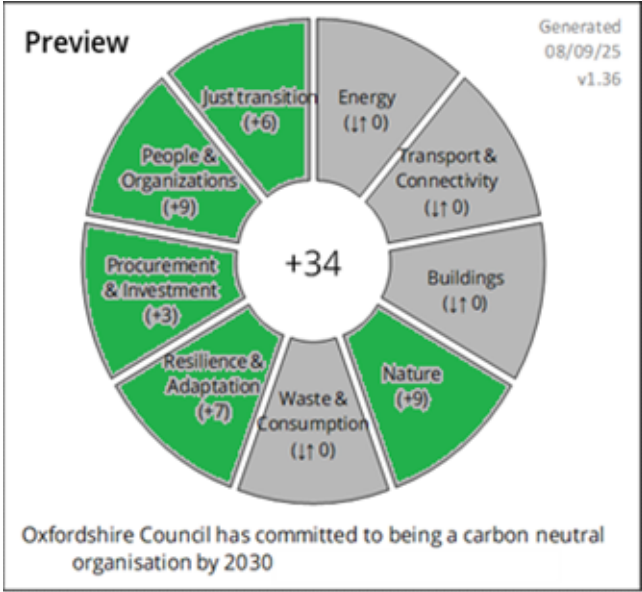


Climate Impact Assessment

Summary

Directorate and Service Area	Environment and Highways, Landscape and Nature Recovery Team
What is being assessed	Biodiversity Action Framework and Action Plan
Is this a new or existing function or policy?	New policy
Summary of assessment	The Biodiversity Action Framework and Action plan introduces a wide range of policies and associated actions to support the Council in conserving and enhancing biodiversity. The assessment demonstrates that the policies and actions will have a positive impact on climate, no negative impacts are identified.
Completed by	Rebecca Micklem
Climate action sign off by	Franco Gonzalez
Director sign off by	
Assessment date	08/09/2025



Detail of proposal

Context / Background	The Biodiversity Action Framework and Action Plan have been produced to fulfil the Council's obligations to conserve and enhance biodiversity under the strengthened biodiversity duty introduced by the Environment Act 2021.
Proposal	The Biodiversity Action Framework and Action plan introduces a wide range of policies and associated actions to support the Council in conserving and enhancing biodiversity. This fulfils a legal requirement under the Environment Act 2021, but also supports the Oxfordshire Environmental Principles and delivery of a range of the Council's Corporate Priorities. The policies and actions have been developed through internal consultation with Council staff.
Evidence / Intelligence	The Biodiversity Action Framework and Action Plan were developed through consultation with Council staff, including the Climate Action Team. Feedback from the Climate Action Team has been taken on board and integrated into the Framework, most of this feedback focussed around ensuring the Biodiversity Action Framework aligns with the Climate Action Framework, Carbon Management Plan, Climate Adaptation Route Map and Circular Economy Strategy as well as useful feedback on lessons learnt from development of these documents.
Alternatives considered / rejected	Doing nothing is not an option, since the Framework and Action Plan have been developed to fulfil a legal obligation. Intial consideration of actions was developed through consultation across Council service areas and refined through consultation and direct discussion with relevant teams.

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	N/A				
Transport & Connectivity	Increases use of public transport	N/A				
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			The documents are specifically focussed on what the council can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity and set out a vision, objectives, policies and actions to achieve this. The documents include specific policies and action to take account of,		
Nature	Develops blue and green infrastructure			and deliver, natural capital/ecosystem services and improve access to greenspace. The documents include policies and actions to improve the biodiversity provision of access to nature on		
Nature	Improves access to nature and green spaces			Council land, as well as working with partners to increase provision of access to nature reduce inequality to access to nature.		
Waste & Consumption	Reduces overall consumption	N/A				
Waste & Consumption	Supports waste prevention and drive reuse and recycling	N/A				
Resilience & Adaptation	Increases resilience to flooding			The documents include policies and actions to used nature-based solutions to delivery of Council functions, including natural flood management		
Resilience & Adaptation	Increases resilience to other extreme weather events (e.g., storms, cold snaps, heatwaves, droughts)			The policies and actions in the documents promote nature based solutions to extreme weather and through implementation will increase the resilience of nature to extreme weather events.		

Resilience & Adaptation	Increases resilience of council services, communities, energy systems, transport infrastructure and/or supply chains		Through promotion of a natural capital approach, the policies and actions identified will increase resilience and promote nature based solutions support climate adaptation.
Procurement & Investment	Procurement practices prioritise low-carbon options, circular economy and sustainability		Specific policies are included to
Procurement & Investment	Investment being considered supports climate action/ is consistent with path to net zero	N/A	2 conserve and enhance biodiversity through our procurement processes
People & Organizations	Drives behavioural change to address the climate and ecological emergency		The documents include policies and actions to increase biodiversity awareness with our communities
People & Organizations	Drives organizational and systemic change to address the climate and ecological emergency		The documents include policies and actions further embed action for biodiversity across through Council through improving our skills, tools and culture
Just transition	Promotes green innovation and job creation		Actions identified include increasing inhouse ecological staff and volunteer capacity, as well as innovationi such as development of a Habitat Banking Vehicle for Council owned land.
Just transition	Promotes health and wellbeing		2 The policies and actions promote a natural capital approach, which involves consideration of the ecosystem services provided by nature which underpin health and wellbeing.
Just transition	Reduces poverty and inequality		2 The policies and actions recognise that there is inequality in access to nature in the County and seek to address this.