

Title	District Councillors' Report to Thame Town Council
Authors	Cllrs Pieter-Paul Barker, David Bretherton & Kate Gregory
Date	13 th June 2023

SODC election updates

The new political makeup of SODC is as follows:

- 21 Liberal Democrat councillors (+9)
- 8 Green councillors (+3)
- 3 Henley Residents Group councillors (no change)
- 3 Labour councillors (n change)
- 1 Conservative councillor (-9)
- 0 Independent councillors (-3)

In Thame the turnout was 34.1%, down by 1.3% on 2019.

Though the Lib Dem group now have overall control of the council, the Lib Dem & Green groups have agreed to continue running the council together as a partnership. The Cabinet positions are split 6 Lib Dem and 2 Green, meaning that the executive of the council is shared between the two parties.

- Cllr Pieter-Paul Barker continues as Cabinet Member for Finance & Property Assets.
- Cllr David Bretherton continues as Chair of Planning Committee.

Everyone Active Grant Scheme

The 'Everyone Active' grant scheme aims to improve the health and wellbeing of residents. South Oxfordshire District Council is providing £50,000 in funding for community organisations and individuals to apply for, with a maximum grant of £1,000.

Applicants will need to show that their projects will help communities to become more active or sustain activity. More information about the grant scheme can be found on the website at southoxon.gov.uk/grants or organisations can contact the council's Community Enablement team on 01235 422405 or grants@southandvale.gov.uk.

The closing date for applications is midday Friday 30 June 2023. Everyone Active grant scheme rules include:

- Projects should provide benefit to people becoming active or supporting ongoing activity
- The maximum grant is £1,000
- You can apply for revenue costs or capital items
- You can request 100 per cent of your project costs
- The project must complete within 12 months of the award decision
- SODC will accept one application only from each individual or organisation

The grant is open for a wide range of groups and organisations in the district, not-for-profit groups (including sports clubs), town and parish councils and parish meetings, not for profit preschools, Parent Teacher Association's (PTAs) and other local authority run schools or academies for non-statutory elements of the education programme. An individual can also apply who is supporting their community to become active or to sustain activity.

The funding can be used in a variety of ways including new leisure or playground equipment, projects to introduce or improve physical activity, training courses for volunteers or staff to help improve physical and mental wellbeing and community gardens to share the physical and health benefits of growing fruit and vegetables.

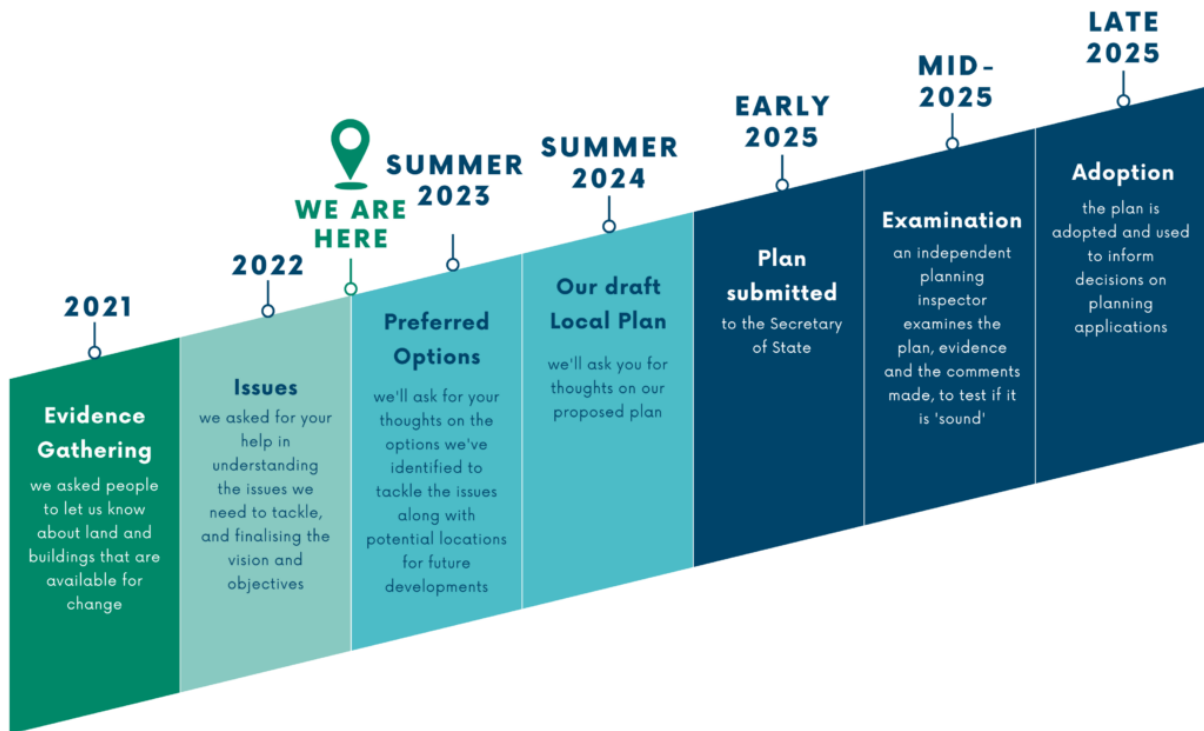
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Joint Local Plan

SODC is in the process of developing the **Joint Local Plan 2041** with the Vale of White Horse District Council with the objective of improving planning policies to help address the climate emergency, restore nature, and meet local housing needs.

To read more about the priorities and steps to develop the plan please visit the SODC website.

The timetable is as follows:



Grants for food banks and community larders

To help support the voluntary food network, South Oxfordshire district council is inviting community food groups to apply for a grant of £2,500 for essential supplies.

The voluntary food network – voluntary and community organisations such as food banks, food larders and community fridges for residents – plays a vital role supporting people but demand for their help has surged as fuel and food costs escalate, particularly for everyday staples.

The grants can be used to help pay for a variety of expenses including food, additional storage and energy bills.

The closing date for applications is midday Wednesday 28 June 2023.

For more information on the grant and details on how to apply go to the South Oxfordshire Food Network Grant Scheme page.