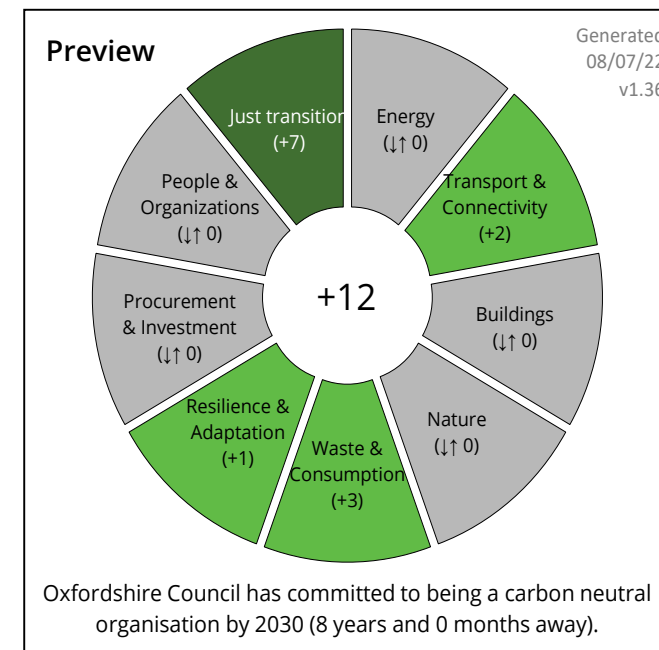


Climate Impact Assessment

Summary

Directorate and Service Area	Customers, Organisational Development and Resources - Communications, Strategy and Insight - Policy Team
What is being assessed	Digital Inclusion Strategy
Is this a new or existing function or policy?	New strategy
Summary of assessment	<p>Citizens Online defines digital inclusion as being “about ensuring the benefits of the internet and digital technologies are available to everyone”. It includes both access to the internet and the ability to use it.</p> <p>This is a multi-faceted issue and includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to good quality and affordable broadband, wi-fi and mobile data. 2. Opportunities for digital skills training and support
Completed by	Elena Grant
Climate action sign off by	Tammy Marrett
Director sign off by	
Assessment date	44746



Detail of proposal

Context / Background	<p>Citizens Online defines digital inclusion as being “about ensuring the benefits of the internet and digital technologies are available to everyone”. It includes both access to the internet and the ability to use it.</p> <p>This is a multi-faceted issue and includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Access to good quality and affordable broadband, wi-fi and mobile data.2. Opportunities for digital skills training and support.3. Devices that can access the internet, that are affordable and good quality, and meet their users' needs.
Proposal	<p>The strategy was decided as the best course of action as it will plug a gap and set direction for addressing this issue, instead of multiple services acting in an uncoordinated manner.</p>
Evidence / Intelligence	<p>In October 2021, OCC held a virtual roundtable discussion with approximately 35 partners from various organisations including Oxfordshire public, health, education, and voluntary sectors. In this session, we defined what digital inclusion means to us in Oxfordshire and set out the problem that needs to be addressed. We also discussed our vision for a digitally inclusive county, which included joined-up initiatives, digital inclusion by design, and ensuring that no one is left behind. The discussion also covered barriers that need to be overcome and identified support for those who will never want to be online, funding, duplication of resources due to a fragmented landscape, rurality, online safety, and the cost-of-living crisis as particular challenges. The principles that were identified as needing to underpin collaborative work include signposting access to support, sharing best practice, promoting the benefits of digital, embedding equality, diversity, and inclusion, and recognising that digital inclusion is about people, not just technology.</p> <p>In April 2022, OCC undertook a programme of engagement with external and internal stakeholders. There were three virtual workshops focussed on the Digitally Inclusive Communities strand, with approximately 40</p>
Alternatives considered / rejected	<p>The alternative to not create a Digital Inclusion Strategy was not possible as it was identified that a strategy was needed in order to address the inequality gap.</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		2 Enabling people to get online will help reduce the need for journeys, e.g. to complete tasks that could be done online instead.			
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	N/A				
Nature	Develops blue and green infrastructure	N/A				
Nature	Improves access to nature and green spaces	N/A				
Waste & Consumption	Reduces overall consumption	N/A				
Waste & Consumption	Supports waste prevention and drive reuse and recycling		2 The strategy will encourage the recycling and donation of devices.			
Resilience & Adaptation	Increases resilience to flooding	N/A				
Resilience & Adaptation	Increases resilience to other extreme weather events (e.g., storms, cold snaps, heatwaves, droughts)	N/A				
Resilience & Adaptation	Increases resilience of council services, communities, energy systems, transport infrastructure and/or supply chains		1 The strategy has a workforce strand that will help the workforce and service to become more agile and work from anywhere, and have the digital skills to do so.			
Procurement & Investment	Procurement practices prioritise low-carbon options, circular economy and sustainability	N/A				
Procurement & Investment	Investment being considered supports climate action/ is consistent with path to net zero	N/A				
People & Organizations	Drives behavioural change to address the climate and ecological emergency	N/A				
People & Organizations	Drives organizational and systemic change to address the climate and ecological emergency	N/A				
Just transition	Promotes green innovation and job creation	N/A				
Just transition	Promotes health and wellbeing		3 Increasing digital inclusion will tackle all sorts of inequality, especially health, and helping to reduce loneliness.	There will be an action plan that underpins the strategy and will implement tangible impacts to deliver change.		

Just transition

Reduces poverty and inequality

³ This strategy will tackle the digital divide and reduce data poverty.

There will be an action plan that underpins the strategy and will implement tangible impacts to deliver change.