



SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

9 September 2025

Agenda Item Number	Page	Title	Officer Responsible
6.	(Pages 3 - 6)	Performance Monitoring Report Quarter 1 2025 – 2026 - Answers to Questions	Assistant Director Customer Focus

If you need any further information about the meeting please contact Emma Faulkner / Martyn Surfleet, Democratic and Elections democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk, 01295 221534

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OSC Pre-Submitted Questions and responses 09.09.25

Item 6 - Performance Monitoring Report Quarter 1 2025 - 2026

Q1) Page 17 BP2.2.03 is amber but the RAG suggests 39 amber and 10 red.

- Can further explanation be provided for the 10 red items please?

By Councillor John Broad

Response from Jo Miskin - Climate Action Manager

Action	Supporting Area(s)	Response
Understand the viability of incorporating into the Local Plan a requirement for developers to target industry standards regarding construction waste reduction, resource efficiency and circular economy principles.	Planning	<p>Now the RAG rating is green</p> <p>The Local Plan recently submitted to the Government for examination includes a suite of policies addressing the mitigation and adaption to climate change.</p> <p>These policies, within the context of the viability of the local plan as a whole have been viability tested.</p> <p>Specific policies which address the KPI are:</p> <p>Policy CSD 1: Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change – references embodied carbon and minimising waste and recycling.</p> <p>Policy CSD 5: Embodied Carbon</p> <p>Policy CSD 21: Waste Collection & Recycling – supporting text references circular economy.</p> <p>Paragraph 3.319 – specific reference and diagram of the circular economy.</p>
Upgrade existing supply to Thorpe Lane Depot to allow charging of EV RCVs.	Property	Awaiting legal transfer of the site to the DNO and then there programme of works for the new sub-station installation
Install solar PV car ports at Kidlington and Spiceball Leisure Centres.	Property	Kidlington PV is not likely to progress due to electrical supply issues on site. Spiceball designs about to commence.
Delivering a plan to ensure the EPC performance of buildings is in line with our 2030 target.	Property	Funding approved for 2026 – 2029 awaiting Council agreement on Capital programme.

Removal of radiant gas heaters at Thorpe Lane Depot.	Property	Requires new electrical supply to Thorpe Lane – see above item
Install EV charging points at council-owned sites to support the use of staff-owned EVs.	Property	If this is regarding Thorpe Lane then it also requires new electrical supply at Thorpe Lane to be installed – see above item.
Consider if next contract can include the use of electric vehicles and machinery.	Environmental Services	The current Landscape maintenance contract has been extended to April 2026 it is likely that the replacement contract post April 26 will look for more electric vehicles & equipment.
Develop a comprehensive tree/forest strategy in order to increase tree planting rates within the district and ensure long-term maintenance/stewardship of forests/woodlands	Environmental Services	The development of a comprehensive tree/woodland strategy is a significant undertaking requiring baseline data, councillor input, and formal ratification. Current service capacity is focused on high-priority operational matters. The first step will be updating and approving the Tree Management Policy, which will form the foundation of the wider strategy.
Work with the GSE Net Zero Energy Hub to support heat decarbonisation in corporate buildings	Climate Change	The specific offer of support for heat decarbonisation in corporate buildings is no longer available through the Greater South East Net Zero Hub (GSENZH) because of their other priorities.

Q2) Noted the Climate Change Programme Board (CCPB). Who sits on this board and can others join it?

By Councillor John Broad

Response from Jo Miskin - Climate Action Manager

Councillor engagement is central to our climate work, and we are committed to embedding member input into both strategic direction and delivery. Previously, we had a Members Climate Action Working Group, which provided valuable insight. Democratic are currently in the process of renewing this group, with plans to relaunch it in the coming month to ensure councillors continue to play a key role in shaping our climate agenda.

The Climate Change Programme Board (CCPB) is a senior officer group that supports delivery by coordinating climate actions across departments. It brings together officers whose work directly contributes to progressing climate objectives, ensuring that climate considerations are embedded in service planning and implementation. CCPB is to support and enable the delivery of actions that reflect the priorities set by members and the wider council.

CCPB Membership

CCPB it's an officer board, a new Climate Action Steering Group under O&S is to be established. The Board consist of the following members (All deputies):

- *Ian Boll, Corporate Director of Communities - Programme Senior Responsible Officer*
- *Ed Potter, Assistant Director of Environmental Services*
- *Nicola Riley, Assistant Director of Wellbeing and Housing Services*
- *Mona Walsh, Assistant Director of Property*
- *David Peckford, Assistant Director of Planning and Development*
- *Michael Furness, Assistant Director of Finance*
- *Shiraz Sheikh, Assistant Director of Law and Governance and Democratic Services and MO*
- *Shona Ware, Assistant Director of Customer Focus*
- *Julia Harrington, Head of Regeneration and Growth*
- *Jo Miskin, Climate Action Manager*
- *Hitesh Mahawar, Climate Change Programme Manager*

Q3) Page 22 Community Leadership / Strengthen community collaboration and resilience / Q1 Produce annual EDI General Duty Compliance – Amber

- Has any progress been made with educating public facing staff learning British Sign Language (BSL)?
- NB: I'm sure some Councillors and maybe officers might like to learn BSL?

By Councillor John Broad

Response from Clair Cox - Assistant Director of HR –

We have launched our language bank and have identified some internal resource but that we are investigating courses and costs on this.

Q4) Page 23 Quality Housing & Place Making – Deliver planning service improvement

- Will this reduce residents and Parish input?
- Does this include improving external bodies inputs such as, for example, OCC Highways?

By Councillor John Broad

Response from David Peckford - Assistant Director - Planning and Development

- Will this reduce residents and Parish input?
– **No**
- Does this include improving external bodies inputs such as, for example, OCC Highways?
– **Not specifically. It is for those authorities to provide their professional advice. However, the action plan for the management of strategic planning applications includes the more structured tracking and chasing of consultation responses in the interest of avoiding unnecessary or inordinate delay**

Q5) Page 30 BP2.2.05 Total Greenhouse Gas emissions for the year.

- Does this take into account changes made to residential properties by householders to reduce their carbon emissions?
- Plus, any retrofit to commercial buildings? If not, why not?

By Councillor John Broad

Collective response from Jo Miskin - Climate Action Manager and Ed Potter - Assistant Director of Environmental Services

The council monitors two distinct sets of emissions:

1. **Organisational emissions** – those directly linked to council operations.
2. **District-wide emissions** – which include emissions from homes, businesses, transport, and other sectors across Cherwell.

*This query broadly relates to **district-wide emissions**, and the short answer is **yes**, these types of changes are captured, however indirectly. Individual retrofit measures in homes or commercial buildings (such as insulation, heat pumps, or solar panels) may not be tracked at the property level, but their impact is reflected in broader datasets, particularly through reductions in electricity and gas consumption. When thousands of households and businesses make improvements, the cumulative effect becomes visible in national and regional emissions data, which we use to assess progress. These aggregated trends help us understand the overall direction of travel and inform future planning and support programmes.*