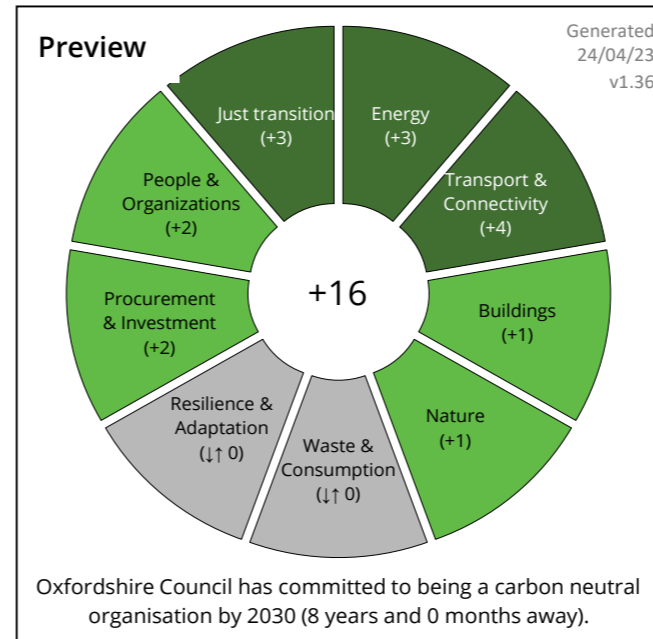


Climate Impact Assessment

Summary

Directorate and Service Area	Environment and place, Transport and Infrastructure Public Health, Healthy Place Shaping
What is being assessed	Oxfordshire County Council Air Quality Strategy
Is this a new or existing function or policy?	New policy document
Summary of assessment	<p>The OCC air quality strategy outlines what the County Councils vision for air quality is and how the County Council will work towards achieving the vision.</p> <p>Possible impacts include reduced emissions due to the linkages between air quality and climate action and improved public health due to air quality improvements.</p>
Completed by	Joe Kay
Climate action sign off by	Tammy Marrett
Director sign off by	
Assessment date	44967



Detail of proposal

<p>Context / Background</p>	<p>Poor air quality is the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK. Locally, the air quality context is complex, with a range of partner organisations each responsible for different elements of air quality. The county council through its crosscutting work on climate action, transport, development, waste and innovation has already implemented many actions that will help to tackle poor air quality, and more are due to be delivered in the coming years.</p> <p>The air quality strategy is a first step towards improving OCC work on air quality and raising awareness of air</p>
<p>Proposal</p>	<p>The strategy proposes an ambitious vision for air quality in Oxfordshire. In support of the vision, the strategy identifies objectives and a strategic approach to guide future work. The strategy is then supported by a route map that identifies the work already underway and actions we will be taking to deliver our vision and objectives.</p> <p>The strategy has been developed with input from key OCC teams. Moving forward, annual review and monitoring of the strategy and action plan will be conducted via the Health Protection Forum. Public Health and Transport Policy officers will coordinate this review and liaise with the relevant OCC teams to capture progress made and any changes to actions.</p>
<p>Evidence / Intelligence</p>	<p>There is a large amount of evidence about air quality that has been used to inform the strategy. These sources are quoted throughout the strategy and route map. In addition, there is Oxfordshire specific data that has also been analysed. Internal and external stakeholders were also engaged with during development of the strategy to refine its content. This included a workshop with OCC officers and district and city officers in February 2023.</p> <p>Air quality is monitored by the district and city councils in Oxfordshire and so close partnership working will be required and the strategy reviewed in the context of these updates. An annual workshop is planned to be held for all air quality stakeholders to ensure all partners are kept updated.</p>
<p>Alternatives considered / rejected</p>	<p>Many of the actions are linked to existing council work and so alternatives were not considered. For new actions and the vision, several proposals were considered and were refined through the officer workshop.</p> <p>A do nothing approach was not considered appropriate for a range of reasons. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor air quality is the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK. • Work to improve air quality aligns with delivery of Oxfordshire County Councils priorities. • Long term exposure to air pollution causes ill health and death.

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	1	The strategy promotes and supports ongoing OCC work to improve energy efficiency in its own buildings and residents homes due to the links between heating and air pollution.		Delivery by a range of stakeholders	Annual review via the Health Protection Forum
Energy	Promotes a switch to low-carbon or renewable energy	1	The strategy promotes and supports ongoing OCC work to switch to low-carbon and renewable energy due to the links between energy and air pollution.		Delivery by a range of stakeholders	Annual review via the Health Protection Forum
Energy	Promotes resilient, local, smart energy systems	1	The strategy promotes and supports ongoing OCC work to improve energy systems due to the links between energy and air pollution.		Delivery by a range of stakeholders	Annual review via the Health Protection Forum
Transport & Connectivity	Reduces need to travel and/or the need for private car ownership	1	The strategy promotes and supports ongoing OCC work to deliver the LTCP and reduce private car use.		Delivery by a range of stakeholders	Annual review via the Health Protection Forum
Transport & Connectivity	Supports active travel	1	The strategy promotes and supports ongoing OCC work to support active travel.		Delivery by a range of stakeholders	Annual review via the Health Protection Forum
Transport & Connectivity	Increases use of public transport	1	The strategy promotes and supports ongoing OCC work to increase public transport use.		Delivery by a range of stakeholders	Annual review via the Health Protection Forum
Transport & Connectivity	Accelerates electrification of transport	1	The strategy promotes and supports ongoing OCC work to accelerate the electrification of transport.		Delivery by a range of stakeholders	Annual review via the Health Protection Forum
Buildings	Promotes net zero new builds and developments	0	Not applicable			
Buildings	Accelerates retrofitting of existing buildings	1	The strategy promotes and supports ongoing OCC work to retrofit buildings due to the links between energy, heating and air pollution.		Delivery by a range of stakeholders	Annual review via the Health Protection Forum

Nature	Protects, restores or enhances biodiversity, landscape and ecosystems	1	Improving air quality will have positive impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems.	Delivery by a range of stakeholders	Annual review via the Health Protection Forum
Nature	Develops blue and green infrastructure	0	Not applicable		
Nature	Improves access to nature and green spaces	0	Not applicable		
Waste & Consumption	Reduces overall consumption	0	Not applicable		
Waste & Consumption	Supports waste prevention and drive reuse and recycling	0	Not applicable		
Resilience & Adaptation	Increases resilience to flooding	0	Not applicable		
Resilience & Adaptation	Increases resilience to other extreme weather events (e.g., storms, cold snaps, heatwaves, droughts)	0	Not applicable		
Resilience & Adaptation	Increases resilience of council services, communities, energy systems, transport infrastructure and/or supply chains	0	Not applicable		
Procurement & Investment	Procurement practices prioritise low-carbon options, circular economy and sustainability	1	The strategy promotes and supports ongoing OCC work to develop a circular economy strategy and prioritise low carbon procurement practices which will also deliver air quality benefits.	Delivery by a range of stakeholders	Annual review via the Health Protection Forum
Procurement & Investment	Investment being considered supports climate action/ is consistent with path to net zero	1	Any investment to deliver the actions in the strategy will also deliver climate action benefits due to the links between air quality and climate action.	Delivery by a range of stakeholders	Annual review via the Health Protection Forum
People & Organizations	Drives behavioural change to address the climate and ecological emergency	1	Delivery of the actions in the strategy will also deliver climate action benefits due to the links between air quality and climate action.	Delivery by a range of stakeholders	Annual review via the Health Protection Forum
People & Organizations	Drives organizational and systemic change to address the climate and ecological emergency	1	Work to deliver the actions in the strategy will also deliver climate action benefits due to the links between air quality and climate action.	Delivery by a range of stakeholders	Annual review via the Health Protection Forum
Just transition	Promotes green innovation and job creation	0	Not applicable		
Just transition	Promotes health and wellbeing	1	The strategy promotes and supports ongoing OCC work to deliver air quality improvements. This will deliver improvements to residents health and wellbeing	Delivery by a range of stakeholders	Annual review via the Health Protection Forum

Just transition

Reduces poverty and inequality

Improving air quality and delivering the actions in the strategy will help to tackle inequality. Residents in more deprived areas are likely to be more effected by poor air quality.

Delivery by a range of stakeholders

Annual review via the Health Protection Forum