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Introduction

Introduction

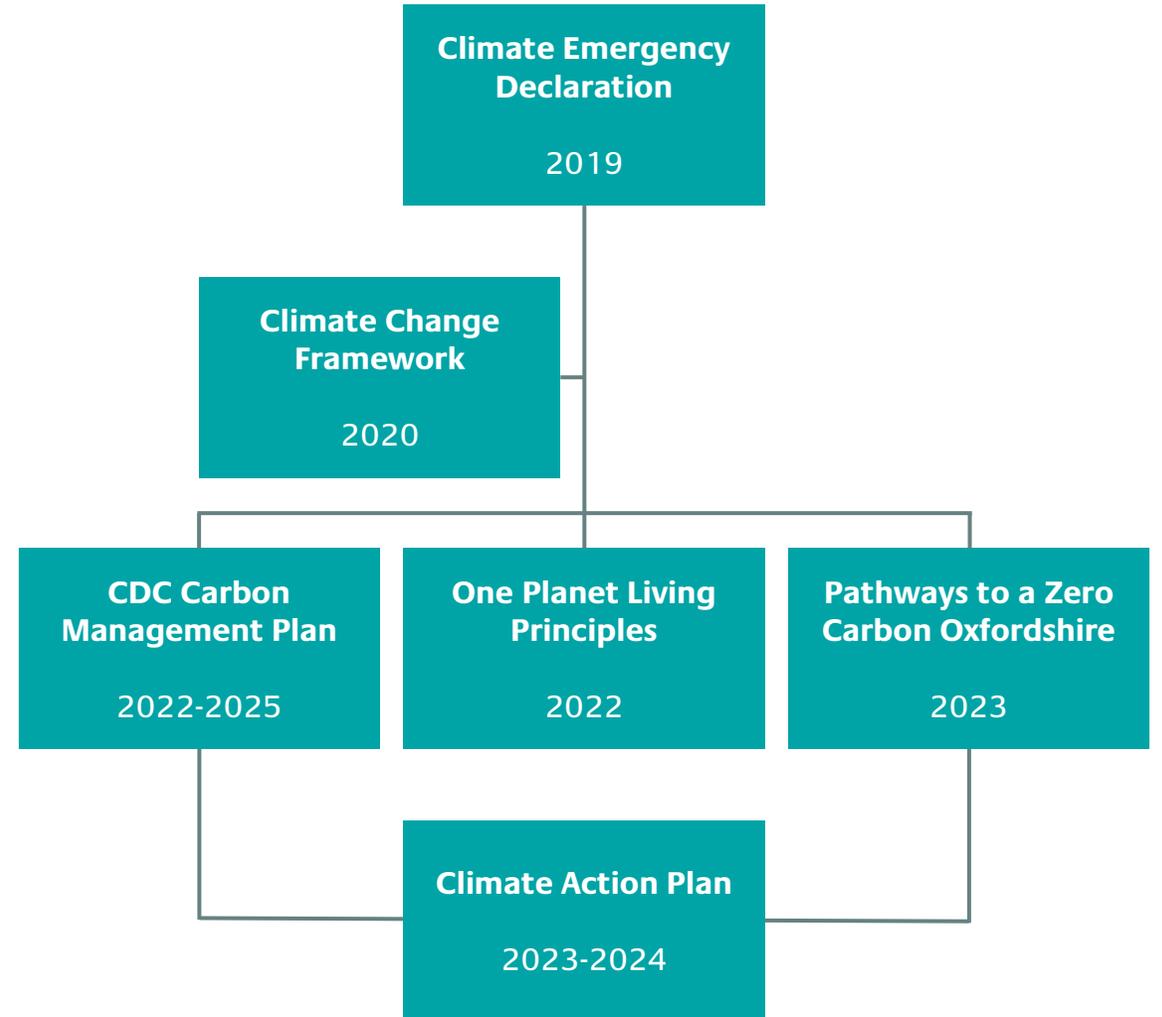
This plan was written during the summer of 2023, in close consultation with all services of Cherwell District Council and is authored by the Climate Action Manager. It is based upon the Climate Change Framework 2020, which sets our ambitions for both the council and the wider district to become carbon net zero. It has been reviewed by the council's internal Climate Change Working Group and its Overview and Scrutiny Committee and is endorsed by the Corporate Leadership Team and Executive.

For clarification, this is an internal operational document which sets out how the council will deliver on the Climate Change Framework.

Additionally, the plan reflects several initiatives which are taking place across the county in which Cherwell District Council is a participant. Most significantly is the Pathways to a Zero Carbon Oxfordshire (PaZCO) report and plan, which has been endorsed by the Council. PaZCO is overseen by the Future Oxfordshire Partnership, whose officer and councillor Environment groups have representation from Cherwell District Council.

This plan takes into account the following documents:

- CDC's Climate Action Framework 2020
- CDC's Carbon Management Plan 2022
- Oxfordshire Net Zero Route Map and Action Plan
- One Planet Living – Gap Analysis of CDC's Policies



Introduction

Our consultants, Bioregional, have reviewed the Action Plan, comparing it with regional and national policy objectives in order to identify any gaps. They have also assessed the actions and reviewed their potential impact on carbon reduction, which enabled us to prioritise our actions and resources.

At the time of writing (September 2023), consultation has started on a draft of a new, emerging Local Plan for the district. A wide range of strong planning policies for responding to climate change are proposed for comment. The feedback received to that consultation will inform further Local Plan development and the proposed Plan will also be consulted upon in 2024 before it is independently examined.

The actions on the natural environment have been reviewed and supported by Oxfordshire's Local Nature Partnership, of which the Council is a member. The need to achieve Biodiversity Net Gain is becoming increasingly important and we expect the Government's statutory requirement for qualifying development to achieve at least 10% net gain to come into effect in November 2023. Biodiversity enhancement has a significant role to play in helping us with our climate change response.



Structure and scope of the Action Plan

Structure of the Action Plan

The Action Plan covers the activities needed over the 12 months until October 2024, to reduce the emissions of both the council and the Cherwell district. Over 100 actions have been identified.

Following the introductory text, the actions are laid out in a table, the columns of which include:

- The specific goal
- The actions needed to achieve the goal
- The service area of the council which will provide most support
- An indication of the level of carbon reduction from the action
- A RAG rating
- An indicative timescale

There are 17 goals, and the associated actions are categorised in three ways.

- Planned activities – these are already within operational plans and are budgeted for
- Future Priorities – these activities are required to meet the goal, but do not yet sit within existing plans
- Actions coloured in green – these have been identified by our consultants as being the activities over which we have most influence and which have the highest impact on emission reductions.



Scope of the Action Plan

When looking at the emissions of any organisation, typically they are divided into 'scopes', in particular, Scopes 1, 2 and 3.

- Scope 1 – includes direct emissions from the burning of fuels, e.g., gas/petrol/diesel
- Scope 2 – includes indirect emissions from the generation of electricity
- Scope 3 – includes indirect emissions from an organisation's supply chain.

The target for CDC to be carbon net zero by 2030 relates only to Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions, where the council has a strong degree of influence. Within the Action Plan however, are actions which relate to our Scope 3 emissions, which need to be better understood in order to plan for reductions, e.g., by working closely with the supply chain.



Context

Context

It is widely recognised that climate change is becoming the most pressing issue facing humankind. The serious impacts of climate change are already being seen across the world and the situation is unfortunately only going to deteriorate. The UK has to an extent avoided some of extreme weather events and other impacts associated with climate change, however the 40 degree heatwave experienced in 2022 gives an indication of what is likely to come in the very near future. We need to do all we can to minimise these impacts.

Current climate action is aimed at minimising the rise in global temperatures to no more than 1.5 degrees, as scientific modelling suggests that beyond that figure, the world is likely to experience severe climate disruptions that could exacerbate hunger, conflict and drought worldwide. Despite global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to support the 1.5 degree target, the significant reductions in emissions which are needed, are unfortunately not being achieved. It is nevertheless, critical that the UK continues to do everything possible to achieve its own target of becoming carbon net zero by 2050 and CDC has an important supporting role to play.

The council's climate change work is unique in that it has some level of impact across almost every service. In areas such as healthy place-shaping and economic regeneration, climate change sits at core of the strategic thinking. This Action Plan recognises however, that there is still work to be done in helping to embed climate change into how the council functions, for example in strengthening governance arrangements. This has been highlighted by a recent internal audit on Climate Change.

CDC has already declared its commitment to taking climate action, through its Climate Emergency announcement in 2019, the production of the Climate Change Framework 2020 (our climate change strategy) and the Corporate Business Plan 2023-2024, in which environmental sustainability is one of the four key priorities.

This Action Plan strengthens further CDC's commitment to tackling climate change, in setting out a wide range of almost 120 actions which support emissions reductions for both the council and the district. Whilst some of the actions are currently aspirational (described as Future Priorities), many are also 'planned' and budgeted for, ensuring that they will take place. This is a reflection of much of the proactive work that CDC is already doing across its functions.

Benefits of action

The benefits of taking climate action go well beyond improving our resilience to climate change and reducing our emissions. Responding to climate change helps to make CDC a more financially resilient organisation, as we generate more of our own energy and reduce the demand for energy by making our buildings more energy efficient.

Taking climate action for the district, helps to improve the lives of residents, for example, through creating greener and cleaner public spaces, making homes warmer in the winter and easier to heat and reducing the amount of waste people generate and therefore that needs to be processed by our waste team.

There are many more benefits to residents from taking climate action, and this is a further justification for why sustainability needs to remain a key corporate priority and why it needs to be firmly embedded across our strategic thinking and operations.



Influencing emission reductions

It is important that the council understands and uses effectively, its ability to influence emissions reductions and also to recognise where this is strong and where this is more limited. This allows for the most effective use of resources and for an on-going focus on the most important areas of activity.

The area where the council has the strongest influence is over its corporate estate and fleet vehicles, the Council's two biggest sources of emissions. In addition to policy making to help reduce emissions (e.g., through our Local Plan) we can also have a positive impact through our decision-making and operations e.g., through how we provide our Planning, Enforcement, and Waste Collection services and by management of the parks and open spaces we control.

The diagram to the right provides a visual representation of the council's influence on greenhouse gas emissions reductions.



Cherwell District Council's spheres of influence

Progress on climate action

Since 2008/2009, the baseline year for CDC's emissions when they were at 6,804 tonnes of CO₂e, there has been a reduction almost every year since then, with emissions in 2021/2022 at 3988. CDC's emissions are recorded annually in a Greenhouse Gas Report, which looks in detail at our energy use across our estate and operations.

Figures for the district are generated from national government data which is disaggregated down to each local authority area and shows that since 2005, Cherwell's emissions have fallen from 1.6 million t/CO₂ to 1.1 million t/CO₂. Much of that reduction however, is due to the decarbonisation of the national electricity grid, from which further reductions are expected as the grid makes even greater use of renewable sources for the production of electricity.

In 2021, CDC received a grant of almost £6million from the government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS), leading to significant investments in our leisure centres including heat pumps. This is expected to make an import reduction in our annual emissions. Other corporate sites have received investments too, and further work is planned to expand the amount of Solar PV across the corporate estate.

Work has also begun on decarbonising our fleet, through the purchase of several EVs with more expected to arrive before the end of 2023. Funding is being identified to build a strong businesses case for decarbonising the fleet and presenting various pathways to achieving this by 2030.

Across other areas of the council, climate action is being included, for example in expenditure under the Shared Prosperity Fund, the emerging Local Plan, the Banbury town masterplan and in the process of healthy place-shaping.



Delivering emissions reductions

The biggest reductions to the council's emissions will come from focussing on the leisure centres, the fleet and the remainder of the corporate estate, respectively. Some of the most important actions in the Plan, will not themselves reduce emissions, but are essential steps in leading to the large emissions we need to see. For example, undertaking an energy audit on a building and identifying appropriate energy efficiency measures is the first step in decarbonising, before identifying and targeting funding sources accordingly.

This Plan contains a wide range of actions across many areas of both council activity and district activities, and if implemented will lead to falls in greenhouse gas emissions.

The funding of climate action will come from a range of sources, reflecting the wide range of areas where action is needed. Government grants, such as the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS), will continue to be a critical source of funding to support the energy efficiency of our buildings. The LEVI scheme (Low Emission Vehicle Infrastructure) will support the expansion of the county's charging infrastructure for electric vehicles. CDC will have to bear some costs, e.g., providing match funding for PSDS, initiating consultancy studies to inform our decision-making, e.g., the best buildings for optimising arrays of Solar PV.

The picture of funding for climate action is complex and is still emerging, with future models still needing to be investigated and better understood, e.g., municipal bonds. The council will however, continue to be proactive in seeking as many sources of funding as possible to support our climate change ambitions.



Glossary

Glossary

- **Biodiversity Net Gain** – a net improvement to an area’s biodiversity, following a new development, e.g., housing
- **Carbon Net Zero** – when all available steps have been taken to reduce emissions and off-setting is required for residual emissions which cannot be prevented
- **Carbon Neutral** – when an organisation balances its emissions by off-setting the equivalent amount. In theory, this allows an organisation to continue using producing greenhouse gas emissions and to make no reduction
- **CO2e** – carbon dioxide equivalent
- **Greenhouse gases** – the gases that are produced from the burning of fossil fuels and other industrial and agricultural activities and which have a warming effect upon the climate, e.g., carbon dioxide
- **Off-setting** – the process of balancing out greenhouse gas emissions, either through the production of renewable energy or through nature-based solutions
- **Nature-based solutions** – an approach to reducing greenhouse gases by using nature to absorb emissions, e.g., through planting trees or restoring peatlands.



Climate Change Action Plan

Climate Change Action Plan

The Action Plan is based on upon 17 goals which support the council's and the district's ambitions to become carbon net zero.

Cherwell District Council Goals

1. Reduce emissions from Cherwell DC buildings to net zero by 2030
2. Reduce emissions from Cherwell DC fleet to net zero by 2030
3. Reduce emissions from staff behaviour to net zero by 2030
4. Reduce emissions from Cherwell DC's procurement
5. Reduce emissions from CDC's Landscape Contract to net zero by 2030
6. Other aspects of CDC's activities
7. Targets date for achieving carbon net zero

Cherwell District Goals

8. Ensure emerging Local Plan is compatible with Cherwell becoming net zero carbon
9. Support emission reductions from transport
10. Support emissions reductions from housing
11. Support emission reductions from businesses
12. Enhance the district's natural capital to support carbon off-setting and biodiversity enhancement
13. Decarbonising the district's energy
14. Waste
15. Support OCC's work on adaptation
16. Partnership working
17. Governance and monitoring

Climate Change Action Plan Key

This key explains how to interpret the abbreviations and formatted text over the following pages.

Actions section

- ***Bold text next to an asterisk** = indicates the Council's biggest priorities.

Milestones section

- Q1 = Nov-Jan
- Q2 = Feb-April
- Q3 = May-July
- Q4 = Aug-Oct
- On-going = ongoing progress
- For Future Priorities, the milestones section is blank to reflect the fact that milestones have not yet been set.

RAG ratings section



Red = Limited progress



Orange = Some progress



Green = Good progress

Climate Change Action Plan 2023/2024

Actions to reduce Cherwell District Council's emissions

Goals	Action	Supporting area	Carbon saving potential	RAG rating	Milestones
1. Reduce emissions from Cherwell DC buildings to net zero by 2030	Planned Activities				
	*Continue to include low-carbon measures when carrying out routine building improvements.	Property	High		On-going
	*Agree approach to decarbonising the corporate estate, including a phased plan.	Property	High		Q1
	*Upgrade existing supply to Thorpe Lane Depot to allow charging of EV RCVs.	Property	High		Q3
	*Install solar PV car ports at Kidlington and Spiceball Leisure Centres.	Property	High		Q3
	*Additional Solar PV at Community Centres.	Property	High		Q3
	Carry out investment-grade energy audit at Stratfield Brake Pavilion.	Climate Change	High		Q1
	Submit an application to Sport England's Swimming Pool Fund.	Leisure	High		Q1
	Undertake a review of all buildings and deliver a plan to ensure the EPC performance of buildings is in line with our 2030 target.	Property	Low		Q1
	Removal of radiant gas heaters at Thorpe Lane Depot.	Property	Medium		Q3
	Continue to monitor energy usage at Leisure Centres following the installation of ASHPs.	Leisure/Property	Low		On-going
	Submit an application to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.	Climate Change	Medium		Q1
	Work with the GSE Net Zero Energy Hub and others to produce detailed designs to support heat decarbonisation in corporate buildings.	Climate Change	Medium		On-going
	Produce a design for the new fleet depot at Graven Hill.	Environment Services	Low		Q2

Actions to reduce Cherwell District Council's emissions

Goals	Action	Supporting area	Carbon saving potential	RAG rating	Milestones
1. Reduce emissions from Cherwell DC buildings to net zero by 2030	Future Priorities				
	*Leisure Services to produce a low carbon design for a new pool at Bicester Leisure Centre.	Leisure	High		
	*Any new buildings, e.g., leisure centres, to be built to be as low carbon as financially viable.	All Services	High		
	Understand the potential impact on emissions reductions from potentially vacating Bodicote House and moving to a new location.	Property	High		
	Carry out investment-grade energy audits at Leisure Centres and Thorpe Lane Depot.	Property	Medium		
	Maximise income from all solar arrays on council buildings, e.g., consider further battery storage.	Property	Medium		
	Install destratification units at Leisure Centres to reduce heat demand.	Leisure	Low		
	Install automatic meter readers at key sites to enable better monitoring of utility bills and enable officers to react to spikes in energy usage.	Facilities	Low		
	Carry out audit of buildings/car parks, to identify opportunities for additional energy generation.	Climate Change	Medium		
	Explore opportunities across council estate for reducing energy demand, e.g., LED lighting; air handling.	Property	Medium		
Ensure all utility bills are monitored/understood and we are on the lowest tariffs.	Facilities	Low			

Actions to reduce Cherwell District Council's emissions

Goals	Action	Supporting area	Carbon saving potential	RAG rating	Milestones
2. Reduce emissions from Cherwell DC fleet to net zero by 2030	Planned Activities				
	*Upgrade existing supply to Thorpe Lane Depot to allow charging of EV RCVs.	Property	High	 	Q3
	*Increase EV fleet to 25% by Oct '24.	Fleet	High	 	Q4
	Produce business case and pathways for decarbonising the fleet.	Fleet	High	 	Q2
	Continue to optimise routes for RCVs.	Fleet	Low	 	On-going
	Continue to monitor the market for new technologies around HGVs.	Fleet	Low	 	On-going
	Awaiting outcome of the Environment Act regarding waste collection and the potential need to expand the service.	Fleet	Medium	 	On-going
3. Reduce emissions from staff behaviour to net zero by 2030	Planned Activities				
	Expand salary sacrifice scheme to include EVs.	HR	Medium	 	Q1
	Future Priorities				
	Plan and begin delivery of a programme of Carbon Literacy training for staff.	HR	Medium	 	
	Consider the viability of e-bikes and e-cargo bikes for business journeys; explore options to allow staff to use council EV pool cars for business journeys.	Climate Change	Medium	 	
	Install EV charging points at council-owned sites to support the use of staff-owned EVs.	Property	Medium	 	
	Produce an evidence base for commuter miles in order to be able to address business mileage.	HR	Medium	 	
Promote better use of recycling facilities in corporate buildings.	Facilities	Low	 		

Actions to reduce Cherwell District Council's emissions

Goals	Action	Supporting area	Carbon saving potential	RAG rating	Milestones
4. Reduce emissions from Cherwell DC's procurement	Future Priorities				
	Establish baseline data for the impact of Procurement on our Scope 3 emissions.	Procurement	Medium		
	Identify the suppliers/contractors with the highest emissions.	Procurement	Medium		
	Produce outline 5-year plan for reducing Scope 3 emissions from Procurement.	Procurement	Medium		
5. Reduce emissions from CDC's Landscape Contract	Planned Activities				
	Consider if next contract can include the use of electric vehicles and machinery.	Environment Services	Medium		Q2
6. Other aspects of CDC's activities	Planned Activities				
	*Produce the 2023/2024 Greenhouse Gas Report.	Climate Change	High		Q4
	*Support Cherwell DC's 'transformation' process, in identifying climate actions for Service Areas.	Climate Change	High		Q3
	Recruit a new staff member to support climate change activity.	Climate Change	Low		Q1
	Future Priorities				
*Produce a robust evidence base showing how Cherwell can become a carbon net zero district and CDC a carbon net organisation.	Climate Change	High			

Actions to reduce Cherwell District Council's emissions

Goals	Action	Supporting area	Carbon saving potential	RAG rating	Milestones
6. Other aspects of CDC's activities	Future Priorities				
	Increase capacity of Cherwell DC to support its 2030 net zero target, as well as the ambition for the district to become carbon net zero.	Corporate Leadership Team	Low		
	Strengthen governance arrangements for climate change.	Climate Change	Low		
	Climate Change actions to feature in all Business Plans.	All Services	Low		
	Explore new funding mechanisms to support delivery of net zero actions.	Climate Change	Medium		

Actions to reduce Cherwell District's emissions

Goals	Action	Supporting area	Carbon saving potential	RAG rating	Milestones
7. Target dates for achieving carbon net zero	Future Priorities				
	*Obtain clear data on possible net zero pathways for the Cherwell District and CDC.	Climate Change	High		
	Agree a revised target date for net zero carbon for the district.	Climate Change	Low		
8. Ensure emerging Local Plan is compatible with Cherwell becoming net zero carbon	Planned Activities				
	*Ensure the timely production of a deliverable Cherwell Local Plan, to strengthen our policies to respond to climate change.	Planning	High		Q4
	*Ensure a suite of planning policies are included to support climate change mitigation and adaptation. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net zero development • Biodiversity Net Gain • Green Infrastructure • Low carbon and active travel • Decentralised and renewable energy systems. 	Planning	High		Q4
	Ensure national policy successes are reviewed, responded to and, where possible, incorporated into the Local Plan.	Planning	High		Q4
	Support partnership working, e.g., Future Oxfordshire Partnership (FOP), utility providers, other local authorities, to engage proactively on common policies that support climate action.	Planning	High		On-going

Actions to reduce Cherwell District's emissions

Goals	Action	Supporting area	Carbon saving potential	RAG rating	Milestones
8. Ensure emerging Local Plan is compatible with Cherwell becoming net zero carbon	Future Priorities				
	*Through planning policy, establish the viability of ensuring all houses in major new build developments are designed to at least meet the 2025 targets of the RIBA 2030 Climate Challenge.	Planning	High		
	*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	High		
	Consider the principles of One Planet Living through the Local Plan process.	Planning	Low		
9. Support emission reductions from transport	Planned Activities				
	*Work with OCC to implement LEVI funding to expand EV infrastructure in Cherwell.	Climate Change	High		On-going
	*Support the development of local cycling and walking infrastructure plans.	Leisure	High		On-going
	*Continue to work closely with OCC as Local Highway Authority to support the improvement in the provision of public transport in Cherwell and active travel.	Planning	High		On-going
	Future Priorities				
Increase the number of people walking and cycling in conjunction with healthy place shaping principles.	Leisure	Medium			

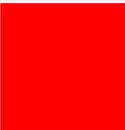
Actions to reduce Cherwell District's emissions

Goals	Action	Supporting area	Carbon saving potential	RAG rating	Milestones
10. Support emissions reductions from housing	Planned Activities				
	*Promote energy efficiency opportunities, e.g., HUG/Heat Pump Ready Scheme/Cosy Homes Oxfordshire/LEAP/ECO4.	Communications	High		On-going
	Continue to support the implementation of objectives to achieve net zero carbon emissions at NW Bicester.	Bicester Team	Medium		Q3
	Work to ensure the delivery of requisite infrastructure and affordable housing at NW Bicester whilst maintaining net zero carbon objectives.	Bicester & Planning Teams	Medium		Q4
	Future Priorities				
	*Improve our understanding of the district's housing stock so that we can prioritise funding.	Housing	High		
	Support neighbouring local authorities with the Future Fit One Stop Shop scheme, to support residents to take energy efficiency measures.	Climate Change	Medium		
	Begin discussions with Registered Providers to establish what measures are being taken to increase energy efficiency of social housing.	Housing	Medium		
Engagement with retrofit market to better understand capacity and capability.	Economic Growth	Medium			
11. Support emission reductions from businesses	Planned Activities				
	*Sustainable Construction Skills & Supply Chains – enable pipeline of skills and labour through apprenticeships/training opportunities, related to skills and training plans in s106 planning conditions and increasing social value of contracts through future pledge to the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership.	Economic Growth	High		Q2

Actions to reduce Cherwell District's emissions

Goals	Action	Supporting area	Carbon saving potential	RAG rating	Milestones
11. Support emission reductions from businesses	Planned Activities				
	Workshops - Deliver <i>Taming the Carbon Monster</i> training for local businesses to be held autumn 2023. Use intelligence gathered to inform further activity.	Economic Growth	Medium		Q1
	Green Skills – undertake market research/gathering evidence to understand gaps, to include housing Retro Fit, to inform the use of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2024/25.	Economic Growth	Medium		Q3
	‘Supporting Decarbonisation and Improving the Natural Environment’ – plan for implementation of this element of the Shared Prosperity Fund ready for Spring 2024.	Economic Growth	Medium		Q3
	Sustainable Business Award - showcase best practice and encourage further adoption through the Cherwell Business Awards 2023.	Economic Growth	Low		Q4
	Business Survey – identifying needs and opportunities facing local companies, including decarbonisation and green skills.	Economic Growth	Medium		Q4
	Future Priorities				
	*Support industry decarbonisation by promoting the switch from burning gas and other fuels to burning sustainable alternatives such as green hydrogen through new Local Plan policies.	Economic Growth	High		
	Cherwell-focussed business forum/network – consider the role of Greentech in drawing resources into Cherwell to support businesses to reduce emissions.	Economic Growth	Medium		
	Sustainable Business Award - Continue to support (through the Cherwell Business Awards 2024) to showcase business best practice and innovation in all sectors.	Economic Growth	Medium		

Actions to reduce Cherwell District's emissions

Goals	Action	Supporting area	Carbon saving potential	RAG rating	Milestones
12. Enhance the district's natural capital to support carbon off-setting and biodiversity enhancement	Planned Activities				
	*Consider the feasibility of a planning policy to achieve 20% Biodiversity Net Gain from new development	Planning	High		Q4
	Work with the Local Nature Partnership to explore the establishment of an Oxfordshire-based carbon offsetting scheme, potentially aligned to Oxford City's Area-Based In-setting approach.	Climate Change	Medium		Q3
	Produce a management plan for Longford Park to reduce regular mowing activities, improve biodiversity and engage with the community.	Environment Services	Low		Q2
	Enhancement of Banbury Country Park, Longford Park, Burnehyll Woodland and Graven Hill to support biodiversity and carbon sequestration.	Environment Services	Medium		On-going
	Support key biodiversity partners and local communities to protect, manage and enhance habitats which have carbon removal and storage functions.	Environment Services	Medium		On-going
	Aim to support and promote initiatives to encourage involvement in the natural environment and to improve public understanding of, and connection with, nature.	Wellbeing	Low		On-going
	Continue to monitor and support improvements in air quality, pollution, litter and fly-tipping.	Regulatory Services	Low		On-going
	Future Priorities				
	*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.	Environment Services	High		

Actions to reduce Cherwell District's emissions

Goals	Action	Supporting area	Carbon saving potential	RAG rating	Milestones
12. Enhance the district's natural capital to support carbon off-setting and biodiversity enhancement	Future Priorities				
	Supporting the county-wide Local Nature Recovery Strategy process which is being led by Oxfordshire County Council with the support of the Local Nature Partnership.	Environment Services	Medium	Yellow	
	Support emergence and facilitation of farmer clusters, boosting their key role in delivery of landscape-scale natural capital enhancement.	Environment Services	Medium	Red	
	Explore with neighbouring planning authorities, the extent to which the Local Nature Recovery Strategy can be incorporated into the Local Plan and related decision-making processes.	Planning	Medium	Yellow	
	Enable Planning and Communities officers to integrate elements of Natural England's Green Infrastructure Framework into the new Local Plan and other delivery plans.	Planning/Leisure	Low	Red	
	Increase the amount of natural capital in Cherwell through additional habitat creation, especially in urban areas.	Environment Services	Medium	Red	
	Aim to increase the biodiversity value of our Local Wildlife Sites, by increasing frequency of monitoring and provision of improved management guidance.	Environment Services	Medium	Yellow	
	Endorse and support delivery of the Oxfordshire Nature Finance Strategy, including exploring the potential role of the council in the establishment of an Oxfordshire Environment Fund.	Environment Services	Medium	Yellow	
Work with partners to ensure availability of sufficient biodiversity net gain offset sites in Cherwell to ensure that the maximum biodiversity and carbon capture value of this policy is retained within the district. That this is targeted at priority nature recovery areas as defined by the draft Nature Recovery Network and the forthcoming Local Nature Recovery Strategy.	Planning	Low	Red		

Actions to reduce Cherwell District's emissions

Goals	Action	Supporting area	Carbon saving potential	RAG rating	Milestones
12. Enhance the district's natural capital to support carbon off-setting and biodiversity enhancement	Future Priorities				
	Support key biodiversity partners and local communities to protect, manage and enhance habitats which provide other regulating ecosystem services such as urban cooling, flood mitigation, water purification, drought mitigation, air quality enhancement.	Communities	Medium		
	Support Bernwood Otmore Ray, as a key landscape recovery project in the District.	Environment Services	Medium		
13. Decarbonising the district's energy	Planned Activities				
	*Complete a Techno-Feasibility Study on a Banbury Heat Network.	Climate Change	High		Q4
	*Participate in a county-wide Local Area Energy Plan process.	Climate Change	High		On-going
	Support officers working on development at NW Bicester around Atmore the provision of low-carbon energy sources.	Climate Change	Low		On-going
	Participate in Project LEON to reduce emissions from existing neighbourhoods.	Climate Change	Low		On-going
	Co-ordinate and liaise with the energy study, looking at renewable energy for NW Bicester.	G&E	Low		On-going
	Future Priorities				
Support opportunities for community-owned renewable energy schemes.	Climate change	Low			

Actions to reduce Cherwell District's emissions

Goals	Action	Supporting area	Carbon saving potential	RAG rating	Milestones
14. Waste	Planned Activities				
	Increase rates of domestic recycling (currently c.55%) in line with the Oxfordshire Waste Strategy, which is aiming for 70%.	Waste Services	Low	 	On-going
	Support the work of the Cherwell Food Action Waste Group.	Waste Services	Low	 	On-going
	Awaiting the outcome of the government proposals on waste to determine future requirements for CDC waste collection services.	Waste Services	Low	 	On-going
	Future Priorities				
Work with partners and others to minimise waste arisings from domestic and commercial sources.	Waste Services	Low	 		
15. Support OCC's work on adaptation	Future Priorities				
	Understand the threats to CDC's estate, assets and operations from climate change.	Climate Change	Low	 	
	Identify areas for action for CDC.	Climate Change	Low	 	
	Understand the threats to Cherwell from climate change, e.g., public health; the local economy.	Climate Change	Low	 	
16. Partnership working	Planned Activities				
	Support Banbury Master Planning to ensure sustainability is at the heart of the process.	Climate Change	High	 	On-going

Actions to reduce Cherwell District's emissions

Goals	Action	Supporting area	Carbon saving potential	RAG rating	Milestones
16. Partnership working	Planned Activities				
	Hold a one-off community forum with residents and active groups to gain their input into Cherwell's response to climate change.	Climate Change	Low		Q2
	Continue with partnership working as a key approach to delivering carbon reductions across the district.	Climate Change	Medium		On-going
	Support the implementation of the Oxfordshire Net Zero Route Map.	Climate Change	Medium		On-going
	Support the work of the Local Nature Partnership's <i>Natural Capital</i> group.	Climate Change	Medium		On-going
	Continue to liaise and work closely with other local authorities across Oxfordshire.	Climate Change	Low		On-going
	Future Priorities				
	Explore opportunities for closer collaboration with neighbouring authorities around resident communication.	Climate Change	Low		
	Support community groups and parish councils in best practice and advice.	Climate Change	Low		
17. Governance and monitoring	Planned Activities				
	Report annually to the Executive on climate change progress	Climate Change	Low		Q1 & Q4
	Report twice a year to the Corporate Leadership Team on climate change progress	Climate Change	Low		Q1 & Q4

Actions to reduce Cherwell District's emissions

Goals	Action	Supporting area	Carbon saving potential	RAG rating	Milestones
17. Governance and monitoring	Planned Activities				
	Report twice a year to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on climate change progress.	Climate Change	Low		Q1 & Q4
	All reports that go to Executive and Corporate Leadership Team to continue to include an Environmental Impact section.	Climate Change	Low		On-going
	Review existing arrangements for delivering climate change activity, to ensure more effective and closer working between officers across CDC.	Climate Change	Low		Q1
	Meet regularly with the Climate Change Working Group to review and discuss climate action activities.	Climate Change	Low		On-going
	Review overall progress of Action Plan and prepare a new one for the next 12 months.	Climate Change	Low		



Cherwell
DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

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