

**Performance Monitoring Report
Environment Committee
Q2 2023/24**

Date of Environment Committee meeting	7 December 2023
Date of Performance Monitoring meeting	Dealt with via email
In attendance	Members: Youth Council Members: Officers:
Environment Ideagen dashboards	Main Environment dashboard Environment Performance Indicator dashboard
Items on Environment agenda relevant to the Council Plan	ER5: Community Infrastructure Levy – Spending Allocations for 2024/25
Risks	Corporate Risk Register presented to Audits & Standards Committee
Any issues of concern to be reported to Environment Committee	
No	
Any actions or recommendations for Environment Committee	
No	
Report submitted by	B. Cleere
Date of report	29/11/2023

**Council Plan Refresh Report – Environment
Quarter 2 2023/24**

EC1.1	Set up a 2030 Core Group to provide high level strategic overview on delivery, identify funding opportunities and develop communication and community engagement	Completed. A new action (ER1.1a) has been included resulting from the merge of EC1.1 and EC1.3 to ensure continued reporting on the work in this area.
Assigned To	Brendan Cleere; Georgia Spooner; Jenny Youngs	

EC1.1a	Facilitate continued community engagement through the established 2030 Community Engagement Board to support the delivery of the 2030 Strategy			
Assigned To	Brendan Cleere; Georgia Spooner; Jenny Youngs			
Latest Note	<p>Q2 2023/24:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two in-person Community Engagement Board meetings to continue our action learning through our four projects and sustainable action processes. • One in-person and open-to-anyone session deep diving into the Take the Jump initiative. • One online and open-to-anyone session with EHO colleagues deep diving into Air Quality in the district. • 2030CEB reps also attended the People, Planet, Pint drinks at Stroud Brewery and the Young Changemakers Sustainability Fayre held at the Sub Rooms to support 80+ young people to investigate sustainability concerns and actions. • Love to Ride campaign throughout the month of September, including a 2030CEB outreach stall at the Festival of Cycling to coincide with the Tour of Britain bike race. 			
Milestones	Milestone Description	Completion Y/N	Milestone Due Date	Latest Milestone Note
	<p><i>This milestone will be reviewed once the new Climate Change and Sustainability Manager is in post.</i></p> <p>Work of the Community Engagement Board summarised in Annual 2030 report for 2023/24 to be published in Spring 2024 and annually thereafter.</p>	No		


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EC1.2	Establish the performance management of the 2030 Strategy across the organisation to monitor and review progress towards the Strategy's aims and commitments		Completed and closed.
Assigned To	Brendan Cleere; Georgia Spooner; Jenny Youngs		
EC1.3	Plan and implement the community engagement aspect of the Strategy, to include a 2030 community website and direct activities with residents, linking to the Community Engagement Strategy (CW3.1)		Completed and merged with EC1.1 (EC1.1a)
Assigned To	Brendan Cleere; Liz Shellam; Georgia Spooner; Jenny Youngs		
EC1.5	Explore and progress additional projects for carbon reduction and /or biodiversity net gain and funding opportunities to deliver them.		
Assigned To	Brendan Cleere; Georgia Spooner; Jenny Youngs		
Latest Note	<p>Q2 2023/24:</p> <p>We have explored the following options: Take the Jump Initiative for engagement across the district, and Couch to Carbon Zero for SDC staff and members engagement.</p>		
Sub Action	EC1.5.1 Identify funding opportunities for carbon reduction projects	0%	
	EC1.5.2 Identify funding opportunities for biodiversity net gain projects	0%	
Performance Indicator Linked	<i>Please note, these PIs will be reviewed once the new Climate Change and Sustainability Manager is in post:</i>		
	EC1.5a Money leveraged through successful funding bids and level of associated council investment approved by Councillors		
	EC1.5b Number of additional projects established or supported with an estimate given of bio-diversity net gain and / or carbon savings that will be achieved.		
	EC1.5c Number of external projects worked on with partners for carbon reduction		

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EC2.1	Work with partners to boost biodiversity by developing the Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and delivering its objectives through a district-wide Local Nature Recovery Action Plan, working with stakeholders			
Assigned To	Rebecca Charley; Conrad Moore			
Latest Note	Q2 2023/24: Council are working with Gloucestershire LNP and partners to develop Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Officers have attended Nature Recovery Working Group meetings led by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and Natural England. Officers have been engaged in workshops reviewing the lists of Threatened and Near Threatened species from Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records; proposing further species of local significance for Gloucestershire (and in relation to climate change) and working with other partners such as the Cotswolds Nature Recovery Forum. A LNRS species task and finish group is also being set up in the County.			
Milestones	Milestone Description	Completion Y/N	Milestone Due Date	Latest Milestone Note
	Adoption of Severn Estuary Mitigation Strategy	No	31-Dec-2023	
	District document developed, aligned with Gloucestershire Nature Recovery Strategy	No	30-Sep-2024	20/10/23 - milestone due date updated to 30 September 2024 due to Gloucestershire LNRS due date
	Progress on recreation and mitigation strategy works for the Severn Estuary, Rodborough Common and Cotswold Beechwoods	No	31-Mar-2024	
	Publication of Gloucestershire biodiversity net gain guidance	No	30-Nov-2023	
Performance Indicator Linked	EC2.1a Achieve a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain (BNG) from new developments	<i>The Government have stated that they will issue the secondary legislation for the Biodiversity Net Gain in November 2023, for subsequent implementation in January 2024. This secondary legislation is expected to include how the BNG is going to be measured, monitored and reported back to Defra, so until that legislation arrives we are not formally measuring BNG increase.</i>		
	EC2.1b Increase in average insect biomass - based on Bug Life Citizen Science project data			

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	EC2.1c Extent of strategic gaps in GI network	
EC2.2	Deliver the natural flood management project (Stroud Rural SUDS) for the Frome Valley in Stroud in partnership with the Environment Agency, working closely with landowners and communities using innovative flood management techniques.	Completed and closed. Ongoing performance will be measured using the PIs below.
Assigned To	Maria Hickman	
Performance Indicator Linked	EC2.2a Number of interventions installed as part of the natural flood management project	
	EC2.2b Number of landowners engaged with the natural flood management project	<p>Q2 2023/24 result</p> 

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EC2.3	Develop and establish an action plan to increase our tree canopy, woodland and forestry in line with the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership Tree Strategy ambition for 20% canopy cover across the County by 2030			
Assigned To	Conrad Moore			
Latest Note	<p>Q2 2023/24:</p> <p>This work will be complementary to the ongoing Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) work in the County and to the Biodiversity Net Gain work (using the DEFRA metric). Government Statutory Guidance on the LNRS is being published in the Autumn. Statutory Guidance on BNG continues to be developed and issued. The Council has drafted, working with all LPAs across Gloucestershire, interim guidance to help applicants and developers with our approach to BNG assessment within the planning process. This guidance is to be issued in Autumn pending further clarification from government and publication of the secondary legislation to accompany the Environment Act.</p>			
Milestones	Milestone Description	Completion Y/N	Milestone Due Date	Latest Milestone Note
	District document developed, aligned with Gloucestershire Nature Recovery Strategy	No	30-Sep-2024	
	Progress with tree planting schemes	No	30-Sep-2024	
	Publication of Gloucestershire Nature Recovery Strategy	No	30-Sep-2024	
Performance Indicator Linked	EC2.3a Increase canopy cover in Stroud District, towards the target of 20% county wide coverage by 2030	<p><i>The measurement of tree canopy could be taken from Google aerial images but any canopy measurements would not show sufficient change to measure more frequently than every 5 years at most. This is always subject to climatic influence at the time of the images used.</i></p> <p><i>The measurement of area planted could be used, but this does not necessarily reflect the benefit of such planting because it is important to ensure the right trees are planted in the right place and any planting does not cause a loss of other important habitat. This would be better linked with the Local Nature Recovery Strategy indicator, aiming at minimising the GI spaces, and joining up the key habitats, woodlands being one of those.</i></p>		
	EC2.3b Amount of land (hectares) subject to new tree planting			
	EC2.3c Canopy cover as a % of District			

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EC2.4	Work with partners to protect and enhance green spaces in residential neighbourhoods and town centres, promote 'No Mow May' and adopt best practice for road verges to encourage wildflowers and reduce pesticide use			
Assigned To	Mike Towson			
Milestones	Milestone Description	Completion Y/N	Milestone Due Date	Latest Milestone Note
	Develop and implement plans for expansion of No Mow May for 2024	No	31-May-2024	Q2 2023/24: Starting to look for alternatives to pesticide use in line with Council motion. Also started work to increase wildflower areas and slowly shifting some areas away from normal amenity grass cutting. No Mow May 2024 being planned.
	Green Spaces Action Plan developed based on county-wide Nature Recovery Strategy	No	31-Mar-2023	

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EC2.5	Use, promote and support the Building with Nature standards for Local Plan sites and key regeneration sites across the district			
Assigned To	Ali Fisk; Mark Russell			
Milestones	Milestone Description	Completion Y/N	Milestone Due Date	Latest Milestone Note
	Building with Nature Standards endorsed in the Gloucestershire Nature Recovery Strategy	No	30-Sep-2024	
	District document developed endorsing Building with Nature Standards	No	31-Dec-2024	
	Work with partners to promote the use of Building with Nature Standards	No	31-Mar-2026	Q2 2023/24 - The output specification for Brimscombe Port includes using the Building with Nature Standards. The Draft Local Plan requires the standard for the proposed new settlements and strongly recommends it for other strategic sites.
Performance Indicator Linked	<i>These PIs will be in place once the Local Plan has been adopted:</i>			
	EC2.5 % of strategic sites in the Local Plan that incorporate the Building with Nature standards			
	EC2.5b Number of development sites (total area) in the district delivering Building with Nature standards			

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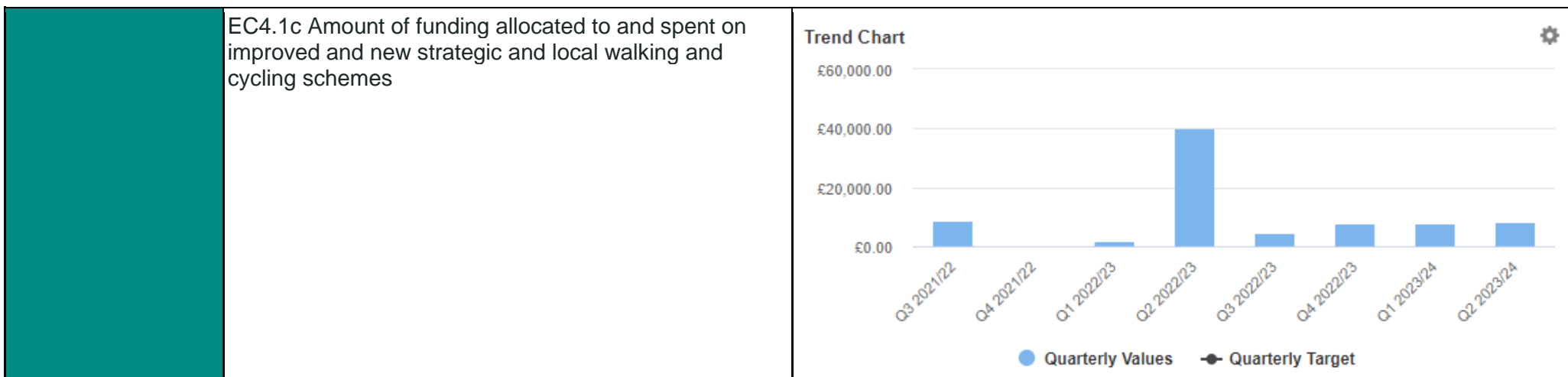
EC3.5	Develop planning policies and developer guidance to enable all new buildings to achieve a net zero carbon standard.	Completed and replaced with EC3.5a
Assigned To	Mark Russell	

EC3.5a	Produce supplementary guidance and work with developers to enable all new buildings to achieve a net zero carbon standard.			
Assigned To	Mark Russell			
Milestones	Milestone Description	Completion Y/N	Milestone Due Date	Latest Milestone Note
	Publish supplementary guidance	No	30-Sep-2024	Q2 2023/24: The Local Plan Inspectors are currently considering the draft net zero carbon standard policies. Work on drafting a supplementary planning document will commence once the Inspectors indicate that the draft policies are sound. Any new document will need to have regard to the new planning regime that is being introduced through the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act.
	Develop programme of support for developers to deliver standards	No	31-Dec-2024	
Performance Indicator Linked	EC3.5 Number of new dwellings that have achieved a net zero carbon standard by 2026			

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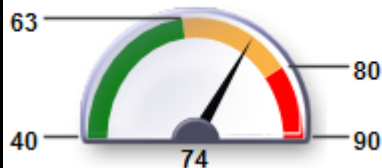
EC4.1	Support a shift towards active modes of travel by working with the County Council and parish councils to increase use of an enhanced strategic and local walking and cycling network			
Assigned To	Simon Maher			
Latest Note	Q2 2023/24: Continued support is being given to strategic and local walking and cycling projects throughout the district with 7 new successful bids to the Walking and Cycling fund, equating to approximately £130k.			
Milestones	Milestone Description	Completion Y/N	Milestone Due Date	Latest Milestone Note
	Allocate funding to deliver improved and new priority strategic and local walking and cycling schemes	No	31-Mar-2026	
	Develop a dedicated walking and cycling page on the council's website where community design guidance and other tools can be used to support the development of local projects	No	31-Dec-2023	
	Develop and deliver a promotional campaign to encourage and support parish councils to make funding bids for local walking and cycling projects	No	31-Mar-2024	
	Develop and deliver promotional events and activities to encourage communities to take up active travel modes of transport	No	31-Mar-2026	
	Provide input to GCC to aid the production of LCWIPs and the delivery of active travel projects	No	31-Mar-2026	
Performance Indicator Linked	EC4.1b Number of new or improved facilities such as cycle lanes, cycle tracks, walking trails			

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EC4.3	Working with partners, expand the network of Electric Vehicle charging points and increase support for low carbon transport, and a reduction in private car use and explore measures to reduce air pollution such as no-idling zones.		
Assigned To	Mike Towson		
Sub Action	EC4.3.1 Work with partners to expand the network of EV charging points and increase support for low carbon transport, and a reduction in private car use	50%	Q2 2023/24: Plans for EV chargepoint rollout approved at committee. Order to be raised with contractor and final ORCS funding application to be submitted.
	EC4.3.2 Explore measures to reduce air pollution such as no-idling zones	0%	
Performance Indicator Linked	<i>This PI will not start collecting data until 1 January 2024 as plans for EV charging points were only recently approved.</i>		
	EC4.3 Number of EV charge points installed in SDC car parks		

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EC5.1	Further reduce the quantity of resources discarded as waste and minimise its environmental impact.		
Assigned To	Mike Towson		
Sub Action	EC5.1.1 Deliver 'Repair' campaigns via Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership	50%	Q2 2023/24: Campaigns delivered to date, with further campaigns planned throughout the year on a variety of reuse/recycle topics.
Performance Indicator Linked	EC5.1 (NI191) Number of Kilograms of residual household waste collected per household	<p>Q1 2023/24 result</p>  <p>63 — 80 40 — 74 — 90</p>	
EC5.2	Work with our partner Ubico to identify joint opportunities for carbon reduction projects in household collection and management of public spaces.		
Assigned To	Mike Towson		
Sub Action	EC5.2.1 Use of HVO fuel fully rolled out on Ubico contract	50%	Q2 2023/24: Committee approval granted. Finances in place. Tank to be installed. New estimated introduction date Apr 24.
Performance Indicator Linked	EC5.2a Number of carbon reduction projects scoped with Ubico, including analysis of potential carbon saving		
	<p><i>The start date for this PI is 1 April 2024 as agreed in the project plan:</i></p> <p>EC5.2b Number of Ubico vehicles using HVO fuel</p>		

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EC5.3	Support the phasing out of single use plastics in the district and encourage and support local initiatives to 'reduce, repair and recycle'.																													
Assigned To	Mike Towson																													
Sub Action	EC5.3.1 Create an Action plan based on facilities audits undertaken in 2023 and deliver against objectives	40%	Q2 2023/24: Audits of all facilities will be completed over the next quarter and an action plan will then be developed. The action plan will look beyond facilities to include activities such as procurement, licensing and other areas, where the Council has significant influence in phasing out single use plastic.																											
	EC5.3.2 Develop local initiatives to promote "reduce, reuse and recycle"	20%	Q2 2023/24: Whilst this already takes place as standard, when a Waste Education Officer is introduced, this work will further step up.																											
Performance Indicator Linked	EC5.3 Percentage of plastic as a part of the overall composition of dry mixed recycling, against a 2020/21 baseline.		<p>Q2 2023/24: 31.73% (Target: 32.04%)</p> <p>Trend Chart ⚙️</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Quarterly Values and Target Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarterly Values (%)</th> <th>Quarterly Target (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q3 2021/22</td> <td>30.0</td> <td>32.04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2021/22</td> <td>27.0</td> <td>32.04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2022/23</td> <td>30.0</td> <td>32.04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2022/23</td> <td>25.0</td> <td>32.04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2022/23</td> <td>29.0</td> <td>32.04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2022/23</td> <td>28.5</td> <td>32.04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2023/24</td> <td>29.0</td> <td>32.04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2023/24</td> <td>31.73</td> <td>32.04</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>● Quarterly Values ● Quarterly Target</p>	Quarter	Quarterly Values (%)	Quarterly Target (%)	Q3 2021/22	30.0	32.04	Q4 2021/22	27.0	32.04	Q1 2022/23	30.0	32.04	Q2 2022/23	25.0	32.04	Q3 2022/23	29.0	32.04	Q4 2022/23	28.5	32.04	Q1 2023/24	29.0	32.04	Q2 2023/24	31.73	32.04
Quarter	Quarterly Values (%)	Quarterly Target (%)																												
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Q2 2023/24	31.73	32.04																												

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EC5.4	Continue to increase recycling rates across the district.														
Assigned To	Mike Towson														
Sub Action	EC5.4.1 Introduce an additional material that can be collected at kerbside for recycling and develop communication plan to promote new material for recycling	25%	Q2 2023/24: Continued liaison with PodBack re: the introduction of coffee pod recycling. Government announcement on consistency now means new fleet will be ordered with additional stowage. Preparation can begin and finalisation of additional material to be collected required.												
Performance Indicator Linked	EC5.4 (NI192) Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting	<p>Q1 2023/24 result</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Gauge Chart Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Section Color</th> <th>Start Value (%)</th> <th>End Value (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Red</td> <td>40%</td> <td>56%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yellow</td> <td>56%</td> <td>59%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Green</td> <td>59%</td> <td>80%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>58.29%</p>		Section Color	Start Value (%)	End Value (%)	Red	40%	56%	Yellow	56%	59%	Green	59%	80%
Section Color	Start Value (%)	End Value (%)													
Red	40%	56%													
Yellow	56%	59%													
Green	59%	80%													
EC6.1	Continue to increase renewable generation in the district and to decarbonise existing networks, and support community-owned renewable energy schemes														
Assigned To	Brendan Cleere; Georgia Spooner; Jenny Youngs														
Latest Note	Q2 2023/24: Work has continued on improving the energy efficiency of the Council's Leisure Centres (Stratford Park and The Pulse) and The Museum in the Park. A main contractor has been appointed and works are scheduled to be completed over winter 2023/24. The new Local Plan - currently at examination stage - includes policies and allocations to increase renewable generation across the district. There is further work under way through Climate Leadership Gloucestershire's Energy theme to promote renewable energy generation throughout Gloucestershire (and within Stroud District) and we will encourage local action and highlight funding opportunities as they arise, for local groups to promote community energy schemes in their area.														
Performance Indicator Linked	<i>Please note these PIs will be reviewed once the new Climate Change and Sustainability Manager is in post:</i>														
	EC6.1a Number of community owned or other renewable energy schemes supported by the council														
	EC6.1b Reported carbon saved/avoided														

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EC6.3 Increase the proportion of Council and partner fleet vehicles powered by zero or low carbon technologies.				
Assigned To	Mike Towson			
Milestones	Milestone Description	Completion Y/N	Milestone Due Date	Latest Milestone Note
	Investigate feasibility of supply capacity upgrade, or PV and battery storage at Gossington Depot to enable further EV expansion on Ubico fleet	No	31-Mar-2026	Q2 2023/24: Facilities Team to engage supply specialist to scope potential projects in the first instance. Fleet procurement decisions dictate that existing onsite EV chargers will be fully utilised in 2024 so further supply options are required for further expansion.
	Full introduction of HVO as an alternative to diesel	No		
Performance Indicator Linked	EC6.3 % of fleet vehicles powered by zero or low carbon tech	Q1 2023/24: 13%		

ER5.1 Progress the Local Plan through public examination and secure its adoption.				
Assigned To	Mark Russell			
Milestones	Milestone Description	Completion Y/N	Milestone Due Date	Latest Milestone Note
	Local Plan adopted within 3 months of receiving the Inspector's Report	No	31-Dec-2024	
	Local Plan recommended for adoption by Government Inspector	No	31-Dec-2024	Q2 2023/24: The Local Plan hearing sessions ended for a summer break at the end of June 2023. In August 2023 the Inspectors wrote to the Council identifying some areas of concern relating to the strategic road network and the two new settlements. The Council responded on 29 August and 12 September requesting a six month pause to address the concerns raised.

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ER5.2	Support the delivery of strategic site allocations contained within the local plan and the key infrastructure required to support it.																														
Assigned To	Mark Russell																														
Milestones	Milestone Description	Completion Y/N	Milestone Due Date	Latest Milestone Note																											
	Number of houses built and hectareage of employment land developed annually compared with Local Plan requirements	No	31-Mar-2026																												
Performance Indicator Linked	ER5.2a Number of houses built annually compared with Local Plan requirements		<p>2022/23: 632</p> <p>Trend Chart</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Trend Chart Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Annual Values</th> <th>Yearly Target</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2015/16</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016/17</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017/18</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018/19</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020/21</td> <td>~700</td> <td>~680</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021/22</td> <td>~750</td> <td>~700</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022/23</td> <td>632</td> <td>~680</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Year	Annual Values	Yearly Target	2015/16	0	0	2016/17	0	0	2017/18	0	0	2018/19	0	0	2019/20	0	0	2020/21	~700	~680	2021/22	~750	~700	2022/23	632	~680
Year	Annual Values	Yearly Target																													
2015/16	0	0																													
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ER5.3	Work with parish councils to encourage and support local communities to develop Neighbourhood Development Plans and Orders, thereby increasing community planning activities		
Assigned To	Simon Maher		
Latest Note	Q2 2023/24: 2 NDP groups have submitted draft NDPs for which a final consultation has commenced. Both will progress to examination in Q3 with a view to full adoption in Q4.		
Sub Action	ER5.3.1 Develop and deliver a promotional campaign to encourage and support parish councils to develop neighbourhood planning initiatives by March 2024	0%	
Performance Indicator Linked	ER5.3 Number of Neighbourhood Development Plans and Orders progressed or reviewed	Q2 2023/24: 3	