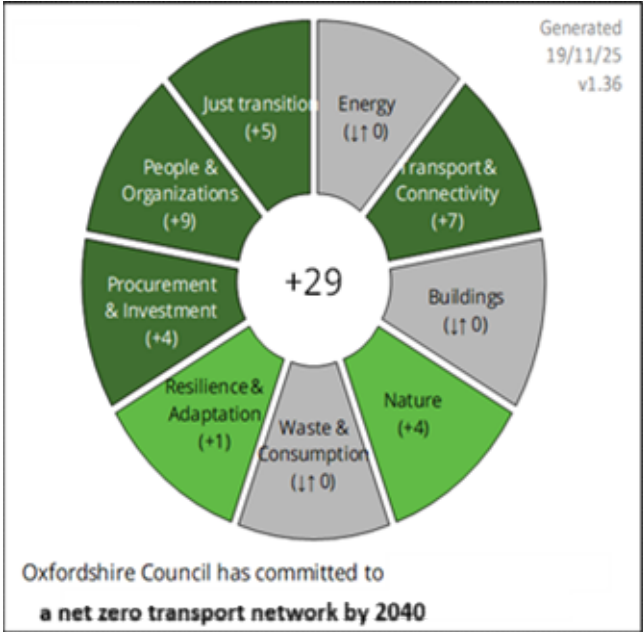


Climate Impact Assessment

Summary

Directorate and Service Area	Economy and Place, Place Shaping
What is being assessed	Updates to the 'Implementing Decide & Provide' document
Is this a new or existing function or policy?	Updates to an existing technical document, which is supplementary to the council's Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP)
Summary of assessment	The 'Implementing 'Decide & Provide': Requirements for Transport Assessments' document (hitherto referred to simply as Implementing Decide & Provide) sets out how developers are required to follow the 'decide and provide' approach to transport planning through the transport assessments submitted as part of planning applications. The document was devised to implement LTCP policy and helps to ensure that new developments make improvements to the transport
Completed by	Will Pedley
Climate action sign off by	Franco Gonzalez
Director sign off by	
Assessment date	45980



Detail of proposal

Context / Background	<p>Implementing Decide & Provide was adopted as a formal supplementary document to the council's LTCP in September 2022. This relates to Policy 36 of the LTCP, which states that the council will, "Require transport assessments accompanying planning applications for new development to follow the County Council's 'Implementing 'Decide & Provide': Requirements for Transport Assessments' document."</p> <p>The document stated that it would be reviewed every 12-18 months and updated when appropriate. These reviews have taken place and a need to update the document has been identified.</p> <p>In December 2024 the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was updated to include a requirement for</p>
Proposal	<p>Since the document's adoption in 2022, significant changes were made to the NPPF in December 2024. The NPPF now includes the requirement for development proposals to follow a vision-led approach to transport planning. When these changes to the NPPF were initially proposed it was stated in the supporting text for the accompanying consultation that (Chapter 8, paragraph 7, MHCLG), "To support the implementation of this updated policy, we will publish updated guidance alongside the policy coming into effect." At the time of writing, this updated guidance remains forthcoming.</p> <p>Thus, in the context of this description of the vision-led approach and in lieu of the updated guidance, the Implementing Decide & Provide document should be seen as the methodology that development proposals within Oxfordshire must follow in order to meet the requirement set out in paragraph 118 of the NPPF. However, it is expected that, once the updated guidance is made available, OCC's Implementing Decide & Provide will be complementary to the national guidance and will remain necessary in setting out local</p>
Evidence / Intelligence	<p>Implementing Decide & Provide is a technical document used to apply in practice the policy in the Oxfordshire LTCP. As such the comprehensive consultation exercise for the LTCP encompasses the intent of this document.</p> <p>However, as part of the process of developing the original version of the document (adopted in September 2022), significant engagement took place with internal colleagues, officers at the district and city councils, industry professionals, relevant OCC cabinet members (i.e. those with transport-related portfolios), National Highways, and the authors of the guidance upon which the document is based. The comments derived from that engagement process were then used to inform the final version of the document.</p> <p>To inform the proposed updates to the Implementing Decide & Provide document, further engagement was undertaken with the same parties listed above (and others in addition to those previously contacted) in order to refine and enhance this document, gleaning valuable input from those who have had direct experience of using this document and those with related experiences from similar approaches elsewhere.</p>
Alternatives considered / rejected	<p>Previous Local Transport Plans have not typically been supported by supplementary documents intended to ensure the effective implementation of OCC policy, so in that sense doing nothing was previously the option taken.</p> <p>As discussed in the 'Proposals' section, the updates to the Implementing Decide & Provide document are considered necessary to include suitable reference to changes to national policy.</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	3	<p>The fundamental aim of this document is focused on helping to ensure that new developments across the county are located in places where the need to travel is minimised. Where travel is necessary it should be via sustainable and active modes, facilitated and encouraged by improvements to provision for these modes delivered by developments or by contributions towards schemes delivered by OCC instead of highway capacity improvements designed only for the private motor vehicle.</p>			
Transport & Connectivity	Supports active travel	3	<p>By putting greater emphasis on ensuring that new developments contribute to improving walking, wheeling, cycling, and public transport provision the document should make a positive contribution to supporting active travel choices.</p>			
Transport & Connectivity	Increases use of public transport	2	<p>By putting greater emphasis on ensuring that new developments contribute to improving walking, wheeling, cycling, and public transport provision the document should make a positive contribution to supporting public transport choices.</p>			
Transport & Connectivity	Accelerates electrification of transport	1	<p>May indirectly help to assist in a move towards electrification of public transport by encouraging a greater focus on investment in improvements to bus services.</p>			
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		By seeking to minimise new road building, and reducing private motor vehicle use, this document should help to protect local habitats and wildlife.
Nature	Develops blue and green infrastructure	N/A	
Nature	Improves access to nature and green spaces		By improving provision for active modes, walking and cycling networks should in turn be better connected to nature and green spaces.
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		By contributing towards decarbonising the transport network, this document helps to reduce the transport network's detrimental impacts on climate change.
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		The document will directly influence the refocussing of investment towards making improvements to encourage and facilitate the use of active and sustainable modes of transport.
People & Organizations	Drives behavioural change to address the climate and ecological emergency		The document will result in a greater emphasis on the delivery of infrastructure improvements to encourage and facilitate sustainable and active mode use by people travelling within Oxfordshire, thus reducing reliance on the private motor vehicle.
People & Organizations	Drives organizational and systemic change to address the climate and ecological emergency		The document supports the County Council's and other organisation's (district and city councils, developers, etc.) efforts to address the climate and ecological emergency.

Just transition	Promotes green innovation and job creation	1 Through ensuring that new developments are appropriately connected by better walking and cycling routes and public transport services, this may in turn help to drive green innovation and job creation.
Just transition	Promotes health and wellbeing	3 As a result of encouraging greater use of active transport modes, this will help to address air quality, encourage more people to be active, and improve access to green open space.
Just transition	Reduces poverty and inequality	2 The document should result in better access to low-carbon or zero-carbon transport options.