

Agenda



Listening Learning Leading

Contact Officer: Candida Mckelvey, Democratic Services Officer

Tel: 07895 213820

E-mail: candida.mckelvey@southoxon.gov.uk

Date: 18 July 2022

Website: www.southoxon.gov.uk

AN INFORMAL MEETING OF

Scrutiny Committee members

**WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY 26 JULY 2022 AT 6.00 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING**

To watch this virtual meeting, follow this link to the council's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTj2pCic8vzucpzlaSWE3UQ>

Members of the Committee:

Ian White (Chair)

Mocky Khan (Vice-Chair)

Anna Badcock

Stefan Gawrysiak

Alexandrine Kantor

George Levy

David Turner

Jo Robb

David Bartholomew

Alternative formats of this publication are available on request. These include large print, Braille, audio, email and easy read. For this or any other special requirements (such as access facilities) please contact the officer named on this agenda. Please give as much notice as possible before the meeting.

Patrick Arran

Head of Legal and Democratic

1 Urgent business and chair's announcements

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

2 Apologies for absence

To record apologies for absence and the attendance of substitute members.

3 Minutes (Pages 3 - 6)

To review the informal committee notes of the meeting held on 27 June 2022 and agree them as a correct record.

4 Declaration of interests

To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, other registrable interests and non-registrable interests or any conflicts of interest in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

5 Public participation

To receive any questions or statements from members of the public that have registered to speak.

6 Work schedule and dates for all South and Joint scrutiny meetings (Pages 7 - 10)

To review the attached scrutiny work schedule. Please note, although the dates are confirmed, the items under consideration are subject to being withdrawn, added to or rearranged without further notice.

REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 Didcot Garden Town: Project update (Pages 11 - 28)

Committee will receive an update on the Didcot Garden Town delivery plan. For committee to note and provide any comments to the Cabinet member for consideration.

8 Planning enforcement update (Pages 29 - 33)

Committee members are asked to consider the progress of the new approach to planning enforcement including the progress made in reducing the on-hand enforcement caseload and performance on cases since January 2022. Members may provide comments for the consideration of the Cabinet member for Planning.

Notes

OF AN INFORMAL MEETING OF



Listening Learning Leading

Scrutiny Committee members

HELD ON MONDAY 27 JUNE 2022 AT 6.00 PM

VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

The recording can be watched here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p1s83Cti7B4>

In attendance:

Councillors: Ian White (Chair), Mocky Khan, Stefan Gawrysiak, Alexandrine Kantor, David Turner, Jo Robb and David Bartholomew

Cabinet members: Councillors Maggie Filipova-Rivers (Community Wellbeing) and Andrea Powell (Corporate Services)

Officers: Harry Barrington-Mountford (Head of Policy and Programmes), Jayne Bolton (Community Wellbeing Manager), Suzanne Malcolm (Deputy Chief Executive – Place), Candida Mckelvey (Democratic Services Officer), Adrianna Partridge (Deputy Chief Executive, Transformation and Operations), Shona Ware (Comms and Engagement Manager), Ben Whaymand (Leisure Facilities Team Leader)

45 Urgent business and chair's announcements

None.

46 Declarations of interest

None.

47 Minutes

An amendment was requested on page five, bullet point two. Democratic Services Officer shall look at the last sentence and amend it accordingly so that it reads clearer. The sentence was “Can members identify areas of the report they wish to investigate further?” Clarity was asked for on ownership of the comment.

The amendment will be sent onto Councillor Bartholomew and the Chair for agreement.

48 Public participation

None.

49 Work schedule and dates for all South and Joint Scrutiny meetings

None.

50 Public Consultations

This item was opened by Cabinet Member for Corporate Services. This report was a post-Covid review of what the council does to consult the public. This included bringing back face-to-face consultation as well as making the most of technical and online tools to reach more people. There was a desire to invest in better tools for consultation. Communications team had recently recruited a new member of staff to support this work.

Members commented on the report and the main points were:

- The ambition for consultation was admired, but councillors queried whether we would over-consult – ‘consultation fatigue’. Keeping consultation brief but simple was mentioned as a method to avoid this.
- Suggestion of having non-English speaking/reading options such as translated documents and surveys considering the community diversity in Didcot (for example), and to hold drop-ins.
- Committee were informed about Chelsea’s Story, an engagement activity that was successful with young people.
- Where will general customer feedback feed into this? For example, council tax, to claim a rebate etc. Cabinet Member explained that the triage customer service desk dealt with these, and there was an ongoing snap survey for ongoing feedback from customers. Officer explained there was intention to collate service specific feedback received, for corporate view / analysis.
- Cabinet member added that the Diversity and Inclusion Strategy will be reviewed through the democratic process soon and linked to and supported this work.
- Discussion about analysing how well we consult, how can we judge what is a good consultation or not. It was responded that the council does benchmarking work.
- How can we better engage young people who don’t normally engage? It was suggested that organisations who consult young people could be used. Officer commented that this was considered in particular with online tools and social media. There was a newly recruited officer who would assess the best tools for the various consultee groups identified.
- It was responded that digital accessibility was ensured, and this included consideration of people with sensory disability and impairment. Community Wellbeing team work with related organisations.
- Chair suggested a short summary paragraph to mention success criteria on consultations.

Resolved:

Committee noted the report. Chair thanked the officers and Cabinet Member for their work.

51 Active Communities Strategy

Cabinet member for Community Wellbeing opened this item.

This strategy had been created with the increasing wellbeing agenda, prevention of poor physical and mental health, and health inequalities in mind. This was a coherent

framework with a baseline study to map what we have in terms of community resources for wellbeing, such as open spaces, leisure centres, and resources never considered before. The policy landscape was changing locally and nationally, and this strategy had been developed with these aspects in mind. There were six themes in the strategy, which pulled in other council strategies, as shown in the document. We will look to identify gaps and aim to close them. The strategy will evolve over time, and we will take care to consider how accessible facilities are by walking and cycling.

Committee comments and suggestions:

- A member of the committee expressed the importance of mental health and how it links to physical wellbeing. Suggested partnership work with mental health charities / external partners
- Concern raised about deliverability however the ambition was admired.
- Cycling and walking routes were discussed. A member asked for more attention to rural areas. What can we do as a district where it was County council responsibility?
- Walking and cycling: access to the countryside, right to roam – can we map the changes over time to public access across the district? Cabinet member added that OCC had conducted some work on this
- Can England have a right to roam, as in Scotland – we should support this
- A member commented that hopefully this strategy could feed into planning, and Didcot Garden Town. The mapping should help us to see what people living in built up areas have access to without getting into their car
- Suggestion of road closure for cyclists, a day to celebrate cycling / free cycling mornings
- Promote and link with natural land management groups, such as coppicing, hedge laying etc
- Consider age and gender gaps in the range of resources and activities. Work with schools
- Network for safe jogging
- Bike hire / refurbish older bikes for hire
- Would like to see a timeline of what happens next
- AONB collaboration

Councillors Khan and Bartholomew had to leave part way through this item at 19.15. Cabinet member reminded that the mapping work was already in progress by officers. The Cabinet member and officers were thanked for their work, which was well received by the committee.

Resolved:

Committee noted the report and Active Communities Strategy

52 Quarter 4 Corporate Plan Performance Report

The committee reviewed the quarter 4 report and the annual report 2021/22 together. The item was introduced by the Cabinet member for Corporate Services. The council now had a full year set of activity. The quarter 4 report showed progress of projects in the quarter, and the annual report was an assessment of progress, rather than the narrative and detail in the quarterly reports.

The committee focussed on the annual report. There was a RAG rating system added. A definition would be added. Cabinet member explained that green meant on target by the

deadline or the end of the corporate plan period. Amber meant on track, but potential delay foreseen, with action being taken to remedy. Red meant significantly behind schedule of the stated deadline or by the plan end date. The inclusion of the definitions was considered helpful by committee.

Resolved:

This item was noted by committee. Cabinet member and officers were thanked for their work on the quarter 4 report and the annual report 2021/22.

53 Exclusion of the public

Resolved:

Committee agreed to move into confidential session.

54 Covid-19 Leisure Support Package update

Resolved:

The committee noted a report on the Covid-19 Support Package, for which negotiations had been completed. The officers involved and the Cabinet member were thanked for all the hard work that went into negotiations and committee felt that the outcomes were positive. Chair motioned to give thanks to their hard work and determination to reach agreement.

Chair hoped to see the annual monitoring report brought before committee in due course.

The meeting closed at 20.07

Chair

Date

--

Scrutiny work programme

1 July 2022



Listening Learning Leading

MEETING	AGENDA ITEM	PURPOSE	CABINET MEMBER	CONTACT OFFICER
Scrutiny Committee 26 Jul 2022	Didcot Garden Town - project update		Robin Bennett	Jayne Bolton jayne.bolton@southandvale.gov.uk
Scrutiny Committee 26 Jul 2022	Planning enforcement update		Anne-Marie Simpson	Emma Turner emma.turner@southandvale.gov.uk
Joint Scrutiny Committee 19 Sep 2022	GLL performance report for 2019 to 2022		Maggie Filipova-Rivers	James Carpenter james.carpenter@southandvale.gov.uk
Joint Scrutiny Committee 19 Sep 2022	Saba parking contract performance 2021-22		Sue Cooper	John Backley john.backley@southandvale.gov.uk
Joint Scrutiny Committee 19 Sep 2022	Biffa annual performance report		Cabinet member for environment, climate change and nature recovery	Ian Matten ian.matten@southandvale.gov.uk
Joint Scrutiny Committee 19 Sep 2022	Joint diversity and inclusion strategy		Andrea Powell	David Fairall david.fairall@southandvale.gov.uk
Scrutiny Committee 26 Sep 2022	Financial outturn 2021-22		Leigh Rawlins	Simon Hewings simon.hewings@southandvale.gov.uk

MEETING	AGENDA ITEM	PURPOSE	CABINET MEMBER	CONTACT OFFICER
Scrutiny Committee 26 Sep 2022	Delivery of crematorium, graveyard or alternative provision	To review provision over next 20 years within the district	Sue Cooper	Karen Lister karen.lister@southandvale.gov.uk
Scrutiny Committee 26 Sep 2022	Regulation 18 (Part 3) consultation on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050		Anne-Marie Simpson	Harry Barrington-Mountford harry.barrington-mountford@southandvale.gov.uk
Scrutiny Committee 26 Sep 2022	5-year housing land supply		Anne-Marie Simpson	Tom Rice tom.rice@southandvale.gov.uk
Joint Scrutiny Committee 7 Nov 2022	South and Vale Community Safety Partnership performance 2021-22		Maggie Filipova-Rivers	Diane Foster diane.foster@southandvale.gov.uk
Scrutiny Committee 21 Nov 2022	CIL Review and Developer Contributions SPD consultation		Anne-Marie Simpson	Vicky Aston vicky.aston@southandvale.gov.uk
Items for future meetings (dates to be determined)				
Joint Scrutiny Committee	Joint Local Plan		Anne-Marie Simpson	Andrew Lane andrew.lane@southandvale.gov.uk

MEETING	AGENDA ITEM	PURPOSE	CABINET MEMBER	CONTACT OFFICER
Scrutiny Committee	Joint Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)		Anne-Marie Simpson	Steve May stephen.may@southandvale.gov.uk
Joint Scrutiny Committee	Flooding - partnership roles and responsibilities		Sue Cooper	Andrew Down andrew.down@southandvale.gov.uk
Scrutiny Committee September 2022	Oxfordshire Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Strategy / EV Charging Points		Sue Cooper	Michelle Wells michelle.wells@southandvale.gov.uk
Joint Scrutiny Committee	Future Oxfordshire Partnership		David Rouane	Andrew Down andrew.down@southandvale.gov.uk
Scrutiny Committee	Property: Cornerstone		Leigh Rawlins	James Carpenter james.carpenter@southandvale.gov.uk
Scrutiny Committee	Property: Crowmarsh		Leigh Rawlins	James Carpenter james.carpenter@southandvale.gov.uk
Joint Scrutiny Committee	Partnership arrangements - Integrated Care System			
Joint Scrutiny Committee	Future waste services		Sue Cooper	William Maxwell william.maxwell@southandvale.gov.uk

Cabinet Report



Report of Head of Policy and Programmes

Author: Jayne Bolton

Telephone: 01235 422624

E-mail: Jayne.Bolton@southandvale.gov.uk

Wards affected: South - All wards within the Didcot Garden Town and “Area of Influence” boundaries: Cholsey, Didcot North East, Didcot South, Didcot West, Sandford and the Wittenhams wards in South Oxfordshire district.

Vale - Blewbury and Harwell, Drayton, Hendreds, Steventon and the Hanneys, Sutton Courtenay, wards in the Vale of White Horse district.

Cabinet member responsible: South – Robin Bennett, Vale - Councillor Judy Roberts

E-mail: Robin.Bennett@southoxon.gov.uk, Judy.Roberts@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

To: CABINET

Date: South – 23 June 2022 and Vale – 24 June 2022

New Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan

Recommendations

- (a) That Cabinet approves the revised delivery plan for Didcot Garden Town as shown in Appendix 2.
- (b) South Cabinet agrees a supplementary estimate to the 2022/23 revenue budget £660,000 from South Oxfordshire District Council, fully funded from the grant monies held in the council's reserves, thereafter, to be managed by the relevant budget holder to deliver the approved delivery plan.
- (c) Vale Cabinet agrees a supplementary estimate to the 2022/23 revenue budget £165,000 from Vale of White Horse District Council, fully funded from the grant monies held in the council's reserves, thereafter, to be managed by the relevant budget holder to deliver the approved delivery plan.

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval of a new Didcot Garden Town (DGT) Delivery Plan and associated budget, to enable a more focused delivery plan to bring forward community improvements, assist recovery of the garden town area following the pandemic and to address the climate emergency.

Corporate Objectives

2. The South Oxfordshire Corporate Plan 2020-2024 has a key theme of “Home and infrastructure that meets local need” and the Vale of White Horse Corporate Plan 2020-24 has a key theme of “Providing the homes people need”, both of which are supported

by the 'Garden Villages and Town' designation as a mechanism to introduce innovative housing to meet both councils' need for high quality, low energy' and 'active travel networks' that 'supports the environment and people living healthy lives'.

Background

3. South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils approved various actions relating to Didcot Garden Town on 5 and 6 October 2017. One of the actions was to approve the Delivery Plan and its vision for sustainable growth to deliver 15,000 homes and 20,000 jobs by 2031. The Delivery Plan listed over 60 projects which contributed to the implementation of the strategic plan.
4. South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils (SODC and VWHDC) approved a revised governance structure, early town-wide projects and placed-based strategies for delivery in January and February 2020, following previous consideration by Cabinets in 2019. Recommendations brought forward by Cabinets and the nominated Advisory Board at the time emphasised finalising the governance structure, transportation projects, development of the Gateway and other meanwhile projects. It was also highlighted that priority should be given to community engagement and an event to launch the sounding boards once the governance was approved.
5. The Didcot Garden Town Advisory Board (DGTAB) is made up of nine representatives from organisations with an interest in implementing the Garden Town vision. The governance structure includes South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Didcot Town Council, Sutton Courtenay Parish Council (representing the five parishes in the DGT boundary as illustrated in Appendix 3), Homes England and Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP).
6. The DGTAB serves in an advisory role with no legal status or formal decision-making powers. Each member may make recommendations to their representative organisation to act on a matter that is under the jurisdiction of that organisation. It is the joint role of SODC and VWHDC Cabinets to make any formal decisions as the statutory bodies, who are accountable for the funding except in respect of strategic highways infrastructure projects associated to the masterplan, which Oxfordshire County Council is responsible for.
7. Since 2017, the SODC and VWHDC Didcot Garden Town team has worked with partners to complete projects as set out in the original Delivery Plan. DGT has delivered a total of 13 projects and a further 26 projects are in progress/part of BAU which are referred to in **Appendix 1**.
8. In 2021, Homes England notified officers that Didcot Garden Town will no longer be able to participate in the annual bidding rounds for capacity funding (revenue) as part of the Garden Communities Programme.

Current position

9. In December 2021 a new Community Wellbeing service was created in SODC and VWHDC, which pulled together the following teams: Health, Community Grants and Liaison, the Community Hub, Arts Strategy, Garden Communities and Active Communities.

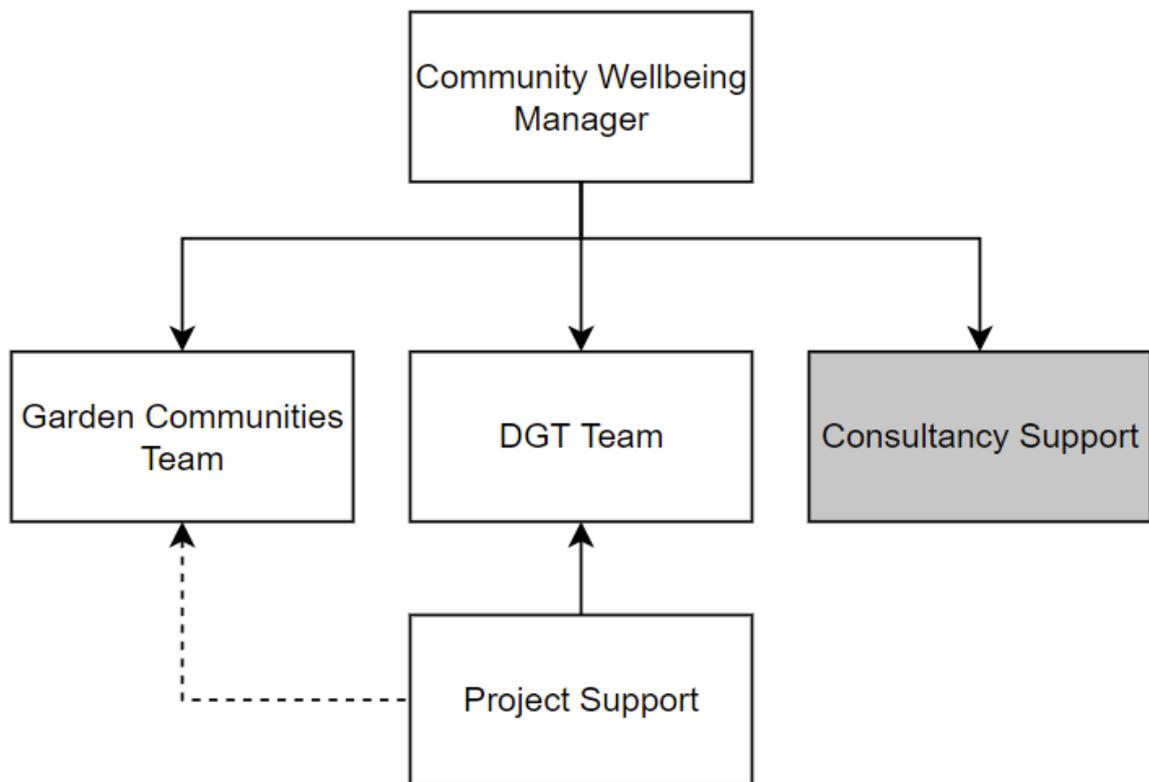
10. At the point of transition to this new team, members requested a complete review of activities within the DGT programme to provide clarity on progress and operational constraints. The table below outlines expenditure and grant income to date (both Revenue and Capital).

Revenue	Sum of Grants Received	Sum of Expenditure to 31st March 2021	Sum of Grant Remaining Balance as of 31st March 2021	Sum of Expenditure in FY 21/22	Anticipated Remaining Grant balance as of 31st March 2022
South Oxfordshire	-£3,551,419	£1,950,730	-£1,600,689	£121,078	-£1,479,611
Didcot Garden Town	-£2,375,500	£1,482,810	-£892,690	£121,078	-£771,612
Didcot Gateway 2012-2014	-£645,000	£456,019	-£188,981		-£188,981
Didcot Growth Point	-£530,919	£11,900	-£519,019		-£519,019
Vale of White Horse	-£1,710,500	£1,343,348	-£367,152	£132,271	-£234,882
Didcot Garden Town	-£1,710,500	£1,343,348	-£367,152	£132,271	-£234,882
Grand Total	-£5,261,919	£3,294,077	-£1,967,842	£253,349	-£1,714,493
Capital	Sum of Grants Received	Sum of Expenditure to 31st March 2021	Sum of Grant Remaining Balance as of 31st March 2021	Sum of Expenditure in Unit 4 as at 20/01/22	Anticipated Remaining Grant balance as of 31st March 2022
South Oxfordshire	-£7,509,399	£34,399	-£7,475,000	£7,178	-£7,467,822
NPR3 Funding	-£6,200,000	£0	-£6,200,000		-£6,200,000
Didcot Growth Point Capital Funding	-£1,309,399	£34,399	-£1,275,000	£7,178	-£1,267,822
Vale of White Horse					
None					
Grand Total	-£7,509,399	£34,399	-£7,475,000	£7,178	-£7,467,822

Revised Delivery Plan

11. In March 2022, the Didcot Garden Town Advisory Board reconsidered the Delivery Plan and its objectives. This review was completed to ensure the delivery outcomes for projects, aligned with the current outlook in light of challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the economic situation and ongoing climate change needs.
12. As part of this work, a priority mapping exercise was completed with members to bring forward each represented organisations top three priorities for the Garden Town. Themes and feedback were also tabled by the three sounding boards: residents, businesses, and parish councils.
13. A variety of priorities came forward but there was agreement from the Advisory Board members on a number of key topics. This included strategies and projects associated with the delivery of infrastructure to ensure provisions are implemented in line with the increase in population; projects to strengthen and contribute to the climate emergency including green infrastructure and particularly active travel; and focus to support town centre regeneration and placemaking to overcome the impacts of Covid-19 including a retail strategy, meanwhile spaces and wayfinding.
14. Considering the ideas brought forward, the new team developed proposals as set out in **Appendix 2** for a revised Delivery Plan to guide service delivery. The Delivery Plan includes the emerging themes as identified by the Advisory Board, with many of them either aligning with projects identified in the 2017 Delivery Plan or resembling key strategies cited in chapters of the original strategic document.

- 15. The proposed revised Delivery Plan and Garden Communities team structure supports enablement of key agendas including Garden Communities principles, Health and Wellbeing, the Climate Emergency and Levelling-up.
- 16. It is proposed as part of this plan that the SODC and VWHDC Garden Communities team, which supports this work, will be structured with a focus on delivery and enabling the procurement of specialists and wider Council teams to support the delivery of outcomes at speed. Project delivery will also be supported by council-wide teams, where priorities align to other service delivery.



Ongoing Budget

- 17. In order to deliver the work outlined in the revised Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan (Appendix 2), it is paramount to ensure that the appropriate financial structures are in place to allow for monitoring in line with the budget management approach of the councils.
- 18. To facilitate this, it is proposed to change to working practices for this programme and create a Didcot Garden Town budget. Previously, funds were spent from the grant monies held in reserve at the end of the year in order to reconcile spent costs. The proposal presented to Cabinets in this paper, is to draw these funds down in advance and use them as an in-year budget in the same way as other departments across the councils.
- 19. This requires an initial sum to be drawn down from grant monies held in reserve, initially this figure is estimated to be £825,000 (South - £660,000, Vale £165,000), and Cabinet is asked to authorise the movement of these funds into the budget year 2022/2023.
- 20. Any monies which go unspent by the end of the year will be carried forward into following years with agreement of the Section 151 officer in consultation with the Page 13

appropriate Head of Service, in accordance with finance procedure rules laid out in each council's constitution.

Financial Implications

21. Any council decision that has financial implications must be made with the knowledge of the council's overarching financial position.
22. For South, the position reflected in the council's medium-term financial plan (MTFP) as reported to Full Council in February 2022 showed that the council is due to receive £2.1 million less in revenue funding than it plans to spend in 2022/23 (with the balance coming from reserves).
23. This funding gap is predicted to increase to over £3 million by 2026/27. As there remains no certainty on future local government funding, following the announcement of a one-year spending review by government, and as the long-term financial consequences of the Coronavirus pandemic remain unknown, this gap could increase further. Every financial decision made needs to be cognisant of the need to address this funding gap in future years.
24. For Vale, the position reflected in the council's medium-term financial plan (MTFP) as reported to Full Council in February 2022 showed that the council was able to set a balanced budget for 2022/23, but that there is expected to be a budget gap in future years.
25. This future funding gap is predicted to increase to over £3.7 million by 2026/27. As there remains no certainty on future local government funding, following the announcement of a one-year spending review by government, and as the long-term financial consequences of the Coronavirus pandemic remain unknown, this gap could increase further. Every financial decision made needs to be cognisant of the need to address this funding gap in future years.
26. The expenditure proposed in the above paragraphs would be fully funded from grant funding previously received for this programme.

Legal Implications

27. Funding referenced was granted under S31 of the Local Government Act 2003 and it is to support South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council towards expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred. Homes England (under DLUHC) will monitor how the funding has been used to progress the project through regular contact with officers.

Risks

28. The revised delivery plan is comprised of the priorities from the delivery plan approved in 2017 and therefore contains no greater risk. However, should action not be taken now to identify key priorities and reflect changing circumstances posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the economic situation and ongoing climate change needs, there is a risk that the most relevant and appropriate community improvements are not brought forward, and the desired outcomes not achieved.

Other implications

29. The Delivery Team will monitor progress on the implementation of the Delivery Plan and report back to Cabinets and Scrutiny committees, as appropriate. Reporting intervals will be agreed with the relevant Cabinet members.

Next Steps

30. Once the revised Delivery Plan has been approved, the remaining funding detailed above in paragraph 19 will be apportioned to the individual activities (once partnership working has been considered). A follow up report will be presented to Cabinets once this work is completed.
31. Officers will progress recruitment to vacant posts within the Garden Communities structure upon approval of the revised Delivery Plan.

Conclusion

32. This report seeks approval of a revised Didcot Garden Town (DGT) Delivery Plan and associated budget, to enable a more focused delivery plan to bring forward community improvements, assist recovery of the garden town area following the pandemic and to address the climate emergency.

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

Acronym/Definition	Description
SAV	<i>South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils</i>
OCC	<i>Oxfordshire County Council</i>
OxLEP	<i>Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership</i>
Didcot Garden Town Boundary	<i>The Didcot Garden Town masterplan area boundary is the extent of Didcot that is covered by the garden town masterplan. This area has been considered in detail to identify both appropriate development opportunities and in order to plan investment and improvements in transport, landscape, green infrastructure, public realm, and other services. The masterplan’s primary focus is the garden town masterplan area, but proposals that relate to connectivity – such as transport and green infrastructure – in some cases extend beyond the garden town boundary in order to join Didcot up with surrounding networks. List of parishes included in the DGT boundary can be viewed on the map in Appendix 3.</i>
Area of Influence Boundary	<i>As part of developing proposals for Didcot Garden Town, it has been important to look beyond Didcot’s immediate boundary to consider sites and areas that are strongly linked to the garden town. This wider area around Didcot is called the ‘area of influence’. Given the strong ties between Didcot and the Science Vale, the area of influence includes the three major science campuses: Harwell, Milton Park and Culham. As well-known and valued landscape features near to Didcot, Wittenham Clumps and the River Thames are important features contributing to Didcot’s natural setting, these are included within the area of influence. Finally, Didcot acts as a primary service centre for a number of surrounding villages; this relationship influences Didcot’s economy and transport network, and so these villages are included within the area of influence. List of parishes included in the Area of Influence can be viewed on the map in Appendix 3.</i>
Community Programming	<i>Scheduling and delivering a series of projects within the local community to support activation and community development to serve specific communities in their own environment.</i>
Meanwhile spaces	<i>Short term use of a temporary building or area generally used for the benefit of the local community for meeting spaces, training, exhibitions, pop up shops etc.</i>
Co-working spaces	<i>Co-working is a term used to describe a working arrangement in which people from different teams, companies and areas come together to work in a single shared space.</i>
Oxfordshire Plan 2050	<i>The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 is one of the commitments made by the six Oxfordshire authorities and will collectively consider the needs of all the county to ensure joint up working. The Oxfordshire Plan builds on the foundations set by the current and emerging countywide Local Plans and looks beyond them, as the strategic planning issues for the period up to 2050. It will give the districts a framework for future planning policies. The Plan will not allocate sites for housing or employment. Instead, it will identify key areas for sustainable growth with associated housing/employment numbers, while considering how to help tackle climate change, improve water efficiency, and mitigate flood risk.</i>
Joint South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2041	<i>South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils have come together to work on a new Joint Local Plan which will guide new housing and jobs needed and where they should go, informing planning application decisions for the districts. Local Plans are used to help determine planning applications and set out how and where new housing developments should take place, along with identifying the infrastructure needed to support them. The two district councils in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse have agreed to develop a joint Local Plan for the area to reduce costs and help the councils meet their ambitious targets for making the two districts carbon neutral.</i>
Neighbourhood Developments Plan	<i>Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area. They are able to choose where they want new homes, shops and offices to be built, have their say on what those new buildings should look like and what infrastructure should be provided, and grant planning permission for the new buildings they want to see go ahead</i>
Local Development Orders	<i>LDO’s provide permitted development rights for specified types of development in defined locations.</i>
Green Infrastructure	<i>Green infrastructure is a network of multi-functional green spaces such as an area of grass, trees or other vegetation, urban and rural, which can help to deliver improved quality of life through recreational or aesthetic purposes and environmental benefits for communities.</i>
Wayfinding	<i>Wayfinding can be defined as spatial problem solving. It is knowing where you are in a building or environment, knowing where your desired destination is, and knowing how to get there from your present location.</i>

Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan 2017

Project list as cited in Chapter 11 - Funding and Implementing Proposals and the current status

No.	Objective	Project Name	Description	Status	Moved to new Delivery Plan
1B	Community Engagement	Consultation Delivery Plan	Undertake a full public consultation on the draft Delivery Plan. Consider and incorporate views received so that the final plan reflects the wishes of the community.	Complete	No
1F	Project Planning	Endorse and Publish Garden Town Policy Statement	Both Councils' to formally endorse non-statutory Garden Town policy statement and publish it as a standalone document available on the planning policy section of their websites.	Complete	No
1J	Governance	Draft Governance Structure Constitution and Terms of Reference	Draft a constitution and terms of reference to which each constituent body of the governance structure must agree.	Complete	No
1K	Governance	Governance Structure Consultation	Prepare, publish and carry out a community engagement strategy.	Complete	No
3	Engagement	Didcot Garden Town Event	Organise this event which celebrates achievements within the Town and to encourage continued community involvement.	Complete	No
10	Planning	Multi-use Transport model	Establish a multi-use transport model that will allow for improved transport planning, to ensure future infrastructure meets the needs of users.	Complete	No
23	Infrastructure	Backhill Lane cycle and pedestrian scheme	Make improvements to Backhill Lane at Milton Park for cyclists and pedestrians.	Complete	No
26	Infrastructure	Feasibility study for renewable energy sources	Conduct a feasibility study, including costing for installation of renewable energy sources for new build and retrofit housing.	Complete	No
28	Infrastructure	Feasibility study for public charging stations	Carry out feasibility and costings for viable network of electric vehicle charging stations	Complete	No
30	Infrastructure	District Heating feasibility study	Conduct detailed techno-economic modelling from 2017-18	Complete	No
31	Infrastructure	District Heating Detailed Project Development	Develop the business case and procurement strategy from 2018-2019.	Complete	No
35	Social Infrastructure	Higher/Further Education Partner Discussion	Councils' to discuss with relevant stakeholders and undertake feasibility testing to consider the potential for Didcot to have a further education presence.	Complete	No
63	Governance	Governance Structure Legal Advice	Seek legal advice on governance structure	Complete	No
1A	Governance	Didcot Garden Town Governance and Project Delivery	Maintain the Garden Town team within the District Councils'; specifically to be focussed on the delivery of the Garden Town objectives. The team will manage the work programme set out in the Delivery Plan, and act as a point of contact for public and private partners wishing to invest in and deliver elements of the plan.	In Progress	BAU
1C	Engagement	Stakeholder Representatives' Events	Arrange Didcot Garden Town update sessions, to maintain the involvement of the community and drive projects forward.	In Progress	BAU
1D	Engagement	Meanwhile and Temporary Uses Research	Research best practice and support opportunities to deliver for temporary, meanwhile and pop up uses around the town.	In Progress	Yes
1E	Engagement	Create Meanwhile Use Project Plan	Create a plan for meanwhile use projects, which will attract interest from potential participants and engage the community.	In Progress	Yes
1G	Planning	DPD Development	Develop a programme for development, consultation and adoption of a Garden Town DPD and include it in both Councils' Local Development Schemes.	In Progress	BAU

Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan 2017

Project list as cited in Chapter 11 - Funding and Implementing Proposals and the current status

No.	Objective	Project Name	Description	Status	Moved to new Delivery Plan
1H	Quality	Align consents with Garden Town principles	Liaise with developers working group to explore opportunities to retrospectively align extant consents with Garden Town principles	In Progress	Yes
4	Engagement	Arts and Culture Strategy	Produce a Town wide strategy that sets out how the Town will build its cultural offer across public art, community engagement and cultural amenities, encompassing milestones, partners and funding.	In Progress	Yes
7	Social Infrastructure	Connectivity Hub	Conduct a feasibility study for the Connectivity Hub and then construct the preferred option.	In Progress	Yes
11	Infrastructure	Smart Travel and New Technology	Develop smart travel initiatives to promote sustainable transport options and implement new travel technologies.	In Progress	Yes
13	Infrastructure	Cycling Network improvements	Upgrade to cycling network within the whole Town.	In Progress	Yes
14	Infrastructure	Enhanced Cycling network	Extending and enhancing the cycling network including creating micro hubs.	In Progress	Yes
15	Infrastructure	Science Bridge and A4130 Capacity Improvements	Implement the proposed capacity improvements.	In Progress	Yes
16	Infrastructure	Central Didcot Transport Corridor (Cultural spine and Gateway spine)	Provide a package of works for the proposed Cultural Spine and Gateway spine.	In Progress	Yes
17	Infrastructure	Northern perimeter road and East West movement corridor (NPR3)	Providing a package of new highway improvements.	In Progress	Yes
18	Infrastructure	Access to Culham Science Centre Phase 1	Install first stage of improvements to access to Culham Science Centre.	In Progress	Yes
22	Infrastructure	New Thames Crossing	Implement the second stage of improvements to access to Culham Science Centre, including a new crossing over the Thames.	In Progress	Yes
39	Sustainability	Feasibility study for combined Recovery Hub in Didcot	Carry out feasibility and costings for introduction of a recycling centre, combined with a Re-use Shop and community initiatives.	In Progress	Yes
46	Design Quality	Detailed strategy for green routes network	Develop detailed landscape design for proposed extension of cycle and pedestrian paths. Include design briefs for cycle facilities at Station Square, Town Square, Broadway and Rich's Sidings.	In Progress	Yes
48	Sustainability	Strategy for promotion of growing local food	Produce a strategy to bring together initiatives for growing local food, from community groups, bio-science organisations and landowners, to bring about a strategy for projects.	In Progress	Yes
52	Green Infrastructure	Neighbourhood re-greening strategy	Conduct a comprehensive review of existing street character and neighbourhoods, to provide a phasing plan and detailed replanting proposals, including potential for other green infrastructure.	In Progress	Yes
55	Design Quality	Design Codes	Develop Design Codes which will assist in ensuring that the detailed delivery of the ensuing phases is to a high quality.	In Progress	Yes

Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan 2017

Project list as cited in Chapter 11 - Funding and Implementing Proposals and the current status

No.	Objective	Project Name	Description	Status	Moved to new Delivery Plan
56	Engagement	Post-consent Engagement	Continued engagement process with consented sites, to ensure the key principles and aims of the Garden Town Masterplan are delivered through detailed design.	In Progress	Yes
58	Design Quality	Feasibility Studies	Conduct design studies to determine capacity and feasibility of recommendations within the Master plan such as: Station Study, Garden Line Study, Cultural Spine Study, Gateway Spine Study.	In Progress	Yes
59	Design Quality	Design Briefs	Develop Design Briefs for sites critical to the delivery of the Garden Town Masterplan, to ensure eventual development adheres to the established principles.	In Progress	Yes
60	Regeneration	Gateway Project	Complete financial and technical studies for feasibility phase through to planning permission. Subsequently work with third parties who will implement project.	In Progress	Yes
64	Planning	Develop DPD	Co-ordinate with Planning Policy team to develop a DPD.	In Progress	BAU
11	Quality	Work with Government	Work with Government to investigate how Planning Freedoms could be used to reinforce the delivery of the vision for the Garden Town.	Not Started	No
1L	Governance	Governance Structure Brand	Develop a unified brand in order to give Didcot Garden Town a clear identity	Not Started	Yes
2	Engagement	Refresh Didcot Garden Town Website	Engage a web designer to create the website, creating a central location for information on the Garden Town and for community updates.	Not Started	No
5	Engagement	Create Events Plan	Bring together key science, arts and environment stakeholders to create an events plan, this can be an early stage in the commissioning of an arts & cultural strategy	Not Started	Yes
6	Design Quality	Wayfinding Strategy, Design and Installation	Create a wayfinding strategy and design the layout and information so that improved signage and navigation aids can be installed. Installation of wayfinding totems around Didcot, including interactive maps at the station.	Not Started	Yes
8	Business Support	Didcot Town Centre Manager	Run feasibility testing for introducing a Town centre manager role to Didcot.	Not Started	No
9	Social Infrastructure	Social Enterprise Action Plan	Develop an action plan for involving social enterprises in future activities linked to the achievement of Garden Town objectives.	Not Started	No
12	Infrastructure	First and second phase of Garden Line cycle improvements	Deliver the first and second phase of the cycle improvements for the Garden Line, encouraging the uptake of cycling. The works include upgrade of routes for autonomous vehicles	Not Started	Yes
19	Infrastructure	Didcot station and rail feasibility and options study	Study for options for station location and track reconfiguration including improvements to Culham station and four tracking railway and grade separation.	Not Started	No
20	Infrastructure	Public transport strategy	Develop a strategy for public transport to improve services for users and encourage increase in use.	Not Started	Yes
21	Infrastructure	Parking strategy	Create a parking strategy for all modes of transport - including cycling - for the Town centre and station to enable efficient use of limited space.	Not Started	Yes
24	Infrastructure	Utility companies engagement	Garden Town team to facilitate engagement with all utility companies, to share Garden Town sustainable energy strategies and discuss opportunities for delivery.	Not Started	No

Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan 2017

Project list as cited in Chapter 11 - Funding and Implementing Proposals and the current status

No.	Objective	Project Name	Description	Status	Moved to new Delivery Plan
25	Infrastructure	Feasibility study for rainwater / greywater harvesting	Carry out a feasibility study, including costing for installation of rain water or greywater harvesting for new build and retrofit housing.	Not Started	No
27	Infrastructure	Liaise with OCC to identify location for new HWRC	Conduct options study for potential locations for new Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC)	Not Started	No
29	Infrastructure	Watercourse enhancement study	Engage with the Environment Agency to identify potential improvement works to watercourses and carry out a feasibility study.	Not Started	No
32	Infrastructure	District Heating Commercialisation Phase	Engaging with private sector partners, implement commercialisation of District Heating from 2019 onwards.	Not Started	No
33	Social Infrastructure	Specialist Elderly Housing Plan	Develop plan for innovative elderly care in Didcot to meet the growing need.	Not Started	No
34	Social Infrastructure	Cultural, Leisure and Recreational Provision Study	Commission further studies into: opportunities for commercial leisure/ professional team provision; health and leisure; age-friendly design; and annual programme of events across Didcot.	Not Started	Yes
36	Innovation and Pace	Investigating opportunities for off-site construction of housing units in Didcot Garden Town.	Support growth in the off-site sector through: 1. Mapping the housing delivery pipeline to offer visibility / public data on demand over time. 2. Engaging with off-site manufacturers to support establishment of production facilities. 3. Testing suitability of Council-led projects and those by other organisations, such as Registered Providers for off-site construction. Shaping projects to suit this approach, and using them to stimulate the sector.	Not Started	No
37	Design Quality	Process for supporting high quality housing	Formulate a formal process for the approach described under 6.1.3 Supporting High Quality Housing. This will involve establishing the contents of the Local Area Analysis and Scheme Location / Character steps and the input data for affordable housing product valuation and affordability testing.	Not Started	No
38	Sustainability	Feasibility study for sustainable fuels	Carry out feasibility and costings for implementation of sustainable fuels for Council fleet and local private fleet operators	Not Started	No
40	Sustainability	Feasibility study for community initiatives for small scale renewables.	Carry out feasibility and costing for introduction of community initiatives relating to renewables	Not Started	No
41	Sustainability	Feasibility study for water saving	Carry out investigation into potential for grants etc. for installation of water saving devices.	Not Started	No
42	Sustainability	Engagement with developers for enhanced SUDS schemes	Work with existing developers and the Environment Agency to identify potential options for enhanced SUDS schemes, including potential funding streams.	Not Started	No

Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan 2017

Project list as cited in Chapter 11 - Funding and Implementing Proposals and the current status

No.	Objective	Project Name	Description	Status	Moved to new Delivery Plan
43	Technology	Strategies required for technology implementation	Create strategies to guide the deployment of technology products and solutions in projects. These will be determined with the Council's technology partners, but may include: Mass Transit Solutions Strategy, Programme Management Frameworks and Digital Platform Strategy.	Not Started	Yes
44	Green Infrastructure	Public realm and landscape strategy	Produce a public realm and landscape strategy to provide a comprehensive plan to develop the public realm and integrate it with the landscape strategy for the Town.	Not Started	Yes
45	Design Quality	Design briefs for proposals at Rich's Sidings, Station Square and Town Square	Develop the public realm brief for series of spaces associated with new build development at each location.	Not Started	Yes
47	Green Infrastructure	Research project into maintenance of landscape spaces	Research sources of alternative funding of landscape management and maintenance, based on premise of increased health and well-being.	Not Started	Yes
49	Design Quality	Masterplan for gravel working zone	Provide comprehensive masterplan strategy and phasing diagrams for development of the gravel workings area between Sutton Courtney and Appleford.	Not Started	No
50	Green Infrastructure	Detailed design and phasing of enhancement of Moor Ditch	Create a detailed strategy for the enhancement of the water quality and environment of the Moor Ditch.	Not Started	No
51	Leisure	Strategy for River Thames leisure enhancement	Create a comprehensive strategy to enhance the environment and make proposals for greater leisure potential of the River Thames corridor.	Not Started	No
53	Infrastructure	Develop a policy for new resting places for ashes	In the design of the new multi-functional spaces, or in the upgrading of existing open spaces, a suitable place for Columbaria is to be included. Design and provision of new Columbaria will address the lack of burial space within the Town, which will provide cultural and community amenity and be part of the open space strategy.	Not Started	No
54	Sustainability	Community Hub	Grow, Cook, Eat community gardening and cooking centre.	Not Started	Yes
57	Business Support	Retail Strategy	Test recommendations such as providing support to independent retailers and small businesses as a balance of retail being delivered as part of Orchard Centre Phase 2.	Not Started	Yes
61	Regeneration	Rich's Sidings	Undertake financial and technical studies for feasibility phase through to planning permission. Subsequently work with third parties who will implement project.	Not Started	No
62	Innovation on Delivery	Potential Projects	Undertake initial development appraisal, investment and procurement reviews, to identify further opportunities for the Councils' to take the lead in working with third parties to deliver projects.	Not Started	No

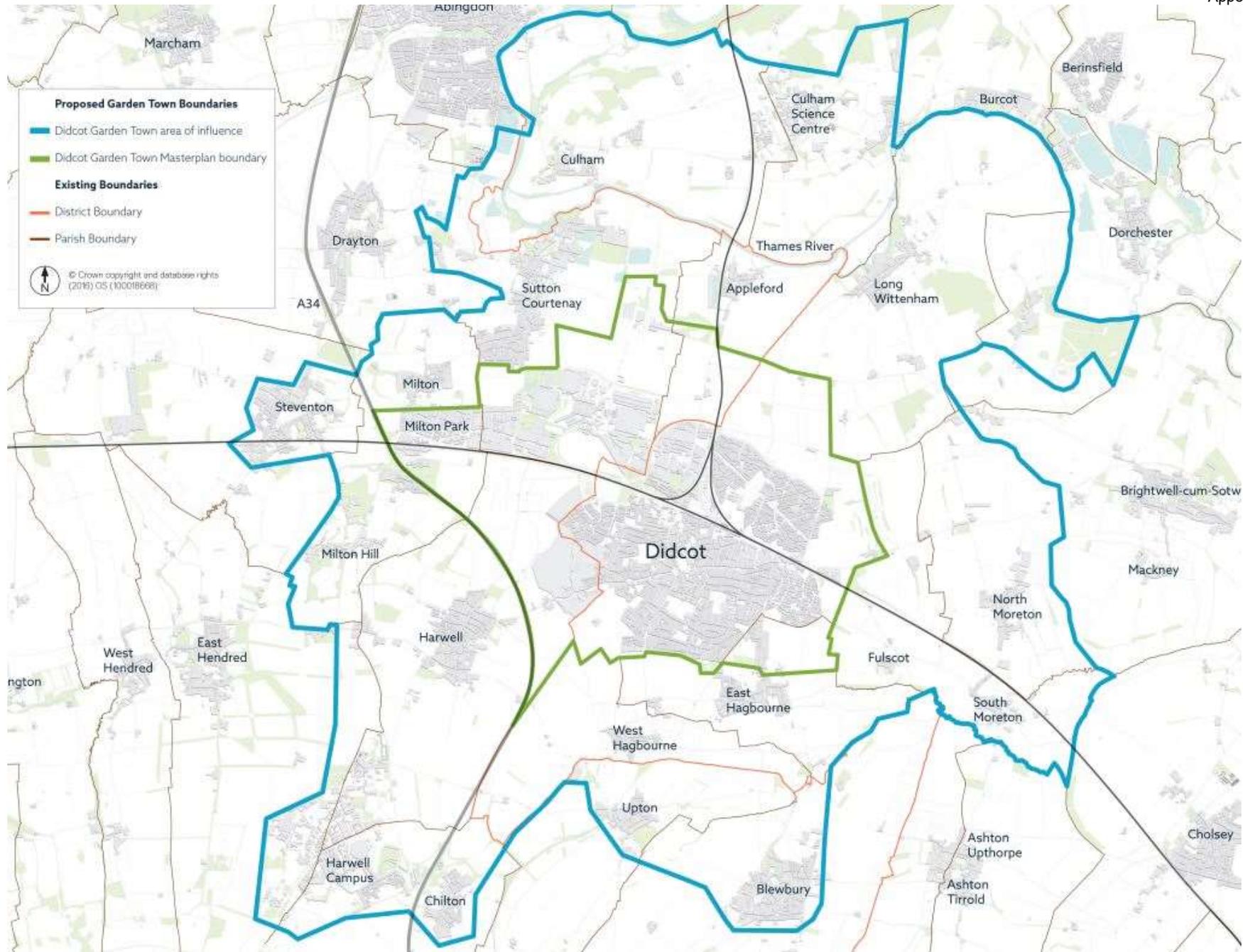
Proposed Project Number (2022)	Project Number (as per Delivery Plan 2017)	Proposed Objective (2022)	Objective (as per Delivery Plan 2017)	Proposed Project Name (2022)	Project Name (as per Delivery Plan 2017)	Description (as per Delivery Plan 2017)	Proposed Description (as per new Delivery Plan 2022)	Lead
1	15	Infrastructure and the Built Environment	Infrastructure	A new "Science Bridge" over the A4130, Great Western Railway Line and Milton Road into the former Didcot A Power Station site (HIF1)	Science Bridge	Implement the proposed capacity improvements.	The Didcot Garden Town HIF1 schemes are constituted of four key pieces of highway infrastructure improvements: widening the A4130, Science Bridge, Didcot to Culham River Crossing and the Clifton Hampden Bypass. Although separate schemes, they must be delivered cohesively for their benefits to be fully realised. All schemes benefit from cycling and pedestrian provisions additionally. Complete design and technical studies for feasibility phase through to planning permission. Subsequently work with partners who will implement the project.	OCC
2	15	Infrastructure and the Built Environment	Infrastructure	A4130 widening from Milton Interchange to a new Science Bridge by making it a dual carriageway (HIF1)	A4130 Capacity Improvements	Implement the proposed capacity improvements.	The Didcot Garden Town HIF1 schemes are constituted of four key pieces of highway infrastructure improvements: widening the A4130, Science Bridge, Didcot to Culham River Crossing and the Clifton Hampden Bypass. Although separate schemes, they must be delivered cohesively for their benefits to be fully realised. All schemes benefit from cycling and pedestrian provisions additionally. Complete design and technical studies for feasibility phase through to planning permission. Subsequently work with partners who will implement the project.	OCC
3	18	Infrastructure and the Built Environment	Infrastructure	A Clifton Hampden Bypass between the A415 at Culham Science Centre and B4015 north of Clifton Hampden. (HIF1)	Access to Culham Science Centre Phase 1	Install first stage of improvements to access to Culham Science Centre.	The Didcot Garden Town HIF1 schemes are constituted of four key pieces of highway infrastructure improvements: widening the A4130, Science Bridge, Didcot to Culham River Crossing and the Clifton Hampden Bypass. Although separate schemes, they must be delivered cohesively for their benefits to be fully realised. All schemes benefit from cycling and pedestrian provisions additionally. Complete design and technical studies for feasibility phase through to planning permission. Subsequently work with partners who will implement the project.	OCC
4	22	Infrastructure and the Built Environment	Infrastructure	A new river crossing and link road between the A4130 at Didcot and A415 at Culham, including two new bridges. (HIF1)	New Thames Crossing	Implement the second stage of improvements to access to Culham Science Centre, including a new crossing over the Thames.	The Didcot Garden Town HIF1 schemes are constituted of four key pieces of highway infrastructure improvements: widening the A4130, Science Bridge, Didcot to Culham River Crossing and the Clifton Hampden Bypass. Although separate schemes, they must be delivered cohesively for their benefits to be fully realised. All schemes benefit from cycling and pedestrian provisions additionally. Complete design and technical studies for feasibility phase through to planning permission. Subsequently work with partners who will implement the project.	OCC
5	16	Infrastructure and the Built Environment	Infrastructure	Didcot Central Corridor	Central Didcot Transport Corridor (Cultural spine and Gateway spine)	Provide a package of works for the proposed Cultural Spine and Gateway spine.	To develop a placemaking strategy and prepare an Options Appraisal Report (OAR) for three main routes within Didcot known collectively as Didcot Central Corridor (DCC). These include the Cultural Spine (Broadway), Gateway Spine (Station Road), B4493 Foxhall Road and Jubilee Way roundabout. To transfer a funding contribution from SODC to OCC (subject to agreement) to support advancing the project and the inclusion of Jubilee Way roundabout in the scope. Key outputs for the project are to: 1. Create a joint transport ("movement") and public realm ("place") placemaking strategy for parts of central Didcot with the involvement of residents, businesses and relevant local stakeholders. 2. Produce an Options Appraisal Report (OAR), Stage 1 and 2. 3. Provide recommendations of schemes from short to long term to support future capital funding bids to implement.	OCC (Lead) SAV (Project Team)
	45		Design Quality		Design briefs for proposals at Rich's Sidings, Station Square and Town Square	Develop the public realm brief for series of spaces associated with new build development at each location.		
	58		Design Quality		Feasibility Studies	Conduct design studies to determine capacity and feasibility of recommendations within the Master plan such as: Station Study, Garden Line Study, Cultural Spine Study, Gateway Spine Study.		
6	17	Infrastructure and the Built Environment	Infrastructure	Northern Perimeter Road Phase 3 (NPR3)	Northern perimeter road and East West movement corridor (NPR3)	Providing a package of new highway improvements.	NPR3 forms part of the strategic transport infrastructure in Didcot and will extend the existing A4130 Didcot Northern Perimeter Road (NPR), linking the A4130, Abingdon Road and B4016 junction to the A4130 and Hadden Hill junction. To transfer £6.2m in grant funding from SODC to OCC subject to agreement. Complete design and technical studies for feasibility phase through to planning permission. Subsequently work with partners who will implement the project.	OCC SAV

Proposed Project Number (2022)	Project Number (as per Delivery Plan 2017)	Proposed Objective (2022)	Objective (as per Delivery Plan 2017)	Proposed Project Name (2022)	Project Name (as per Delivery Plan 2017)	Description (as per Delivery Plan 2017)	Proposed Description (as per new Delivery Plan 2022)	Lead
7	60	Infrastructure and the Built Environment	Regeneration	Didcot Gateway	Gateway Project	Complete financial and technical studies for feasibility phase through to planning permission. Subsequently work with third parties who will implement project.	Undertake a master planning exercise to set out the context for the delivery of individual sites within the wider Didcot Gateway area to support regeneration. Regeneration aims are to provide improvements to the arrival space for the Town and facilitate delivery of mixed use schemes including homes, office space and a café.	SAV Homes England
8							Support delivery of a regenerated gateway into the Town opposite Didcot Parkway train station and work with partners/third parties to implement it.	
9	6	Infrastructure and the Built Environment	Design Quality	Wayfinding	Wayfinding Strategy, Design and Installation	Create a Wayfinding Strategy and design the layout and information so that improved signage and navigation aids can be installed. Installation of Wayfinding Totems around Didcot, including interactive maps at the station.	Identify areas to implement wayfinding to enhance user experience in accessing spaces around the Garden Town and helping them find their way to desired destinations. Wayfinding systems should help encourage active travel.	SAV
10	13	Active Travel	Infrastructure	DGT Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)	Cycling network improvements	Upgrade to cycling network within the whole Town.	To develop and adopt a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for Didcot Garden Town to identify cycling and walking improvements required at the local level. The geographical scope to cover wards within the Area of Influence of the masterplan additionally to enhance connectivity. Project will consider existing routes that need improvements, as well as identifying new routes for both leisure and commuting purposes. Ensure the vision is community led and provisions cater to all abilities.	SAV (Lead) OCC (Project Team)
	14		Infrastructure		Enhanced cycling network	Extending and enhancing the cycling network including creating micro hubs.		
11	12	Active Travel	Infrastructure	Science Vale Active Travel Network	First and second phase of Garden Line cycle improvements	Deliver the first and second phase of the cycle improvements for the Garden Line, encouraging the uptake of cycling. The works include upgrade of routes for autonomous vehicles	To plan, develop and construct active travel routes across the Science Vale, connecting three main employment zones to Town centres including Didcot. Subsequently work with partners and third parties who will implement the project. Upon completion ensure wayfinding is integrated and routes are mapped to support accessibility.	OCC OxLEP
	46		Design Quality		Detailed strategy for green routes network	Develop detailed landscape design for proposed extension of cycle and pedestrian paths. Include design briefs for cycle facilities at Station Square, Town Square, Broadway and Rich's Sidings.		
12	11	Innovation	Infrastructure	MultiCAV (Autonomous vehicle trials)	Smart travel and new technology	Develop smart travel initiatives to promote sustainable transport options and implement new travel technologies.	Work with a consortium led by UK transport operator FirstGroup to plan and support an autonomous vehicle service travelling to and from Didcot Parkway to Milton Park.	FirstGroup/MEPC
13	20	Active Travel	Infrastructure	Didcot Garden Town Area Transport Strategy	Public transport strategy	Develop a strategy for public transport to improve services for users and encourage increase in use.	Develop a local transport strategy for the Didcot Garden Town and Area of Influence boundaries, and evaluate how integrated parking for all modes of transport including cycling can compliment the increase in public transport use. Ensure the strategy improves services for users and considers the use of transport connectivity hubs in association with rail infrastructure.	OCC
	21		Infrastructure		Parking strategy	Create a parking strategy for all modes of transport - including cycling for the Town centre and station to enable efficient use of limited space.		

Proposed Project Number (2022)	Project Number (as per Delivery Plan 2017)	Proposed Objective (2022)	Objective (as per Delivery Plan 2017)	Proposed Project Name (2022)	Project Name (as per Delivery Plan 2017)	Description (as per Delivery Plan 2017)	Proposed Description (as per new Delivery Plan 2022)	Lead
14	1H	High quality housing and placemaking	Quality	Garden Town Development Principles	Align consents with garden town principles	Liaise with developers working group (see chapter 10) to explore opportunities to retrospectively align extant consents with Garden Town principles	Continue to evaluate against the Didcot Garden Town development principles and comment on significant planning applications within the Garden Town boundaries, working with our stakeholders for infrastructure, health and wellbeing to ensure high quality aims are delivered through detailed design. Work with developers on strategic sites to consider setting up design panels and/or design codes.	SAV
	56		Engagement		Post-consent Engagement	Continued engagement process with consented sites to ensure the key principles and aims of the Garden Town Masterplan are delivered through detailed design.		
	55		Design Quality		Design Codes	Develop Design Codes which will assist in ensuring that the detailed delivery of the ensuing phases is to a high quality.		
15	1G	High quality housing and placemaking	Planning	Garden Town Planning Policy	DPD Development	Develop a programme for development, consultation and adoption of a Garden Town DPD and include it in both Councils' Local Development Schemes.	To co-ordinate with Planning Policy workstreams to influence and embed the Didcot Garden Town principles throughout leading strategic plans. Ensure conformity of the Garden Communities principles is aligned to emerging policy including (but not limited to) the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, Joint South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Local Plan and Neighbourhood Development Plans. This will enable the continued implementation of the Didcot Garden Town masterplan and overall development strategy for the area, highlighting core principles including connectivity and open space.	SAV Planning Policy
	64		Planning		Develop DPD	Co-ordinate with Planning Policy team to develop a DPD.		
16	44	Green Infrastructure	Green Infrastructure	Strengthening and enhancing open - green space	Public realm and landscape strategy	Produce a public realm and landscape strategy to provide a comprehensive plan to develop the public realm and integrate it with the landscape strategy for the Town.	Conduct a review of neighbourhoods to identify areas where green infrastructure can improve the public realm. Assess the access to green/open space on the outskirts of Didcot, and how this can be strengthened to enable leisure and wellbeing benefits. Provide a phasing plan for biodiversity enhancements, including potential for other green infrastructure. Implement any short-term schemes and identify funding for future recommended improvements.	SAV
	52		Green Infrastructure		Neighbourhood re-greening strategy	Conduct a comprehensive review of existing street character and neighbourhoods to provide a phasing plan and detailed replanting proposals including potential for other green infrastructure.		
	47		Green Infrastructure		Research project into maintenance of landscape spaces	Research sources of alternative funding of landscape management and maintenance based on premise of increased health and well-being.		
17	48	Community Programming	Sustainability	Community Programming Environment & Sustainability	Strategy for promotion of growing local food	Produce strategy to bring together initiatives for growing local food, from community groups, bio-science organisations and landowners to bring about a strategy for projects.	Work with local partners to deliver a series of projects connected with the environment and sustainability. Consider how to advance or compliment projects set out by the residents sounding board, with reference to the environment. This includes (but not limited to) the garden pledge, community gardens and tree planting.	SAV
	54		Sustainability		Community Hub	Grow, Cook, Eat community gardening and cooking centre.		
	39		Sustainability		Feasibility study for combined Recovery Hub in Didcot	Carry out feasibility and costing for introduction of recycling centre combined with Reuse Shop and community initiatives.		
18	1D	Community Programming	Engagement	Community Programming Meanwhile spaces	Meanwhile and Temporary Uses Research	Research best practice and support opportunities to deliver for temporary, meanwhile and pop up uses around the Town.	Identify spaces, (including but not limited to derelict land, unused public realm, retail units), across the Garden Town (including the 116 - 120 Broadway). To plan and deliver a series of temporary to semi-permanent meanwhile and pop up spaces with a variety of thematic backgrounds. Work with local partners and the community to deliver spaces to bring both social and economic benefits.	SAV
	1E		Engagement		Create Meanwhile Use Project Plan	Create a plan for meanwhile use projects which will attract interest from potential participants and engage the community.		

Proposed Project Number (2022)	Project Number (as per Delivery Plan 2017)	Proposed Objective (2022)	Objective (as per Delivery Plan 2017)	Proposed Project Name (2022)	Project Name (as per Delivery Plan 2017)	Description (as per Delivery Plan 2017)	Proposed Description (as per new Delivery Plan 2022)	Lead
19	4	Community Programming	Engagement	Community Programming Arts & Culture	Arts and Culture Strategy	Produce a Town wide strategy that sets out how the Town will build its cultural offer across public art, community engagement and cultural amenities, encompassing milestones, partners and funding.	<p>The masterplan considers the inclusion of public art as a means towards revitalising areas such as underpasses, public spaces, gateways and reinforcement of character areas. Conduct a review of public areas to identify a scheme of public arts improvements across the Garden Town to support placemaking.</p> <p>Work with Cornerstone and Didcot Civic Hall to reinforce the idea of the Council-owned asset being at the heart of the Cultural Spine. To deliver a series of projects/events to increase outreach and the cultural offering of the Town; encouraging people to use restaurants and bars and to visit Didcot as a destination. This could be implemented through mechanisms such as meanwhile spaces.</p>	SAV
	5		Engagement		Create Events Plan	Bring together key science, arts and environment stakeholders to create an events plan, this can be an early stage in the commissioning of an arts & cultural strategy		
20	34	Leisure	Social Infrastructure	Leisure and Recreation Strategy	Cultural, Leisure and Recreational Provision Study	Commission further studies into: opportunities for commercial leisure/ professional team provision; health and leisure; age-friendly design; and annual programme of events across Didcot.	Conduct a local leisure needs review to understand current provisions and future opportunities for leisure, considering the new housing growth in the area. Review should identify recommendations.	SAV
21				Community Programming Leisure			Work with South and Vale's Active Communities team to plan and implement a programme of activities and recreational provisions for all abilities to contribute to improving health statistics in Didcot.	
22	57	Economic Development	Business Support	Town Centre and Retail Strategy	Retail Strategy	<p>Test recommendations such as providing support to independent retailers and small businesses as a balance of retail being delivered as part of Orchard Centre Phase 2.</p> <p>To build on the findings of the recently commissioned District wide Town Centres and retail study. The commissioned study will inform the updated Joint Local Plan and should allow us to understand the current health of the Districts' Town centres and the future needs for retail and leisure within the area.</p> <p>The DGT Town centre and retail strategy will focus on establishing a blueprint for vitality and viability. The strategy could include realistic and achievable short, medium and long actions to guide the Council and relevant partners in approaching the complex number of components that influence Town centre success.</p> <p>It would be preferable that the strategy is adaptable, and offers a degree of flexibility given the ongoing uncertainty around the impact of the pandemic.</p> <p>The Government's Build Back Better High Streets policy paper published in July 2021, suggested that there were 5 key priorities for high streets, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Breathing new life into empty buildings; •Supporting high street businesses; •Improving the public realm; •Creating safe and clean spaces; •Celebrating pride in local communities (this point is reiterated in the levelling up white paper) 	SAV	
23	Making Didcot a Place for Business Chapter 4	Economic Development	Business Support	Apprenticeships, skills and training	N/A	N/A	<p>Work with partners to build on local networks to get the business community to influence programmes.</p> <p>Identify annual opportunities to hold skills and apprenticeship fairs using such mechanisms as meanwhile spaces to promote outreach. Consider replicating other successful soft interventions such as the pop-up business school delivered in 2019.</p>	SAV (Lead) OxLEP (Project team)
24	7	Economic Development	Social Infrastructure	Co-working space	Connectivity Hub	Conduct a feasibility study for the Connectivity Hub and then construct the preferred option.	<p>Work with partners to improve digital inclusion throughout Didcot Garden Town through digital hubs, public Wi-Fi and other interventions.</p> <p>This work is also being explored through the business sounding board.</p>	OxLEP
	43	Economic Development	Technology		Strategies required for technology implementation	Create strategies to guide the deployment of technology products and solutions in projects. These will be determined with the Councils' technology partners, but may include: Mass Transit Solutions Strategy, Programme Management Frameworks, Digital Platform Strategy.		
25	Making Didcot a Place for Business Chapter 4	Economic Development	Business Support	Local Development Orders	N/A	N/A	Work with partners to support opportunities to increase economic investment and job opportunities within the Garden Town.	SAV Strategic Partnerships and Planning Policy

Proposed Project Number (2022)	Project Number (as per Delivery Plan 2017)	Proposed Objective (2022)	Objective (as per Delivery Plan 2017)	Proposed Project Name (2022)	Project Name (as per Delivery Plan 2017)	Description (as per Delivery Plan 2017)	Proposed Description (as per new Delivery Plan 2022)	Lead
26	Making Didcot a Place for Business Chapter 4	Economic Development	Business Support	Milton Bio Science Centre	N/A	N/A	Work with partners to support opportunities to increase economic investment and job opportunities within the Garden Town.	SAV Strategic Partnerships
27	1L	High quality housing and placemaking	Governance	Identity/Brand	Governance Structure Brand	Develop a unified brand in order to give Didcot Garden Town a clear identity	Working with communications leads to develop an adopted DGT logo to contribute to placemaking. Develop a long term legacy plan to ensure Garden Town principles are sustainable.	SAV



Didcot Garden Town Boundary and the Area of Influence Boundary (Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan 2017)

Scrutiny Report

Report of Head of Planning

Author: Emma Turner

Telephone number: 07717 779171

Email: emma.turner@southandvale.gov.uk

Wards affected: All

Cabinet member responsible: Anne -Marie Simpson

Email: anne-marie.simpson@southandvale.gov.uk

To: SCRUTINY

Date: 29 July 2022

Planning enforcement: progress of new working

Recommendations

(a) that Councillors consider the progress of the new approach to planning enforcement including the progress made in reducing the on-hand enforcement caseload and performance on cases since January 2022.

Purpose of report

1. To seek Scrutiny Committee's comments on the implementation of the new approach to managing planning enforcement work as set out in the Planning Enforcement Statement (December 2021).
2. To inform progress made in reducing the on-hand enforcement case work to enable improvement in performance and timely responses.

Corporate Objectives

3. The investigation and actions to mitigate planning harm supports the Corporate Plan, 2020 - 2024, themes of 'Providing the Homes People Need' and 'Building Healthy Communities'.

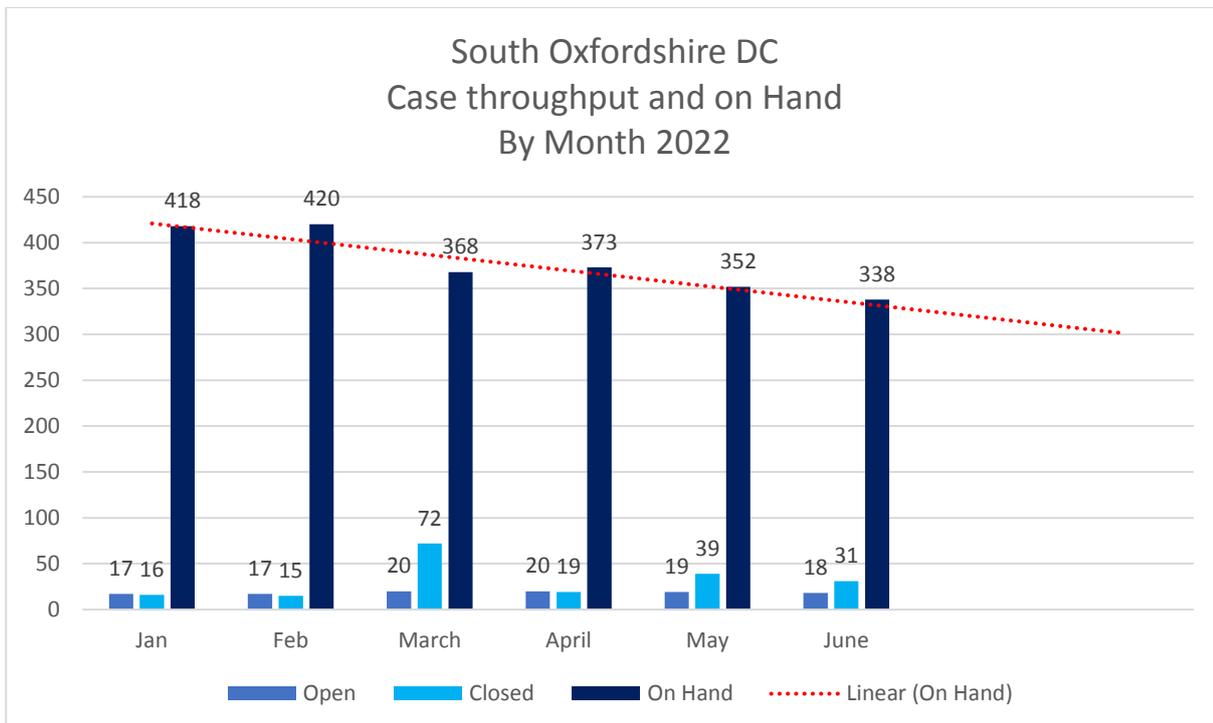
Background

4. A review of the enforcement team took place in 2021. There were fifteen operational improvements and one procedural update recommended. The procedural update was a review of the 2016 Planning Enforcement Statement and the introduction of a more formal triaging process. The review would enable officers to improve transparency of decision making and efficiency in working, which would allow greater focus on the issues with the potential to cause unacceptable planning harm.
5. The new Planning Enforcement Statement was agreed and adopted by both Cabinets in December 2021. Presentations and question and answer sessions were conducted in December and January for Parish, Town and district councillors and were well attended.
6. The proposed new approach was considered by Scrutiny Committee in November 2021 and they requested an on-hand progress and update report within six months.
7. The new triaging process was introduced in January 2022, hence this update report in July.

Performance update

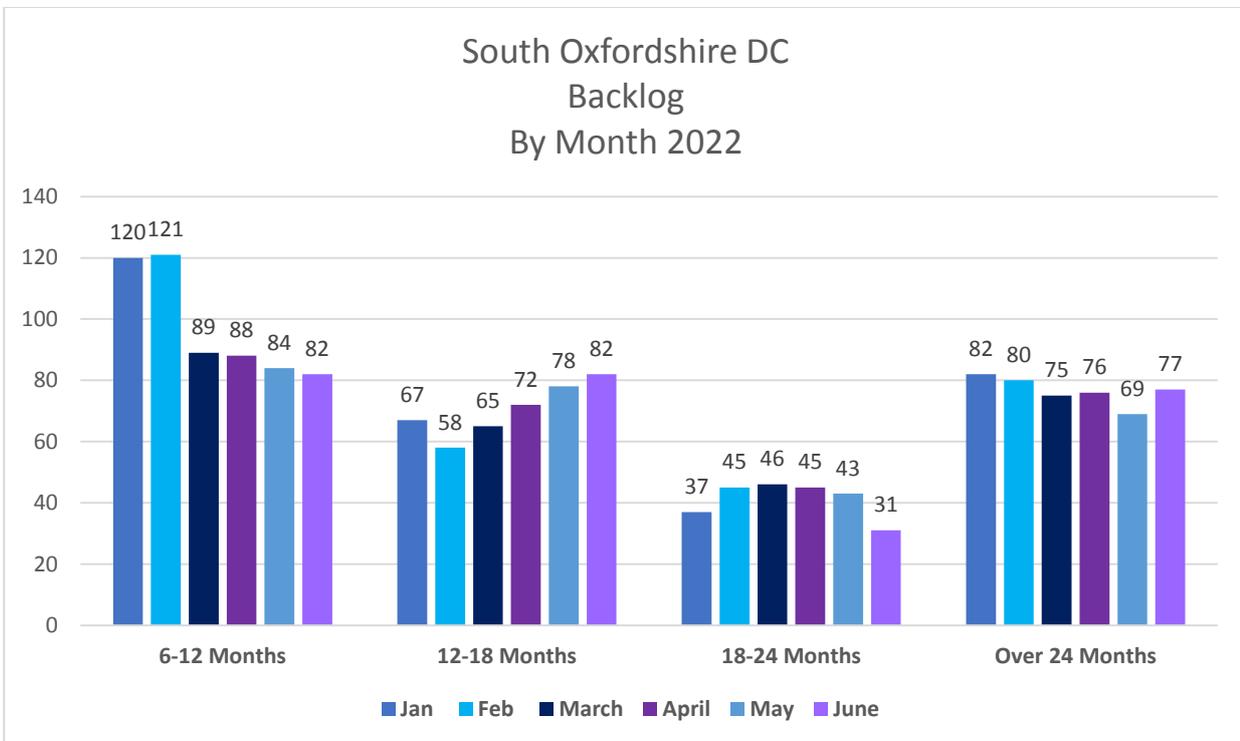
On-hand case work

8. Planning Enforcement case throughput and on-hand monitoring is set out below.



9. There has been a reduction in the numbers of cases on-hand in the six months since the introduction of the new statement and triaging process. Senior management agreed that a more manageable on-hand case load for the team was 350 cases or less and to reach this figure by July 2022. This included a period of calibration to ensure the triaging is being carried out consistently across the team and councils.

10. From the 192 cases closed since January 2022 the team has received 15 requests for review of our decision or further clarification. For one of these cases we agreed to reopen it after receiving additional information due to the impact on the residents loss of privacy and amenity.
11. Officers consider that the triaging threshold score is set at the right level, however we will continue to monitor the new process to ensure our threshold is capturing the cases with the potential for most planning harm.
12. We are also aware that the Levelling Up Bill in the Queen’s speech in May 2022 may have implications for how we deliver the enforcement function in the future. Again this is something we will monitor to ensure the function is operating appropriately in line with current law and Government policy.
13. A breakdown of the on-hand case work is set out in the graph below.

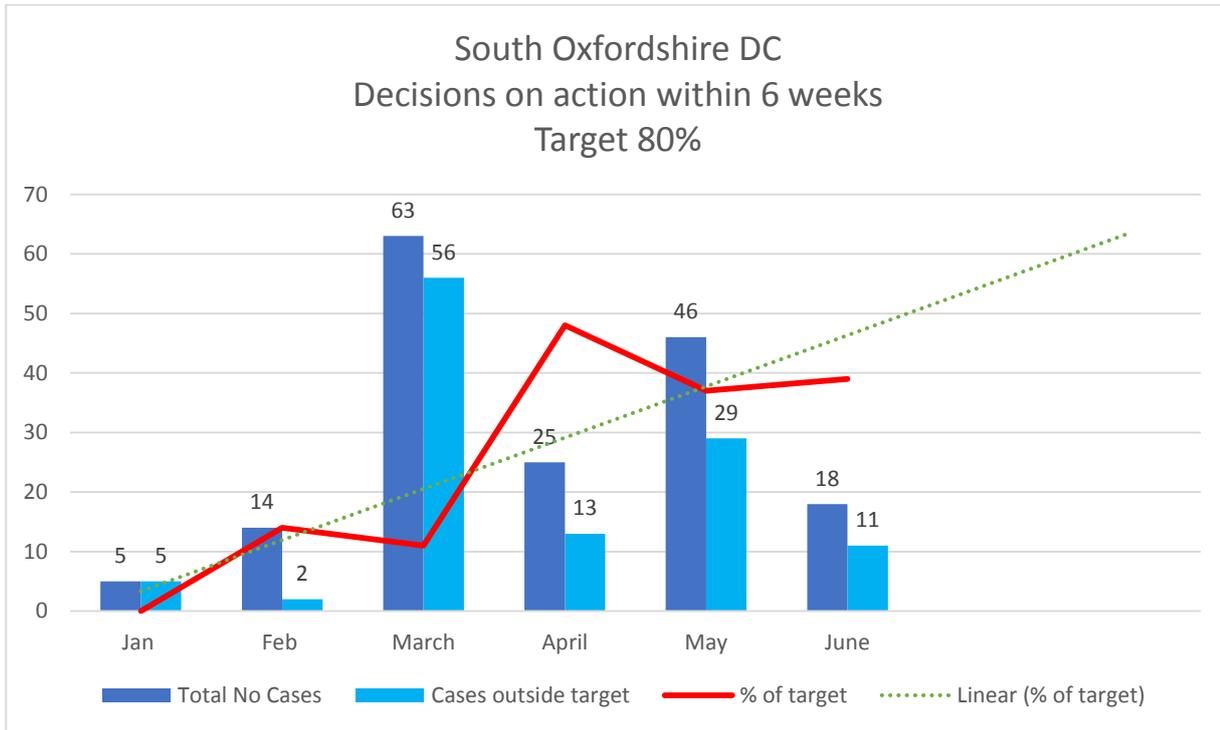


14. It is important to note that some of the older on-hand cases are required to remain open to ensure compliance with notices served, compliance with actions specified to remedy a breach of planning control or compliance with conditions e.g. relating to planting periods. We also have small number of cases (4) that have been waiting nearly 12 months for appeals to be heard by the Planning Inspectorate or dates to be set by the Courts for prosecution proceedings

Performance since implementation of new approach.

15. In addition to reducing the on-hand case load the team have since January 2022 implemented the new approach as set out in the revised Enforcement Statement. Since April we have monitored our efficiency target of deciding a course of action for 80% of cases within six weeks of allocation. This is measured on a monthly basis and the team

should be on target by the end of September 2022, subject to resources and incoming workload.



Additional improvements

- 16. One of the operational recommendations was to manage the team inbox by customer services. This commenced in May and enforcement officers provide technical support and meet regularly to discuss customer feedback and areas for improvement including our web pages, online forms and to reduce jargon in correspondence.
- 17. A new mobile working solution to our service delivery which allows cases to be worked in real time in the field, is also being developed which will assist in improving our efficiency. The solution is similarly used by the council's Food Safety and Environmental Health teams.
- 18. In terms of progress on the operational recommendations, which included 35 actions, sixteen actions have been completed, eleven are work in progress and eight have not yet started. Those that have not started are linked to other corporate projects such as the PAS Development Management review and the customer transformation project. The one non-operational recommendation (review the Enforcement Statement) has been completed. Overall progress on the improvements is on track.

Climate and ecological implications

- 19. In maintaining public confidence in the planning system, the revised Enforcement Statement and our ways of working should help ensure new development and relevant planning conditions support climate and biodiversity mitigation.

Financial Implications

20. The work to review the statement and working practices is all within the existing planning budget.

Legal implications

21. There are no direct legal implications arising from this work. The NPPF says Local Planning Authorities ‘...should consider publishing a local enforcement plan to manage enforcement proactively...’. This we have done.

Conclusion

22. Officers consider that good progress has been made to reduce the on-hand case load. The new triaging scheme has improved the efficiency and focus on planning harm. Ongoing monitoring and regular reviews ensure that the team is listening and learning from customer feedback and provides opportunities for continuous improvement.

23. We would welcome Scrutiny Committee’s feedback on the progress made to date.