

# Climate Change the Practicalities; a brief case study

**South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils**

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Listening Learning Leading

# South and Vale at a Glance



## Growing Populations

- Based upon expected housing completions, Oxfordshire County Council project an increase in Vale's population of **29.9% by 2027**

## Ageing Populations

- In South, in two wards **less than 50%** of the population is of working age

## Rural Districts

- Approximately **50%** of residents live in rural areas

## Waste & Recycling

- Recycling rates are **amongst highest in the country** – South 63%, Vale 62%

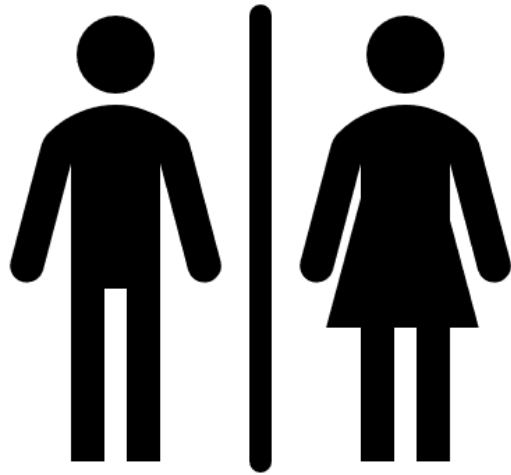
## Car Ownership

- **88.4%** of households have at least one car in South (86.9% Vale) - **amongst the highest in the country**



# 'Average Resident'

## 'Mr and Mrs'



Mr Vale's life expectancy is **81.6** years,  
Mrs Vale **84.6**,  
Mr South **81.7** and  
Mrs South **84.7**



Mr and Mrs Vale earn **£679 a week full time**, Mr and Mrs South **£699**



They are employed in **scientific, technical and professional employment**  
(higher than South East average)



They are **qualified to NVQ4**  
(Higher apprenticeship, Higher Diploma etc.) **or above** (higher than both the south east and the UK)



Their homes are **owner occupied, detached properties**



Mr and Mrs Vale's children are **69.6%** likely to **achieve Grade C/Level 4 or above** in GCSE Math and English, Mr and Mrs South's are **71.4%** likely



# Climate Emergency Declarations

- Emergency Declarations: Vale Feb 19, South April 19
- Establishment of Climate Emergency Advisory Committees
- South aspirations adopted by Council in October:

**Carbon Neutral Council by 2025**  
**Carbon Neutral District by 2030**



# Programme of Work and Strategy Development

- Project options structured into seven themes:
  1. Council Business
  2. Housing
  3. Partnership
  4. Transport
  5. Infrastructure
  6. Biodiversity
  7. Behaviour Change
- A route path for projects to achieve carbon neutrality will emerge, based on feasibility, resource and carbon savings
- Drawn together into a coherent strategy for Climate Change



# Opportunities to Implement Changes NOW

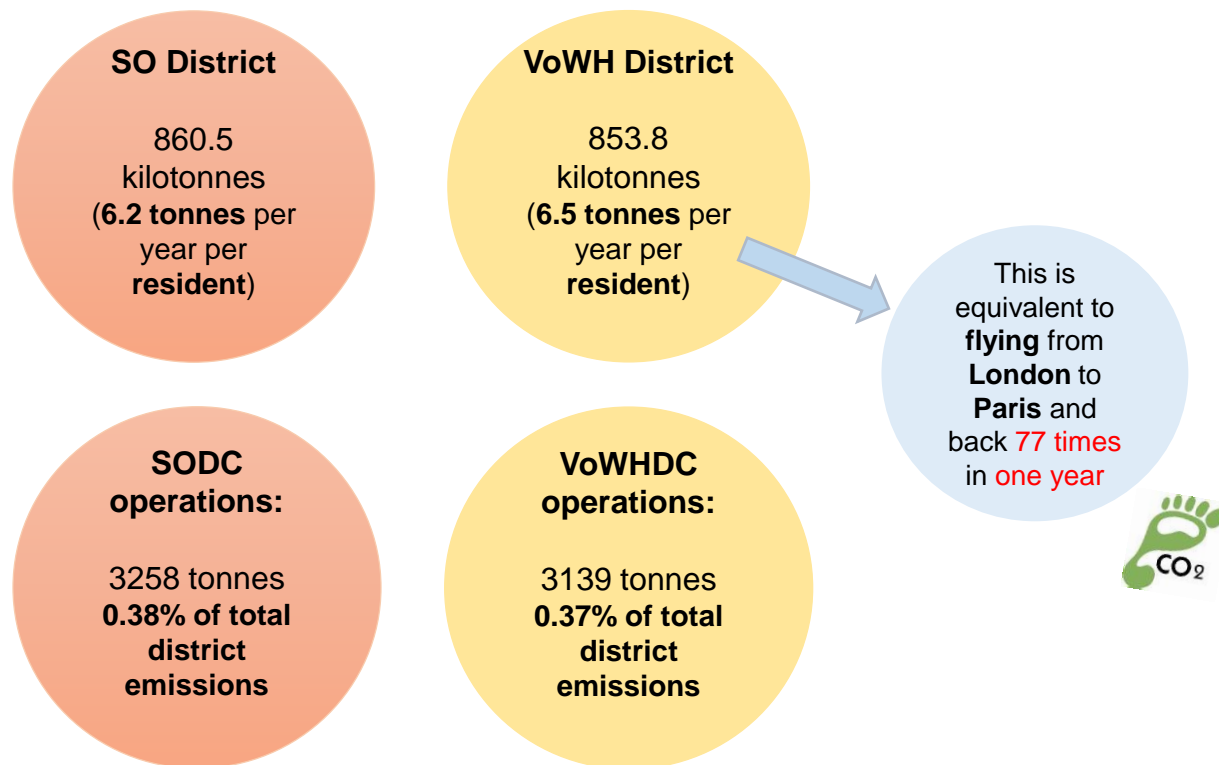
Embedding climate considerations into policies and procedures

- Car park fees and charges
- Capital grants policy (South Oxfordshire)
- Taxi licensing





# Our Challenges



- Resources
  - Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
- Contract longevities
- Advisory function of Committees
- Two councils, shared workforce



# Behaviour Change

Communication is key – central thread

Partnership working

- Oxford University Student Consultancy Programme support – to capture creativity and fresh ideas
- One Planet Oxfordshire (Bioregional)
- Town and parish councils

**Inspire, mobilise  
and engage**

Councillors, officers,  
residents, community  
groups, businesses and  
visitors





# The Shared Challenge

- Measures need to be taken at a national, international and personal level to achieve targets and aspirations
- Technological advances required
- Councils cannot do this alone

## A CALL TO ACTION

