back into the pockets of average families, boosting the economy and helping to support local retailers. Deliver a real and immediate increase in investment in UK renewables and an energy plan for the UK, which immediately reduces costs for the end user and leads to the decarbonisation of the UK energy network in the long term. 	<p>Council resolves to ask the Leader and Chief Executive to explore:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding our Council Tax Reduction Scheme to reduce the tax burden for lower income households. Ways to protect funding for partnership grants delivering advice services to residents in next year's budget and future years as far as possible. Ways to continue and widen the reach of the community hub, which was initially created in response to Covid to support residents and is now acting as a central point for information and support. Working with partners to improve access to affordable food across our district. <p>And asks the leader to write to relevant government ministers and our local MPs to ask for urgent action to relieve the cost-of-living crisis through such measures as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide immediate financial support for consumers of heating oil, bottled gas, solid fuel, those reliant on generators for electricity and those on prepayment meters. Increase Rural Fuel Duty Rate Relief and expand the number of rural areas covered. Consider reducing VAT to 17.5% putting money back into the pockets of average families, boosting the economy and helping to support local retailers. Deliver a real and immediate increase in investment in UK renewables and an energy plan for the UK, which immediately reduces costs for the end user and leads to the decarbonisation of the UK energy network in the long term. 	<p>Full Council agreed to a motion generous Council Tax support scheme at their meeting on 7 December 2022.</p> <p>A cost-of-living dashboard (organised by the County Council) was held on 6 October. This brought together all of Oxfordshire's local authorities and various other organisations to discuss the best ways of providing support.</p> <p>The Council's Community Hub continues to support residents in need by directing them towards services that advice on heating bills, employment, skills and wellbeing.</p> <p>Cost-of-living information is provided to the Council's website - it is the first option on the home page.</p> <p>Cabinet endorsed the Oxfordshire Food Strategy (Part One) in December 2022.</p> <p>Letters drafted and sent (responses received from BEIS 8 August).</p>	Head of Policy & Programmes	No	Work to address some of the actions within this motion remains ongoing.	Open
Vale M9	12th October 2022	<p>Council notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the Environment Bill, there are due to be significant changes in waste and recycling policy, as well as the introduction of a deposit return scheme. It is expected that DEFRA will require the majority of the planned reforms to come into effect from 2025, but the guidance councils need to put this in place has not yet been issued. Our current waste contract runs until 2024. This council, like many others, are unable to commission or plan new waste services in line with the Environment Bill without detailed information about what is expected and how it will be funded. The Local Government Association seeks to the previous government minister, highlighting growing doubt within the industry because of the lack of guidance. The Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC) concludes that continuing delays and uncertainty means that investment is not being "undercut" and local decisions are being stalled. <p>Therefore, Council resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the aims in the Environment Bill to reduce waste and encourage reuse as well as recycling. Ask the leader to write to the new environment minister, copied to our two local MPs, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ask for the guidance we need to plan our waste services to be issued urgently. express this council's concern about the risk the current delay creates to local household waste services and our inevitable record as one of the UK's top district councils for waste recycling. ask the request made by LARAC that the industry needs at least a year's advance warning to budget for operational changes, and up to five years to deliver infrastructure changes. 	<p>Therefore, Council resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the aims in the Environment Bill to reduce waste and encourage reuse as well as recycling. Ask the leader to write to the new environment minister, copied to our two local MPs, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ask for the guidance we need to plan our waste services to be issued urgently. express this council's concern about the risk the current delay creates to local household waste services and our inevitable record as one of the UK's top district councils for waste recycling. ask the request made by LARAC that the industry needs at least a year's advance warning to budget for operational changes, and up to five years to deliver infrastructure changes. 	<p>Letters drafted and relevant officers informed.</p>	Head of Policy & Programmes	No	Open	

Vale M40	12th October 2022	<p>We are living through a Cost of Living crisis, which is affecting individuals, families and businesses in the Vale and across the UK. This is being driven by food price inflation, up a record 13.1% and energy price inflation. Small businesses have been particularly affected by rising energy, affecting their viability.</p> <p>Data published by the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) shows that nearly 57% of small companies expect to stagnate, downsize or fail in the next year. Many were taken to the brink of collapse during the pandemic and desperately need a period of stability and prosperity to recover. Businesses such as restaurants and pubs, which experienced greater challenges during the pandemic, now face even greater problems.</p> <p>Even with the Government price cap support, energy prices will be double what they were last year for domestic users and for businesses, the cap only lasts for six months. The capped electricity costs 30% higher than 2021 for small businesses, and gas prices are 147% higher. People will have less disposable income to support our local businesses during the crisis and the many businesses that were taken near to collapse during the pandemic desperately need a period of stability and prosperity to flourish. The alternative energy price cap will not provide this.</p> <p>During the covid-19 pandemic, this council possessed and gave out £37.2 million of covid grants to help businesses in our district. We also offered advice and reworking opportunities through services such as 'South and Vale business support'.</p> <p>Council therefore resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request that the Leader write to the relevant minister(s) asking them to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) reconsider the short length of the business energy cap period and to look at additional ways to provide direct support to specific business sectors such as pubs and restaurants. b) collaborate and provide further renewable energy grants to enable businesses to more affordably transition to non-fossil fuel derived energy sources. This will help to mitigate this crisis and reduce exposure to similar crises in the future. c) Aim to provide any available support grants in the future and quickest way in line with Government guidance and due diligence. Using the experience gained during the covid pandemic, enable the council to seek to get them to where they are needed most. 2. Continue to provide advice and support to help local businesses through South and Vale Business Support, building on the lessons learned through our covid support programme. 3. Continue to work positively with the Future Collaborative Partnership and Collaborative Local Enterprise Partnership (CLEEP) to ensure that the current needs of SMEs and rural businesses across the Vale are understood and considered when developing CLEEP programmes. 	<p>Council therefore resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request that the Leader write to the relevant minister(s) asking them to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) reconsider the short length of the business energy cap period and to look at additional ways to provide direct support to specific business sectors such as pubs and restaurants. b) collaborate and provide further renewable energy grants to enable businesses to more affordably transition to non-fossil fuel derived energy sources. This will help to mitigate this crisis and reduce exposure to similar crises in the future. c) Aim to provide any available support grants in the future and quickest way in line with Government guidance and due diligence. Using the experience gained during the covid pandemic, enable the council to seek to get them to where they are needed most. 2. Continue to provide advice and support to help local businesses through South and Vale Business Support, building on the lessons learned through our covid support programme. 3. Continue to work positively with the Future Collaborative Partnership and Collaborative Local Enterprise Partnership (CLEEP) to ensure that the current needs of SMEs and rural businesses across the Vale are understood and considered when developing CLEEP programmes. 	<p>Letter drafted.</p> <p>Relevant officers informed.</p> <p>The Council continues to contribute to discussions with the Collaborative Local Enterprise Partnership (CLEEP) regarding the Partnership's plans to refresh the economic recovery plan, the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) and the county's economic baseline data.</p> <p>The Vale has also submitted investment plans to unlock the council's conditional allocations from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REFP). This funding will enable a three-year pipeline of projects for the Vale (including supporting SMEs through the development of the visitor economy and facilitating business decarbonisation) and would substantially uplift the council's Economic Development budget.</p>	Head of Policy & Programmes Head of Development and Corporate Landlord Head of Planning	No	Work to address some of the actions within this motion remains ongoing.	Open
Vale M41	12th October 2022	<p>This Council welcomes the government's intention to tackle energy insecurity given the current energy crisis and supports all efforts to introduce new environmentally friendly power generation including wind, solar and other green energy solutions to combat the climate emergency. However, this council is concerned at the suggestion of the potential for fracking in and around the Vale of White Horse and its impact on residents.</p> <p>No viable deposits of shale gas have been identified in the area in or around Vale of White Horse, but even if one were to be identified, the potential introduction of fracking into the Vale would have a number of detrimental implications for the local area, which include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The introduction and effect of heavy vehicle movements on our roads. 2) The seismic risk caused by fracking especially considering the uncertainty about steps to predict and reduce its impact 3) The potential impact upon our rivers and protected streams. 4) The highly detrimental potential effect on our Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. <p>This government has said it would allow fracking in areas with local consent. This council would resist any exploration of fracking in the Vale of White Horse district.</p> <p>Our residents will be naturally concerned at the implications of fracking therefore this council believes that residents' consent to any potential site is critical and that Government should take account of the views of residents - which should be at the forefront - when considering any application.</p> <p>With the evidence available, this council believes that fracking is an unacceptable alternative energy source for the Vale of White Horse.</p> <p>Fracking is inconsistent with this council's corporate plan objectives and in a climate emergency and current cost of living crisis, the focus should be on boosting the production and infrastructure for renewable energy and distribution for the future so everyone can afford green, sustainable energy.</p> <p>Council therefore resolves to ask the leader of the council to write to the appropriate Government minister to make the council's position on fracking clear and to ask for confirmation that no fracking sites will be allowed without district council approval. On top of this, the minister should also consider requiring a referendum of local residents to be carried out at the cost of the energy company.</p>	<p>Council therefore resolves to ask the leader of the council to write to the appropriate Government minister to make the council's position on fracking clear and to ask for confirmation that no fracking sites will be allowed without district council approval. On top of this, the minister should also consider requiring a referendum of local residents to be carried out at the cost of the energy company.</p>	<p>Letter drafted and relevant officers informed.</p> <p>HM Government reinstated the fracking ban in October.</p>	Head of Policy & Programmes	Yes		Closed
Vale M42	7th December 2022	<p>Local councils are on the frontline, working to support residents and businesses survive a cost-of-living crisis. Our council has worked hard to support our residents through Covid and provide support for local businesses over this period, but demand on our services is increasing rapidly.</p> <p>Between 2010-11 and 2020-21, district councils saw a 36% real terms reduction in overall spending power.</p> <p>Analysis by the District Councils Network (DCN) suggests a collective budget gap for district councils of almost £400m in 2022-23. The DCN expects this to rise to at least £600m in 2023-24 (17% of net expenditures), due to the combined impact of the measures in the Autumn Statement and the latest inflation forecasts.</p> <p>Council Notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Autumn Statement does not do enough to cover the budget pressures that councils face due to fuel, energy, pay inflation and pressures on services due to the cost-of-living crisis. - Without a multi-year financial settlement from government, our council is hindered in our efforts to plan the use of our limited resources efficiently. - The Autumn Statement was silent on several key points, including reforms to the New Homes Bonus, a business rates re-ask, the future of DEFRA's waste consistency reforms and the Fair Funding Review. <p>Council Resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to do all we can with the limited resources we have to ensure residents and local businesses are supported during the cost-of-living crisis. - Continue to liaise with the District Councils Network, Local Government Association and South East Councils partnerships to share information and lobby for sufficient funding to be devolved to local government. - Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Communities, Housing and Local Government and the Chancellor of the Exchequer setting out the concerns raised in this motion and asking for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o A multi-year financial settlement for local government including certainty on the timing of any changes to the New Homes Bonus and the Business Rates re-ask and the DEFRA waste reforms o Greater financial flexibility for efficient, low spending councils like the Vale o The ability to recover the full cost of providing planning and licensing services, at a minimum the early implementation of increases to planning fees proposed earlier in 2022 o Additional funding to address the inflationary cost pressures the council is facing and resources to help address increasing demand for council services 	<p>Council Resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to do all we can with the limited resources we have to ensure residents and local businesses are supported during the cost-of-living crisis. - Continue to liaise with the District Councils Network, Local Government Association and South East Councils partnerships to share information and lobby for sufficient funding to be devolved to local government. - Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Communities, Housing and Local Government and the Chancellor of the Exchequer setting out the concerns raised in this motion and asking for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o A multi-year financial settlement for local government including certainty on the timing of any changes to the New Homes Bonus and the Business Rates re-ask and the DEFRA waste reforms o Greater financial flexibility for efficient, low spending councils like the Vale o The ability to recover the full cost of providing planning and licensing services, at a minimum the early implementation of increases to planning fees proposed earlier in 2022 o Additional funding to address the inflationary cost pressures the council is facing and resources to help address increasing demand for council services 	<p>Letters drafted and relevant officers informed.</p> <p>Full Council agreed to a more generous Council Tax support scheme at their meeting on 7 December 2022.</p> <p>A cost-of-living roundtable (organised by the County Council) was held on 6 October. This brought together all of Dofonshire's local authorities and various other organisations to discuss the best ways of providing support.</p> <p>The Council's Community Hub continues to support residents in need by directing them towards services that advise on heating bills, employment, skills and wellbeing.</p> <p>Cost-of-Living information is provided on the Council's website - it is the first option on the home page.</p> <p>The Vale has also submitted investment plans to unlock the council's conditional allocations from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REFP). This funding will enable a three-year pipeline of projects for the Vale and would substantially uplift the council's Economic Development budget.</p>	Head of Policy & Programmes	No	Work to address some of the actions within this motion remains ongoing.	Open
Vale M43	7th December 2022	<p>Two-thirds of new homes built in England in the year to the end of March 2022 use gas for central heating and will require retrofitting at some point in the future. New homes should be built to be low-carbon, energy- and water efficient, climate resilient and no new homes should be connected to the gas grid.</p> <p>This council is working towards the district being carbon neutral by 2045 but in relation to planning and building regulations we are constrained in our efforts by national legislation.</p> <p>Council notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That building regulations do not require homes or commercial properties to be carbon zero in their construction or their operation, only that they need to be 'zero carbon ready by 2025' 2. That national planning legislation does not allow councils to enforce zero or negative carbon standards as part of our local plans 3. In response to a Liberal Democrat amendment proposed to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill* minister Lee Rowley MP made clear the government would not support allowing local planning authorities to insist on zero carbon build <p>Therefore, council resolves to ask the leader to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to ask that Building Regulations are urgently updated to reflect an expectation that all new buildings must be zero- or negative carbon in their construction and operation.</p> <p>* https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2022-10-25/debates/22102514424216/bill/56448028166/levelling-up-and-regeneration/Bill/TwentySix/Sitting/Contribution/4C2C2A4-38C7-43CD-8695-8E29B438E3C1</p>	<p>Council resolves to ask the leader to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to ask that Building Regulations are urgently updated to reflect an expectation that all new buildings must be zero- or negative carbon in their construction and operation.</p>	<p>Letter drafted.</p> <p>Relevant officers informed.</p>	Head of Policy & Programmes	Yes		Open