

Vale of White Horse District Council

Corporate Performance Report



2023/24 Quarter Four
June 2024

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Background

- The Council monitors performance and progress towards achieving the aims and priorities set out in the Vale of White Horse District Council **Corporate Plan 2020-2024**.
- This report provides a strategic overview of the performance for **quarter four (01 January to 31 March 2024)**, focusing on the activity to deliver our priorities in the Vale of White Horse District Council Corporate Plan.
- As well as giving a performance update and assurance against the delivery of the Council's six strategic themes in the Corporate Plan, this report will also provide any strategic context relevant to the Council's operations.

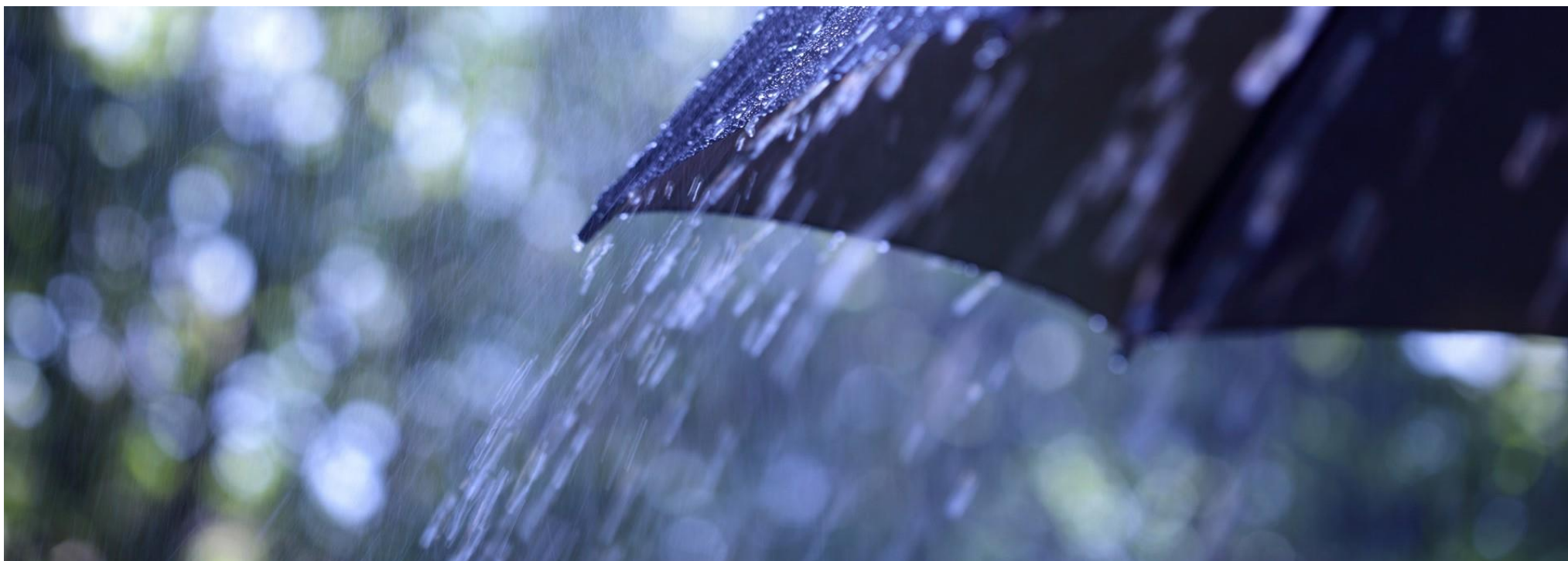


Strategic context

Met Office figures showed that in the eighteen months to March 2024, England experienced its highest amount of rainfall since comparable records began in 1836. England's three wettest eighteen-month periods on record have all occurred in the last decade. The increased frequency of periods of wet weather concurs with the projected impacts of a warming climate on the country (hotter, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters).

The UK experienced its second warmest February on record (since 1884). Four of the ten warmest Februarys have all occurred in the last five years.

On the global level, March 2024 was the tenth month in a row to set a global heat record according to figures from the Copernicus Climate Change Service. Every month since June 2023 has been warmer than the corresponding month in any previous year. Consequently, the global average temperature for the past twelve months (April 2023 – March 2024) was the highest on record – 0.70°C above the 1991-2020 average and 1.58°C above the 1850-1900 pre-industrial average.



The UK's rate of inflation was 3.2 per cent in the 12 months to March 2024 – a decrease of 0.2 per cent on the figure for February (inflation peaked at 11.1 per cent in October 2022 – the highest rate since 1981). The fall in the rate of inflation in March was mainly driven by decreases in the rate of inflation for food and non-alcoholic beverages.

The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted to keep interest rates at 5.25 per cent at their meetings in February and March. While this marked the fifth consecutive time that the MPC has held the interest rate, it follows a sustained series of rises which have increased borrowing costs to their highest levels since 2008.

In early March, the Chancellor of the Exchequer set out the Spring Budget 2024. The stated priorities for the package of measures introduced were to lower taxes, boost growth, deliver better public services and to keep public finances on a sustainable path.

Between 10th January and 26th February, the Vale held a Regulation 18 public consultation on the Joint Local Plan. This asked for views on the council's preferred policy options and draft policies. Officers are now reviewing all the comments that were received.

In February, the Vale agreed a balanced budget for the next financial year. To fund the delivery of services, council tax will increase by 3.3 per cent for 2024/25. For a Band D property this equates to £5 a year (just under 10p a week), bringing a total charge of £156.69 a year/£3.01 per week – this is over 25.0 per cent lower than the national average for a shire district council.



Quarter four 2023/24 performance highlights

Providing the homes people need



Joint Local Plan

We held a consultation for views on our preferred policy options and draft policies



Housing Delivery Strategy Action Plan 2024/25

Has been developed - includes measures/ activities to support the delivery of more affordable and sustainable homes



Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP)

Most households in the Vale have been relocated from hotels into new homes while they find somewhere permanent to live

Tackling the climate emergency



We were confirmed as having the **third highest recycling rate in the country**



The **refurbishment of public conveniences** at Portway, Wantage - include energy saving measures, **solar panels** and **rainwater harvesting**



Jointly, with South Oxfordshire, the Vale submitted a proposal to Innovate UK to fund a **research project to trial an electric refuse collection vehicle** for recycling and household waste

Building healthy communities



£80,831

awarded to 18 organisations through our **Food and Warmth Grant scheme**



Nature Trails installation is almost complete in South Abingdon and will be finished later this year. Maps of the trails are also now available locally and online



£760,000

Partnership Grant awards to Citizens Advice and Vale Community Impact approved by the Leader of the Council, over a five-year period (2024/25 to 2028/29)

Building stable finances



Report on the **Strategic Property Review** was assessed at Cabinet briefing and an asset management plan will now be developed



We produced a **Development action plan** for the **Beacon**, to help secure the venue's long-term sustainability, maximise its community benefit and financial efficiency



The council agreed a balanced budget for the next financial year. To fund services, council tax will **increase by 3.3 per cent for 2024/25**

Working in partnership



Five grant awards from **£1000 to £28000** were made under the **Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF)**. Projects supported include a fork-to-farm eco-friendly courier project



We adopted three pledges from the **Oxfordshire Inclusive Economic Partnership's Charter** - two will directly affect how the council does business with local small-medium enterprises



The draft findings of a research study (by Oxford Brookes) on understanding the **net zero challenge for SMEs in South and Vale** were presented to officers

Working in an open and inclusive way



We continued to use the new engagement platform **Join the Conversation** which allows officers to upload supporting information and background documents.



We started drafting the **2023/24 Annual Consultation and Engagement Report** - this will include comparison data on the number of responses to surveys and consultations



We provided **election communications materials** to encourage people to register to vote and remind them of the need for voter ID, we also used social media channels

Theme 1: Providing the homes people need

Strategic Lead - Suzanne Malcolm (Deputy Chief Executive / Place)

We will:

- find ways to provide more genuinely affordable housing, including housing for social rent, to better provide for the needs of the Vale residents
- aim to provide a mix of tenures in each development to build sustainable homes in balanced and sustainable communities
- use our influence on decision makers, where the responsibility lies outside of Vale.

We will do this by:

- exploring and considering opportunities to bring forward the delivery of homes people can afford
- adopting a policy framework that ensures those homes could be delivered in a way that supports the environment and people living healthy lives.

Key Activities in quarter four

See Theme 1 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 24

As part of the Vale's commitment to help deliver more affordable homes, the council continued to have conversations with a range of landowners and promoters to progress housing and residential-led, mixed-use schemes. This included discussions with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) and the relevant local parish councils in relation to Dalton Barracks Garden Village.

A Housing Delivery Strategy Action Plan 2024/25 was developed. This contains a wide range of measures/activities to support the delivery of more affordable and sustainable homes. It is scheduled to go to Cabinet in Q1 2024/25.

The Vale continued to work with Collaborative Housing to help deliver more community-led housing and support a rural homes project designed to provide new affordable housing schemes.

A cross-departmental team has continued to implement the various housing schemes to support people from Afghanistan and Ukraine.

These activities included completing the occupation of 24 properties from the MOD and continued work to purchase homes under HM Government's Local Authority Housing Fund scheme. Most families supported by these housing schemes moved into properties during the quarter. Consequently, most Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) households in the Vale have been relocated from hotels into new homes while they find somewhere permanent to live.

The pre-application for new mobile home units at Pebble Hill was submitted.



In February, officers and members gave evidence to the HIF1 public inquiry – an infrastructure scheme intended to connect strategic housing sites with employment land.

The council wants to adopt a policy framework that ensures that homes can be delivered in a way that supports the environment and people living healthy lives. During Q4, an important milestone was reached in the development of the Joint Local Plan with the holding of a Regulation 18 public consultation – this ran between 10 January and 26 February. This asked for views on our preferred policy options and draft policies. Officers are now reviewing all the comments that were received.

Bioregional's Net Zero Carbon Evidence study was published alongside the Joint Local Plan Regulation 18 public consultation. An additional element of this work – regarding renewable energy schemes – will be published alongside the Regulation 19 consultation in the autumn.

Progress also continued to be made on several other specialist studies that will contribute to the Joint Local Plan evidence base.

Officers continued to provide support to Oxfordshire County Council on the development of the Strategic Active Travel Network (SATN) – this seeks to provide a network of strategic travel routes across Oxfordshire.



Theme 2: Tackling the climate emergency

Strategic Lead - Suzanne Malcolm (Deputy Chief Executive / Place)

We will:

- do everything we can to help tackle the Climate Emergency
- reduce council emissions by 75% by 2025
- become a carbon neutral council by 2030
- reduce all emissions across the Vale District by 75% by 2030
- aspire to be a carbon neutral Vale district by 2045.

We will do this by:

- a Climate Emergency programme, focussed on what the council has control over, working
- towards our own targets for our own buildings, vehicles, leisure and arts centres
- a Climate Emergency programme focussed on encouraging the wider district community
- to reduce its carbon footprint in order to meet the Climate Emergency targets
- a programme around exercising our influence with partners on wider policy, working with neighbouring authorities, lobbying Government, and identifying environmental policy gaps.

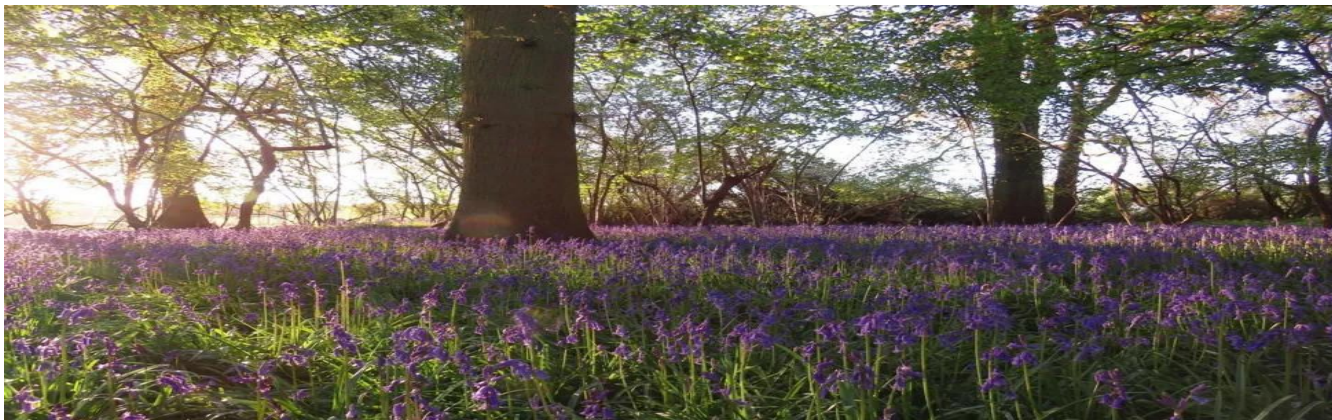
Key Activities in quarter four

See Theme 2 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 32

During Q4, the Vale completed the refurbishment of public conveniences at Portway, Wantage. In addition to energy saving measures, the refurbished amenities benefit from solar panels (which will provide electricity for toilet operation – with any excess energy being exported to the grid) and rainwater harvesting.

A Regulation 18 public consultation on the Joint Local Plan was held between 10 January and 26 February. This asked for views on our preferred policy options and draft policies including those relating to sustainable design & construction, net zero carbon buildings, reducing embodied carbon, sustainable retrofitting and renewable energy. It also set out the council's objectives and proposals in relation to sustainable growth and the environment. Officers are now reviewing all the comments that were received.

Bioregional's Net Zero Carbon Evidence study was published alongside the Joint Local Plan Regulation 18 public consultation. An additional element of this work – regarding renewable energy schemes – will be published alongside the Regulation 19 consultation in the autumn.



The Vale remained involved in shaping and participating in county-wide initiatives through the Future Oxfordshire Partnership (FOP). In this forum, officers and members continued to work for the realisation of the Good Growth Principles in the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision. During Q4, officers worked with the FOP's Environmental Advisory Group to develop an approach to Local Area Energy Planning. This is one of the five priority actions on the Oxfordshire Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan.

In conjunction with South Oxfordshire, the Vale submitted a proposal to Innovate UK to fund a research project to trial an electric refuse collection vehicle for recycling and household waste.

Progress continued to be made on the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Funding (LEVI) grant. The Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) received the signed grant offer letter from Oxfordshire County Council for the funding; the county council now expect to receive the first tranche of funds by the end of April – a press release announcing the awarding to Oxfordshire of £3.6m in LEVI funding to triple the number of EV chargers in the county was issued in March.



The Climate & Biodiversity and Planning teams worked together to publish a new webpage explaining when planning permission/consent is need for retrofitting measures. The council also published a new leaflet setting out the support and funding that is available within the district for energy saving home improvements.

The Vale's new Air Quality Action Plan was approved by the Licensing Committee. Officers are now reviewing how and when the annual update should be reported.

The Vale designed and then distributed the 2024-25 waste leaflet to all homes within the district – either through the post (alongside the household’s council tax bill) or via their e-bill notification.

The council published and promoted its new waste calendar. By the end of March more than 8,600 visits had been made to the waste calendar webpage. In addition, the council relaunched the option of downloading the calendar into iCal/Google Calendar.

In February, the Vale highlighted the news that it had been confirmed as having the 3rd highest recycling rate in the country. The council also publicised the changes being introduced for subscribers to the Vale’s brown bin garden waste service.

Parishes and residents were encouraged to get involved with the Great British Spring Clean. The Vale highlighted the activities and efforts of local groups via our social media channels.

The council marked Global Recycling Day with a reminder for people to ‘Check it before you Chuck it’.

Easter Bank Holiday changes to waste and recycling collections were promoted via the council’s normal comms channels.

As part of the council’s activities for Food Waste Action Week in March, the Vale publicised its popular Compost Giveaway and a social media competition to win a hot composter (entrants had to say what steps they had taken to reduce their food waste). Posts relating to the hot composter competition reached over 11,000 accounts and resulted in significant engagement on Facebook.



Theme 3: Building healthy communities

Strategic Lead - Adrianna Partridge (Deputy Chief Executive / Transformation and Operations)

Key Activities in quarter four

See Theme 3 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 41

We will:

- contribute to making people's lives healthier by encouraging the switch to more active travel, improving air quality where people work and live, and providing active opportunities.

We will do this by:

- building strong communities and connections with a sense of place and strong community identity
- promoting healthy place shaping and active communities for everyone
- safeguarding and supporting our vulnerable residents

The council recorded four rough sleepers at the end of Q4 2023/24 – an increase on the previous quarter. This is an indication of the mounting demands upon the housing service and the upward trend in rough sleeping nationally.

The number of homeless households in temporary accommodation (TA) on 31 March 2024 was 24 – a slight increase on the previous quarter and a reflection of the rising number of homelessness presentations.

During 2023/24, the Vale has seen a record number of homelessness approaches (586). This has been caused by a combination of factors including the cost-of-living crisis and the decline in availability of affordable private rented properties.

The rolling six-month average length of stay in emergency accommodation was 43 nights, marginally higher than the council's ceiling target of 42 nights.

During Q4 2023/24, the rate of successful homelessness prevention in the Vale was 71.0 per cent (a significant increase on the previous quarter). Although this was below the council's own very challenging target of 80.0 per cent, it remains considerably above the South East prevention rate of 51.0 per cent. The most likely outcome for households where homelessness is not prevented is a stay in emergency or temporary accommodation which is both disruptive for the household and expensive for the council.



As part of the Vale's commitment to safeguarding and supporting the district's vulnerable residents, the council continues to actively participate in numerous countywide partnerships to tackle homelessness in Oxfordshire. The Vale is a member of the countywide Homelessness Steering Group, the Young Persons Steering Group, the Joint Management Group of Alliance Homelessness Services and the Homelessness Directors Group.

The Community Hub continued to work with the voluntary and community sector in response to the cost-of-living crisis (particularly in relation to food initiatives and the provision of support for those in most need).

The council awarded £80,831 to 18 organisations through its Food and Warmth Grant scheme.

The Leader of the Council approved Partnership Grant awards totalling £760,000 over a five-year period (2024/25 to 2028/29) to Citizens Advice and Vale Community Impact.



In Q4, a public consultation was held on the Joint Local Plan. This asked for views on our preferred policy options and draft policies. Officers are now reviewing all the comments that were received. (The emerging policy framework being created through the development of the Joint Local Plan will cover issues specifically relating to infrastructure and the location of homes/jobs. In addition, the spatial strategy within the emerging Joint Local Plan, as well as specific policies in relation to employment, retail, housing etc, will collectively deliver a new land use approach for the Vale.)

The council remains involved in shaping and participating in county-wide initiatives through the Future Oxfordshire Partnership. In this forum, officers and members continue to work for the realisation of the Good Growth Principles in the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.

With the intention of promoting healthy place shaping and active communities, the council continues to collaborate with Active Oxfordshire to improve the health and wellbeing of the district's residents – especially those in the most deprived areas.

The Vale now has 1,770 people signed up to the 'You Move' project (aimed at families with children and in receipt of benefits). It also has 1,581 people enrolled on the 'Move Together' project (designed to help people with long-term health conditions become more active).

The Active Communities team have worked with several different partners to widen the council's offer to residents. For example, we have been working with One Planet Abingdon, Makespace Arts and Asylum Welcome as well as several mental health charities (including His Mind and Sport in Mind). The Active Communities team also continues to partner with GPs and other social prescribers.

Work on installing 'Nature Trails' in South Abingdon is almost complete – the final parts will be completed later this year. Maps of the trails are also now available locally and online.

Progress has continued to be made finalising the process for external applicants to use green spaces for community gardens.

Officers have started project planning to update and expand the council's existing tree planting policy.

The Vale's new Air Quality Action Plan was approved by the Licensing Committee. Officers are now reviewing how and when the annual update should be reported.



Theme 4: Building stable finances

Strategic Lead - Simon Hewings (Head of Finance)

We will:

- manage the council's resources responsibly and make effective use of the council's assets
- do our best to build financial resilience to protect the council against future uncertainties
- work across the public sector to influence and maximise funding for local government, in order to continue to invest and provide the services residents and businesses need.

We will do this by:

- exploring and actively considering all avenues to deliver financial stability, including maximising income available to the council
- making effective use of the council's assets acting in a manner that ensures the long-term financial viability for the benefit of our residents and the environment.

Key Activities in quarter four

See Theme 4 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 49

With the aim of managing the council's resources responsibly and making more effective use of its assets, the Vale continued with its budget setting activity for 2024/25. In February, the council agreed a balanced budget for the next financial year. To fund the delivery of services, council tax will increase by 3.3 per cent for 2024/25. For a Band D property this equates to £5 a year (just under 10p a week), bringing a total charge of £156.69 a year/£3.01 per week – this is over 25.0 per cent lower than the national average for a shire district council.

Furthermore, the 2024/25 budget made a contribution to the council's reserves rather than drawing upon them.



A report on the Strategic Property Review was presented and assessed at Cabinet briefing. An asset management plan will now be developed.

In February, the Cabinet endorsed a development action plan (alongside five further recommendations) for the Beacon. The plan and the further recommendations are intended to secure the venue's long-term sustainability by maximising its community benefit and financial efficiency.

Work continued on a review of the Grounds Maintenance team. This evaluation – being undertaken by the Transformation team – is currently making progress against the following deliverables:

- standardised council term and conditions
- the use of Concerto
- workable KPIs
- research as to how other authorities manage their grounds maintenance services
- breakdown of service costs and charges

In conjunction with South Oxfordshire, the Vale submitted a proposal to Innovate UK to fund a research project to trial an electric refuse collection vehicle for recycling and household waste.

Officers have also been developing a bid for approximately £500k to the Football Foundation to fund an AstroTurf Pitch at Faringdon Leisure Centre. If successful, this will help to release previously allocated CIL funding. In addition, work has been undertaken on a bid for Low Carbon Skills Funding (Phase 5) that would be used to develop heat decarbonisation plans.



Theme 5: Working in partnership

We will:

- work in partnership with other councils, authorities and businesses, non-profit organisations, community and residents' groups, to achieve our aims and objectives effectively, efficiently and fairly
- provide support to residents and organisations to effect and drive change in the community
- provide all the support we can to businesses in the Vale to help them succeed.

We will do this by:

- working in partnership to influence and shape regional and national agendas to maximise opportunities for our communities and businesses
- working with and supporting our residents, businesses and communities to effect and enable change.

Strategic Lead - Suzanne Malcolm (Deputy Chief Executive / Place)

Strategic Lead - Adrianna Partridge (Deputy Chief Executive / Transformation and Operations)

Key Activities in quarter four

See Theme 5 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 53

Economic Development opened applications for the Business Recovery Grant offering support to those affected by flooding during Storm Henk.

Economic Development led the Vale's adoption of three pledges from the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economic Partnership's Charter. Two of these (regarding the social value that a supplier can offer the local community and the buying of goods/services from purposeful local organisations) will directly affect how the council does business with local SMEs. Work to implement these pledges will accelerate in Q1 2024/25.

The draft findings of the research study (being undertaken by Oxford Brookes) on understanding the net zero challenge for SMEs in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse were presented to officers. The final report is expected in Q1 2024/25 and will help to inform the solutions to be commissioned by the council via UK Shared Prosperity Funding.

A short-term action plan to support the visitor economy was finalised. This focused upon tangible support schemes for businesses operating in the sector and established an improved digital promotional presence that can be directly managed by Economic Development.



As part of the Vale's efforts to support residents and organisations to effect and drive change in the community, the council continued its pilot project on a simpler approach to neighbourhood planning. Officers met regularly with the pilot groups, providing one-to-one support. They also brought them together to collaborate and share experiences.

Five grant awards ranging from £1,000 to £28,000 were made under the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). Projects supported include a fork-to-farm eco-friendly courier project.

Following approval by the council as part of the budget setting process, four new infrastructure projects were allocated CIL funding (totalling £857,157) in the 2024/25 capital programme.

The Vale continued to support the White Horse Community Lottery Scheme. Throughout the quarter, 11,673 lottery tickets were sold generating an annual estimated income of £22,579 for the voluntary sector.

The Leader of the Council approved Partnership Grant awards totalling £760,000 over a five-year period (2024/25 to 2028/29) to Citizens Advice and Vale Community Impact.

The council awarded £80,831 to 18 organisations through its Food and Warmth Grant scheme.

The Community Hub continued to work with the voluntary and community sector in response to the cost-of-living crisis (particularly in relation to food initiatives and the provision of support for those in most need).



With the intention of progressing the Vale's goal of working in partnership to influence and shape regional and national agendas, the Economic Development team have maintained their connection to the working group overseeing the development of the emerging Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) for Oxfordshire. Following endorsement of the SEP by the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership's board, work has now started on the creation of an action plan. The team have also continued to liaise with countywide counterparts via the Joint Oxfordshire Business Support (JOBS) group and with the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy steering group.

The Vale remains involved in shaping and participating in countywide initiatives through the Future Oxfordshire Partnership. In this forum, officers and members continue to work for the realisation of the Good Growth Principles in the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.

Officers have continued to contribute to the Oxfordshire Asylum Support system. The council takes a strong partnership approach to both 'Moving On' accommodation and the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Programme (ARAP). The Vale is currently working with the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the Home Office to deliver transitional accommodation for the ARAP residents following the closure of bridging hotels and is now providing housing and community integration support for over 30 Afghan families in MoD housing.

Officers from the council have also contributed to discussions at the South East Migration Partnership aimed at coordinating approaches with the Home Office across the asylum system.

The Vale wrote a letter of support for the UK Atomic Energy Authority's bid for "place-based accelerator" funding from UK Research and Innovation to establish a cluster specialising in robotics for nuclear decommissioning. This letter detailed the support that would be offered by the council if the money was secured.



Theme 6: Working in an open and inclusive way

Strategic Lead - Adrianna Partridge (Deputy Chief Executive / Transformation and Operations)

We will:

- work openly and transparently, promoting a world in which all can participate equally
- listen to feedback from local residents, communities, businesses, partners and our own officers
- ensure our work particularly aims to include those groups that have historically been
- marginalised or those that have been hard to reach
- ensure we are accountable and that our decisions are open to appropriate scrutiny, and we will admit when we get things wrong.

We will do this by:

- improving our use of technology to increase understanding and access to what we do, how we work and the decisions we make
- increasing meaningful engagement and communication with everyone
- strengthening our governance framework and address our policy gaps, improving transparency.

Key Activities in quarter four

See Theme 6 performance updates against all reporting measures on page 63

As part of the council's commitment to working openly and transparently, the Vale continues to increase the amount of information that it provides through the data hub section of its website. During Q4 2023/24, the performance management report for Q3 2023/24 was published on the Vale's website. This is intended to increase the public's understanding of what the council does, how it works and how decisions are made.

The council produced press releases on several important issues/topics during Q4 – including the adoption of a new Air Quality Plan, the future of the Beacon, the introduction of Biodiversity Net Gain, the passing of the council's budget for 2024/25 and the two-year anniversary of the war in Ukraine.

To fulfil the Vale's ambition to improve its use of technology to increase understanding and access to what it does, it livestreamed all public meetings (except for the Full Council – due to logistical/IT issues) during Q4. These recordings will remain available on the Vale's YouTube channel for a year.



The Vale continued to develop and run surveys/consultations using the council's new online engagement platform - Join the Conversation. In addition to making it easier for residents to respond, the new platform also allows officers to upload supporting information and background documents.

The council has grown its presence on NextDoor – a more hyperlocal social media platform – and is exploring how to better utilise LinkedIn to engage with local businesses.

Furthermore, the council has rolled out WhatsApp Channels which provides a direct news service to subscribers. Early signs have been encouraging and officers are now exploring creating dedicated channels for specific service areas with high demand e.g., waste services.

Officers continued to test the 'report it' functionality of the Customer Relationship Management System (CRM) to automate reports of enviro-crimes e.g., fly tipping. This has involved close collaboration between Customer Services, IT and Waste teams.

In order to increase meaningful engagement with everyone, work has started on drafting the 2023/24 Annual Consultation and Engagement Report. This will include comparison data on the number of responses the council has received to surveys and consultations. It will also provide a breakdown of respondent types. This information will then be used to highlight any gaps/ challenges that may exist.

As part of the Joint Local Plan consultation, the council held ten community drop-in events. These were designed to take the consultation out to the residents of the district. A special by-invitation gathering for community groups that the council has traditionally failed to reach also took place in February.

Sessions on the Joint Local Plan consultation were held with sixth form students at Abingdon & Witney College and UTC (University Technical College). This provided an opportunity for meaningful dialogue with young adults about their views and priorities.



The Climate and Engagement teams launched a survey to find out where town and parishes were in their climate journeys and also what support they would like from the council. As part of this exercise, respondents were asked for their preferences in relation to the type/ manner of interactions they have with the council e.g. online or face-to-face-meetings. This information will be reviewed to determine how best to proceed.

The council provided a variety of election communications materials (including posters and content for newsletters) to parishes, community groups and businesses to share with residents. These materials are intended to encourage people to register to vote and to remind them of the need for voter ID. The Vale has also used social media channels to reach residents about the forthcoming election. This has included promoting the council's guide for first time voters.

With the intention of delivering on the Vale's commitment to increasing accountability and strengthening its governance framework, work has continued on reviewing the council's constitution.



Vale of White Horse quarter four independent cabinet member decisions

Date	Description
22/01/2024	Move Together
22/01/2024	Hackney Carriage Tariff - to approve a new tariff
23/01/2024	Partnership grants - to award the 2024/25 to 2028/29 revenue grants
31/01/2024	Community Infrastructure Levy Funding for Vale-owned play areas at Faringdon and Wantage
12/02/2024	Waste Management Contractor Performance 2022
13/02/2024	Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership's charter pledges
26/02/2024	Storm Henk Flood Grant Scheme
01/03/2024	Community Infrastructure Levy funding for Great Western Park health centre
12/03/2024	Playing pitch strategy - to approve the draft strategy for public consultation
12/03/2024	Leisure facilities assessment strategy - to approve the draft strategy for public consultation
Total: 10	

Theme 1: Providing the homes people need - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
PROGRAMME 1	Explore and consider opportunities to bring forward the delivery of homes people can afford	Narrative report of newly identified opportunities to bring forward/expedite the delivery of affordable homes	Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, Infrastructure, Development and Governance	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>During Q4 2023/24, a cross-departmental team continued to implement the various housing schemes to support people from Afghanistan and Ukraine. These activities included completing the occupation of 24 properties from the MOD and continued work to purchase homes under HM Government's Local Authority Housing Fund scheme.</p> <p>The majority of families supported by these housing schemes moved into properties during the quarter. As a consequence, most Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) households in the Vale have been relocated from hotels into new homes while they find somewhere permanent to live.</p> <p>Also, in Q4, the Housing Delivery Strategy Action Plan 2024/25 was developed. This contains a wide range of measures/activities to support the delivery of more affordable and sustainable homes. It is scheduled to go to Cabinet in Q1 2024/25.</p>
PHPN1.1	Explore a council-owned holding company/vehicle, to focus on delivering a wide range of regeneration and community benefits including housing, community facilities, land maintenance and health	Narrative update on the potential opportunities/challenges around the creation of a holding company/SPV (special purpose vehicle)	Cabinet Member for Planning and Development Management	Master Planning Lead	<p>During Q4 2023/24, the Vale continued to have conversations with a range of landowners and promoters to progress housing and residential-led, mixed-use schemes. This included discussions with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) and the relevant local parish councils in relation to Dalton Barracks Garden Village.</p> <p>The DIO submitted representations to the preferred options consultation for the draft Joint Local Plan and are now working on an outline planning application for 2,750 homes.</p>

Theme 1: Providing the homes people need - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
PHPN1.2	Explore how the council can provide low-cost sustainable housing. Include working with developers, registered providers, community trusts, as well as new partnerships. Include council owned housing. Include a definition of affordability relative to ability to pay, not to market value, and social rent definitions	Narrative report on provision of low cost housing, focusing on partnership working, including an update on the shifting metric of affordability based on relative ability to pay rather than market value and social rent definitions	Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, Infrastructure, Development and Governance	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>During Q4 2023/24, the Housing Delivery Strategy Action Plan 2024/25 was developed. This contains a wide range of measures/ activities to support the delivery of more affordable and sustainable homes. It is scheduled to go to Cabinet in Q1 2024/25.</p> <p>Also, in Q4, the Vale has continued to partner with Collaborative Housing to help deliver more community-led housing and support a rural housing project designed to provide new affordable housing schemes.</p> <p>Officers have collected up-to-date information on social housing provided by housing associations within the district. This data will be shared in a report to Cabinet in Q1 2024/25.</p> <p>The council is also collating information regarding private sector rents. Officers are currently determining the best approach to publishing this.</p>
PHPN1.3	Review our affordable housing planning policies and ensure they are providing what's needed in the Vale	Narrative report on review of planning policies	Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, Infrastructure, Development and Governance	Head of Housing and Environment	No progress to report for Q4 2023/24.
PHPN1.4	Review our strategy for spending s106 sums paid in lieu of onsite affordable housing and identify how earmarked funds, including retained S106 monies, can be best utilised to deliver affordable homes	<p>"Narrative report on s106 spend, focusing on the stated aim and any updates to the existing strategy</p> <p>Additional quantitative elements - s106 spend/ units provided from spend</p>	Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, Infrastructure, Development and Governance	Head of Housing and Environment	No update required – action complete.

Theme 1: Providing the homes people need - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
PHPN1.5	Explore how mobile homes might be better used as affordable homes, reviewing sites and policies to ensure good use of available space	Narrative update on utilisation of mobile homes/ mobile home sites or opportunities for creating such sites	Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, Infrastructure, Development and Governance	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	During Q4 2023/24, the pre-application for new mobile home units at Pebble Hill was submitted.
PHPN1.6	Use Garden Villages and Towns designation as a mechanism to introduce innovative housing to meet our needs for high quality, low energy, zero-carbon homes	Narrative report on garden village and town designation utilisation and any projects which fall within this designation. Also to include initiatives which will result in low energy, zero carbon homes.	Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, Infrastructure, Development and Governance	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2023/24, an important milestone was reached in the development of the Joint Local Plan with the holding of a Regulation 18 public consultation – this ran between 10th January and 26th February. This asked for views on our preferred policy options and draft policies including those relating to sustainable design & construction, net zero carbon buildings, reducing embodied carbon, sustainable retrofitting and renewable energy (CE1 – CE5).</p> <p>The consultation also inquired about specific policies for the council's garden communities. For Dalton Barracks Garden Village, this included a new draft policy and indicative concept plan for a larger development area. This would mean that new zero carbon homes would be built on the brownfield barracks part of the site – which had not previously been allocated for development.</p> <p>Discussions have also been held throughout the quarter with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) and the relevant local parish councils in relation to Dalton Barracks Garden Village. The DIO submitted representations to the preferred options consultation for the draft Joint Local Plan and are now working on an outline planning application for 2,750 homes.</p>

Theme 1: Providing the homes people need - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
PROGRAMME 2	Adopt a policy framework that ensures those homes could be delivered in a way that supports the environment and people living healthy lives	Narrative report against the Programme aim	Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, Infrastructure, Development and Governance	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2023/24, an important milestone was reached in the development of the Joint Local Plan with the holding of a Regulation 18 public consultation – this ran between 10th January and 26th February. This asked for views on our preferred policy options and draft policies. Officers are now reviewing all the comments that were received.</p> <p>The emerging plan contains new stronger policies on the environment, including significantly higher standards on net zero carbon building, biodiversity net gain and healthy places.</p> <p>Bioregional's Net Zero Carbon Evidence study was published alongside the Joint Local Plan Regulation 18 public consultation. An additional element of this work – regarding renewable energy schemes – will be published alongside the Regulation 19 consultation in the autumn.</p> <p>Progress also continued to be made on several other specialist studies that will contribute to the Joint Local Plan evidence base.</p>
PHPN2.1	Develop a s106 obligations strategy to inform negotiations between planners and developers	Narrative report on strategy development/adherence (once delivered)	Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, Infrastructure, Development and Governance	Head of Policy and Programmes	No update required – action complete.
PHPN2.2	Update the CIL spending strategy and associated procedures to accelerate the delivery of local infrastructural improvements for our communities both in line with our corporate objectives and, where appropriate, to support current spending on existing infrastructure	<p>"Narrative update on CIL spend to support the delivery of local infrastructure</p> <p>Total CIL spend + CIL spend breakdown"</p>	Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, Infrastructure, Development and Governance	Head of Finance	Following approval by the council as part of the budget setting process, four new infrastructure projects were allocated CIL funding (totalling £857,157) in the 2024/25 capital programme.

Theme 1: Providing the homes people need - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
PHPN2.3	Consider ways we can encourage lower-carbon construction in Vale	Narrative update to include any activity supporting lower-carbon construction in the Vale	Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, Infrastructure, Development and Governance	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2023/24, an important milestone was reached in the development of the Joint Local Plan with the holding of a Regulation 18 public consultation – this ran between 10th January and 26th February. This asked for views on our preferred policy options and draft policies including those relating to sustainable design & construction, net zero carbon buildings, reducing embodied carbon, sustainable retrofitting and renewable energy (CE1 – CE5). Officers are now reviewing all the comments that were received.</p> <p>Bioregional's Net Zero Carbon Evidence study was published alongside the Joint Local Plan Regulation 18 public consultation. An additional element of this work – regarding renewable energy schemes – will be published alongside the Regulation 19 consultation in the autumn.</p> <p>Progress also continued to be made on several other specialist studies that will contribute to the Joint Local Plan evidence base.</p>
PHPN2.4	Develop an affordable housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Evidence of housing needs, housing mix, self-build, rural exception sites. Include definition of 'affordable'	Narrative update on the development of an affordable housing SPD, additionally include information on planning permissions granted with affordable housing numbers	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Housing and Environment	No update required – action complete.

Theme 1: Providing the homes people need - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
PHPN2.5	Develop a Land Use strategy to inform and guide OxPlan2050 and Vale Local Plan with proposed need for housing, retail, employment, leisure, open spaces	Narrative update on progression against stated aim of PHPN 2.6 in the corporate plan.	Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, Infrastructure, Development and Governance	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2023/24, an important milestone was reached in the development of the Joint Local Plan with the holding of a Regulation 18 public consultation – this ran between 10th January and 26th February. This asked for views on our preferred policy options and draft policies including those relating to housing, retail, employment, leisure and open spaces. Officers are now reviewing all the comments that were received.</p> <p>The spatial strategy within the emerging Joint Local Plan, as well as specific policies in relation to employment, retail, housing etc, will collectively deliver a new land use approach for the Vale.</p> <p>Progress also continued to be made on several other specialist studies that will contribute to the Joint Local Plan evidence base.</p>
PHPN2.6	Update the Local Development Plan to reflect the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS) and connecting our strategic housing sites with employment land	Narrative update on progression against stated aim of PHPN 2.7 in the corporate plan.	Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, Infrastructure, Development and Governance	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2023/24, an important milestone was reached in the development of the Joint Local Plan with the holding of a Regulation 18 public consultation – this ran between 10th January and 26th February. This asked for views on our preferred policy options and draft policies including those relating to infrastructure, housing and employment. Officers are now reviewing all the comments that were received.</p> <p>The emerging policy framework being created through the development of the Joint Local Plan will cover issues specifically relating to infrastructure and the location of homes/jobs. In addition, the emerging Local Plan's spatial strategy will provide the council with a new land use approach.</p> <p>Progress also continued to be made on several other specialist studies that will contribute to the Joint Local Plan evidence base.</p> <p>In addition, during February, officers and members gave evidence to the HIF1 public inquiry – an infrastructure scheme intended to connect strategic housing sites with employment land.</p>

Theme 1: Providing the homes people need - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
PHPN2.7	Update Vale's Local Plan and OxPlan2050 with modern environmental policies in support of government's and Vale's goals	Narrative update on progression against stated aim of PHPN 2.8 in the corporate plan.	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2023/24, an important milestone was reached in the development of the Joint Local Plan with the holding of a Regulation 18 public consultation – this ran between 10th January and 26th February. This asked for views on our preferred policy options and draft policies including those relating to sustainable design & construction, net zero carbon buildings, reducing embodied carbon, sustainable retrofitting and renewable energy (CE1 – CE5). Officers are now reviewing all the comments that were received.</p> <p>Bioregional's Net Zero Carbon Evidence study was published alongside the Joint Local Plan Regulation 18 public consultation. An additional element of this work – regarding renewable energy schemes – will be published alongside the Regulation 19 consultation in the autumn.</p> <p>Progress also continued to be made on several other specialist studies that will contribute to the Joint Local Plan evidence base.</p>
PHPN2.8	Develop a Housing Policy: that outlines the types of housing we are going to provide, in what mix of design and for what demographic and tenure, to inform our Local Plan and future work. Include affordable housing aspirations, consideration of an aging population, and environmental policies for housing	<p>"Narrative update on housing policy and adherence.</p> <p>Include quantitative measures for housing mix, tenure, and affordable and shared ownership."</p>	Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, Infrastructure, Development and Governance	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>In 2023/24, there were 353 recorded affordable housing completions in the Vale. This was above the target for the year (280). Of this number, 253 were at affordable rent levels, 21 at social rent levels, and 79 were shared ownership.</p> <p>Quantitative measures regarding housing mix, tenure and affordability remain determined on a site-by-site basis at the point that they are brought forward.</p>

Theme 1: Providing the homes people need - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
PHPN2.9	<p>Work with partners to produce an Active Travel Network map of current and required coverage across the Vale to include commercial and community buses, cycle paths and storage facilities, pavements and footpaths, green and blue infrastructure, and local taxi firms.</p> <p>Encourage systems that increase use of the Active Travel Network</p>	<p>Narrative update on progress toward completion of map, once map completed, this should transition to an annual review of the accuracy of map</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, Infrastructure, Development and Governance</p>	<p>Head of Policy and Programmes</p>	<p>During Q4 2023/24, officers continued to provide support to Oxfordshire County Council on the development of the Strategic Active Travel Network (SATN) – this seeks to provide a network of strategic travel routes across Oxfordshire.</p>

Theme 2: Tackling the climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
PROGRAMME 1	A climate emergency programme, focussed on what the council has control over, working towards our own targets for our own buildings, vehicles, leisure and arts centres	A narrative summary comprised of all new activity to reduce the carbon footprint of all Council assets on a quarterly basis	Cabinet Member for Climate Action and the Environment	Head of Policy and Programmes	During Q4 2023/24, the Vale completed the refurbishment of public conveniences at Portway, Wantage. In addition to energy saving measures, the refurbished amenities benefit from solar panels (which will provide electricity for toilet operation – with any excess energy being exported to the grid) and rainwater harvesting.
TCE1.1	Develop a Climate Emergency Strategy for the Council, setting out how we will reach Zero Carbon for all Vale assets by 2030. Identify energy saving opportunities in council-owned buildings and fleets	A narrative report of activity underway to design the plan to achieve a zero carbon position for all Vale assets by 2030.	Cabinet Member for Climate Action and the Environment	Head of Policy and Programmes	During Q4 2023/24, the Quarter 3 2023/24 Climate Action Plan (CAP) report was published on the Vale's website. The progress made against the CAP targets is detailed in the published CAP reports.
TCE1.2	Complete the CEAC Year One Climate Action Plan and plan for future years	Narrative report on progress	Cabinet Member for Climate Action and the Environment	Head of Policy and Programmes	No update required – action complete.
TCE1.3	Include in Councils Open Space Strategy opportunities to increase biodiversity, increase tree cover, and (other things we want to do on Council's open spaces)	Narrative report on specific opportunities which have arisen for the council to improve open spaces. Also include any additional policy developments.	Cabinet Member for Climate Action and the Environment	Head of Policy and Programmes	No progress to report for Q4 2023/24.

Theme 2: Tackling the climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
PROGRAMME 2	A climate emergency programme focussed on encouraging the wider district community to reduce its carbon footprint in order to meet the Climate Emergency targets	A narrative update of the work of the comms team in promoting measures/ initiatives which will help the community to reduce it's carbon footprint.	Cabinet Member for Climate Action and the Environment	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2023/24 the Vale ran several comms campaigns and initiatives designed to increase awareness of the Climate Emergency and to help the community to reduce its carbon footprint. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A series of social media posts highlighting Energy Savers Week (17–23 January). • Publicising the Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy. • Promoting the council's Economic Development Survey on how best to help local businesses on their climate journey. • A press release on the extension of the EV car club trial at the Vale's car parks in Abingdon. • The creation of a new webpage offering guidance on whether planning permission is needed for retrofitting measures. • Announcing the award to Oxfordshire of £3.6m in Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding to triple the number of EV chargers in the county.
TCE2.1	Complete those tasks in Year one Climate Action Plan that have to do with reducing carbon in the wider district	Narrative report on progress	Cabinet Member for Climate Action and the Environment	Head of Policy and Programmes	No update required – action complete.

Theme 2: Tackling the climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
TCE2.2	Introduce policies for zero carbon construction requirements	Narrative update on progress toward design guide implementation, transitioning into review of relevant information/developments in this area	Cabinet Member for Climate Action and the Environment	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2023/24, an important milestone was reached in the development of the Joint Local Plan with the holding of a Regulation 18 public consultation – this ran between 10th January and 26th February. This asked for views on our preferred policy options and draft policies including those relating to sustainable design & construction, net zero carbon buildings, reducing embodied carbon, sustainable retrofitting and renewable energy (CE1 – CE5). Officers are now reviewing all the comments that were received.</p> <p>Bioregional's Net Zero Carbon Evidence study was published alongside the Joint Local Plan Regulation 18 public consultation. An additional element of this work – regarding renewable energy schemes – will be published alongside the Regulation 19 consultation in the autumn.</p> <p>Progress also continued to be made on several other specialist studies that will contribute to the Joint Local Plan evidence base.</p>
TCE2.3	Introduce sustainable growth and environmental policies to our Local Plan	Narrative update on the progress towards development of new local plan, specifically referring to details in TCE2.3/4	Cabinet Member for Climate Action and the Environment	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2023/24, an important milestone was reached in the development of the Joint Local Plan with the holding of a Regulation 18 public consultation – this ran between 10th January and 26th February. This asked for views on our preferred policy options and draft policies including objectives and proposals relevant to sustainable growth and the environment.</p> <p>Bioregional's Net Zero Carbon Evidence study was published alongside the Joint Local Plan Regulation 18 public consultation. An additional element of this work – regarding renewable energy schemes – will be published alongside the Regulation 19 consultation in the autumn.</p> <p>Progress also continued to be made on several other specialist studies that will contribute to the Joint Local Plan evidence base.</p>

Theme 2: Tackling the climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
TCE2.4	Ensure our Local Plan contains policies to make new buildings carbon zero to build and to live/work in	Narrative update on the progress towards development of new local plan, specifically referring to details in TCE2.3/4	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2023/24, an important milestone was reached in the development of the Joint Local Plan with the holding of a Regulation 18 public consultation – this ran between 10th January and 26th February. This asked for views on our preferred policy options and draft policies including an ambitious new draft proposal (Policy CE2) on net zero carbon buildings.</p> <p>Bioregional's Net Zero Carbon Evidence study was published alongside the Joint Local Plan Regulation 18 public consultation. An additional element of this work – regarding renewable energy schemes – will be published alongside the Regulation 19 consultation in the autumn.</p> <p>Progress also continued to be made on several other specialist studies that will contribute to the Joint Local Plan evidence base.</p>
TCE2.5	Develop a year two plan with CEAC for meeting our Climate emergency goals	High level narrative on progress towards approval of two year plan	Cabinet Member for Climate Action and the Environment	Head of Policy and Programmes	No update required - action complete.
TCE2.6	Improve how we measure air quality. Explore particulate measurement in our sensitive areas. Explore ways to publish AQ measurements in live time, so people can make decisions on whether it's healthy outside for them today	Narrative containing updates/changes to AQ monitoring techniques, an update on work with partners to monitor AQ and details of published AQ measures	Cabinet Member for Climate Action and the Environment	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>During Q4 2023/24, the Vale's new Air Quality Action Plan was approved by the Licensing Committee. Officers are now reviewing how and when the annual update should be reported.</p> <p>Real Time Air Quality Data for sites within Vale of White Horse is available at: www.airqualityengland.co.uk</p> <p>Further air quality information is also available at: www.oxonair.uk/</p>

Theme 2: Tackling the climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
TCE2.7	Update the Air Quality Action Plans for our Air Quality Management Areas	Until funding confirmed for development of new AQAP's, narrative update on any significant deviation from last relevant AQAP. Once funding confirmed, this can report on the development of the new AQAP.	Cabinet Member for Climate Action and the Environment	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>During Q4 2023/24, the Vale's new Air Quality Action Plan was approved by the Licensing Committee. Officers are now reviewing how and when the annual update should be reported.</p> <p>Real Time Air Quality Data for sites within Vale of White Horse is available at: www.airqualityengland.co.uk</p> <p>Further air quality information is also available at: www.oxonair.uk/</p>
TCE2.8	Explore setting up a Habitat Bank to deliver biodiversity offsetting requirements and facilitate tree planting	Narrative update as to progress of potential pilot and other relevant initiatives	Cabinet Member for Climate Action and the Environment	Head of Policy and Programmes	No update required - action complete.
PROGRAMME 3	A programme around exercising our influence with partners on wider policy, working with neighbouring authorities, lobbying Government and identifying environmental policy gaps	General Narrative update	Cabinet Member for Climate Action and the Environment	Head of Policy and Programmes	During Q4 2023/24, the Vale worked with the Environmental Advisory Group of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership to develop an approach to Local Area Energy Planning. This is one of the five priority actions on the Oxfordshire Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan.
TCE3.1	Complete the CEAC Year One Action Plan and plan for future years	Narrative report on progress	Cabinet Member for Climate Action and the Environment	Head of Policy and Programmes	No update required - action complete.

Theme 2: Tackling the climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
TCE3.2	Work with partners to define a waste reduction scheme: including ways to reduce bulky waste headed to landfill and reduce recycling contamination	Narrative report to outline steps to influence partners and our actions to reduce overall waste	Cabinet Member for Climate Action and the Environment	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>The December 2023 recycling rate was 55.55%, the landfill rate was 0.14% and the contamination rate was 11.98%. These figures were not available for Q3 2023/24 reporting.</p> <p>The January 2024 recycling rate was 55.59%, the landfill rate was 0.13% and the contamination rate was 13.95%.</p> <p>The February 2024 recycling rate was 56.67%, the landfill rate was 0.14% and the contamination rate was 14.51%.</p> <p>The figures for March are not yet available.</p> <p>During Q4, the Vale designed and then distributed the 2024-25 waste leaflet to all homes within the district – either through the post (alongside the household’s council tax bill) or via their e-bill notification.</p> <p>Also, in Q4, the Vale published and promoted the council’s new waste calendar. By the end of March more than 8,600 visits had been made to the waste calendar webpage. In addition, the council relaunched the option of downloading the calendar into iCal/Google Calendar.</p> <p>Work was carried out on promoting and delivering the 2024 waste survey – which launched on 12th March. The council publicised the survey through the 2024-25 waste leaflet and parish newsletters.</p> <p>The council highlighted the roadside litter clearance work carried out in the district by Biffa and publicised our new anti-litter road signs.</p> <p>Parishes and residents were encouraged to get involved with the Great British Spring Clean. The Vale also highlighted the activities and efforts of local groups via our social media channels.</p> <p>(update continues on page 38)</p>

Theme 2: Tackling the climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
TCE3.2	Work with partners to define a waste reduction scheme: including ways to reduce bulky waste headed to landfill and reduce recycling contamination	Narrative report to outline steps to influence partners and our actions to reduce overall waste	Cabinet Member for Climate Action and the Environment	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>Parishes and residents were encouraged to get involved with the Great British Spring Clean. The Vale also highlighted the activities and efforts of local groups via our social media channels.</p> <p>The council marked Global Recycling Day with a reminder for people to 'Check it before you Chuck it'.</p> <p>Easter Bank Holiday changes to waste and recycling collections were promoted via the council's normal comms channels.</p> <p>A short clip, caught on camera by a Biffa crew, that highlighted what happens when garden waste is frozen solid in a wheelie bin reached over 18,000 people when the council posted it on social media during January.</p> <p>In February, the Vale highlighted the news that it had been confirmed as having the 3rd highest recycling rate in the country. The council also publicised the changes being introduced for subscribers to the Vale's brown bin garden waste service.</p> <p>As part of the council's activities for Food Waste Action Week in March, the Vale promoted its popular Compost Giveaway and a social media competition to win a hot composter (entrants had to say what steps they had taken to reduce their food waste). Posts relating to the hot composter competition reached over 11,000 accounts and resulted in significant engagement on Facebook.</p>
TCE3.3	Develop a tree-planting strategy and work with partners to plant more trees across the district	Narrative update to include development of the tree policy and subsequent activity	Cabinet Member for Climate Action and the Environment	Head of Policy and Programmes	No progress to report for Q4 2023/24.

Theme 2: Tackling the climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
TCE3.4	Develop a Biodiversity Net Gain Targeting Strategy and contribute to a Nature Recovery Network for Oxfordshire	Narrative update on related work, including but not limited to the work to support the Oxfordshire Plan.	Cabinet Member for Climate Action and the Environment	Head of Policy and Programmes	During Q4 2023/24, the Vale continued to be actively engaged in supporting the production of the Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
TCE3.5	Work with partners to provide electric charging points in Vale car parks and at our buildings, and increase charging infrastructure across Oxfordshire	<p>A narrative update to include work to promote and develop EV infrastructure across the district.</p> <p>Quantitative element - breakdown of existing/ planned EV charging points</p>	Cabinet Member for Climate Action and the Environment	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q4 2023/24, progress continued to be made on the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Funding (LEVI) grant. The Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) received the signed grant offer letter from Oxfordshire County Council for the Funding; the county council now expect to receive the first tranche of funds by the end of April.</p> <p>A press release announcing the awarding to Oxfordshire of £3.6m in Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding to triple the number of EV chargers in the county was issued in March.</p>
TCE3.6	Take an active role in the Oxford-Cambridge arc to influence the inclusion of sustainable growth and environmental policies	A narrative update on the work of the Oxford-Cambridge arc and our influencing activity	Cabinet Member for Economic Development	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>No update required – action complete.</p> <p>The Vale does not support the development of a pan-regional partnership across the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.</p>
TCE3.7	Take an active role in the Growth Deal and the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 to influence the inclusion of sustainable growth and environmental policies	Narrative report on work to support the Oxfordshire Plan in accordance with TEC3.7	Cabinet Member for Economic Development	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>While work has ceased on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, the Vale remains involved in shaping and participating in county-wide initiatives through the Future Oxfordshire Partnership (FOP). In this forum, officers and members continue to work for the realisation of the Good Growth Principles in the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.</p> <p>During Q4 2024/25, FOP's advisory groups held discussions on items including energy planning and the updating of the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS).</p>

Theme 2: Tackling the climate emergency - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
TCE3.8	Work with local partners and Government to encourage retrofitting houses with sustainable energy schemes; help residents take advantage of schemes that come along to help with costs	Narrative report on work influencing work, comms activity and direct engagement with residents.	Cabinet Member for Climate Action and the Environment	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2023/24, the Climate & Biodiversity and Planning teams worked together to publish a new webpage explaining when planning permission/consent is need for retrofitting measures.</p> <p>The council also published a new leaflet setting out the support and funding that is available within the district for energy saving home improvements.</p> <p>Funding for retrofitting remains available to eligible households within the Vale though Oxfordshire County Council's Home Upgrade Grant.</p>

Theme 3: Building healthy communities - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
PROGRAMME 1	Building strong communities and connections, with a sense of place and strong community identity	Narrative update	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2023/24, an important milestone was reached in the development of the Joint Local Plan with the holding of a Regulation 18 public consultation – this ran between 10th January and 26th February. This asked for views on our preferred policy options and draft policies. Officers are now reviewing all the comments that were received.</p> <p>The emerging policy framework being created through the development of the Joint Local Plan will cover issues specifically relating to infrastructure and the location of homes/jobs. In addition, the spatial strategy within the emerging Joint Local Plan, as well as specific policies in relation to employment, retail, housing etc, will collectively deliver a new land use approach for the Vale.</p> <p>Progress also continued to be made on several other specialist studies that will contribute to the Joint Local Plan evidence base.</p> <p>The Vale continues to support neighbourhood planning, which helps build strong communities and provides an opportunity to establish policies which foster and protect local identity. As of 31 March 2024, there are 17 made Neighbourhood Plans in the district (two of which are currently under review). In addition, there are 10 Neighbourhood Plans currently in progress. Two of these have reached the referendum stage, one is at the independent examination stage, one has completed pre-submission consultation and the remaining six are at the plan drafting stage.</p> <p>The council remains involved in shaping and participating in county-wide initiatives through the Future Oxfordshire Partnership. In this forum, officers and members continue to work for the realisation of the Good Growth Principles in the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.</p>

Theme 3: Building healthy communities - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
BHC1.1	Review the use of Community buildings and other facilities owned or managed by the council to maximise usage, income for the council and ensure communities have spaces in which to come together.	Narrative update as to the progress/outcomes from the Strategic Property Review	Cabinet Member for Community Health and Wellbeing	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>An internal meeting regarding the use of the council's community buildings is to be held.</p> <p>The Property Assets Manager is now in post.</p>
BHC1.2	Establish a Public Arts policy	Narrative update on the progress towards developing a public arts policy	Cabinet Member for Community Health and Wellbeing	Head of Policy and Programmes	No progress to report for Q4 2023/24.
BHC1.3	Maintain and develop the council's Community Enablement function to respond to changing needs because of Covid-19	Narrative update on relevant areas of the Council response to Covid 19 as the needs/requirements change	Cabinet Member for Community Health and Wellbeing	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>The Community Hub has continued to work with the voluntary and community sector in response to the cost-of living crisis (particularly in relation to food initiatives and the provision of support for those in most need).</p> <p>The council awarded £80,831 to 18 organisations through its Food and Warmth Grant scheme.</p> <p>Also, in Q4, the Leader of the Council approved Partnership Grant awards totalling £760,000 over a five-year period (2024/25 to 2028/29) to Citizens Advice and Vale Community Impact.</p>

Theme 3: Building healthy communities - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
BHC1.4	Work with others to promote Active Travel and support the development of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure plans to help shape new developments that link homes to work, recreation and social spaces within communities	<p>Narrative report on the work with partners to promote active travel and encouragement of cycling and walking infrastructure</p> <p>Quantitative measure of amount of new footpaths/ cycle paths approved since last report/YTD etc.</p>	Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, Infrastructure, Development and Governance	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>Following the approval of the Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) in Decemember 2023, this quarter officers have continued to work with OCC colleagues to coordinate recommendations and priorities for active travel schemes across a variety of different capital programmes. Including the Didcot Central Corridor and Northern Permitter Road Phase 3.</p> <p>The Didcot Wayfinding and Green Infrastructure Strategies were developed to the final stages this quarter and will be considered to be approved by South Cabinet next quarter, which ties in with promoting the accessibility to active travel methods and connectivity.</p>
BHC1.5	Develop planning policies to ensure careful consideration of the effect of air pollution on the lives of people who will live there	<p>Narrative update to include information relevant to BHC1.5,</p> <p>Quantitative measure - the number of neighbourhood plans and the stage they are current at</p>	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2023/24, the council continued its pilot project on a simpler approach to neighbourhood planning. The project provides the opportunity – if they wish – for communities to explore how to tackle air quality issues locally. Officers met regularly with the pilot groups providing one-to-one support. They also brought the different groups together to collaborate and share experiences.</p> <p>As of 31 March 2024, there are 17 made Neighbourhood Plans in the district (two of which are currently under review).</p> <p>In addition, there are 10 Neighbourhood Plans currently in progress. Two of these have reached the referendum stage, one is at the independent examination stage, one has completed pre-submission consultation and the remaining six are at the plan drafting stage.</p>

Theme 3: Building healthy communities - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
BHC1.6	Update the Air Quality Management Action Plans for the Vale's air pollution hotspots; Work with Oxfordshire County Council to improve how we measure and report air pollution and how we will work with schools and community groups to raise awareness of our clean air campaigns	Narrative update on activity related to BHC 1.6	Cabinet Member for Climate Action and the Environment	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>During Q4 2023/24, the Vale's new Air Quality Action Plan was approved by the Licensing Committee. Officers are now reviewing how and when the annual update should be reported.</p> <p>Real Time Air Quality Data for sites within Vale of White Horse is available at: www.airqualityengland.co.uk</p> <p>Local information is also available at: www.oxonair.uk/</p>
PROGRAMME 2	Promoting healthy place shaping and active communities, for everyone	Narrative update	Cabinet Member for Community Health and Wellbeing	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>The Vale now has 1,770 people signed up to the 'You Move' project (aimed at families with children and in receipt of benefits). It also has 1,581 people enrolled on the 'Move Together' project (designed to help people with long-term health conditions become more active).</p> <p>During Q4 2023/24, an important milestone was reached in the development of the Joint Local Plan with the holding of a Regulation 18 public consultation – this ran between 10th January and 26th February. This asked for views on our preferred policy options and draft policies including those relating healthy place shaping and active communities. Officers are now reviewing all the comments that were received.</p> <p>Progress also continued to be made on several other specialist studies that will contribute to the Joint Local Plan evidence base.</p>

Theme 3: Building healthy communities - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
BHC2.1	Produce an Active communities strategy; setting out how the council will work with our communities and partners and enable everyone to participate in physical activities	Narrative update on progress against strategy development and work with partners to encourage involvement in physical activities	Cabinet Member for Community Health and Wellbeing	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2023/24, the Active Communities team have worked with several different partners to widen the council's offer to residents. For example, we have been working with One Planet Abingdon, Makespace Arts and Asylum Welcome as well as several mental health charities (including His Mind and Sport in Mind).</p> <p>After developing stronger links with local surgeries, the Active Communities team also continues to partner with GPs and other social prescribers.</p>
BHC2.2	Work with Active Oxfordshire to target get active projects in our most deprived communities	Narrative update on proposals form Active Oxfordshire	Cabinet Member for Community Health and Wellbeing	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>The Vale continues to collaborate with Active Oxfordshire to improve the health and wellbeing of the district's residents – especially those in the most deprived areas.</p> <p>The Vale now has 1,770 people signed up to the 'You Move' project (aimed at families with children and in receipt of benefits). It also has 1,581 people enrolled on the 'Move Together' project (designed to help people with long-term health conditions become more active).</p>
BHC2.3	Promote use of the Council's public green spaces for exercise and activity.	Narrative update on the work to promote green spaces for exercise and activity	Cabinet Member for Community Health and Wellbeing	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2023/24, work continued on installing 'Nature Trails' in South Abingdon. This has now almost been completed and residents have started to utilise these routes – the final installations will be completed later in the year. The 'Nature Trails' maps are now available locally and also online.</p> <p>Progress continued to be made finalising the process for external applicants to use green spaces for community gardens.</p>

Theme 3: Building healthy communities - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
BHC2.4	Identify councils owned land for community gardening and allotments projects	Narrative update on the work/outcomes from the Strategic Property Review	Cabinet Member for Community Health and Wellbeing	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q4 2023/24, work continued on finalising the process for external applicants to use green spaces for community gardens.</p> <p>Officers also started project planning to update and expand the council's existing tree planting policy.</p>
BHC2.5	Active engagement with the Oxfordshire Health Improvement Board and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ensure the Vale has strong representation in countywide health forums	Narrative update on work with the Oxfordshire Health Improvement Board/Health overview and Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Member for Community Health and Wellbeing	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>The Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 8 February 2024 and received papers on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Central Ambulance Service CQC Improvements. • John Radcliffe Hospital CQC Improvements. • An update from Healthwatch Oxfordshire. • The Director of Public Health's Annual Report. <p>The Health Improvement Partnership Board met on 29 February 2024 and considered reports on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance monitoring of the current Oxfordshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. • An update from Healthwatch Oxfordshire. • Healthy weight services development. • The Oxfordshire Food Strategy. • A physical activity update by Active Oxfordshire • An update on the Oxfordshire Tobacco Control Strategy. <p>The Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board met on 14 March 2024 and received papers on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Director of Public Health's Annual Report. • Health and Wellbeing Strategy Outcomes Framework and Delivery Plan. • Community Profiles update • Place-based research collaboration in Oxfordshire. • Primary Care Strategy. • Planning for the next JSNA. • An update from Healthwatch Oxfordshire. • Reports from Partnership Boards of Place, HIB, and the Children's Trust.

Theme 3: Building healthy communities - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
PROGRAMME 3	Safeguarding and supporting our vulnerable residents	Narrative report on support provided by the VCS and potentially the number of properties approved with special adaptations (drawn from AMR data, available annually)	Cabinet Member for Community Health and Wellbeing	Head of Legal and Democratic	<p>During Q4 2023/24, 22 safeguarding concerns were raised with the council – the majority of these were for poor mental health, neglect and domestic abuse. 12 of these resulted in referrals to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), the Oxfordshire Adult Safeguarding Teams and the Anti-Slavery Coordinator.</p> <p>Three new closure orders were issued during Q4 (a closure order acts to safeguard access to properties where vulnerable tenants are being exploited).</p>
BHC3.1	Work as part of the South and Vale Community Safety Partnership on the agreed priorities: tackling Domestic abuse; exploitation of vulnerable people and children (including modern slavery, county lines); and reducing knife crime, harm and vulnerability caused by drugs and alcohol	Narrative report on work with partners, to include relevant published statistics as quantitative measure for information	Cabinet Member for Community Health and Wellbeing	Head of Legal and Democratic	<p>The data from the domestic abuse service for Quarter 4 2023/24 will be available in Q1 2024/25.</p> <p>During Q3 2023/24, the countywide service saw a further rise in the number of cases. There were increases in the number of clients who were rough sleeping, dealing with drug issues and suffering with mental health issues.</p> <p>In Q4 2023/24, there were also 18 referrals to the South and Vale domestic abuse sanctuary scheme.</p>
BHC3.2	Develop a new framework on vulnerability, responding to changes in needs arising from the Covid-19 pandemic	Narrative update on related work	Cabinet Member for Community Health and Wellbeing	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>The Community Hub has continued to work with the voluntary and community sector in response to the cost-of living crisis (particularly in relation to food initiatives and the provision of support for those in most need).</p> <p>The council awarded £80,831 to 18 organisations through its Food and Warmth Grant scheme.</p> <p>Also, in Q4, the Leader of the Council approved Partnership Grant awards totalling £760,000 over a five-year period (2024/25 to 2028/29) to Citizens Advice and Vale Community Impact.</p>
BHC3.3	Review and Revise the Joint Taxi Licensing Policy	Narrative update on the JTLP	Cabinet Member for Community Health and Wellbeing	Head of Legal and Democratic	No update required - action complete.

Theme 3: Building healthy communities - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
BHC3.4	Take a key role in countywide homelessness prevention and provision for young people, those with mental health conditions and review of adult homelessness pathway	<p>Narrative update on influencing/partnership activity, new initiatives.</p> <p>Quantitative update on successful homelessness cases + other homelessness stats, TA stats including average length of stay etc.</p>	Cabinet Member for Community Health and Wellbeing	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>Vale of White Horse recorded four rough sleepers at the end of Q4 2023/24 – an increase on the previous quarter. This is an indication of the mounting demands upon the housing service and the upward trend in rough sleeping nationally.</p> <p>The number of homeless households in temporary accommodation (TA) on 31 March 2024 was 24 – a slight increase on the previous quarter and a reflection of the rising number of homelessness presentations.</p> <p>During 2023/24, the Vale has seen a record number of homelessness approaches (586). This has been caused by a combination of factors including the cost-of-living crisis and the decline in availability of affordable private rented properties.</p> <p>The rolling six-month average length of stay in emergency accommodation was 43 nights, marginally higher than the council's ceiling target of 42 nights.</p> <p>During Q4 2023/24, the rate of successful homelessness prevention in the Vale was 71.0 per cent (a significant increase on the previous quarter). Although this was below the council's own very challenging target of 80.0 per cent, it remains considerably above the South East prevention rate of 51.0 per cent. The most likely outcome for households where homelessness is not prevented is a stay in emergency or temporary accommodation which is both disruptive for the household and expensive for the council.</p> <p>The council continues to actively participate in numerous countywide partnerships to tackle homelessness in Oxfordshire. The Vale is a member of the countywide Homelessness Steering Group, the Young Persons Steering Group, the Joint Management Group of Alliance Homelessness Services and the Homelessness Directors Group.</p> <p>Progress continues to be made on the Countywide Homelessness Strategy Action Plan to tackle single person homelessness in Oxfordshire.</p>

Theme 4: Building stable finances - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
PROGRAMME 1	Explore and actively consider all avenues to deliver financial stability, including maximising income available to the council	Narrative update on initiatives to deliver financial stability and maximise income across the Council	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property	Head of Finance	During Q4 2023/24, and following the conclusion of the council's budget setting activity, the Vale agreed a balanced budget for the next financial year. Furthermore, the approved budget also made a contribution to the council's financial reserves.
BSF1.1	Introduce an Investment Strategy and associated Investment Policy which gives the Council greater ability to invest in a wider range of assets to maximise its return on capital and therefore improve its income	Narrative update on the introduction of an introduction of the investment strategy and subsequent decision-making around investing	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property	Head of Finance	No progress to report Q4 2023/24.
BSF1.2	Commit resources to identify more third-party income, including government and other grants, to help pay for our services	Narrative update as to current initiatives to increase external funding for Council activities, with details of additional resources committed to support these activities	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2023/24, Oxfordshire County Council – in partnership with Oxford City Council and West Oxfordshire, Cherwell, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils – successfully submitted a bid to receive £3.655m in Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding to develop EV charging infrastructure across the county.</p> <p>In conjunction with South Oxfordshire, the Vale submitted a proposal to Innovate UK to fund a research project to trial an electric refuse collection vehicle for recycling and household waste.</p> <p>Officers have been developing a bid for approximately £500k to the Football Foundation to fund an Astroturf Pitch at Faringdon Leisure Centre. If successful, this will help to release previously allocated CIL funding.</p> <p>Work has also been undertaken on a bid for Low Carbon Skills Funding (Phase 5) that would be used to develop heat decarbonisation plans.</p>

Theme 4: Building stable finances - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
BSF1.3	Identify opportunities to generate additional income from our services and assets and review these annually as part of the budget setting process	Narrative describing activity/ referring to programme 1 narrative	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property	Head of Finance	Following the conclusion of budget setting activity (which included a review of the council's revenue budgets and capital programme), the Vale agreed a balanced budget for the next financial year. Furthermore, the approved budget also made a contribution to the council's financial reserves.
BSF1.4	Review the schedule of existing contracts to identifying opportunities for rationalisation and savings	Narrative update initially detailing BAU activity to support this aim, until specific project is kicked off at which point reporting would be based on the project activity	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property	Head of Finance	No progress to report Q4 2023/24. The first stage of the project on updating the Vale's contract register is scheduled to commence in Q1 2024/25.
BSF1.5	Upgrade the council's finance IT systems to improve functionality and support in-year budget monitoring	Narrative report on the implementation of new systems, and then a yearly light-touch review	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property	Head of Finance	No progress to report Q4 2023/24. Due to illness and staff availability issues, it is now intended that CIPFA will share their findings with core SMT during Q1 2024/25.
BSF1.6	Lobby for the ability to set our Council Tax at a level that can sustain council services while seeking opportunities to reduce council tax for those on the lowest incomes	Narrative report covering external influencing/lobbying work (and work with partners) and additionally, relevant information pertaining to Council Tax decisions within the Council	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property	Head of Policy and Programmes	No progress to report Q4 2023/24.
BSF1.7	Lobby for a fairer distribution of government funding and more devolution of funding to councils to sustain essential local services	Narrative report detailing lobbying activity over the period and any successes occurring as a result	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property	Head of Policy and Programmes	No progress to report Q4 2023/24.

Theme 4: Building stable finances - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
PROGRAMME 2	Make effective use of the council's assets acting in a manner that ensures the long-term financial viability for the benefit of our residents and the environment	Narrative report on the progress of the Strategic Property review and other relevant initiatives	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	The Strategic Property Review was completed during 2021/22. No further progress on related initiatives to report Q4 2023/24.
BSF2.1	Develop a comprehensive and ethical Procurement Policy that reflects our corporate goals and aims	Narrative update reporting on completion of activity and an annual review of success	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property	Head of Finance	No progress to report Q4 2023/24. There are no plans to update the recently introduced procurement policy.
BSF2.2	Conduct a Strategic Property Review to identify opportunities to enhance, redevelop, transfer the councils assets to maximise income and/or benefit to the district	Narrative report on the progress of the SPR	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	No update required - action complete.
BSF2.3	Complete an asset management plan to provide a comprehensive policy to inform how assets may be most efficiently maintained	Narrative report on progress of this within the SPR	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	During Q4 2023/24, a report on the Strategic Property Review was presented and assessed at Cabinet briefing. An asset management plan will now be developed.
BSF2.4	Undertake a full review of all leases and licences to ensure council income is collected when due and maximised	Narrative report on progress of this within the SPR	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	No update required - action complete.
BSF2.5	Undertake a detailed review of the financial position of the Beacon in Wantage and determine what changes to its operations can be made to improve its viability	Narrative update on the review of financial position of the Beacon	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	In February, the Cabinet endorsed a development action plan (alongside five further recommendations) for the Beacon.

Theme 4: Building stable finances - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
BSF2.6	Insource our grounds maintenance and public conveniences contracts to save funds and increase flexibility over how our public spaces are used and managed	Narrative update on the activities of the new insourced team and the initiatives being undertaken	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q4 2023/24, work continued on the review of the Grounds Maintenance team. This evaluation – being undertaken by the Transformation team – is currently making progress against the following deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • standardised council term and conditions. • the use of Concerto. • workable KPIs. • research as to how other authorities manage their grounds maintenance services. • breakdown of service costs and charges.

Theme 5: Working in partnership - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
PROGRAMME 1	Work in partnership to influence and shape regional and national agendas to maximise opportunities for our communities and businesses	Narrative report on work with partners across the organisation which will maximise opportunities for communities and businesses	Cabinet Member for Communications	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2023/24, officers continued to contribute to the Oxfordshire Asylum Support system. The council takes a strong partnership approach to both 'Moving On' accommodation and the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Programme (ARAP). The Vale is currently working with the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the Home Office to deliver transitional accommodation for the ARAP residents following the closure of bridging hotels and is now providing housing and community integration support for over 30 Afghan families in MoD housing.</p> <p>Officers from the council have also contributed to discussions at the South East Migration Partnership aimed at coordinating approaches with the Home Office across the asylum system.</p> <p>The Vale remains involved in shaping and participating in countywide initiatives through the Future Oxfordshire Partnership. In this forum, officers and members continue to work for the realisation of the Good Growth Principles in the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.</p> <p>The Economic Development team have maintained their connection to the working group overseeing the development of the emerging Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) for Oxfordshire. Following endorsement of the SEP by the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership's (OxLEP) board, work has now started by OxLEP on the creation of an action plan.</p> <p>The team have also continued to liaise with countywide counterparts via the Joint Oxfordshire Business Support (JOBS) group and with the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy steering group.</p>

Theme 5: Working in partnership - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
WIP1.1	Create a partnerships protocol. Map our current partnerships and assess the effectiveness of each. Clarify which local, regional, and national partnerships Vale needs to have an active presence in and focus resource accordingly.	Narrative update on the position of this work and an annual review after it's completion	Cabinet Member for Communications	Head of Policy and Programmes	No update required – action complete.
WIP1.2	Develop an enhanced consultations strategy and process to ensure we respond to consultations and proactively lobby national government and other bodies on matters that impact our corporate priorities	<p>Narrative update on proactive work to lobby govt and key organisations, update on key consultations responded to within the period.</p> <p>Quantitative -- Number of consultations replied to.</p>	Cabinet Member for Communications	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2023/24, the Vale responded to the following external consultations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office for Local Government (Oflog): consultation on draft Corporate Plan 2024 to 2027. • Oxfordshire County Council's Vision Zero Draft Strategy consultation. • DLUHC's Future Homes and Buildings Standards: 2023 consultation. • DLUHC's Building Safety Levy consultation. • DLUHC's Street Vote Development Orders consultation. • Reading Borough Council's Local Plan Partial Update consultation.
WIP1.3	Create a framework that sets out how we will engage with developers, other councils, and members to maximise opportunities for our priorities to shape development	Narrative update on the work of planning and engagement activity	Cabinet Member for Planning and Development Management	Master Planning Lead	During Q4 2023/24, meetings have been held with developers, promoters and public/private landowners. Officers have also continued to connect with members, town/parish councils, other interested stakeholders, Oxfordshire County Council and Homes England. These events have focussed on the delivery of new homes, employment floorspace and supporting infrastructure, including green space, and are part of the Vale's framework of coordinated activity in this area.

Theme 5: Working in partnership - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
WIP1.4	Work with businesses to undertake economic development review to ensure that council is providing support to SMEs, homebased businesses, supporting skills development, and ensuring that businesses are playing a role in place making	<p>A narrative report of activity to undertake an economic development review and details of how the Council is supporting SME's at this time.</p> <p>Quantitative information from CRM detailing number of businesses engaged with</p>	Cabinet Member for Communications	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q4 2023/24, Economic Development led the Vale's adoption of three pledges from the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economic Partnership's Charter. Two of these (regarding the social value that a supplier can offer the local community and the buying of goods/services from purposeful local organisations) will directly affect how the council does business with local SMEs. Work to implement these pledges will accelerate in Q1 2024/25.</p> <p>The draft findings of the research study (being undertaken by Oxford Brookes) on understanding the net zero challenge for SMEs in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse were presented to officers. The final report is expected in Q1 2024/25 and will help to inform the solutions to be commissioned by the council via UK Shared Prosperity Funding.</p> <p>Five grant awards ranging from £1,000 to £28,000 were made under the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). Projects supported include a fork-to-farm eco-friendly courier project.</p> <p>Economic Development opened applications for the Business Recovery Grant offering support to those affected by flooding during Storm Henk.</p>

Theme 5: Working in partnership - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
WIP1.5	Strengthen any existing network of local business groups to increase awareness of the council's ED programmes and communication throughout the district	Detail engagement with small business newsletter, number of recipients, clickthrough	Cabinet Member for Communications	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>During Q4 2023/24, Economic Development sent out 11 newsletters. These achieved a 50.0 per cent open rate and a 15.0 per cent clickthrough rate. The most popular link was the survey being undertaken by Oxford Brookes on understanding the net zero challenge for SMEs in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. At the end of the quarter, the Economic Development newsletter has 2,502 subscribers (+9 on the figure for Q3).</p> <p>On social media, 79 posts were shared by Economic Development via X/Twitter. While the analytics tools on X/Twitter are not fully functional, these, nevertheless, gained 4,194 impressions and 163 engagements. On Facebook, Economic Development shared 79 posts. These earned 7,200 impressions, 84 engagements and five new followers.</p> <p>The council's Economic Development webpages received 360 clicks throughout the quarter. The most popular concerned United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Funding.</p> <p>Between January and March, the Economic Development team received 192 enquiries via the business support inbox.</p>

Theme 5: Working in partnership - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
WIP1.6	Input into countywide and Arc-wide economic recovery plans to maximise understanding of the local impact of Covid-19 and to help shape the support available to our local economy	Narrative update on activity supporting WIP 1.5	Cabinet Member for Communications	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>The Vale remains involved in shaping and participating in countywide initiatives through the Future Oxfordshire Partnership. In this forum, officers and members continue to work for the realisation of the Good Growth Principles in the Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.</p> <p>The Economic Development team have maintained their connection to the working group overseeing the development of the emerging Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) for Oxfordshire. Following endorsement of the SEP by the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership's (OxLEP) board, work has now started by OxLEP on the creation of an action plan.</p> <p>The team have also continued to liaise with countywide counterparts via the Joint Oxfordshire Business Support (JOBS) group and with the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy steering group.</p> <p>In, Q4, officers have attended workshops – facilitated by the county council – on anchor institution procurement in the region.</p> <p>The Vale wrote a letter of support for the UK Atomic Energy Authority's bid for "place-based accelerator" funding from UK Research and Innovation to establish a cluster specialising in robotics for nuclear decommissioning. This letter detailed the support that would be offered by the council if the money was secured.</p>
WIP1.7	Work with Oxfordshire County Council to introduce civil parking enforcement for the Vale	Narrative update on progress in this area, if impacts are seen in other areas as a result of this activity, those impacts should be included (PnD parking income for example)	Cabinet Member for Communications	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	No update required – action complete.

Theme 5: Working in partnership - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
PROGRAMME 2	Work with and support our residents, businesses and communities to effect and enable change	<p>Narrative update on work with Parish Councils, particularly relating to the transfer of management of assets. Update on other activity that directly supports residents and business effecting change</p> <p>Quantitative elements - number of neighbourhood plans adopted, number of community initiatives undertaken, breakdown of assets where management has been transferred</p>	Cabinet Member for Communications	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2023/24, the council continued its pilot project on a simpler approach to neighbourhood planning. The project provides the opportunity – if they wish – for communities to explore how to tackle air quality issues locally. Officers met regularly with the pilot groups providing one-to-one support. They also brought the different groups together to collaborate and share experiences.</p> <p>As of 31 March 2024, there are 17 made Neighbourhood Plans in the district (two of which are currently under review). In addition, there are 10 Neighbourhood Plans currently in progress. Two of these have reached the referendum stage, one is at the independent examination stage, one has completed pre-submission consultation and the remaining six are at the plan drafting stage.</p> <p>The Community Hub continued to work with the voluntary and community sector in response to the cost-of-living crisis (particularly in relation to food initiatives and the provision of support for those in most need).</p>

Theme 5: Working in partnership - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
WIP2.1	Support new business start-ups and support schemes for businesses and residents through post Covid-19 economic recovery initiatives, by implementing the "Opening Up High Streets Safely Fund" and associated schemes	Narrative update on support schemes for businesses and residents. Updates on any relevant schemes should be included	Cabinet Member for Economic Development	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	<p>Economic Development opened applications for the Business Recovery Grant offering support to those affected by flooding during Storm Henk.</p> <p>The draft findings of the research study (being undertaken by Oxford Brookes) on understanding the net zero challenge for SMEs in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse were presented to officers. The final report is expected in Q1 2024/25 and will help to inform the solutions to be commissioned by the council via UK Shared Prosperity Funding.</p> <p>Five grant awards ranging from £1,000 to £28,000 were made under the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). Projects supported include a fork-to-farm eco-friendly courier project.</p> <p>Also, in Q4, a short-term action plan to support the visitor economy was finalised. This focused upon tangible support schemes for businesses operating in the sector and established an improved digital promotional presence that can be directly managed by Economic Development.</p>

Theme 5: Working in partnership - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
WIP2.2	Find ways to elevate the understanding of and promote Neighbourhood Plans in planning decisions with a review of development appraisal and communications with all parties prior to an application coming to committee	<p>Narrative update on activity to support and promote Neighbourhood plan adoption.</p> <p>Quantitative measure - number of Neighbourhood plans adopted</p>	Cabinet Member for Economic Development	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2023/24 officers have continued to use internal planning communications to confirm the progress of new neighbourhood plans and the appropriate weight they carry when determining planning applications. All relevant parish councils are informed of the council's decision to progress and make neighbourhood plans – webpages are then updated accordingly.</p> <p>During Q4, the Vale continued its pilot project on a simpler approach to neighbourhood planning. Officers met regularly with the pilot groups, providing one-to-one support. They also brought them together to collaborate and share experiences.</p> <p>As of 31 March 2024, there are 17 made Neighbourhood Plans in the district (two of which are currently under review). In addition, there are 10 Neighbourhood Plans currently in progress. Two of these have reached the referendum stage, one is at the independent examination stage, one has completed pre-submission consultation and the remaining six are at the plan drafting stage.</p>

Theme 5: Working in partnership - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
WIP2.3	Review the planning committee process to identify ways to maximise public understanding, engagement and participation as well as supporting member input into the committee meetings with opportunities for training and development	<p>Narrative update on activities to review and promote the activities and understanding of the planning committee.</p> <p>Quantitative elements - Online engagement figures relating to the planning portal/planning sections of the website.</p>	Cabinet Member for Planning and Development Management	Head of Planning	<p>During Q4 2023/24, the Vale maintained the processes that had been developed around the Planning Committee. This meant that the Weekly Chair Briefing sessions continued – including debriefs on the meetings of the Committee.</p> <p>In addition, the Chair and the Deputy Chair, along with the Development Manager, have regularly reviewed all call-in requests to determine whether they should be referred to the Planning Committee.</p> <p>The Vale have also continued with the Town and Parish Council Surgeries during Q4 2023/24.</p> <p>Officers continue, where differing views exist, to advise town and parish councils of their recommendations on planning applications. This helps to explain why decisions are being made and improves partnership working between the Vale and these organisations.</p> <p>Four Planning Committee meetings were held between January and March 2023.</p> <p>24.01.2024 - 90 views 13.02.2024 - 48 views 06.03.2024 - 22 views 27.03.2024 - 99 views</p>
WIP2.4	Review developer contribution collection and spend policy and improve ward member and parish council involvement with a clear timetable that is triggered by officers, with improved communication from the council	<p>A narrative update on activities relating to the spend of CIL</p> <p>Quantitative element - Breakdown of CIL spend by type/amount/area</p>	Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, Infrastructure, Development and Governance	Head of Finance	<p>Following approval by the council as part of the budget setting process, four new infrastructure projects were allocated CIL funding (totalling £857,157) in the 2024/25 capital programme.</p>

Theme 5: Working in partnership - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
WIP2.5	Refresh our community grants scheme and introduce a Community Lottery to raise funds for groups to develop in line with our corporate objectives	Narrative report on activity relating to new community grants, information relating to the implementation of the Community Lottery, and once implemented performance metrics	Cabinet Member for Communications	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2023/24, the council continued to support the White Horse Community Lottery Scheme. Throughout the quarter, 11,673 lottery tickets were sold generating an annual estimated income of £22,579 for the voluntary sector.</p> <p>Also, in Q4, the Leader of the Council approved Partnership Grant awards totalling £760,000 over a five-year period (2024/25 to 2028/29) to Citizens Advice and Vale Community Impact.</p>

Theme 6: Working in an open and inclusive way - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
PROGRAMME 1	Improve our use of technology to increase understanding and access to what we do, how we work and the decisions we make.	Narrative update on any work relating to technological implementation/adaptation and processes making greater use of existing technology to bring about efficiency or increase accessibility.	Cabinet Member for Communications	Head of Corporate Services	<p>During Q4 2023/24, officers continued to test the 'report it' functionality of the Customer Relationship Management System (CRM) to automate reports of enviro-crimes e.g., fly tipping. This has involved close collaboration between Customer Services, IT and Waste teams.</p> <p>The Communications team have also continued to explore and develop the council's presence on several social media platforms (NextDoor, WhatsApp, LinkedIn etc).</p> <p>The Vale continued to develop and run surveys/consultations using the council's new online engagement platform. In addition to making it easier for residents to respond, the new platform also allows officers to upload supporting information and background documents.</p>
WIOI1.1	Provide and maintain a new Vale website with increased accessibility to services and information, on multiple devices	Quantitative report on website usage	Cabinet Member for Communications	Head of Corporate Services	<p>During Q4 2023/24, the Vale saw growth across its website stats. There were increases in the number of unique visitors (+16.0%), total visits (+18.0%) and the number of page views (+23.0%). This growth may have been driven by several factors (better signposting, increased reach on Instagram etc).</p> <p>Q4 also saw a slight decrease in bounce rate and a negligible drop in the number of views per visit.</p> <p>Q4 Web Usage Figures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 193,927 unique visitors – (+16.3%) • 220,704 total visits – (+18.0%) • 507,196 page views – (+23.0%) • 2.3 pages per visit • 54.0% bounce rate • 2m 1s visit duration

Theme 6: Working in an open and inclusive way - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
WIO11.2	Develop our use of social media platforms to reach and engage with more residents and local businesses	<p>Narrative report on new social media initiatives</p> <p>Quantitative report on social media engagement</p>	Cabinet Member for Communications	Head of Corporate Services	<p>On Facebook, the Vale's reach has increased by 22.0% - despite a tiny increase in posts (+4) on the previous quarter. This demonstrates better reach per post. The council also gained an extra 78 followers in Q4.</p> <p>Facebook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach – 139,509 (+22.0%) • Posts – 234 (+4) • New Followers – 308 (+78) • Total Followers – 8,052 (+4.0%) <p>The Vale's reach on Instagram increased by 900.00% in Q4. This was driven by some great content on waste disposal that really caught people's attention. The communications team will hope to build on this success.</p> <p>Instagram</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach – 5,681 (+900.00%) • Posts – 141 (+31) • New Followers – 70 • Total Followers – 810 <p>The changes introduced since the takeover of Twitter/X continue to negatively impact upon this channel. Currently its analytics are missing several key metrics as it "makes improvements" and so it is not possible to produce reliable comparable quarterly figures.</p> <p>Twitter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impressions – 69k • Engagement – 2.0% <p>The Vale continues to develop and grow its presence on NextDoor – a more hyperlocal social media platform.</p> <p>(update continues on page 65)</p>

Theme 6: Working in an open and inclusive way - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
WIOI1.2	Develop our use of social media platforms to reach and engage with more residents and local businesses	<p>Narrative report on new social media initiatives</p> <p>Quantitative report on social media engagement</p>	Cabinet Member for Communications	Head of Corporate Services	<p>Furthermore, the council has rolled out WhatsApp Channels which provides a direct news service to subscribers. Early signs have been encouraging and officers are now exploring creating dedicated channels for specific service areas with high demand e.g., waste services.</p> <p>The Vale is also exploring how to better utilise LinkedIn to engage with local businesses.</p>
WIOI1.3	Introduce live streaming and recordings of public meetings to increase accessibility and understanding of the democratic process	<p>Number/Percentage of public meetings streamed live</p> <p>Number/percentage of public meetings available to watch online</p>	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Legal and Democratic	With the exception of the Full Council (due to logistical/ IT issues), all other meetings during Q4 2023/24 were livestreamed (they will also remain available to view on the council's YouTube channel for a year).
WIOI1.4	Review the current use of online surveys assessing their take up over time, and by subject, as well as reviewing survey design	Narrative update on survey utilisation/progress towards this review/ details of any particularly successful surveys	Cabinet Member for Communications	Head of Corporate Services	<p>During Q4 2023/24, the Vale continued to develop and run surveys/consultations using the council's new online engagement platform. In addition to making it easier for residents to respond, the new platform also allows officers to upload supporting information and background documents.</p> <p>Also, in Q4, work started on drafting the 2023/24 Annual Consultation and Engagement Report. This will include comparison data on the number of responses the council has received to surveys and consultations. It will also provide a breakdown of respondent types. This information will then be used to highlight any gaps/challenges that may exist.</p>

Theme 6: Working in an open and inclusive way - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
PROGRAMME 2	Increase meaningful engagement and communication with everyone	Narrative update on successful communication initiatives	Cabinet Member for Communications	Head of Corporate Services	<p>During Q4 2023/24, the Vale held a public consultation on the Joint Local Plan. As part of this work, ten community drop-in events were held. These were designed to take the consultation out to the residents of the district.</p> <p>In addition, a special by-invitation gathering for community groups that the council has traditionally failed to reach took place in February.</p> <p>The council promoted free and low-cost activities for kids and families over the February half-term and the Easter holidays.</p> <p>Press releases were produced on several important issues/ topics during Q4 – including the adoption of a new Air Quality Plan, the future of the Beacon, the introduction of Biodiversity Net Gain, the passing of the council's budget for 2024/25 and the two-year anniversary of the war in Ukraine.</p> <p>The Vale designed and then distributed the 2024-25 waste leaflet to all homes within the district – either through the post (alongside the household's council tax bill) or via their e-bill notification.</p> <p>The Vale published and promoted the council's new waste calendar. By the end of March more than 8,600 visits had been made to the waste calendar webpage. In addition, the council relaunched the option of downloading the calendar into iCal/Google Calendar.</p> <p>Parishes and residents were encouraged to get involved with the Great British Spring Clean. The Vale also highlighted the activities and efforts of local groups via our social media channels.</p> <p>(update continues on page 67)</p>

Theme 6: Working in an open and inclusive way - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
PROGRAMME 2	Increase meaningful engagement and communication with everyone	Narrative update on successful communication initiatives	Cabinet Member for Communications	Head of Corporate Services	<p>The council marked Global Recycling Day with a reminder for people to 'Check it before you Chuck it'.</p> <p>A short clip, caught on camera by a Biffa crew, that highlighted what happens when garden waste is frozen solid in a wheelie bin reached over 18,000 people when the council posted it on social media during January.</p> <p>In February, the Vale highlighted the news that it had been confirmed as having the 3rd highest recycling rate in the county. The council also publicised the changes being introduced for subscribers to the Vale's brown bin garden waste service.</p> <p>As part of the council's activities for Food Waste Action Week in March, the Vale promoted its popular Compost Giveaway and a social media competition to win a hot composter (entrants had to say what steps they had taken to reduce their food waste). Posts relating to the hot composter competition reached over 11,000 accounts and resulted in significant engagement on Facebook.</p>
WIOI2.1	Ensure the creation of community liaison groups form part of all early stages of development planning, to understand local infrastructure needs and support community cohesion	<p>Narrative update on the creation and utilisation of community liaison groups and the development of the policy</p> <p>Quantitative measure - number of community liaison groups</p>	Cabinet Member for Communications	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>During Q4 2023/24, the Vale held a public consultation on the Joint Local Plan. As part of this work, ten community drop-in events were held. These were designed to take the consultation out to the residents of the district.</p> <p>In addition, a special by-invitation gathering for community groups that the council has traditionally failed to reach took place in February.</p> <p>No community liaison groups were established between January and March.</p>

Theme 6: Working in an open and inclusive way - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
WIOI2.2	Refresh Town and Parish Forums so they are more interactive and useful for communities and develop the Connecting Communities Policy	Narrative update on Town and Parish Forums and the development of the connected communities policy	Cabinet Member for Communications	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>In Q4 2023/24, the Climate and Engagement teams launched a survey to find out where town and parishes were in their climate journeys and also what support they would like from the council. As part of this exercise, respondents were asked for their preferences in relation to the type/manner of interactions they have with the council e.g., online or face-to-face-meetings. This information will be reviewed to determine how best to proceed.</p> <p>The Vale is also awaiting the outcome of the county council's town and parish charter work before embarking on any new formal programme of town and parish forums – this is to ensure that our work in this area is aligned.</p>
WIOI2.3	Work with communities, schools and other local organisations on shared campaigns and initiatives that help further our corporate objectives	Narrative update on comms and engagement activities which interface with communities, schools and other local organisations	Cabinet Member for Communications	Head of Corporate Services	During Q4 2023/24, sessions were held with sixth form students at Abingdon & Witney College and UTC (University Technical College) as part of the Joint Local Plan consultation. This provided an opportunity for meaningful dialogue with young adults about their views and priorities.
WIOI2.4	Reinstating residents surveys in a refreshed form - deliver effective ways for the public to have their say, to reach more people, mechanisms for feedback, more timely dialogue, educate and provide subject matter information to facilitate opinions being more informed	Narrative update to be provided on the progress of this work	Cabinet Member for Communications	Head of Corporate Services	<p>During Q4 2023/24, the Vale continued to develop and run surveys/consultations using the council's new online engagement platform. In addition to making it easier for residents to respond, the new platform also allows officers to upload supporting information and background documents.</p> <p>Also, in Q4, work started on drafting the 2023/24 Annual Consultation and Engagement Report. This will include data on the council's level of engagement with different communities and demographics. This information will then be used to highlight any gaps/challenges that the Vale may be having in interacting with hard-to-reach and under-represented groups.</p>

Theme 6: Working in an open and inclusive way - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
WIOI2.5	Explore initiatives to increase voter registration and turnout levels at elections, especially amongst young people	Narrative update on individual initiatives and opportunities to encourage voter registration	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Corporate Services	<p>During Q4 2023/24, the council provided a variety of communications materials (including posters and content for newsletters) to parishes, community groups and businesses to share with residents. These materials are intended to encourage people to register to vote and to remind them of the need for voter ID.</p> <p>The Vale has also used social media channels to reach residents about the forthcoming election. This has included promoting the council's guide for first time voters.</p> <p>In January, the Vale encouraged sixth forms and youth groups to take part in 'Welcome to Your Vote' week.</p>
WIOI2.6	Ensure council's consultations engage specifically with young people and other under-represented groups	A narrative report with input from the engagement/comms teams and the equalities officer on activity to encourage these groups	Cabinet Member for Communications	Head of Corporate Services	<p>During Q4 2023/24, work started on drafting the 2023/24 Annual Consultation and Engagement Report. This will include data on the council's level of engagement with different communities and demographics. This information will then be used to highlight any gaps/challenges that the Vale may be having in interacting with hard-to-reach and under-represented groups.</p> <p>In addition, as part of the council's Joint Local Plan consultation, sessions were held with sixth form students at Abingdon & Witney College and UTC (University Technical College). This provided an opportunity for meaningful dialogue with young adults about their views and priorities.</p> <p>The Vale also held ten community drop-in events on the Local Plan consultation (and a special by-invitation gathering for community groups that the council has traditionally failed to reach).</p>

Theme 6: Working in an open and inclusive way - performance updates against reporting measures

Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
PROGRAMME 3	Strengthen our governance framework and address our policy gaps, improving transparency	Narrative update on policies/strategies currently in development/ awaiting approval/recently approved.	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>Progress continued to be made on the development of the Joint Local Plan.</p> <p>The Treasury Management and Investment Strategy, the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 to 2028/29 and the Capital Strategy 2024/25 to 2033/34 were all adopted by the Vale as part of the council's annual budget setting process.</p> <p>In March, an Empty Homes Policy was adopted by the Cabinet.</p> <p>Also, during Q4, the Waste and Street Cleansing Vehicle Procurement Strategy was presented to the Joint Scrutiny Committee for comment.</p> <p>Officers continued to work on drafting the council's new Waste and Street Cleansing Strategy.</p>
WIOI3.1	Work to adopt new CIPFA financial management code to enhance our financial governance	Narrative update detailing the elements of the code which have been implemented, which are underway and which are yet to be started	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property	Head of Finance	<p>No progress to report Q4 2023/24.</p> <p>It is now intended that CIPFA will share their findings with core SMT during Q1 2024/25.</p>
WIOI3.2	Council reporting and decision-making templates to include impact on the climate emergency	Narrative update on significant decisions which have key environmental considerations, additionally any updates to key policies which have an focus on the climate emergency	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Legal and Democratic	No update required – action complete.
WIOI3.3	Review the councils constitution and scheme of delegation annually	Narrative update with the outcome of the review	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Legal and Democratic	The council's constitution has remained under constant review throughout Q4 2023/24. Meetings of the Constitution Review Group have also taken place.

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Corp Plan ID	Stated Aim/Project description	Reporting Measure	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead Title	Q4 Performance Update
WIOI3.4	Increase and improve publicly available information – e.g.- code of conduct complaints (decision noted) FOIs (responses), corporate complaints (data) Improve accessibility of corporate information through publishing on our website	<p>“Narrative update on relevant reviews/newly available information/ website improvements and metrics</p> <p>Quantitative - FOI/ Complaints data”</p>	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes	Head of Corporate Services	<p>During Q4 2023/24, the performance management report for Q3 2023/24 was published on the Vale’s website. This is intended to increase the public’s understanding of what the council does, how it works and how decisions are made.</p> <p>In Q4 2023/24, the Vale received 254 FOI/EIRs. 93.0% of these were responded to within the target time.</p> <p>The council received 21 stage one complaints and four stage two complaints between January and March 2024.</p>




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Policy and Programmes

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