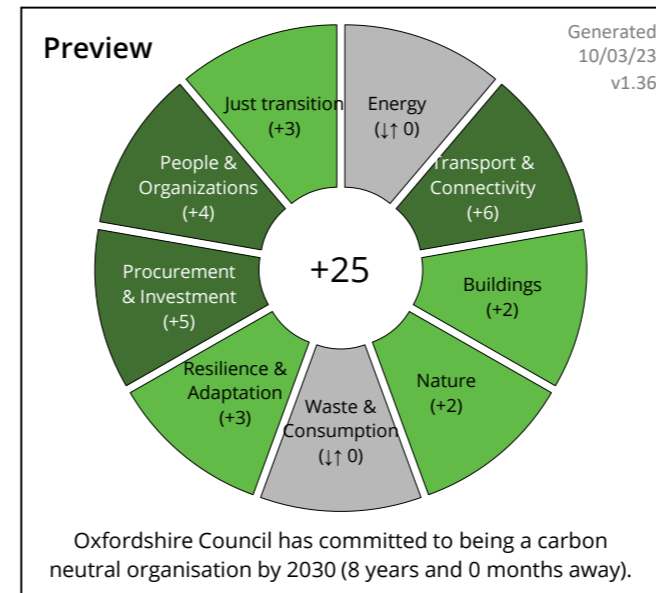


Climate Impact Assessment

Summary

Directorate and Service Area	Environment and Place, Growth and Economy
What is being assessed	Witney Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)
Is this a new or existing function or policy?	A new plan for Witney
Summary of assessment	The Witney LCWIP will have a positive impact when considering OCC's climate policies. The Witney LCWIP identifies how walking and cycling infrastructure can be improved in Witney so that it becomes a more accessible form of travel, thereby reducing reliance on private cars for journeys. As well as a positive impact on climate, active travel also has a positive impact on health and wellbeing and addressing inequalities.
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Assessment date	01/02/2023



Detail of proposal

Context / Background	<p>The Witney LCWIP is a 10 year plan for improving cycling and walking infrastructure in Witney. The improvements aim to enable cycling and walking to be the natural choices for travelling short distances (or as part of longer journeys), in Witney and the surrounding area, thereby reducing reliance on motor vehicles. It is a policy requirement in Oxfordshire County Council's Local Transport and Connectivity Plan to produce LCWIPs (Policy 3a).</p> <p>This is the first version of the Witney LCWIP to be considered for approval.</p>
Proposal	<p>The LCWIP proposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•new and improved crossings for people walking and cycling•segregated cycle tracks•provision of lighting on footpaths and cycleways•removal or modification of barriers on walking and cycling routes to improve accessibility•implementation of additional cycle parking•new and improved bridges on walking and cycling routes•footway widening and resurfacing•new shared use footway/cycleway•public realm improvements to create a more accessible and pleasant environment on High Street for people to walk, cycle and spend time.
Evidence / Intelligence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•The LCWIP and its associated documents outline the evidence used to inform the proposals in the LCWIP•Two consultations have been held, the feedback from these is used to inform the proposals in the Witney LCWIP.
Alternatives considered / rejected	<p>The Witney LCWIP is a policy requirement in LTCP (Policy 3a). The Witney LCWIP development followed Department for Transport Guidance on developing LCWIPs. Using an alternative approach would mean deviating from the policies adopted in the LTCP and may reduce the likelihood of securing funding for active travel schemes in the Witney area.</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	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Energy	Promotes a switch to low-carbon or renewable energy	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Energy	Promotes resilient, local, smart energy systems	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Transport & Connectivity	Reduces need to travel and/or the need for private car ownership	2	<p>The LCWIP identifies walking and cycling networks that connect people to key daily destinations. Improvements are proposed on these routes to make walking and cycling safe and accessible for all. This supports journeys by walking and cycling for short everyday trips and reduces the need for private cars for everyday journeys.</p>	<p>Reducing the reliance on private cars by improving the opportunities to walk and cycle is a fundamental part of the Witney LCWIP. Now that the LCWIP has been developed the next steps are to approve the document and implement recommendations. LCWIP needs to be supported by a community activation plan to maximise the benefits bought by infrastructure improvements.</p>	Jacqui Cox (Infrastructure Locality Lead Cherwell & West)	10 years. Monitor impact through LTCP target monitoring and regular reviews of LCWIP.
Transport & Connectivity	Supports active travel	3	<p>The function of the LCWIP is to support active travel in Witney and the surrounding area. This is achieved by identifying networks of walking and walking and cycling and proposing improvements on these to enable more journeys to be made by walking and cycling. Proposed improvements include new crossings for people walking and cycling, new and improved footways/ cycleways, segregated cycle tracks, implementation of lighting, public realm enhancements.</p>	<p>The LCWIP supports active travel. To realise the potential of the LCWIP, it must be adopted and the improvements implemented.</p>	Jacqui Cox (Infrastructure Locality Lead Cherwell & West)	10 years. Monitor impact through LTCP target monitoring and regular reviews of LCWIP.

Transport & Connectivity	Increases use of public transport	1	The LCWIP will help to support use of public transport by ensuring walking and cycling routes link to bus stops and key transport interchanges, including Hanborough Station. Cycle parking at bus stops will also be reviewed as part of the LCWIP development .	Ensure public transport interchanges are considered within the route networks developed and that improvements for walking and cycling do not negatively impact public transport (particularly bus services). Need to review cycle parking at bus stops in future iterations of the Witney LCWIP.	Jacqui Cox (Infrastructure Locality Lead Cherwell & West)	10 years. Monitor impact through LTCP target monitoring and regular reviews of LCWIP.
Transport & Connectivity	Accelerates electrification of transport	1	Improved safe cycle infrastructure particularly between Witney and the surrounding villages, may increase the use / ownership levels of electric bikes (known as Ebikes).	Adoption and implementation of the LCWIP will ensure that the cycle infrastructure improvements can be implemented. Close working with TDC colleagues will also be required to ensure developer contributions to cycle routes beyond Witney are sought where appropriate. In addition, it will be important to work with iHUB colleagues to ensure opportunities to develop ev in Witney and the surrounding area are not missed.	Jacqui Cox (Infrastructure Locality Lead Cherwell & West) & Cherwell and West Transport Developm ent and Control	10 years. Monitor impact through LTCP target monitoring and regular reviews of LCWIP.

Buildings	Promotes net zero new builds and developments	1	The LCWIP proposes key walking and cycling infrastructure required to serve the allocated strategic development sites in Witney based on the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031. Once the LCWIP is adopted it will effectively become policy that will support the requirement of developers to deliver this infrastructure. The Witney LCWIP has included the new developments in its generation of a walking and cycling network that links people with where they want to go. This means that the developments will ultimately be linked to key trip generators in Witney by good quality walking and cycling routes, thereby reducing the need to drive and avoiding embedding reliance of private vehicles from these developments. The identification of routes and route improvements can be used in negotiations with developers to secure funding and/ or delivery of	Share Witney LCWIP/ inform Transport Development Control colleagues of the Witney LCWIP to be used in negotiations with developers. Share/ inform wider team of the Witney LCWIP to ensure schemes are identified for funding in response to planning applications in the area. Individual schemes will be subject to a CIA to ensure that they do not have a negative impact on the environment.	Jacqui Cox (Infrastructure Locality Lead Cherwell & West) & Cherwell and West Transport Development and Control	10 years. Monitor impact through LTCP target monitoring and regular reviews of LCWIP.
Buildings	Accelerates retrofitting of existing buildings	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Nature	Protects, restores or enhances biodiversity, landscape and ecosystems	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Nature	Develops blue and green infrastructure	1	The LCWIP promotes the Healthy Streets Approach to public spaces. This includes consideration of how and where more trees could be planted to enhance the attractiveness of a place and provide shade to encourage more people to walk and cycle. The LCWIP also ensures that existing green and blue infrastructure is retained and new routes/ improvements must work around the blue and green infrastructure.	Ensure that improvements proposed in the LCWIP do not compromise blue and green infrastructure/ are implemented at the expense of green and blue infrastructure. Opportunities to develop blue and green infrastructure should be taken where possible.	Jacqui Cox (Infrastructure Locality Lead Cherwell & West)	10 years. Monitor impact through LTCP target monitoring and regular reviews of LCWIP.

Nature	Improves access to nature and green spaces	1	The LCWIP improves routes and access to green spaces by ensuring that green spaces are included in the walking and cycling network developed (which connects people with the places they want to go as identified through stakeholder engagement).	Implement proposals that improve access to nature and green spaces. In some instances grass verge may be lost to accommodate widened paths and other infrastructure. The loss of vegetation will be considered as a last resort and weighed against the benefits from increased active travel over motor vehicle use. Opportunities to increase vegetation/ plant trees will be sought with each scheme. The specific details of individual schemes e.g. materials will be determined during the design stage, and each scheme will be subject to a CIA. If the impact on nature is unacceptable then a scheme will not progress. OCC's tree policy will be adhered to during scheme development also.	Jacqui Cox (Infrastructure Locality Lead Cherwell & West)	10 years. Monitor impact through LTCP target monitoring and regular reviews of LCWIP.
Waste & Consumption	Reduces overall consumption	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Waste & Consumption	Supports waste prevention and drive reuse and recycling	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Resilience & Adaptation	Increases resilience to flooding	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Resilience & Adaptation	Increases resilience to other extreme weather events (e.g., storms, cold snaps, heatwaves, droughts)	1	The LCWIP promotes the Healthy Streets Approach to public spaces. This includes consideration of how to provide shade, shelter and rest stops in public spaces to make them more accessible and a pleasant place to be for all. This will become increasingly important as more extreme weather is anticipated and will mean people can still travel by walking and cycling without reliance on a car to provide protection, or being isolated at home.	Weather and climate has been highlighted as a barrier to walking and cycling. The long-term conditions in which people will be walking and cycling needs to be considered in all scheme development and appropriate steps taken to reduce the impacts of these conditions on how people travel, as highlighted in this LCWIP.	Jacqui Cox (Infrastructure Locality Lead Cherwell & West)	10 years. Monitor impact through LTCP target monitoring and regular reviews of LCWIP.

Resilience & Adaptation	Increases resilience of council services, communities, energy systems, transport infrastructure and/or supply chains	2	The LCWIP will enhance the resilience of the local community by providing a means of transportation that is reliant on and controlled by the individual. Reduced reliance on private motor vehicles will help to combat congestion and thus increase the resilience of the County's public transport system in the area and the negative impacts of Oxfordshire's transport network more generally on climate. Reduced need to travel by private motor vehicles will also reduce the dependence of people travelling in Oxfordshire on global fuel markets and will put less pressure on supply chains for essential services. Any new walking and cycling infrastructure or improvements to such will by future proofed for a changing climate by the materials used.	Adopting and implementing the Witney LCWIP will ensure that resilience of council services and communities etc is enhanced as the LCWIP aims to address the climate emergency.	Jacqui Cox (Infrastructure Locality Lead Cherwell & West)	10 years. Monitor impact through LTCP target monitoring and regular reviews of LCWIP.
Procurement & Investment	Procurement practices prioritise low-carbon options, circular economy and sustainability	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Procurement & Investment	Investment being considered supports climate action/ is consistent with path to net zero	3	The LCWIP promotes investment in alternatives to the private car. The investment supports a transition to net zero and does not lead to a net increase of emissions across the county.	Adoption and implementation of the LCWIP will ensure investment in infrastructure that supports climate action/ net zero. Ensure alignment with OCC's climate policy and revisions to the LCWIP to account for revisions in the climate policy.	Jacqui Cox (Infrastructure Locality Lead Cherwell & West)	10 years. Monitor impact through LTCP target monitoring and regular reviews of LCWIP.
People & Organizations	Drives behavioural change to address the climate and ecological emergency	2	The LCWIP will help to encourage behavioural change of residents and visitors to Witney and the surrounding area by providing safe and convenient access to active travel. The LCWIP also promotes community activation and cross team working with the behavioural change team to further enable a change in travel behaviour.	Adoption and implementation of the LCWIP will help to drive a change in behaviour to address the climate emergency	Jacqui Cox (Infrastructure Locality Lead Cherwell & West)	10 years. Monitor impact through LTCP target monitoring and regular reviews of LCWIP.

People & Organizations	Drives organizational and systemic change to address the climate and ecological emergency	1	<p>The LCWIP supports LTCP targets for reducing emissions and Council targets for being net-zero by 2040. The LCWIP is a guide that helps to promote the Council's climate policies in new developments also. Additionally the LCWIP includes a prioritised list of improvements (with environmental factors considered in prioritisation) to guide change over a prolonged period.</p>	Adoption and implementation of the LCWIP will help to drive change and address the climate emergency.	Jacqui Cox (Infrastructure Locality Lead Cherwell & West)	10 years. Monitor impact through LTCP target monitoring and regular reviews of LCWIP.
Just transition	Promotes green innovation and job creation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Just transition	Promotes health and wellbeing	2	<p>The LCWIP promotes and supports active travel. By improving active travel options for journeys the LCWIP reduces reliance on private vehicles for journeys and thereby improves air quality.</p>	Adoption and implementation of the LCWIP will ensure that the health benefits of active travel can be realised.	Jacqui Cox (Infrastructure Locality Lead Cherwell & West)	10 years. Monitor impact through LTCP target monitoring and regular reviews of LCWIP.
Just transition	Reduces poverty and inequality	1	<p>The LCWIP creates accessible, zero carbon transport options. The development of the walking and cycling network involved identifying areas of deprivation in Witney and ensuring that walking and cycling links were provided from these areas to key destinations in Witney.</p>	Adoption and implementation of the LCWIP will contribute to addressing poverty and inequality in Witney.	Jacqui Cox (Infrastructure Locality Lead Cherwell & West)	10 years. Monitor impact through LTCP target monitoring and regular reviews of LCWIP.