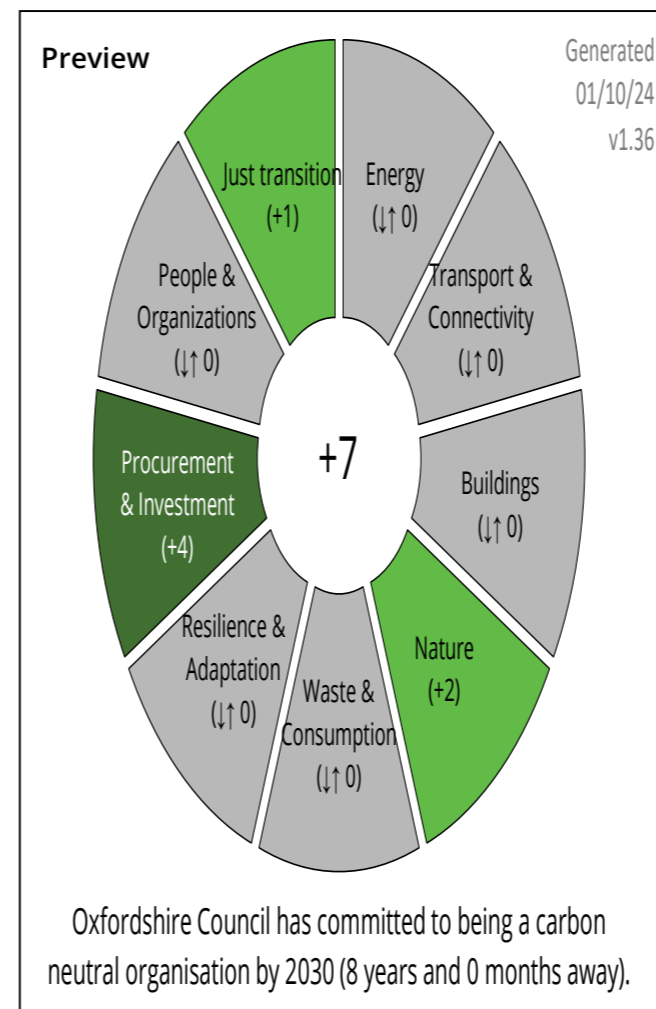


Climate Impact Assessment

Summary

Directorate and Service Area	Environment and Highways - Waste and Circular Economy
What is being assessed	Continued utilisation of Residual Waste Treatment Contract with Viridor Contract to treat Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating (WUDS) containing Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). Uncertainty around Environment Agency Regulatory Position Statement has created further uncertainty and means procuring new treatment options a financial risk to the authority. Continuation of current arrangements is therefore sought - which adds further cost to the existing Viridor contract to treat waste at Energy from Waste at the Ardley facility above the key decision threshold. A Cabinet Member Decision is therefore required.
Is this a new or existing function or policy?	Extension to existing
Summary of assessment	Continued reduced levels of waste to landfill, and reduction in POPs escaping into the environment where they can cause harm. POPs destroyed by incineration process. Continuation of increase in waste to energy recovery, which although is better than landfill still produces carbon. Increase in diesel use as more handling of waste is required including loading shovels and shredders.
Completed by	Owain Griffiths
Climate action sign off by	
Director sign off by	
Assessment date	



Detail of proposal

Context / Background	The treatment of WUDS containing POPs by incineration has been a statutory requirement since January 2023. The implementation of legislation was required within a very short timescale. In response, short-term solutions were initially sought to allow time for uncertainties about legislative requirements to become clearer. Since then, the EA has issued a number of Regulatory Position Statements; however, the most recent has actually caused greater uncertainty due to challenging monitoring regimes for site operators, as well as on-going uncertainty around the need for operators to invest in equipment to capture Fugitive Emissions. With the short-term
Proposal	The implementation of the initial legislation added additional budgetary pressures to the waste management budget. Securing new suppliers at this point is likely to incur further additional cost. Extending existing arrangements for a period of 12 months has therefore been identified by officers as the lowest risk option at this point in time
Evidence / Intelligence	Extensive soft market testing was undertaken with potential suppliers. Feedback following the issue of the most recent RPS in April 2024 clearly indicates that there is considerable financial risk from procuring new arrangements at this time.
Alternatives considered / rejected	The only alternative to extension is to procure - which carries considerable risk

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	Waste requires more processing and transport. Shredding requires use of large machine and loading shovel using diesel fuel, neither of which are used for landfilling waste.	none available	Waste management	On-going over contract period
Energy	Promotes a switch to low-carbon or renewable energy	1	Reduced methane emissions as waste is no longer landfilled. Incineration at Ardley ERF recovers energy, although still produces CO2.	None related to POPs waste. Longer term Viridor has plans to decarbonise the operation of the ERF overall.	Waste management	On-going over contract period
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	2	POPs remain intact in the environment for long periods and if not disposed of properly become widely distributed geographically. They accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife and have harmful impacts on human health and the environment. POPs were commonly used as fire retardants on soft furniture and are now banned. Destroying domestic soft seating containing POPs will ensure chemicals from this source do not escape into the environment.		Waste Management	On-going during contract term
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	N/A				
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	N/A				
Procurement & Investment	Procurement practices prioritise low-carbon options, circular economy and sustainability			Continues to eliminate emissions of 2 POPS from WUDS to wider environment		

Procurement & Investment	Investment being considered supports climate action/ is consistent with path to net zero		¹ Continues diversion of waste from landfill
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		¹ POPs remain intact in the environment for long periods and if not disposed of properly become widely distributed geographically. They accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife and have harmful impacts on human health and the environment. POPs were commonly used as fire retardants on soft furniture and are now banned. Destroying domestic soft seating containing POPs will ensure chemicals from this source do not escape into the environment and reduce the risks to health arising from them.
Just transition	Reduces poverty and inequality	N/A	