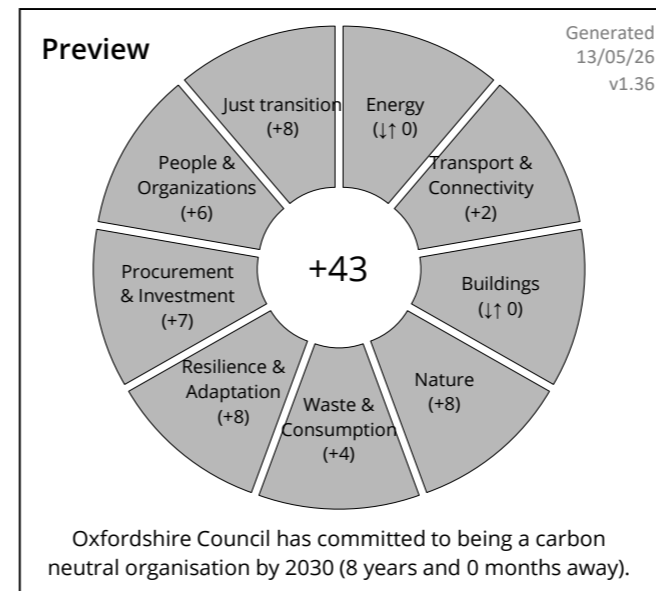


Climate Impact Assessment

Summary

Directorate and Service Area	Highways & Environment Countryside & Waste
What is being assessed	Tree Care Framework Contract
Is this a new or existing function or policy?	Existing Function but new contract award
Summary of assessment	Overall, the contract is expected to support positive outcomes for climate adaptation and nature recovery by maintaining and enhancing the tree asset that contributes to flood mitigation, resilience to extreme weather, biodiversity, and wider environmental and wellbeing benefits. The climate impact of this proposal primarily arises through how tree care services are procured, specified and managed.
Completed by	Andy Lederer - Tree Service Manager
Climate action sign off by	Kunal Prasad - Corporate Climate Manager
Director sign off by	
Assessment date	46154



Detail of proposal

Context / Background	<p>Tender a new Tree Care Framework Contract that takes advantage of and leverages the new Procurement Regulations, under Procurement Act 2023, that took effect from 24 February 2025.</p> <p>Tree Care in Oxfordshire is a perennial requirement. It comprises a range of annual planned works according to a maintenance schedule and a range of unplanned works required on an ad-hoc basis in response to service requests and natural events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •All services are required to be carried out in accordance (where applicable) with the most recent iteration of
Proposal	<p>OCC can only achieve the following requirements via the procurement process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •adhere to our Duty of Care; •adhere to responsibilities in the following legislation and regulations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> oHighway Act oHealth & Safety at Work Act oManagement of Health & Safety Regulations oOccupier’s Liability Act oLocal Government Act oTown and Country Planning Act oWildlife and Countryside Act oProcurement Act 2023 oPublic Services Act 2012
Evidence / Intelligence	<p>Planting trees provides direct and indirect benefits to the community, as well as contributing to, addressing and improving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •flood alleviation; •climate adaptation; •landscape resilience; •carbon sequestration; •noise and air pollution; •wildlife corridors (both urban and rural); •health and wellbeing; •speed reduction.
Alternatives considered / rejected	<p>Quarterly meetings were arranged with the previous contractors to capture positives and negatives of the previous framework and identify where improvements could be made from both an OCC and contractor perspective. These meetings were undertaken face to face with the owner and senior partners of each business all present at the meetings.</p> <p>Topics covered as part of the market engagement exercise with current and potential contractors were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Framework Benefits 2. Tree Care Specifications 3. Pricing 4. Lots 5. Potential Improvements / Innovation <p>More specific details available.</p>

Category	Impact criteria	Score (-3 to +3)	Description of impact	Actions or mitigations to reduce negative impacts	Action owner	Timeline and monitoring arrangements
Energy	Increases energy efficiency	N/A				
Energy	Promotes a switch to low-carbon or renewable energy	N/A				
Energy	Promotes resilient, local, smart energy systems	N/A				
Transport & Connectivity	Reduces need to travel and/or the need for private car ownership	N/A				
Transport & Connectivity	Supports active travel			The score here rely on indirect effects (e.g. better tree management → nicer streets → walking), but the contract itself does not materially influence travel behaviour.		
Transport & Connectivity	Increases use of public transport			1 Same as above		
Transport & Connectivity	Accelerates electrification of transport	N/A				
Buildings	Promotes net zero new builds and developments	N/A				
Buildings	Accelerates retrofitting of existing buildings	N/A				
Nature	Protects, restores or enhances biodiversity, landscape and ecosystems	2				
Nature	Develops blue and green infrastructure	3				
Nature	Improves access to nature and green spaces	3				
Waste & Consumption	Reduces overall consumption	1				
Waste & Consumption	Supports waste prevention and drive reuse and recycling	2				
Resilience & Adaptation	Increases resilience to flooding	2				
Resilience & Adaptation	Increases resilience to other extreme weather events (e.g., storms, cold snaps, heatwaves, droughts)	3				
Resilience & Adaptation	Increases resilience of council services, communities, energy systems, transport infrastructure and/or supply chains	3				
Procurement & Investment	Procurement practices prioritise low-carbon options, circular economy and sustainability	3				
Procurement & Investment	Investment being considered supports climate action/ is consistent with path to net zero	2				
People & Organizations	Drives behavioural change to address the climate and ecological emergency	2				
People & Organizations	Drives organizational and systemic change to address the climate and ecological emergency	2				
Just transition	Promotes green innovation and job creation	3				
Just transition	Promotes health and wellbeing	2				
Just transition	Reduces poverty and inequality	3				