

Nature and Climate Action Plan

2025-29

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils



Nature and Climate Action Plan 2025-29

Introduction/Context/Scene Setting

This plan sets out the actions that South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council will be taking over the next four years to deliver against our commitments to fight climate change and to restore nature to our districts. This is the first joint action plan between the two councils, and it describes how we intend to deliver our key climate and nature strategic goals, as set out in our respective Council Plans 2025-29.

Both councils have ambitious targets to become carbon neutral in their own operations by 2030 and to become carbon neutral districts by 2045. In recent years it has become clear that climate change and the catastrophic losses suffered in the natural world are inextricably linked. This new Nature and Climate Action Plan (NCAP) therefore also includes actions that the councils will be taking to reverse the decline in nature and to help our communities adapt to the changing climate.

Our Progress

The councils' net zero targets are a part of a longer-term strategy to reduce carbon emissions, which we have been working on and reporting annually since 2009/10. Both councils declared a climate emergency in 2019, which led to the publication of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse's Climate Action Plans 2022-24, which for the first time clearly set out the actions that each council would take to reduce our own carbon emissions.

South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse District Councils have already made significant progress in reducing carbon emissions and taking climate action:

Progress and Highlights

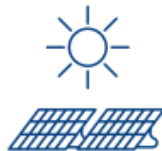
2022-24

A total of **£1,866,546** in Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funding secured to decarbonise our buildings



A total of **£342,632*** climate and nature focused external funding directly secured

£XXX* of Rural England Prosperity Funding awarded, to support local organisations with energy efficiency initiatives and decarbonisation



7 decarbonisations surveys and assessments completed for our buildings, such as leisure centres

A **Carbon Emissions Tool** shared with Town and Parish councils to help record and monitor the carbon emissions of their own operations

An internal **Climate Impact Assessment Tool** launched and made mandatory, to help assess the climate and nature impacts of our projects and decision making

Delivery of **webinars** for community organisations on supporting **domestic retrofit** and how to **retrofit community buildings**



Successful application for Designated Bathing Water Status for the River Thames at Wallingford Beach



Creation of **new** 'Action on Climate and Nature' dedicated landing **pages and content** on our website

Inclusion of **Carbon Reduction and Energy Efficiency scoring** and weighting as mandatory in our standard evaluation criteria, used when assessing bids for contracts

Climate change **online training e-learning module** launched, for staff and members



Delivery of our first 'park and charge' project – **62 public electric vehicle changing bays** now available across our car parks in the district

Establishment of **Electric Vehicle Car Clubs** based in our car parks, offering an alternative sustainable transport option



New **meadow areas** created on land we manage – **10,250m2** in total in 2024

Public convenience refurbishments included energy saving measures, such as energy efficient lighting, solar panels and rainwater harvesting



*Figures TBC

Progress and Highlights 2022-24

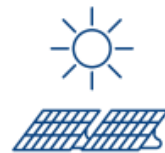


A total of **£5,992,916** in Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funding secured to decarbonise our buildings



A total of **£453,281*** climate and nature focused external funding directly secured

£XXX* of Rural England Prosperity Funding awarded, to support local organisations with energy efficiency initiatives and decarbonisation



11 decarbonisations surveys and assessments completed for our buildings, such as leisure centres

A **Carbon Emissions Tool** shared with Town and Parish councils to help record and monitor the carbon emissions of their own operations

An internal **Climate Impact Assessment Tool** launched and made mandatory, to help assess the climate and nature impacts of our projects and decision making

Delivery of **webinars** for community organisations on supporting **domestic retrofit** and how to **retrofit community buildings**



A total of **£291,192** awarded through the Vale Climate Action Fund to local community organisations, for natural environment, energy, waste and consumption, sustainable transport projects, throughout 2022-2024

Creation of **new** 'Action on Climate and Nature' dedicated landing **pages and content** on our website

Inclusion of **Carbon Reduction and Energy Efficiency scoring** and weighting as mandatory in our standard evaluation criteria, used when assessing bids for contracts

Climate change **online training e-learning module** launched, for staff and members



Delivery of our first 'park and charge' project - **62 public electric vehicle changing bays** now available across our car parks in the district

Establishment of **Electric Vehicle Car Clubs** based in our car parks, offering an alternative sustainable transport option



New **meadow areas** created on land we manage - **61,900m2** in total in 2024



Public convenience refurbishments included energy saving measures, such as energy efficient lighting, solar panels and rainwater harvesting



*Figures TBC

Context

The councils' NCAP is part of a much larger picture, consisting of international, national law and local initiatives and plans all of which influence our priorities:

Internationally, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the entity responsible for the global response to climate change and oversees the implementation of the **2015 Paris Agreement**. The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change which pledges to keep temperatures *"well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5°C"*. Annual United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP) are held and are the foremost global forums for multilateral discussion of climate change matters and emerging international agreements.

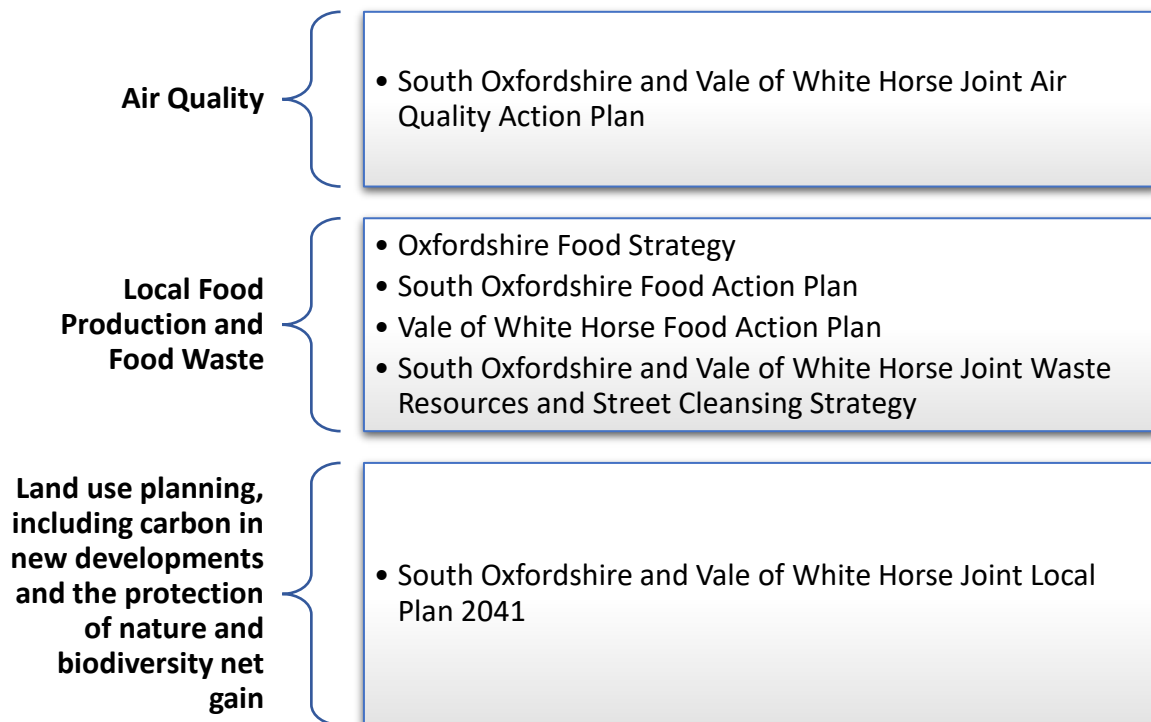
Nationally, **the UK Climate Change Act 2008** is the basis for the UK's approach to tackling and responding to climate change. It was amended in June 2019 and commits the Government to a 100 per cent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 compared with 1990 levels. The Act also created an independent Committee on Climate Change to provide advice to the government on these targets and related policies. **The 2021 Environment Act** covers a broad range of issues across the four priority areas of air quality, biodiversity, water and waste.

The NCAP recognises working in partnership as a fundamental part of our efforts to address climate change and by working together, we can make a greater impact on our targets of becoming carbon neutral districts by 2045. The councils' activity to reduce district-wide emissions is focused on supporting grassroots activities by local organisations and communities, alongside working in partnership with our neighbouring councils. This collaborative approach is set out in the [Oxfordshire Net Zero Routemap and Action Plan](#), which sets out a pathway for the county to achieve net zero by 2050 (the Oxfordshire-wide target).

In a similar way, we are working with a wide variety of partners to develop an approach to nature recovery in Oxfordshire, focusing on the creation of the Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). The LNRS will set the direction of work in the county and the NCAP will translate this strategy into actions that we can take within our districts.

Scope of the NCAP

The NCAP has been designed to work alongside other existing local strategies and action plans and not to duplicate the actions and initiatives set out in these documents. For example, the following themes are addressed through the corresponding strategies and action plans:



NCAP Themes

The NCAP 2025-29 presents a list of actions that will help us achieve our aims of driving nature’s recovery, cutting carbon emissions and creating a culture of sustainability through our operations.

The actions within the NCAP are split into five themes:

- 1. Operational Net Zero**

This theme focuses on our council operations, buildings, and assets where we have direct control over our carbon emissions.
- 2. District Net Zero – Communities, Engagement and Behaviour Change**

This theme focuses on how the councils can support our residents, communities and businesses to make choices which drive a reduction in carbon emissions across the districts.
- 3. District Net Zero – Partnerships**

This theme focuses on the areas that the councils can have the strongest impact on by working with our partners to achieve change and drive carbon reductions.
- 4. Nature Recovery**

The nature recovery theme sets out how we can drive nature recovery on our own land as an example to others, as well as setting out the actions that we can take both directly and in partnership to deliver the ambitions set out in the forthcoming Oxfordshire LNRS.
- 5. Adaptation**

This theme focuses on how the councils can ensure our service delivery is resilient to changing climate and on how we can support our residents and communities to adapt to extremes of a changing climate.

Measuring Progress

Each action within the NCAP includes measure(s) which will enable monitoring and reporting. Progress will be reviewed annually, and performance reporting will be in line with the Council Plans' framework and approach. Performance updates will be reported to South Oxfordshire's Climate and Ecological Emergencies Advisory Committee, the Vale of White Horse's Climate Emergency Advisory Committee and to Cabinet meetings.

The measures within the NCAP have been designed to be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-Bound (SMART) where possible, to enable clear monitoring of progress. The NCAP will be a live document and actions may be added, reprioritised and refocused as part of an annual review process. This will allow us to take account of a changing legislative and regulatory environment where necessary.



Hinksey Heights Nature Trail Boardwalk, funded by Vale Climate Action Fund



Wantage Draught Busters, funded by Vale Climate Action Fund

Mowbray Fields, Didcot, Meadow area on South Oxfordshire District Council land



Wallingford Beach, Designated Bathing Water in South Oxfordshire

ID	Action	Measure(s)	Team(s)	Head of Service	Indicative timescale Short (years 1-2) Medium (years 2-4) Long (years 4+)
Operational Net Zero					
1	Embed a climate-centred approach into all scales of procurement (including for routine and low risk purchases)	1) Publication of new climate and biodiversity guidance for officers for tender specifications and evaluations by Q1 2025/26 2) Update and enhance the climate and ecological implications section of the procurement training by Q3 2025/26	Procurement/Climate and Biodiversity Team	Head of Finance/Head of Policy and Programmes	Short
2	Review opportunities to reduce the digital carbon footprint of the councils' websites.	1) Carbon footprint of the websites TCO2e baseline obtained 2) Actions to reduce digital carbon footprint identified	Comms/IT team	Head of Corporate Services	Short

3	Produce annual reports outlining progress towards the councils' operational net zero targets and the predicted emissions pathway to 2030	<p>1) Annual report on progress towards South Oxfordshire's operational net zero target and modelled emissions to 2030.</p> <p>2) Annual report on progress towards Vale of White Horse's operational net zero target and modelled emissions to 2030</p>	Climate and Biodiversity Team	Head of Policy and Programmes	Long
4	Produce annual greenhouse gas emissions reports	<p>1) Annual report on South Oxfordshire's operational greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>2) Annual report on Vale of White Horse's operational greenhouse gas emissions</p>	Climate and Biodiversity Team	Head of Policy and Programmes	Long
5	Review the councils' approach to reporting Scope 3 emissions, considering emerging best practice and embodied carbon.	<p>1) Complete review of councils' approach to reporting Scope 3 emissions and seek approval for revised approach</p> <p>2) Revised approach to Scope 3 reporting implemented for 2026/27 reporting cycle</p>	Climate and Biodiversity Team	Head of Policy and Programmes	Short
6	Investigate options, and if appropriate procure software, for remote monitoring of energy management performance of building stock and train staff to manage software.	Option report completed and, if appropriate, software procured	Property Assets	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Medium

7	Deliver an ongoing programme of climate training and engagement for all staff and offer additional opportunities for enhanced training for staff working in areas of high carbon emissions or potential for influencing others.	<p>1) Numbers of staff completing climate e-learning modules from 2025/26</p> <p>2) Number of staff completing enhanced training from 2025/26</p> <p>3) 15% of workforce to have completed enhanced training by Q2 2025/26</p>	HR/ Climate and Biodiversity Team	Head of Corporate Services/Policy and Programmes	Medium
8	<p>Deliver renewable energy projects:</p> <p>1) Review opportunities to maximise and deliver solar energy on council property/assets and prepare an investment business case where appropriate</p> <p>2) Assess feasibility, and where possible implement, a project to build a new renewable energy asset with the aim of offsetting the councils' electricity use.</p>	<p>1) Solar energy opportunities assessment completed</p> <p>2) Solar energy investment outline business case explored and approved if applicable by Q1 2025/26</p> <p>3) Detailed feasibility study for the renewable energy offsetting project completed</p>	<p>1) Property Assets/C&B Team</p> <p>2) 3) Strategic Property</p>	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord/Head of Policy and Programmes	Long
9	Retrofit all existing council-owned homes to a minimum of EPC C	100% of council-owned homes with an EPC rating of C or above by Q1 2025/26	Property Assets	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Short

10	Identify opportunities for and seek additional funding to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions within the homes of our tenants, installing systems such as air source heat pumps backed up by solar PV and utilising battery energy storage systems to replace traditional carbon-based heating systems.	Percentage of council-owned homes with renewable energy heating systems.	Property Assets	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Long
11	Maximise external funding to support the council's climate actions to reduce emissions from its own operations.	<p>1) Number of grant applications made to support climate actions annually</p> <p>2) Amount of income received to support climate projects annually and projected carbon emission reduction</p>	Insight and Policy Team	Head of Policy and Programmes	Long
12	<p>A) Trial electric refuse vehicles and other relevant vehicle options, to identify the most suitable waste vehicles for reducing carbon emissions whilst maintaining service delivery.</p> <p>B) Replace end of life vehicles with the most suitable low carbon options and ensure there is the necessary charging infrastructure.</p>	<p>1) Complete electric waste vehicle trial by March 2025</p> <p>2) Update waste vehicle procurement strategy based on results of trial and post-trial report</p> <p>3) Subject to their suitability for the districts' collection rounds, identify appropriate funding sources for purchase of low emission waste vehicles</p>	Waste	Head of Housing and Environment	<p>1 and 2) Short</p> <p>3) Long</p>

13	Investigate opportunities for solar energy at depot site to provide an energy supply for electric waste vehicles and implement if applicable	Scope for solar energy to provide supply to depot site confirmed and negotiations with landowner completed if applicable	Waste	Head of Housing and Environment	Long
14	Create and deliver a plan for council vehicles (excluding waste fleet) to be zero emission, with necessary charging infrastructure in place or through utilisation of public charging network where possible.	<p>1) Number and percentage of council fleet vehicles that are zero emission</p> <p>2) Number of chargers installed for council fleet annually</p>	Grounds Maintenance/Facilities	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Medium
15	Create and deliver a plan to reduce carbon emissions from business mileage	<p>1) Carbon emissions from business mileage - baseline and % reduction reported annually</p> <p>2) Revised travel and expenses policy approved, with addition of low emission travel options</p> <p>3) Production of a plan to reduce carbon emissions from business mileage</p>	HR/ Climate and Biodiversity Team	Head of Corporate Services/Policy and Programmes	Medium
16	Investigate new and/or innovative finance opportunities to support the councils' decarbonisation projects.	1) 'Spend to save' opportunities are to be considered, alongside an affordable financing plan developed to fund the council's decarbonisation projects,	Strategic Finance	Head of Finance	Medium

		<p>commensurate with the council's overall financial position.</p> <p>2) Financing the councils' net zero targets, where it is deemed affordable, to be included in the councils' medium term financial plan</p>			
17	<p>Prepare a decarbonisation plan for all council operational buildings (those from which we deliver a council service) to include cost, potential funding sources and timeline.</p>	<p>Decarbonisation plan for all operational buildings completed by March 2025</p>	<p>Climate and Biodiversity Team</p>	<p>Head of Policy and Programmes</p>	<p>Short</p>
18	<p>Prepare a decarbonisation plan for non-operational buildings where leases allow landlord involvement.</p>	<p>Review of non-operational buildings completed, and decarbonisation plan prepared where applicable</p>	<p>Climate and Biodiversity Team</p>	<p>Head of Policy and Programmes</p>	<p>Long</p>

19	Develop and agree an approach to offsetting the councils unavoidable residual carbon emissions, with local co-benefits.	<p>1) Research approaches to offsetting residual carbon emissions and develop options for the councils to consider.</p> <p>2) Seek agreement for a set of principles to guide the councils' approach to offset residual carbon emissions.</p>	Climate and Biodiversity Team	Head of Policy and Programmes	<p>1) Short</p> <p>2) Medium</p>
District Net Zero - Communications, Engagement and Behaviour Change					
20	Engage with national policy makers to advocate for actions that reduce or limit the impacts of climate change and enable nature recovery at the local and regional level	<p>1) Number of relevant consultations responded to annually</p> <p>2) number of national policy makers engaged with on topics related to climate change and nature recovery</p> <p>3) Narrative/case study on a piece of advocacy, demonstrating impact and change for climate and/or nature at a local and regional level</p>	Insight and Policy	Head of Policy and Programmes	Short
21	Support residents to transition to healthy, low carbon lifestyles through our services	1) Narrative on how energy efficiency advice is integrated into Cost of Living support for residents provided by the	Community wellbeing	Head of Communities	Medium

		<p>councils' Community Hub and partners.</p> <p>2) Narrative and number of initiatives developed or supported, led by the council or in partnership, to encourage community food growing</p> <p>3) Number of S&V residents signing up to energysaverapp annually</p> <p>4) Number of energy efficiency grants taken up by S&V residents annually</p>			
22	Deliver a communications and engagement plan to support communities to transition to low carbon lifestyles	<p>1) Number of social media statistics following promotional campaigns (for example, engaged with, reached and sharing of posts)</p> <p>2) Number of press releases annually</p> <p>3) Narrative on relative success of nature recovery and climate focused campaigns</p>	Communications	Head of Corporate Services	Medium

23	Consider how the councils' Treasury Management strategy and role as a responsible investor can make a positive contribution to the councils' and district-wide net zero targets.	Commission a report to be carried out by the council's Treasury Management Advisors, the findings of which will be considered for inclusion in the councils' future treasury management strategies and reflected in treasury management operations in line with the council's obligations under treasury management regulations and their overall financial standing.	Strategic Finance	Head of Finance	Short
24	Proactively engage with and support, businesses to decarbonise their own operations and influence others in the community	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Number of businesses signposted to decarbonisation support resources 2) Number of businesses supported to access funding 3) Number of businesses supported to access individual advice and guidance 4) Emissions reduction for projects grant funded by grants delivered by the economic development team (tonne / kilo) 	Economic Development	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Short

25	Encourage development of green skills within local businesses.	<p>1) Number of green skills courses/trainings promoted</p> <p>2) Number of local organisations taking up green skills training</p> <p>3) Number of residents taking up green skills training</p>	Economic Development	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Short
26	Encourage and support projects to address climate change and nature recovery within the district's Garden Communities.	Number of and narrative on, climate and nature recovery projects in Garden Communities that the councils' have supported	Garden Communities	Head of Communities	Medium

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27	Provide resources, funding, advice and expertise to Town and Parish Councils and VCSE to decarbonise their operations and support residents to adopt low carbon lifestyles.	<p>1) Council website resources updated and maintained, measured by unique visits and downloads</p> <p>2) Narrative update on organisations supported, including case studies and/or learning. For example, through networking opportunities</p> <p>3) Number and value of council grants awarded for climate projects annually</p>	Climate and Biodiversity Team	Head of Policy and Programmes	Medium
28	Encourage the transition to electric vehicles for taxi drivers	<p>1) Percentage of taxi drivers with low emission taxis.</p> <p>2) Narrative on support provided to aid transition to low emission vehicles for taxi drivers</p>	Licensing	Head of Communities	Medium

District Net Zero - Partnerships

29	Support the decarbonisation of buildings in the districts. For example, through grant schemes and green loan systems.	<p>1) Produce a report with recommendations on the establishment of a green loan system for retrofitting and installing energy efficiency measures in private sector homes</p> <p>2) Track progress through reporting the percentage of households with MCS-certified renewable energy installations in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse.</p>	Climate and Biodiversity Team	Head of Policy and Programmes	Long
30	Support upgrades to energy infrastructure in the districts needed to achieve net-zero targets. For example, through developing local area energy plans for South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse and supporting community energy projects.	<p>1) Publication of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse local area energy plans</p> <p>2) Narrative/case study on community energy projects that the councils have supported</p>	Climate and Biodiversity Team	Head of Policy and Programmes	Long
31	Install publicly accessible electric vehicle charging infrastructure to support uptake of electric vehicles and improve access to charge points, to meet the Oxfordshire EV Strategy target of converting 7.5% of local authority managed car park spaces, to fast or rapid charging, by 2025.	<p>1) Number of public chargers installed on council owned land and their locations</p> <p>2) Usage percentages for chargers operated on behalf of the councils</p>	Technical services/ Climate and Biodiversity Team	Head of Development and Corporate Services/Head of Policy and Programmes	Medium

32	Work with partners to develop green financing mechanisms to fund district wide decarbonisation projects.	Narrative report on identification of green financing mechanisms	Climate and Biodiversity Team	Head of Policy and Programmes	Short
33	Produce annual reports outlining progress towards South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district net zero targets	<p>1) Annual report on progress towards South Oxfordshire's district-wide net zero target</p> <p>2) ktCO2 emitted from sources in South Oxfordshire each year</p> <p>3) Annual report on progress towards Vale of White Horse's district-wide net zero target</p> <p>4) ktCO2 emitted from sources in Vale of White Horse each year</p>	Climate and Biodiversity Team	Head of Policy and Programmes	Long
34	Investigate and enforce reported breaches of Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) for privately rented homes.	Number of MEES breaches investigated and enforced	Private Sector Housing	Head of Housing and Environment	Short
35	In partnership with other Oxfordshire local authorities, develop an Oxfordshire retrofit strategy. This will consolidate all the activity in this area and provide information to guide funding and resourcing opportunities	Publication of Oxfordshire Retrofit Strategy by Q3 2025/26.	Climate and Biodiversity Team	Head of Policy and Programmes	Short

36	Work with Oxfordshire County Council and other partners to deliver active and sustainable travel infrastructure initiatives in the district	<p>1) Narrative on initiatives implemented, for example healthy placeshaping project</p> <p>2) Usage data for initiatives such as EV car clubs located in council owned car parks</p>	<p>1) Community wellbeing</p> <p>2) Climate and Biodiversity Team</p>	Head of Communities/Head of Policy and Programmes	Medium
Nature Recovery					
37	<p>The Councils to eliminate the use of peat in grounds maintenance on our land by year 2025/26.</p> <p>Reduce the use of harmful herbicides.</p>	<p>1) Amount of peat used in grounds maintenance and supply chains</p> <p>2) Amount of herbicides used in grounds maintenance operations</p>	Grounds Maintenance	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Short
38	Review the use of annual bedding plants in grounds maintenance operations in favour of locally grown, sustainable alternatives	<p>1) Establish a baseline for current bedding plant usage by April 2025.</p> <p>2) Percentage reduction in use of annual bedding plants</p>	Grounds Maintenance	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Short

39	<p>Undertake biodiversity audit of corporate land and develop proposals to put nature recovery at the heart of our grounds maintenance operations.</p>	<p>1) Complete biodiversity audits of South Oxfordshire/Vale of White Horse corporate land (Climate and Biodiversity Team)</p> <p>2) Develop options for nature recovery on council owned land and seek approval for implementation. (Joint action C&B and Grounds Maintenance)</p> <p>3) Percentage of council owned land managed for nature recovery (C&B)</p> <p>4) Produce a report outlining options for nature-based carbon sequestration schemes on council owned land (C&B)</p>	<p>Climate and Biodiversity Team/Grounds Maintenance Team</p>	<p>Head of Policy and Programmes/ Head of Development and Corporate Landlord</p>	<p>Medium</p>
40	<p>Support the development of land-based carbon sequestration offsetting model for the districts, by:</p> <p>Working with the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership and other Oxfordshire local authorities, deliver Innovate UK Net Zero Living 'Enabling nature-based carbon offsetting in Oxfordshire' project to develop new markets in Oxfordshire for nature-based offsetting.</p>	<p>Delivery of Innovate UK Net-Zero Living project final report by June 2025</p>	<p>Climate and Biodiversity Team</p>	<p>Head of Policy and Programmes</p>	<p>Short</p>

41	Work with partners to produce an Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and identify actions for South and Vale councils to deliver following adoption of the Strategy	<p>1) Adoption of the Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy by Q2 2025</p> <p>2) Develop action plan for South and Vale and incorporate actions into annual review of NCAP</p>	Climate and Biodiversity Team	Head of Policy and Programmes	Short
42	Provide resources, funding, advice and expertise to Town and Parish Councils, landowners, community and nature groups, to support nature recovery projects and delivery of the LNRS.	<p>1) Council website resources updated and maintained, measured by unique visits and downloads</p> <p>2) Narrative update on organisations supported, including case studies and/or learning and networking opportunities</p> <p>3) Number and value of council grants awarded for nature recovery projects</p>	Climate and Biodiversity Team	Head of Policy and Programmes	Medium
43	Promote the development of Habitat Banks in appropriate locations in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse as a key mechanism to drive nature recovery	<p>1) Number of habitat banks approved by South Oxfordshire/Vale of White Horse through Section 106 agreements</p> <p>2) Number of biodiversity units secured through council agreed habitat banks located in South Oxfordshire/Vale of White Horse</p>	Planning	Head of Planning	Long

44	Seek opportunities to increase support for and the profile of the Local Wildlife Sites Project as a key mechanism to help deliver Nature Recovery.	<p>1) Number of local wildlife sites surveyed</p> <p>2) Number of local wildlife sites where management advice is provided</p>	Climate and Biodiversity Team	Head of Policy and Programmes	Medium
45	Drive improvements to the ecological health of our river systems for people and wildlife. In part, delivered through support for and active engagement in the Catchment Partnerships	<p>1) Narrative report on projects and initiatives supported which aim to drive improvements in the ecological health of our river systems</p> <p>2) Activity to influence Thames Water, the Environment Agency and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to improve the ecological health of rivers and waterways in South and Vale</p>	Climate and Biodiversity Team	Head of Policy and Programmes	Medium

Climate Adaptation					
46	Work with partners to develop an Oxfordshire climate adaptation route map and action plan.	Publication of Oxfordshire Climate Adaptation Route Map and Action Plan	Climate and Biodiversity Team	Head of Policy and Programmes	Short
47	Following publication of Oxfordshire climate adaptation route map and action plan - Develop district level adaptation actions for the councils and integrate into annual review of the NCAP	Develop district level action plan for South and Vale and incorporate actions into annual review of NCAP	Climate and Biodiversity Team	Head of Policy and Programmes	Medium
48	Support communities to adapt to extreme heat, with a focus on people more vulnerable to extreme temperatures	<p>1) Delivery of awareness campaigns, for example, 'beat the heat' and 'cool spaces'. Measured by - social media statistics following promotional campaigns (for example, engaged with, reached and sharing of posts) and number of press releases related to climate adaptation.</p> <p>2) Narrative on success of climate adaptation focused campaigns</p>	Climate and Biodiversity Team/Comms	Head of Policy and Programmes	Long
49	Support communities to adapt to flooding	<p>1) Narrative and number of flood and drainage alleviation schemes facilitated and/or implemented</p> <p>2) Summary of other activities to reduce risk of flooding</p>	Technical services	Head of Development and Corporate Landlord	Long