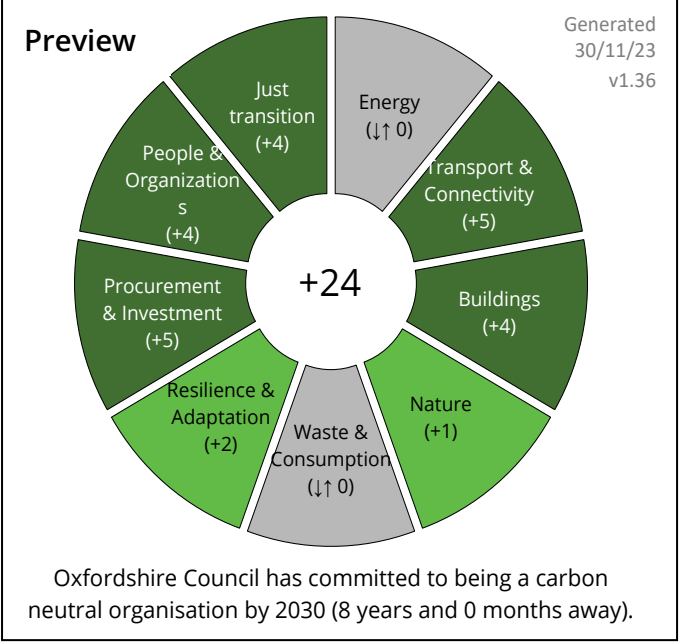


Climate Impact Assessment

Summary

Directorate and Service Area	Environment and Place, Transport and Infrastructure
What is being assessed	Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)
Is this a new or existing function or policy?	This is a new local policy for Didcot. It is supported by the existing Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) Policy 3 - Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans.
Summary of assessment	<p>Development and implementation of LCWIPs for all the main urban settlements in Oxfordshire (LTCP Policy 3a) is one of Oxfordshire County Council's commitments to move towards the vision set out in the LTCP for "an inclusive and safe net-zero Oxfordshire transport system that enables all parts of the county to thrive".</p> <p>The CIA assessment is therefore overwhelmingly positive, recognising the significant potential for improvements to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transport and Connectivity - Buildings (promoting sustainable development) - Procurement and Investment (investing in climate action) - People and Organization (driving behaviour change by providing enabling infrastructure) - Just Transition (promoting health and wellbeing through active travel, promoting engagement and coproduction, and reducing inequality) <p>The Didcot LCWIP identifies a network of walking and cycling routes in Didcot and the surrounding area and makes proposals for investment in infrastructure changes to improve conditions for people walking and cycling in this area.</p> <p>LCWIPs are the Department for Transport's recommended strategic approach to identifying cycling and walking improvements required at the local level. The LCWIP approach is supported at a local level in the LTCP.</p>
Completed by	Rebecca Crowe, Transport Planner
Climate action sign off by	Adam Symons
Director sign off by	Owen Jenkins
Assessment date	29/11/2023



Detail of proposal

Context / Background	<p>The Didcot LCWIP is one of a number of LCWIPs under development for market towns across Oxfordshire (as required by LTCP Policy 3a).</p> <p>This is the first version of the Didcot LCWIP to be considered for approval.</p>
Proposal	<p>The LCWIP proposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new and improved crossings for walking and cycling • junction redesign to prioritise walking and cycling movements • removal or modification of barriers on walking and cycling routes to improve accessibility • provision of additional high-quality cycle parking • on-carriageway cycling improvements (e.g., wider cycle lanes and centreline removal, some of which may require additional parking restrictions) • provision of segregated cycle tracks (some of which will require reallocation of highway space from motor vehicles to active travel) • permissions for cycling on some routes where cycling is not currently permitted • new river crossings for walking and cycling over the river Thames • footway widening and public realm improvements • provision of new and improved walking and cycling routes between Didcot and other key local destinations (outside the town)
Evidence / Intelligence	<p>Evidence/Intelligence notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultation outcomes - positive reception of draft LCWIP, constructive feedback received will be considered for inclusion in the LCWIP before it is approved. Review consultation outcomes report for details. - Review LCWIP document for details of the background information and data which was used to inform the document's proposals.
Alternatives considered / rejected	<p>As noted above, the adopted LTCP makes a clear commitment to develop an LCWIP for Didcot. Policy 3a in the LTCP states that Oxfordshire County Council will:</p> <p>"Develop Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) for all main urban settlements (over 10,000 inhabitants) across the county by 2025, according to national guidance and best practice with the aim of increasing walking and cycling activity."</p> <p>The LCWIP follows national guidance and is supported by both national and local policy. 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 Didcot 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	The LCWIP will help reduce staff and residents' need for private car ownership by supporting investment in infrastructure for alternative modes (aiming to make walking and cycling the natural choice for short trips and for short sections of longer trips).	Reduction in the need for private car ownership and use by improving the infrastructure provided for other modes is a key function of LCWIPs. Action: develop, approve and implement Didcot LCWIP.	S&V Locality, TDC	10 years. Monitor impact through LTCP target monitoring and regular reviews of the LCWIP.

Transport & Connectivity	Supports active travel		3	<p>The LCWIP will help to normalise walking and cycling and will help to make these modes more accessible. The LCWIP proposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new and improved crossings for walking and cycling • junction redesign to prioritise walking and cycling movements • removal or modification of barriers on walking and cycling routes to improve accessibility • provision of additional high-quality cycle parking • on-carriageway cycling improvements (e.g., wider cycle lanes and centreline removal, some of which may require additional parking restrictions) • provision of segregated cycle tracks (some of which will require reallocation of highway space from motor vehicles to active travel) • permissions for cycling on some routes where cycling is not currently permitted • new river crossings for walking and cycling over the river Thames • footway widening and public realm improvements • provision of new and improved walking and cycling routes between Didcot and other key local destinations (outside the town) 	Supporting active travel is a key function of LCWIPs. Action: develop, approve and implement Didcot LCWIP.	S&V Locality, TDC	10 years. Monitor impact through LTCP target monitoring and regular reviews of the LCWIP.
Transport & Connectivity	Increases use of public transport		1	<p>The LCWIP will help to support an increase in the usage of public transport by improving access to public transport interchanges (bus stops and railway stations) and by encouraging modal shift from private car use to walking and cycling (thereby helping to reduce congestion and improve public transport journey time reliability).</p>	Ensure that access to public transport interchanges is considered carefully when developing the LCWIP.	S&V Locality, TDC	10 years. Monitor impact through LTCP target monitoring and regular reviews of the LCWIP.
Transport & Connectivity	Accelerates electrification of transport	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A
Buildings	Promotes net zero new builds and developments		2	<p>The LCWIP will support the delivery of sustainable developments by helping to ensure that new developments in the area provide suitable infrastructure for active travel, in order to maximise uptake of active modes for travel to and from new developments and to minimise private car use associated with these developments.</p>	Action: work with district councils and developers to ensure that new developments make suitable provision for active travel, both by providing improvements identified in the LCWIP, and by identifying and providing any additional relevant improvements which have not yet been included in the LCWIP.	S&V Locality, TDC	Ongoing
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	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A
Nature	Improves access to nature and green spaces		1	<p>The LCWIP will help to improve access to nature and green spaces by providing improved walking and cycling infrastructure on routes within the town which provide access to urban green space (parks) as well as routes between Didcot and other nearby employment sites, settlements, and transport interchanges (thereby providing access to the green spaces between these trip generators).</p>	Action: ensure that access to these green spaces is considered when individual scheme design work is progressed.	S&V Locality, TDC	10 years. Monitor impact through LTCP target monitoring and regular reviews of the 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)	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A
Resilience & Adaptation	Increases resilience of council services, communities, energy systems, transport infrastructure and/or supply chains		2	<p>The LCWIP will help to increase the resilience of local communities and local transport infrastructure by promoting sustainable modes of travel, thereby helping to reduce the negative impacts of Oxfordshire's transport network on the climate, and helping to reduce the dependence of people travelling in Oxfordshire on global fuel markets.</p>	Adapting to respond to the climate emergency is a key function of LCWIPs. Action: develop, approve and implement Didcot LCWIP.	S&V Locality, TDC	10 years. Monitor impact through LTCP target monitoring and regular reviews of the 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	<p>Investment in alternatives to the use of the private car is a key action for Oxfordshire in response to the climate emergency. As set out in the adopted LTCP, the development and implementation of LCWIPs such as this one is a key part of delivering against this action.</p>	Supporting climate action is a key function of LCWIPs. Action: develop, approve and implement Didcot LCWIP.	S&V Locality, TDC	10 years. Monitor impact through LTCP target monitoring and regular reviews of the LCWIP.

People & Organizations	Drives behavioural change to address the climate and ecological emergency		The LCWIP will help to encourage behavioural change of staff and residents by providing infrastructure which supports the change from private car use to active travel.	Encouraging modal shift is a key function of LCWIPs. Action: develop, approve and implement Didcot LCWIP.	S&V Locality, TDC	10 years. Monitor impact through LTCP target monitoring and regular reviews of the LCWIP.
People & Organizations	Drives organizational and systemic change to address the climate and ecological emergency	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
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 The LCWIP promotes active travel.	Improving health and wellbeing is a key function of LCWIPs. Action: develop, approve and implement Didcot LCWIP.	S&V Locality, TDC	10 years. Monitor impact through LTCP target monitoring and regular reviews of the LCWIP.
Just transition	Reduces poverty and inequality		1 The LCWIP will help to create accessible, low-carbon transport options for deprived communities.	Creation of accessible, low-carbon transport options is a key function of LCWIPs. Action: develop, approve and implement Didcot LCWIP. Establish steering group of local stakeholders to guide the development of the LCWIP. Conduct wider public consultation open to all residents. Engage local stakeholders when any significant changes to the LCWIP are proposed in a future review.	S&V Locality, TDC	10 years. Monitor impact through LTCP target monitoring and regular reviews of the LCWIP.
Just transition	Promotes inclusion and participation		2 Residents, local members and local community groups were engaged to co-design the LCWIP.		S&V Locality	Ongoing